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## Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois.

### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Father of love, as we live this day, give us wisdom, strength, and commitment to serve You in all we do. We acknowledge You, Lord, as the Creator and Sustainer of our destinies. So show us how to do Your will.

Lord, guide our Senators. Lead them by Your wisdom as they seek to know and obey Your precepts. Illuminate their path with the light of Your truth, and keep them from sin, which is a reproach to any people. Help them to overcome the temptation of trying to make it on their own strength. Instead, guide them until they yield to the inflow of Your wisdom, insight, and vision.

We pray in Your powerful Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 10, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH, a Senator from the State of Illinois, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. DUCKWORTH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

### NEW YORK

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, I would like to welcome back my colleagues, including our Senate Acting President pro tempore back to the Senate after celebrating the July 4th holiday.

Today, my thoughts are with all New Yorkers impacted by the flash floods that barraged the Hudson Valley, particularly Orange County where the West Point Military Academy is located, as well as other parts of Upstate New York, particularly Ontario County. The situation on the ground remains dangerous. Streets have been turned into rivers; houses have been swept away in their entirety; and, sadly, at least one person has lost her life.

I have been in contact with the local first responders on the ground to ensure we are doing everything we can in my office to help.

Today, I also called on FEMA to be ready to grant any request from the State for a major disaster declaration.

And I urge everyone in New York and across the Northeast to exercise caution in the coming days. The danger is not over.

I will continue to monitor this situation and bring the long arm of the Federal Government to help in every way that it can.

Madam President, now, when people think about the July 4th holiday, they think about fireworks, barbecues, family. But last week, many Americans saw something else too. They saw more construction workers hard at work in their communities. They saw more hard hats and shovels and cranes and cement trucks operating day and night. They saw, in other words, Democrats' agenda in action, an agenda that has created over 35,000 new infrastructure projects over the last 2 years. These projects will mean millions of new good-paying jobs across the country for years to come. New York is a terrific example.

Last week, I was proud to announce that nearly \$7 billion in Federal dollars has been approved for the Gateway Tunnel project, in what will be the largest Federal transportation grant in history for the most important infrastructure project in America.

Gateway has been a true passion of mine for more than a decade, a labor of love that I have been focused on for a long time. It is critical for our economy in the Northeast and, in fact, in the entire country. Should the tunnels under the Hudson not be usable, the Northeast—and probably the country—would go into recession. So this affects everybody.

And the funding I announced was as a direct result of the terrific work we did in Congress to pass generational infrastructure legislation. Our work over the past few years is paying off. The Gateway project alone will create 72,000 new jobs—good-paying jobs—and generate over \$19 billion in ancillary economic activity in addition to the dollars that are being spent.

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



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And our infrastructure agenda is not just about bridges and tunnels either. The administration announced recently over \$42 billion in broadband funding is heading to the States across the Nation—more money so kids can access high-speed internet at home and so more families in both rural and urban communities can stay connected across the country.

I thank my colleagues who worked over the July 4th weekend to announce all the great projects happening around the country. Implementation will remain a top Democratic priority.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now, on the Senate July work period, as the Senate gavels back in, our North Star remains unchanged: to build on our historic work over the past few years to strengthen our economy, make life better for the American people, and do it in a bipartisan manner whenever possible.

A little over a month ago, both parties came together to avert a catastrophic default on the national debt, while agreeing on spending levels that will keep our country and our economy strong.

This month, the work of funding the government will continue. It won't be easy but must get done with good faith and bipartisan work. I am pleased so far that this process is moving along in the Senate through the Appropriations Committee, through regular order, in a bipartisan way. And we will do everything we can to ensure that it remains that way.

In another act of bipartisanship on something equally significant, the Senate will move forward on the annual National Defense Authorization Act so we can keep our country safe, support our friends in Ukraine, outcompete China, and give our troops the pay raise they rightfully deserve.

I thank Chairman REED and Ranking Member WICKER for moving the NDAA through the Armed Services Committee last month. I hope that we can move quickly on it here on the floor in July.

These two areas—Appropriations and the NDAA, the Defense Act—are prime examples of the kind of bipartisan work we want to see in the Senate and which I have worked with my colleagues to foster.

We also need that bipartisanship on other issues too—to reduce the cost of insulin prescription drugs, to hold bank executives accountable, to modernize Federal aviation programs, to reauthorize the farm bill, to make progress on safe banking, and outcompete the Chinese Government.

And, of course, every one of these issues requires bipartisan cooperation. Getting there won't be easy, but we are going to do everything we can to make them happen because every one of them will benefit the American people, and, of course, we will also need bipar-

tisanship to prepare for the radical transformations that AI will unleash in the coming years.

Tomorrow, the Senate will have the first-ever classified all-Senators briefing from the Department of Defense and intelligence community on AI and how it affects our national security.

Our briefers will include Avril Haines, the Director of National Intelligence; Kathleen Hicks, the Deputy Secretary of Defense; and other top experts from our Defense and intelligence Agencies.

We are still in the early stages of understanding AI's role in our national security. So this briefing will be critical for Senators to learn more about how we are using AI to protect our country; also, how it is being used by our adversaries; and what we can do to make sure that we maintain our advantages.

And we have no time to waste. Our adversaries won't wait to deploy this technology against us. Congress cannot behave like ostriches when it comes to artificial intelligence. We need to learn as much as we can about AI, as quickly as we can, so we can play our part to ensure the AI revolution brings prosperity, safety, and unparalleled innovation.

So I thank all of my colleagues on both sides who attended the previous briefing and encourage them to attend this one. And I thank Senators HEINRICH, ROUNDS, and YOUNG for their bipartisan work on our little group that is spearing AI in the Senate.

#### U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, this work period, we must continue to confirm President Biden's nominees and rebalance the Federal bench with judges who respect the rule of law. Sadly, Americans' faith in the Judiciary is at an alltime low after the extreme MAGA right captured the Supreme Court.

In the last few weeks, this MAGA majority on the Court has gutted affirmative action, blocked student debt relief for millions of Americans, and green-lit discrimination against the LGBTQ community.

What we are seeing at the Supreme Court is a sickening hypocrisy: As some Justices feel free to accept lavish gifts and vacations from billionaire friends, they are refusing to help everyday Americans just trying to get a fair shake. And the billionaires who have provided these trips and emoluments are no ordinary, run-of-the-mill billionaires. They are ideological MAGA extremists who bankroll hard-right MAGA causes and then bring those cases before the same judges they patronized.

Congress has clear authority to oversee the Federal judiciary, and that includes making sure that the highest Court in the land is held to equally high ethical standards. So I support Chairman DURBIN and the Judiciary

Committee's efforts to advance SCOTUS ethics reform and look forward to working with them on this issue.

In the meantime, Senate Democrats will continue to help restore faith and balance to the Federal judiciary by keeping up our historic pace of confirming President Biden's judicial nominees.

#### VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. SCHUMER. On voting rights, the great John Lewis said, "Democracy is not a state. It is an act, and each generation must do its part to build what we called the Beloved Community."

We should heed these words in our day and age because today House Republicans introduced their latest broadside against the fundamental right to vote, a sweeping bill that one lawmaker called "the most substantive and conservative election integrity legislation that will come before the House in over a generation." Let me say that again: "the most substantive and conservative election integrity legislation that will come before the House in over a generation." Democrats here in the Senate will never allow such a terrible proposal to become law, and very soon, we will once again move to bring real, much needed voting rights legislation before Congress.

People think that the attacks against democracy came and went on January 6. Unfortunately, sadly, that is not true. In States as diverse as Georgia, Texas, Iowa, Florida, and Arizona, partisans have rewritten the rules of our elections in broad daylight to make it harder to vote—harder to vote—in a democracy that, of course, for centuries has hailed the right to vote and advanced it.

Today's bill from Republicans is the latest example of the giant step backward the Republicans these days are taking when it comes to voting rights, and Democrats will fiercely oppose it.

#### MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2178

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2178) to extend the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

#### CHEMICAL WEAPONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, over 25 years ago, America made a noble and necessary commitment—never again to deploy or produce chemical weapons and to destroy our remaining stockpiles.

The Blue Grass Army Depot in my home State of Kentucky has been home to the bulk of our Nation's legacy chemical weapons for decades. On Friday, the depot safely destroyed the last nerve-agent rocket in the U.S. arsenal.

Last week marks a major milestone in an effort that dates back to President Reagan's call for a global prohibition on chemical weaponry altogether. After a decade of bilateral negotiations, the United States made an international commitment to ban their use, production, and stockpile for good.

At that time, Blue Grass Army Depot stored over 500 tons of lethal chemical agents. The Army's initial plan for eliminating the depot's stockpile was incineration—literally burning the rockets. Understandably, local residents were concerned about the potential for poisonous leaks into the community, with schools and family homes literally in spitting distance.

When I joined the Senate in 1985, our first victory was putting a stop to new munitions entering the Commonwealth. The second came when I passed legislation forcing the Army to explore more advanced disposal options that ensured the safety of local residents. Over the years, I have been proud to call greater national attention to this important local issue. I fought to bring home nearly \$7 billion in Federal funding to support the responsible destruction of these munitions, and I will continue to fight for Kentuckians until the mission is complete.

It has been the honor of a lifetime to lead this charge in the Senate and to push for the safety of Madison County families each step of the way. We wouldn't be here today without the singular focus and determination of community leaders like Craig Williams, an extremely effective local advocate who devoted much of his career to seeing this project through. And, of course, we owe a debt of gratitude to the operators, technicians, construction workers, and other staff for their work on the ground.

Today is as much a story of local success as it is a reminder of worldwide

significance. The United States is firmly planted in a wide international coalition that recognizes the moral imperative to reject chemical weapons, and unfortunately, that coalition is more important today than ever.

The authoritarian regime in Moscow that escalated a brutal war in Europe last year is the same one that repeatedly and brazenly ignores the Chemical Weapons Convention that governs our efforts. Vladimir Putin has repeatedly used deadly nerve agents on foreign soil and supported the Assad regime's use of devastating sarin and chlorine against Syrian civilians.

As we condemn this horror, the American people can be proud that our Nation stands squarely on the right side of history. Families in my home State of Kentucky can rest a little easier.

Thanks to the dedication of so many, the United States has shown the world that our commitment to the global prohibition on chemical weapons is ironclad as ever.

#### U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Now on another matter, last month, the Supreme Court wrapped up its productive term by deciding some especially consequential decisions in favor of equal protection and Executive restraint. In response, Washington Democrats offered a fresh example of just how profoundly they misunderstand the Court and its role in our government.

The President, who has flirted with calls for Court packing, warned ominously that a coequal branch was "not a normal court." The Democratic leader who threatened Justices by name from the steps of the Court branded it as "MAGA." And this month, the Judiciary Committee will attempt to force the Court to restructure itself in the name of "ethics."

But for all the Democrats' breathless fearmongering, the record of the Supreme Court's latest term tells a very different story. By the numbers, the Court remains as ideologically diverse and unpredictable as even passing students of our Constitution know it was designed to be.

Nearly half the cases the Court heard this term produced a unanimous outcome. It ruled overwhelmingly in both directions—striking down union thugery and declining to stop the Biden administration's open border policy.

By contrast, just 9 percent of cases were decided 6 to 3, with each of the Republican-appointed Justices in the majority. The exact margin liberal commentators use to claim that the Supreme Court is irredeemably polarized actually decided fewer than 1 in 10 cases this term. This is the institution our colleague from New York likes to call a MAGA Court. Really.

Here is the reality: In case after case, the exceptionally qualified Justices Washington Democrats have spent years vilifying continue to prove their

strength and independent jurisprudence.

Justice Barrett was just as likely this term to vote with Justice Kagan as with Justice Thomas. Let me say that again. Justice Barrett was just as likely this term to vote with Justice Kagan as with Justice Thomas. Justice Kavanaugh was more likely to vote with Justice Kagan. And the Court's two most conservative Justices, Thomas and Alito, voted together less frequently than liberal Justices Sotomayor and Jackson.

The Supreme Court is not in crisis when it refuses to reliably and predictably advance Democrats' priorities. The Court is not in crisis when it puts the text of our law above politics. The Supreme Court is a coequal branch of government, and it should continue to do its job.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Xochitl Torres Small, of New Mexico, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I rise to speak on general and flag officer confirmations, specifically, the urgent need to confirm the next Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps.

The Senator from Alabama strongly objects to an entirely legal and appropriate travel regulation implemented under a long-established Department of Defense authority which ensures all servicemembers and their families have equal access to medical care.

To show his disagreement with the legal civilian-crafted regulation, the Senator from Alabama has held up the apolitical nominations of 251 senior military officers for over 4 months. My colleague from Alabama has made it clear that he will continue his hold on these military officers unless and until he gets his way. He does so despite

precedent and, again, with a less than meritorious legal case—in fact, no legal case at all, I would argue—and the fact that Members of his own party have objected to this blockade, including the Republican leader.

This blockade weakens our national security. Every day it goes on, it has a more significant impact on operations within our military, all branches of the military. While our military will always do whatever is necessary to get the job done, they will always be ready—as they will tell you—and they will give their all.

This hold is unnecessary, unprecedented, and, at a critical time in national security, it is driving the U.S. military to a potential breaking point. It is also an affront to the military and their families, who so many of us just lauded for their sacrifices during the Fourth of July festivities. My colleagues thanked them profusely, but do not recognize that they are professional officers who deserve consideration, not as political chips but as men and women of our services.

Those of my colleagues who support this unprecedented delay are themselves politicizing the military by the very nature of their actions. These promotions have always been confirmed by unanimous consent very soon after being reported to the floor or, on the rare occasion, a single overwhelming vote without cloture. But now, in refusing to confirm these promotions, the uniformed military, previously and appropriately shielded from partisan politics, is being thrust into the midst of politics. This behavior was once reserved only for individual political appointees, civilian political appointees on specific matters of dispute, usually with some reasonable or negotiable outcome. No more. It seems it is “my way” or no way at all. And that is a sad demonstration of individual hubris.

The Senator from Alabama often says if we really wanted these generals and admirals, we would just vote, but I would like to explain that. The Senator is not allowing a simple vote; he is demanding cloture first on every nomination. So we asked the Congressional Research Service what it would take to process 251 nominations with cloture. They estimate to file cloture on all the nominations being held, it would take approximately 5 hours. Then 2 days later, the Senate could start voting.

It will take approximately 668 hours to confirm all these military nominations. That is 27 days if the Senate works around the clock, 24 hours a day. If the Senate just did military nominations for 8 hours a day, it would take 84 days. So “just vote” is not an answer. This is not a feasible solution to this issue.

Now, let me be clear. We have offered the Senator from Alabama opportunities to voice his opinion on the policy matter which he opposes. For example, before recess, we marked up the Fiscal Year 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. During that markup, we had

a separate debate and vote on Senator ERNST's bill, S. 822, entitled Modification to Department of Defense Travel Authorities for Abortion-Related Expenses Act. We then had the debate and vote a second time when the Ernst bill was offered to the chairman's markup of the NDAA. And I expect we will likely be debating this issue on the NDAA when it comes to the floor. This is yet another opportunity to vote on the policy my colleagues find objectionable.

And as long as I have been here, the essence of this body is, when you have a difficult issue, you debate it, you discuss it, and then you take a vote. We have already taken several votes, and still this unprecedented hold goes on. I don't think we can continue to allow 251 men and women who have served and sacrificed—and their families, which makes this impact thousands, not just 251—I don't think we can let them fester any longer, wondering if they are going to get their promotion or not.

But, today, let me speak about one specific person whom, I do not think, we can ignore, and that is the position of the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. By law, the present Commandant of the Marine Corps, Gen. David Berger, must end his service tomorrow, the 11th of July. His replacement, Gen. Eric Smith, who had a hearing before the Armed Services Committee on June 13 and then was voted out unanimously on June 21, awaits our action.

General Berger does not require further congressional action to retire, but General Smith needs the Senate to act to become the next Commandant. I can guarantee you that General Berger takes no comfort in ending his career with his successor unsettled.

I went this morning to a “relinquishment of office” ceremony for General Berger. Now, anyone with any experience with the military knows that the typical ceremony is a change of command, but that could not be accomplished today because the next commander has not been confirmed, the new Commandant. To the military in particular, ceremony matters. The visual of the outgoing leader passing the guidon, or battle colors, to the incoming leader shows the continuous, unbroken leadership of an organization—in this case, the whole of the Marine Corps.

In 2019, General Berger received the battle colors from Gen. Robert Neller. This morning, the colors were not passed from one Commandant to another. They were relinquished—relinquished—a word that is seldom associated with the military. They were relinquished from a retiring Commandant to an Acting Commandant, and that is embarrassing—not for the U.S. Marine Corps, but for the U.S. Senate. To hear a retiring Commandant publicly ask the Senate to do its job is an indication of how misguided this approach has been. We need to act, but because of the Senator from

Alabama and those who support him, we are unable to do so.

General Berger has faithfully served our Nation—voluntarily—for 42 years. He has fought our Nation's wars. He has selflessly served, and he has done so exactly how we expect our military leaders to serve. For the past 4 years, he has led the Marine Corps through a difficult transition on the way marines fight so that they are ready for the challenge of the Indo-Pacific. But, tomorrow, he leaves the Marines without a confirmed leader because of the inability of this body to do its job.

General Berger's successor, Gen. Eric Smith, is cut from the same cloth. General Smith was born in Kansas City, MO, and raised in Plano, TX. He earned his commission in 1987 through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps at Texas A&M University. Like every other servicemember, he has served our Nation wherever it has sent him. He has served in peace, and he has served in multiple wars.

So for those who say this current hold only impacts the generals and the admirals, tell that to the marines General Smith commanded included in Weapons Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Marine Regiment during Operation Assured Response in Monrovia, Liberia. Tell that to the marines of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment who General Smith led during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Tell that to the marines of Regimental Combat Team 8 he led during Operation Enduring Freedom.

In General Smith we have a Purple Heart recipient. This man has literally shed his blood for his country. And with 36 years of service, he has achieved the rank of four stars. He stands ready to continue his service to our Nation and the marines he will lead for 4 more years. He simply awaits our action.

Our action and inaction matter. More than just our generals and admirals are watching. Some argue that this delay impacts only the nominees. They are wrong. These holds ripple through the ranks, and—trust me—young officers and noncommissioned officers are watching. How we treat their leaders will influence the decisions of future generations about whether the military is worth the sacrifice asked of them and their families.

Right now, a number of military officers who were planning to retire are on an indefinite hold because they have no one confirmed to take their jobs. Others want to go to new commands but cannot for the same reason. Their families cannot move to their new homes. Their children cannot get ready for a new school. Their spouses cannot take new jobs.

This is not a game. These are real lives that have been upended. Due to the pure obstinacy of the Senator from Alabama, the Senate is, in effect, holding thousands of loyal members of the U.S. military and their families in limbo. I believe we owe them more than that.

We are 1 day away from an Acting Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps. According to the Marine Corps History Division, there have been four Acting Commandants in the history of the Marine Corps, which was established in 1775, for those who are counting. The last Acting Commandant served over a century ago, in 1910, and three of the four Acting Commandants are the result of the previous Commandant dying in the position of Commandant.

Could General Smith, the current Assistant Commandant, serve as the Acting Commandant? Yes, of course, he can. But we must ask ourselves why we would allow it. Why would the Senate allow that to happen with not only our near-peer competitors watching but the eyes of all who serve watching? We have the ability and the responsibility to act. We should do so.

“Semper Fidelis”—always faithful—is the Marine Corps motto. Let this Congress show a modicum of that faith today and confirm Gen. Eric Smith as the next Commandant.

With that, Madam President, I would ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 249, Gen. Eric M. Smith to be Commandant of the Marine Corps; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, reserving the right to object, the Senate has a lot of very important work to do. We have been out a couple of weeks, and it is time to get back to work. Senator SCHUMER, yesterday—or this past week—sent the Democratic caucus a long to-do list that includes keeping the government open, which is very important; our annual Defense bill, which is very important; addressing prescription drugs, which we are all very concerned about; the farm bill. There are a lot of other things that we have got to address in this caucus, in this room. Missing from that list was military nominations.

This is my 11th time standing up here and continuing to harp on the fact that we need to do something about this new policy that the Secretary of Defense has passed down and passed to the military. So far this year, dozens of lower level military nominations have passed through unanimous consent, but a number of important nominations are pending or will soon be pending.

General Smith's, as the Senator just brought up, is one of the most important. I have got a great deal of admiration for General Smith.

Earlier today, General Smith became the acting head of the Marine Corps. He is doing the same exact job which he has been doing for several years. The only difference is that today he is

an acting official. This has minimal effect on his ability to lead.

There may be a delay in his planning guidance, and he cannot yet move into the Commandant's residence. But there is little doubt about General Smith's ability to lead effectively, even now. There is little doubt that soon he will be confirmed.

I have met with General Smith. I have got great respect and admiration for what he has done. General Smith has dedicated nearly four decades to the Marine Corps. He has got a record to be very proud of. During our meeting, General Smith assured me that he was committed to keeping politics out of the military. And for me to vote for somebody, that is exactly what I am looking for: keep politics out of the military.

The Marine Corps has done an excellent job of staying mission-focused. One result is, because of that, the marines are the only branch that is meeting its recruiting goals. I believe that the Marine Corps is in good hands now with General Smith.

But if Chairman REED and the Democrats are so concerned, let's vote. That is all I keep asking for. Let's vote on these nominees.

This week, the Senate will consider a DOJ nomination for an office that has around 20 employees—20 employees. I agree that this is an important nomination, but surely the Commandant of the Marine Corps is more important. So if the Democrats are so worried about General Smith being an acting official, then let's vote. I keep asking for that. Let's vote and clear this up.

With that, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Madam President, reclaiming my time, first of all, the Senator from Alabama made a compelling case about the demands upon this Senate. They range from cyber security issues to a host of other important issues that we have to deal with. Yet he insists we have a vote.

Now, he has very subtly made a distinction between four or five senior officers, and forgotten the 245 other officers who play very critical roles in the military. And if one respects the Marine Corps and one respects the proposed Commandant, the first thing I believe you should do is allow a vote very quickly so that there is no period of time that he is an Acting Commandant.

And an Acting Commandant is different than a Commandant. Their policies cannot be firmly established because they are just “acting.” He is capable, but he is just “acting.” If we want leadership that is confirmed, that has not only the trappings of authority but every bit of influence generated by such authority, then we have to vote. That is why the Congress is required to confirm military officers.

We are in a situation where just pure obstinacy is inhibiting our service-

members. And I am amazed that someone would stand up and say: The quality I look for is a military officer who is not political, but what I do is make these officers political pawns in a game I am playing with national leadership. It is civilian leadership who proclaim these policies, which are legal and consistent with the history of the Armed Forces.

This is a very unsatisfactory answer. We will continue to come back and urge that our colleagues. I particularly hope my colleagues on the other side, many of whom do appreciate the fact that these officers must be confirmed for the good of our Nation and the safety of the world, come around.

I have just one example that comes to mind. The President of the Naval War College, Admiral Chatfield—a remarkable woman—changed command a few weeks ago. She is nominated to be a three-star admiral and be our representative in Brussels at NATO. This, at a time when NATO and the United States are engaged in supporting the Ukrainian people in trying to survive, save their people, and, indeed, probably save their country. But Admiral Chatfield cannot go to Brussels. She remains in Newport waiting—helping out a bit, I am sure, with her replacement, but just waiting. And meanwhile, the general officer in Brussels has other plans, obviously, because he knew, or hoped, that Admiral Chatfield would be arriving soon.

That is the kind of disorder, disorganization, and, I would say, disrespect that is being generated by these holds.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Texas.

#### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, it is actually good to be back in the Senate this week after 2 weeks back home, and we certainly have a busy schedule ahead of us. The fact is that, unfortunately, this was a product of the inattention or lack of urgency that the majority leader has had to deal with the Senate's necessary work so far. We are a quarter of the way through the 118th Congress, and we, frankly, don't have a lot to show for it.

Under our colleagues' leadership, this Chamber developed an embarrassingly short list of accomplishments. Despite the chaos at the southern border, we haven't had the opportunity to vote on legislation to address this humanitarian and security crisis, either in the Senate Judiciary Committee or here on the floor. They simply just ignore it: 5 million border encounters since President Biden took office. Last year alone, 108,000 Americans died of drug overdoses. Seventy-one thousand of those were from synthetic opioids, virtually all of which come from Mexico, the precursors having been imported from China.

Would that be enough to get the attention of the President and the majority leader to actually do something in that area? Well, apparently not.

Yesterday, I was interested to see that the Senator from New York—the majority leader—sent a letter to our Senate colleagues highlighting his plans for the next 3 weeks. Actually, we only have about 10 workdays in these next 3 weeks before now the regularly scheduled August recess. Again, more of the same that we have seen so far this year—not much time and a lot to do.

Senator SCHUMER mentioned his desire to move forward on bills relating to drug pricing, fentanyl, permitting reform, rail safety, marijuana banking, China competition, artificial intelligence, and a number of other topics in the next 3 weeks.

Now, to be clear, I don't think the majority leader actually believes we are going to produce legislation in these areas. Maybe you would call this a wish list. But it is only wishful thinking to believe that in the U.S. Senate you are going to be able to get all of these necessary items addressed in the next 10 working days.

And, of course, that ignores the fact that we have a bicameral legislature. We have the Senate and the House. Has he prevetted any of this legislation with the House to see whether, assuming the Senate would act, that the House would actually take it up and pass it and the President would sign it into law?

That is how we legislate around here. It is not performance art. It is not show business. This is actually about doing the people's business and passing legislation through an admittedly difficult process.

But this is where we find ourselves having waited until this late moment to deal with so much important legislation. The Democratic-controlled Senate has been downright sleepy for the last 6 months. And I have no reason that this letter, this wish list, will prompt some miraculous turnaround.

The lack of productivity in this Congress has created a major backlog of important bills, which must be our top focus. We have a lot to do and not much time to do it, but that is by design. That is not the way the Senate should be operating.

We heard from the previous speakers a lot about the national defense authorization bill, which is our annual Defense bill, which we passed for the last 61 years in a row—61 years in a row. Before this last break, the Senate Armed Services Committee completed its work on that bill and passed it out of committee by a vote of 24 to 1—bipartisan bill out of the Armed Services Committee demonstrating an overwhelming bipartisan support.

This legislation, as we all know, is about supporting our servicemembers, modernizing our military, and addressing our biggest security challenges, including China.

Senator WICKER, from Mississippi, the ranking member, has shared his disappointment over the fact that this year's Defense bill doesn't adequately seek to fund our defense needs.

Now, of course, this is an authorization, in the jargon of the Senate—it is not an appropriation—but typically what happens is the authorizing committees will set a level of funding and then the Appropriations Committee will come behind that and fund it, presumably, at that level.

But I know many of us are committed to working in the coming weeks to increase those funding levels to ensure that our military has the resources it needs to protect the American people, especially in the face of 40-year-high inflation.

I don't have to tell anybody within the sound of my voice what inflation has done to their standard of living and their purchasing power over the last couple of years. Basically, this is like a silent tax, where you have less and less to spend for the necessary expenditures in your life, whether it is your transportation, your food, your clothing, your childcare, your healthcare, or the like. Well, the military is experiencing the ill-effects of this 40-year-high inflation, too, and its purchasing power has been decreased dramatically.

Well, I hope that we will have a turnaround of sorts and that the Defense authorization bill will get off to a strong start, but it is a long way from the finish line.

While this bill did pass the committee, it still needs to be brought to the floor. There needs to be an opportunity for Senators to offer amendments and debate the bill, hopefully improve it, and then vote on it by the full Senate, and that takes time.

Under the regular procedures of the Senate, to bring a bill like that to the floor and to account for all of the potential procedural obstacles that would be encountered, it would take you more than a week to process the bill. And we have 3 weeks before August—10 days of actual working time—and this is what the majority leader has presented us with.

So we know that we need to get to work. The NDAA should pass before the end of fiscal year, which is September 30, and the Senate is only scheduled to be in session for 7 weeks before then. So even after we come back from the August recess, in order to meet the deadline of the end of the fiscal year, September 30, we only have 4 more weeks after we get back before the NDAA essentially lapses—the national defense authorization bill—absent our action in the meantime.

I don't have to tell my colleagues that providing for the common defense is one of our most important responsibilities. And the National Defense Authorization Act is the foundation for that. So I hope the majority leader will allow the Senate to take up the bill soon.

I think I heard the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee just now suggest that perhaps the NDAA will come to the floor next week, and I hope that is true. But certainly, in order to give Senators an opportunity

to participate and hopefully debate and offer amendments and improve the bill, it is going to take time, and that is something we don't have a lot of.

Every Member of this Chamber has the right to offer their ideas to strengthen and improve this legislation, just like we should on any piece of legislation. And the majority leader should not try to jam the process by saying: Oh, now, we don't have enough time so we are going to have to do away with the opportunity to have full debates and amendment process because we are running up against a deadline. Well, that deadline is of his own making because he failed to deal with this in a timely manner.

But September 30 isn't the only deadline that we have for the Defense authorization bill. It is also the farm bill. Every 5 years, Congress passes a farm bill to support everything from crop insurance to nutrition programs, to rural broadband. The impact of the farm bill is felt in communities across America, including those in my home State of Texas.

Texas is home to nearly a quarter of a million farms and ranches, more than any other State in the country. And one out of every seven working Texans actually works in an ag-related job. These hard-working men and women raise cattle, chickens. They grow corn and sorghum. They produce cotton and hay, not just for the Nation but for the world. Texas farmers and ranchers produce food and fiber for America and for exports as well, and they are facing increasingly strong headwinds.

I mentioned inflation, which has been at a 40-year high. It has increased the cost of every input that farmers and ranchers have, from diesel to fertilizer, you name it. It has eroded their purchasing power. Their operating costs have skyrocketed for everything. I mentioned fertilizer and fuel. Pesticides is another major expense. And so their profit margins continue to get slimmer and slimmer.

I was somewhat amused to hear that President Biden, during our 2-week period away from Washington, DC, began to tout something he calls Bidenomics, like he is proud of it. He said: This is a lot like Reaganomics, except it is Bidenomics. It has nothing to do with Reaganomics, which actually worked. But I was amused because when I looked at the RealClearPolitics' average of the President's approval rating for his economic policies, it stands at a whopping 38.7 percent—38.7 percent approve of President Biden's economic policies. Bidenomics is like putting lipstick on a pig to try to dress it up to make it look better than it really is.

But in addition to our economic woes, Mother Nature has unleashed a set of challenges as well. Last year alone, natural disasters caused more than \$21 billion in crop losses nationwide. Today, areas across Texas are experiencing a hot and dry summer. We are used to that. It is summertime. It is July. We are used to hot and dry

summers. But farmers are also battling very little rainfall, and they are praying that their crop loss will not be more than minimal.

The farm bill includes farm safety net programs which are a lifeline for countless producers. They are critical at managing the risks inherent with this critical industry. Everybody knows farming and ranching is risky, for the reasons I mentioned and others.

But this year I hope we can build on the progress we made in the last farm bill to ensure that the agriculture sector is as resilient as possible.

This sector not only feeds, fuels, and clothes America, as I said, it also drives our economy and feeds the world.

In Texas alone in 2021, ag exports totaled more than \$7.2 billion. In 2019, Texas A&M's AgriLife Extension Service estimated the economic impact of the ag sector to be nearly \$160 billion, which is more than 8 percent of my State's GDP.

So a strong, on-time farm bill is essential to the health and well-being of this important sector of the economy, but it is also important beyond that. It is important to the American people, and it is important to our economy.

Our colleague Senator BOOZMAN from Arkansas is a ranking member. And our colleagues on the Agriculture Committee, I know, have been working hard to draft this year's farm bill, and I appreciate the hard work that they put into it. But I am eager to work with our colleagues to get this bill across the finish line on time, again, before it lapses at the end of this fiscal year.

And then, there is another big one, Federal Aviation Administration Reauthorization. As though we needed another big, heavy lift before the end of the fiscal year, it is also the deadline to reauthorize the Federal Aviation Administration. Over the last couple of years, travelers have dealt with widespread flight cancellations, paralyzing staffing shortages, and rising prices. We have also witnessed some jarring safety issues, including near-collisions on airport runways in Minneapolis and New York.

Last month, Senators CANTWELL, CRUZ, DUCKWORTH, and MORAN introduced the FAA Reauthorization Act to address these and other issues. But like the National Defense Authorization Act and the farm bill, the FAA needs to be reauthorized by September 30. Again, all of these deadlines are well-known by the majority leader, but here we are finding ourselves with very little time and a lot to do.

And last but not least is, likely, the biggest lift before us for before September 30, and that is to fund the government. As part of the debt limit agreement, Senator SCHUMER vowed to bring all 12 appropriations bills to the Senate floor by September 30. How he is going to be able to keep his promise is not clear to me, given the traffic jam that we are going to experience, be-

cause this includes funding for our military, veteran services, border security, and so much more.

Senator COLLINS and Senator MURRAY and all of our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee are determined to restore some regular order and common sense to the funding process. I hope the majority leader will stick by his word and put all 12 appropriations bills on the Senate floor before the end of the fiscal year.

We don't need, and the country does not want, another omnibus spending bill like we saw at the end of last year, which, of course, was by design, because it empowers the leadership to the detriment of rank-and-file members of the Congress. When you are presented with a "shut down the government," "take it or leave it" proposition at the end of the year, having bypassed all of this normal process, the question is, Are you going to keep the government open? Are you going to fund the government? Are you going to fund defense, veterans, border security, or not? And that is simply an abomination we do not need to repeat again. And so I do hope the majority leader will keep his word.

None of these bills are an easy lift. They require a lot of hard work, cooperation, and time, and we only have 7 weeks of legislative session to pass them all. So far, the 118th Congress hasn't been a productive one. The Democratic majority has struggled to complete even the most basic tasks, and now we have a lot of work to do, maybe an impossible amount of work to do, by design. The clock is ticking, and we can't let these critical responsibilities slip through the cracks.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). The Senator from Kansas.

#### EDUCATION

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I was sitting home reading the newspaper, something I still do, and last month I read an article that captured my attention. National test scores of American students showed an alarming decline in the education of our children. Reading scores in America have continued to worsen since the height of COVID-19 pandemic, dropping to the lowest scores in decades.

The troubling deterioration in American education was demonstrated by average scores on the 2023 National Assessment of Educational Progress known as the Nation's Report Card. The report showed that 13-year-olds declined nine points in math compared to 2020. This was the largest drop for 13-year-olds seen in 50 years.

When 13-year-olds are struggling, it portends even worse problems ahead, because mastery in seventh and eighth grade is necessary to progress to more complex knowledge and analytical abilities required in high school and beyond. We know that failures in early childhood education, in early education have a long-lasting consequence.

We must turn these test scores around and accelerate the education of America's young as though our future depends on it, because it absolutely does.

America's strength as a global power—let me say that the education of our children is hugely important to our students and their families. But, also, America's strength as a global power doesn't just depend upon a strong military or possessing the latest weapons. Those things are important, but it also depends upon our economy and our ability to maintain a technological edge over our adversaries. And that all begins in the classroom, equipping our students to read, multiply, divide, and succeed.

The mental health, confidence, and contributions of young Americans cannot be thought of as a secondary issue. It is not a secondary issue to other national security imperatives. What that means is that the well-being, health, confidence, contribution, the capabilities, knowledge, intellect, and intelligence of our children have consequences to our security—our national security.

One of those greatest threats in our national security is China. China understands that to force their way into being a global superpower, they must be able to challenge the U.S. militarily and economically. This can be done by dislodging the United States as a leader in key technology areas that will dictate the success of nations in the coming decades.

Those technologies include semiconductor design and manufacture, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, aerospace engineering, advanced manufacturing, and biotechnology. If China were to overtake the United States in any of these areas—in any of these areas—the United States would lose out on trillions of dollars in economic value, our military edge would erode, and the Chinese global influence would increase dramatically.

As we grapple with the implications of a new Cold War with China and as we take stock of many of the associated challenges more complex than the old Cold War, the fact that our youth remain grades behind in math poses a concerning obstacle to future competitiveness. Advances in science and technology will build on basic math. Right now, our children are unprepared; and, therefore, we are unprepared to meet this challenge.

While we work to regain this ground in education, particularly in these STEM fields, we also need to create more opportunities for others that have gained a STEM education here in the United States to practice their profession in this country and contribute to the U.S. economy.

Educating people, only to send them back to strengthen their own home country, at a time in which the U.S. demand for STEM talent is through the roof, defies logic. Only 11 percent of foreign-born recipients of a bachelor's



degree and only 23 percent of those who earn a master's degree manage to find a way to stay and work in the United States.

The U.S. semiconductor industry alone could face a shortage of 70- to 90,000 workers over the next few years, and there is a projected shortfall of 300,000 engineers and 90,000 skilled technicians by 2030. It would be naive to believe that these positions can be solely filled by our American students.

As the Wall Street Journal opinion section recently read, the foreigner working in tech "isn't taking an American job; they are helping keep that job in the U.S."

Foreign-born scientists have been integral to our preeminence as a scientific and military power. Most famously, nuclear physicists from Europe were the intellectual forces that propelled the Manhattan Project; and, today, more than half of the Silicon Valley startups are led by foreign-born entrepreneurs. This is why we have worked to pass the Startup Act in each Congress since I arrived in the Senate.

This bill would ensure that those with advanced STEM degrees would be able to stay in this country while they are engaged in STEM-related professions.

This would fill the immediate and increasing need for STEM-educated professionals, while we work to improve STEM education for America's youth.

There is no "one size fits all" approach to solving the challenges in the classroom. Regaining ground after schools were closed during the pandemic will take hard work and ingenuity. But the success of our Nation depends—again, the success of our children depends, but because that is the case, the success of our Nation, our country, depends on young minds grappling and mastering the basics of math and reading and writing and science.

We must make certain we are taking an "all of the above," long-term approach to national security, and that means making strides in the classroom and investing in our students. Our schools are there to take care of our children and their future, but failure to do so means that we are damaging our Nation's future.

For the sake of our country, its national defense, its economy, and for the sake of all American families, we need to make certain that we reverse course in making certain that our students are learning and are achieving at a rate that allows us to be successful.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I ask unanimous consent the following Senators be allowed to speak prior to the scheduled rollcall vote: myself for up to 20 minutes, Senator CARPER for up to 5 minutes, Senator BOOZMAN for up to 30 seconds, Leader SCHUMER for as much time as he may consume.

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

#### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, back in May, I was in Shelby County to visit with 100 members of the Tennessee National Guard. They were heading off on yet another deployment to the southern border.

These are some of the bravest and most capable people that you will ever meet. Tennesseans depend on them to keep us safe during natural disasters, to rescue lost hikers in the Great Smoky Mountain National Park, and to defend the country from our adversaries overseas. Yet there they were on their way to what many would call a war zone in their own country to do the job that Joe Biden refuses to do.

They shouldn't have had to go, but they went because they knew that no matter who was to blame for all this chaos, our Border Patrol agents and local law enforcement needed help controlling it.

When I think back on my conversations with those servicemembers, I can't help but notice the stark contrast between their focus on service and sacrifice and the Biden administration's lack of regard for the welfare of this country.

Over the past several years, the relationship between the American people and their government has changed, but not for the better. At the beginning of Biden's term, they were just baffled by what they were seeing. All they could do was shake their heads in disbelief. But as the months wore on, that disbelief gave way to genuine fear that this President was digging a hole that they wouldn't be able to claw their way out of no matter how hard they worked.

As it turns out, those fears were well-founded, and now, 3 years into this administration, that fear has given way to outrage because this President has made it abundantly clear that when it comes to pursuing his radical agenda, he simply doesn't care whom it hurts.

The President may be happy to ignore the mess he has made, but Tennesseans don't have that luxury. If they ignore the problems they see, they suffer real consequences. If local law enforcement officers just ignored the drugs flooding into their communities, even more people would die from fentanyl overdoses and drug-related crime.

Every year, I meet with local leaders in each of our State's 95 counties, and the conversation turns to the border crisis every single time. It is an unmitigated disaster, and they just don't understand why the President refuses to do something about it.

If you talk to law enforcement in East Tennessee, they will tell you that they are recording record levels of drug seizures. What they once would apprehend in ounces they now measure in pounds.

Chief Jason Owens at the Border Patrol gave a "week in review" from June 22 to 29. Here is some of what they apprehended. They know they had 28,339

apprehensions. They also had an additional 6,100 "get-aways." They apprehended 116 pounds of marijuana, 50 pounds of fentanyl, and 2,056 pounds of cocaine. Where does much of the drugs that are coming across with those "got-aways" end up? It ends up in our communities.

A judge in Rhea County told me that 80 percent of the crime he sees is drug-related. If they could get a handle on the drugs, they could take care of much of the court cases and the prison population, but they can't get a handle on it because the local dealers are not the root of the problem. For every drug smuggler the Border Patrol manages to catch and every pound of drugs they apprehend, you have that handful of "got-aways" who escape into the country with drugs and contraband.

In Overton County, they said they haven't busted a local meth lab in 5 years. Here is why. The drug dealers have outsourced their entire supply to the cartels because it is easier and cheaper to smuggle it in than it is to make it themselves. The police can trace that supply chain down I-75 to Atlanta and then right across the border into Mexico.

Now when they respond to an overdose death, local officials have to implement fentanyl protocols because they know it is the likely culprit. The cartels add this to the drugs to make them that much more addictive. Everything is laced with fentanyl. It is also very lethal in small amounts. In Marion County, they are spending an astronomical amount of money on autopsies because of this. As of May, they have spent \$80,000, and almost all of those deaths are fentanyl-related.

These local officials are desperate for help. They know this is this administration's fault because the situation escalated when the Biden administration moved into the White House.

Here is what the President did: He terminated "Remain in Mexico." He terminated title 42. He terminated DNA testing at the border. And his rhetoric made it clear that he would rather pander to the left than admit that Trump-era border policies were working. Then he left local law enforcement to fend for themselves.

They need our support. When title 42 ended, I introduced the Make the Migrant Protection Protocols Mandatory Act. That would reinstate the successful "Remain in Mexico" policy. I also introduced the End Child Trafficking Now Act, which would reinstate DNA testing at the border and thwart the child trafficking rings that President Biden has allowed to flourish. If we passed these two bills, we could give Border Patrol and local law enforcement a fighting chance against the cartels.

But the problem goes much deeper than just preventing illegal entry into the country. When Joe Biden took office, he threw the rule of law out the window. Since then, we have watched Biden and his supporters ignore the



Constitution, attack our most important institutions, ignore the law, enable corruption, and slander their fellow countrymen as violent racists.

Tennesseans take issue with that and with the judges and the bureaucrats whom President Biden has nominated to write this partisan rhetoric into law. Over the past several years, this body has considered nominees to some of the most critical positions in government who were little more than political activists, and that is putting it mildly.

We have questioned judicial nominees who are unfamiliar with the Constitution, potential Agency heads with almost no experience in the industries they seek to regulate, and Cabinet nominees who have demonstrated their commitment to burning down institutions and norms that conflict with their radical views. But the one thing they all have in common is they have agreed to rubberstamp the Biden agenda.

The local leaders I see in my county tours see the chaos this is causing. They see two tiers of justice at work, and they are very concerned about it, especially when they see administration officials egging on leftist fanatics seeking to undermine the rule of law at any cost.

For example, Federal law makes it clear that it is illegal to protest outside of a judge's home with the intent of influencing a ruling. It is common sense. But after the Supreme Court's Dobbs opinion leaked, far-left protesters immediately began demonstrating outside of the Justices' homes. The Biden DOJ has yet to arrest a single protester, which means that the Biden DOJ has in effect endorsed the intimidation of Supreme Court Justices who refuse to rubberstamp the Biden agenda.

Earlier this year, I introduced the Protecting Our Supreme Court Justices Act, which significantly increases the maximum jail time for any individual who violates this law. I am sure that under a future administration, it will serve as an effective deterrent to this disgusting behavior.

But imagine being a law enforcement officer in Tennessee and seeing this complete breakdown of law and order in our Nation's Capital at the highest levels of government. How much faith do you think they have in this administration to help them control the flow of drugs and violent criminals into their communities? How seriously do you think they take the Democrats' promises to fight for safe streets when this body continues to confirm judicial nominees who promise to undermine the rule of law? Unlike the Biden administration, they can't change the rules whenever they feel like it, they can't use the bureaucracy to stack the deck in their favor, and they can't put their friends in charge to cover for them if they get caught breaking the law.

Our local law enforcement officials deserve better. Tennesseans deserve

better. The American people deserve better. But right now, they have to do the best they can fighting a losing battle on two fronts—against criminals trying to exploit them and against a President who knows exactly what is happening but just doesn't care enough to do something about it.

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

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

The majority leader.

#### 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. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 34.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Myong J. Joun, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 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. 34, Myong J. Joun, of Massachusetts, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

#### 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. I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 114.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Kalpana Kotagal, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2027.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 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. 114, Kalpana Kotagal, of Ohio, to be a Member of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission for a term expiring July 1, 2027.

Charles E. Schumer, Tina Smith, Tammy Baldwin, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Duckworth, Peter Welch.

#### 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. 141.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

#### 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 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. 141, David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Charles E. Schumer, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sherrod Brown, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tammy Duckworth, Margaret Wood Hassan.

#### 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. 21.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Rachel Bloomekatz, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

#### 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 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. 21, Rachel Bloomekatz, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Tina Smith, Christopher Murphy, Mazie K. Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, John W. Hickenlooper, Sheldon Whitehouse, Catherine Cortez Masto, Brian Schatz, Gary C. Peters, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, July 10, be waived.

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

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

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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. 178, Xochitl Torres Small, of New Mexico, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Charles E. Schumer, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Baldwin, Patty Murray, Tim Kaine, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Alex Padilla, Elizabeth Warren, Tina Smith, Brian Schatz, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mark R. Warner, Martin Heinrich, Sheldon Whitehouse, Richard J. Durbin, Raphael G. Warnock.

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 Xochitl Torres Small, of New Mexico, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, 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. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 79, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 173 Ex.]

#### YEAS—79

Baldwin	Collins	Graham
Bennet	Coons	Grassley
Blumenthal	Cornyn	Hagerty
Booker	Cortez Masto	Hassan
Boozman	Cotton	Heinrich
Braun	Cramer	Hickenlooper
Britt	Crapo	Hirono
Brown	Cruz	Hoeven
Budd	Daines	Hyde-Smith
Cantwell	Duckworth	Kaine
Capito	Ernst	Kelly
Cardin	Feinstein	Kennedy
Carper	Fetterman	Klobuchar
Casey	Fischer	Lankford
Cassidy	Gillibrand	Lee

Lujan  
Lummis  
Markey  
Marshall  
McConnell  
Menendez  
Merkley  
Moran  
Mullin  
Murphy  
Murray  
Ossoff

Padilla  
Peters  
Reed  
Rosen  
Rounds  
Sanders  
Schumer  
Sinema  
Smith  
Stabenow  
Tester  
Thune

Tuberville  
Van Hollen  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wicker  
Wyden  
Young

#### NAYS—8

Blackburn	Paul	Scott (FL)
Hawley	Rubio	Vance
Johnson	Schmitt	

#### NOT VOTING—13

Barrasso	Ricketts	Shaheen
Durbin	Risch	Sullivan
King	Romney	Tillis
Manchin	Schatz	
Murkowski	Scott (SC)	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 79, the nays are 8.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### NATO

Mr. SCHUMER. First, a few words on just a good recent development. We have just heard that Sweden will be allowed to join NATO, that Mr. Erdogan has released his hold, and that Sweden will be joining NATO.

The fact that Sweden is joining NATO is great news for the West. It strengthens the Western alliance significantly, and it shows Mr. Putin that the West is strong, united, and growing stronger against his aggression in Ukraine.

Any thought that the West is giving up, any thought that the West is divided, is shown to be false by today's development of Sweden joining NATO and of Turkey relenting.

So this is good news for freedom. This is good news against the forces of autocracy, and it is very good news for a strong Western alliance.

I want to salute President Biden, who has worked so much in the foreign policy sphere—as well as domestic—but speaking about the foreign policy sphere, he has done so much to advance the United States' interests. He has a real grasp of it, a real handle on it, and is very effective. This is victory for America, for the West, for freedom, and for President Biden.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

#### MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

● Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No.

173, motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Xochitl Torres Small to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted yea.●

#### BRINGING HISTORY TO LIFE IN SMALL TOWN IOWA: FROM DUISBERG TO DANVILLE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, it is no secret this U.S. Senator loves history. I like to learn about history, talk about history, and preserve history. I am Iowa proud today to share a community's efforts to preserve history in my home State.

Next month, a small farming town located 13 miles west of the Mississippi River will welcome a poignant relic from World War II to its local museum. An authentic rail cattle car used in the Holocaust has been meticulously refurbished in Duisberg, Germany, and is being shipped to Danville, IA.

This story begins in 1939 when a local teacher named Miss Birdie Mathews organized an international pen pal exchange for her class. She gave her students a list of names from which to write a letter. Two of her students chose another pair of sisters who lived across the world in Amsterdam: Anne and Margot Frank. Juanita and Betty Wagner wrote to the Frank sisters about life on an Iowa farm. Anne Frank's letter to Juanita is dated April 29, 1940, and she also enclosed a picture card of the Amsterdam canals. Margot's letter to Betty is dated April 27, 1940. She wrote "having a frontier with Germany and being a small country we never feel safe."

Less than 2 weeks after these letters were written, Germany invaded the Netherlands. The Wagner sisters later recalled fearing they would never hear from their new pen pals again. Of course, history tells us the Frank sisters perished in a concentration camp in Bergen-Belsen.

When the war ended in May 1945, Betty wrote to the Frank's Amsterdam address. Their father Otto Frank survived his imprisonment in Auschwitz and responded to her letter. He explained what happened during the war and about the family's time in hiding in the attic in Amsterdam. That is when the Wagner sisters learned their pen pals were Jewish.

The Frank letters were donated to the Simon Wiesenthal Center which gave permission to the museum in Danville to display digital images of the letters. Danville Station also includes a replica of the attic where the Frank family lived in hiding and other artifacts that memorialize the historic connection between the Frank and Wagner sisters.

The museum's curator is Janet Hesler, a lifelong resident of Danville. Her father served in World War II and was awarded a Bronze Star for his service in the Battle of the Bulge. He was among the American forces who liberated the concentration camp in Dachau on April 29, 1945.

People from around the world have visited Danville Station. Here they bear witness to this Iowa community's commitment to never forget and to keep shining a light on history. From my years in public office representing the people of Iowa, I certainly appreciate the can-do spirit at the grassroots. The museum curator, Janet Hesler, was the driving force behind efforts to expand the museum's exhibit to include a rail car used to transport Jewish people during the Holocaust.

Janet worked with Dr. Ruthie Eitan, Claudia Korenke, and Bernhard Mertens to fulfill her mission to find one. The restoration of the rail car was managed by Martin Kaufmann at Die Schmiede in Duisberg.

The people of Danville have worked to raise funds \$1 at a time to help pay for the restoration and shipping of the rail car. They also are working to collect 1.5 million postcards from around the world to honor the number of children who perished in the Holocaust.

I applaud the tenacious efforts and support of local civic and religious leaders to help make this happen, including Allan Ross, who leads the Jewish Federation of the Quad Cities. Anyone who visits or donates are helping to preserve history, build community, and strengthen civic engagement, cornerstones of a strong society.

Without a doubt, this restored, authentic rail car will serve as a profound reminder about the atrocities of the Holocaust. We must learn from history to avert the mistakes of the past. Never again can society ignore religious intolerance. The community of Danville is heeding the advice of Simon Wiesenthal, who survived the Holocaust and brought 1,100 Nazi war criminals to justice. In his words, "Antisemitism did not die with Hitler in his Berlin bunker in 1945."

By bringing this rail car across the world to Danville, this Iowa community is bringing a piece of history to life so that our children and grandchildren can learn from history for a more peaceful, just future.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-47, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Canada for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$5.9 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER.

(For James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-47

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Canada.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment \* \$3.9 billion.

Other \$2.0 billion.

Total \$5.9 billion.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to sixteen (16) P-8A Patrol Aircraft

Up to twenty-six (26) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System 5 (MIDS JTRS 5)

Up to thirty-eight (38) Embedded Global Positioning Systems (GPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGIs) for the LN-251

Up to twenty-five (25) System Processor Replacements for AN/AAQ-24(V)N Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) System Processor Replacement (LSPR) with Exelis Embedded GPS Receiver (EGR) integrated with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM)

Up to twenty-two (22) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assemblies (GLTA) for the AN/AAQ-24(V)N

Non-MOE: Also included are commercial engines; Tactical Open Mission Software (TOMS); Electro-Optical (EO) and Infrared (IR) MX-20HD; AN/AAQ-2 Acoustic System; AN/APY-10 Radar; AN/ALQ-240 Electronic Support Measures; NexGen Missile Warning Sensors; AN/ARC-210 RT-2036(C) Radios; AN/PRC-117G Manpack Radios including MPE-S type II with SAASM 3.7; AN/ALQ-213 Electronic Countermeasures; AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispenser Systems; AN/UPX-43 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Interrogators—; AN/APX-123A(V) IFF Digital Transponders; KIV-78 IFF Mode 4/5 Cryptographic Appliques; KIV-701A Cryptographic Core Modules; KY-100M, KY-58, KYV-5 for HF-121C radios; KG-175 Encryptor Network Convergence System; AN/PYQ-10 V3 Simple Key Loaders (SKL) with KOV-21 Cryptographic Appliques; Radiant Mercury Hardware and Software with ENTR(V)4 Receiver with Embedded Crypto for the Integrated Broadcast System (IBS); software; publications; Dual KIV-7M with Power Supply HFIP Channel Link Encryptor; Advanced Digital Antenna Production (ADAP) Antenna Electronics (AE); Advanced Digital Antenna Production (ADAP) Controlled Reception Pattern Antennas (CRPA); Control Interface Units (CIU) for AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM; aircraft spares; spare engines; support equipment; operational support systems; training; training

devices; maintenance trainer/classrooms; engineering technical assistance (ETA); logistics technical assistance (LTA); Country Liaison Officer (CLO) support; Contractor Engineering Technical Services (CETS); Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); repair and return; transportation; aircraft ferry; other associated training and support; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (CN-P-SAH).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: CN-P-FGC.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid. Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 27, 2023.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Canada—P-8A Aircraft and Associated Support

The Government of Canada has requested to buy up to sixteen (16) P-8A Patrol Aircraft; up to twenty-six (26) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System 5 (MIDS JTRS 5); up to thirty-eight (38) Embedded Global Positioning Systems (GPS)/Inertial Navigation Systems (EGIs) for the LN-251; up to twenty-five (25) System Processor Replacements for AN/AAQ-24(V)N Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) System Processor Replacement (LSPR) with Exelis Embedded GPS Receiver (EGR) integrated with SAASM; and up to twenty-two (22) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assemblies (GLTA) for the AN/AAQ-24(V)N. Also included are commercial engines; Tactical Open Mission Software (TOMS) Electro-Optical (EO) and Infrared (IR) MX-20HD; AN/AAQ-2 Acoustic System; AN/APY-10 Radar; AN/ALQ-240 Electronic Support Measures; NexGen Missile Warning Sensors; AN/ARC-210 RT-2036(C) Radios; AN/PRC-117G Manpack Radios including MPE-S type II with SAASM 3.7; AN/ALQ-213 Electronic Countermeasures; AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispenser Systems; AN/UPX-43 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) Interrogators; AN/APX-123A(V) IFF Digital Transponders; KIV-78 IFF Mode 4/5 Cryptographic Appliques; KIV-701A Cryptographic Core Modules; KY-100M, KY-58, KYV-5 for HF-121C radios; KG-175 Encryptor Network Convergence System; AN/PYQ-10 V3 Simple Key Loaders (SKL) with KOV-21 Cryptographic Appliques; Radiant Mercury Hardware and Software with ENTR(V)4 Receiver with Embedded Crypto for the Integrated Broadcast System (IBS); software; publications; Dual KIV-7M with Power Supply HFIP Channel Link Encryptor; Advanced Digital Antenna Production (ADAP) Antenna Electronics (AE); Advanced Digital Antenna Production (ADAP) Controlled Reception Pattern Antennas (CRPA); Control Interface Units (CIU) for AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM; aircraft spares; spare engines; support equipment; operational support systems; training; training devices; maintenance trainer/classrooms; engineering technical assistance (ETA); logistics technical assistance (LTA); Country Liaison Officer (CLO) support; Contractor Engineering Technical Services (CETS); Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); repair and return; transportation; aircraft ferry; other associated training and support; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$5.9 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the military capability of Canada, a NATO ally

that is an important force for ensuring political stability and economic progress and a contributor to military, peacekeeping, and humanitarian operations around the world.

This proposed sale will increase Canadian maritime forces' interoperability with the United States and other allied forces, as well as their ability to contribute to missions of mutual interest. This will significantly improve network-centric warfare capability for the U.S. forces operating globally alongside Canada. Canada will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractor will be The Boeing Company, Seattle, WA. There are a significant number of other companies under contract with the U.S. Navy that will provide components, systems, and engineering services during the execution of this effort. While the purchaser typically requests offsets, any offset agreement will be defined in future negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require multiple trips by U.S. Government representatives and the assignment of contractor representatives to Canada on an intermittent basis over the life of the case to support delivery and integration of items and to provide supply support management, inventory control and equipment familiarization.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-47

##### *Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act*

#### Annex Item No. vii

##### (vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The P-8A Patrol Aircraft is a version of the Boeing 737-800 Next Generation (NG) commercial aircraft adapted for military uses. The P-8A will replace the CP-140 as Canada's long-range anti-submarine warfare (ASW), anti-surface warfare (ASuW), intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) aircraft capable of broad-area, maritime, and littoral operations.

a. Tactical Open Mission Software (TOMS). Functions include environment planning, tactical aids, weapons planning aids, and data correlation. TOMS includes an algorithm for track fusion which automatically correlates tracks produced by on board and off board sensors.

b. Electro-Optical (EO) and Infrared (IR) MX-20HD. The EO/IR system processes visible EO and IR spectrum (IR Focal Plane Array (FPA) and Turret Stabilization) to detect and image objects.

c. AN/AAQ-2 Acoustic System. The acoustic sensor system is integrated within the mission system as the primary sensor for the aircraft ASW missions. The system has multi-static active coherent (MAC) 64 sonobuoy processing capability and acoustic sensor prediction tools.

d. AN/APY-10 Radar. The aircraft radar is a direct derivative of the legacy AN/APS 137(V) installed in the CP-140. The radar capabilities include Global Positioning System (GPS) selective availability anti-spoofing monitoring (SAASM), Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Inverse Synthetic Aperture Radar (ISAR) imagery resolutions, and periscope detection mode.

e. AN/ALQ-240 Electronic Support Measures (ESM). This system provides real time capability for the automatic detection, location, measurement, and analysis of Radio Frequency (RF) signals and modes. Real time results are compared with a library of

known emitters to perform emitter classification.

f. The P-8A Electronic Warfare Self Protection (EWSP) suite consists of the AN/ALQ-213 Electronic Warfare Management System (EWMS), AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispensing System (CMDS), the NexGEN Missile Warning Sensors (MWS), AN/AAQ-24(V)N Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) System Processor. Replacement (LSPR) with Exelis EGR integrated with SAASM, and the AN/AAQ-24(V)N Large Aircraft Infrared Countermeasures (LAIRCM) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assembly (GLTA) processors. The AN/AAQ-24(V)N LAIRCM is a self-contained, directed energy countermeasures system designed to protect aircraft from infrared guided surface-to-air missiles. The Electronic Warfare Self Protection (EWSP) includes threat information.

g. AN/ARC-210 RT-2036(C) Radio. The RT-2036(C) radios are capable of line of sight and beyond line of sight (SATCOM) and can transmit clear or secure voice using Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio System (SJCARS) or HAVEQUICK security features.

h. AN/PRC-117G Radio, Manpack. The AN/PRC-117G is a tactical radio that extends communications Beyond Line of Sight (BLOS) with abilities for simultaneous SATCOM voice and data communications. Situational awareness is enhanced by an embedded SAASM 3.7 GPS receiver.

i. Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) 5, is an advanced Link-16 command, control, communications, and intelligence system incorporating high-capacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and vice, among air, ground, and sea elements.

j. The Embedded Global Positioning System (EGI)-Inertial Navigation System (INS)/LN-251 is a sensor that combines GPS and inertial sensor inputs to provide accurate location information for navigation and targeting.

k. AN/UPX-43 IFF Interrogator. The Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) AN/UPX-43 Interrogator system provides operators with the capability for timely and accurate display of both civil and military air traffic.

l. Radiant Mercury Hardware and Software. The Radiant Mercury Cross Domain Solution (CDS) allows data transfer traffic between both classified and unclassified networks onboard the P-8A.

m. ENTR(V)4 Receiver with Embedded Crypto. The tactical receiver interfaces with the Integrated Broadcast System receiving nationally transmitted tracks for situational awareness.

n. The Dual KIV-7M. The KIV-7M provides programmable link and multi-channel network encryption for High Frequency (HF) radio communications.

o. Advanced Digital Antenna Production (ADAP), Antenna Electronics (AE). The ADAP antenna electronics interfaces with the ADAP Controlled Reception Pattern Antenna (CRPA) antennas to insure availability of GPS signals to the aircraft.

p. Advance Digital Antenna Production (ADAP) Controlled Reception Pattern Antenna (CRPA). The ADAP CRPA enables reception of GPS signals to the aircraft.

q. KG-175 Encryptor Network Convergence System (NC) CNTRX, INMARSAT, IP Data. The KG-175 TACLANE provides network communications security on Internet Protocol (IP) and Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) networks used by the P-8A.

r. AN/APX-123A(V) IFF Transponder Digital. The IFF AN/APX-123A(V) transponder is capable of both Mode 5 and Mode S secure modes and provides own ship positional information.

s. KIV-78 IFF Mode 4/5 Cryptographic Appliance. The KIV-78 is Type 1 NSA-certified COMSEC for IFF. The KIV-78 provides cryptographic and time-of-day services, concurrent Mode 4/5 operations as well as concurrent interrogator/transponder operations. The KIV-78 IFF system is deployed to identify cooperative, friendly systems.

t. KIV-701 A Cryptographic Core Module. The KIV-70 1A encrypts the common data link that is used for line of sight secure transmission of video imagery to ground terminals and ships.

u. KY-100M, KY-58, KYV-5 for HF-121CD Radio. The KY-100M is a narrowband/wideband terminal that interoperates with TACTERM (CV-3591/KYV-5), MINTERM (KY-99A), VINSON (KY-57, KY-58), and SINGGARS. The KY-100M provides for secure voice and data communications in tactical airborne and ground environments and is a self-contained terminal that includes COMSEC. The KY-100M is based on the KY-99A architecture with enhanced interface capability. It includes KY-99A's operational modes and KY-58's operational modes.

v. AN/PYQ-10 V3 Simple Key Loader (SKL) with KOV-21 Cryptographic Applique. The SKL is a ruggedized, portable, hand-held fill device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment. The SKL provides streamlined management of COMSEC key, Electronic Protection (EP) data, and Signal Operating Instructions (SOI). Cryptographic functions are performed by an embedded KOV-21 applique.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Canada can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Canada.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-49, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the Czech Republic for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$5.62 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-49

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of the Czech Republic.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment \* \$3.09 billion.

Other \$2.53 billion.

Total \$5.62 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Twenty-four (24) F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) Aircraft.

Twenty-five (25) Pratt & Whitney F135-PW-100 Engines (24 installed, 1 spare) Seventy (70) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM).

Three (3) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM Guidance Sections.

Eighty-six (86) GBU-53/B Small Diameter Bombs—Increment II (SDB-II) StormBreaker All-Up-Rounds (AUR).

Two (2) GBU-53 SDB-II Guided Test Vehicles (GTV).

Three (3) GBU-53 SDB-II Captive Carry Reliability Trainers (CCRT).

Twelve (12) Mk-84 General Purpose 2,000-lb Bombs or BLU-109 2,000-lb Penetrator Bombs for the GBU-31.

Twelve (12) KMU-556/KMU-557 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Tail Kits for the GBU-31.

Fifty (50) AIM-9X Block II/II+ Tactical Sidewinder Missiles.

Ten (10) AIM-9X Block II Tactical Sidewinder Guidance Units.

Eighteen (18) AIM-9X Block II Tactical Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM).

Four (4) AIM-9X Block II CATM Guidance Units.

Non-MDE:

Also included are AIM-120 AMRAAM CATMs, control section spares, and containers; AIM-9 multi-purpose/dummy air training missiles and containers; DSU-41B Active Optical Target Detectors; Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) trainer tail kits; FMU-139 Joint Programmable Fuzes; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKL); ALE-70 Radio Frequency Countermeasures (RFCM) Transmitters; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; electronic warfare (EW) data and Reprogramming Lab support; impulse cartridges, chaff, and flares; Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); Car-

tridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); classified software and software development, delivery, and integration support; transportation, ferry, and refueling support; ammunition and weapons components; aircraft and munitions support and support equipment; integration and test support and equipment; aircraft engine Component Improvement Program (CIP) support; secure communications, precision navigation, and cryptographic equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; in-country facilities and construction support; major and minor modifications, maintenance, and maintenance support; classified and unclassified personnel training and training gear and equipment; classified and unclassified publications and technical documents; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (EZ-D-SAB, EZ-D-YAC, EZ-D-YAD); Navy (EZ-P-LCS, EZ-P-AAA).

(v) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 29, 2023.

\* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Czech Republic—F-35 and Munitions

The Government of the Czech Republic has requested to buy twenty-four (24) F-35 Joint Strike Fighter Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) Aircraft; twenty-five (25) Pratt & Whitney F135-PW-100 Engines (24 installed, 1 spare); seventy (70) AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM); three (3) AIM-120C-8 AMRAAM Guidance Sections; eighty-six (86) GBU-53/B Small Diameter Bombs—Increment II (SDB-II) StormBreaker All-Up-Rounds (AUR); two (2) GBU-53 SDB-II Guided Test Vehicles (GTV); three (3) GBU-53 SDB-II Captive Carry Reliability Trainers (CCRT); twelve (12) Mk-84 General Purpose 2,000-lb Bombs or BLU-109 2,000-lb Penetrator Bombs for the GBU-31; twelve (12) KMU-556/KMU-557 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) Tail Kits for the GBU-31; fifty (50) AIM-9X Block II/II+ Tactical Sidewinder Missiles; ten (10) AIM-9X Block II Tactical Sidewinder Guidance Units; eighteen (18) AIM-9X Block II Tactical Sidewinder Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM); and four (4) AIM-9X Block II CATM Guidance Units. Also included are AIM-120 AMRAAM CATMs, control section spares, and containers; AIM-9 multi-purpose/dummy air training missiles and containers; DSU-41B Active Optical Target Detectors; Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) trainer tail kits; FMU-139 Joint Programmable Fuzes; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKL); Radio Frequency Countermeasures (RFCM) Transmitters; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; electronic warfare (EW) data and Reprogramming Lab support; impulse cartridges, chaff, and flares; Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE); Cartridge Actuated Devices/Propellant Actuated Devices (CAD/PAD); Contractor Logistics Support (CLS); classified software and software development, delivery, and integration support; transportation, ferry, and refueling support; ammunition and weapons components; aircraft and munitions support and support equipment; integration and test support and equipment; aircraft engine Component Improvement Program (CIP) support;

secure communications, precision navigation, and cryptographic equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables, accessories, and repair and return support; in-country facilities and construction support; major and minor modifications, maintenance, and maintenance support; classified and unclassified personnel training and training gear and equipment; classified and unclassified publications and technical documents; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$5.62 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve the Czech Republic's defense capabilities as well as support NATO operations by guarding against modern threats and maintaining a constant presence in the region. The Czech Republic will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Lockheed Martin Aeronautics Company, Fort Worth, TX; Raytheon Missiles and Defense, Tucson, AZ; and The Boeing Company, St. Louis, MO. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the Czech Republic.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-49

*Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act*

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The F-35A Conventional Take Off and Landing (CTOL) aircraft is a single seat, single engine, all-weather, stealth, fifth-generation multirole aircraft. It contains sensitive technology including a low observable airframe/outer mold line, the Pratt and Whitney F135 engine, AN/APG-81 radar, an integrated core processor central computer, a mission systems/electronic warfare suite, a multiple sensor suite, and technical data and documentation and associated software. Sensitive elements of the F-35A are also included in operational flight and maintenance trainers. Sensitive and classified elements of the F-35A CTOL aircraft include hardware, accessories, components, and associated software for the following major subsystems:

a. The Pratt & Whitney F135 engine is a single 40,000-lb thrust class engine designed for the F-35 and assures highly reliable, affordable performance. The engine is designed to be utilized in all F-35 variants, providing unmatched commonality and supportability throughout the worldwide base of F-35 users.

b. The AN/APG-81 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) is a high processing power and high transmission power electronic array capable of detecting air and ground targets from a greater distance than mechanically scanned array radars. It also contains a synthetic aperture radar (SAR), which creates high-resolution ground maps and provides both weather data to the pilot

and air and ground tracks to the mission system, the latter of which is used as a component to fuse sensor data by the mission system.

c. The Electro-Optical Targeting System (EOTS) provides long-range detection and tracking, as well as an infrared search and track (IRST) and forward-looking infrared (FLIR) capability for precision tracking, weapons delivery, and bomb damage assessment (BDA). The EOTS replaces multiple separate internal or podded systems typically found on legacy aircraft.

d. The Electro-Optical Distributed Aperture System (EODAS) provides the pilot with full spherical coverage for air-to-air and air-to-ground threat awareness, day/night vision enhancements, a fire control capability and precision tracking of wingmen and friendly aircraft. The EODAS provides data directly to the pilot's helmet as well as the mission system.

e. The F-35 Electronic Warfare (EW) system is a reprogrammable, integrated system that provides radar warning and electronic support measures (ESM) along with a fully integrated countermeasures (CM) system. The EW system is the primary subsystem used to enhance situational awareness, targeting support, and self-defense through the search, intercept, and location and identification of in-band emitters and to automatically counter infrared (IR) and radio frequency (RF) threats.

f. The F-35 Command, Control, Communications, Computers and Intelligence/Communications, Navigation, and Identification (C4I/CNI) system provides the pilot with unmatched connectivity to flight members, coalition forces, and the battlefield. It is an integrated subsystem designed to provide a broad spectrum of secure, anti-jam voice and data communications, precision radio navigation and landing capability, self-identification, beyond visual range target identification, and connectivity to off-board sources of information. It also includes an inertial navigation and global positioning system (GPS) for precise location information. The functionality is tightly integrated within the mission system to enhance efficiency.

g. The F-35 C4I/CNI system includes two data links: the Multi-Function Advanced Data Link (MADL) and Link-16. The MADL is designed specifically for the F-35 and allows for stealthy communications between F-35s. Link-16 is an advanced command, control, communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements. It provides the warfighter key theater functions such as surveillance, identification, air control, weapons engagement coordination, and direction for all services and allied forces. Link-16 equipment allows the F-35 to communicate with legacy aircraft using widely-distributed J-series message protocols.

h. The F-35 Autonomic Logistics Global Sustainment (ALGS) provides a fully integrated logistics management solution. ALGS integrates a number of functional areas, including supply chain management, repair, support equipment, engine support, and training. The ALGS infrastructure employs a state-of-the-art information system that provides real-time, decision-worthy information for sustainment decisions by flight line personnel. Prognostic health monitoring technology is integrated with the air system and is crucial to predictive maintenance of vital components.

i. The F-35 Autonomic Logistics Information System (ALIS) provides an intelligent information infrastructure that binds all the

key concepts of ALGS into an effective support system. ALIS establishes the appropriate interfaces among the F-35, the warfighter, the training system, government information technology (IT) systems, and supporting commercial enterprise systems. Additionally, ALIS provides a comprehensive tool for data collection and analysis, decision support, and action tracking.

j. The F-35 Training System includes several training devices to provide integrated training for pilots and maintainers. The pilot training devices include a Full Mission Simulator (FMS) and Deployable Mission Rehearsal Trainer (DMRT). The maintenance training devices include an Aircraft Systems Maintenance Trainer (ASMT), Ejection System Maintenance Trainer (ESMT), Outer Mold Line (OML) Lab, Flexible Linear Shaped Charge (FLSC) Trainer, F135 Engine Module Trainer, and Weapons Loading Trainer (WLT). The F-35 Training System can be integrated, where both pilots and maintainers learn in the same Integrated Training Center (ITC). Alternatively, the pilots and maintainers can train in separate facilities (Pilot Training Center and Maintenance Training Center).

k. Other subsystems, features, and capabilities include the F-35's low observable air frame, Integrated Core Processor (ICP) Central Computer, Helmet Mounted Display System (HMDS), Pilot Life Support System (LSS), Off-Board Mission Support (OMS) System, and publications and maintenance manuals. The HMDS provides a fully sunlight readable biocular display presentation of aircraft information projected onto the pilot's helmet visor. The use of a night vision camera integrated into the helmet eliminates the need for separate Night Vision Goggles. The Pilot LSS provides a measure of pilot chemical, biological, and radiological protection through use of an On-Board Oxygen Generating System (OBOGS). OBOGS takes the Power and Thermal Management System (PTMS) air and enriches it by removing gases (mainly nitrogen) by adsorption, thereby increasing the concentration of oxygen in the product gas and supplying breathable air to the pilot. An escape system provides additional protection to the pilot. The OMS provides a mission planning, mission briefing, and a maintenance, intelligence, and tactical debriefing platform for the F-35.

2. The AIM-120C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air-launched, aerial intercept guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature, solid-state electronics. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high-and low-flying and maneuvering targets. This potential sale will include Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM) as well as AMRAAM guidance sections, propulsion sections, control sections, telemetry systems, and warhead, spares.

3. The GBU-53/B Small Diameter Bomb—Increment II (SDB-II) StormBreaker All-Up-Round (AUR) is a 250-lb class precision-guided, semiautonomous, conventional air-to-ground munition used to defeat moving targets from standoff range and capable of operating in adverse weather. The SDB-II has deployable wings and fins and uses Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) guidance, network-enabled datalink (Link-16 and UHF), and a multimode seeker (millimeter wave radar, imaging infrared, semi-active laser) to autonomously search, acquire, track, and defeat a variety of moving or stationary targets, at standoff range or close in, in a variety of attack modes. The SDB-II employs a multi-effects warhead (blast, fragmentation, and



shaped-charge) for maximum lethality against armored and soft targets. The SDB-11 weapon system consists of the tactical AUR weapon, a 4-place common carriage system, and mission planning system munitions application program (MAP). This potential sale includes SDB-11 Guided Test Vehicles (GTV) and Captive Carry Reliability Trainers (CCRT).

4. Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) consist of a bomb body paired with a warhead-specific tail kit containing an Inertial Navigation System (INS)/Global Positioning System (GPS) guidance capability that converts unguided free-fall bombs into accurate, adverse weather "smart" munitions. The JDAM weapon can be delivered from modest standoff ranges at high or low altitudes against a variety of land and surface targets during the day or night. The JDAM can receive target coordinates via preplanned mission data from the delivery aircraft, by onboard aircraft sensors (e.g., FLIR, radar, etc.) during captive carry, or from a third-party source via manual or automated aircrew cockpit entry. This potential sale will include either of the following variants as well as JDAM trainer tail kits.

a. The GBU-3 lvl is a 2,000-lb JDAM, consisting of a KMU-556 tail kit and BLU-117 or Mk-84 bomb body.

b. The GBU-3lv3 is a 2,000-lb JDAM, consisting of a KMU-557 tail kit and BLU-109 bomb body.

5. The AIM-9X Block II and Block II+ Tactical Sidewinder Missiles represent a substantial increase in missile acquisition and kinematics performance over the AIM-9M and replaces the AIM-9X Block I Missile configuration. The missiles include a high off-boresight seeker, enhanced countermeasure rejection capability, a low drag and high angle of attack airframe, and the ability to integrate with a helmet mounted cueing system. The software algorithms are the most sensitive portion of the AIM-9X missile. The software continues to be modified via a System Improvement Program (SIP) to improve counter-countermeasure capabilities. This potential sale will include AIM-9X CATMs, multipurpose/dummy training missiles, guidance and control section spares, containers, and DSU-41B Active Optical Target Detectors (AOTD).

6. The FMU-139 Joint Programmable Fuze (JPF) is a multi-delay, multi-arm, and proximity sensor compatible with general purpose blast, frag, and hardened-target penetrator weapons. The JPF settings are cockpit selectable in flight when used with numerous precision-guided weapons.

7. The AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader is a portable, hand-held device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment.

8. The ALE-70 is a radio frequency countermeasure (RFCM) transmitter dispenser system designed to fit into the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) aircraft. The ALE-70 consists of the reel and launcher assembly, tow line, T-1687 countermeasure transmitter, and electronic and mechanical subassemblies, along with canisters and explosive cartridges that deploy decoys to provide self-protection against radar guided missiles for aircraft.

9. The Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) is support equipment used to interface with weapon systems to initiate and report BIT results and both upload and download flight software. CMBRE supports multiple munitions platforms with a range of applications that perform preflight checks, conduct periodic maintenance checks, declassify munitions memory, and load Operational Flight

Program (OFF) data, munitions mission planning data, and Global Positioning System (GPS) cryptographic keys.

10. The Electronic Warfare Reprogramming Lab is used by U.S. Government engineers in the reprogramming and creation of shareable Mission Data Files for foreign F-35 customers.

11. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

12. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

13. A determination has been made that the Czech Republic can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

14. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of the Czech Republic.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 23-OJ. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 19-02 dated February 6, 2019.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-OJ

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(C). AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of India.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 19-02; Date: February 6, 2019; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On February 6, 2019, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 19-02 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of two (2) Self-Protection Suites (SPS) consisting of AN/AAQ-24(V)N Large Aircraft Infrared-Countermeasures (LAIRCM), ALQ-211(V)8 Advanced Integrated Defensive Electronic Warfare Suite (AIDEWS), and AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispensing System (CMOS) to protect two (2) Boeing 777 Head-of-State aircraft. The LAIRCM system consists of three (3) Guardian Laser Terminal Assemblies (GLTA), six (6) Missile Warning Sensors (MWS) for AN/AAQ-24(V)N, one (1) LAIRCM System Processor Replacements (LSPR), one (1) Control Indicator Unit Replacement (CIUR), one (1) Smart Card Assembly and one (1) High Capacity Card (HCC)/User Data Memory (UDM) card. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) consisted of twelve (12) Guardian Laser Transmitter Assemblies (GLTA) AN/AAQ-24(V)N (6 installed, 6 spares); eight (8) LAIRCM System Processor Replacements (LSPR) AN/AAQ-24(V)N (2 installed, 6 spares); twenty-three (23) Missile Warning Sensors (MWS) for AN/AAR-54 AAQ-24(V)N (12 installed, 11 spares); and five (5) AN/ALE-47 Countermeasures Dispensing System (CMOS) (2 installed, 3 spares). Also included were Advanced Integrated Defensive Electronic Warfare Suites (AIDEWS), LAIRCM CIURs, Smart Card Assemblies, HCCs, and UDM cards, as well as: initial spares; consumables; repair and return support; support equipment; Self-Protection Suite (SPS) engineering design; integration; hardware integration; flight test and certification; selective availability anti-spoofing modules (SAASM); warranties, publications, and technical documentation; training and training equipment; field service representatives; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost was \$190 million. MDE constituted \$26 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the addition of the following non-MOE items and services: impulse cartridges, chaff, and flares; software delivery and support; computer program identification number (CPIN) systems; major modifications, maintenance, and maintenance support; additional spares and repair and return support; additional test and integration equipment and support; facilities and construction support; and transportation support. No additional MDE is being reported; however, the total estimated MDE value will increase by \$7 million to \$33 million due to price increases. The estimated total case value will increase to \$379 million.

(iv) Significance: This proposed sale will improve India's capability to meet and deter current and future threats by ensuring the sustainability of its SPS.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to strengthen the U.S.-Indian strategic relationship and to improve the security of a major defensive partner which continues to be an important force for political stability, peace, and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific and South Asia region.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology Statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.



(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 27, 2023.

### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 01-23. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 20-47 dated July 6, 2020.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosure.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 01-23

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(a), AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Lithuania.  
(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 20-47.

Date: July 6, 2020.

Implementing Agency: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On July 6, 2020, Congress was notified by congressional certification transmittal number 20-47 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of six (6) UH-60M Black Hawk Helicopters in standard U.S. Government configuration with designated unique equipment and Government Furnished Equipment (GFE); fourteen (14) T700-GE-701D Engines (12 installed and 2 spares); eight (8) AN/AAR-57 Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) (6 production and 2 spares); and twelve (12) M240H Machine Guns. Also included were fifteen (15) EAGLE +429 Embedded Global Positioning/Inertial Navigation (EGI) System (12 production and 3 spares); eight (8) AN/APX-123A Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) transponder (6 production and 2 spares); fifteen (15) AN/ARC-201D (twelve (12) production and three (3) spares); fifteen (15) AN/ARC-231 radios (12 production and 3 spares); eight (8) AN/ARC-220 radios (6 production and 2 spares); two (2) VRC-100 HF Radio Ground Stations (1 for primary oper-

ations and 1 spares); eight (8) AN/AVR-2B Laser Warning Receiver (6 production and 2 spares); twelve (12) Common Missile Warning System (CMWS) User Data Module (UDM); eight (8) TALON Forward Looking Infrared Radar (TALON FLIR) (6 production and 2 spares); eight (8) EBC-406. Emergency Locator Transmitter (6 production and 2 spares); thirty (30) AN/AVS-6 Military Grade Night Vision Goggles; fifteen (15) AN/AVS-7 Improved Heads Up Display (IHUD) (Day) (12 for primary aircrew and 3 spares); fifteen (15) AN/AVS-7 Improved Heads Up Display (IHUD) (Night) (12 for primary aircrew and 3 spares); five hundred (500) 1305-A965, CTG, 25.4mm, decoy M839; eight hundred (800) flare, aircraft, countermeasure, M206; thirty-eight thousand four hundred (38,400) 7.62mm, 4 Ball, M80, 1 Tracer, Linked A; eight (8) cartridge, impulse, MH44-0; twenty-four (24) cartridge, aircraft fire extinguisher; eight (8) cartridge, impulse, CCU-92/A; one thousand four hundred forty (1,440) cartridge, impulse, BBU-35/B; aircraft warranty, air worthiness support, spare and repair parts, support equipment, communication equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, ground support equipment, site surveys, tool and test equipment, Security Assistance Training Field Activity (SATFA) Aviation Courses, Technical Assistance Fielding Team (TAFT), U.S. Government and contractor technical and logistics support services, and other related element of program, technical and logistics support. The estimated total cost was \$380 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$150 million of this total. This transmittal reports the addition of the following MDE item: fifteen (15) H-764ACE Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS) Inertial Navigation System (INS) (EGI), which will replace the obsolete non-MDE item of EAGLE+429 EGI System. This transmittal further reports the correction of the non-MDE item of AN/ARC-201D to AN/ARC-210D. Also included is non-MDE WESCAM MX10D Electro-Optical Infrared Radar (EO/IR). The overall MDE value will remain \$150 million. The estimated total case value will increase by \$20 million to \$400 million.

(iv) Significance: Lithuania plays an important role in strengthening deterrence capabilities on the northeastern flank of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). This equipment will significantly enhance Lithuania's ability to counter threats posed by armored and hardened targets, thereby greatly increasing NATO's overall security and providing a demonstrable deterrent effect.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies in addition to items reported here.

1. The H-764ACE EGI provides GPS and INS capabilities to the aircraft. The EGI will include Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) security modules to be used for secure GPS Precise Positioning Service (PPS) if required.

2. The AN/ARC-210D, RT-2036(C), Single Channel Ground to Air Radio System (SINCGARS), is a tactical airborne radio subsystem that provides secure, anti-jam voice and data communication. The integration of communications security (COMSEC) and the Data Rate Adapter (DRA) combines three Line Replaceable Units into one and reduces overall weight of the aircraft.

3. The WESCAM MX10D Electro-Optical Infrared Radar (EO/IR) is a low-weight targeting system for low-altitude tactical surveillance, reconnaissance, and target acquisition missions from manned or unmanned airborne platforms. The MX10D includes the enhanced high-resolution, High-Definition imagery with improved capability. It has a four-axis gimbal with internal Inertial Measurement Unit (IMU).

4. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 28, 2023.

### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-41, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Norway for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$293 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-41

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Norway.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$248 million.

Other \$45 million.

Total \$293 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services Under Consideration for Purchase: Foreign Military Sales (FMS) case NO-D-AAG was below the congressional notification threshold at \$18.9 million (\$7.2 million in Major Defense Equipment (MDE)), and included twenty (20) Guided Bomb Unit (GBU)-53/B Small Diameter Bombs-Increment II (SDB-II) All-Up-Rounds

(AURs). The Government of Norway has requested the case be amended to include up to an additional five hundred eighty (580) GBU-53/B SDB-II AURs. This amendment will increase the MDE and total case values above notification thresholds and thus requires notification of the entire case.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Up to Six Hundred (600) GBU-53/B Small Diameter Bombs-Increment II (SDB-II) All-Up-Rounds (AURs).

Non-MDE: Also included are SDB-II Weapon Load Crew Trainers (WLCT) and Practical Explosive Ordnance Disposal Trainers (PEDT); munitions support and support equipment; unclassified software delivery and support; spare parts, consumables, and accessories; repair and return support; modifications and maintenance support; transportation support; unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training equipment and support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (NO-D-AAG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 28, 2023.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Norway—Small Diameter Bomb II

The Government of Norway has requested to buy up to five hundred eighty (580) GBU-53/B Small Diameter Bombs-Increment II (SDB-II) All-Up-Rounds (AURs) that will be added to a previously implemented case. The original foreign military sales (FMS) case, valued at \$18.9 million, included twenty (20) GBU-53/B, SDB-II AURs. This amendment will increase the MDE and total case values above notification thresholds and thus requires notification of the entire case. Therefore, this notification is for a total of up to six hundred (600) GBU-53/B, SDB-II AURs. Also included are SDB-II Weapon Load Crew Trainers (WLCT) and Practical Explosive Ordnance Disposal Trainers (PEDT); munitions support and support equipment; unclassified software delivery and support; spare parts, consumables, and accessories; repair and return support; modifications and maintenance support; transportation support; unclassified publications and technical documentation; personnel training equipment and support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated cost is \$293 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Norway's capability to meet current and future threats by bolstering operational readiness while enhancing air and defense capabilities with a modernized weapon to support the new F-35A fleet. Norway will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Raytheon Missile Systems, Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Norway.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-41

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

##### Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The GBU-53 Small Diameter Bomb-Increment II (SDB-II) StormBreaker All-Up Round (AUR) is a 250-pound class precision-guided, semiautonomous, conventional, air-to-ground munition used to defeat moving targets through adverse weather from standoff range. The SDB-II has deployable wings and fins and uses Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) guidance, network-enabled datalink (Link-16 and Ultra High Frequency), and a multi-mode seeker (millimeter wave radar, imaging infrared, semi-active laser) to autonomously search, acquire, track, and defeat a variety of moving or stationary targets, at standoff range or close in, including a variety of attack modes. The SDB-II employs a multi-effects warhead (blast, fragmentation, and shaped-charge) for maximum lethality against armored and soft targets. The SDB-II weapon system consists of the tactical AUR weapon, a 4-place common carriage system, and mission planning system munitions application program (MAP).

a. The SDB-II Weapon Load Crew Trainer (WLCT) is a mass mockup of the tactical AUR used for load crew and maintenance training. It does not contain energetics, a live fuze, any sensitive components, or hazardous material. It is not flight certified.

b. The SDB-II Practical Explosive Ordnance Disposal Trainer (PEST) is an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) training unit with sections and internal subassemblies which are identical to, or correlate to, the external hardware, sections, and internal subassemblies of the tactical AUR. The PEST does not contain energetics, a live fuze, any sensitive components, or hazardous material. It is not flight certified.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Norway can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Norway.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive

prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-16, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Poland for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$15 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-16

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Poland.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment \* \$13 billion.

Other \$2 billion.

Total \$15 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Poland has requested to buy phase two of a two-phase program for an Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS) enabled PATRIOT Configuration-3+ with modernized sensors and components, including:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Forty-eight (48) PATRIOT M903 Launch Stations.

Up to six hundred forty-four (644) PATRIOT Advanced Capability (PAC) 3 Missile Segment Enhanced (MSE) Missiles.

Forty-eight (48) Launcher Interface Network Kits (LINKs).

Twelve (12) Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensors (LTAMDS).

Twelve (12) Large Tactical Power Systems (LTPS) for the LTAMDS.

Non-MDE: Also included is communications equipment; tools and test equipment; support equipment; generators; spare parts; repair parts; Global Positioning System PPS (SAASM) receivers; modification kits; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services for planning, execution, Systems Integration and Checkout (SICO), flight test activities,

field office support and training; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (PL-B-UEJ, PL-B-UEK, PL-B-UEL, PL-B-UEM).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: PL-B-UCW.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 28, 2023.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Poland—Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS)

The Government of Poland has requested to buy phase two of a two-phase program for an Integrated Air and Missile Defense (IAMD) Battle Command System (IBCS) enabled PATRIOT Configuration-3+ with modernized sensors and components, including: forty-eight (48) PATRIOT M903 Launch Stations; up to six hundred forty-four (644) PATRIOT Advanced Capability (PAC) 3 Missile Segment Enhanced (MSE) missiles; forty-eight (48) Launcher Interface Network Kits (LINKs); twelve (12) Lower Tier Air and Missile Defense Sensors (LTAMDS); and twelve (12) Large Tactical Power Systems (LTPS) for the LTAMDS. Also included is communications equipment; tools and test equipment; support equipment; generators; spare parts; repair parts; Global Positioning System PPS (SAASM) receivers; modification kits; U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services for planning, execution, Systems Integration and Checkout (SICO), flight test activities, field office support and training; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$15 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Poland's missile defense capability and contribute to Poland's military goals of updating capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States and other allies. Poland will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be Raytheon Corporation, Andover, MA; Lockheed-Martin Missiles and Fire Control, Grand Prairie, TX; and another original equipment manufacturer to be selected to develop and produce generator sets for the LTPS. The purchaser has requested offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor(s).

Implementation of this proposed sale will require approximately forty (40) U.S. Government and/or forty-five (45) contractor representatives to travel to Poland for an extended period for equipment de-processing/fielding, system checkout, training, and technical and logistics support.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-16

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The PATRIOT Advanced Capability (PAC) 3 Missile Segment Enhanced missile is a small, highly agile, kinetic kill interceptor for defense against tactical ballistic missiles, cruise missiles and air-breathing threats. The MSE variant of the PAC-3 missile represents the next generation in hit-to-kill interceptors and provides expanded battlespace against evolving threats. The PAC-3 MSE improves upon the original PAC-3 capability with a higher performance solid rocket motor, modified lethality enhancer, more responsive control surfaces, upgraded guidance software, and insensitive munitions improvements.

2. M903 launcher stations are capable of launching the entire family of PATRIOT missiles. All new U.S. launchers are M903 configuration.

3. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

4. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

5. A determination has been made that the Government Poland can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

6. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Poland.

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-21, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Romania for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$105 million. We

will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-21

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Romania.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment \$0 million.  
Other \$105 million.  
Total \$105 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: The Government of Romania has requested to buy equipment and services to modernize thirty-two (32) F-16 Mid-Life Update Block 10/15 aircraft to be procured through third-party transfer from Norway. The equipment includes:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Included are KY-58M and KIV-78 cryptographic devices; AN/PYQ-10C Simple Key Loaders; Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS); Night Vision Device (NVD) aviator vision systems and spare Image Intensifier Tubes; Electronic Warfare database support; Classified/Unclassified Computer Program Identification Number Systems (CPIN) and CPIN Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program (ECISAP) equipment and support; flight test services; integration and test support and equipment; aircraft support equipment; secure communications equipment, precision navigation, and cryptographic devices; Classified/Unclassified software delivery and support; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; maintenance and maintenance support; studies/surveys; Classified/Unclassified publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (RO-D-QAP).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: RO-D-QAN, RO-D-QAH.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 30, 2023.

As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Romania—F-16 Aircraft Modernization

The Government of Romania has requested to buy equipment and services to modernize thirty-two (32) F-16 Mid-Life Update Block 10/15 aircraft to be procured through third-party transfer from Norway. The equipment includes KY-58M and KIV-78 cryptographic devices; AN/PYQ-10C Simple Key Loaders; Joint Mission Planning Systems (JMPS); Night Vision Device (NVD) aviator vision systems and spare Image Intensifier Tubes; Electronic Warfare database support; Classified/Unclassified Computer Program Identification Number Systems (CPIN) and CPIN Electronic Combat International Security Assistance Program (ECISAP) equipment and support; flight test services; integration and test support and equipment; aircraft support equipment; secure communications

equipment, precision navigation, and cryptographic devices; Classified/Unclassified software delivery and support; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; maintenance and maintenance support; studies/surveys; Classified/Unclassified publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$105 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Romania's capability to meet current and future threats by bolstering its operational readiness while enhancing air and defense capabilities with a modernized fleet. Romania has F-16s in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing these aircraft and equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin, Fort Worth, TX. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Romania.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-21

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

#### Annex Item No. vii

##### (vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The F-16 Block 10/15 Mid Life Update (MLU) aircraft is an advanced, single engine multi-role fighter aircraft. The configuration and capability modifications for the F-16 MLU aircraft include an avionics package for the Romania specific M6.5.2 Core Operational Flight Plan (OFP) Baseline, Communications and Identification for M6.5.2, navigation aids, advanced cockpit, mission planning, electronic warfare and integrated logistics supportability.

2. The KY-58 is a secure voice module primarily used to encrypt radio communication to and from military aircraft and other tactical vehicles.

3. The KIV-78 is a cryptographic applique for IFF. It can be loaded with Mode 5 classified elements.

4. The AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader is a handheld device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment.

5. The Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) is a multi-platform, PC-based mission planning system.

6. The Hands-On Black-Out (HOB) Night Vision Imaging System (NVIS) is a Night Vision Device designed for use with a F-16 NVIS-compatible cockpit.

7. The Electronic Warfare Integrated Reprogramming Database (EWIRDB) is used by USG engineers in the reprogramming and creation of shareable Mission Data Files for the AN/ALQ-131 electronic countermeasures pod on the F-16 aircraft. The source product is not releasable to the customer.

8. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

9. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific

hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

10. A determination has been made that Romania can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

11. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Romania.

### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-38, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$108 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,  
Director.

Enclosures.

#### TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-38

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:  
Major Defense Equipment\* \$0 million.  
Other \$108 million.  
Total \$108 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: A Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA) Foreign Military Sales Order II (FMSO II) to support the purchase of spare and repair parts for wheeled vehicles, weapons, and other related elements of program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (TW-B-KZJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: TW-B-KZD, TW-B-KZC.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 29, 2023.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO)—Blanket Order Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA) Foreign Military Sales Order II (FMSO II)

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy a Cooperative Logistics Supply Support Arrangement (CLSSA) Foreign Military Sales Order II (FMSO II) to support the purchase of spare and repair parts for wheeled vehicles, weapons, and other related elements of program support. The estimated total cost is \$108 million.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will contribute to the sustainment of the recipient's vehicles, small arms, combat weapon systems, and logistical support items, enhancing its ability to meet current and future threats. The proposed sale will contribute to the recipient's goal of maintaining its military capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and support into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor(s) will be determined from approved vendors determined by the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) to provide these parts for the U.S. military. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the recipient.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the

sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications which have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

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

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. ROBERT MENENDEZ,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23-44, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$332.2 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSH,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23-44

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO).

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment \* \$0 million.

Other \$332.2 million.

Total \$332.2 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-MDE: Included are: various unclassified 30 mm ammunition, including 30 mm High Explosive Incendiary-Tracer rounds, 30 mm multi-purpose rounds, and 30 mm training rounds; engineering technical services, including configuration control, production support, ammunition testing, and Load, Assemble, and Pack services; other technical services, including sourcing and acquisition assistance, Navy civilian personnel cost, contract support services, support on technical data requests, responses to Requests for Information, up to two (2) Program Management Reviews per year, and testing and documentation associated with contract procurements; and other related elements of logistic and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (TW-P-AMA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 29, 2023.

\* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO)—30 mm Ammunition

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office in the United States (TECRO) has requested to buy various unclassified 30 mm ammunition, including 30 mm High Explosive Incendiary-Tracer rounds, 30 mm multi-purpose rounds, and 30 mm training rounds; engineering technical services, including configuration control, production support, ammunition testing, and Load, Assemble, and Pack services; other technical services, including sourcing and acquisition assistance, Navy civilian personnel cost, contract support services, support on technical data requests, responses to Requests for Information, up to two (2) Program Management Reviews per year, and testing and documentation associated with contract procurements; and other related elements of logistic and program support. The estimated total cost is \$332.2 million.

This proposed sale is consistent with U.S. law and policy as expressed in Public Law 96-8.

This proposed sale serves U.S. national, economic, and security interests by supporting the recipient's continuing efforts to modernize its armed forces and to maintain a credible defensive capability. The proposed sale will help improve the security of the recipient and assist in maintaining political stability, military balance, and economic progress in the region.

The proposed sale will contribute to the sustainment of the recipient's CM34 Armored Vehicles, enhancing its ability to meet current and future threats. This ammunition will contribute to the recipient's goal of maintaining its military capability while further enhancing interoperability with the United States. The recipient will have no difficulty absorbing this ammunition into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor for the AB44 ammunition will be Alliant Techsystems Operations LLC, Plymouth, MN. The principal contractor for the AB51 and AA90 ammunition will be General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems—Simoni, Marion, IL. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the permanent assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to the recipient. Program Office and support representatives will travel to the recipient on a temporary basis.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

#### RECOGNIZING THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY CLASS OF 2023 GRADUATES

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the class of 2023 graduates from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point and the 23 exemplary graduates from the State of Michigan.

From plebes to firsties, and now second lieutenants in the U.S. Army, the class of 2023 has come through one of the most challenging and rewarding experiences of their lives to join "The Long Gray Line." The class motto, "Freedom is not Free," reflects the class of 2023's commitment and moral,

mental, and physical strength necessary to graduate from West Point and serve as commissioned officers in the U.S. Army. I commend the graduates for their dedication to support and defend the American Constitution and uphold the ethical standards of the Army and United States of America.

I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating, from Michigan: Zachary C. Hellebuyck, Jack Fish, Zenon Stepien, Audra Bloch, Madison Tolston, Elle Bennett, Colin J. Day, Daniel Reimchen, Henry J. Janeway, Jr., Alma Cooper, Michael J. Erickson, Jr., Luke Doyle, Daniel Chung, Margaret Neumeyer, Henry Carroll, Michael Lance, Tyler Prichard, Benjamin Buia, Levi D. Hren, Erika Rapp. While their service to our Nation has just begun, I am confident these new officers will embody the values of "Duty, Honor, Country."

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO LT. GENERAL RONALD BURGESS

• Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and congratulate LTG Ronald L. Burgess, Jr., on his retirement as Auburn University's executive vice president and express my gratitude for his many contributions to our Nation and to the State of Alabama.

General Burgess began his career in 1974 when he was commissioned in military intelligence through the Auburn University Reserve Officers' Training Corps Program. He received a bachelor of arts degree in political science from Auburn in 1974, a master of science degree in education from the University of Southern California in 1980, and a master of military arts and science from the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College in 1986. His military education includes the Armor Officer Basic Course, the Military Intelligence Officers Advanced Course, the Command and General Staff College, the Advanced Military Studies Program, and the Air War College.

Early in his career, General Burgess's staff and command positions included assignments in armor and military intelligence units in Berlin, Germany, and at Fort Stewart and Fort Benning, GA, as well as Fort Richardson, AK. Some of his key positions included assistant executive officer to the Deputy Chief of Staff for Intelligence, Washington, DC, in 1990, and battalion commander, 25th Infantry Division (Light) at Schofield Barracks, HI, from 1993 to 1994.

Additionally, he commanded the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade in Panama from June 1995 to May 1997, served as director of intelligence, J2, Joint Special Operations Command (JSOC), Fort Bragg, NC, from May 1997 to June 1999, served as the director of intelligence, J2, U.S. Southern Command from June 1999 until May 2003,

and finally served as director for intelligence, J2, for the Joint Chiefs of Staff from June 2003 to July 2005.

In 2005, General Burgess reported to the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, where he served consecutively as the Deputy Director of National Intelligence for Customer Outcomes, Director of the Intelligence Staff, and Acting Principal Deputy Director of National Intelligence. On March 18, 2009, General Burgess became the 17th Director of the Defense Intelligence Agency until his official retirement from the U.S. Army on September 1, 2012.

After his illustrious 38-year military career, General Burgess returned to Auburn University in December 2012 to serve as senior counsel for National Security, Cyber Programs and Military Affairs, before being appointed as Auburn's chief operating officer in May 2018. He was named executive vice president of Auburn University in June 2019.

His awards and commendations throughout his career speak for themselves. They include the Defense Distinguished Service Medal; Defense Superior Service Medal, (two oakleaf clusters); Legion of Merit; Meritorious Service Medal, (four oakleaf clusters); Joint Service Commendation Medal; Army Commendation Medal; Army Achievement Medal; NATO Medal—former Republic of Yugoslavia; Parachutist Badge; Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge; and Army Staff Identification Badge.

In 2013, General Burgess was awarded the Auburn Alumni Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2015, he was inducted into the U.S. Army Military Intelligence Hall of Fame and, in 2016, was inducted into the Army ROTC National Hall of Fame.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and our Nation, I offer him my heartfelt thanks and a long and happy retirement with his wife Marta, their five children, Lee, Regina, Julia, Mary, and John, and their 16 grandchildren. General Burgess's career is defined by remarkable devotion and patriotism to his country. We owe him a debt of gratitude for his dedicated and exemplary service.

“War Eagle!”

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ROBERT BOURGEOU

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing U.S. Army MAJ Robert Bourgeois of Missoula County for his heroism on and off the battlefield.

Since graduating high school, Robert committed his life to military service. Growing up in Missoula, the uniform and the duty that came with wearing it inspired him. We all know being a member of the U.S. Armed Forces is more than a job; it is a noble calling to serve that translates beyond one's time spent in uniform.

On October 3, 2022, at Torii Station in Okinawa, Japan, Robert demonstrated

his steadfast commitment to putting others before himself. Around 2 p.m. that day, Robert and some of the students he instructed in scuba diving were at Mermaid's Grotto, a diving spot in Okinawa, when they noticed a Japanese woman calling for help with her 11-year-old daughter and a U.S. soldier who were trapped in a rip current 100 yards off shore. As 6-foot waves came crashing in on the endangered snorkelers, Robert made his way to the young girl as well as her mother who became engulfed in the waves in the process. He grabbed them both and swam as hard as he could until he reached the shore and brought them both to safety. His strength and energy were depleting, yet he made his way back out to the dangerous waves for the soldier and was able to direct him safely to shore.

Robert's commitment to his oath to protect and serve sets him apart from his peers. Being willing to lay down his life for others is more than a choice; it is his duty. Robert is a proud husband, father, and grandfather, and I know his leadership and bravery are inspiring not only to his family, but people around the world.

It is my distinct honor to recognize U.S. Army MAJ Robert Bourgeois for his commitment to putting service over self. The Treasure State's rich legacy of military service is carried on for generations because of brave men like Robert. Thank you for your service. You make Montana proud.

#### RECOGNIZING HY-CAPACITY

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Hy-Capacity of Humboldt, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Hy-Capacity was founded by James “Scratch” Olson in 1978 in Pocahontas, IA, as a manufacturer of agricultural farming equipment. In 1980, the business was relocated to Humboldt and focused on clutches, water pumps, and torque amplifier modifications. The company's name refers to Scratch's ability to take existing tractor parts and modify them for “higher capacity” uses for farmers. Hy-Capacity has evolved over the years and expanded to offer a wide range of agricultural equipment, including cab kits, radiators, and engine overhaul kits. They have grown their products globally and currently export their parts to Canada and Mexico.

Hy-Capacity is an exemplary family business. Scratch's sons Jeff and Steve work at Hy-Capacity. Steve became the president in the 1990s after working there since the company's inception. Steve currently serves as CEO, and his daughter Molly Varangkounh served as president from 2001 until 2022. Steve's

son David now runs the day-to-day business operations. A fourth generation of the Olson family, Molly's daughter Claire, joined the family business as an intern from 2017 until 2021. Scratch Olson's legacy includes a multigenerational workforce and a thriving business committed to hard work, community involvement, and dedication to farmers. In 2023, Hy-Capacity celebrated its 45th business anniversary.

The Hy-Capacity team does not only work hard, but they also give back. In 2009, they won the Iowa Governor's Environmental Excellence Award and the Recycling Project/Facility of the Year by the Iowa Recycling Association. Hy-Capacity is involved with the Iowa Future Farmers of America, where they became the official sponsor for tractor seats at events in 2014. Another important partnership for Hy-Capacity is the Humboldt County Memorial Hospital. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Hy-Capacity shifted gears and started manufacturing masks and gowns for the hospital. In addition to the masks and gowns Hy-Capacity provided, they were able to assemble a group of volunteers that helped produce almost 200 additional masks.

Hy-Capacity's commitment to providing high-quality tractor parts to farmers throughout North America while maintaining their Humboldt roots is clear. I want to congratulate the Olson family and the entire team at Hy-Capacity for their continued dedication to providing affordable and high-quality parts to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.

#### RECOGNIZING NORTHWESTERN STEAKHOUSE

• Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Northwestern Steakhouse of Mason City, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Greek immigrants Pete Maduras and Tony Papouchis founded the restaurant in 1920 under the name “Pete's Place.” The original location was in the Northwestern Row neighborhood of Mason City. During the early 20th century, Mason City was experiencing an increase in business development due to the opening of the Northwestern State Portland Cement Plant in 1906 and the Lehigh Portland Cement Company in 1910. Many of the workers moving to Mason City were European immigrants like Pete and Tony. During the early history of the restaurant, Pete handled the business side, while Tony was the head chef. Tony spent 3 years in the Greek Army and used the recipes he learned from his service to inspire the menu. Pete's Place moved to its second location on North Federal Avenue in



1932, before moving again to the current location on 16th Street NW in 1954.

In 1965, Pete retired, and the restaurant was rebranded to Northwestern Steakhouse. Tony planted a garden next to the restaurant, where he used fresh produce in his meals, including his famous fresh salads. On Sundays, Tony offered a special menu that paid homage to his Greek roots. Tony worked at the restaurant every day until his passing at 98 years old in 1991. Today, Tony's son Bill Papouchis runs the restaurant with his wife Ann. Bill and Ann continue to honor Tony's legacy by using the recipes he created and keeping the menu consistent with Tony's vision.

The Northwestern Steakhouse team is well-recognized for their hard work. In 2019, Business Insider listed them as the Iowa winner of "The most famous restaurant in every state" article. Additionally, online food, drink, and travel publication Thrillist recognized them in "The Most Iconic Restaurant in Every State" article. In 2020, while celebrating its 100th anniversary, Northwestern Steakhouse won the "Business of the Year Award" from the Mason City Chamber of Commerce. The same year, Mason City mayor Bill Schickel awarded the restaurant the key to the city. Northwestern Steakhouse also gives back to the community. In March 2021, they hosted their first "Wonderful Wednesday," which raised over \$1,000 for Habitat for Humanity of North Central Iowa.

Northwestern Steakhouse's commitment to providing quality food and dining in North Central Iowa is clear. I want to congratulate the Papouchis family and the entire team at Northwestern Steakhouse for their continued dedication to providing an iconic culinary experience to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### RECOGNIZING TOTAL DETAILING AUTO SPA

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Total Detailing Auto Spa of Bettendorf, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

As a child, Bettendorf resident Tim Lofgren cleaned cars in his neighborhood as a part-time business. He came up with the name "Total Detailing" at the age of 15 after he determined that he could turn his childhood hobby into a small business. Total Detailing Auto Spa was founded in 1998 and started out at a residential home, then a location in downtown Bettendorf. In 2008, Tim and his wife Susan acquired an 11,200-square-foot facility in Bettendorf, IA, which serves as the current location for their business.

Total Detailing Auto Spa offers complete interior and exterior car detail-

ing. In addition to their detailing services, they also provide full-service car wash, boat detailing, and motorcycle detailing in the Quad Cities. Total Detailing Auto Spa also operates a retail showroom where antique cars are on display for customers to admire while their car is being serviced, with the showroom currently displaying a 1929 Ford Roadster. The facility has four bays, including an oversized one for boats, recreational vehicles, and tractors. Over the years, Total Detailing Auto Spa has significantly expanded its workforce from a two-person shop to more than 30 employees.

Total Detailing Auto Spa has built up a loyal following over the years. In November 2019, Bettendorf resident Lou Riojas received his 500th car wash from Total Detailing Auto Spa. Lou has relied on Total Detailing Auto Spa to wash his red G-6 Pontiac several times a week. The Total Detailing team has also given back to the Quad Cities community by providing services to charity auctions and local school benefits. Total Detailing Auto Spa's hard work has paid off as they are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year.

Total Detailing Auto Spa's commitment to providing quality car washes and auto detailing services in Bettendorf, IA, is clear. I want to congratulate Tim and Susan Lofgren and the entire team at Total Detailing Auto Spa for their continued dedication to providing car detailing services to Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.●

#### McFARLAN VETERANS MEMORIAL PARK

● Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the McFarlan Veterans Memorial Park located in Flint, MI, in Genesee County. The stewards of this historic landmark, "The Friends of McFarlan Park," incorporated in 2011 and forged a formal agreement with the city of Flint authorizing the organization to preserve and manage the park. Developing a master plan to renovate and update the facility, volunteers spent years fundraising, reaching their goal in 2022 allowing the park's renovation to begin. It is a privilege and honor to recognize the completion of this historic project and commemorate the formal rededication of the park on Thursday, July 13, 2023.

In 1875, the park was purchased for \$3,700, becoming the first park owned by the city of Flint and named for lumber baron, farmer, and Flint mayor Alexander McFarlan who donated and oversaw the installation of a water fountain on the property. In 1951, the park was designated as Genesee County's official war memorial, erecting a historical stone marker with the following inscription, "FOREVER HONORING ALL THE MEN AND WOMEN OF GENESEE COUNTY WHO SERVED IN THE ARMED FORCES OF THE

UNITED STATES IN TIME OF WAR DEDICATED MAY 30, 1951."

In 1968, the park erected memorial columns which now contain the names of thousands of Genesee County military veterans who paid the ultimate sacrifice to our country from the Civil War to present day. In 1969, the Flint Council of the American Legion installed and dedicated a key landmark known within the park, an eternal burning flame which features a commemorative plaque signifying it as a "Flame of Freedom." On July 21, 1975, the McFarlan Veterans Memorial Park celebrated its centennial, adding a new marker in place of the ornamental fountain that once stood in the park gifted by its namesake, Alexander McFarlan. The marker now serves as a celebration of the park's 100 years of existence and the community growth throughout this time. On the back side, a commemorative plaque was installed in 2005 noting its sesquicentennial celebration and funding provided by the Ruth Mott Foundation, which provided new landscaping. The most recent commemorative addition features recognition of K9 service dogs who serve in the U.S. military and was gifted by Roberta Gramer in honor of her son, Navy veteran and Friend of McFarlan Park board member William Dennis Gramer, 1944–2023.

Located in the heart of downtown Flint, the McFarlan Veteran Memorial Park has continued to thoughtfully remind us that our freedom is not free, recognize our Armed Service members, is home to annual Veterans Day and Memorial Day ceremonies, and inspires community pride through Earth Day cleanups and more.

I cannot understate the impact that McFarlan Veterans Memorial Park has had on the generations of citizens who call the city of Flint and Genesee County home. A pillar of strength and a solemn place to honor and mourn the loss of a loved one, this historical monument is the embodiment of the leadership throughout this community and the generosity of ongoing monetary support to honor our history. I ask you to join me in recognizing and celebrating the rededication of this 148-year-old historic memorial and the Friends of McFarlan Park for renewing their commitment to "Remember all those who have fallen, remember those who are no longer with us, and never forget that freedom is not free."●

#### REMEMBERING ETHEL B. LAROCK

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I would like to honor the life and service of a distinguished Montanan and Korean and Vietnam war veteran, the late Ms. Ethel B. LaRock.

Ethel was a native daughter of Montana, born on September 23, 1930, in Wolf Creek. She was raised alongside her nine older siblings in the Sixth Ward in Helena. Never one to shy away from service or sacrifice, Ethel left Montana to serve her country in the



Korean and Vietnam wars as a nurse in the U.S. Army. Her time in uniform took her all across the world, from Southeast Asia to Europe. A decorated servicewoman, she was awarded a Bronze Star in the Korean war and the Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross in the Vietnam war for her heroic actions.

After retiring from the Army as a lieutenant colonel, Ethel returned to civilian life, where she was an accomplished watercolor artist, a member of the Archie Bray Foundation in Helena, and enjoyed music, literature, and researching her family history. She was happiest surrounded by generations of her nieces and nephews, spanning all the way to great-great-nieces and nephews. She loved playing cards with them, sharing stories, and watching old movies.

On June 22, 2023, Ethel passed away at the age of 92 at the Fort Harrison VA Hospital. Today, it is my honor to commemorate her service and life as an outstanding Montanan. On behalf of myself and a grateful nation, I commend Lieutenant Colonel Ethel LaRock and extend our deepest appreciation to her and her family. She is a true patriot who made Montana proud, and she will be sorely missed.●

#### TRIBUTE TO MASTER SERGEANT DONNA JOHNSON

● Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, ROTC programs are critical source of leadership for our Armed Forces. ROTC programs also change people's lives. A perfect example is MSG Donna Johnson of Birmingham, who began her military career in ROTC at Jackson-Olin High School.

She says that after joining the ROTC, she knew that she was meant to be a soldier. The idea of serving those in need motivated Donna to join Alabama's National Guard full-time. She faithfully represented our State and country across the world, including stops in Iraq and Kuwait as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom. While stationed in Kuwait, Donna was asked to sing the national anthem for her fellow servicemembers after her commander noticed her gift of singing. She cites this as one of her most memorable experiences during her 38 years in the Guard.

Donna continues to share her love of America through song at various events across Alabama, including Veterans Day ceremonies, school assemblies, and athletic events. Donna also generously invests her time in Alabama's next generation of leaders by mentoring in the Birmingham City Schools' "Common Ground" program. She serves as a positive role model for young women ages 12-14, encouraging them to rise above challenging circumstances, stay in school, and respect themselves and others.

We are blessed to have Donna serving the people of our great State, and I am proud to recognize her as the July Veteran of the Month.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

##### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 23, 2023, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 467. An act to modify the age requirement for the Student Incentive Payment Program of the State maritime academies.

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2023, the enrolled bill was signed on June 26, 2023, during the adjournment of the Senate, by the Acting President pro tempore (Mr. WARNER).

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3564. An act to cancel recent changes made by the Federal Housing Finance Agency to the up-front loan level pricing adjustments charged by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for guarantee of single-family mortgages, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 2(a) of the National Cultural Center Act (20 U.S.C. 76h(a)), amended by Public Law 107-117, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Speaker appoints the following Member on the part of the House of Representatives to the Board of Trustees of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts: Mrs. BEATTY of Ohio.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3564. An act to cancel recent changes made by the Federal Housing Finance Agency to the up-front loan level pricing adjustments charged by Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac for guarantee of single-family mortgages, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

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

S. 2178. A bill to extend the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards Program of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

#### ENROLLED BILLS PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on June 27, 2023, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 467. An act to modify the age requirement for the Student Incentive Payment Program of the State maritime academies.

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, July 10, 2023, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 30. An act to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2023, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-1555. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mefenoxam; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10992-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1556. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sedaxane; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10994-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1557. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Trifloxystrobin; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 10570-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1558. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sulfoxaflor; Pesticide Tolerance" (FRL No. 10967-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1559. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Glufosinate; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 11019-01-OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2023; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1560. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Modification of Authority of the Department of Defense to Carry Out Certain Prototype Projects (DFARS Case 2023-D006)" (RIN0750-AL79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1561. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Undefined Contract Actions (DFARS Case 2021-D003)" (RIN0750-AL79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1562. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Payment Instructions (DFARS Case 2017-D036)" (RIN0750-AL79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 22, 2023; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1563. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal to extend the authority of the Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) under section 3132 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year (FY) 2005, as amended, to accept, retain, and use external contributions indefinitely; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1564. A communication from the Director of the Selective Service System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the System's Congressional Budget Justification for fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Armed Services.

### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-29. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Colorado reaffirming Colorado to be the permanent location for the United States Space Command, and, in connection therewith, urging the Department of Defense to keep the United States Space Command in Colorado; to the Committee on Armed Services.

#### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 23-1015

Whereas, Our nation and the world have significantly benefitted from technological and scientific advances resulting from space exploration and aerospace activities, and Colorado is paving the way for new discoveries in the frontiers of space by having a rich history in aerospace development and being at the forefront of space travel, exploration, and aerospace research; and

Whereas, Colorado is the acting provisional Space Command Base, and it will remain the provisional base until 2026. Colorado is also the center for United States military space operations and strategy. According to the Colorado Space Coalition, the state's military commands are the primary customers for space-based research, development, acquisitions, and operations, representing nearly 90 percent of space-related expenditure by the military. Moving the United States Space Command (USSPACECOM) to Huntsville, Alabama, would be incredibly disruptive to the National Defense Strategy. In addition, it would cause a major upheaval in existing infrastructure and jobs in the state, which would result in higher costs and less efficient outcomes for the United States military; and

Whereas, Colorado is strategically located at the center of our national and space defense. We are the home to five key strategic military commands: North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), United States Strategic Command's Joint Functional Component Command for Space (JFCC Space) Missile Warning Center, the United States Space Force, and the United States Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command; and five military installations, including United States Space Force bases Buckley, Peterson, and Schriever; Cheyenne Mountain Space Force Station; as well as Fort Carson Army Base; and

Whereas, The 460th Space Wing at Buckley Space Force Base provides operational command and control of three constellations to space-based infrared missile warning systems, has been defending America continuously since 1970, and is a critical part of global defense and national security; and

Whereas, Colorado leads the charge in bringing current and future global positioning system (GPS) assets to life, a service provided free to the world by United States Space Force in Colorado Springs. Lockheed Martin designs and builds GPS III, the most powerful GPS satellite to date, which United Launch Alliance launches, with Raytheon Technologies developing the command and control capabilities. Boeing, L3Harris Technologies, Braxton Technologies, and Infinity Systems Engineering also support GPS development and operations from locations in Colorado. These GPS technologies enable an integral part of our global economy and have an incalculable impact that has improved the everyday lives of billions of people around the world; and

Whereas, Colorado's aerospace industry is home to a broad range of companies that create products and systems for commercial, military, and civil space applications, such as spacecraft, launch vehicles, satellites, command and control software, sensors, and navigation operations. These companies include Ball Aerospace, Boeing, DigitalGlobe, L3Harris Technologies, Lockheed Martin Space Systems, Northrop Grumman, Raytheon Technologies, Sierra Nevada Corporation, Teledyne Brown Engineering, and United Launch Alliance, which make up a large portion of the aerospace sector; and

Whereas, Colorado has an existing educated workforce, ranked second in the nation for residents with a bachelor's degree or higher, and a pipeline of higher education institutions to sustain future growth. We are home to the United States Air Force Academy and many colleges and universities, including the University of Colorado Boulder and the University of Colorado Colorado Springs, Colorado School of Mines, Colorado State University, Metropolitan State University of Denver, University of Denver, Colorado Mesa University, and Fort Lewis College. Altogether, they provide access to world-class aerospace-related degrees and offer aerospace companies one of the country's most educated workforces; and

Whereas, Colorado is home to some amazing research institutions. These institutions include the prestigious Laboratory for Atmospheric and Space Physics at the University of Colorado Boulder. It began in 1948, a decade before NASA, and is the world's only research institute to have sent instruments to all eight planets and to Pluto, combining all aspects of space exploration through science, engineering, mission operations, and scientific data analysis; and

Whereas, Colorado is also home to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Space Weather Prediction Center, a world-leading center of predictions for the solar and near-Earth space environment and the nation's official source of watches, warnings, and alerts of incoming solar storms, using satellite observations to protect and save lives and property; and

Whereas, Various organizations are key to Colorado's prominence in aerospace, such as the Colorado Space Coalition, a group of industry stakeholders working to make Colorado a center of excellence for aerospace; the Colorado Space Business Roundtable, working to bring together aerospace stakeholders from the industry, government, and academia for roundtable discussions and business development and to encourage grassroots citizen participation in aerospace issues; the Colorado chapter of Citizens for

Space Exploration, whose mission is to promote better understanding of aerospace and its importance to our economy and daily lives, as well as to promote the importance of human space exploration; Manufacturer's Edge, a statewide manufacturing assistance center that encourages the strength and competitiveness of Colorado manufacturers by providing on-site technical assistance through coaching, training, and consulting by providing collaboration-focused industry programs and by leveraging government, university, and economic development partnerships; and the Space Foundation, founded in 1983, with its world headquarters in Colorado Springs, Colorado, which holds an annual Space Symposium, bringing together civil, commercial, and national security space leaders from around the world to discuss, address, and plan for the future of space exploration; and

Whereas, For the aforementioned reasons, it is in the best interests of the American taxpayer to keep USSPACECOM in the state because Colorado is already fulfilling the mission of the USSPACECOM; because Colorado Springs has in place the community infrastructure capacity and community support to champion an expanding mission; because the move would cost the United States billions of dollars; and because the move would severely disrupt the Colorado aerospace industry, which has grown to support the mission; Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives of the Seventy-fourth General Assembly of the State of Colorado, the Senate concurring herein.*

That we, the members of the General Assembly:

(1) Strongly urge the Department of Defense of the Biden-Harris administration to reevaluate the merits of this irresponsible decision and rightly conclude that it is the correct decision to keep the existing USSPACECOM in Colorado, recognizing Colorado's unique blend of military installations and major commands, private aerospace companies, academic and research institutions, and government entities, and the valuable synergies this ecosystem produces;

(2) Strongly urge the Department of Defense of the Biden-Harris administration to permanently base USSPACECOM in Colorado, recognizing that Colorado provides the existing command structure, base infrastructure, and communications platforms necessary to successfully host additional national security initiatives and ensure coordination of efforts without committing additional funds;

(3) Proudly express that Colorado has deep ties with the Department of Defense and immense patriotic commitment to providing for the nation's security and bolstering our defense;

(4) Express our most sincere and deepest appreciation to our service members and civilian employees working in and supporting military and civilian aerospace companies, military installations, and civil organizations in Colorado; and

(5) Hereby declare Colorado to be the prime location for the permanent headquarters for USSPACECOM.

*Be it further Resolved*, That copies of this Joint Resolution be sent to President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.; Vice President Kamala Harris; Congressman Kevin McCarthy; Senator Chuck Schumer; Senator Mitch McConnell; Senator Michael Bennet; Senator John Hickenlooper; Congresswoman Diana DeGette; Congresswoman Lauren Boebert; Congressman Jason Crow; Congressman Joe Neguse; Congressman Ken Buck; Congressman Doug Lamborn; Congresswoman Britany Pettersen; Congresswoman Yadira Caraveo; Bill Nelson, NASA Administrator; Pam Melroy, NASA Deputy Administrator;

Phil Washington, Federal Aviation Administration Administrator; Governor Jared Polis; Lieutenant Governor Dianne Primavera; Brig. Gen. Laura Clellan, The Adjutant General, Colorado National Guard; Wayne R. Monteith, Associate Administrator for Commercial Space Transportation at the Federal Aviation Administration; General John W. "Jay" Raymond, U.S. Space Force Chief of Space Operations; Colonel Robert J. Schreiner, USAF, Commander Aerospace Data Facility-Colorado; Dr. Christopher Scolese, Director, National Reconnaissance Office; Ross Garelick Bell, Executive Director, Aerospace States Association; Thomas E. Zelibor, Chief Executive Officer, Space Foundation; Dr. Ronald Segal, Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition; Michael Gass, Co-chair, Colorado Space Coalition; and Bob Cone, Chair, Colorado Citizens for Space Exploration.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 106. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1111. A bill to enhance United States civil nuclear leadership, support the licensing of advanced nuclear technologies, strengthen the domestic nuclear energy fuel cycle and supply chain, and improve the regulation of nuclear energy, 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 Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 2214. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to award grants for providing legal resources for petitioners seeking extreme risk protection orders, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. OSSOFF:

S. 2215. A bill to authorize the appropriation of amounts for the construction of a cyber instructional facility at Fort Gordon, Georgia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 2216. A bill to release from wilderness study area designation certain land in the State of Montana, to improve the management of that land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. CASEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. STABENOW, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. SMITH, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. REED, and Mr. PETERS):

S. 2217. A bill to amend part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to

provide full Federal funding of such part; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. OSSOFF:

S. 2218. A bill to authorize the appropriation of amounts for the construction of a battle management combined operations complex at Robins Air Force Base, Georgia; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 2219. A bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. DURBIN, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 2220. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to invest in inventors in the United States, maintain the United States as the leading innovation economy in the world, and protect the property rights of the inventors that grow the economy of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, Mr. KING, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CASEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BROWN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. REED, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. WELCH, Mr. KELLY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. STABENOW, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 2221. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify that all provisions shall apply to legally married same-sex couples in the same manner as other married couples, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 2222. A bill to require the Director of the Defense Media Activity to establish a course of education on digital content provenance and to carry out a pilot program on implementing digital content provenance standards, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 2223. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to provide families year-round access to nutrition incentives under the Gus Schumacher Nutrition Incentive Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 106

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 106, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to award grants to States to improve outreach to veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 140

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 140, a bill to combat organized

crime involving the illegal acquisition of retail goods for the purpose of selling those illegally obtained goods through physical and online retail marketplaces.

S. 141

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) were added as cosponsors of S. 141, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 341

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 341, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain broadband grants from gross income.

S. 344

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 344, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for concurrent receipt of veterans' disability compensation and retired pay for disability retirees with fewer than 20 years of service and a combat-related disability, and for other purposes.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 363

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 363, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the individuals and communities who volunteered or donated items to the North Platte Canteen in North Platte, Nebraska, during World War II from December 25, 1941, to April 1, 1946.

S. 396

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 396, a bill to require the Secretary of State to submit an annual report to Congress regarding the ties between criminal gangs and political and economic elites involved in such criminal activities.

S. 414

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 414, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and to expand eligibility for dependency and indemnity compensation paid to certain survivors of certain veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 490

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 490, a bill to require the President to remove the extension of certain privileges, exemptions, and immunities to the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Offices if Hong Kong no longer enjoys a high degree of autonomy from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

S. 532

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 532, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 547

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 547, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 592

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 592, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the mileage rate offered by the Department of Veterans Affairs through their Beneficiary Travel program for health related travel, and for other purposes.

S. 681

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 681, a bill to prohibit biometric surveillance by the Federal Government without explicit statutory authorization and to withhold certain Federal public safety grants from State and local governments that engage in biometric surveillance.

S. 682

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 682, a bill to provide for the treatment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as an international organization for purposes of the International Organizations Immunities Act, and for other purposes.

S. 760

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) were added as cosponsors of S. 760, a bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to authorize mandatory funding for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative.

S. 806

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 806, a bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish a grant program to assist with the purchase, installation, and maintenance of point-of-entry and point-of-use drinking water quality improvement products, and for other purposes.

S. 817

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 817, a bill to repeal title IV of the Economic Growth, Regulatory Relief, and Consumer Protection Act.

S. 847

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 847, a bill to establish the International Children with Disabilities Protection Program within the Department of State, and for other purposes.

S. 1036

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1036, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to streamline nutrition access for older adults and adults with disabilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1071

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1071, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide students with disabilities and their families with access to critical information needed to select the right college and succeed once enrolled.

S. 1220

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1220, a bill to establish the position of Special Envoy to the Pacific Islands Forum.

S. 1329

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1329, a bill to direct the Librarian of Congress to carry out activities to support Armenian Genocide education programs, and for other purposes.

S. 1338

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1338, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to apply the mailbox rule to documents and payments electronically submitted to the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

S. 1349

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the names of the Senator from Alabama

(Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1349, a bill to establish a postsecondary student data system.

S. 1384

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1515

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1515, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the uniformed services who have a service-connected disability to receive both disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability and either retired pay by reason of their years of military service of Combat-Related Special Compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 1547

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1547, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to implement policies to end preventable maternal, newborn, and child deaths globally.

S. 1557

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the names of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1557, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reform the low-income housing credit, and for other purposes.

S. 1558

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1558, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the brave women who served in World War II as members of the U.S. Army Nurse Corps and U.S. Navy Nurse Corps.

S. 1573

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1573, a bill to reauthorize the Prematurity Research Expansion and Education for Mothers who deliver Infants Early Act.

S. 1593

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1593, a bill to amend the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 to extend eligibility of new moms for the special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children.

S. 1613

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1613, a bill to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize the feral swine eradication and control pilot program, and for other purposes.

S. 1743

At the request of Mr. OSOUFF, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1743, a bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Research Act of 1978 to modify the forest inventory and analysis program.

S. 1770

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1770, a bill to expand the imposition of sanctions under the Uyghur Human Rights Policy Act of 2020 with respect to human rights abuses in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China and to counter the genocidal policies of the Government of the People's Republic of China.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to establish the Office of Global Competition Analysis, and for other purposes.

S. 1885

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1885, a bill to eliminate employment-based visa caps on abused, abandoned, and neglected children eligible for humanitarian status, and for other purposes.

S. 1970

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1970, a bill to modify requirements relating to financial aid disclosures.

S. 1991

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1991, a bill to reauthorize certain programs under the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, and for other purposes.

S. 1999

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1999, a bill to protect an individual's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.

S. 2025

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2025, a bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to prohibit the provision of any foreign assistance for state sponsors of terrorism.

S. 2047

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOUFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2047, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to create a Department of Defense Military Housing Readiness Council to enhance oversight and accountability for deficiencies in military housing, and for other purposes.

S. 2053

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2053, a bill to protect freedom of travel and reproductive rights.

S. 2065

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2065, a bill to authorize a study on educator workforce data to advance teaching and learning and a program to support increasing access to well-prepared and diverse educators.

S. 2082

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2082, a bill to make technical corrections relating to the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act.

S. 2089

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2089, a bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to prohibit the Administrator of General Services from constructing or acquiring public buildings or entering into leases based on the legality or availability of abortion, and for other purposes.

S. 2101

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2101, a bill to provide for an earlier effective date for the requirement of Senate confirmation of the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

S. 2125

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2125, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to facilitate efficient State implementation of certain national ambient air quality standards, and for other purposes.

S. 2185

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) were added as cosponsors of S. 2185, a bill to amend the Small Business Act to require an annual report on entrepreneurial development programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2210

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) and the Senator from Iowa

(Ms. ERNST) were added as cosponsors of S. 2210, a bill to provide for congressional review of actions to terminate or waive sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.

S.J. RES. 31

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 31, a 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 "Federal 'Good Neighbor Plan' for the 2015 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards".

S. CON. RES. 5

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 5, a concurrent resolution supporting the Local Radio Freedom Act.

S. CON. RES. 7

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 7, a concurrent resolution condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia.

S. RES. 188

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 188, a resolution celebrating the 75th anniversary of the founding of the State of Israel, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 244

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 244, a resolution condemning Azerbaijan's blockade of the Armenians of Nagorno-Karabakh and ongoing human rights violations.

## PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the following interns in Senator BOOZMAN's office be granted floor privileges until July 31, 2023: Heath Brandt, Mary Eichenberger, and Ryan Munley.

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

## APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 117-81, on behalf of the ranking member of the Senate Committee on Appropriations, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform: John E. Whitely, of Virginia.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 11,  
2023

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, July 11; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Small nomination postcloture; further, that all

time be considered expired at 11:30 a.m., and following the cloture vote on the Hidalgo nomination, the Senate recess until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, notwithstanding rule XXII, at 2:15 p.m., the Senate vote on cloture on the Evanson nomination; that the Senate recess from 3 p.m. until 4 p.m. to allow for the all-Senators briefing; that at 4:30 p.m., if cloture has been invoked on the Hidalgo or Evanson nominations, that all time be considered expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nominations in the order in which cloture was invoked; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to re-

consider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.  
TOMORROW

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:47 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 11, 2023, at 10 a.m.