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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Monday, June 15, 2020, at 3 p.m.

Senate

FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 2020

The Senate met at 12:01 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable STEVE DAINES, a Senator from the State of Montana.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, who has been our light throughout life's seasons, keep our lawmakers within the circle of Your divine will. Lord, give them hearts that seek Your wisdom, feet that run toward justice, and hands that serve Your purposes. Empower them to be faithful to You and their calling to do Your will on Earth, inspiring them with Your presence to live above reproach. Deliver them from the pride that leads to shame, providing them with the humility that comes with wisdom.

And Lord, keep us all on the right side of history.

We pray in Your great 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 (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 12, 2020.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable STEVE DAINES, a Senator from the State Montana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. DAINES thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

TAXPAYER FIRST ACT OF 2019— Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 1957, which the clerk will report. The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 1957) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and im-

prove the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

Pending:

McConnell (for Gardner) amendment No. 1617, in the nature of a substitute.

McConnell amendment No. 1626 (to amendment No. 1617), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 1627 (to amendment No. 1626), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 1628 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 1617), to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 1629 (to amendment No. 1628), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with instructions, McConnell amendment No. 1630, to change the enactment date.

McConnell amendment No. 1631 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 1630), of a perfecting nature.

McConnell amendment No. 1632 (to amendment No. 1631), of a perfecting nature.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. LOEFFLER). The Senator from Colorado is recognized.

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, thank you for your willingness to preside over the Chamber at this late hour, at least in the Nation's capital, midnight, here, or 10 o'clock in the great States of Colorado and Montana.

My colleague and one of the lead sponsors of this legislation has been doing a lot of work this past week on the Great American Outdoors Act to make sure that we can get this across the finish line. The truly bipartisan spirit of this bill has been remarkable. I think that is kind of what I wanted to start off with my comments tonight, is really the coast-to-coast nature of this legislation, the Great American Outdoors Act, because so many people

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



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have put in not just a couple of weeks of work or a couple of months of work or a couple of years of work but decades of work on the legislation that we have before us.

The Great American Outdoors Act combines two pieces of legislation: the crown jewel of our conservation programs across the Nation, the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and the Restore Our Parks Act. The Restore Our Parks Act focuses on the catching up with the maintenance backlog in our national park systems.

About 70 percent of the funding, \$1.9 billion a year, will go towards our national parks. Additional dollars will go towards the Bureau of Land Management, the Bureau of Land Management now headquartered in the great State of Colorado. A portion will go to the U.S. Forest Service. A portion will go to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and a portion will go to the Bureau of Indian Education.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund, of course, goes toward the efforts to protect some of the greatest spaces in our Nation. I wanted to thank the people who have been working on this—and we have more work to do, to be clear—Senator MANCHIN, Senator HEINRICH, Senator CANTWELL, Senator KING, Senator WARNER, Senators PORTMAN and ALEXANDER, and Senator DAINES, all have been working very diligently to make sure that we can pass this. I am sure I missed a few people, as we have talked about them tonight and will be talking about this over the next several days.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund has benefited every State in the country. There are a few things that have been said on the floor today that I thought I would clear up and address because they need to be. I am going to show a chart here that talks about the States that will receive the benefit under the Great American Outdoors Act and the States that do not benefit from the Great American Outdoors Act.

The States that do not benefit from the Great American Outdoors Act are highlighted in orange, and the States that benefit from the Great American Outdoors Act are highlighted in green. As you can see from this map, there are no orange States. This is an entire country—Alaska, Hawaii—48 States that have benefited from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, who will benefit from the Restore Our Parks Act.

All 50 States across the country have already benefited from these programs. The March 9 letter begins: “The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been our nation’s most successful conservation and recreation program for 55 years, now permanently reauthorized by Congress after a nationwide advocacy effort.”

That was a bill that came forward in the John D. Dingell conservation bill, the public land bill we passed last Congress. It passed this Chamber 92 to 8,

another extremely bipartisan provision.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund isn’t just about the coast. It is not just about the interior. It is about all of our States. Half the money goes to the East; half the money goes to the West. It is distributed across the Nation. It is not a Federal land grab. I think it is important that some people want to talk about this being a Federal land grab.

Ninety-nine percent of the funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund actually goes to inholdings within existing public lands, meaning if you have a place like Rocky Mountain National Park in Colorado—and there is a little bit of land somehow in the middle of that—Land and Water Conservation Fund—99 percent of the funds from that have been used to purchase those inholdings.

You have a significant portion of the Land and Water Conservation Fund that is not managed by the Federal Government at all. It is actually handled by the States. It is an important thing. It is baseball fields, soccer fields, and other programs the States can handle. So a huge chunk of funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund goes back to the States and out of the hands of the Federal Government.

If you go to another letter we talked about before, the six previous Secretaries of the Interior sending a letter, June 3, 2020, talking about the privilege and responsibility of stewarding some of America’s most scenic landscapes—incredible landscapes and natural and cultural treasures.

It talked about how they are all cognizant of the critical role our public lands play in our lives, with places to recreate, recharge, and to seek solace in the midst of great uncertainty and also to create jobs. This was signed by both Republican and Democrat Secretaries of the Interior, most recently Secretary Zinke and Secretary Jewell and Ken Salazar from Colorado; Secretary Dirk Kempthorne; Secretary Gale Norton, another Coloradan; Secretary Bruce Babbitt, from Arizona, under President Clinton. This talks about the importance of the Great American Outdoors Act with how it will help ensure a better, brighter future for nature and for all of us.

Speaking of sort of bright futures, some people have said on the floor that this legislation was crafted in secret. That couldn’t be further from the truth. The Land and Water Conservation Fund has been around since 1965, 1964, in this Chamber. It was approved by the committee just a couple of months ago. The Restore Our Parks Act cleared the Energy and Natural Resources Committee just a couple of months ago. It was debated. There were amendments offered; they failed.

We combined these two pieces that came out of committee, and we put them into the Great American Outdoors Act. That is what we are being

asked to vote on tonight. Of course, the Secretary’s letter talks about the dollars that will be going to our communities, the opportunities for more conservation. We talked about the letter here from the coalition.

Let’s talk about the jobs, too, though. It is important as we start voting tonight that we recognize that this is a jobs bill and an economic opportunity for our country. It is estimated that the Great American Outdoors Act will create over 100,000 jobs across the country. As we get our feet underneath us again, as we get back on our feet from the health pandemic, COVID-19 emergency, we have a chance to create new jobs and new students.

Remember where these jobs are going to be created; they are going to be created around the country because Land and Water Conservation Fund is in nearly every county across the country. For every \$1 million we spend on the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we support between 16 and 30 jobs. The national parks supports over 100,000 jobs through the Great American Outdoors Act; the Land and Water Conservation Fund, every \$1 million, between 16 and 30 jobs. Those communities that have been impacted because of job loss—maybe their tourism season ended earlier, maybe it started late, maybe a combination of both as we faced in Colorado—those communities that have 20 percent, 22 percent, 23 percent unemployment are going to be able to gain significant economically across the country thanks to this legislation.

We also have a letter here from the Archery Trade Association, the Association of Fish and Wildlife, the Boone and Crockett Club, California Waterfowl Association, Catch-A-Dream Foundation. You name it—Congressional Sportsmen’s Foundation—from a March 11, 2020, letter in support of the Great American Outdoors Act.

The jobs aspect of the Great American Outdoors Act, of course, is recognized by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. On June 4, 2020, they sent a letter to Members of the U.S. Senate. “The U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly supports [S. 3422], the ‘Great American Outdoors Act,’—an important, bipartisan bill that would provide certainty for the Land and Water Conservation Fund [LWCF] and address the pressing maintenance and construction backlog on public lands.”

It addresses long overdue infrastructure modernization challenges, international park system, and other Federal and agricultural lands. It would also permanently authorize the LWCF, providing an important tool for smart development of open spaces in communities across the Nation.

Enactment of this bill would also provide much needed funding to support and sustain funding Bureau of Indian Education schools. By setting aside 5 percent of the funds created in this act, as much as \$475 million could flow to Bureau of Indian Education schools over the next 5 years.

API, the American Petroleum Institute, writes in support of the Great American Outdoors Act. They start with: "Practical, safe, and responsible offshore energy development doesn't just create jobs and power our lives—it also funds America's largest federal conservation program."

Senators will soon vote on the Great American Outdoors Act, and they hope that we would support this legislation.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD letters from the Chamber of Commerce and API.

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

JUNE 4, 2020.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly supports S. 3422, the "Great American Outdoors Act," an important, bipartisan bill that would provide funding certainty for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and address the pressing maintenance and construction backlog on public lands. The Chamber will consider including votes related to this legislation in our "How They Voted" congressional scorecard.

This bill would address long overdue infrastructure modernization challenges in the national parks system and on other federal and agricultural lands. It also would permanently authorize the LWCF, which provides important tools for smart development of open spaces in communities across our nation.

Local LWCF projects have the potential to put many thousands of Americans back to work as the American economy recovers from the pandemic. Such projects can also help companies and communities promote open spaces, build resilience, reduce risks from future disasters, and better manage stormwater.

Enactment of this bill would also provide much needed funding to support and sustain Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) schools. By setting aside 5% of the fund created in this Act, as much as \$475 million could flow to BIE schools over the next five years.

The Chamber opposes any poison pill amendments that would undo the carefully balanced components of this legislation. In particular, the Chamber opposes any efforts to establish moratoria on energy production, which is not only crucial to America's economic growth and energy security, but also provides the underlying funding for the LWCF.

We applaud the bipartisan leadership of Sens. Gardner, Manchin and Daines, who crafted this legislation. The Chamber urges passage of the Great American Outdoors Act.

Sincerely,

JACK HOWARD,
Senior Vice President,
Congressional and
Public Affairs, U.S.
Chamber of Commerce.

JUNE 10, 2020.

DEAR JENNIFER: Practical, safe, and responsible offshore energy development doesn't just create jobs and power our lives—it also funds America's largest federal conservation program. For decades, the natural gas and oil industry has directly contributed to outdoor recreation and environmental conservation, thanks to a long-standing law that would be strengthened by legislation that is up for a vote in the U.S. Senate.

Senators will soon vote on S. 3422, the Great American Outdoors Act, a bipartisan

bill that would codify a permanent funding stream for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and address a considerable maintenance and construction backlog on public lands.

Since 1965, LWCF grants have provided more than \$4.4 billion for over 40,000 projects, supporting resource management, habitat restoration, and outdoor recreation such as hiking, hunting, and fishing. Offshore natural gas and oil royalties provide the primary source of funding for all LWCF projects, from the Grand Canyon National Park to community basketball courts.

As summer starts and the coronavirus limits the nation's ability to convene inside, outdoor activities are more important than ever. Last month, API was happy to see the Interior Department announce a \$227 million LWCF distribution to all 50 states, five U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia for specified park and outdoor recreation and conservation.

But we won't stop there. Energy producers are proud to grow the economy, create good-paying jobs, and invest in projects that enhance America's natural beauty. Offshore energy revenues are essential to conserving the LWCF itself.

Sincerely,

MIKE SOMMERS,
President & CEO, API.

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, furthermore, to highlight the economic importance of this legislation, the outdoor recreation industry—these have some of the most notable names in outdoor recreation, which I think everybody would recognize: Polaris, Bass Pro, Cabela's—you name it—North Face, Patagonia. They are all on here, in support of the Great American Outdoors Act.

The outdoor recreation industry is extremely encouraged by recent announcements that the Senate plans to hold a vote on the Great American Outdoors Act. As outdoor recreation business leaders, we know investments and recreation access and infrastructure are vital to the outdoor recreation industry and economies across the country.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

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

DEAR LEADER MCCONNELL AND LEADER SCHUMER: The outdoor recreation industry is extremely encouraged by recent announcements that the Senate plans to hold a vote on the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) in June. As outdoor recreation business leaders, we know investments in recreation access and infrastructure are vital to the outdoor recreation industry and economies across the country.

Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, the outdoor recreation industry contributed \$778 billion in economic output, accounted for 2.2 percent of United States Gross Domestic Product, supported 5.2 million jobs and was growing faster than the economy as a whole in every indicator. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and shutdowns necessary to slow its progression, America's outdoor recreation economy was hindered when we needed the outdoors more than ever. Outdoor Recreation Roundtable's April survey of the sector shows that 79 percent of outdoor businesses have had to lay off or furlough employees, and 89 percent are seeing decreased revenue. However, we know there is a bright future for outdoor recreation ahead, as several sectors of the industry are

already experiencing rapidly increasing demand.

These outdoor businesses are the backbone of our industry and range from specialty retailers, apparel, gear and vehicle manufacturers, outfitters and guides to campground and marina operators. They are often foundational to a community's economy. With rising unemployment and Americans eager to experience the outdoors, investment in our industry's core infrastructure—public lands and waters—will allow our businesses to get back to what we do best: stimulate local economies, put people back to work, and allow Americans to benefit from time spent outside.

This is why we respectfully ask you to pass the Great American Outdoors Act as soon as possible.

GAOA will fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) at \$900 million annually, providing more recreation access for communities across the country and fueling more outdoor recreation economic activity. In a nutshell, if Congress invests the intended amount of \$900 million into LWCF recreation access projects on local, state and federal lands, it will create much-needed close-to-home recreation opportunities while revitalizing the outdoor recreation economy.

Additionally, GAOA dedicates up to \$9.5 billion over the next five years to maintenance backlog projects that have been devastating our public lands and waters. Investing in these projects will improve outdoor recreation-related facilities such as docks, restrooms, campgrounds, trails, roads and more that have deteriorated significantly from decades of underfunded maintenance. As business leaders, we understand the need to make sure customers have good experiences when they visit stores or facilities, it ensures they come back again. Funding the maintenance backlog will also ensure that adequate infrastructure for all types of recreation on our public lands and waters exists so more people who are seeking the benefits the outdoors has to offer can get outside safely and grow our industry sustainably.

Passing GAOA now would stimulate the outdoor recreation industry made up of thousands of businesses that support communities in all 50 states, support rural economies, create jobs to carry out essential work, and provide opportunities for millions of Americans to recreate on our public lands and waters for generations to come. We know this vital legislation is slated for a vote in the coming weeks and we urge you to move as quickly as possible to get this legislation across the finish line. Your support of GAOA is a vote for American jobs and health, community resiliency and the outdoor recreation economy. Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,

Airstream, Inc., Alta Planning + Design, Inc., Arc'teryx Equipment Inc., Areté Structures, LLC, Bass Pro Shops, Bell Helmets, Blackburn Design, Blue Springs Marine, Boat Owners Association of the United States, Boat Owners Warehouse, Boats Incorporated, Brunswick Corporation, Cabela's, CamelBak, Camperland of Oklahoma, Chaparral Boats, Inc., CHM Government Services, Chris-Craft, Clark Marine.

Cleveland Boat Center, Correct Craft, Creative Pultrusions, Crestview RV, Dee Zee, Inc., Delaware North Parks and Resorts, Eagle Claw Fishing Tackle, FERA, Forest River, Inc., Forever Resorts, Formula Boats, Fort Sumter Tours, Freedom Boat Club, Galati Yacht Sales, Giro Sport Design, Glacier Guides & Montana Raft, Grand Design RV, Guest Services, Inc., Hagadone Marine Group, Handout Gloves.

Head USA, Hellwig Products Company Inc., Hemlock Hill RV Sales, Hipcamp, Hornblower Cruises and Events, Indian Lake Marina, Inc., Indmar Products, K2 Sports, Kampgrounds of America, Inc., Kawasaki Motors Corp., U.S.A., Lakeview Marine, Inc., LKQ Corporation, Magic Tilt Trailers, Malibu Boats, Inc., Marina Holdings, Marine Center of Indiana, Maverick Boat Group, Inc. Mount Dora Boating Center, N3 Boatworks, Nantahala Outdoor Center.

National Outdoor Leadership School, Newmar Corporation, Patagonia, Petzl America, Plano Synergy, Polaris, Inc., Port Harbor Marine, Priority RV Network, Pure Fishing, Quality Bicycle Products, Rapala USA, Reed's Marine, Inc., Regulator Marine, Inc., REI, Rendezvous River Sports, Rhino Marking & Protection Systems, Santa Barbara Adventure Company, Seirus Innovative Accessories, Inc., Shimano North America Fishing, Simms Fishing.

Skyjacker Suspensions, Smoker Craft, Spiritline Cruises, SRAM LLC, St. Croix Rods, Sun RV Resorts, Suzuki Motor of America, Inc., The North Face, Tiara Yachts & Tiara Sport, Trek Bikes, Turn 14 Distribution Inc., VF Corporation, Vista Outdoor, Volvo Penta of the Americas, WARN Industries, Westrec Marinas, WET River Trips, Wildwater River Guides, Winnebago Industries, Xanterra Travel Collection, Yamaha Rightwaters, Yogi Bear's Jellystone Parks, Zebco Brands.

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, REI—a place that Secretary Jewell knows very well—REI Co-op writes in support of the Great American Outdoors Act, talking about the impressive process that this bill came together with, the bipartisan nature of this legislation.

My colleague, Senator HEINRICH, from New Mexico, is on the floor. I can't thank him enough for the work we have done together and for making sure that we can get to these votes, as we approach very late hours in Washington.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD a letter from REI Co-op, dated June 9, 2020.

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

JUNE 9, 2020.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER MCCONNELL AND MINORITY LEADER SCHUMER: On behalf of REI Co-op, I want to express our strong support for the Great American Outdoors Act. This bipartisan legislation represents a historic opportunity to reduce the chronic maintenance backlogs that have been diminishing our federal lands and waters. The bill also will make permanent Congress's financial support for the Land and Water Conservation Fund, ending decades of erratic support.

As you know, our public lands and waters are places for recreation, connecting to others and even healing. This is true for Americans across the country, irrespective of geography, and has proven especially true over the last several months during the COVID-19 pandemic. The connection between outdoor recreation and public health may have never been so evident as it is today. I strongly believe that these trends are part of a broader shift in our society and will remain in place well beyond the end of the pandemic, so long as we put healthy investment into this portion of our public infrastructure.

It's also important to note how much the outdoor recreation economy has suffered

during this economic downturn, in particular those small, main street businesses that rely on the public lands to be open and accessible. Most in our industry have not yet been deemed "essential businesses" and, therefore, have faced significant financial pressures as store hours are cut and guided trips, cancelled. As of last fall, the U.S. Commerce Department had found the outdoor recreation economy to account for 2.2% of GDP and 5.2 million jobs. The recreation sector is not nearly so robust today. It will benefit greatly—both near and long term—from investments that better conserve our public lands and waters, and provide access to more outdoor recreation opportunities.

Equally impressive is the process by which this bill has come together. Not long after last year's passage of the landmark John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act, Republicans and Democrats in your chamber came together to advance concepts that previously seemed impossible to move through Congress. Now, another historic opportunity for bipartisanship is on the docket. In an era when divisive politics and disagreement regularly frustrate the legislative process, Congress's commitment to the outdoors demonstrates our capacity to find common ground.

As you continue to work through the important legislative agenda that is before the Senate, I urge you to pass the Great American Outdoors Act and look forward to this vital legislation becoming law.

Sincerely,

ERIC ARTZ,

President & CEO, REI Co-op.

Mr. GARDNER. Madam President, this is about national treasures, the great American outdoors. It is about national treasures. It is about protecting these incredible places that our own biologists—not just the people of Colorado or New Mexico or the great State of Georgia—owned by all of us.

It is about some of the most scenic and majestic landscapes, unique ecosystems that they create. But it is also about a national treasure and the American people. That national treasure has been hit pretty hard over the last several months, with pandemics, conflict in our society, and racial injustice. It is this national treasure, the American people, that this legislation is focused on, the national treasure that will help create jobs and opportunity and empower people's lives, get their communities back on track, and maybe—just maybe—provide a little bit of respite to somebody who is seeking that opportunity to get outside, to get away, to find time to think.

As Enos Mills said, to make them a little bit more reflective and kind during difficult times. We have a long ways to go in this legislation. We will have more debates later tonight and a vote later tonight. I hope my colleagues will support me in this legislation. It is tremendously bipartisan in nature. It has significant support of the American people. It benefits our country from sea to shining sea.

We are going to have some votes next week, on Monday, as well, and perhaps Tuesday, maybe even more. But one thing this bill is not is a surprise. This bill is a collection of debates and arguments and passion and advocacy for decades. I think the argument has been

won. We want to protect our country's most treasured places. Now, we just have to win the debate and make sure we can do that with the bill tonight.

I encourage my colleagues to vote yes tonight and through the remaining votes that we have either today or next week to move on to passage of this legislation and the good it can do. I thank the President and I thank my colleagues.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, I rise today with my colleagues from Colorado and Montana to talk about the incredible coalition that has come together to support the Great American Outdoors Act and why we have been able to build a group of folks ranging far beyond this body who have come together from very disparate parts of the political spectrum and very disparate parts of our incredible geographic country to support this piece of legislation.

I think part of what has made this legislation so timely is what we have all been through in the last 3 months. Many of us were cooped up in our homes for weeks at a time, and it really drove home for all of us how incredibly important the time that we get to spend outside is. I know some of my colleagues, particularly from the West, have been very articulate about that.

I had a chance to travel around my State at a time when many people were still cooped up in their homes. Our State Governor was very thoughtful about the rules to make sure that even as people sought to socially distance themselves for weeks at a time, they were able to get access to their local parks, able to get access to open space, able to get access to our national forests and BLM lands—anyplace, basically, where people could come together without coming together. There is no place like the great outdoors to do that.

I would just ask my colleagues—I start with my colleague from Colorado—if he would care to share some stories about the importance that we all learned about what we already have—and in many cases have because of the Land and Water Conservation Fund—in our own backyards and how important that was in the course of the greatest illness, the greatest pandemic of our generation's time.

I yield my time to the Senator from Colorado.

Mr. GARDNER. I thank the Senator from New Mexico for his work on this legislation and the opportunity to continue to work together on the Great American Outdoors Act. We adjusted to the Zoom conference meetings and the Skypes and the FaceTimes. We all figured out our best way to do that.

Millions of Americans were still at work each and every day at the gas station, at the grocery store, the clerks and the people stocking shelves and providing restaurant work across the country.

There is a lot of stress, and this is a tense time for this country. You can see it and hear it and still feel that strain on the American people. That sort of relief valve we have as a country is our system of parks and recreation opportunities.

It is about jobs. It is about the dollars they spend in communities, the gateway communities, when they go to a place like Rocky Mountain National Park. Yet it is also about that opportunity for people to get away and to find that time to think, that time to be themselves, to focus, to get into an area where they can exercise, recreate, and enjoy the environment and the resources around them.

I make a joke; I don't know if anyone else laughs at it. I talk about the last several months being spent in the great indoors. It is time for the great outdoors. I think that is what we talked about.

As a kid growing up, we had these road trips. We didn't fly very often, at least. It was expensive. You would drive and drive great distances. You would drive to the Grand Canyon National Park if you could or certainly drive up to Rocky Mountain National Park with the family.

Maybe the great American road trip is going to come back as people adjust to what we have to do to protect ourselves from the pandemic, as economic concerns grow in this country. This provides an opportunity for all of it.

Mr. HEINRICH. Senator, if you would yield for a moment.

To the Senator from Montana, I notice a very similar dynamic emerging from Montana as it was from New Mexico of being very thoughtful about a response to the virus but also making sure that people could get out and just get that time for their physical well-being and their mental well-being even in the height of the pandemic. In doing that responsibly—and I think it certainly impressed upon everyone I talked to just how important these places have always been. Maybe sometimes we took them for granted, but I think the last 3 months have helped us not take the great American outdoors for granted.

Mr. DAINES. I think that is exactly right, Senator HEINRICH. It is one of these unique moments tonight in the Senate where this body is coming together.

Here we are—as Senator HEINRICH mentioned and Senator GARDNER has mentioned—we may disagree on various issues, but we are coming together tonight at a time when the Nation needs to come together to move this very important legislation forward.

In Montana, we had cabin fever, as I am sure folks in New Mexico and Colorado had as well. There were too many times on Zoom and not enough time outside. It has been good to see, as we have been through a phased opening in our State, like other States, people are getting back outside again and back into our national parks.

I think about being a kid growing up in Montana. My earliest memories were literally when Mom and Dad would load us up in a pickup. Those were the days when you laid down in the back of a pickup. Kids rode in the back of the pickup. Nobody was strapped in. I am not suggesting this become the normal practice, but back in the day, we just rode in the back of the pickup. Mom and Dad would take us up to Cooke City, MT. Sometimes we would do day hikes out of there. Sometimes there were overnights on our public lands.

You don't realize how special that is when you are growing up until you realize not everybody around the country has that kind of direct accessibility to our public lands. That is why more and more Americans are actually coming out West and why they want to be closer to these amazing public lands that we are so grateful we have in places like New Mexico, Colorado, and Montana.

We say in Montana that we get to work, but we also like to play. We work hard during the week, and I think we work hard so we can get out on the weekends, where there is hiking, fishing, hunting, and backpacking. This is our life.

These are pictures I have taken with my phone. The picture right here—we have three Mini Australian Shepherds. These are two of them. Our older dog, Jessie, has a hard time getting down the trails and mountains now, but the younger ones still can.

We think about our fondest memories spending time outside on our public lands. It is why we continue to preserve, protect, and expand that access to this incredible treasure we have in America.

Mr. HEINRICH. I really think that our public lands are one of America's greatest democratic accomplishments. You think about the fact of how we became a nation. When you look at the history in Europe, people were locked out of the great lands of Europe. You look at all of the futile history that Europe had in wildlife and public lands. Lands and wildlife belonged to the King; they belonged to the Crown. If you were caught hunting on those lands, you could be put to death. You didn't have access to those lands later in European history unless you could pay for them.

Our forefathers were very thoughtful about not wanting that to be the same approach in the United States of America and making sure that our wildlife was held in trust for all of us and that these lands would be held in trust for all of us.

One of the greatest things about the Land and Water Conservation Fund, from my perspective, is that it really increased access to the national forests, parks, and other places that had already been created.

I would be curious if my colleagues have stories about particular places that didn't have public access; that

maybe for somebody just working in a small town, if there was an incredible mountain range or place you could hunt or fish or camp that was off limits, and because of the Land and Water Conservation Fund, an easement or a trail or some other means of access was provided that opened it up to the working-class families of their constituencies. We certainly have those stories in New Mexico.

I would ask my colleagues if they have particular places in Colorado or Montana where that has been the case because of this incredibly important fund.

Mr. DAINES. Senator HEINRICH, the Land and Water Conservation Fund has been such an important tool for us to provide access to the type of situation you just described. We have about 1.5 million acres of Federal lands in Montana that are not accessible because they are landlocked. They are inholdings because of the complex nature of the checkerboard ownership infrastructure that we oftentimes see out West—a section, 640 acres, a square mile. You have a State section, you have a Federal section, and you have a private land owner. This is working with willing landowners who want to work and find a way to consolidate some of these sections to provide better access to the public lands.

We have had some great projects, like the Tenderfoot project, we call it, over by the Smith River, which is a treasure in Montana. It is kind of the Montana bucket list, to float the Smith. It is an amazing several overnights from one point to the next, an over 50-mile kind of float. I did that once, and I would love to do it again. We had the Falls Creek acquisition that is outside of Augusta. By being able to provide access through a few hundred acres or a couple thousand acres, it gets the public into tens of thousands of acres of some prime elk habitat.

This is where we bring together some of these great wildlife conservations, like the Rocky Mountain elk conservation, that see these tools as critical to, one, help protect and expand elk habitat, but importantly, Montana is still one of those States where a mom or a dad, grandma or grandpa, aunt or uncle can take a son or a daughter, a niece or a nephew or a cousin down to Walmart and buy an elk tag or a deer tag over the counter and jump back in the pickup and go to our public lands within an hour, sometimes even a shorter time than that.

That is something, as you mentioned, Senator HEINRICH—

Mr. HEINRICH. You are saying you don't have to hire a guide; you don't have to spend \$10,000 on a private land tag? You can just buy an elk tag over the counter and go out and pursue elk on your public lands?

Mr. DAINES. It is—every State has its own philosophy and ways they are going to manage wildlife, but in Montana, in many cases, it is an over-the-

counter tag. We have special draws. Antelope is still a draw. There are some places for elk and deer that are a draw, but in most cases, for elk and deer or a bear, you can go and buy that tag over the counter. That is very unique.

As you mentioned, Senator HEINRICH, it is so different from Europe. What sets our country apart—while Europe may have beautiful castles and chateaux and chefs and so forth, what we have are national parks and our public lands. As you mentioned, it is something our forefathers had the vision for. They went before us and set that aside. Had they not done that—you never get that back. Had that not been put in the hands of the public, we wouldn't have Yellowstone National Park or Glacier National Park. They are such beautiful places. They would have been subdivided. They would have been privately held, and the public couldn't enjoy these treasures. I am grateful for that legacy. We get to work on it here tonight, to continue to maintain it well and be better stewards of these public lands.

Mr. HEINRICH. You mention Yellowstone. We have a place in northern New Mexico that many people refer to as New Mexico's Yellowstone, because, like Yellowstone, it is a high elevation caldera. It is a place where there was a supervolcano, and that supervolcano collapsed in on itself. When it did, it created what they call a reverse treeline, a series of very high elevation meadows connected to each other with a ring of mountains around them. Near the caldera there is a huge elk herd, hot springs, and wild trout.

That place is called the Valles Caldera National Preserve today. It was actually first proposed as a national park, I think, in about 1916, if you can believe that.

Almost to the month, 100 years later, we were able to make this a national preserve, which is like a National Park Service property that also allows for hunting and fishing. We did that because the family who had been a great steward of that land for decades had decided that they needed to sell it, but they wanted to see it preserved. What came to the rescue in that case was the Land and Water Conservation Fund, in one of the largest acquisitions of private land from a willing private seller—an enthusiastic private seller to the public trust.

Today this is an 89,000-acre national preserve that anyone in the United States can visit. Once again, anyone with a hunting license can apply for an elk tag there, can go fishing there. It is just a remarkable, remarkable place.

It would never have happened and this would be covered in vacation homes if it were not for that tool.

Mr. GARDNER. In Colorado, I think I mentioned before, we have an area the size of Rocky Mountain National Park that is held by the public across the State of Colorado, but it is inaccessible. You can't get to it. The Land and

Water Conservation Fund provides this opportunity to get to that, to access land.

I heard my colleague Senator DAINES talk about how a significant portion of the fishing access in Montana—he just talked about it—is through the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

We have projects in the Rio Grande National Forest through portions of Colorado and into Texas, where the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge has benefited. I think it was Will Rogers who once said that the Rio Grande was the only river he ever saw that was in need of irrigation.

I think if you look at the Land and Water Conservation Fund, that is something we can all benefit from.

Of course, while we don't directly border Montana, we do border New Mexico. There was an article recently featured, I think, by the Nature Conservancy, about Colorado's newest State park. It is in southern Colorado, right outside a little town called Trinidad, and it will encompass a local landmark known as Fisher's Peak.

Trinidad has a great and amazing history in the West, from mining to agriculture and the challenges that mining and agriculture have posed over the years, and forestry and other things. But what they are hoping for now is that this newest State park can provide an opportunity for economic revitalization of this rural town and area. It is actually going to border right up against New Mexico, and part of that special land goes into New Mexico. Maybe someday the Land and Water Conservation Fund will be able to benefit that project. In fact, I know they are working on it, and they have received it by now. It is an opportunity for us to save rural communities.

This Land and Water Conservation Fund is not all out of Washington. It is coming through the States as well, and that is an opportunity for both of our areas to prosper, particularly our rural communities.

Mr. HEINRICH. As my colleague from Montana said—let me back up just a moment. The folks in Raton are also very excited about what is going on at Fisher's Peak and looking at different possibilities for their community just over the divide from Trinidad.

One of the places, as my colleague from Montana described them, is taking public lands that literally are held in trust for all of us, but some of them you just can't get to anymore, because of lands changing hands over the years, private land acquisitions and county road closures at times. Sometimes you can find yourself in these positions where something as large as 10,000 acres or 15,000 acres of public land can find itself cut off from any legal access to the public.

In New Mexico, we actually had the country's only designated wilderness area where, simply, there was no legal public access. There was not a trail, not a road. There was no way to get there. In recent years, we were able to

work with the Secretaries of the Interior, and using the Land and Water Conservation Fund, we were able to open up and expand that. Today people are able to hike, camp, and hunt. It has a little water in it, but I don't know anybody who has actually fished there. But it is a labyrinth of canyons and rim rock country similar to what most people would associate with Utah. I can tell you that the community in Las Vegas nearby and in other smaller communities are really just very excited about the opportunities for tourism and for access for sportsmen to a place that had been completely inaccessible.

I see we have been joined by our colleague from West Virginia, whom I know has some really strong feelings about the potential of outdoor recreation in his State. I didn't realize how many—13,000 peaks in West Virginia—but I looked in his office today, and there is a whole mountain chain in West Virginia.

To our colleague, Senator MANCHIN of West Virginia, do you want to join us and talk a little bit about the importance of outdoor recreation and what this legislation might mean in your State?

Mr. MANCHIN. Thank you, Senator, and to all my colleagues, I want to thank you. I appreciate very much the job that has been done here. By working in a bipartisan spirit, every one of us benefits from this. This is a legacy piece of legislation that, hopefully, our children and generations to come will say that it was my grandfather, my father, my uncle, my aunt who was involved in giving me an opportunity to enjoy part of the America that maybe I may not have had. We have access to it.

In West Virginia, when you get access to New River or the Gauley, it has been provided by LWCF money. The Park System that we have—and we have hundreds of thousands of visitors every year—is done because of the Restore Our Parks Act, and people are now able to come.

Just about 4 or 5 months ago, I took my family, and we were in Hawaii. When Senators and Congress people go into Hawaii on a codel, we usually don't see what the visitors see down there. They don't take us to the visitors' center. This time I had gone as a normal visitor, and when I walked in, I was appalled at what I saw.

The maps were falling off the wall. The lights weren't working. It was atrocious.

I had a meeting with the staff right there. I came back, and at that time, David Bernhardt, Rob Walls, and I started talking, and I said: Gentlemen, that is the birthplace, basically, defining who we are as a superpower and the hope of the world, and for our veterans to have to come and see that and say this is where it began, something had to be done. We started right then renovating and fixing it up, and I think we spent \$10 million out of the contingency fund. So I know what it takes for

Senator ALEXANDER, who has led this fight, and Senator WARNER and others as well on Restore Our Parks.

Teddy Roosevelt would be proud of Senator ALEXANDER leading this charge and all of us working together. Putting these two bills together was a master stroke, I believe, and how we could come together. It has brought us all together. There is not one person I believe—we have a few of our friends that have some challenges, and we are going to help them through as soon as we get this bill passed. But in West Virginia, this means the world for us. It has benefited our State since 1965, and 54 out of 55 counties have benefited by it. Now, I tell them that whatever you think we have been able to do and however happy you are with what has happened, we can do twice as much. We can do twice as much on a regular basis.

I am proud to be a part of this. Senator HEINRICH and I have worked tonight, and our staffs have worked closely, and Senator DAINES and GARDNER and everybody is working very close on this. It pulled us together, and I hope we can stay together and keep this spirit of bipartisanship in many pieces of legislation.

So thank you. Thank you for letting me be involved, and thank you for what you have done.

Mr. HEINRICH. I think what we have all learned is what a great team this has been and, obviously, it is a land fund—the Land and Water Conservation Fund. It means boat ramps and access and many other things. We will continue to work together to make sure that all of our States benefit from this program, not just a few, and I know my colleague from Montana wants to add a few more points to this conversation.

Mr. DAINES. Thanks, Senator HEINRICH.

I am going to hand this over to the Senator from Ohio, as well as our Senator from Tennessee, where it is so important to the Restore Our Parks Act. I know we have a lot to talk about in our national parks.

I want to add one point, Senator HEINRICH, about what you mentioned around the economic benefits. Seventy percent of the fishing access that is in Montana has been funded by the Land and Water Conservation Fund—70 percent. As a kid growing up, I had a fly rod in my hand back in the early 1970s before fly fishing became very popular. My grandpa and my dad would take me out, not unlike in “The River Runs Through It.”

That is a classic movie. When Robert Redford and Brad Pitt came out to Montana and filmed this amazing movie, it was filmed on the Gallatin River, where I grew up fishing as a kid, in Bozeman. Little did we know what a movie like that and fishing access might do to spur our fly fishing industry in Montana. Now our outdoor recreation economy is \$7 billion in Montana. What started out as access for the pub-

lic and primarily Montanans has turned into something that is an economic driver, as others want to share the amazing experiences we have in places like Montana, on our rivers and seeing a trout on a fly line. It is an important economic driver.

Mr. HEINRICH. This has been a spontaneous colloquy, but I think the time has come for us to give back our time. But I want to thank my colleagues for their incredible support, and I think folks are going to take over the floor as we move in to the next phase here.

Mr. DAINES. I want Senator PORTMAN from Ohio to speak.

Mr. HEINRICH. Senator PORTMAN from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Thank you, Senator HEINRICH. Thanks to my colleagues for being here. This is an opportunity to do the Land and Water Conservation Fund expansion and provide fishing access through our States and local communities and the parks that they need and want, but it is also an opportunity to fix our parks, and this is desperately needed.

Our national parks are in trouble, just as more and more people are returning to our parks for recreation and fishing and all the other access we have. There are 84 million acres of true treasures in America, thanks to Teddy Roosevelt and many others who followed in his footsteps. We preserved this land and protected our history, but there is a \$12.5 billion maintenance backlog in our parks.

As visitors go to our parks as they reopen this summer, they will find that the trail is closed or the toilet doesn't work or the lodge has a leak in the roof, and therefore they can't use it. When you get a leak in the roof and you get the mold in the walls and the floor, that is what is happening, and we haven't funded it.

Part of the reason is it is so expensive. These are infrastructure expenditures that require significant funds. So part of what this legislation does is finally allow us to catch up here in the U.S. Congress. It is a debt unpaid. In other words, we should have been paying all over these many years to ensure this wouldn't happen but, unfortunately, for decades it has.

So some of the funds we use here go directly into these parks and also to our Forest Service and wildlife refuges and our lands and our Native American lands. This is to simply stop the erosion, really, of the beauty of our parks and to eliminate this historic level of backlog of maintenance projects. So we appreciate the fact that tonight we have an opportunity to finally begin to change our approach and to switch gears.

I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for helping us to get to this point. It has been through our committee twice, with lots of amendments that have been amended and debated, and lots of discussion. We now have an opportunity to make good on the promise we have made to our

children and grandchildren that these parks will be preserved for future generations.

My colleagues with whom I worked include Senator WARNER, who came up with this idea saying some of funds coming from offshore oil and gas and other energy projects could be diverted to these national parks to provide adequate resources to do this. We will see him on the floor this evening, and possibly Senator ALEXANDER, who has been at this as well and is a key player, and also Senator ANGUS KING. The four of us stuck together through thick and thin. I hope tonight will be the thin part and we can get this done over the next several days so that we can indeed keep the promise that we have made that these national treasures can be preserved.

Senator ALEXANDER, do you have something you would like to say?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Madam President, in the middle of the Great Depression, the people in Tennessee and North Carolina looked around and said: Why are all the national parks out West?

So Tennessee contributed \$2 million, and North Carolina contributed \$2 million, and John D. Rockefeller Jr. said: I will give \$5 million in honor of my mother if you can match it. The children of North Carolina and Tennessee in schools raised another million dollars in community efforts, and the Great Smokey Mountain National Park was created and given to the people of the United States.

So the people of Tennessee and North Carolina gave that to the United States and, today, more than 12 million Americans visit it. There are a lot more people who visit it than live in Tennessee and North Carolina, and part of the deal was that there would be no entrance fee. The one thing that we wanted or our grandparents wanted at the time was that the American people be good stewards of what we gave to the American people.

Today, thanks to the leadership of Senators WARNER, PORTMAN, KING, MANCHIN, HEINRICH, DAINES, and GARDNER on the Land and Water Conservation Fund, that has happened. I am proud to be a part of it. This is the most significant piece of conservation legislation in at least a half century, and it represents a recognition by the American people that we can be good stewards of what Ken Burns has called “our greatest idea,” our national parks and our remaining public lands.

Mr. HEINRICH. When we pass this legislation, I think we are going to show them that we are going to be good stewards of the Great Smokey Mountain National Park, as well as parks across our country.

I know that the Nation's newest national park is in New Mexico, and it is White Sands. Yet we have a set of restrooms that sit on top of a sinkhole and for far too long have needed repair. That is the kind of thing I think we will be able to repair all across our country.

I don't see our colleague Senator KING of Maine yet, but he oftentimes speaks to the fact that what Senator ALEXANDER and Senator PORTMAN describe in our deferred maintenance is truly debt. Deferred maintenance is debt, and we are going to take responsibility for that and really treat our parks the way they deserve and work to extend the Land and Water Conservation Fund at the same time.

Mr. Chair, with that I think I will give back the rest of our time, and I want to thank all of my colleagues for joining me in the colloquy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. We have a few minutes left to go. I didn't realize the colloquy was going on. I would like to give an opposing viewpoint.

In this legislation, we put parks over people. We spend billions of dollars taking care of parks and don't spend a dime taking care of those folks who live in those parishes and counties next to a coastline. It turns out that 42 percent of Americans live in a parish or county next to a coastline, and if you haven't noticed, we increasingly have flood events. We increasingly have spent billions of dollars rescuing people from floods, repairing their homes afterwards, and trying to make them whole.

Now, we could have put legislation in this legislation that would allow those people's needs to be met, but we are putting parks before people, and that is a tragedy. We are going to spend billions on places where we go on vacation, but we will not spend a dime where we live—where we live—where we raise our children, where we help other people make a living.

In this—particularly since we know that sea levels are rising—we are going to increasingly have these events. We are, if you will, being—I don't know how to put it—blind to the reality that is before us.

And someone mentioned outhouses on top of a sinkhole—what a tragedy. Do you know what really a tragedy is? When someone—no, when many people—when whole swaths of a city are flooded out—that is a tragedy.

And we are out of time, but I will finish by this: I will feel a lot better about this Senate at the point in which we begin to put people over parks and spend at least something where people live as opposed to where people vacation—not to take any money away from the parks but to just put some money to where people live.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). 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 amendment No. 1617 to Calendar Number 75, H.R. 1957, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, John Thune, Cory Gardner, Pat Roberts, Lindsey Graham, Susan M. Collins, John Boozman, Kevin Cramer, Thom Tillis, Rob Portman, Roy Blunt, Lamar Alexander, Todd Young, Steve Daines, Shelley Moore Capito, David Perdue.

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 amendment No. 1617, offered by the Senator from Kentucky, Mr. MCCONNELL, to H.R. 1957, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modernize and improve the Internal Revenue Service, and for other purposes, 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. MCSALLY), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SHELBY).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. JONES), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 65, nays 19, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 117 Leg.]

YEAS—65

Alexander	Gardner	Roberts
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Rosen
Bennet	Graham	Rubio
Blumenthal	Harris	Sanders
Blunt	Hassan	Schatz
Booker	Heinrich	Schumer
Boozman	Hirono	Scott (FL)
Brown	Hoeven	Scott (SC)
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Capito	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Leahy	Tester
Casey	Loeffler	Thune
Collins	Manchin	Tillis
Coons	McConnell	Udall
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cotton	Murphy	Warner
Cramer	Murray	Warren
Daines	Perdue	Wicker
Duckworth	Peters	Wyden
Feinstein	Portman	Young
Fischer	Reed	

NAYS—19

Barrasso	Enzi	Johnson
Cassidy	Ernst	Kennedy
Crapo	Grassley	Lankford
Cruz	Hawley	Lee

Murkowski
Paul
Risch

Romney
Rounds
Sullivan

Toomey

NOT VOTING—16

Blackburn
Braun
Burr
Cornyn
Durbin
Hyde-Smith

Inhofe
Jones
Markey
McSally
Menendez
Moran

Sasse
Shelby
Sinema
Whitehouse

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 65, and the nays are 19.

Three-fifths of the Senators being duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO AUBREE ROOT

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, this week I have the honor of recognizing Aubree Root of Richland County for her academic achievements and desire to give back to her community.

Aubree is a graduate of Fairview High School and plans to attend Minot State University to study psychology and art in the fall. She has a desire to use her education to eventually work with children who have experienced trauma once she graduates from college.

Aubree was awarded a scholarship by the ROI Foundation. The ROI Foundation selects a Richland County graduating senior every year who plans to pursue a career in the field of special education, psychology, or any related field having to do with human services. Scholarship recipients are selected based on their academic standing, their involvement in the community, and their desire to work with those with intellectual, physical, mental, or emotional disabilities.

It is my honor to recognize Aubree for receiving this distinguished scholarship. Her selfless desire to receive an education in order to support those in challenging situations exemplifies the Montana spirit of serving others. I look forward to following Aubree's future accomplishments, and I congratulate her for receiving this honor.●

REMEMBERING TOM JOHNSON

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today I rise to honor and pay tribute to my friend, neighbor, and mentor Tom Johnson, who passed away on June 8, 2020, after a 6-year fight with cancer.

Tom served as the Hennepin County attorney for 12 years, and after I took over as county attorney years later, I would often turn to him for advice. Tom was always willing to help and to offer his wisdom, humor, and always patient kindness.

It is only fitting that Tom was working up until his final days as to how to improve the lives of others by proposing ideas on criminal justice reform. In fact, just 1 week before he

died, Tom attended a virtual board meeting of the Minnesota Justice Research Center, which he founded and which was dedicated to pursuing fair treatment for those in the criminal justice system.

Tom was a groundbreaking leader on criminal justice reform for decades and a fierce advocate for ending the racial disparities that have plagued our judicial system. Last Christmas, Tom wrote his own obituary, in which he said that nothing had given him more satisfaction than “calling attention to the unacceptable racial disparities in the justice system and their cost to society.”

His voice and wisdom on these issues will be deeply missed in this moment as we try to end systemic racism in our country with systemic change.

Put simply, Tom always did good, from his critical work on domestic abuse, to his focus on race and justice, to his principled stand against the death penalty. He simply loved public service.

Tom was elected to the Minneapolis City Council at just 28 years old, and he once wrote that he used to wander around city hall thinking “If the public only knew how little I know.” But despite, or perhaps, because of his humility, Tom got things done.

Tom fought for truth-in-housing inspections and campaign finance disclosures and for a prohibition of discrimination based on sexual orientation. He founded CornerHouse, an advocacy center for child victims of sexual abuse.

Tom was a tireless advocate and champion for all Minnesotans, but none gave him more joy than his beloved family, including his wife Victoria and his children Jill, Ben, Hunter, and Kayla. He was so proud of all they had achieved—and rightfully so.

When reflecting on his legacy to the Star Tribune in 2015, Tom suggested that many of today’s problems could be solved if people just worked harder at getting to know people from different races and cultures. As he told the paper, things like “socializing after work. Asking how things are going and really listening to the answer. Helping a young person make the connections that lead to a first job,” were the keys.

We would all be wise to honor Tom’s legacy by heeding that advice.●

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3957. A bill to remove all statutes of individuals who voluntarily served the Confederate States of America from display in the Capitol of the United States; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1083

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 1083, a bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African-Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African-Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 1882

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1882, a bill to make available the continued use of Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program project use power by the Kinsey Irrigation Company and the Sidney Water Users Irrigation District, and for other purposes.

S. 3583

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3583, a bill to provide that certain Executive orders and Presidential memorandum with respect to Federal employee collective bargaining shall have no force or effect, and for other purposes.

S. 3646

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3646, a bill to require the transfer or release of certain individuals in the custody of the United States because of their risk of exposure during a national emergency, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the postcloture time with respect to the substitute amendment No. 1617 expire at 5:30 p.m., Monday, June 15. I further ask that Senator ENZI or his designee be recognized prior to the vote on adoption of the substitute amendment to raise a budget point of order. Further, that following the raising of that point of order, Senator GARDNER or his designee be recognized to make a motion to waive the point of order.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JUNE 15, 2020

Mr. GARDNER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 3 p.m., Monday, June 15; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; finally, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 75, H.R. 1957, under the previous order.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 15, AT 3 P.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 1:28 a.m., adjourned until Monday, June 15, 2020, at 3 p.m.