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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the center of our joy, give our lawmakers a passionate dependence on Your guidance. May they trust You so completely that they will patiently wait for the unfolding of Your prevailing providence. As they acknowledge that You direct their steps, strengthen them to confidently follow where You lead. May they strive to walk by faith, believing that their times are in Your hands. Lord, give them pure motives and a commitment to be faithful to You. Pursue them with Your blessings all the days of their lives as they seek to do what is right and fair.

We pray in Your righteous 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 PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Jason Scott Miller, of Maryland, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The deputy majority leader.

#### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, at his first official news conference 1 month ago, President Biden said:

I got elected to solve problems and the most urgent problem was COVID-19 and the economic disruption facing millions and millions of Americans.

If we were to measure President Biden using only those standards, the first hundred days of the Biden-Harris administration have been a historic success. But this new administration has done far more in its first hundred days than just tackle the pandemic; it helped small families and small businesses that are hurting financially because of the coronavirus.

President Biden is reestablishing America's role as a leader in the world and repairing alliances that were damaged dangerously under his predecessor. Equally important, Joe Biden is restoring credibility and dignity to the Office of the President itself.

As President Biden prepares to deliver his first joint address to Congress on Wednesday, it is worth considering how far we have come in 100 days.

President Biden inherited a nation torn apart by political division, an out-of-control pandemic, and an economy that was in a deep, deep hole. Hundreds of thousands of American small businesses had been closed when he took office. The pandemic caused most of this.

Millions of Americans had lost jobs. We lost 140,000 jobs in December alone.

President Biden promised aggressive government action to stop the spread of the coronavirus and to stabilize the economy, and he and the Democrats in Congress are making good on those promises.

Let's remember where we came from. When Joe Biden took office, the United States was averaging 195,000 new COVID infections every day, and 3,000 Americans were dying every day. Today, we have come down from 195,000 daily infections to 57,000 and from 3,000 COVID deaths every day to 700—still too many, but dramatic progress was made under this new President.

Remember where we came from. When Biden took office, the United States of America had one of the highest COVID infection rates in the world. Two numbers tell the story of the first year of COVID-19 infection under the previous President. The United States of America has about 5 percent of the world's population, but we had, when Biden took office, 20 percent—20 percent—of the COVID-19 infections in the world and 20 percent of the deaths. Now there is hope. This President listened to the medical experts—he didn't come up with his own theories of the case—and he expanded vaccine distribution.

The day Joe Biden took office, on that day, January 20 of this year, to that day, the United States had administered 1.6 million COVID vaccine shots total in the Nation, 1.6 million. We are now seeing 3 million vaccinations administered every day.

President Biden promised to deliver 100 million COVID-19 doses in his first hundred days. He didn't do that; he delivered 200 million doses. Forty percent of all Americans, the majority of U.S. adults, have had at least one dose of the vaccine. Every American over the age of 16 is eligible now for the coronavirus vaccination free of charge.

Greatly expanding COVID vaccinations and testing are at the heart of

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



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the American Rescue Plan that President Biden proposed and this Congress passed last month, sadly without one single Senate vote from our Republican colleagues; nor were there any House Republican votes in favor of it.

The American Rescue Plan, exclusively passed with Democratic votes, also included \$1,400 emergency stimulus checks to a majority of Americans, assistance for schools, small businesses, and State and local governments. Enhanced unemployment benefits, which were scheduled to stop last March, will continue until September. This is an economic lifeline for millions of Americans who lost their jobs during the pandemic.

The American Rescue Plan expanded the child tax credit and makes it fully refundable so that families who need it most can benefit from it now. America's child poverty rate today is one of the highest in the developed world. This action taken in President Biden's American Rescue Plan could cut child poverty in America by 40 percent.

We have been waiting for more than 40 years for the benefits of a tax cut for the rich to trickle down and solve these problems, to help working families, and to end poverty. It didn't work. Income inequality in America grew under the Republican plan, and now it is greater than it was at the start of the Great Depression. But in less than 40 days, the American Rescue Plan is already working. Here are the indications:

Last month, the number of families behind in rent fell by 2 million.

The share of adults who say they don't have enough to eat fell from 1 in 7 to 1 in 11.

The U.S. economy added 916,000 jobs.

In December, economic projections from the Federal Reserve had a forecast of the U.S. economy growing by 4.2 percent in 2021. After we passed the American Rescue Plan, that estimate jumped to a healthy, strong 6½ percent.

Last month, consumer confidence in America hit its highest level since the pandemic shut down the economy a year ago.

President Biden is also restoring America's role as a global leader. He used his first speech to a global audience at the Munich Security Conference in February to announce: "America is back, [and] the transatlantic alliance is back." And "diplomacy is back at the heart of U.S. foreign policy."

President Biden is consulting with our allies, not insulting them, and he is countering authoritarian strongmen instead of cozying up to them. Earlier this month, the Biden administration announced new sanctions against Russia and expelled Kremlin diplomats over Russian interference in the 2020 election. The SolarWinds cyber-espionage campaign that targeted important U.S. Federal Agencies and Fortune 500 companies and other hostile acts certainly merited that action by

the United States against Russia. Once again, America has a President willing to defend this Nation against attacks by a hostile government.

President Biden is also reasserting American leadership in the fight against climate change. On his first full day in office, he began the process to rejoin the Paris Agreement. Remember when President Trump withdrew from the Paris Agreement, making the United States the only Nation in the world that hadn't signed up for this effort? On Earth Day last week, President Biden hosted a virtual summit of leaders from 40 nations and announced that the United States will cut its carbon emissions by half by 2035. Under Joe Biden, America is ready to lead the global effort to avoid climate catastrophe and create good, new green jobs and industries of the future. Don't we owe that to our kids and grandchildren?

President Biden is returning normalcy and dignity to the Office of the President. At a townhall meeting in Wisconsin in February, the President told the Nation:

The next four years, I want to make sure all the news is about the American people.

He has replaced ego with empathy, chaos with competence, and division with decency and unity.

White House briefings are filled with information, not insults. The @POTUS Twitter account no longer fires off tweets in the middle of the night that are unsettling to Americans and even our allies.

One of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle complained. He recently bemoaned President Biden's Twitter feed when he said "unimaginably conventional." He meant that as a criticism. Most American people find it a relief.

Polls show that the majority of Americans approve of President Biden's leadership on the coronavirus and the economy. A new poll by the Kennedy School at Harvard finds that among young people between the ages of 18 and 29, 56 percent—a solid majority—say they are hopeful about America's future. That is the highest for any President in the 21-year history of the poll.

The challenges that President Biden and Vice President Harris inherited were historic. They won't be solved in a hundred days, maybe not in a hundred weeks. But in his first hundred days as President, Joe Biden has kept his promises and has begun to restore the most precious commodity of all—America's sense of hope and common purpose. Those qualities built this Nation, and they will build our future.

(Ms. HIRONO assumed the Chair.)

#### AMERICAN JOBS PLAN

Madam President, last week, a few of my Republican colleagues introduced their counterproposal to President Biden's American Jobs Plan. The senior Senator from Mississippi called the proposal a "good-faith effort." He wishes to engage with Democrats on an

issue that touches every community in America on a subject we all know—infrastructure.

I think I speak for the entire Democratic caucus in welcoming this effort from our friends across the aisle. As I mentioned earlier, when it came to the American Rescue Plan for vaccines and vaccinations and cash support for families and help for small businesses and schools, not a single Republican would join us. It is time for us to come together and work on a bipartisan basis. Maybe this is a start.

After all, infrastructure is what should unite us. Whether you live in Laurel, MS, or the Lake View section of Chicago, our roads, bridges, and our fiber-optic networks keep us connected and keep us moving.

As we emerge from this pandemic, it is clear that Americans are ready to get to work building a stronger country, a healthier country, and a more prosperous country. Sadly, though, the proposal from my Republican friends really fails to meet the once-in-a-generation opportunity test to transform America and make America a winner in the 21st century.

At a time when millions of Americans lack access to reliable, efficient transportation and millions more lack access to reliable high-speed internet, we can't settle for just repaving old roads or filling potholes. We need to invest in this Nation's future and put people back to work building a sustainable economic foundation for our children and grandchildren to grow and thrive. We need an infrastructure plan that is a blueprint for the world of tomorrow, not just a patchwork quilt focused on yesterday.

The way I see it, we are on the cusp of a world where America owns the clean energy economy and exports our union-made electric trucks and cars across the globe. Where workers can get to work easily by bus, train, or bike and working parents don't have to worry about finding a safe and affordable place to leave their kids when they are working. A world where, rather than reading about the Mesozoic Era in an outdated textbook, a child can throw on a virtual reality headset in the home or classroom and watch in awe as a T. rex swings its massive tail over their head. A world in which America makes and sells the new technologies of the sustainable economy to the world rather than buying them.

That is a future powered by the infrastructure of tomorrow. Under the American Jobs Plan, it is a future made in America. But we need to start building it today because, if we don't, I guarantee you somebody else will.

My friends, take a look across the ocean. Do we really believe that China, for example, is skimping on investing in its future? Absolutely not. They are already using technologies like artificial intelligence to ease traffic congestion in cities. They are installing facial recognition systems on their streets to keep tabs on jaywalkers and, sadly, tabs on ethnic minorities like Uighurs.

That is the difference between us and China. In China, the Communist Party uses technology to broaden the scope of its surveillance state. In America, we have an opportunity to show the world that technology and innovation can actually strengthen democracy by giving people the freedom to work the way they want with universal broadband and to move around the way they want with new forms of transportation.

The President's American Jobs Plan will give our kids an honest shot to thrive by eliminating lead pipes and service lines from our drinking water systems and making safe, affordable housing a reality for millions of working families.

I can't help but acknowledge my colleague Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH when it comes to clean water and new lead pipes and service lines for our drinking water systems. I am proud of the initiative and leadership that she has shown, working with other Members of the Senate, to make this a reality.

This is a unifying vision for the future. It is a model for global leadership. So let's not balk at the cost of making it a reality. This is not the time to think small. We are talking about a transformative undertaking, and that is part of what America has always been about.

More than half a century ago, Republican President Dwight Eisenhower launched the Interstate Highway System. It changed America. Today, the program's nearly 50,000 miles of expressway carry about one-fourth of all traffic in the United States. These roads connect our communities, have created communities, and serve as a bedrock for our economy.

In today's numbers, if you tried to rebuild the Interstate Highway System, it would cost half a trillion dollars—probably much more, to be honest. It is not a small sum. But, boy, it is an investment that paid off. The program generated \$6 in economic activity for every dollar spent to build those roads and highways.

And the fact is, today we need to invest in order to build our future. When President Eisenhower launched the Interstate Highway Program, we didn't have e-commerce or same-day shipments. It was more than 10 years before Neil Armstrong stepped foot on the Moon. Now, each of us carries around a pocket-sized device with more than enough computing power to get him to the Moon and back.

The world has changed—in many ways, for the better. Today, it is not sufficient for an infrastructure plan to begin and end with bridges and roads. If we want to support a modern economy and sustain growth for generations to come, we need to invest in the infrastructure for tomorrow.

This isn't to say that we have all the answers on this side of the aisle. But there is one answer we should all get behind: Go big; go bold. We can't penny-pinch America into first place.

And don't take it from me: Americans of all political stripes—Democrats, Independents, and Republicans—support marshaling the resources of the Federal Government to go big and bold on infrastructure. They want us to not only repair our highways and bridges but to rebuild our waterways and airports and make high-speed broadband internet available to everyone.

Americans support a plan that puts us on track to have an American century in the 21st century. That is our plan, and victory is within our reach.

There was an architect and designer in the city of Chicago in the transition from the 19th to the 20th century who helped design the Columbian Exposition, "White City," and a lot of history was made with those decisions. His name was Daniel Burnham. When he was asked about planning something like the White City, the Columbian Exposition, in the city of Chicago, he had a quote that you will turn to almost every day if you follow what is going on in planning in Chicago. Here is what he said: "Make no little plans. They have no magic to stir men's blood"—and I might add, women—"They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably themselves will not be realized."

They have no magic to stir men's blood and probably will not themselves be realized. I think we understand that.

As President Eisenhower gave America a vision with the Interstate Highway System, a connected nation and a new America, we need to do the same. President Biden has challenged us to do it. We need to do it on a bipartisan basis. I look forward to working with my colleagues to make it a reality.

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. MCCONNELL. Madam 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 Republican leader is recognized.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY WILDCATS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, over the weekend, the University of Kentucky's women's volleyball team made history. The Wildcats hoisted the program's first NCAA volleyball national championship trophy after defeating Texas on Saturday night. The falling confetti in Omaha closed out an incredible 24-win season. The Wildcats' unmatched athleticism and resilience fueled their paths to the title.

Yesterday afternoon at UK's Memorial Coliseum, enthusiastic fans welcomed home their champions, including Madison Lilley, who was named the tournament's "Most Outstanding Player."

So I would like to extend the Senate's congratulations to the players,

Head Coach Craig Skinner, and the entire program. Kentucky and all of Big Blue Nation couldn't be prouder.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Madam President, on another matter, it has been nearly a month since the Biden administration rolled out its so-called infrastructure plan. It quickly became clear that their proposal mainly focused on everything but the things normal people call infrastructure.

The day this plan was introduced, the White House messaging document mentioned the words "climate" and "union" more often than "roads" and "bridges." And the numbers back that up. Out of more than \$2 trillion in proposed spending, less than 6 percent would go to roads and bridges. Even when you add in airports, ports, rail, and waterways, the total would still be exceeded by the amount going to electric vehicles alone. Even an Ivy League expert said using "infrastructure" to describe the totality of the bill "does a bit of violence to the English language."

So after a few days of trying to battle the English language, Democrats began to pivot. I understand this is no longer an "infrastructure" plan. Now it is a "jobs" plan. But that turns out to be just as dishonest. This proposal isn't any more focused on creating jobs than it is on fixing roads.

Even by the favorable metrics that the White House likes to use, this plan would cost Americans more than \$800,000 for every new job that would exist 10 years down the road.

Serious, bipartisan legislation to rebuild American infrastructure could have a big impact at a fraction—a fraction—of the cost. This plan is bloated, unfocused. It is not a targeted recipe for better public works.

When America actually puts our mind to things, we can do them. Remember Operation Warp Speed? But this isn't like that. This is a sloppy liberal wish list that would spend a lot and get very little in return.

The far left has been bragging about all the social engineering and welfare spending that is stuffed into these proposals. They have boasted that the DNA of the Green New Deal is all over this administration's agenda.

Roads, bridges, and ports are bipartisan priorities. Water infrastructure and broadband are bipartisan priorities. That is why when the Senate tackles honest-to-goodness infrastructure in a smart way, we almost always have wide bipartisan margins.

Last week, our colleague from West Virginia, Senator CAPITO, got together with the other ranking members of committees that deal with actual infrastructure. These Republicans put forward a smart proposal that would meet pressing needs in actual infrastructure.

So now comes the critical moment. Now is the time we learn whether Democrats really want to jump start

actual public works projects or whether infrastructure was only ever intended as a wrapping paper for unrelated gifts to the far left.

Remember what happened when Republicans went to President Biden, offering a bipartisan compromise path on COVID relief. They were informed the Democrats were not interested in working together. So our country needs the administration to find a smarter approach.

#### FOREIGN POLICY

Madam President, now, on one final matter, the last few months have given the world a glimpse at what is driving the foreign policy decisions under the Biden administration. First came a rush to rejoin a climate agreement that does not effectively hold our competitors to their own commitments.

Then, just weeks ago, there was the announcement of a total abandonment of Afghanistan that will squander our leverage to promote a diplomatic end to the civil war, put innocent Afghans at risk, roll out a red carpet for the Taliban, and embolden the terrorists.

Even this administration's own intelligence chiefs and our military commanders are concerned about how we will stay a step ahead of terrorists in the region without access provided by our U.S. footprint.

Late last week, we got a further peek at the incredible wishful thinking behind this policy. As reported in the New York Times, some Biden officials suggest the Taliban "might govern less harshly . . . in order to win recognition and financial support."

The Secretary of State—America's top diplomat—seems to think it is that simple. He expressed hope that "civilian and economic assistance" could "advance a just and durable peace . . . and a brighter future for the Afghan people."

The Deputy National Security Advisor was more dismissive of the Afghan people's plight, morally equating our Afghan partners and the Taliban as just "two Afghan parties" in a conflict.

I do not believe Afghan women and girls are jumping for joy at the prospect of a Taliban takeover. In fact, as one of the New York Times headlines put it, "Afghan Women Fear the Worst"—"Afghan Women Fear the Worst."

I certainly do not believe the Taliban will abandon their brutal fundamentalist ways just to secure recognition from the Western powers that they despise.

Speaking of women's rights, over the weekend, the United Nations chose to further degrade its legitimacy by inviting Iran, of all countries, to join its Commission on the Status of Women. The U.N. chose to further degrade its legitimacy by inviting Iran to join its Commission on the Status of Women.

Yes, you heard that right. The panel claiming principal international authority over the empowerment of women will now include a nation whose police are empowered to beat and as-

sault women for improper veiling—a nation that turns a blind eye to pervasive domestic violence, forced marriage, and rape.

And it is not just the U.N. that seems to be going soft on Tehran. The Biden administration seems willing—if not desperate—to provide sanctions relief up front, squandering leverage, just to reenter President Obama's flawed nuclear deal.

This sanctions relief would benefit a regime that is being run by the extremist Islamic Revolutionary Guards. That is what Iran's own Foreign Minister admitted in leaked documents. That is who is running the show—the same terrorists who were used by Soleimani to spread violence across the region, before the prior administration removed him permanently.

Republicans are not opposed to nuclear diplomacy, but we know that preemptive concessions will not secure a better deal or make America or our allies more secure.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### WORLD INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY DAY

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, as we finally, finally begin to turn the corner on the coronavirus pandemic, we have the hard work of rebuilding our economy.

One of the core engines of the American economy is intellectual property. From the smallest startup to the largest multinational company, intellectual property is central to creating jobs, boosting economic output, and protecting consumers. So it is appropriate that, today, we celebrate World Intellectual Property Day, which recognizes the important role that intellectual property plays in promoting innovation, creativity, and economic growth.

This year's World IP Day theme celebrates the contributions of small- and medium-sized businesses to the global marketplace. Why? Well, these small enterprises make up 90 percent of the world's businesses. Whether through protecting their brands with trademarks or their inventions with patents, intellectual property allows these small companies to grow and succeed; yet, here at home, far too many Americans with an entrepreneurial spirit find key elements of the intellectual property system out of their reach.

Last week, the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Intellectual Property—and I am privileged to chair that—held an important hearing to find ways to boost access in the patent system. We know that women and people of color are chronically underrepresented in the patent system, which results in a serious loss to our economy.

I am particularly proud that this hearing featured testimony from Georgia Grace Edwards, a Middlebury College graduate and entrepreneur, who realized that, after spending a summer in Alaska and 8 to 12 hours at a time on ice, she was at a serious disadvantage when it came to answering nature's call during her treks. Like so many innovators before her, Georgia Grace got to work in designing a new zipper—in sense, it was such a great thing—that could be incorporated into a variety of women's pants.

Now, while she was ultimately able to successfully navigate the patent system and secure protection for her idea, here is the problem. She faced a number of barriers along the way: the high cost of obtaining a patent, particularly from legal fees; a lack of knowledge about how the patent system works; and the lack of representation of women throughout the system.

Ten years ago, Congress enacted the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act, which put structures in place to help access the patent system and bring up a far more diverse set of inventors into the innovation economy, and at our hearing, we heard specific ideas for building on the success of the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act.

As the President awaits nominating the next Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, I want him to choose a nominee who shares a commitment to increasing access. It is not just the huge companies that need it; it is the small inventors.

It is important that the next Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office respect the law, including the statutory bounds set by Congress. You know, the last administration took steps to undermine the Leahy-Smith Act. They acted outside those statutory bounds.

I have always sought to curb the potential for poor-quality patents to be abused. That drove much of the work we did 10 years ago. So I look forward to supporting a nominee for PTO Director who shares my view that it is important to weed out poor-quality patents, avoid the potential for abuse, but at the same time reinforce the protection provided to high-quality patents.

We must also work to ensure that hard-working small business owners and creators who rely on copyright protections to make a living are able to protect their works online.

While I appreciate the steps that some online platforms are taking to address the persistent problem of online infringement, much like the issue of diversity in the patent system, more work needs to be done.

Last month, I joined with Senator TILLIS and other members of the IP Subcommittee, and we sent a letter to major online platforms outlining specific voluntary measures they could adapt to crack down on online infringement. I hope that on World IP Day, the leaders of these online platforms will take a moment to consider the plight

of the individual songwriter or photographer or the independent film producer and give serious thought to steps they can take to ensure that creators can adequately protect their works online. You know, for these small and independent creators, nothing short of their livelihoods is at stake.

Finally, I want to recognize the important work our IP system does to protect consumers. The trademark system helps to guide consumers in finding which products are legitimate but also which are not.

Unfortunately, fraudsters are relentless in exploiting opportunities to fool consumers into buying counterfeit products, and that has been especially dangerous during the global pandemic. Just last month, authorities seized more than 65,000 counterfeit 3M N95 masks—not like the real one I am holding. But that is just the tip of the iceberg. As the chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, I am committed to ensuring that Customs and Border Patrol has the resources it needs to respond to the ever-evolving counterfeiting threat. A diverse, accessible, and effective intellectual property system that rewards creativity and innovation is essential to our Nation's continued prosperity, and I look forward to working with Ranking Member TILLIS and the other members of the IP Subcommittee, as well as with the Appropriations Committee, to both celebrate the achievements of American inventors and ensure that their contributions are being protected.

#### CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING

Madam President, I rise today to address the need for Congress to restore one of its constitutional powers, the power of the purse.

My family arrived in Vermont in the 19th century to work in the granite quarries in Barre. Later, my parents ran a printing business right across from the Vermont State House in Montpelier where I grew up.

I stayed in Vermont for college, only traveling 45 minutes up the road to Saint Michael's College where I received an excellent education. After earning my law degree at Georgetown, I returned home to Vermont to serve as the State's attorney for Chittenden County.

As Vermont's senior Senator, serving the last 46 years, I speak with community leaders, dairy farmers, small business owners, and Vermonters across the State every day. My staff in Vermont and DC dedicate themselves to doing the same. Before the pandemic, Marcelle and I would stop to chat with people in the grocery store, at the gas station, or in our favorite bakery in my hometown of Middlesex. We miss being able to do this during these times of social distancing, and are looking forward to the day when we can return to those in-person chats and visits.

Needless to say, I am a lifelong Vermonter, and I know my State very

well. I have a deep understanding of Vermont's communities, Vermonters, and their needs.

But for the past decade, I have had to fight for them here in Washington with my hands tied behind my back. Every Member of this Chamber has their hands tied, because we ceded the power of the purse to unelected bureaucrats here in Washington when we instituted a ban on congressionally directed spending. As a result, instead of being able to direct even a fraction of the tax dollars we collect from our hard working constituents back into their communities, we turned these decisions over to the executive branch.

These unelected officials are dedicated public servants to be sure, but they cannot possibly understand the needs of our communities to the extent that Senators do. To them, a new community center is nothing more than a line item on a spreadsheet. To us, we know the potential such a community center can unlock because we have spoken to the organizers who want to build it. We have heard their plans for new programs to provide children with afterschool opportunities, offer job training programs to the recently unemployed, or provide a social space for the community to gather.

A grant for the historic preservation of a rural downtown is just one of thousands of applications that may be considered by employees at the National Park Service. But I know what that money can do in the hands of dedicated community advocates, someone like my late, dear friend Paul Bruhn at the Preservation Trust of Vermont. Paul saw the potential of historic preservation of rural downtown spaces to support small businesses and preserve the fabric of Vermont, but there is no reason the National Park Service employees would know what a visionary he was or how much just a little bit of Federal support could be stretched to help revitalize a community.

Senators of this Chamber were forced to push for these worthwhile efforts by advocating to unelected officials to support projects in towns these officials have never visited run by passionate community leaders they have never met.

The practice previously referred to as "earmarking" was not without abuse, and some particularly high profile examples of that abuse. But today, 65 percent of Congress was elected after the ban in 2011 and only know the practice for its ugly headlines, not the great benefit it can bring to our communities and our society.

We can still see the benefit from projects previously funded through congressionally directed spending in communities around the country and in successful national programs today. The research that led to the Human Genome Project unlocking our genetic code was originally funded through congressionally directed spending. The WIC program was as well. In Vermont, congressionally directed spending has

helped build affordable housing, rehabilitate our downtowns, and promote community and economic development throughout the State.

This is not a new concept. Congress passed the first bill containing an earmark in 1790, 231 years ago. The Cape Henry lighthouse guided boats to safety for almost 100 years, and it stands today. It is the fourth oldest lighthouse in the United States, and has been listed on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places and designated as a National Historic Landmark. It is a destination for tourists still today.

Many of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have pointed to congressionally directed spending as the source of our country's increasing national debt, but this is not the case. This spending rarely exceeded 1 percent of all discretionary spending, and discretionary spending is only one-third of all Federal spending. So, approximately 1 percent of one-third of all Federal spending was congressionally directed. As noted by the New York Times, this is little more than a rounding error when considering the entire Federal budget of the United States of America.

Congressionally directed spending was never a source of new money that was tacked onto appropriations bills. These projects had to fit under our budgetary caps, caps that were agreed to on a bipartisan basis. After more than a decade, it is clear that banning congressionally directed spending did not decrease Federal spending or our national debt, and that is because it was not the cause of our debt. All the ban did was remove a very effective tool for Members to advance important projects in their States.

The late and former chairman of the Senate Appropriations Committee, Senator Robert C. Byrd, once said that the subject of congressionally directed spending "broaches the most serious of Constitutional questions . . . [w]ho shall control expenditures from the public treasuries—the unaccountable bureaucrats in the Executive Branch or the representatives of the people?"

Article I, section 9 of the Constitution says: "No money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in consequence of Appropriations made by law." Congress holds the power of the purse. By banning the practice of congressionally directed spending, Congress ceded this power to the executive branch, and I believe it has hurt our ability to pass appropriations bills into law.

Vice Chairman SHELBY and I work hard to incorporate the recommendations and priorities of all 100 Senators into our annual appropriations bills. We have worked hard to return the appropriations process to regular order, and we are making progress. Passing our annual appropriations bills is one of the most important jobs we do. The funding these bills provide impacts every corner of every State, from highway dollars to healthcare centers. But without the ability to influence where

the funds are spent, Members seem to have lost incentive to debate these bills. That is one of the reasons why we constantly face the threat of a government shutdown each fiscal year or that are forced to package these bills into an omnibus in a take-it-or-leave-it form. This is no way to govern. Members must have a stake in these bills.

In 2007, we instituted major reforms for accountability and transparency to the process of congressionally directed spending. We had to certify that neither we nor any member of our immediate family would financially benefit from the requests we made. And we required each earmark to be clearly identified in the committee and conference reports. These reforms brought new transparency to the process, and I fully supported them. These rules remain in place today in rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate.

Today I am announcing that the Senate Appropriations Committee will again accept requests for congressionally directed spending items on a bipartisan basis, and we will do so in a manner that promotes transparency and accountability. In addition to adhering to rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, we will put a 1-percent cap on all congressionally directed spending items and ban congressionally directed spending items to for-profit entities.

We will require Senators to make their requests public on their websites, and we will make public any items that are actually funded in the appropriations bills. The Senate Appropriations Committee will also ask GAO to audit a sample of enacted congressionally directed spending items in order to increase accountability for the projects that are funded and to restore the trust of the American people in this process.

Congress holds the power of the purse. We should use it responsibly and transparently to address the needs of our communities.

I want to thank the distinguished majority leader for putting Samantha Power on the agenda this week. I think she is extraordinarily well qualified, and I look forward to voting for her.

Madam President, I see my distinguished colleague on the floor.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I thank my good friend—our Senate pro tempore, our chairman of Appropriations, our longtime chairman and ranking member of the Judiciary, who has done a lot on patent work, et cetera—for his graciousness.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Madam President, now, the Senate has a lot to accomplish by the end of this week.

We will confirm several highly qualified nominees to the executive branch, starting today with the nominee for Deputy OMB Director, Jason Miller. Later this week, we will also confirm

Janet McCabe for Deputy EPA Administrator, Colin Kahl for Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, and Samantha Power for Administrator of USAID.

Our Senate committees will continue holding hearings and markups on at least a dozen other nominees. The Senate will also consider two important environmental infrastructure policies.

First, the Senate will take up the Drinking Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Act of 2021. This legislation passed through the Committee on Environment and Public Works with unanimous support. In fact, this water infrastructure bill is a core component of the Republican infrastructure proposal released last week. It also addresses many of the recommendations put forward by the Problem Solvers Caucus last Friday. So I hope that this is a signal to the entire Senate that we should work together on infrastructure where and when we can.

Senators CARPER, DUCKWORTH, and CARDIN have been outstanding leaders on this issue and have made sure Members from both sides of the aisle have had the opportunity to offer amendments, just as we did last week on the anti-Asian hate crimes bill. We are going to continue working with our Republican colleagues on the timing for a vote on the water infrastructure bill. On a topic this straightforward and bipartisan, I hope that our Republican colleagues will cooperate so that we may finish the bill ASAP. We have a lot to do.

I want to also thank Senator CAPITO, the ranking member of the committee, for working with Senators CARPER, DUCKWORTH, and COLLINS so well.

The Senate will also vote on a measure this week to restore critical regulations on the release of methane into our atmosphere. In 2016, the Obama administration instituted a rule that required energy companies to better monitor and reduce methane leaks. The rule not only drew cheers from the environmental community, it earned the support of industry as well.

Even though methane is far less talked about than carbon dioxide, it is far more potent. A tonne of methane warms the atmosphere 86 times more than a tonne of carbon dioxide. On the plus side, however, methane does not linger in our atmosphere as long as CO<sub>2</sub> does, and emissions can be reduced rather cheaply. So, when it comes to combating climate change, tackling methane delivers a huge bang for your buck.

That is just what the Senate intends to do this week by reimposing commonsense rules to reduce methane emissions—hopefully, on a bipartisan basis. We already have the support of at least one Republican Senator. We welcome more. The industry supported this. Again, Donald Trump, often with just the nastiness of “it was Obama’s rule, so I ought to repeal it” did. It hurts us big time. I want to be clear. The methane CRA is a big deal. This

measure will help us address the climate crisis in a major way. It is nowhere close to everything we want or need, but it is very important.

Last week, President Biden set an ambitious goal for the United States to cut its greenhouse gas emissions in half by the end of the decade. This week, the Senate will take up the first of many important steps we need to take to achieve that ambitious goal.

FIRST 100 DAYS

Madam President, now, on our first 100 days, Thursday, the 29th, will be the 100th day since President Biden took the oath of office on the East Front of the Capitol. President Biden will mark the occasion with his inaugural address to a joint session of Congress on Wednesday.

Historically, the first 100 days have been a yardstick by which Presidential administrations have been measured. For the first time in recent history, however, due to the lateness of the Georgia runoff elections, Thursday also marks the 100th day of the new Democratic Senate majority and, on a personal note, my 100th day as majority leader.

Without exaggeration, the first 100 days of the Biden administration and the Senate Democratic majority have been more productive than nearly any in recent memory. Despite a delay in passing the organizing resolution and the time constraints imposed by the Presidential impeachment trial, the Senate has confirmed the most diverse Cabinet in history, faster than either of the prior two administrations. Every single Cabinet Secretary received a bipartisan vote in favor of confirmation.

Last week, by a vote of 94 to 1—again, led by the Presiding Officer and Senator HIRONO—the Senate passed legislation to combat the recent surge in hate crimes, particularly against Americans of Asian descent. Then, of course, Congress passed the landmark legislation and the top priority of the Biden administration, the American Rescue Plan. It was the most sweeping Federal recovery effort in a generation, more than twice the size of the stimulus package after the financial crisis of 2008.

The Democrats promised big, bold relief. The Democrats have delivered big, bold relief. As a result, vaccinations are up; unemployment is down; and businesses, schools, restaurants, and bars are finally—finally—starting to reopen. It is no wonder that more than 70 percent of Americans approve of the way that the Biden-Harris administration has handled the pandemic in the first 100 days.

For much of the past year, the country has been plagued by two major crises: a public health crisis and an economic crisis. That is what the Biden-Harris administration and the Senate Democratic majority inherited when they assumed power back in January. Let’s look at how the country has progressed on both fronts.

First, when it comes to the pandemic, we have far outstripped even

the rosier of predictions for the number of vaccinations. President Biden initially promised 100 million vaccinations to be administered in the first 100 days, but the pace of vaccinations was so fast that the President had to double his initial goal to 200 million in the first 100 days, and we have already reached it. It is fair to say that, in the first 100 days, America is winning the all-important “arms race” to get our citizens vaccinated.

On the most important measure of progress—getting the country protected against COVID-19—the new Democratic administration and congressional majorities have been a roaring success. Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, our economy has gotten its own shot in the arm, too. Over the past several weeks, the Biden administration has delivered more than 150 million stimulus checks to the Americans who have needed them the most.

Weekly unemployment claims have fallen to their lowest level during the pandemic. The month of March saw the economy create nearly 900,000 jobs. Retail sales are surging. Consumer confidence has rebounded. Economic forecasters are now projecting that our economy could grow as fast as 7 percent this year. In the wake of the American Rescue Plan, the economic boost was so significant that forecasters had to increase their projections for global growth as well.

Our former President blithely predicted that electing Joe Biden would crash the stock market. It turns out President Biden's first 100 days have delivered the best stock market results in 75 years, since President Eisenhower.

At the same time, the Democratic majority in Congress has made sure that our Nation's economic recovery will be felt by everyone. The American Rescue Plan is expected to boost incomes of the lowest 20 percent by 20 percent. Guess what those in the top 1 percent will receive? It will be so contrary to what the Republicans did when they had power. They will get zero percent instead of the overwhelming percentage in their bill, their tax cuts. Just one policy in the American Rescue Plan—the historic expansion of the child tax credit—is expected to cut child poverty in half.

The story of the first 100 days is about shots going into arms, checks going into pockets, and life finally returning to normal. The story of the first 100 days is about the country turning a corner and seeing some hope on the horizon. More broadly, the first 100 days of this administration and this Congress have proven two things: one, that the government can work for the American people; and, two, that the Senate can legislate.

The last few decades have brought faith in our government to alltime lows. You don't have to look very far in the past to find surveys about how Congress has been less popular than traffic jams, root canals, and Genghis

Khan. Faith in our democracy and trust in our elections were brought to new lows by the persistent and mendacious lies by the former President, culminating in an armed insurrection here in the Capitol.

Part of our mission here in Congress, in working with the Biden administration, is to restore Americans' faith in our institutions and Americans' faith in our government. Through the American Rescue Plan and the successful roll-out of the vaccine, we are slowly proving to the American people that government can work for them.

So we have a long way to go, but in the first hundred days, this new Congress has made an important downpayment. Congressional approval is now the highest it has been since June of 2009.

Here in the Senate, the first hundred days have shown that this Chamber can legislate. Bipartisan work on the anti-Asian hate crime bill, the water bill this week, and hopefully an American competitiveness bill in the coming weeks proves that there are still many issues that unite Republicans and Democrats. Of course, our two parties are not always going to agree. In those instances, the Senate must still make progress on the challenges of our time. We did that through the American Rescue Plan.

So in the first hundred days, the Senate has accomplished a lot more than most observers might have predicted. The next hundred days will bring more of the same.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 61.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Samantha Power, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close the debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 61, Samantha Power, of Massachusetts, to be Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

Charles E. Schumer, Mazie Hirono, Ron Wyden, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Michael F. Bennet, Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Cory A. Booker, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Chris Van Hollen, Sherrod Brown, Edward J. Markey, Bernard Sanders.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, April 26, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor and once again thank my friend from Vermont.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

JOHN KERRY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I rise today on the Senate floor to call for the resignation of John Kerry as a member of the Biden administration's National Security Council.

Now, I don't do this lightly. As a matter of fact, in my entire time in the Senate, I have never called for anyone's resignation—Obama-Biden administration, Trump administration, Biden administration now. I have been tempted, particularly when some in government have tried to hurt my State. A lot of that is going on right now with the Biden administration. But his record—John Kerry's record—of undermining working families and working against American national security interests is too much to bear. He needs to go.

Today, I have heard such disturbing news that, if true, it should absolutely result in the call of John Kerry either being fired or resigning. Enough is enough. Why am I saying this? First, he is killing jobs, arrogantly killing American jobs. That is a fact. He is putting hard-working Americans, particularly in the energy sector—the great men and women who make our country strong by developing oil and gas resources; a lot of my constituents—in the name of climate goals, he is putting them out of work. He is going to Wall Street, saying: Don't finance these projects anymore. That is what reporters are saying.

On these issues, I completely and adamantly disagree with the arrogant way—frankly, callous way—he says: Hey, people need to move on to better jobs. But for this issue alone, I wouldn't be calling for his resignation. This is a major difference in the Biden administration's policies and priorities with regard to the American people. I think it is going to really come back and hit this administration hard because the vast majority of Americans don't agree with putting people out of work, energy workers out of work during a recession and pandemic, but that



is going to be decided in the voting box in the elections. The American people will ultimately decide whether arrogantly putting thousands and thousands of energy workers out of work right now is a good idea.

In the name of these climate goals, he has also been a strong appeaser of countries that threaten ours.

Let me take you back to 2015. I was a brandnew U.S. Senator. President Obama and President Xi Jinping are meeting in the Rose Garden.

President Xi Jinping from China tells the President of the United States and the American people: No, we are not going to militarize the South China Sea. We won't do it.

Of course, the Chinese Communist Party was not telling the truth to the President of the United States and the American people. They started to do this already, militarizing one of the most important sea routes in the world.

Many of us here in the Senate, Democrats and Republicans, said: We need to stand up for our interests. We need the U.S. Navy to do freedom of navigation operations.

The Secretary of Defense wanted to do this. The admiral in charge of the INDOPACOM area of responsibility wanted to do this. But we now know, in principals' meetings, we delayed doing this for almost 3 years because John Kerry said: We don't want to get the Chinese mad, or they will go back on their Paris climate deal and commitments—which, by the way, are way out in the future.

This is true. This is true. This happened. Again, in my view, this bordered on treacherous but not treasonous. I didn't call for his resignation then. I was mad about it. By the way, a lot of people in the Obama administration were mad about this, including the Secretary of Defense. We lost a lot of time.

It certainly makes me nervous that John Kerry is out in Beijing again. What kind of deal did he cut this time with China, the Communist Party of China, which won't keep any commitments? But, again, that wasn't a call for resignation.

The straw that broke the camel's back came out today, and it is the reason I am up here calling for John Kerry to resign. It is a tape that was leaked of an interview with Iran's Foreign Minister, Mohammad Zarif.

First, some background. Zarif was being interviewed by an economist and journalist who is an adviser to Mohammad Khatami, the pro-reform cleric who served two terms as Iran's President. An edited version was intended to be public of this interview only after Iran's current President left office in August, but it was leaked.

Zarif, according to reports, says many interesting and telling things in the tape, one, for example, that, in my view, the rightful killing of General Soleimani, the Quds Force commander, in January of 2020 when he was in Iraq

looking to kill more American soldiers—Zarif said this “was a major blow to Iran, more damaging than if it had wiped out an entire city in an attack”—that was what a lot of us were arguing at the time—and that unlike what John Kerry had been telling the public when negotiating the Iran nuclear deal in the Obama administration, it is the Revolutionary Guard Corps, the Quds Force, not Zarif, who calls the shots in Iran. That is all on the tapes.

But the most disturbing part of the interview that was leaked was when Zarif said that John Kerry told him, the Iranian Foreign Minister, about covert Israeli actions against Iranian interests in Syria. Now think about that. According to news reports, Zarif is heard as saying:

It was former U.S. Foreign Secretary John Kerry who told me Israel had launched more than 200 attacks on Iranian forces in Syria.

That is Zarif saying John Kerry told him that, classified information about one of our most important allies in the world, Israel.

Zarif said that he “listened to this information [from Secretary Kerry] in astonishment.”

Now, when I read this today, I was astonished as well, that a former Secretary of State, now a member of President Biden's National Security Council—who wasn't confirmed for that, by the way, by this body—would reveal the secrets of one of our most important and enduring allies in the region to an avowed enemy and the largest state sponsor of terrorism, a country that was responsible for the killing and wounding and maiming of thousands of American service men and women, whose leaders have the blood of American soldiers on their hands. He is telling them that information.

It is unclear why John Kerry would relay such information to the leaders of the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world, but here is a guess: During the Trump administration, after that administration pulled out of the JCPOA, the Iran nuclear deal, which John Kerry negotiated—and by the way, a bipartisan majority of U.S. Senators in this body were against that deal—John Kerry started to freelance. He admitted to meeting with Zarif in 2018 to try to salvage the nuclear deal. In other words, he was likely acting and working against the previous administration, the elected administration, the Trump administration, and many of us here in Congress who applauded when we pulled out of the JCPOA.

Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an article written today by the National Review titled “John Kerry, Enemy of Israel.”

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JOHN KERRY, ENEMY OF ISRAEL  
(By David Harsanyi)

We know now that former secretary of state John Kerry isn't merely a critic of

Israel; he is an adversary. In leaked audiotapes obtained by the U.K.-based Iran International, as reported by the New York Times, Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told a supporter that the former secretary of state had informed him about “at least” 200 covert Israeli actions against Iranian interests in Syria. Zarif listened to this information in “astonishment.”

It's predictable, perhaps, that the Times glides over this remarkable exchange in a single-sentence paragraph that is submerged near the bottom of the piece. (I guess it's better than the Washington Post, which doesn't even mention the interaction.)

A high-ranking American official feels comfortable sharing this information with an autocratic adversary—a government that's murdered hundreds of Americans, regularly kidnapped them, interfered with our elections, and propped up a regime that gasses its people—about the covert actions of a long-time American ally. What else did he tell Zarif? The Times doesn't say.

It wouldn't be surprising if Israel was more reluctant to share intel with the United States when Democrats such as Kerry show more fondness for those making genocidal threats against the Jewish people than they do for the state that protects them. It's worth remembering that others like Senator Chris Murphy (who is now “requesting a classified briefing” on the Natanz incident, in which Israel likely sabotaged a nuclear facility) also secretly met with Zarif in Munich in a coordinated effort to undercut the Trump administration's efforts to derail Iran's ongoing nuclear-weapons program—an incident that comports far more closely with the definition of “collusion” than anything turned up against Trump officials. We have no idea what Murphy discussed with Zarif, either.

We do know that after the assassination of Qasem Soleimani—head of the Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force and the terror group behind the death of over 600 American servicemen and thousands of others—Kerry and Murphy were among the many people scaremongering over a “massive regional war” that never materialized. In his leaked conversation, Zarif says of Soleimani that “by assassinating him in Iraq, the United States delivered a major blow to Iran, more damaging than if it had wiped out an entire city in an attack.”

As the Trump years proved, there are a number of options available as we wait for the Iranian regime to come to its senses or, hopefully, crumble, including maximum economic pressure and sabotage. Last week, Israel reportedly blew up Iran's Natanz nuclear facility's electrical substation, located 40 to 50 meters underground, damaging “thousands of centrifuges.” This is likely the second time in the past few months that the Israelis have been able to smuggle explosives into the facility and detonate them remotely. Of course, this incident is only one in a long line of unexplained fires, assassinations, and computer worms that have caused substantial delays and damage to the illegal Iranian nuclear-weapons program. All of these efforts have likely saved lives by delaying the ability of Iran to become another North Korea—or worse, since Iran exports terror all over the world.

During the Obama years, Democrats would offer an ugly false choice: You either support diplomacy with the “moderate” wing of the theocratic state, or you endorse “war”; either fly unmarked euros in tonnage and bail out the Mullahs, or plunge America into another Iraq War. At one point, Obama claimed that the Republican caucus was making “common cause” with Iranian hard-liners.

The opposite was true. In the leaked audio from Zarif, we hear that the military and



theocratic forces in the nation “call the shots” and overrule “government decisions and ignoring advice.” According to the Times, Zarif says that the political wing is “severely constricted” and decisions “are dictated by the supreme leader or Revolutionary Guards Corps.” Obama’s contention that the Iran deal was being forged with the “moderate faction” was always a fantasy.

The real moderates in Iran were forsaken by Obama and Biden when they decided that the United States wouldn’t support the 2009 Green Movement, in what Soviet dissident Natan Sharansky called one of the biggest failures of human rights in modern history. Democrats Murphy, Biden, and Kerry are more interested in ensuring Iran becomes a regional counterforce to Israeli power.

Whatever you believe about the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, or Biden’s iteration of the deal, it should not have to be said that high-ranking United States officials shouldn’t be sharing sensitive information about an ally with a terror regime. Yet it also seems quite likely that’s exactly what John Kerry did.

Mr. SULLIVAN. The beginning of this article says:

Let’s pause to reflect on how monumentally stunning it is that the former U.S. secretary of state allegedly tattled on Israel to Iran.

It goes on to say: A high-ranking American official would feel comfortable sharing this kind of classified information “with an autocratic adversary—a government that’s murdered hundreds of Americans, regularly kidnapped them, interfered with our elections, and propped up a regime that gasses its people—about the covert actions of a long-time critical American ally.”

What else did Kerry tell Zarif, this article asks? Press reports don’t say, but if this is true, if John Kerry told Iran—the leaders of Iran—about issues relating to our most critical ally in the region, Israel, which Iran has repeatedly said they want to wipe Israel off the face of the Earth, if he did this, he needs to resign. If he did this with the intent of undermining the current President of the United States at the time, President Trump, and the Members of this body, he needs to resign.

He is a member of the current administration’s National Security Council. It has become clear that our adversaries, whether Beijing or Iran, like it when John Kerry is in charge of foreign policy and national security. Why? Because they know how to use him to their advantage. And our allies fear him. Why? Because they know his judgment is off on so many issues. So, too, do America’s working families.

We need to look into this. If this is true—if this is true—I certainly hope other Members of this body, Democrats and Republicans, will join me in calling for the resignation of John Kerry. Enough is enough. The redline that was crossed, if this is true, revealing secret information to one of America’s most sworn enemies, with the blood of thousands of American military members on its hands, undermining the interests of one of our most important allies, the State of Israel, if this is true, John Kerry needs to go. He should resign or

he should get fired by the President of the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

#### DEFENSE BUDGET

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, you know, there is a lot that we do not agree on here in the Senate, but I think everybody, including the Presiding Officer, can agree that we need to secure our country. We need to be safe. Our citizens need to feel safe. Our job as elected officials is to make sure that those who have stepped up to defend our country have the resources they need to do their job and do it safely.

The President’s recent budget proposal for the Defense Department does not, and I repeat, does not give our men and women in uniform the tools to do their job properly. It is clear that President Biden thinks we don’t need further investment in our military. It is clear he thinks it is OK to ask our men and women to do more with less, and that is impossible. This should alarm the Members of this body and all American people.

The world has changed a lot in 50 years. When President Biden first came to Washington in 1972, there were two superpowers: the United States and the Soviet Union. Back then, we spent 6.5 percent of our Federal budget on national defense—6.5. Today, we spend less than 3.5.

In 2021, we are facing different but very, very serious threats. Secretary Austin has said that China remains the top “pacing threat” for our military. It is much, much more than that. China isn’t just trying to dominate Asia and its neighbors; they are trying to dominate much of the world through its growing military and economic influence. Simply keeping pace with China is not enough.

We have got to outpace all of our adversaries, but doing that requires smart, substantial, and strategic investments in our military—much more investment than the President and many people here in Congress publicly propose.

Let me walk through some of the ways that a supposedly flat defense budget hurts our national security.

President Biden says he wants his administration to trust the experts on things like COVID, but this defense budget shows he doesn’t apply the same principle to the Pentagon. Unlike the President and some of my Democratic colleagues, I think we should take seriously the advice of our commanding generals, for they are the experts in this purview.

Here is what ADM Charles Richard, commander of U.S. Strategic Command, who is over our nuclear capabilities, said in last week’s hearing to the Senate Armed Services Committee:

I have what I need today to deter. . . . but I need it modernized. . . . There’s no remaining margin.

His warning is clear. We must modernize our greatest deterrent and keep

peace among our adversaries with our nuclear arsenal. That means updating all three legs of the nuclear triad: submarines, bombers, and intercontinental ballistic missiles. It is necessary to do so, and it is also possible. As former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said, “America can afford survival.”

The Russians have made modernizing their nuclear arsenal a priority. The Chinese have made growing their nuclear stockpile a matter of national pride. But the United States? Each day we rely on nuclear weapons that, in many cases, were designed by an analog mechanical computer. The free world, meaning the United States, works and sleeps under a nuclear umbrella that hasn’t been updated to the digital age.

Meanwhile, the Chinese are fielding hypersonic missiles, which are missiles that go into space and then return to their target. Ours are still on the drawing board.

China’s arsenal of ground-based and medium-range missiles continues to grow. They are pointed right at our forces in the Pacific and our allies in the region. We need investment to maintain our missile defense systems so we can protect our people and deter the Chinese from attacking our allies.

We are also in a new space race, and it is a race we must win. Americans may not realize how much we rely on space for our daily lives. Our satellites allow us to get GPS for our phones or even watch football games on television, but the Chinese want to weaponize this new frontier of war, and we are falling way behind.

Right now, the Chinese have set up satellites over Taiwan as they continue to ramp up their threats on this democratic neighbor. It is unbelievable. I heard about the growing gap between us and the Chinese when I visited Army Materiel Command at Redstone Arsenal a few weeks ago in Huntsville. These folks shared with me how desperate we need to modernize our space-based systems that contribute to our missile defense.

The U.S. Army is the largest consumer of space products, and our military relies on Materiel Command to provide the resources to train our soldiers for research, development of new equipment, and defend our Nation. They should not have to beg the President of the United States for the money to invest in the capabilities that we need.

The United States must ensure secure and reliable access to space. Our budget needs to demonstrate commitment to defending our existing space assets and developing new technologies so we can win this next theater of conflict. We also need to invest in the safety of our service men and women, especially in aviation. Currently, the average age of an airplane in our military is older than the pilots flying them—older.

According to a recent report by the National Commission on Military

Aviation Safety, the military had more than 6,000 noncombat aviation accidents since 2013, destroying 157 aircraft, at a cost of \$9.41 billion. Even worse was the human cost. There are 198 souls that have been lost in these tragic accidents, affecting hundreds more spouses, children, family, and friends.

When asked why these causes occurred, servicemembers pointed to inadequate training programs, risky maintenance practices, and spotty funding, among other reasons. Alabama is home to Fort Rucker, where every Army helicopter pilot comes to get their training. When I visited the folks at Fort Rucker, they told me about the very real need for increased flight training hours for our pilots, which requires more investment and prioritization in the defense budget.

This last week, two pilots were injured in a helicopter crash at Fort Rucker during flight training. I am sure General Francis and the U.S. Army safety center will do a thorough investigation and provide feedback on the improvements needed to ensure that this does not happen again. The safety of our flight program must be a top priority. We must listen to our men and women in uniform and invest in the proper training and safety measures that will prevent these crashes.

Alabama stands ready to continue to build our military so we can maintain our status as a preeminent fighting force in the world. We have got hundreds of contractors and more than 200,000 employed in the defense sector across the State of Alabama. These topnotch men and women support our military installations from shipbuilders in Mobile to Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, and many places in between. As Winston Churchill said, "Give us the tools, and we will finish the job."

We are willing and able, but those tools require sustained funding from the Federal Government. Telling our forces to fight a war with outdated tools is like giving a football team some leather helmets and decades-old poorly fitted pads and expecting them to compete against modern equipment. But that is exactly what President Biden's defense budget is asking our military to do. Frankly, it is a huge disappointment, coming from our Commander in Chief. We cannot let our men and women down.

Thankfully, it is Congress—not the President—which has the power of the purse. And, really, this should be our first order of business every year. It is that important.

In the coming weeks, I will be working with my colleagues on the National Defense Authorization Act and budget that will enable our military to do the job better today and prepare for all the challenges tomorrow. This debate is ultimately about whether or not we have the willpower to fight to defend our way of life and our great country.

Well, I am willing to keep fighting for the United States by investing in

the men and women who keep us safe. I urge my colleagues and President Biden to do the same.

REMEMBERING CURTIS T. SPROUSE

Madam President, finally, I want to take a moment to honor the life of a great person in Alabama, a war veteran—Curtis T. Sprouse.

Mr. Sprouse joined the U.S. Army in 1943 at the age of 17. He served in the 318th Infantry Regiment under General George Patton in the European theater, including the Battle of the Bulge. For his bravery, he earned the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, and Good Conduct Medal, among other honors.

He passed away in Dothan, AL, last week at the age of 98.

A year ago, I visited with Mr. Sprouse at a restaurant in Dothan, and we sat at a table known locally as the "table of knowledge." It is where locals have sat and talked for decades, where people are said to solve the world's problems with conversation. That day, Mr. Sprouse and I talked about his service, and I talked to him about my father's time, who at the same age today would be 98. We talked about World War II. We didn't end up solving the world's problems, but we did talk about how to humbly, graciously, and patriotically serve our great country.

Mr. Sprouse was a humble man, but it was men like him who defended our country and the world from evil. And, ultimately, they prevailed. We owe Mr. Sprouse a debt of gratitude we can never fully repay.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary work of the teachers in Arkansas and across the country.

As we prepare to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week, it is clear that educators are in a class by themselves when it comes to resilience. Over the last 12 months, they have shown us what it means to be selfless and brave at a time when both were critically necessary.

I am especially proud of teachers in Arkansas who rose to the challenge of leading classes 100 percent virtually for the first time and then embraced reopening our schools in August 2020. The sudden transition to virtual learning was an extraordinary hurdle, as educators had to learn new technology and new teaching techniques overnight.

For all of us who have learned to use Zoom, it is worth taking a moment to imagine an online classroom with 30 wiggling first graders who want to show you their pets, or that you are teaching calculus to high school students who are preparing for an AP exam while attending class from their car at a Wi-Fi hotspot. Somehow, with great creativity and dedication, teachers embraced this mission and continued to do everything they could to reach each child.

When Arkansas schools reopened in the fall, they were faced with a tremen-

dous new challenge, from masks and social distancing to teaching classes, where some students were at their desks and others were on the screen. Arkansas teachers, once again, did the impossible for their students.

Over the last year, I have heard from educators who worried for their own health and safety but said their dedication to their students was stronger than fear. They learned new skills literally overnight, overhauled the curriculum, and reimagined every aspect of their classroom to comply with COVID-19 guidelines. Somehow, they also made our kids feel safe—safe enough to learn, set an example with their positive attitudes, and let students know how important they were, whether in the classroom or on a computer screen.

As they worked to maintain the academic progress of each child, they also provided a lifeline in an otherwise chaotic time. It is amazing to see the smiles on faces of the kids when they see their teachers. Even though nothing was normal, they gave students an escape back to normalcy by being there and continuing to do what they do best—teach.

When we look back at the heroes of this tumultuous time, it is clear that teachers will be among those we honor as society's most valuable players.

On behalf of the people of Arkansas, I want to thank our teachers for the great work that they have done this year and every year to bring out the best in each child and pave the way to a brighter future.

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.

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

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

FOR THE PEOPLE ACT OF 2021

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, we are less than 100 days into the Biden administration, and already we can identify a pattern in how they are building their policy initiatives, interacting with Congress, and marketing their ideas to the American people. In every example, the governing rule can be boiled down to "what you see isn't what you are going to get."

So far, in this 117th Congress, every single major policy proposal that DC Democrats have forced into the spotlight has been based on a false premise. They have intentionally misled the American people and are now catering to the increasingly radical leftwing that gets further out of step with the rest of this country each and every passing day.

Consider last month's absurd \$1.9 trillion spending package. The Democrats billed this as "the American Rescue Plan" and "COVID relief," but only 9 percent—9 percent—of the total package pricetag went for testing, vaccinations, and healthcare jobs. The rest

they used on a massive blue State bailout and blatant redistribution of wealth.

It is the same story with this month's \$2.25 trillion spending package. They have done their best to pass this off as an "infrastructure plan," but even if you add up every single line item that is dedicated to roads, bridges, highways, interstates, ports, waterways, airports, broadband, and the power grid, only a little over one-third of that plan will pay for actual infrastructure projects. The rest—the rest—of that \$2.25 trillion is just another slush fund for union activism, climate change auditors, and Green New Deal fantasies.

S. 1, the so-called "voting rights" bill that my colleagues across the aisle have spoken so passionately about, completes the trifecta of bait-and-switch bills, advertised as one thing but that would accomplish something completely different.

Now, S. 1 isn't as much a taxpayer-dollar grab as it is a nearly unprecedented policy power grab that offers solutions in search of problems. It ignores the promises of federalism. It disregards the constitutional directive affording States—affording the States—power over their own elections.

It requires the use of ballot casting technology and voter registration systems that don't even exist yet, but I think you can bet that some politically connected companies will make a whole bunch of money coming to the market with this technology.

It would dismantle voter ID laws and prevent local, meaningful cleanup of voter rolls. Your local election commission wouldn't be able to purge their rolls of individuals who have died or moved away. We know that this leads you to a recipe for fraud.

Speaking of fraud, it would force States to allow ballot harvesting. That is right; it would mandate that they allow ballot harvesting. Everyone has heard of the perils that exist with ballot harvesting. It would mandate donor disclosure, opening private citizens up to harassment and violent attacks. It would upend the mechanics of local elections for officials and voters alike and cause chaos and confusion in every precinct in this country.

So why in the world would Democrats even try to pitch this mess as something that would protect voting rights? By all accounts, it would increase the likelihood for fraud and confusion. Well, I think that they are doing it for the same reason they slapped a "COVID" label on a \$1.9 trillion wish list and an "infrastructure" label on a \$2.25 trillion wish list. They know that if the American people caught on to all that they are doing, they would never win another election.

Now, think about that—if you know your policies are so unpopular with the American people that you have to cloak them behind different words, different phrases, words that the meaning of the word is evolving because they

don't stand up to scrutiny in the light of day. And that is what is happening.

You know, it isn't just false advertising. It is not a falsehood. It is not misrepresentation. It is not an inaccuracy. It is not an accidental lie. This is an intentional lie. They are perpetrating this lie on behalf of a radical leftist minority of Americans whose ideas are so destructive that they wouldn't withstand 10 minutes of good, solid, robust, respectful bipartisan debate on this Senate floor.

Nothing about S. 1 will serve the best interests of the American people, and my Republican colleagues and I aren't the only ones who see the problems with it. Tennesseans are worried about this, too, because, in Tennessee, we did the work to clean up our voter rolls and implement fair voter ID laws. We cut down on fraud and increased faith in the electoral process.

This is how it is supposed to work. We do not need Federal intervention to protect the vote. So no wonder my Democratic colleagues chose to use the full weight of the Senate Judiciary Committee to scare the American people into believing they live in "Jim Crow America." Throughout the course of last week's hearing, which they called "Jim Crow 2021: The Latest Assault on the Right to Vote," they weaponized the pernicious lens of critical race theory against Georgia legislators and the thousands of election officials and volunteers who work year-round to bring as many eligible voters to the polls as possible.

Everyone should exercise their right to vote. We should protect one person, one vote. We should encourage people in our local communities to cast their ballot. But my friends across the aisle, they are desperate, and they are desperate to distract from what S. 1 would actually do, so desperate to distract from what it would actually do that they are willing to project the evil hatred behind slavery, segregation, and race-based violence, projecting that onto people whose only goal is to protect the vote from criminals who would seek to defraud it and make certain that individuals are registered to vote, that they vote, and that legal votes are counted and those improperly cast are not.

Now, my friends across the aisle have an invalid premise, and they should all pause and question their motives. The American people should be worried about what is happening in this Chamber when no one is looking. They should feel outrage at an administration that deliberately tries to manipulate them into supporting destructive, wasteful, and dangerous legislation.

I think these bait-and-switch tactics are going to backfire. I think the scare tactics are going to backfire because instead of being scared into submission, which is the agenda of the left, the American people are going to be scared into action.

Based on the contents of H.R. 1 and S. 1, I guess that they are more famil-

iar with the ins and outs of their neighborhood polling places than DC Democrats could ever expect to be. And that doesn't bode well for the administration or the current congressional majority.

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

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

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I also ask unanimous consent to deliver my complete remarks prior to the vote.

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

CONFIRMATION OF DEANNE BENNETT CRISWELL

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise to recognize a historic confirmation that took place last week. On Thursday, the Senate confirmed Deanne Criswell to serve as the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. I would like to thank Senator PORTMAN for his support and for working closely with me to see that Ms. Criswell was swiftly confirmed for this critical position.

Ms. Criswell is an experienced, crisis-tested leader, well deserving of the unanimous bipartisan support that her confirmation received. As she takes the helm of FEMA, Ms. Criswell brings more than 25 years of emergency management and disaster response experience at the Federal, State, and local level.

Having served as an emergency management commissioner for one of the largest and most diverse cities in America, Ms. Criswell knows what it takes to ensure the coronavirus vaccination distribution is efficient and effective and that every community has the resources that they need to recover from this pandemic.

As a former member of the National Guard and a firefighter, she understands the needs of our heroic first responders as they continuously protect Americans on the frontlines.

However, the pandemic is just one of many challenges that FEMA faces, and Ms. Criswell understands that there is no one-size-fits-all approach to disaster response and every crisis, from hurricanes to historic flooding and wildfires, to the COVID-19 pandemic, requires a coordinated strategy.

There is no doubt that Ms. Criswell's experience in emergency management, extensive record of tackling crises on a local and national level, and the desire to work on a bipartisan basis to improve our Federal disaster response in every community are exactly what is needed to meet the challenges that we are facing now and those challenges that lie ahead.

NOMINATION OF JASON SCOTT MILLER

Madam President, I rise to speak about the nomination before us today,

Jason Scott Miller, the President's nominee to be Deputy Director for Management at the Office of Management and Budget.

Mr. Miller is a proven leader who is committed to getting results for the American people. He has an extensive track record of tackling difficult management challenges and driving innovation, both in the government and in the private sector.

Early in his career, as a management consultant, Mr. Miller advised large companies with operations across the globe, helping them tackle strategic and operational challenges. As Deputy Director of the National Economic Council from 2011 to 2017, Mr. Miller spearheaded many governmentwide initiatives, including the creation of Manufacturing USA institutes and SelectUSA—new efforts to spur job creation by strengthening manufacturing and bringing investment to the United States.

He was also instrumental in driving the passage of bipartisan legislation in 2016 to address the crisis in Puerto Rico and in developing the first-ever Federal policy on automated vehicles.

OMB is and will continue to be central to the administration's efforts to combat the pandemic and spur economic recovery in communities all across our Nation.

Mr. Miller's experience taking on a diverse range of challenges and his commitment to getting results have prepared him well to serve as OMB's Deputy Director for Management.

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

I yield the floor.

### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The 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. 58, Jason Scott Miller, of Maryland, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Ron Wyden, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Patrick J. Leahy, Michael F. Bennet, Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Cory A. Booker, Chris Van Hollen, Edward J. Markey, Sherrod Brown, Bernard Sanders, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich.

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 Jason Scott Miller, of Maryland, to

be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 82, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 166 Ex.]

#### YEAS—82

Baldwin	Hassan	Portman
Barrasso	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Romney
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt	Hoeven	Rubio
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Boozman	Inhofe	Sasse
Brown	Johnson	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Shaheen
Capito	King	Shelby
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Lankford	Smith
Cassidy	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Lujan	Tester
Coons	Lummis	Thune
Cornyn	Manchin	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Markey	Toomey
Daines	Marshall	Van Hollen
Duckworth	McConnell	Warner
Durbin	Menendez	Warnock
Ernst	Merkley	Warren
Feinstein	Moran	Whitehouse
Fischer	Murkowski	Wicker
Gillibrand	Murphy	Wyden
Graham	Ossoff	Young
Grassley	Padilla	
Hagerty	Peters	

#### NAYS—13

Blackburn	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Braun	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Tuberville
Crapo	Risch	
Cruz	Scott (FL)	

#### NOT VOTING—5

Cardin	Murray	Rounds
Cramer	Paul	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 82, the nays are 13.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Connecticut.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF WINSLOW, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 250th birth-

day of the town of Winslow, ME. Winslow is a town with a fascinating history and a bright future, connected by generations of hard-working and caring people.

Winslow was incorporated in 1771, but its story began long before. For thousands of years, the land along the great Kennebec River was the home of the Abenaki Tribe, who hunted, fished, and tilled the fertile soil. The reverence the Abenaki had for the natural beauty and resources of the region is upheld by the people of Winslow today.

Winslow's roots run deep into American history. It originally was a Native American settlement called Taconock, meaning "in the trees." Located in central Maine along the mighty Kennebec River, the village was settled by colonists from Plymouth Colony.

Winslow is home to important historical sites. One of those sites, Fort Halifax, the oldest blockhouse in the United States, was constructed by the town's namesake, General John Winslow, in 1754 and named after the Earl of Halifax, Secretary of State of Great Britain. Fort Halifax was designated as a National Historic Landmark in 1968.

Today, visitors and residents enjoy this historic site at what is now Fort Halifax Park. This land was once home to industrial and commercial use after a railroad line was built in the 1840s to transport goods from local mills. Years later, the site was developed into a park which is now enjoyed for recreation, picnics, and holiday festivities.

Winslow's Ticonic Footbridge, known by locals as the Two Cent Bridge, is one of the oldest footbridges and the last known toll footbridge in the United States. The bridge, built in 1903, connects the two communities of Winslow and Waterville. For several generations, residents of Winslow crossed the bridge daily to work at the Waterville mills.

Winslow honors the men and women who defend our freedom. Central Maine Veterans Memorial Park was the dream of a group of veterans led by WWII Navy veteran Daniel DeRoch. With the collaboration of town officials, schools, residents, and veterans organizations, this park pays tribute to all who served in the U.S. Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Coast Guard, National Guard, and Merchant Marine.

Mr. President, Winslow has played an important role in Maine history, and it continues to exemplify the best of our great State today. I congratulate to the people of Winslow on this landmark anniversary and wish them all the best in the years to come.

#### 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF WINTHROP, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the 250th birthday of the town of Winthrop, ME. This landmark anniversary is a time to celebrate the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it

such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

Originally known as Pondtown Plantation, Winthrop was home to the Abenaki, who thrived along its many lakes and ponds. Those same lakes and ponds would propel Winthrop throughout history, including the historic Winthrop Mills Company's woolen textile mill, and serve as a beautiful backdrop for recreation.

Winthrop's roots run deep into American history. BG Henry Clay Wood, who played a key role in the Battle of Wilson's Creek in Missouri during the Civil War, was born in Winthrop. The philanthropist Charles M. Bailey was also a resident of Winthrop and was very generous to the town, adding to its rich history. Mr. Bailey donated the historic Bailey Public Library, constructed in 1916.

Winthrop is also home to the Cobbesee Lighthouse. When it was constructed in 1908, it was the only inland lighthouse east of the Mississippi.

Maine is known as Vacationland, and Winthrop fits perfectly into that picture. With all of the beautiful ponds and lakes, as well as the 807-foot Mount Pisgah, there is always something to do in Winthrop. The energy and planning going into the town's 250th anniversary celebration demonstrates the pride the townspeople have in their town.

Mr. President, Winthrop's 250th year is a time to celebrate the people who, for longer than America has been a nation, have pulled together, cared for one another, and built a great community. It is a pleasure to offer my congratulations and best wishes.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING HALBERT SULLIVAN

• Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I am saddened by the passing of Hal Sullivan. He had a unique ability to bring together organizations and private sector partners to make sure clients of the Fathers & Families Support Center had the tools they needed to be successful. I appreciated learning what he was seeing and hearing, and hearing his advice over the years. His work touched the lives of so many families throughout the St. Louis region, and his legacy of service will have a lasting impact throughout our State for generations to come.●

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 14, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modi-

fied Sources Review", and, further, that the resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Sincerely,

Angus S. King, Jr., Catherine Cortez Masto, Tim Kaine, Benjamin L. Cardin, Debbie Stabenow, Charles E. Schumer, Jeanne Shaheen, Brian Schatz, Jack Reed, Maria Cantwell, Robert Menendez, John W. Hickenlooper, Patrick J. Leahy, Martin Heinrich, Tina Smith, Edward J. Markey, Cory A. Booker.

Sheldon Whitehouse, Elizabeth Warren, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Ron Wyden, Gary C. Peters, Patty Murray, Richard Blumenthal, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley, Sherrod Brown, Bernard Sanders, Michael F. Bennet, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Jon Ossoff, Raphael G. Warnock, Jacky Rosen.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 14. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to "Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources Review".

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

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

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. CASEY, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1362. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage under the Medicare program of pharmacist services; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. 1363. A bill to prohibit recipients of disaster recovery relief assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development from penalizing applicants that declined assistance from the Small Business Administration; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 1364. A bill to provide for the recognition of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina, and for other purposes; read the first time.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Mr. KING, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1365. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a new Tribal priority window for the 2.5 gigahertz band, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 1366. A bill to secure the supply of drugs in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 1367. A bill to require a report on foreign investment in the pharmaceutical industry of the United States; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1368. A bill to make housing more affordable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 1369. A bill to require United States educational institutions to include information regarding financial transactions with the Government of the People's Republic of China or its affiliates in any petition for certification or recertification with the Student and Exchange Visitor Program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1370. A bill to establish a Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work Conservation Corps in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1371. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in agriculture research; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 56

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 56, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for training and support services for families and caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia.

S. 65

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes.

S. 72

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 72, 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.

S. 227

At the request of Ms. KLOBUCHAR, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH), the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER), the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 227,

a bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to provide grants for deployment of renewable fuel infrastructure, to finalize proposed rules relating to requirements for E15 fuel dispenser labeling and underground storage tank compatibility, and for other purposes.

S. 452

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 452, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 611

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 611, a bill to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 853

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 853, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to increase the age of eligibility for children to receive benefits under the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children, and for other purposes.

S. 856

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 856, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors, and for other purposes.

S. 914

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 914, a bill to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act and the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize programs under those Acts, and for other purposes.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1007, a bill to require that certain aliens receive written notice of removal proceedings before being granted parole or released from detention and to enumerate the possible consequences for failing to attend such proceedings.

S. 1095

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1095, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the disapproval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of courses of education offered by public institutions of higher learn-

ing that do not charge veterans the in-State tuition rate for purposes of Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance Program, and for other purposes.

S. 1105

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1105, a bill to provide COVID-19 mitigation instructions for cruise ships and other purposes.

S. 1210

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1210, a bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

S. 1212

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1212, a bill to address the needs of workers in industries likely to be impacted by rapidly evolving technologies.

S. 1315

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1315, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of certain lymphedema compression treatment items under the Medicare program.

S. 1325

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1325, a bill to ensure that women seeking an abortion are informed of the medical risks associated with the abortion procedure and the major developmental characteristics of the unborn child, before giving their informed consent to receive an abortion.

S. 1352

At the request of Ms. MURKOWSKI, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1352, a bill to improve the quality and timeliness of Federal permitting and review processes with respect to critical mineral production on Federal land, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 4

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 4, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of

the United States to require that the Supreme Court of the United States be composed of not more than 9 justices.

S.J. RES. 15

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 15, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of the Comptroller of Currency relating to "National Banks and Federal Savings Associations as Lenders".

S. RES. 154

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 154, a resolution congratulating the people of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan on the centennial of the founding of the Jordanian state.

S. RES. 164

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 164, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the number of justices of the Supreme Court of the United States should remain at 9.

S. RES. 176

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 176, a resolution urging all parties in Georgia to seek prompt implementation of the agreement signed on April 19, 2021, and reaffirming the support of the Senate for Georgia, the territorial integrity of Georgia, and the aspirations of Georgians to join the Euro-Atlantic community.

## STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 1370. A bill to establish a Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work Conservation Corps in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

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

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

S. 1370

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

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work Conservation Corps Act" or the "RENEW Conservation Corps Act".

### SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—



(1) as a result of the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, more than 40,000,000 people in the United States have filed claims for unemployment benefits since March 2020, which is a level of unemployment not seen since the Great Depression;

(2) investments in fish, wildlife, and habitat restoration and outdoor recreation infrastructure generate as many as 33 jobs per \$1,000,000 invested, as demonstrated by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-5; 123 Stat. 115);

(3) the outdoor recreation economy—  
(A) generates \$887,000,000,000 in economic activity each year, which is 2.2 percent of the gross domestic product of the United States, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis; and

(B) was 1 of the fastest growing sectors of the United States economy before the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;

(4) the demand for outdoor recreation has increased dramatically during the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic;

(5) the Federal Government and State and local governments and agencies have many “shovel-ready” projects and green infrastructure maintenance backlog projects that would—

(A) improve the quality of life and outdoor experiences of people of the United States;

(B) make communities, especially communities that are traditionally underserved, more resilient to climate change, natural disasters, and wildfires; and

(C) provide access to outdoor recreation opportunities to all people of the United States;

(6) many facilities and natural resources located on dedicated conservation land are in disrepair or degraded and in need of labor-intensive rehabilitation, restoration, and enhancement work that cannot be carried out at existing staffing levels;

(7) enhancing and maintaining environmentally and recreationally important land and waters through the participation of unemployed individuals in the United States in a conservation corps could—

(A) provide critical employment, education, and skill development opportunities to the individuals;

(B) prepare the individuals for permanent jobs in the conservation field; and

(C) benefit the economy and environment of the United States; and

(8) existing networks of conservation corps are in place but need additional resources in order to scale up the activities of the conservation corps to meet growing deferred maintenance needs on public land.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to employ, during the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, a total of 1,000,000 people in the United States in dedicated conservation land projects to support the growing backlog of deferred conservation land projects;

(2) to expose Participants to public service while furthering the understanding and appreciation of the Participants of the natural and cultural resources of the United States;

(3) to stimulate interest among Participants in conservation careers by exposing the Participants to conservation professionals in land management agencies; and

(4) to build on the existing network of conservation corps organizations working across the United States while providing for expanded participation in urban centers.

### SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CORPS.**—The term “Corps” means the Restore Employment in Natural and Envi-

ronmental Work Conservation Corps established by section 4(a).

(2) **COUNCIL.**—The term “Council” means the National Council on the Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work Conservation Corps established under section 6(a).

(3) **ELIGIBLE AGENCY OR ORGANIZATION.**—The term “eligible agency or organization” means—

(A) a unit of local government;  
(B) a land trust;  
(C) a conservation nonprofit organization;  
or

(D) a qualified youth service and conservation corps, including—

(i) an organization established under—  
(I) the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.);

(II) title I of Public Law 91-378 (commonly known as the “Youth Conservation Corps Act of 1970”) (16 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); or

(III) the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.), including the Indian Youth Service Corps authorized under section 210 of that Act (16 U.S.C. 1727b);

(ii) the Urban Youth Corps authorized under section 106 of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 12656);

(iii) a qualified urban youth corps (as defined in section 106(c)(3) of the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (42 U.S.C. 12656(c)(3))); and

(iv) the Healthy Futures Corps established under section 122(a)(2)(A) of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12572(a)(2)(A)).

(4) **ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANT.**—The term “eligible participant” means an individual who—

(A) is 16 years of age or older at the time the individual begins the term of service as a Participant; and

(B) is a citizen or national of the United States or lawful permanent resident alien of the United States.

(5) **ELIGIBLE PROJECT.**—The term “eligible project” means any of the following:

(A) A project to plant trees.

(B) A project for the restoration and management of wildlife habitat.

(C) A project to control invasive species.

(D) A project for the conduct of prescribed burns, hazardous fuels reduction, or invasive species removal.

(E) A project for the restoration of streams, wetlands, and other aquatic ecosystems, including the Great Lakes and coastal areas.

(F) A project to monitor water quality in streams and lakes.

(G) A project to assist with the conduct of fish and wildlife surveys.

(H) A project for the construction or maintenance of trails, bridges, campgrounds, picnic shelters, or other recreational amenities for use by the public.

(I) A project for the construction or maintenance of parks and playgrounds.

(J) A project to restore brownfield sites (as defined in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601)) in urban areas.

(K) A project to construct rain gardens, grass waterways, pollinator gardens, or green schoolyards.

(L) A project for the development of urban gardens and farms.

(M) A project to plant native grasslands.

(N) A project to provide environmental interpretation or outdoor education.

(O) A project to improve community resiliency to climate change and natural disasters, such as the installation of bioswales and permeable surfaces.

(P) A project for the collection, storage, and propagation of native seed and plant materials.

(Q) Any other project determined to be appropriate by the Secretaries.

(6) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(7) **OPPORTUNITY YOUTH.**—The term “opportunity youth” means an individual who—

(A) is not younger than the age of 16 or older than the age of 24; and

(B) is not enrolled in school or participating in the labor market.

(8) **PARTICIPANT.**—The term “Participant” means an eligible participant enrolled in the Corps.

(9) **PROGRAM PARTNER.**—The term “Program partner” means—

(A) a State or Indian Tribe administering a program for eligible projects or a grant program under subsection (a) or (b) of section 5, as applicable; and

(B) an eligible agency or organization carrying out eligible projects under section 5(a)(3)(B).

(10) **SECRETARIES.**—The term “Secretaries” means the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior, acting jointly.

(11) **STATE.**—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

### SEC. 4. RESTORE EMPLOYMENT IN NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WORK CONSERVATION CORPS.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture the Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work Conservation Corps program under which Participants shall carry out—

(1) eligible projects administered by the Secretaries under this section; and

(2) eligible projects administered by Program partners under subsection (a) or (b) of section 5.

(b) **PARTICIPANTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Corps shall consist of—

(A) eligible participants who are enrolled in the Corps by the Secretaries; and

(B) eligible participants who are enrolled in the Corps by Program partners.

(2) **REQUIREMENT.**—In enrolling eligible participants in the Corps under paragraph (1), the Secretaries and Program partners shall ensure that Participants reflect the demographics of the area in which the Participants are carrying out an eligible project.

(3) **WORK EXPERIENCE.**—The Secretaries and Program partners shall provide Participants—

(A) meaningful, full-time, productive work in a natural or cultural resource setting;

(B) a mix of work experience, basic and life skills, education, training, and support services; and

(C) the opportunity to develop an ethic of citizenship, community service, and environmental stewardship through service to the community and the United States.

(c) **TERMS AND COMPENSATION.**—

(1) **TERM.**—Participants shall serve for a term of at least 12 weeks, but not more than 1 year.

(2) **COMPENSATION.**—

(A) **WAGES.**—Participants shall be compensated at a wage rate that is appropriate for the type of work performed by the Participant, but not less than \$15 per hour (to be increased each year based on increases in the Consumer Price Index for the year).

(B) **EDUCATIONAL CREDIT; TUITION ASSISTANCE.**—If a Participant completes at least 1

year of service in the Corps, the Participant shall be eligible for—

(i) an educational credit that may be applied toward a program of postsecondary education at an institution of higher education that agrees to award the credit for participation in the Corps; and

(ii) not more than \$5,500 in tuition assistance to the Participant for purposes of continuing education.

(d) TRAINING; APPRENTICESHIPS.—The Secretaries and Program partners shall—

(1) ensure that 20 to 50 percent of the term of a Participant in the Corps is dedicated to education, training, and workforce readiness activities; and

(2) provide curricula to Participants that improve the future job prospects of Participants, including through making available to Participants registered apprenticeships and other professional licenses or certifications.

(e) ADDITIONAL DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM PARTNERS WITH RESPECT TO OPPORTUNITY YOUTH.—A Program partner that enrolls Participants that are opportunity youth—

(1) shall provide to the opportunity youth—

(A) supervision and training;

(B) adult mentoring; and

(C) education, which may include—

(i) basic instruction and remedial education;

(ii) language instruction for individuals with limited English proficiency;

(iii) secondary education services and activities, including dropout prevention and tutoring; and

(iv) other activities that are delivered in conjunction with project-based service-learning to the maximum extent practicable;

(2) may provide to the opportunity youth—

(A) services to assist in the preparation for, and access to, postsecondary education opportunities, including—

(i) counseling; and

(ii) assistance with applying for student financial aid;

(B) employability training, which may include—

(i) development of basic skills, such as—

(I) arriving on time to work;

(II) being prepared to work;

(III) following directions;

(IV) working independently;

(V) working with others;

(VI) working safely; and

(VII) demonstrating a commitment to produce high-quality work;

(ii) career counseling and job search assistance; and

(iii) pathways to family sustaining jobs; and

(C) supportive services, which may include—

(i) health care, including mental health care, such as drug and alcohol abuse counseling;

(ii) child care; and

(iii) transportation.

(f) CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION.—The Secretaries shall provide each Participant with a certificate of completion bearing the signature of the Secretaries on the completion of a term of service in the Corps.

#### SEC. 5. STATE, TRIBAL, AND LOCAL FUNDING PROGRAM FOR ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.

(a) APPORTIONMENT TO STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year, subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), of the amounts made available for apportionment to the States for that fiscal year under section 7(a)(2), the Secretaries shall apportion—

(A) 66½ percent among States based on the proportion that—

(i) the number of unemployed individuals in each State, as determined based on the most recent data available; bears to

(ii) the total number of unemployed individuals in all States as so determined; and

(B) 33¼ percent among States based on the proportion that—

(i) the population of each State; bears to

(ii) the population of all States.

(2) MINIMUM APPORTIONMENT.—No State shall receive an apportionment under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year in an amount less than \$42,000,000.

(3) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts apportioned to a State under this subsection for a fiscal year—

(A) 50 percent shall be used by the State to administer a program for the conduct of eligible projects by Participants enrolled in the program by the States; and

(B) 50 percent shall be used by the State to administer a grant program in the State under which the State provides grants to eligible agencies or organizations in the State for the conduct of eligible projects by Participants enrolled by the eligible agencies or organizations, with preference to be given for grants to eligible agencies or organizations described in section 3(3)(D).

(b) TRIBAL PROGRAM.—For each fiscal year, the Secretaries shall apportion, in accordance with a formula established by the Secretaries, amounts made available under section 7(a)(3) to Indian Tribes to administer a program for the conduct of eligible projects by Participants enrolled in the program by the Indian Tribe.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts provided to a Program partner for the conduct of eligible projects under this section, the Program partner—

(1) may use not more than 20 percent for administrative costs of administering and carrying out eligible projects (including costs of recruiting and hiring individuals to carry out eligible projects);

(2) may use not more than 14 percent to provide continuing education to individuals administering or carrying out eligible projects;

(3) may use not more than 8 percent for the cost of equipment and supplies for eligible projects; and

(4) shall use the remainder of the amounts for the costs of salaries of individuals administering or carrying out eligible projects.

(d) REALLOCATION.—Any funds made available to a State or Indian Tribe under subsection (a) or (b) that are not obligated by the State or Indian Tribe at the end of the third fiscal year beginning after the fiscal year during which the funds were made available shall be withdrawn from the State or Indian Tribe and reallocated by the Secretaries to other States and Indian Tribes on the basis of need, as determined by the Secretaries, and in amounts that the Secretaries determine would best accomplish the purposes described in section 2(b).

#### SEC. 6. NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE RESTORE EMPLOYMENT IN NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL WORK CONSERVATION CORPS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality, the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, through the execution of a memorandum of understanding, shall establish a National Council on the Restore Employment in Natural and Environmental Work Conservation Corps.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall be composed of—

(A) the Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs;

(B) the Director of the Bureau of Land Management;

(C) the Commissioner of Reclamation;

(D) the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service;

(E) the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service;

(F) the Director of the National Park Service;

(G) the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(H) the Director of the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement;

(I) the Chief of Engineers;

(J) the Chief of the Forest Service;

(K) the Director of the Office of Personnel Management;

(L) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(M) the Chair of the Council on Environmental Quality;

(N) the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service; and

(O) other members that the signatories to the memorandum of understanding under subsection (a) determine to be appropriate for membership on the Council, including—

(i) the Secretary of Labor;

(ii) the Secretary of Education;

(iii) the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(iv) the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development;

(v) the Secretary of Transportation; and

(vi) the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

(2) CHAIR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall select a Chair of the Council from among the members of the Council described in subparagraphs (A) through (M) of paragraph (1).

(B) TERM.—The Chair of the Council shall serve for a term of 1 year.

(c) ANNUAL MEETING.—The Chair of the Council shall convene annual meetings of the Council during which the Council shall conduct an assessment of—

(1) the Corps; and

(2) eligible projects carried out by the Corps.

#### SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act \$55,800,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2021 through 2025, of which—

(1) 37.5 percent shall be made available to the Secretaries to carry out eligible projects under section 4(a)(1);

(2) 57.5 percent shall be made available to the Secretaries for apportionment to States under section 5(a); and

(3) 5 percent shall be made available to the Secretaries for apportionment to Indian Tribes under section 5(b).

(b) MATCHING FUNDS WAIVER.—Any otherwise applicable matching funds requirements, including under section 212(a)(1) of the Public Lands Corps Act of 1993 (16 U.S.C. 1729(a)(1)), shall be waived for projects carried out using amounts made available under this Act.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MORAN):

S. 1371. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in agriculture research; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

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

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

S. 1371

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “America Grows Act of 2021”.

#### SEC. 2. FUNDING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to each funding recipient described in subsection (b) for the programs, projects, and activities of such funding recipient, the following amounts:

(1) For fiscal year 2022, the amount equal to 105 percent of the amount of new budget authority made available in appropriation Acts for that funding recipient for fiscal year 2021, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during fiscal year 2021, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(2) For each of fiscal years 2023 through 2031, the amount equal to 105 percent of the amount appropriated to that funding recipient under this subsection for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during such previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(3) For fiscal year 2032, and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during such previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(b) FUNDING RECIPIENTS DESCRIBED.—The funding recipients described in this subsection are—

- (1) the Agricultural Research Service;
- (2) the Economic Research Service;
- (3) the National Agricultural Statistics Service; and

(4) the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

(c) AVAILABILITY.—Each amount appropriated under subsection (a) shall remain available for obligation through the last day of the fiscal year for which such amount is appropriated.

#### SEC. 3. EXEMPTION FROM SEQUESTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit

Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after “Advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund and Other Funds (16-0327-0-1-600)” the following:

“Appropriations made available under section 2(a) of the America Grows Act of 2021.”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. 4. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this Act shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Laura Gentile, Margaret McIntosh, and Emily Tucker, who are fellows and Federal Agency detailees with the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, have floor privileges for the duration of this Congress.

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

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1364

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

#### ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 27, 2021

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 27, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Miller nomination, postcloture; that at 11:30 a.m., all postcloture time be considered expired; that following the cloture vote on the McCabe nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; that if cloture is invoked on the McCabe nomination, all postcloture debate time be considered expired at 2:30 p.m.; finally, that if any of the nominations are confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:21 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 27, 2021, at 10 a.m.