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House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 12 p.m.

Senate

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018

The Senate met at 2:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TOM COTTON, a Senator from the State of Arkansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Today's opening prayer will be offered by Pastor Louie Giglio, of Passion City Church, from Atlanta, GA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Let's pray together.

Father, we pause today to lift our eyes to Heaven, the place our help comes from.

And we bow to honor You and to worship You for who You are.

We recognize that You are here and that we are here because of Your sovereign will. So, may this Chamber know the wind of Heaven today as it seeks the common good for those it serves.

We ask that Your supernatural discernment, courage, and unity rest on this Senate so that Your Kingdom may come and Your will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Father, I lift each Member of this esteemed Chamber to You. Please touch them and their families with Your love and grace and surround them with the angel armies of Heaven.

We celebrate the life and the legacy of President George Herbert Walker Bush. We lift his family and those who loved him to You, knowing that You are the God of all comfort. And we ask that You guide us today as we seek to take our place among the thousand points of light.

Especially in this season, we thank You for the gift of Your Son, the Prince of Peace, and we commit this

day to You for the sake of 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. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 5, 2018.

To the Senate:

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

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Tennessee.

WELCOMING PASTOR LOUIE GIGLIO

Mr. CORKER. Mr. President, it is an honor to be here with Pastor Louie Giglio, from Atlanta, who pastors the Passion Church there.

I think everyone in this body knows Congress led on an issue to end modern slavery around the world. That was something that passed this body a couple of years ago. The appropriators have funded it. We are well on our way leading the world today in trying to end modern slavery, where today we have 27 million people around the world in slavery—more than at any time in the world's history. I can honestly say the genesis of that, the seed for that, the beginning of that, started at Passion Church, where he led an effort to make sure people are aware of this scourge on mankind. I am grateful to him. Millions of people around the world will be grateful to him and his congregation. I am honored to know him and be his friend, and I thank him for his leadership in that regard but also beginning our day in this way. Thank you so much.

With that, I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

REMEMBERING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, earlier today, our 41st President George Herbert Walker Bush departed the Capitol Rotunda and was memorialized at the National Cathedral. Now his remains are on the way back to Houston for a funeral service at St. Martin's Episcopal Church before he is laid to

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



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rest right next to Barbara, his loving wife and partner of 73 years, and their daughter, Robin.

It has been reported that, some years ago, as the Bush family discussed funeral plans and the subject of lying in state came up, the former President joked in a self-deprecating way: "Do you think anyone will come?"

Well, Mr. President, they sure did. Dignitaries, world leaders, and thousands of Americans from all walks of life waited for hours and streamed through this Capitol to pray for and pay tribute to the life and legacy of George Bush. I might add, in addition to that, on the way up to the National Cathedral, there were citizens on both sides of the road, all along the way, with their iPhones, taking photographs of this great American.

Today, at President's Trump's direction, the country is observing a national day of mourning. I know this body continues to stand with all Americans in appreciation for his inspiring example and in solidarity with the Bush family.

NOMINATION OF BERNARD L. MCNAMEE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on a completely different matter, the Senate is resuming our work this afternoon. Later today, we will vote to advance the nomination of Bernard McNamee, the President's choice to serve on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

This is an impressive nominee who has the right qualifications for this important job. In his career as a well-regarded lawyer on energy issues, he has represented clients and gained expertise all across the energy sector. He has helped clients build solar projects and natural gas facilities and get renewable energy standards approved. In his own words, he said: "I have not just talked about fuel diversity and 'all of the above' energy policies; I have worked to help make them a reality."

Mr. McNamee has worked as an energy policy expert at the Department of Energy, as well as right here in the Senate. FERC plays a pivotal role in ensuring our energy security and enabling prosperity. Among other responsibilities, the Commission is responsible for permitting important infrastructure investments such as pipelines and export terminals. Continuing with a deadlocked and understaffed Commission could threaten the status of these investments and the jobs that revolve around them. Therefore, we need to confirm Mr. McNamee promptly.

His obvious qualifications and his commitment to fairness and impartiality earned him a bipartisan vote out of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee last month with a favorable recommendation. I hope the same common sense will prevail today so we can move this nominee forward with the bipartisan vote he well deserves.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Bernard L. McNamee, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2020.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 4 p.m. will be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, the Senate is going to soon vote on the nomination of Bernard McNamee to be a Commissioner of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

If Mr. McNamee takes a seat on the Commission, it will mean that Christmas is coming early for the executive who wants big, dirty energy bailouts.

Mr. McNamee has had for some time a plan to bail out some of the oldest, dirtiest plants in America, and he wants typical Americans to pay for it with higher utility rates. That is right—a bailout for some of the dirtiest, oldest facilities—and a pretty small number of them at that—and then a big spike in rates for working families and seniors across the country. We shouldn't sugarcoat the McNamee plan. It is a rip-off, plain and simple.

All of this doesn't come out of thin air. Mr. McNamee, in fact, was directly responsible for this miserable proposal while he was at the Trump Energy Department. The plan was to interfere with utility companies' private business decisions, to force them to actually prevent utility companies from

shutting down those dirty, old powerplants—some of them coal plants—even when the utilities wanted to move to cleaner, newer plants. So much for the free market. The utilities actually wanted to move to cleaner plants. Yet this would have prevented them from shutting down dirty, outdated plants to go to the more efficient, newer ones. So much for the free market. So much for protecting consumers.

This proposal was so flawed that every member of the Commission joined in a vote to reject it. Let me repeat that. Every member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission that Mr. McNamee is so eager to join voted against his plan to stick it to all the consumers with a rate spike.

For a period, I chaired the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, and we always saw that, traditionally, if a flawed proposal gets met with enormous rejection, the typical person in a rational way says: Hey, we had better get back to the drawing board and take a different tack. That is not so with the Trump administration.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission wouldn't green-light Mr. McNamee's rate-hiking plan to prop up the executives at these dirty facilities. So the President wants to put Mr. McNamee on the inside and give him a seat on the FERC. I have to say that I haven't seen anything like this sort of deliberate effort to hijack sound market-oriented principles that would naturally take you to cleaner power rather than to dirty old coal facilities. But what we have here is, in effect, an individual who has shown a track record of wanting to do the bidding of special interests.

FERC is supposed to be an independent, apolitical energy regulator.

As I said during the committee's hearing on this nomination, this is not a question of the fox guarding the henhouse. This is a question of putting the fox inside the henhouse. That is what this will do if the Senate makes a flawed judgment to approve this nomination. Several of us at the Energy Committee hearing—myself and other colleagues—asked Mr. McNamee if he would recuse himself from matters that he worked on that relate to this flawed bailout for dirty, outdated plants. He refused to commit to that.

Since the hearing, new evidence of his energy policy biases has come to light in the form of video footage where he candidly expresses that he is just plain, old biased against renewable power. The video reveals Mr. McNamee speaking frankly about his skepticism of wind and solar power. He basically says: You shouldn't regulate carbon dioxide as a real pollutant. His comments, joined with his recent actions, which I have described as the "Trump Energy Department," make it clear to me that he is not going to bring the judicious, objective approach, if he is confirmed as FERC Commissioner, to these critical issues. He certainly is not in this to protect the American

consumer, because his policies would pick their pocket with higher rates.

Finally, the nomination comes at a particularly troubling time, just after the scientists for the Federal Government released the "National Climate Assessment." The report warned that without substantial and sustained measures to reduce emissions, climate change and worsening climate change would wreak havoc on our economy. Yet juxtapose or put right next to what the Federal scientists said about climate change worsening and then say: Here is going to be a Trump nominee who, if chosen for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, is going to say: Let's double down on support for the dirty, outdated facilities for generating electricity.

It doesn't sound very viable to me in terms of our economic future. On the entire matter of confronting the imminent threat of climate change, I think we have to recognize that this administration is defying the will of the American people. We are no longer talking about far-off theories.

In Oregon and across the country, we have seen Americans watch fires getting bigger and hotter. They are ripping through populated areas. They are not your grandfather's fires. In our part of the world, we saw a fire leap over the Columbia River. We have seen hurricanes making landfall with Biblical, unprecedented winds. Each year almost sets a new high mark for the hottest year on record.

The policies that this nominee is advancing are misguided. They would accelerate the problems that the scientists for the Federal Government cited last week.

I will close by way of saying that what the scientists said last week is that dealing with cleaner, more efficient energy and promoting it is urgent business right now because there is no time for going backward. What the McNamee nomination is all about, in one concept, is this: It is going backward—backward to bailouts and backward to supporting dirty, outdated plants.

We ought to be going forward.

Mr. President and colleagues, I urge that this nominee be rejected.

I yield back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to urge my colleagues to vote no on the nomination of Bernard McNamee to be a member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I thank my colleague from Oregon for coming out here to explain why this nomination matters and why my colleagues on both sides of the aisle should turn it down.

This is a very important time as we move forward on energy policy in the United States. I am pretty sure that my constituents probably already know what the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission does because, when it came to the Enron crisis, they had to

count on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to make sure energy markets were properly policed. In the end, the FERC did do that, protecting consumers from what were unjust and unreasonable rates.

However, the fact is that a lot of Americans don't understand what the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission does. That is because the job of the Commission can range from overseeing the reliability of the electricity grid to ensuring that wholesale electricity and natural gas rates are just and reasonable. That was what we argued in the Enron case. They were going to make utilities pay for 9 years on what were fraudulent contracts. We emphasized: How could fraudulent Enron contracts ever be just and reasonable if they had admitted to manipulating them?

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission also oversees the licensing of hydroelectric dams and approves construction of natural gas pipelines. We also rely on FERC to protect the electric and national gas markets, as I mentioned, from manipulation.

After Enron, we ended up putting even stronger language in the law to make sure the definition of manipulation was clear and people were protected. I remember my colleagues from Texas joining me in getting that language passed because they knew how much the Enron manipulation cost all of us and our economy.

These are important responsibilities. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission deserves due diligence of their record done by Members of the Senate because FERC decisions affect many energy projects and how people will pay to heat their homes and keep the lights on. It is also about how we protect our energy infrastructure for the future. Trust me, the number of cyberattacks that are going on in energy, we want to exercise strong oversight of these nominees.

It is important that the Commission remain independent and impartial because its role is quasi-judicial. Like judges, they need to be impartial, making decisions about important energy projects that get built around the United States.

For this reason, one of the qualifications written into the law creating the Commission is that members be "individuals who, by demonstrated ability, background, training, or experience, are specially qualified to assess fairly the needs and concerns of all interests affected by Federal energy policy."

I would add that it is the duty of the Senate to make sure that these commissions remain free from political influence. I know that, from time to time, people have been on the Commission and there have been issues about how those on the outside have tried to influence them. We must continue to make sure that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission remains above this kind of political influence and that they remain unbiased as decision mak-

ers on these important policies. I believe that this nominee, Mr. McNamee, does not meet this standard. I believe that he is too ideologically motivated to undertake a job where fact-based decision-making is essential to outcomes that affect people's individual energy rates.

The Commission has to police and regulate energy markets without regard for fuel source, market power, or political lens. I want to see Commissioners who have the words from the Federal Power Act of "just and reasonable rates" practically tattooed into their psyches. Why? It is the standard by which they should judge our nation's energy projects.

Like many of my colleagues, I have been troubled by this administration's effort to try to subsidize high-cost, coal-fired power plants at the expense of American ratepayers. According to a July report by experts at the Brattle Group, the administration's bailout plan would have cost consumers \$34 billion over 2 years. That would have been a \$34 billion tax on American consumers. How would they have done that? By saying that you have to use coal-fired electricity as a way to keep the grid reliable. I disagreed with that. I would say, probably, many members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee disagreed with that, and, clearly, members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, as it is currently comprised, also disagreed with that.

Why was there such an adamant reaction? It is almost as if you were saying that, instead of letting the market make these decisions, people were going to force utilities to do projects that included coal—forcing coal onto the grid, even though the renewable energy was driving down costs and helping consumers to diversify. This is important because the bailout proponents have argued that coal is needed to ensure the grid is always working. When you look at this analysis, it does not hold up under the scrutiny. Trying to prop up uneconomical coal plants for the sake of the reliability of the grid is a fake rationale that the administration tried to use, and it would have impacted the free market and consumers.

I know that these rate increases would hurt manufacturers—because we have a lot of manufacturers in the State of Washington—who rely on affordable hydro to help drive down the cost of manufacturing. I think the cost of doing business and electricity rates all through the United States are going to be key issues for how we drive manufacturing competitiveness in the future. I certainly don't want to see a mandate by this administration that you have to use coal and drive up the costs for that manufacturing base and our consumers.

A fuel security report that was issued last month by the PJM Interconnection, which extends from Pennsylvania to New Jersey and all way to Illinois, found that there was no need to prop

up uneconomical power plants. They were confident that their grid—which is the world's largest competitive wholesale electricity market—would remain reliable over the next 5 years without having this mandate to use coal-fired electricity.

And this conclusion has nothing to do with the temperature outside. Even in a severe cold snap, the grid would continue to operate. In fact, the Washington Examiner—hardly a newspaper from which I quote a lot on the Senate floor, but I am going to in this case—reported that the largest power grid operator dismisses the threat of coal and nuclear power plant closures. It was referring to this report. It was referring to the PJM report that basically says: No, we don't have to worry about our grid reliability. This report dismisses the notion that the coal plant closures would somehow put us all at risk.

People are asking: What does that proposal have to do with Mr. McNamee?

As a senior political appointment at the Department of Energy, Mr. McNamee had a key role in promoting and defending this policy. He had a hand in ignoring the other experts at the DOE, who basically told him that his facts were wrong. He ignored the fact that this bailout proposal would place an undue burden on ratepayers and, as I mentioned, would impact our economy moving forward. He ignored the fact that we are seeing changes in clean energy markets—that they are cheaper and more effective than coal—and that this proposal, even though he continued to push it, was not going to help us keep an open and free electricity market.

Part of what the energy regulators do is to make decisions about projects moving forward that are based on what the market is bringing them. It is based on pure economics. Their job is to determine the return and the rates that would impact consumers. That is where the term “just and reasonable” comes into play. Their job is not to pick winners and losers in the market. Their job is to determine whether there will be just and reasonable rates for the individual consumers in those markets. It is their job to make sure that there are not excessive prices but true competition in the market—not to favor a high-cost fuel source like coal and try to protect it from other fuel sources that might be more economical for consumers.

As the Supreme Court has said, FERC is the guardian of the public interest in these matters. The duties of Commissioners is to protect the public interest, not the private interest, and they are to make sure there are fuel supplies for the future.

I view this threat of really trying to disrupt the free market as one of the most important things we need to continue to protect. Why? Because innovation shifts markets over time. We are trying to make decisions about distrib-

uted energy, and there will be major discussions by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on how to achieve that, particularly as we deal with the impacts of climate change.

Our historic energy system is at an inflection point, but it doesn't mean we should hold on to more expensive sources to generate electricity. It means that we should make sure that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission does its job as a quasi-judicial arbiters and are not politically motivated or coming to issues with non market-based rate solutions.

The fact the cost of wind has declined an incredible 69 percent over the last 9 years and solar a whopping 88 percent. If coal or nuclear costs had dropped that much, we would be having a different conversation about their future, but it hasn't. Even in States where coal has been a big part of the mix, building renewables is cheaper than keeping existing coal plants open.

According to the Northern Indiana Public Service Company's 2018 Integrated Resource Plan, they found that they could save their constituents \$4 billion over 30 years by ramping down the amount of coal it uses from two-thirds of its generation today, to 15 percent by 2023, and by eliminating coal entirely by 2028.

I would like to have taken Mr. McNamee at his word when he came before the Senate's Energy and Natural Resources Committee and said that he would be a “fair, objective, and impartial arbiter.” That is what you want from a Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner. He also said that he would decide matters that would come before him based on the law and not based on politics. Yet, after his committee hearing, which I still remain very concerned about, we asked further questions. And a video of a speech Mr. McNamee gave earlier in the year on fossil fuels surfaced. I believe it shows that he has a continued bias beyond the President's asking him to draft a coal bailout. And he has tried to push it through the Federal Department of Energy even when scientists and others have told him that the facts just did not support the proposal.

Mr. McNamee's words reveal a very strong bias in favor of fossil fuels against renewable energy. For example, he claimed that fossil fuels were “key not only to our prosperity” but “to a clean environment.” And he continued to make comments that, I think, are demonstrably false. Now, as a private citizen, he is free to say whatever he wants. Yet, when you are hired to put a report out and have scientists within the agency correcting your false information and you are continuing to push these ideas, I think it puts you in a different category. It is hard to believe that you will be quasi-judicial and a fair arbiter.

I know that he has had many conversations, and I include the information in the video. One of his most striking statements is this: “The green

movement” is in a “constant battle between liberty and tyranny.” Then he said that his son should just deny climate science even if it hurts the boy's grades. These are not the words or sentiments, I believe, of someone who is going to play that role of an arbiter for Federal energy regulatory policy.

And these policies will come up before the Commission. I know the administration plans on continuing to find ways to have coal mandated into the market instead of allowing the free market to take place. I want to make sure that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission does not subject itself to some sort of bias in this process.

If Mr. McNamee becomes a Federal Energy Regulatory Commissioner and if he continues to try to overturn relevant FERC decisions in court by arguing against these things, what kind of process will we see at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in response to his biases?

To me, you have the threat of legal uncertainty. Projects could be put on hold. Investments could be further delayed. Grid reliability rules could be impacted. Why? Is it because he is right? No, people already believe his previous statements have shown sufficient bias that would put in question his decisions on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. These energy policies, particularly in the area of cyber security, are going to be so critical for us to move forward on. Every day, our grid is impacted by these attacks by foreign entities. It is so important that we get about the task of making our grid more reliable and better protected against cyber security, not getting weighed down in a bunch of arguments against someone who does not appear, in my opinion, to have that quasi-judicial approach of making sure that the market and market decisions are fair and reasonable and just and reasonable rates for consumers. All of this is particularly distressing as Mr. McNamee's speech surfaced just days before the U.S. Global Change Research Program released its fourth quadrennial report.

Why is this important? Because the report showed the cost to the Federal Government and individual citizens of continued fossil fuel use. We all know that we need to have a diverse sources of energy. We know that we have to do better than what we are doing today. Yet, by pushing Mr. McNamee's name forward, this administration is simply trying to hold onto the past.

That approach could cost taxpayers trillions of dollars over the next few decades. The climate assessment basically estimates that, if we do nothing, by the end of the century the impacts will cost the United States upward of a half trillion dollars a year in crop damage, labor loss, and extreme weather damages. We can't afford that. We need to keep moving forward, and we need to let the market do its job.

For over 40 years, an independent and impartial Federal Energy Regulatory

Commission has provided Americans with decades of fuel-neutral competition, which has resulted, as I said, in those just and reasonable rates. Now, thankfully, technology advances are helping us to step up to new opportunities while still having the Commission oversight, based on just and reasonable rates. The Commission is making sure that we are doing all that we can to hold down the costs to consumers and move things forward in energy markets.

I ask my colleagues to review the video and this nominee's remarks in the video and to come to the Senate floor to vote against this nominee in the hopes that we can get someone else to take this job at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I hope my colleagues will realize the importance of this before it is too late and that we will move forward with someone who can help us continue to have a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Clearly, this is not viewed as just politics on our side. There are many people who are on the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission who have very strong political backgrounds. A few used to work right here in the Senate. So this is not about that. This is about somebody's having the quasi-judicial mindset to review these issues and not advocate, at all costs, a market-eroding notion that utilities should be forced to purchase uncompetitive coal and raise rates on consumers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, in a few moments, we are going to have an opportunity to vote on moving to proceed to the nominee for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. I come to the floor this afternoon to speak in support of that nominee, Mr. Bernard McNamee.

Mr. McNamee has been nominated to serve on the FERC—the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission—to complete the remainder of the term that runs through June 30, 2020.

The FERC is an independent agency within the Department of Energy. For a long period of time, nobody really paid much attention to the FERC or was quite sure what the mission was. The agency itself is one that has a very key and a very critical role within our country in that it regulates the electricity, the hydropower, the natural gas, and the oil pipeline industries. That basically means that FERC plays a critical role in keeping the lights on and ensuring the deliverability of reliable, safe, and affordable energy to American homes and businesses. The FERC really is key to so much of what goes on in the world of commerce and our economy.

It is important that we move forward with this vote today. If we confirm Mr. McNamee, FERC will once again have a full complement of five Commissioners on that agency. This is something we have worked hard to restore

in this Congress for a period of time. The Commission was down to just three Commissioners. They have a lot of work to do. The responsibilities are hard. Making sure that they are at full speed must be a priority. It is necessary to enable the agency to address a substantial backlog of energy infrastructure project applications and decisions that are pending on a range of important energy matters.

Let's talk about the qualifications Mr. McNamee has to serve at the FERC. Over the course of his career, he served in the Federal Government, including here in the Senate and in two State governments. He has also worked in the energy practice group of a major law firm. As a result of his work and his experience, Mr. McNamee has a deep understanding of energy issues, and I think a clear appreciation of FERC's mission. He has made a strong commitment to continue FERC's role as an independent and an impartial regulator, which to me is key. He also knows that it is FERC's duty to keep the lights on and not to carry out policy decisions that are made by other parts of the Federal Government. His mission within the FERC is pretty well defined.

There has been some discussion about Mr. McNamee's prior position implementing policy during the brief tenure he had at the Department of Energy. This was at a time when the administration was considering whether it could provide economic relief to coal and nuclear powerplants. That has generated its own level of discussion. Some have suggested that Mr. McNamee's work at the Department raises questions about his independence and have compared him to Ron Binz. Mr. Binz was a former nominee for FERC Chairman back in 2013. I would remind colleagues that there is a difference here.

Back in 2013, when the Senate was considering Mr. Binz, in fairness, we didn't actually have him up for consideration on the floor. Mr. Binz voluntarily withdrew his nomination from consideration, and that was based on bipartisan concerns that were raised about substantive comments of his and the approach he took to recruit support for his own nomination. I would rather not rehash history today, but I think there is a clear difference between the two nominees, and I believe the concerns about Mr. McNamee's independence are largely unfounded.

First, the Department of Energy's proposal to FERC on coal and nuclear plants was unanimously rejected by FERC just about a year ago. The Commission is currently not considering any other administration proposal to assist coal or nuclear powerplants.

I think it is also wrong to suggest that because someone has experience implementing policy somewhere that they should be disqualified from any role as an independent regulator. In fact, in this Congress alone, we have already confirmed two former Senate

policy staff members to the Commission. The first one was Neil Chatterjee, an individual many, many of us know. He previously served as the majority leader's energy policy adviser. The second one was Mr. Rich Glick, who served as senior counsel to Senator CANTWELL on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Like Chairman Chatterjee and Mr. Glick, Mr. McNamee's decisions as a Commissioner will not be contingent on the implementation of policy decisions in his prior roles. In private meetings and in his nomination hearing last month, Mr. McNamee repeatedly committed to be fair, to be objective, and to be an impartial arbiter in all of the cases that come before the Commission. He repeated this commitment in response to two rounds of questions for the record.

I believe Mr. McNamee understands and understands well that FERC is an independent Agency and that it must continue to function as such. I take his commitment to uphold FERC's autonomy and maintain an independent role as a Commissioner at face value. I also expect him to be fuel-neutral and not a champion of one resource over another.

As I mentioned, there is a lot of work that must go on at FERC. We need to have all five Commissioners in place to make sure that it happens. With a full set of Commissioners, FERC will be able to reduce or certainly work to reduce its backlog of energy infrastructure projects, including important natural gas pipelines and LNG export terminals.

If we are going to remain a prosperous nation with strong growth and affordable energy, we need our interstate pipeline network and our LNG facilities to continue to meet customer demands for our natural gas.

This resource serves a variety of critical needs, ranging from keeping us warm to enabling our manufacturing renaissance and, increasingly, to fuel our electric grid.

LNG exports also represent a significant opportunity for States like Alaska, scores of communities, and, looking abroad, for America's friends and allies.

FERC is also examining other important issues, including its regulations under the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act—PURPA—the integration of energy storage onto the grid, and the impact of State policies on interstate electricity markets. These issues are incredibly complex, and they have widespread implications for our economy.

Again, it is key, it is timely, and it is important that we have a full complement on the FERC. Mr. McNamee is well qualified to join the other Commissioners in tackling these issues, and I urge all of my colleagues to support his nomination.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak on leader time before we have a vote.

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

REMEMBERING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, the life and career of the 41st President of the United States was celebrated at the National Cathedral. Friends, family, former leaders of our country, and leaders from around the world gathered to pay tribute to a life spent in joyful service to our country and unfailing dedication to his family. I was there. It was a very moving and wonderful ceremony.

The Senate now joins the rest of the country in mourning President George Herbert Walker Bush.

NOMINATION OF BERNARD L. MCNAMEE

Mr. President, now on another matter—a less happy matter—at the conclusion of my remarks, the Senate will vote on whether to consider the nomination of Bernard McNamee to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, or FERC. I staunchly oppose this nomination.

Throughout his career, Mr. McNamee has been manifestly biased in favor of the fossil fuel industry and biased against renewable energy sources—so much so that one cannot believe he would be a fair arbiter on these issues at FERC.

Mr. McNamee has called for “a unified campaign” to support fossil fuels. As a policy official at the Department of Energy, he played a significant role in designing a coal and nuclear bailout program that was unanimously rejected by FERC—hardly a liberal agency—the agency he is nominated to join.

When it comes to fossil fuel competitors, Mr. McNamee has expressed thoughts that only a real fossil fuel zealot could have. Not only has Mr. McNamee made numerous false claims about clean energy technologies, he has labeled support for renewable energies “organized propaganda” and likened its boosters to supporters of “tyranny.”

At a time when our globe—with wildfires in California, with flooding and hurricanes—is totally being changed because of global warming, we are putting someone on FERC—or there is an intent to put someone on FERC who has the most regressive views we have seen come around in a very long time.

Commissioners at FERC have matters related to all types of energy brought before them. They are supposed to be nonpartisan. They are supposed to impartially oversee rates and reliability and delivery based on what is best for the American people, not deep-seated personal beliefs and cer-

tainly not views that are so out of touch with so many people.

My guess is that maybe only a handful of Republicans agree with him on his views that are so regressive. I see my friend from Iowa here. What this guy said about wind and things like that are way off the charts.

Just a few weeks ago, the Trump administration itself released a report on climate change outlining its current impact and the devastating and dire consequences we will see if actions are not taken. That was not our report; that was the Trump administration's report. So now would be an awful time to elevate someone to our chief energy regulator who is so clearly biased against renewable sources of energy, such as wind and solar. I strongly urge—fervently urge—my colleagues to oppose this nomination.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Bernard L. McNamee, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2020.

Mitch McConnell, Johnny Isakson, Mike Rounds, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, John Hoeven, David Perdue, Tim Scott, John Cornyn, Roy Blunt, Cory Gardner, Tom Cotton, Jerry Moran, John Barrasso, Roger F. Wicker, John Boozman.

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 Bernard L. McNamee, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 30, 2020, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 253 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Alexander	Collins	Enzi
Barrasso	Corker	Ernst
Blunt	Cornyn	Fischer
Boozman	Cotton	Flake
Burr	Crapo	Gardner
Capito	Cruz	Graham
Cassidy	Daines	Grassley

Hatch	Lee	Rubio
Heller	McConnell	Sasse
Hoeven	Moran	Scott
Hyde-Smith	Murkowski	Shelby
Inhofe	Paul	Sullivan
Isakson	Perdue	Thune
Johnson	Portman	Toomey
Kennedy	Risch	Wicker
Kyl	Roberts	Young
Lankford	Rounds	

NAYS—49

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Heitkamp	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Jones	Schumer
Cantwell	Kaine	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Smith
Carper	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Casey	Leahy	Tester
Coons	Manchin	Udall
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Donnelly	McCaskill	Warner
Duckworth	Menendez	Warren
Durbin	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murphy	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	
Harris	Neton	

NOT VOTING—1

Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 50 and the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR AARON HOUSE

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I am here to talk for a few minutes about Major House and the work he has done in our office. We have benefited for the last several years from a military detailee being on the Intelligence Committee and on the Defense Appropriations Committee and having significant military installations in our State, as many of us do, but we certainly have those in Missouri. It has been valuable having MAJ Aaron House with them.

Major House has been a great resource on a number of important national security issues in our office. The knowledge and experience he has gained as a U.S. Army Reserve officer have helped inform our discussions on defense issues critical to Missouri and critical to the country.

Aaron was born in Plattsburgh, NY, on the shores of Lake Champlain. He joined the Army in 2001. He first served as an enlisted soldier for 3 years and then as a commissioned officer after that. He has served in both the Engineer Corps and the Finance Corps. He deployed to Iraq, where he conducted rapid crater repair, route clearance, and construction operations. His most recent assignment before joining our office was with the joint staff working as an analyst for the Office of the Comptroller in Defense.

He is extremely well educated and holds a bachelor of science in manufacturing management from Clarkson University in New York, a master of science in human relations and business from Amberton University in Texas, and he has both a master of business administration and a master of public administration from Syracuse University in New York.

He comes with all of that background. Combining that with his background in finance, he has been critically important to us as we move through a number of important projects this year. He has been able to devote a lot of time to gathering and analyzing data on historical military construction projects as we move forward on those projects.

He has provided knowledgeable recommendations on a host of foreign policy issues as well. He was very involved in the last year in Colombia, where Senator CARDIN and I cochaired an effort with the Atlantic Council to look at moving Peace Colombia to Plan Colombia and then looking at that again now that the Colombian Government has changed. We have looked at some things that involved Australia and China and Russia, just to name a few of the areas where Major House has been helpful in our office.

On veterans issues, he has been helpful as we try to connect veterans with the resources they need and the benefits they have every right to have, but they sometimes have a hard time accessing those benefits.

Having him in the office has been an asset. It has been a pleasure for me and our entire staff. I certainly wish him all the best in the next chapter of his military career.

He and his wife Mindy have three daughters. They have a newborn son. So even in that year he was with us, they added a fourth child at their house. His family and friends who support him and the sacrifices he and his family—his immediate family—make to serve are deeply appreciated by us. He has been a real benefit to the country. He has been a particular benefit to the Missourians whom I get to work for. I am grateful to have had him this year and will again say that this is a program that really is beneficial to the Senate.

I hear from our past detailees over the years that it was an incredible opportunity for them to understand how the Congress works from the perspective of each of our offices and makes a valuable addition to what they take to their next assignment and every future assignment.

I think the Chief of Staff for the President spent some substantial time in this building representing the Army and said he was the most knowledgeable guy in the Army when it came to talking about issues that he learned right here and how to work with and provide information and advice to Congress.

We are glad Major House has been with us, appreciative of the program, look forward to welcoming our next detailee soon, and wish Major House and his family great success as they move forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

NOMINATION OF BERNARD L. MCNAMEE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here today to express my extremely

grave concerns about the person we have just begun to move to a vote to the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. He would be Commissioner McNamee if we were to confirm him. This is in an administration that has distinguished itself with terrible energy appointments—conceivably the worst. It is too important to our country to have an independent and reality-based Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to allow an industry plant like Mr. McNamee—who will never be independent, who will always have his thumb on the scale for the vested interests—get onto the Federal Regulatory Commission.

In addition to the bad decisions he will make because he will be trying to throw decisions for the fossil fuel industry, he will also create an enormous amount of litigation because people who come before a Federal administrative agency are entitled to an honest look at their claims, and if the regulatory agency is incapable of giving them that honest look, that is grounds for appeal.

McNamee is a walking failure of any honest look at any question in which the fossil fuel industry—and specifically the coal industry—has an interest. Sadly, his position isn't just a question of a personal failing; he comes out of a system, and I am going to take some time to describe the system he comes out of.

No one less than our late friend Senator John McCain was once asked in an interview: Why has it taken so long for Congress to address climate change? Katie Couric was the interviewer. She asked:

Why has it taken so long, Senator?

Here was John McCain's answer:

Special interests. It is the special interests. It is the utility companies and the petroleum companies and other special interests. They are the ones that have blocked progress in the Congress of the United States and the administration. That is a little straight talk.

The way these industries work is kind of interesting. They figured out pretty early on that if they are a big power company or a big coal company or any big fossil fuel polluter and they come forward into a debate and make their argument as ExxonMobil, as Koch Industries, as Murray coal, people will immediately discount what they are saying because people will understand that the companies have a massive conflict of interest, that they have the massive conflict of interest of wishing to continue to pollute for free. So they have set up this whole array of front groups to disguise that it is truly the fossil fuel industry whose hands are pulling our strings.

We came to the floor some time ago—a considerable number of the Democratic Senators—to point out this coordinated, phony, false-front, fossil-fuel-funded operation, and we made the phony front group so mad that they actually sent a letter disputing that they were a coordinated group of phony

fronts by putting all their phony names together on a single letterhead, arguing that they weren't coordinated together in a letter in which they most obviously were coordinated together. That is how upset they were when the mischief they are up to was pointed out.

This was groups like Americans for Tax Reform; ALEC; Cascade Policy Institute; CFACT; Competitive Enterprise Institute; I love this name—the Franklin Center for Government and Public Integrity, which has nothing to do with Ben Franklin and even less to do with public integrity; Georgia Public Policy Foundation; Heritage Foundation; the notorious Heartland Institute, which distinguished itself by putting up billboards equating climate scientists to the Unabomber—classy group, that Heartland; the so-called James Madison Institute, which has nothing to do with James Madison. These groups love to steal the names of historic figures to try to give themselves a little bit of initial credence. There is also a John Locke Foundation—historians will know how important John Locke was to the founding of this country; the MacIver Institute; Kansas Policy Institute; Montana Policy Institute; NPRI; PRI; Pelican Institute; Rio Grande Foundation; Virginia Institute; and, of course, a Yankee Institute for Public Policy.

This whole piece of public relations and propaganda machinery is an ongoing disgrace, and there are some folks who have been looking at it pretty hard recently and saying some pretty rough stuff about it.

I would like to start with two recent articles by Paul Krugman. He is no fool. He won a Noble Prize for economics. He begins by noting what everybody who studies this already knows:

Climate change poses a major threat to the nation, and some of its adverse effects are already being felt.

He goes on to say:

There are almost no good-faith climate change deniers.

I think he is accurate about that. I think there are almost no good-faith climate change deniers because, to use his phrase, "denying science for profit" has become such a constant activity, as shown by this whole array of phony, fossil-fuel-funded organizations.

He goes on to describe some of the history. "Climate denial"—I am quoting here—"actually follows in the footsteps of . . . the long campaign by tobacco companies to confuse the public about the dangers of smoking."

I have given several speeches about this on the Senate floor. The apparatus that the tobacco companies used to confuse the public about the dangers of tobacco morphed into a bigger, more cleverly hidden, and better funded apparatus but basically started with the same route that the fossil fuel industry took to confuse the public about the dangers of its product in the same way that the tobacco industry tried to confuse the public about the dangers of its

product. The tobacco scheme was so fraudulent that they were actually found liable for fraud in Federal court—not just at the trial court level but upheld at the DC Circuit Court of Appeals.

He goes on to say:

Every one of the handful of well-known scientists who have expressed climate skepticism has received large sums of money from these companies or from dark money conduits like Donors Trust.

And, of course, it also flows through those phony front groups whom I described who wrote back to us to deny that they were coordinated phony front groups.

“Climate denial is rooted in greed,” Paul Krugman continues, because it is paid for by the fossil fuel industry.

Then he comes back the very next week with a second article, still on the same theme, bewailing the fact that the Republican Party has “committed itself to denying the facts on climate change; that it is now “completely dominated by climate deniers” and “hostile to science in general.”

He describes the importance of climate denial and the weaponized fake news and the relentless propaganda as being—to use his words, “Climate denial, you might say, was the crucible in which the essential elements of Trumpism were formed.” Denying facts, repeating lies incessantly, manipulating the public debate, delivering weaponized fake news through unreliable sites, and poisoning the public debate with nonsense is how I would generally describe what he was describing.

He says:

Conspiracy theorizing has long been standard practice among climate deniers.

And these are the organizations that propagate those conspiracy theories.

He goes on:

Most prominent climate deniers are basically paid to take that position, receiving large amounts of money from fossil-fuel companies.

He says:

If we fail to meet the challenge of climate change, with catastrophic results. . . it will be a disaster brought on by corruption, willful ignorance, conspiracy theorizing and intimidation.

And this question of corruption isn't just coming from the left. There is a free market think tank called Niskanen Center, and Will Wilkinson from that institute just wrote a piece about what he called the “spiraling crisis of American corruption,” which includes the “failure to require financial transparency of those who would . . . fix our fates.” All of these groups hide who their donors are. There is no financial transparency because they are fronts for the fossil fuel industry, and if they reported all the money they got from them, their purpose as front groups evaporates. Creating, Will Wilkinson continues, “a class of rich and powerful miscreants who profit by gnawing away at the rule of law.”

God forbid we should have real hearings on climate change, that there

should be legislative rule of law. God forbid that we should get honest decisions out of EPA based on the science under rule of law. No. None of that. All of that goes under the wind so that rich and powerful miscreants of the fossil fuel industry can get their way.

Their pooled wealth, Wilkinson continues, can be deployed to keep them in the money, and that is what is going on, creating—and I think this is a really pointed phrase—in our country “a doom loop of corruption, distrust and institutional degeneration.”

What our friend Senator McCain said was the mischief of the special interests in stopping climate action—this is how it is done—through secret money, dark money, front groups, phony propaganda, all backed up with fossil fuel industry political muscle.

It is sickening, and this guy McNamee comes smack out of one of these groups—the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

The Texas Public Policy Foundation has received more than \$3½ million from Koch-related foundations—this is Koch Industries, not Coke the drink; I don't want to disparage the wrong Coke—Koch Industries and Koch brothers-related foundations between 1998 and 2017—\$3½ million. It also received about \$1.5 million from Donors Trust. Donors Trust is an entity that has no business purpose. It is set up to identify-laundry donations. So if you don't want somebody to know that ExxonMobil is funding you, ExxonMobil gives the money to Donors Trust, and Donors Trust gives the money to exactly who ExxonMobil told them to because it is donor directed, and now you can report: Guess what. I got my money from Donors Trust, not ExxonMobil. No business purpose. It simply sells transparency out, brings obscurity in, and is a dark money conduit for big special interests. It really is a disgrace. This guy comes out of this world. By the way, there was \$100,000 from ExxonMobil also, because they don't hide all their money, which goes into the Texas Public Policy Foundation.

The last contribution from the Texas Public Policy Foundation to the Trump's nominee pool was a woman named Kathleen Hartnett White, who did such a horrendous job in the Environment and Public Works Committee, showed such ignorance of environmental matters, and had no clue that carbon dioxide actually reacts chemically with water and is acidifying the oceans—that is science you can do in a high school lab. It is incredibly simple. I have done it here on the Senate floor with one of those bubbler stones for an aquarium and my own breath and our glass of water. To not know that carbon dioxide acidifies the ocean is appallingly ignorant. She also didn't know how much climate change and the warming atmosphere was warming the oceans. Well, it is more than 90 percent of the excess heat trapped by greenhouse gases that have gone into the oceans.

The oceans are warming at such a rate that if you took the explosive power of a nuclear weapon—the Hiroshima nuclear bomb—and converted 100 percent of that energy into heat, you would have to be setting off multiple bombs per second in our oceans to match how fast climate change is warming our oceans. You can measure that with thermometers. This is not complicated. It was too much for her. She couldn't figure it out.

When oceans warm, they rise, because oceans expand. Warm water expands as it warms. This is basic physics—no clue. This you can measure essentially with yardsticks. You can measure it at the tide gauges that NOAA and the Navy have run in some cases for a century. This is the world he comes out of. This is the infiltration of the fossil fuel front groups and Koch Industries into what used to be legitimate institutions of government.

What really kills me is that McNamee, at one point talking about climate science, said:

There's an organized propaganda campaign. . . . The problem is, it's taken hold . . . and there is a lot of money behind this.

Well, he is describing something very accurately, but it is not the scientists all across this country, in every one of our home State universities, working on studying and teaching climate science. This is called projection. It is the rhetorical device where you take the sin that you are most obviously guilty of and immediately accuse your adversary of it, so that when you are caught, it looks like it is a tie of mutual criticisms. As Paul Krugman said in one of his pieces, “Projection much?” Indeed.

I will close by talking about this guy's effort to prop up coal through these completely bogus power protection plans that have come out of the Department of Energy on his watch and that he has defended here. Even the Trump appointees to FERC threw these dumb things out. They were so bad, totally violating the Federal Power Act. But he was for them.

He has said that if you don't preserve coal, you risk resilience and security on the grid. That is a question that FERC is going to be looking at. He ought to recuse himself on this. He has refused to recuse himself on this, but I will tell you there are people who say that it is actually working the other way.

Here is an article: “Powering into the Future: Renewable Energy & Grid Reliability.”

In addition, renewable energy can strengthen the grid. . . . contributing to capacity and resource adequacy, maintaining local voltage and frequency performance, minimizing grid disturbances, providing grid balancing services, and creating a more flexible and diverse generation fleet.

Do you think they are going to get a fair chance in front of this guy when they come to FERC?

Here is another headline: “Renewable microgrids can enhance grid resilience.”

Here is another one: Against “physical risk and cyber-attacks . . . the electric grid have made renewable energy sources more attractive.” They are more attractive when you measure for protecting against physical risk and cyber attacks. They “can add a layer of protection from physical damage to the grid.” It is not coal.

Here is a report out of Texas suggesting that the State’s power production can be made more reliable by the addition of solar and wind renewables.

Here is an article, headlined: “Solar energy is better than coal for national security infrastructure—says Department of Energy.” I would love to know how McNamee let this get by him. This is his Department of Energy telling the truth because nobody seems to notice.

“Deloitte: The case for renewables has never been stronger”—in part because “wind and solar power are now viewed as a solution to grid balancing,” says Deloitte, “while placing downward pressure on electricity prices.” Solar and wind are “placing downward pressure” on solar and wind prices, and they “have also demonstrated an ability to strengthen grid resilience and reliability and provide essential grid services.”

So give me a break about this “coal needs to defend the grid” nonsense. That was cooked up probably by these phony-baloney front groups as an excuse to continue to sell their polluting product.

The Deloitte report itself, in the executive summary says: “[U]tilities are beginning to demonstrate how distributed, renewable generation in a microgrid setting can be a cost-effective alternative to traditional [transmission and distribution]” alternatives and protect the grid that way and “that [independently owned utilities] are exploring opportunities to enhance resilience through strategic renewable integration.”

Integrating renewables strategically improves grid resilience. Here is the clincher: “Various [independently owned utilities]” will need “regulatory license to innovate.” “Whether those reforms will drive innovation fast enough to keep consumers’ lights on during future catastrophic weather events” is yet to be determined.

So here they are saying that getting renewables will help to keep people’s lights on, but how are they ever going to get a fair hearing from this guy who pretends, based on phony-baloney front group information, that it takes coal grants to keep the grid secure when all these reports show that just plain isn’t true? It is nonsense.

The worst of all and the closer for him was that he was on the 2009 transition team for Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli when he was elected attorney general of Virginia.

I am really honored that our departing Senator from Florida happens to be here on the floor today, because he and I are both graduates of the University of Virginia. There was a scientist at

the University of Virginia named Michael Mann. He was a climate scientist. He is the guy who did what became known as the hockey stick graph, which showed carbon emissions and then boom, up it goes—like the blade of a hockey stick—at the beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

So how did the fossil fuel industry react to that? Did they engage him in scientific debate? No, they tried to get him fired. They sent their front groups out to attack his emails to try to get into his emails so they could mock him and set their trolls to work on him. Our university, the University of Virginia, had to fight Attorney General Cuccinelli and take him all the way to the Virginia Supreme Court where his bogus effort to harass and intimidate a climate scientist was finally, once and for all, thrown out by the Supreme Court of the State of Virginia. It was one of the lowest points in rule of law in the history of this country when an attorney general is using his powers of office to flack for an industry that supported him to try to damage the reputation and career of a climate scientist because the science was not showing what the industry wanted.

Their solution was to go after the scientist and try to ruin his reputation. It was a disgrace, and this guy was on his transition team. Give me a break. If we can’t do better than this, we should all be ashamed of ourselves. I yield the floor.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, would the Senator yield for a question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LEE). Would the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Of course.

Mr. NELSON. I say to my friend, the Senator from Rhode Island, would it be fair to sum up the Senator’s statement of what is happening to the planet by saying that the additional heat is prohibited from radiating out into space and is trapped by the greenhouse gases, 90 percent of which is absorbed by the oceans, and as the ocean water heats up, the volume rises, and thus, sea levels rise, and there is an increased heating up of the entire Earth’s temperature; is that a true statement?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. That is a very true statement, and I would add that there are very few transcendent moments that take place here in the temple of mammon, where big special interests throw their weight around, but one of them that I have been privileged to be here for was the Senator from Florida, Mr. NELSON, talking about his time in space in a NASA spaceship and looking down on this Earth, not seeing red States or blue States, not seeing sectarian differences or differences among countries, not seeing national boundaries, but seeing us as the small globe spinning through the void that we are. It is a moment I will never forget.

When you look at that and think of that message that he brought and think that we are busily doing everything we can to ruin the balance of the

systems upon which we depend because we will not say no to the biggest and most muscling and remorseless industry that probably has ever stalked the halls of this building, it is such a national tragedy that this would happen in the United States of America.

The whole world will suffer for our failing. The finger will end up pointing at us because the story will come out—and it is coming out already—about fossil fuel money and influence and their threats and hidden money and the front groups and the whole piece of stinking machinery in which they operate.

So the contrast between the Senator’s transcendent view of the globe from space and the foul politics of this industry that we experience here every day is one of the great discrepancies that is hard for me to take into my heart.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, would the Senator yield for a further question?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Yes.

Mr. NELSON. I say to the Senator from Rhode Island, since it is documented over time that the average annual temperature of the Earth is rising and we see in statistics the measurements of temperature, is it not true that scientists tell us that there is a temperature some 4 degrees-plus Fahrenheit more beyond which there is no return for the Earth continuing to heat? Is that a true statement?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. That is a true statement.

The scientists of the world have more or less reached consensus that that 2 degrees Centigrade increase is one we do not want to go beyond because it could set in force further consequences that would accelerate the problem—for instance, large amounts of frozen Arctic methane or undersea methane letting loose.

We already see lakes that bubble in Canada and Russia from methane melting up through them. They are methane bubbles, not air bubbles. If that accelerates, there can be a feedback loop in which the input we have done releases more greenhouse gases, which, in turn, makes more greenhouse gases and more temperature and more greenhouse gases and up you go. Of course, a lot of that goes into the oceans, and nobody knows better than Florida what that is doing along your coasts to people’s property. So you don’t have to wait to hit 2 degrees Centigrade. Right now the safe opinion is that 1.5 degrees Centigrade is all we can afford. The risk that you are wrong is enough to justify trying to stop at 1.5 degrees Centigrade. Why not be safe when you are dealing with our planet?

Even well before then, in your State, we are seeing what is going on and we are seeing the daytime flooding. You and I have been walking around in boots on sunny days as the tide comes washing in where it has never been before—these king tides.

We have groups like Freddie Mac—which is not exactly a leftwing, green organization—warning that because of this, there is a significant chance of there being a coastal property value crash along our coasts as that danger of sea level rise backs into the insurance and the mortgage that you need to be able to buy a house. If you can't insure your house or can't mortgage your house—let me put it another way; if the next person to buy your house can't get insurance or a mortgage, good luck getting a good price on your house. That is it. They predicted it could be as bad as the 2008 mortgage meltdown.

It is happening now, and we think that 1.5 to 2 degrees Centigrade that scientists say is a tipping point, with 2 degrees as a clear point of no return where these knock-on consequences will begin to move us out of control—we can't stop it at that point.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, if the Senator will further yield just for a concluding statement, the Senator from Rhode Island has outlined exactly what is happening in the State of Florida with the rising sea levels, the intrusion of saltwater into the fresh water, the ferocious and highly intense hurricanes. He has also outlined the threat to property values and the normal financial commerce of building buildings and houses that now, along the coastline, may well be threatened in the near future.

I thank the Senator for his recitation this evening.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank the distinguished Senator from Florida.

He has been a particularly dear friend in our years here together. We sat next to each other on the Intelligence Committee, and I was able to see in that classified session his extraordinary skill as an examiner and cross-examiner of witnesses. He usually began by saying "I am just a country lawyer from Florida," and everybody on the Intelligence Committee knew when they heard that, it was time to pay attention because something really good was about to happen. This country lawyer knew how to get to the bottom of things in a hurry.

His work to protect his home State has been nothing less than inspiring to me, and I appreciate it. If there is one thing we can say is hopeful in all of this mess—on the other side of this building, there are going to be gavels that go into the hands of a party that is not controlled by the fossil fuel industry, and there are going to be inquiries and subpoenas and questions and witnesses, and a lot of what I am talking about is going to become very apparent to the American people.

The coverup of the role of the fossil fuel industry and putting people like McNamee into these positions is going to be exposed.

I yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

REMEMBERING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, I have a couple of subjects to talk about, and the first one is that all of us in the Senate have just attended a most moving State funeral in the National Cathedral for the late President George H.W. Bush.

There have been many accolades, and so much of it was said so beautifully, so eloquently, and so movingly today by the speakers at the service. I just want the Senate record to reflect one little vignette that I think underscores the kind of compassion and goodness of the man, George H.W. Bush.

Many years ago, when this Senator was a young Congressman, I had the privilege of serving with former Senator and then-Congressman Claude Pepper, a fellow who had risen to the heights of political power in the 1930s during the Depression, became a champion of the little people, and then, as he transitioned to the House of Representatives, became known as "Mr. Senior Citizen" and the protector of Medicare and Social Security.

Many times in the Reagan administration, he was a constant irritant to the Presidential administration. Those two Irishmen knew they had their differences, but they knew when to set aside their differences for the sake of the country.

That, too, was carried over by the then-Vice President who became President—President Bush. An example of George Bush's humanity was in the late 1980s. The Florida delegation got an emergency call to go to Walter Reed army hospital because it was the final hours for Senator, then-Congressman, Claude Pepper. By the time we got to the hospital, they were proceeding to get Claude into a wheelchair. He had come out of a deep sleep—very possibly a coma—and he was being wheeled into the waiting room.

Who should appear but President George H.W. Bush and Mrs. Bush because the word had gotten to them that Claude Pepper was about to pass on from this life into the heavenly life. The President decided to make that a real occasion, so he joined everybody who had gathered about Senator Pepper. Claude was actually the master of ceremonies, greeting everybody and introducing this one to the other one: Mr. President, this is so-and-so. It was an extraordinary scene.

President Bush, who knew this fellow was his political opponent, but he had been such a substantial part of American political history, said: Claude, I have something I want to produce and I want to present to you on behalf of a grateful Nation, on behalf of your public service. President Bush bent down and put around Senator Pepper's neck the Medal of Freedom. Naturally, there wasn't a dry eye among those of us who were there.

It is another little vignette in the life of George H.W. Bush that shows the humanity, the care, and the concern for his fellow man that was exhibited that day in Walter Reed army hospital.

I wanted to share that little vignette, which is appropriate today after such a moving service over at the National Cathedral.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. President, I rise to speak about the importance of the sacred right to vote.

In the tumultuous days of the 1960s, on a hot afternoon, I watched as a law student on a grainy black-and-white TV as Dr. King delivered his memorable "I Have a Dream" speech on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial. His soaring, spiritually laced speech challenged us to commit our lives to ensuring that the promises of American democracy were available, not just for the privileged few but for "all of God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics."

"Now is the time," Dr. King urged, "to make real the promises of democracy."

He stressed that the central promise made to the citizens in a democracy is the right to vote and to have that vote counted.

Half a century has passed, and our country has changed with the times, but one thing has not changed. The right to vote for "all of God's children" in America is still under assault.

Unbelievably, we are not so very far from the problems of 1963. Despite the passage of time and landmark civil and voting rights legislation, five decades later there is still considerable voter suppression in this country. In fact, several States have recently enacted restrictive laws cutting back voting hours on nights and weekends, eliminating same-day registration, and basically making it harder for people to vote.

Standing between a citizen and the voting booth is a direct contradiction to the vision of equality put forth by the Founding Fathers. In 1776, they declared that all men were created equal, but many in our country had to wait another 94 years before the 15th Amendment to the Constitution granted citizens the right to vote—though not all citizens.

Ratified in 1870, the amendment states:

The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude. . . . The Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation.

But it still took another 50 years before women in America were allowed to vote. After her arrest for casting a ballot in the Presidential election of 1872, Susan B. Anthony delivered a number of speeches in Upstate New York on women's suffrage. In those speeches, she noted that the right of all citizens to vote in elections is key to a functioning democracy.

Specifically, one line from her speech stands out: "And it is a downright mockery to talk to women of their enjoyment of the blessings of liberty

while they are denied the use of the only means of securing them by providing the democratic-republican government—the ballot.”

After the passage of the 19th Amendment granting women the ballot, it took another 45 years before our Nation belatedly enacted the Voting Rights Act of 1965, intended to guarantee every U.S. citizen the right to vote. Does this principle really hold true in practice?

The continued voter suppression of which I speak may not be as blatant as it once was with Jim Crow laws and poll taxes and literacy tests and the like, but it is still very much with us.

In recent years, it is obvious that hurdles have once again been placed between the voting booth and the young and minority.

A devastating blow was dealt by the U.S. Supreme Court when it gutted the Voting Rights Act as recently as 2013. Our Nation's highest Court struck down a central provision of the law that had been used to guarantee fair elections in this country since the midsixties, which has included the guarantee of elections in my State of Florida since that time.

Congress passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to protect our right to vote. It required States with histories of voter suppression to get Federal approval before changing their voting laws. For nearly five decades, the States had to prove to the Department of Justice why a change was necessary and demonstrate how that change would not harm voters and their right to vote.

In a 5-to-4 decision, the Court declared that part of the law was outdated. Essentially, it rendered a key part of the law void until a bitterly partisan and gridlocked Congress can come up with a new formula for determining which States and localities need advance approval to amend their right-to-vote laws. The majority of the Court justified its ruling by pointing out that we no longer had the blatant voter suppression tactics that had been once used to disenfranchise voters across the country.

I vigorously disagree because removing much needed voter protections also prevents the Federal Government from trying to block discriminatory State laws before they go into effect. In essence, States and local jurisdictions are now legally free to do as they please. In fact, just moments after that Supreme Court decision, the Texas attorney general said his State would begin immediately honoring local legislation that imposed, in the words of a Federal court, “strict and unforgiving burdens” on many Texans who attempt to cast a ballot.

As has been noted, the right to vote was not always given to all American adults, but our laws adjusted as we became a more mature and tolerant democracy, but the reverse is what is happening in America today.

Since the 2010 election, in addition to cutting back on early voting, North

Carolina, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Florida have approved voting restrictions that, according to some experts, are targeted directly at reducing turnout among young, low-income, and minority voters who traditionally vote Democrat.

In 2011, the Florida Legislature and State officials reduced the number of early voting days. It reduced them from 2 weeks down to 8 days, including very conveniently canceling the Sunday right before the Tuesday election—a day that historically had seen heavy African-American and Hispanic voting. State officials countered that registered voters would still have the same number of hours and that they could still vote early, only in 8 days instead of in 2 weeks. Well, it didn't work out that way.

Florida also made voting harder for people who had recently moved to another county and had an address change, such as college students. It also subjected voter registration groups to penalties and fines if they made mistakes or they didn't turn them in within a certain number of hours. These laws were so burdensome that the League of Women Voters challenged these provisions in Federal court, and they won. Judges found that Florida's 2011 reduction of early voting “would make it materially more difficult for some minority voters to cast a ballot.” As a result, Florida had to restore 96 hours of early voting.

Even with these added protections, the next election in 2012 was a fiasco. Lines outside polling places were prohibitively long, with some people waiting up to 8 hours to cast their votes.

This year's 2018 midterm election brought added difficulties in Florida and across the country. This year, in Broward County, FL, ballot design caused over 30,000 people to miss voting in the U.S. Senate race because they didn't see it buried in the lower left-hand column under the instructions in English, Spanish, and Creole.

In North Dakota, the Republican State Legislature moved to require residential addresses in order to be able to register to vote. This move was widely seen as an attempt to prevent Native Americans, which is a Democratic-leaning constituency, from voting since many of them used post office boxes to get their mail on reservations.

In North Carolina, nearly 20 percent of early voting locations were closed this year because many of them simply couldn't meet the burdensome requirements imposed by the State legislature. There being absentee ballots that were stolen or missing and were never delivered has prompted a Federal investigation for fraud.

In our neighboring State of Georgia, the Republican candidate for Governor was the sitting secretary of State and was responsible for administering his own election. His office pursued aggressive policies that made it measurably harder for many people to vote, particularly African Americans and other minorities.

So, in light of this evidence and following a widespread public outcry, what can we do now? As I had said earlier, it may not be as obvious as poll tactics and all of the other blockades to voting. We have seen a lot of that in the past, particularly by all of the marches and so forth during the 1970s civil rights era. It might not be as obvious, but there are all of these subtle attempts. So what should we do?

I submit that though the problem is complex, the solution, the answer, is relatively simple. As Americans who cherish the right to vote, we must turn to those schemers and say: “There is a promise of democracy that we will not allow you to break.” We have an obligation to keep this promise of democracy for our children.

There are bright spots we should celebrate. In my State of Florida, voters, overwhelmingly this year, approved a ballot initiative that will restore the right to vote to nearly a million and a half individuals who have been convicted of nonviolent felonies and have served their time. This is a positive step. Congress may be dysfunctional, but we must continue to push lawmakers for a fix to the Voting Rights Act that the Supreme Court struck down on a divided 5-to-4 vote—to the provision that I spoke about. We ought to be making it easier to vote, not harder.

Keep in mind what President Johnson said one-half century ago: “The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.”

Also, remember what Dr. King said:

So long as I do not firmly and irrevocably possess the right to vote, I do not possess myself. I cannot make up my mind—it is made up for me. I cannot live as a democratic citizen, observing the laws I have helped to enact—I can only submit to the edict of others.

That is what Dr. King said. So don't we owe it to our children the right to possess themselves if this is to be a truly free and fair democracy?

I believe that some of the most fundamental rights in our democracy are the right to vote, the right to know whom you are voting for, and the right to know that the vote you cast is going to be counted as you intended it.

If that were not enough, just as concerning as the ongoing efforts to suppress certain votes is the amount of undisclosed and unlimited money that is sloshing around in our campaigns. The Supreme Court's 2010 decision in *Citizens United* has opened the floodgates and allowed the wealthiest Americans to spend unlimited amounts of money to influence our elections. Allowing such unlimited, undisclosed money into the political system is corrupting our democracy.

I have strongly supported several pieces of legislation, such as the DISCLOSE Act, to require groups that spend more than \$10,000 on campaign-

related matters to identify themselves. Tell us who is giving the money by filing a disclosure with the Federal Election Commission. The American people have a right to know whom they are voting for—not just the name on the ballot but who is behind that name on the ballot. The Supreme Court itself said: “Transparency enables the electorate to make informed decisions and give proper weight to different speakers and messages.” That was straight from the Court.

I believe we as a Congress have a moral obligation—a moral obligation—to correct what has happened in our system and to ensure that our voters have the information they need to make informed decisions in the election process.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

REMEMBERING GEORGE H.W. BUSH

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I just want to make a few comments in memory of President George Herbert Walker Bush, whose funeral we attended today.

Losing a parent or a grandparent is never easy. I know I speak for the people in Louisiana when I offer my heartfelt sympathies to the entire Bush family in their time of grief. I want them to know their loss echoes in the hearts of all Americans this week. I also want them to know their family is in our thoughts and in our prayers as we mourn together.

At an age when most kids are trying to figure out what kind of smart phones they want to buy, President George H.W. Bush thought of nothing except answering the call of duty. He really was a part of the “greatest generation.” I believe he was a hero and a patriot, not because he made the choices that he made to fight for his country but because he got up and continued to make the choice to serve the American people every single day of his life as a Navy aviator, as a Congressman, as an Ambassador, as CIA Director, as Vice President of the United States, and, ultimately, as Commander in Chief.

President Bush, very simply, was a great American, not just because he served his country during some of the darkest days in world history—although he did, and he did courageously—but because he embodied so many of the values that distinguish the American spirit. Traits like bravery, selflessness, faith, and kindness are things we don’t have enough of in the village of Washington anymore and seem to be in short supply, but President Bush had them in spades. He was smart as a whip. He was a patriot, but he was also a person who deeply believed in the importance of working together to try to build a better world.

Upon leaving office, President Bush started the Points of Light foundation. Points of Light is a charity whose mission is based on a fairly simple premise—that there is nothing more

transformative than an individual’s choosing to be generous with his or her time, gifts, and talents. This idea has resonated with millions of Americans across the world.

Since its founding in 1990, Points of Light has electrified the American spirit of volunteerism, and each year the foundation supports more than 20 million hours of community service—what an extraordinary legacy.

President Bush understood that at its core public service is about—this is going to sound strange—loving your neighbor. The Points of Light foundation is a fitting legacy for this fine American who loved his country and his family to the fullest, and he devoted every day of his life to serving all 350 million of his neighbors. Without a doubt, he was one of the brightest of those thousand points of light, and our loss is Heaven’s gain.

A smart person once told me that people don’t really care how much you know until they know how much you care. President George Herbert Walker Bush knew a lot, but he cared a lot too.

America weeps, both in joy for his life and in sadness because his soul is in a better place but not with us. America and the world have lost a favorite son.

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

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

H.R. 6931

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a very special child, whose photo you see here on my left. Her name was Scarlett. Scarlett and her mother Stephanie are the people whom I will mostly talk about tonight.

Stephanie was a former staffer in my Senate office, and Scarlett was, as you can tell from the photograph, a ray of sunshine for her parents, Stephanie and Ryan, and also for her extended family and for her many friends. That is how they describe Scarlett. She was their sunshine.

Tragically, Scarlett passed away on January 8, 2017, at just 16 months old. Scarlett’s mom Stephanie said the following about her daughter:

Our little Scarlett lived up to her name. She was a little spitfire, strong and determined. She took in the world around her with such wonder. Her favorite things were books, blueberries, and our pets. Her favorite song was “You Are My Sunshine.” She was our sunshine. We lived and breathed for her, but shortly after midnight, very early on Sunday, January 8, all that ended. It didn’t just end; it was shattered. Every shred of happiness we had and any semblance of the lives we knew before was demolished shortly after I entered her room to check on her that night.

That is what Scarlett’s mom, Stephanie, said in that horrific moment.

In the time since Scarlett’s death, as I and my current and former staff members who know Stephanie can attest, Stephanie and Ryan have been consumed—consumed—by the loss of their little girl. They did what any grieving parent would do. They sought answers about what caused Scarlett’s death. Sadly, despite an autopsy and genetic testing, the only answer they got was that her death was “unexplained”—unexplained. They still don’t know what caused her death.

Stephanie and Ryan have endured so much pain—first, of course, because of their grief over losing Scarlett and, second, because they still don’t know what caused her death.

That means that Scarlett’s death falls in the category known as sudden unexplained death in childhood, known by the acronym SUDC. Many people have never heard of sudden unexplained death in childhood, but it is estimated to be the fifth-leading cause of death for children between the ages of 1 and 4 years old.

We are not doing enough to learn why these children are dying, and it is time that we take action.

Sudden unexplained death in childhood too often has been ignored. Of course, the acronyms can be very confusing. Many of us are already familiar with SIDS—s-i-d-s—or sudden infant death syndrome. After the “back to sleep” campaigns of the 1990s that taught parents how to put their babies to sleep safely on their backs, we learned a lot more about that category as well.

SIDS is part of a broader category of sudden unexpected infant death as opposed to unexplained. Unexpected is the broader category. I will be speaking mostly about the sudden unexplained category.

The most prevalent cause of unexpected deaths in infants—and this is children under the age of 1 year old—is SIDS. One in three unexpected infant deaths is unexplained, and the remaining deaths are related to unsafe sleep.

Similarly, sudden unexplained death in childhood—as I said before, SUDC, what took the life of Scarlett disproportionately impacts children between the ages of 1 and 4, beyond the age of 1, such that in 2016, more than half of all unexplained childhood deaths were in children in this age group, like Scarlett.

We don’t know why these infants and children have died, and we still don’t know how to prevent future deaths. We don’t know how many children are at risk even.

As a parent, these numbers are horrifying and terrifying. Each one represents a beloved child, like Scarlett, who was taken from their family too soon. That is why I introduced the Scarlett’s Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act, to shine light on this problem of unexpected and unexplained infant and childhood deaths.

I am grateful to U.S. Representative GWEN MOORE of Wisconsin for her work

on this issue. I used her bill as a starting point for this new legislation. Representative MOORE introduced companion legislation in the House of Representatives. I am also grateful that JOHNNY ISAKSON and SHERROD BROWN have cosponsored this new bill.

The bill, Scarlett's Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act, will bring light to the darkness of these tragic and unexplained deaths. The bill provides resources to help standardize and improve investigations into and reporting data from sudden unexpected child and infant deaths and to enable full medical review of all—child and infant deaths. The bill also directs the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to commission a study to advise on best practices for genetic testing that may identify the cause of death.

We need this consistent and complete data about unexpected and unexplained childhood and infant deaths in order to drive research that can find the cause or causes and then to develop interventions and ways to prevent future deaths.

The bill also creates a new grant program to support safe sleep, since we know preventable, sleep-related, infant deaths are still happening.

Finally, the bill requires an annual report to Congress on the incidence of sudden unexplained infant and child deaths, a summary of actions the Department of Health and Human Services has taken, and any recommendations that the Department of Health and Human Services has developed to reduce these deaths.

As Stephanie said at Scarlett's funeral: "There is no measurement for the size of our love for you or the hole you leave behind."

Nothing we do will bring Scarlett or other precious children, lost to unexpected death, back to their grieving families, but this legislation will be a big step forward in figuring out why these children are dying and what we can do to prevent it.

Stephanie and Ryan's daughter, Scarlett's younger sister, is named Eliana. Eliana's name means "daughter of the sun," and that is a tribute to the big sister she never met.

To Ryan, Stephanie, Eliana, and to all the other families and friends of children taken from us too soon, we say to you: Although we cannot truly understand the awful gravity of your pain or the depth of your loss, we are listening to you, and we are listening to your plea for help. We want to bring the bright light of data, medical reviews, genetic testing, and other research to this problem. In other words, we want to bring some of Scarlett's sunshine to this cause.

We are summoned by little Scarlett and other infants and children to take action. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, the Scarlett's Sunshine on Sudden Unexpected Death Act, and I ask for their support.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, first of all, I thank my colleague from Pennsylvania for his impassioned plea and his work on this legislation. I intend to support this legislation. I know the story he just told and the notion that SIDS is still such a challenge to so many families are a little remarkable.

I am going to be speaking about a piece of legislation now named after another person not quite as young as Scarlett, where there was another tragedy that I hope we can act on as well. I intend to have it acted on before the end of this Congress. We are dealing with different circumstances, but there are times when we can, sometimes with relatively small legislative fixes, make a real difference in people's lives.

So I commend the Senator from Pennsylvania for his legislation.

ASHANTI ALERT ACT OF 2018

Mr. President, I rise to support H.R. 5075, the Ashanti Alert Act of 2018. To start, I would like to take this opportunity to thank my friend and colleague, the Congressman from the Second District of Virginia, SCOTT TAYLOR, for introducing this important legislation in the House of Representatives and for ushering it through the Chamber so now we can take part and pass this legislation or similar legislation in the Senate.

The Ashanti Alert Act seeks to establish a national communications network within the Department of Justice to help locate missing adults by providing assistance to regional and local search efforts.

The Ashanti Alert Act of 2018 is named after a 19-year-old Virginia resident, Ashanti Billie, who was attending culinary school in hopes of opening her own bakery one day. To preserve her dreams, she split her time between working at a Blimpie's restaurant at Fort Story and taking culinary classes at the Art Institute of Virginia Beach.

On September 18, 2017, in Norfolk, VA, Ashanti's dreams were cut short when she was abducted shortly after arriving at work. Unfortunately, Ashanti was found murdered in North Carolina 11 days after she was first reported missing.

Her parents, who were not living in Hampton Roads at that point, rushed to the region after she disappeared and spent literally 2 weeks—almost 2 weeks—trying to get law enforcement engaged and get the word out. The truth is, after she was missing for those 11 days and discovered in North Carolina, the authorities did later find and arrest her killer, but Ashanti's tragic murder raised an important question about whether more could have been done to save her life.

At the time of her abduction, at just 19 years old, Ashanti Billie was too old for the issuance of an AMBER Alert and too young for the issuance of a Silver Alert.

This tragic murder made me realize something I hadn't thought of before.

We have alerts in place named after Amber for young people up to the age of 18. We have an alert system in place for seniors called Silver Alert for folks over 65. What about everybody between 18 and 65? No such alert system exists. So in the case of 19-year-old Ashanti Billie, her family had nowhere to turn to get the word out about her disappearance.

The unfortunate circumstance is—and it is again fairly remarkable that this issue has not been raised at a legislative level before because of this glaring gap of young adults and not-so-young adults, including folks who are younger than 65—Ashanti is not an isolated case. Families across the country are affected by loved ones who have gone missing. Right here in Washington, DC, we are having a conversation about the plight of missing teens, many of them young women of color and many of them who fall into that same age group as Ashanti—19, 20, 21, 22, 23. I think about my three daughters who are 23 to 29. God forbid if they were ever abducted, where would I turn to get an alert out? There is no system in place.

According to the National Crime Information Center database, over 55,000 missing adults are and have been recorded as missing. In my State, according to the Virginia State Police, there are currently 240 people aged 18 and older who have gone missing in our Commonwealth.

Of course, nobody wants to overload this kind of good, functioning alert system with too many reports which could take away the effectiveness of existing systems like the AMBER Alert Program. So this legislation addresses that issue to make sure that in order to issue an alert, the missing adult must either suffer from a proven mental or physical disability or law enforcement must certify the person's physical safety may be in danger or their disappearance was not voluntary. In this way, the Department of Justice can help States and localities create a system that provides alerts only when a missing adult is in real danger.

What I know is, we need lifesaving protections for missing adults between the ages of 18 and 64. While, as Senator CASEY mentioned, we can never replace the hurt of that family because of that young child who died from SIDS, we can also never replace the hole that has been left in the Billie family by the loss of Ashanti. By passing this legislation and naming it after Ashanti—by calling it the Ashanti Alert Act—we may be able to prevent some tragedy like this from happening in the future.

It is past time for Congress to enact legislation that can help save the lives of many—many like Ashanti. As I mentioned, while we can't bring Ashanti back, her memory can live on by helping save the lives of others who may find themselves in this same kind of unfortunate situation.

I had planned to come to the floor today and ask for unanimous consent

to pass the House bill in its current form. However, out of respect to some of my colleagues who have raised non-substantive but certain technical issues that can be corrected, I will hold off for today on asking unanimous consent, but this legislation cannot wait. This legislation cannot be held up by technical concerns.

I am anxious to work through these concerns tonight so we can move forward, perhaps on a hotline version, so it can get back to the House, so this legislation can become law, and so the Billie family knows Ashanti's memory will be honored.

I intend to work with my colleagues tonight on making sure their corrections are included, but the spirit and heart of this legislation—no one opposes the idea that we have a system for young people on alerts under 18 and a system for folks over 65. What about the rest of the adults who also fall into these kinds of circumstances? We have to make sure they are protected as well.

I look forward to making these technical corrections. My hope is, we can get this passed even with the hotline and that we can then send appropriate legislation back to the House and fill in this needed gap.

I thank folks on both sides of the aisle and the law enforcement community for working with us. There is complete agreement that this hole needs to be filled. I think it will be filled with this legislation, and Ashanti Billie's legacy will be honored by the Ashanti Alert Act becoming the law of the land. I yield the floor.

Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BARASSO). The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

POINT MACKENZIE EARTHQUAKE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, Senator SULLIVAN and I have just returned to Washington after an almost surreal 24-hour period up in the State.

We went up on Sunday night, Monday morning. We hadn't anticipated being there, but the State of Alaska—and more specifically Southcentral Alaska—experienced a powerful earthquake on Friday. It was certainly an unsettling event, a frightening event to many, and it caused significant damage in the most populated part of our State.

Last Friday, at 8:29 in the morning, we had an earthquake that struck the community of Anchorage with a magnitude of 7.0 on the Richter scale. The epicenter was about 7 miles north of Anchorage. It was about 25 miles deep. That shock lasted anywhere, folks were saying, from about 40 seconds to 1 minute; that was the initial hard jolt. Then, movement after that depended

on where you were and what kind of ground you were located on, but it was a very significant earthquake by all standards.

I heard about the earthquake, not because I got an alert on my phone but because my phone rang when my son called. He lives and works in Anchorage. He had been at his shop, and he called me right after the shaking stopped. My son is a pretty calm young man, but I could tell that something was wrong, something was different. I could hear it in his voice. He was clearly rattled. His comments to me reflected so many of the comments I have heard from so many with whom I have had a chance to visit.

As we were speaking on the phone, it was about 7 minutes after the initial jolt that we had another earthquake, a 5.7 that followed. He literally said: You have to hold on, Mom, because we are having another one. These are significant at any time, but to have a 7.0 followed by a 5.7 and then to know that the aftershocks have been continuing—they have continued until today. As of this afternoon, the total number of aftershocks we have had is about 2,500.

Think about that. From Friday morning to midafternoon Alaska time, about 2,500 aftershocks, and we have had 14 above 4.5 in magnitude. We have had 14 in that time period that were over 4.5. Now, 4.5 is going to get anybody's attention.

Yesterday morning, when I was leaving Alaska to come to Washington, I was getting ready in the bathroom, and there was another shaker then, and that was a 4.8.

People have asked me: How are things back home?

I said: Well, we had the big jolt on Friday, but it is still rocking and rolling.

People are anxious, but the report I would like to share with folks today is that there has been an incredible response at so many different levels. The initial response was pretty intense.

After I spoke with my son, I talked to a staff member whose pipes had burst in her home, and she was dealing with flooding. One of the main arterials in Anchorage, Minnesota Drive, is one of the access roads to get to the airport, and parts of that had collapsed. Many people have seen the picture of the vehicle sitting in the middle of a depressed area where the bottom literally has dropped out the overpass of that road.

Across Anchorage and in the Mat-Su Valley, school had just started for the middle schools and the upper grades, and kids were doing what the kids have been trained to do for decades now. Since the 1964 earthquake, believe me, every kid in Southcentral Alaska—I think probably every kid in Alaska—knows what the earthquake drill is, to duck and cover. But during this quake, they were ducking and covering as books from the bookshelves were crashing to the floor and as ceiling tiles were coming down. It is extraor-

dinary to think that during all that we saw and all of the damage in the schools, there were two injuries. There are 48,000 kids in the Anchorage School District and about 17,000 or 18,000 in the Mat-Su district—and two injuries. One was somebody cleaning up glass; another was a student who was putting his arm up to shield himself from a ceiling tile that was falling down, and he injured his wrist. It is absolutely extraordinary—nothing short of a miracle—that we suffered no loss of life.

It was pretty dramatic. Transformers blew, and much of the city went dark. A tsunami warning was issued for the Kenai Peninsula in the low-lying areas in the Anchorage Bowl, even down past Kodiak. We got a call from friends in Kodiak out on a hunting trip, and they got word that they needed to hike to higher ground. Hike to higher ground. Of course, there is no communication and no way to know whether it is all safe. These stories are coming in from all over the State.

What we heard in those first hours, the first reports coming in from our first responders, who truly jumped into action and were responding to calls as they were coming in—the civil engineers were dispatched to go out to check on the highways, the bridges, and the essential infrastructure, such as the hospitals. We had almost immediate updates from the U.S. Geological Survey and NOAA—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—about the earthquake and what was happening with the subsequent tsunami warning, the aftershocks. All of these were in realtime. We kept waiting to hear whether there were any reports of serious injuries or fatalities, but fortunately—amazingly, miraculously—they never came.

Meanwhile, the utilities were working to restore power and to test the cities' water systems. ENSTAR, which is our natural gas supplier, received over 700 requests to check on broken gas lines. They went house by house to make sure that they were safe.

It was extraordinary in terms of the immediate on-the-ground response by the Alaskans who were there in place, the teams that are at the ready because that is what they are trained to do, and those who were just being good neighbors and knew that when you have something hit, we are all hands on deck.

Congressman YOUNG, Senator SULLIVAN, and I gathered on Friday afternoon. We got updates from the Vice President, who was traveling. We spoke with FEMA Administrator Brock Long and Secretary of Transportation Chao. All of them—all of them—were all in with their promises of help from throughout the Federal Government with resources. President Trump also—his support in promising to spare no expense as we work to recover from this natural disaster went a long way to providing levels of assurance there.

Senator SULLIVAN and I, as I mentioned, flew up on Sunday evening. We

waited until the weekend was over to fly back home. We didn't want to get in the way of the immediate recovery efforts. I got in at 1 o'clock in the morning and went to work cleaning up the glass and broken things in my house, as many of my neighbors and fellow Alaskans had been doing all weekend long.

Over the course of the day on Monday, we were able to see some of the damage that this earthquake has caused. You think about the words when you are trying to describe something that—the scenes are just so, so different, and it is words like “gut-wrenching” and “astounding” and then “remarkable,” but it was really gut-wrenching being in the school.

We went out to Houston Middle School. This is an area out in the Mat-Su Valley. This is one of the schools that will not be opened, at least not this year and perhaps for longer. But you are standing in a building—this is the library there in the middle school, and you see all of the books that have fallen to the floor. You see the guts of the ceiling that have come out. The sprinkler system is activated, so not only do you have the chaos of the books but now you have got the saturation.

There is another picture here of the group of us who went in.

The ceiling literally disintegrated on top of the library there.

When you think about the time that this all happened, there were students in the library. There were students who were passing in the hallway. This school is cinderblock construction, and the actual concrete cinders popped out and crashed to the floor and broke. The metal struts coming out of the ceiling, the panels—this was all happening at 8:29 in the morning. It is dark in Alaska at 8:29 in the morning. The lights had gone out, and they had this crashing all around them.

When I use the word “remarkable” to describe some of it, how the students and the teachers responded was remarkable, the calm. The kids knew what to do. They got under their desks. They did what they were trained to do. When they got the order that they needed to get out, to evacuate, what they did was exactly what they were trained to do. And no injuries. No injuries. It is absolutely extraordinary.

The schools in Anchorage are going to be closed for the entire week. Mat-Su is opening some of theirs this week, but more than 85 of them sustained damage that clearly needs to be cleaned up, needs to be repaired.

The schools were one aspect of the damage that we saw, but what many have seen out there has been the damage to the infrastructure.

This is a picture of a collapsed road. This is Vine Road, out in the valley. This is kind of a boggy area that runs through here, but it is just as if there were a big suction that came underneath and literally sucked the ground out from underneath that.

This is an area that we visited. We took this picture from above, in the air. This is it up close. As you are standing here on these slabs of asphalt, the crevices you are looking down into are extraordinary, and you realize the intensity of the action of the Earth.

You see scenes like this, and you say: How are we going to get through all of this? And the work that is ongoing now, whether it is the on-ramps, whether it is the bridges, whether it is roads like this on Vine Road, our department of transportation is working to firm up the roads, to, believe it or not, fill them in, repave them, even restripe them, and get folks back on their way. What we saw in just those first 72 hours is absolutely extraordinarily impressive.

The Alaska Railroad is assessing their damage. They are operational. They are going to be going much slower than they would like, and that is going to cause complications, but they are up.

The Port of Alaska is undergoing an expansion right now. It has been complicated by this earthquake. That is something that, again, is very critical. As you look to how goods move around our State, 85 percent of them come through that port. So being able to allow for functionality is critical.

We look at our assets. We look at the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. That was closed down temporarily just for precaution, but it is up and running.

You know, when I think about all this, given what happened, the visible damage we saw earlier this week, I find myself thinking that we are so lucky—not that we were hit by this major earthquake but that it could have been so much worse.

We talk a lot about resilience—resilience of a people. I think we learned a lot from the 1964 earthquake, the Good Friday earthquake. That registered at 9.2 on the Richter scale and lasted 4½, almost 5 minutes. Extraordinary. What we have been doing—we are the most seismically active State in the country, so we work to be prepared.

Again, I mentioned that last Friday's earthquake was deep, and that mitigated some of the shaking that was associated with it, but the proximity to our State's population center put people and infrastructure at great risk.

The depth of the source and the mechanism of the fault helped reduce the damage. That is one part of it. The other part of it is being prepared, and this is where I am so proud of the resilience of Alaskans. Whether it is at the schools that practice these earthquake drills where the students get under the desk, they hold on to the leg of a chair or their desk, and they cover their heads to protect themselves—I know we have one Alaskan as a page. She has gone through this drill. I know you have. So even in the dark, even in the chaos, with all the noise and the crashing, students knew what to do, and they did it not only for themselves, but they did it for other students as well.

There are some stories of some very young heroes out there, and I have a young nephew who not only took care of himself but made sure that a fellow student who had severe mobility issues was able to get under a desk. I think about the calmness and the presence that so many exercised.

I am going to end by noting again how we have worked as communities in our State to be prepared for disasters when they come. We have some of the most stringent building codes in the world, and for the most part, our buildings held up. Families have earthquake kits in their houses. They have batteries, flashlights, nonperishable food—all of which came in handy as folks kind of hunkered down over the weekend.

I will end my remarks by noting how grateful I am for the first responders who took action in the aftermath of the earthquake, even amid all of the ongoing aftershocks, even with their households totally turned upside down—and not only for our first responders but for all those who acted as first responders, the neighbors who came together. It is Alaska at its finest when we all work together.

I am very grateful that we had no tsunami. I am very grateful that the damages, at least on the surface, are not worse. And we are certainly grateful that there have been no reports of major injuries or fatalities. I am grateful that we have strong Federal partners who have committed to helping us in any way that they can. I also appreciate the reach-out from so many colleagues here in the Senate who sent me texts and who called and said: Is everything OK in Alaska? Is there anything we can do? Thank you for that.

We know we are tough in Alaska. That is the reputation we have. We are kind of proud of that. We know we are hardy and resilient. But knowing that others are going to be with us as we go through this recovery period makes that much better. I thank so many who have been there to help Alaska.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

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

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

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XX, all postcloture time on the McNamee nomination expire at 12 noon on Thursday, December 6; further, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action. I further

ask that following disposition of the nomination, the Senate resume consideration of the Kraninger nomination and the time be equally divided in the usual form until 1:45 p.m.; further, that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the Kraninger nomination as under the previous order; finally, that if the nomination is 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 PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE REFORM

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise to urge the majority leader to bring to the floor S. 3649, the First Step Act, which I have cosponsored. This bipartisan legislation, introduced by Senators GRASSLEY and DURBIN, includes positive prison reforms that the House passed by a 360–59 vote, combined with Senate-added provisions on sentencing reform that have passed out of the Judiciary Committee on a bipartisan basis.

Senators on both sides of the aisle agree that our criminal justice system is broken and badly needs repair.

In my own State of Maryland, we know the importance of criminal justice reform after the death of Freddie Gray in Baltimore Police Department custody in 2015. Baltimore is a good example of the necessary Federal and State partnership we need in order to reform the criminal justice system. When I am talking about the criminal justice system, I am not only talking about the so-called back end of the system, which involves sentencing, corrections, and release from prison. I am talking about the “front end” of the system, which involves relations between the community and police and often the first interaction between our citizens and law enforcement.

In Baltimore, the U.S. Department of Justice initiated a Federal “pattern or practice” inquiry at the request of the city of Baltimore and the Federal congressional delegation. This investigation led to a comprehensive report finding a pattern and practice of unconstitutional arrests and policing in Baltimore that disproportionately affected minority residents, particularly the African-American residents of Baltimore.

Baltimore City and the Justice Department ultimately agreed to a consent decree and are now under supervision by the U.S. District Court for the District of Maryland. This will entail a multiyear process of overhauling the police department to finally give the citizens of Baltimore the police department they deserve, using the “guardian” and not the “warrior” model, as recommended by President Obama’s Task Force on 21st Century Policing.

This fall I visited the headquarters of the Baltimore Ravens in Owings Mills, MD, in Baltimore County. I am a Baltimore resident and live in Baltimore County and, of course, am a proud Ravens fan. On that day, I had come to discuss criminal justice reform. I wanted to hear directly from the Ravens players about their insights into the criminal justice system, and they shared their stories involving their friends and family with me.

I am pleased that several Ravens players and team executives wrote a letter earlier this week to Senator MCCONNELL asking him to bring this critical legislation to the floor. The letter reads: “The undersigned players and executives of the Baltimore Ravens write to voice our support for the First Step Act, a bill which has the potential to bring transformative and much needed change to our criminal justice system. Criminal justice is an issue that deeply affects our community in Baltimore, as well as the nation as a whole. Not only will this legislation strengthen our nation’s criminal justice system, but it enjoys the backing of an incredibly diverse group of supporters.”

Indeed, this legislation is endorsed by both law enforcement and civil rights groups. Law enforcement groups endorsing this legislation include the Fraternal Order of Police, the National District Attorneys Association, and the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives. Civil rights groups endorsing this legislation include the ACLU and Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights. President Trump has endorsed this legislation, which has a growing number of bipartisan Senate cosponsors.

The legislation includes key sentencing reform provisions added by the Senate to the House-passed measure. First, it expands the so-called safety valve, which allows judges to sentence below the mandatory minimum for qualified low-level nonviolent drug offenders who cooperate with the government. Second, it makes retroactive the application of the Fair Sentencing Act, in which Congress addressed the crack-powder sentencing disparity, and allows individuals affected by this disparity to petition for sentence reductions. Third, it reforms the two-strikes and three-strikes laws, by reducing the second strike mandatory minimum of 20 years to 15 years and reducing the third strike mandatory minimum of life in prison to 25 years. Finally, the

legislation eliminates the so-called stacking provision in the U.S. Code, which helps ensure that sentencing enhancements for repeat offenses apply only to true repeat offenders. The legislation clarifies that sentencing enhancements cannot unfairly be “stacked,” for example, by applying to conduct within the same indictment.

This legislation marks the first time that the Fraternal Order of Police, the largest police union, has ever supported a criminal justice reform bill. At law enforcement’s request, the bill prohibits time credits for individuals convicted of a fentanyl trafficking offense, as well as bars time credits for individuals convicted of repeatedly possessing or using a firearm in relation to a violent or drug trafficking crime.

On the prison reform side, this legislation includes several positive reforms from the House-passed FIRST STEP Act. The bill makes a good time credit fix and revises the good-time credit law to accurately reflect congressional intent by allowing prisoners to earn 54 days of credit per year, rather than 47 days. The bill prohibits shackling pregnant prisoners and requires healthcare products be provided to incarcerated women. The bill requires prisoners be placed within 500 driving miles of their home and provides additional phone, video conferencing, and visitation privileges. The bill expands evidence-based opioid and heroin abuse treatment for inmates. The bill expands compassionate release under the Second Chance Act and expedites compassionate release applications.

The revised Senate bill also includes several prison reforms beyond what were included in the House-passed bill. The bill establishes an Independent Review Committee of outside experts to assist in the development of the risk and needs assessment system. The National Institute of Justice would select a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization with expertise in risk and needs assessments to host the IRC. This added guardrail will help to ensure the risk and needs assessment system is evidence-based and minimize racial disparities.

It allows the use of earned credits for supervised release in the community, such as halfway houses or home confinement. The bill also would permit individuals in home confinement to participate in family-related activities that facilitate the prisoner’s successful reentry.

It effectively ends Federal juvenile solitary confinement, and limits the discretion of the Bureau of Prisons to deny release to individuals who meet all eligibility criteria.

Let us take this first step to reform our broken criminal justice system by passing this legislation during this session.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM AT ARLINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask the Senate to join me in recognizing Arlington High School in Oregon and its remarkable career and technical education program. Thanks to the leadership of district staff and the support of the community, students at Arlington High are better prepared for their post high school careers.

Career and technical education provides students of all ages with the academic and technical skills, knowledge, and training necessary to succeed in future careers. Students participating in career and technical education programs graduate high school at higher rates than average and are better prepared to get good-paying jobs beyond the classroom.

The HonkerTech Center at Arlington High School offers many disciplines to its students, based on interests and career choices. These include metal fabrication, digital design and production, and mechanics. Students learn business concepts and skills, like developing a project budget and writing a proposal and using accounting software. Students are accountable and responsible for designing their projects. They also have an opportunity to gain practical, real-world experience working with regional and international customers on custom products. The impact of this program extends beyond the classroom, making sure that students have the skills they need to become lifelong learners, even after they graduate.

I am proud to recognize the career and technical education program at Arlington High School and the good work being done to prepare Oregon students for success after graduation. This is what I call doing things the Oregon way.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO CHARLES DAVIS

• Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I want to take a moment to honor an American hero and a fellow Louisianan. In just a few days, Charles Davis, from Toledo Bend Lake, LA, will celebrate his 93rd birthday. Charles is a World War II veteran who gave many years of his life in the service of his country.

Charles Davis was 16 years old when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Like many Americans, the attack on Pearl Harbor led Davis to serve his country by enlisting in the Navy. While just a teenager, his service in the military took him around the globe, fighting for the country he loves.

During his time in the war, Charles served on a ship that was bombed while out at sea. He spent 37 hours adrift alongside 1,200 soldiers, with nothing to keep them alive other than their life vests. Charles thought he was going to die that day, but after 37 hours in the

ocean, he was rescued. Nearly 300 of the men in the water with him did not make it. Among the men who died that day was another American hero, Charles's brother, Albert Anthony Davis.

Charles served in the military for 8 years and after the war returned to Louisiana to serve as a firefighter. As Charles celebrates his 93rd birthday, I want to honor his life and dedication to his country. He risked his life in service to his country and lost a brother and many comrades during the war.

Mr. Davis, we are grateful for your service, and I would like to wish you a very happy birthday and many blessings in the years to come.●

REMEMBERING REBECCA "BECKY" WEICHHAND

• Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, today, along with Senator ROY BLUNT of Missouri, I wish to honor Rebecca "Becky" Weichhand, a fierce and tireless advocate for adoption.

From an early age, Becky knew she wanted to be a lawyer to help children, and for almost 10 years, she pursued that dream as the director of policy and later as the executive director of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute, CCAI. As Senate co-chairs of the Congressional Coalition on Adoption, we had the privilege of working with Becky and witnessed firsthand how her work changed the lives of children around the world. Becky was a mentor to foster youth and advised 10 classes of foster youth interns on Capitol Hill, who helped to research and develop policy proposals informed by their own experience to help our Nation's foster children. She also led efforts to help Members of Congress promote adoption and foster care around the world, organizing nine domestic and international delegation trips. In addition, Becky spearheaded the Angels in Adoption Program, which honors organizations and people who have had an extraordinary impact on children, their families, and communities across the country. During her tenure, 1,257 people and organizations were recognized with this honor.

Becky dedicated her career to the belief that every child deserves a loving and stable home. She was instrumental in efforts to preserve the adoption tax credit, including working to establish a coalition of more than 150 organizations and advocating to make the adoption tax credit permanent in 2012.

Becky's faith, compassion, and kindness were evident in everything she did, and she will be dearly missed. Her life was a blessing to many, and we will honor it by continuing her work of bringing loving families together with children in need.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF HIGHLAND PARK, MICHIGAN

• Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary

of Highland Park, MI. Situated in Wayne County of southeast Michigan, Highland Park is endowed with a rich history of innovation as the "birthplace of mass production." It is also the site of the Nation's first urban highway, and was fondly referred to as the "City of Trees" for its beautiful foliage.

In its infancy, the settlement that would eventually become Highland Park underwent two name changes, Nabor and then Whitewood, respectively, before it was incorporated as a village in 1889 and then as a city in the early 20th century.

The small farming community experienced an economic boom in 1910, when Henry Ford opened his first Model T factory, now recognized as a historical site. The opening of the plant paved the way for new infrastructure, which changed the rapidly growing Highland Park Village's landscape from rural to urban. The news of abundant economic opportunity in the village spread nationally and internationally. Immigrants came to Highland Park aspiring to earn the impressive \$5-a-day wage that Henry Ford's factories offered, while new residents traveled from across the Nation to the village in hopes of becoming newly minted members of the middle-class. The population grew from a little under 500 residents at the top of the 20th century to over 50,000 in 1930.

The city of Detroit, Highland Park Village's southern neighbor, also began to expand. From the early 1800s and into the early part of the 1900s, the city of Detroit's footprint increased as the city moved to annex surrounding townships. To prevent annexation by the bustling city of Detroit, Highland Park officially incorporated as a city in 1918. Detroit continued to enlarge its borders, ultimately encircling the city of Highland Park, leading to the city within a city phenomenon seen today.

Before Highland Park became the epicenter of production, with the presence of Ford and later Chrysler, it was appropriately named the City of Trees, for its abundance of elms, reminiscent of a forest. Beautiful arrays of elm trees lined neighborhood streets as trees were planted in front of every home. Unfortunately, the once striking display of greenery diminished toward the 1970s, due to the spread of Dutch elm disease, which impacted surrounding cities as well.

In another historic first, Highland Park was the site of the country's first urban highway, the Davison Freeway. Construction began in 1941 and was expeditiously completed in 1942 to ease transport for Defense manufacturers assisting in the Nation's "Arsenal of Democracy" during World War II. The Davison Freeway greatly improved the flow of traffic to and from the city of Detroit.

The Highland Park community includes a diverse and hard-working population, and many notable figures in government, sports, and popular culture have called Highland Park home.

Some former residents include comedian Tim Meadows, singer Jackie Wilson, animator Butch Hartman, football player and community leader Reggie McKenzie, and the sixth-longest serving member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman John Conyers.

As the city of Highland Park celebrates its 100th anniversary, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing its residents, businesses, and elected officials who continue grassroots efforts toward revitalizing a community which has such significance to Michigan history as well as to the Nation. I wish the city of Highland Park continued growth and prosperity in the years ahead.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH) announced that on today, December 5, 2018, he had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.R. 1207. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 306 River Street in Tilden, Texas, as the "Tilden Veterans Post Office".

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-7333. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, the quarterly exception Selected Acquisition Reports (SARs) as of September 30, 2018 (OSS-2018-1371); to the Committees on Armed Services; and Appropriations.

EC-7334. A communication from the Acting Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Sunset of Provision Relating to the Procurement of Certain Goods" ((RIN0750-AJ71) (DFARS Case 2018-D007)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7335. A communication from the Acting Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Modification of DFARS Clause 'Surge Option'" ((RIN0750-AJ87) (DFARS Case 2018-D025)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7336. A communication from the Acting Principal Director, Defense Pricing and Contracting, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Documentation for Interagency Contracts" ((RIN0750-AK27) (DFARS Case 2018-D073)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2018; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-7337. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2018 Required Amendments List for Qualified Retirement

Plans" (Notice 2018-91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 28, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7338. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Tick-Borne Disease Working Group 2018 Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7339. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7340. A communication from the Acting Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7341. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7342. A communication from the Administrator of the General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7343. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7344. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Performance and Accountability report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7345. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Competition and Infrastructure, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hearing Aid-compatible Mobile Handsets" ((WT Docket No. 17-228) (FCC 18-167)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-7346. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2017 annual report on the Farm Credit System; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7347. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Oxytetracycline; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9986-87) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2018; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-7348. A communication from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission Strategic Plan for fiscal years 2018-2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7349. A communication from the General Counsel of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Miscellaneous Federal Home Loan Bank Operations and Authorities—Financing Corporation Assessments Final Rule" (RIN2590-AA99) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7350. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule - Transferred OTS Regulations Regarding Fiduciary Powers of State Savings Associations and Consent Requirements for the Exercise of Trust Powers" (RIN3064-AE23) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7351. A communication from the Director of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Final Rule - Rules of Practice and Procedure (2019 and Future Adjustments to Civil Money Penalties)" (RIN3064-AE75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2018; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-7352. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Significant New Use Rules on Certain Chemical Substances; Withdrawal" (FRL No. 9986-74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2018; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-7353. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2018 National Pool" (Rev. Proc. 2018-55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7354. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice: Tier 2 Tax Rates for 2019" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7355. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safe Harbor for Certain Infrastructure Trades or Businesses under Section 163(j)" (Rev. Proc. 2018-59) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7356. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Guidance and Request for Comments on Income Tax Withholding from Wages and from Retirement and Annuity Distributions" (Notice 2018-92) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2018; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-7357. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship Program for 2018; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-7358. A communication from the Chief of Negotiations and Restructuring, Pension

Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification that the Corporation has issued an order partitioning the Teamsters Local 805 Pension and Retirement Plan pursuant to section 4233 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended; to the Committees on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; and Finance.

EC-7359. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "340B Drug Pricing Program Ceiling Price and Manufacturer Civil Monetary Penalties Regulation; Effective Date Change" (RIN0906-AB19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7360. A communication from the Correspondence and Regulations Specialist, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; Elimination of Internal Agency Process for Implementation of the Federally-Facilitated User Fee Adjustment" ((RIN0938-AT93) (CMS-9917-F)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-7361. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Veterans Affairs' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7362. A communication from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7363. A communication from the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report from the Office of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7364. A communication from the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from April 1, 2018 through September 30, 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7365. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department of Defense Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7366. A communication from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7367. A communication from the President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's Annual Management Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7368. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2018; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7369. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Congressional and Intergovernmental Relations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2018 Annual Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-7370. A communication from the Solicitor General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, an opinion of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida (*United States v. Pryor*); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7371. A communication from the Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "International Trademark Classification Changes" (RIN0651-AD32) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2018; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-7372. A communication from the Regulation Policy Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Per Diem Paid to States for Care of Eligible Veterans in State Homes" (RIN2900-AO88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2018; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-7373. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Taking and Importing Marine Mammals; Taking Marine Mammals Incidental to the U.S. Navy Training and Testing Activities in the Atlantic Fleet Training and Testing Study Area" (RIN0648-BH06) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 3, 2018; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-309. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress and the President of the United States to take certain actions to ensure that a woman can freely make reproductive health decisions and access reproductive health care, including abortion; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 96

Whereas, Reproductive health is a critical component of a woman's overall health, and a woman's freedom to make reproductive decisions is vital to her safety, well-being, economic opportunity, and ability to participate equally in society; and

Whereas, Abortion is a part of women's health care; and

Whereas, In 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States determined, in the landmark case of *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), that a woman's decision to have an abortion is protected by the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, In 1992, and again in 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the right of women to access an abortion without undue burden; and

Whereas, More than 70 percent of Americans, including a majority of individuals

from all major political parties, support access to abortion; and

Whereas, When it comes to the most important personal decisions in life, such as whether and when to become a parent, it is vital that a woman be able to make that decision for herself, based on what is best for her and her family, and it is further essential that the woman be provided with equal access to abortion and other reproductive health care, regardless of where she lives, how much money she makes, or her insurance or immigration status; and

Whereas, Judge Brett Kavanaugh, who has recently been nominated for a post on the U.S. Supreme Court, has a history of ruling to impose and uphold limits on a woman's ability to access safe and legal abortion, and his potential appointment to the Supreme Court therefore poses a serious threat to women's reproductive rights; and

Whereas, The protections affirmed by the Supreme Court in the landmark *Roe v. Wade* case, and in subsequent cases, are now at risk, and the future of access to safe and legal reproductive health care, including abortion, is on the line; and

Whereas, As a state, New Jersey has made great strides in supporting women's health care by restoring funding for family planning services, and ensuring Medicaid coverage for reproductive health care, including abortion; and

Whereas, New Jersey supports women's rights and women's health by facilitating full access to all reproductive health care, including abortion, and the State is opposed to federal measures or initiatives that will reduce women's rights or endanger women's health, in this regard, including the imposition of restrictions on insurance coverage for abortion, and the appointment of judges who are likely to impose limits on women's rights and their access to reproductive health care: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House respectfully opposes efforts by the federal government to restrict or limit a woman's right and ability to access the full range of reproductive services, including abortion.

2. This House respectfully opposes any nominee to the United States Supreme Court who is not committed to upholding a woman's right to reproductive health care, including equitable access to abortion.

3. This House respectfully calls upon the Congress and President of the United States to reject or revoke the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh and any other Supreme Court nominee who would move to limit the rights of women to access the full panoply of reproductive services, including abortion.

4. This House further urges the Congress and President of the United States to remove any existing restrictions on access to abortion, including restrictions on insurance coverage for women who are enrolled in public insurance programs.

5. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the President and Vice President of the United States, the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this State.

SENATE AMENDMENTS TO SENATE RESOLUTION No. 96

Replace preamble to read:

Whereas, Reproductive health is a critical component of a woman's overall health, and a woman's freedom to make reproductive decisions is vital to her safety, well-being, economic opportunity, and ability to participate equally in society; and

Whereas, Abortion is a part of women's health care; and

Whereas, In 1973, the Supreme Court of the United States determined, in the landmark case of *Roe v. Wade*, 410 U.S. 113 (1973), that a woman's decision to have an abortion is protected by the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, In 1992, and again in 2016, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the right of women to access an abortion without undue burden; and

Whereas, More than 70 percent of Americans, including a majority of individuals from all major political parties, support access to abortion; and

Whereas, When it comes to the most important personal decisions in life, such as whether and when to become a parent, it is vital that a woman be able to make that decision for herself, based on what is best for her and her family, and it is further essential that the woman be provided with equal access to abortion and other reproductive health care, regardless of where she lives, how much money she makes, or her insurance or immigration status; and

Whereas, Judge Brett Kavanaugh, who has recently been [nominated for a post on] appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, has a history of ruling to impose and uphold limits on a woman's ability to access safe and legal abortion, and his [potential] appointment to the Supreme Court therefore poses a serious threat to women's reproductive rights; and

Whereas, The protections affirmed by the Supreme Court in the landmark *Roe v. Wade* case, and in subsequent cases, are now at risk, and the future of access to safe and legal reproductive health care, including abortion, is on the line; and

Whereas, Twenty states are poised to ban abortion if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, which would result in over 25 million women of reproductive age—more than a third of women of reproductive age in America—losing access to safe, legal abortion in their home states; and

Whereas, As a state, New Jersey has made great strides in supporting women's health care by restoring funding for family planning services, and ensuring Medicaid coverage for reproductive health care [including abortion]; and

Whereas, New Jersey supports women's rights and women's health by facilitating full access to all reproductive health care, [including abortion,] and the State is opposed to federal measures or initiatives that will reduce women's rights or endanger women's health, in this regard, including the imposition of restrictions on insurance coverage for abortion, and the appointment of judges who are likely to impose limits on women's rights and their access to reproductive health care; and

Whereas, New Jersey is already a leader on access to reproductive health care, and will work to continue to be such a leader, in support of both New Jersey women and women in the 20 states across the country who are poised to lose access to abortion care; now, therefore,

Replace Section 1 to read:

1. This House respectfully opposes efforts by the federal government to restrict [or limit] a woman's right and ability to access the full range of reproductive services, including abortion.

Insert new Section 2 to read:

2. This House affirms our commitment to the protection of reproductive health care services, including abortion, in New Jersey, and will commit to ensure that access to this care does not depend on a person's income, zip code, or immigration status.

Replace section 2 to read:

[2.] 3. This House respectfully opposes any future nominee to the United States Supreme

Court or any other court who is not committed to upholding a woman's right to reproductive health care, including equitable access to abortion, and it respectfully calls upon the United States Congress to reject any future judicial nominees who would move to limit the rights of women.

Omit Section 3 in its entirety

Replace Section 4 to read:

This House further urges the Congress and President of the United States to remove [any existing restrictions on access to abortion, including] restrictions on insurance coverage for women who are enrolled in public insurance programs.

POM-310. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to the length of a regular term for United States Senators; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. RISCH, from the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:

Report to accompany S. 2679, a bill to provide access to and manage the distribution of excess or surplus property to veteran-owned small businesses (Rept. No. 115-414).

By Mr. THUNE, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 1965. A bill to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to protect the cultural practices and livelihoods of producers of Alaska Native handicrafts and traditional mammoth ivory products, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-415).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

H.R. 857. A bill to provide for conservation and enhanced recreation activities in the California Desert Conservation Area, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-416).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:

Report to accompany H.R. 2075, To adjust the eastern boundary of the Deschutes Canyon-Steelhead Falls and Deschutes Canyon Wilderness Study Areas in the State of Oregon to facilitate fire prevention and response activities to protect private property, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-417).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3050. A bill to improve executive agency digital services, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-418).

By Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

H.R. 6439. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish in the Department of Homeland Security the Biometric Identification Transnational Migration Alert Program, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 115-419).

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 441. A bill to designate the Organ Mountains and other public land as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System in the State of New Mexico, and for other purposes.

S. 2160. A bill to establish a pilot program under the Chief of the Forest Service may use alternative dispute resolution in lieu of judicial review of certain projects.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with an

amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 2809. A bill to establish the San Rafael Swell Western Heritage and Historic Mining National Conservation Area in the State of Utah, to designate wilderness areas in the State, to provide for certain land conveyances, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. ROBERTS for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Naomi C. Earp, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture.

*Mindy Brashears, of Texas, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Food Safety.

*Scott Hutchins, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Research, Education, and Economics.

By Mr. BLUNT for the Committee on Rules and Administration.

*Donald L. Palmer, of Florida, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2021.

*Benjamin Hovland, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Election Assistance Commission for a term expiring December 12, 2019.

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

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 Ms. HARRIS:

S. 3704. A bill to establish the San Gabriel National Recreation Area as a unit of the National Park System in the State of California, to modify the boundaries of the San Gabriel Mountains National Monument in the State of California to include additional National Forest System land, to designate certain Federal land in the State of California as wilderness areas and as components of the National Wilderness Preservation System, to designate portions of the San Gabriel River and Little Rock Creek in that State as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HARRIS:

S. 3705. A bill to provide for restoration, economic development, recreation, and conservation on Federal lands in Northern California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3706. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a threat and operational analysis of ports of entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 3707. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a vulnerability disclosure policy for Department of Homeland Security internet websites, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3708. A bill to end the practice of including more than one subject in a single bill by requiring that each bill enacted by Congress be limited to only one subject, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3709. A bill to preserve the constitutional authority of Congress and ensure accountability and transparency in legislation; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3710. A bill to end the unconstitutional delegation of legislative power which was exclusively vested in the Senate and House of Representatives by article I, section I of the Constitution of the United States, and to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to issue a report to Congress detailing the extent of the problem of unconstitutional delegation to the end that such delegations can be phased out, thereby restoring the constitutional principle of separation of powers set forth in the first sections of the Constitution of the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 3711. A bill to establish an annual fee applicable to opioid manufacturers; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. HARRIS:

S. 3712. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable tax credit to increase the take-home pay of American workers and enhance their financial stability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. INHOFE (for himself, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 3713. A bill to appropriate \$25,000,000,000 for the construction of a border wall between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 714. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman bin Abd al Aziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia be held accountable for contributing to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, preventing a resolution to the blockade of Qatar, the jailing and torture of dissidents and activists inside the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the use of force to intimidate rivals, and the abhorrent and unjustified murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms.

HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KYL, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 715. A resolution honoring the life of President George Herbert Walker Bush; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 352

At the request of Mr. CORKER, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 352, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Master Sergeant Rodrick "Roddie" Edmonds in recognition of his heroic actions during World War II.

S. 384

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 384, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently extend the new markets tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 439

At the request of Mr. BLUNT, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 439, a bill to amend part B of title IV of the Social Security Act to ensure that mental health screenings and assessments are provided to children and youth upon entry into foster care.

S. 1307

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1307, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand eligibility to receive refundable tax credits for coverage under a qualified health plan.

S. 1503

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1503, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the 60th anniversary of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame.

S. 2412

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a co-

sponsor of S. 2412, a bill to support the successful implementation of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreement in Cambodia, and for other purposes.

S. 2764

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2764, a bill to amend and enhance the High Seas Driftnet Fishing Moratorium Protection Act to improve the conservation of sharks, and for other purposes.

S. 2957

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2957, a bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes.

S. 3119

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3119, a bill to allow for the taking of sea lions on the Columbia River and its tributaries to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species.

S. 3172

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3172, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish, fund, and provide for the use of amounts in a National Park Service Legacy Restoration Fund to address the maintenance backlog of the National Park Service, and for other purposes.

S. 3200

At the request of Mr. PERDUE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3200, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an alternative removal for performance or misconduct for Federal employees.

S. 3231

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mrs. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3231, a bill to establish the Task Force on the Impact of the Affordable Housing Crisis, and for other purposes.

S. 3324

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3324, a bill to establish a voluntary program in the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to encourage consumers to purchase or lease new automobiles made in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3649

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the names of the Senator from Montana

(Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3649, a bill to provide for programs to help reduce the risk that prisoners will recidivate upon release from prison, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Mr. PETERS):

S. 3706. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to conduct a threat and operational analysis of ports of entry, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

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

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

S. 3706

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “United States Ports of Entry Threat and Operational Review Act”.

SEC. 2. PORTS OF ENTRY THREAT AND OPERATIONAL ANALYSIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a threat and operational analysis of ports of entry.

(2) CONTENTS.—The threat and operational analysis required under paragraph (1) shall include an assessment of the following:

(A) Current and potential threats posed by individuals and organized groups seeking—

(i) to exploit security vulnerabilities at ports of entry; or

(ii) to unlawfully enter the United States through such ports of entry.

(B) Methods and pathways used to exploit security vulnerabilities at ports of entry.

(C) Improvements needed at ports of entry to prevent the unlawful movement of people, illicit drugs, and other contraband across the borders of the United States.

(D) Improvements needed to enhance travel and trade facilitation and reduce wait times at ports of entry, including—

(i) security vulnerabilities associated with prolonged wait times;

(ii) current technology at ports of entry that can be adapted to handle more volume, increase efficiency, and improve accuracy of detection efforts; and

(iii) infrastructure additions and upgrades.

(E) Processes conducted at ports of entry that do not require law enforcement training and could be—

(i) filled with—

(I) non-law enforcement staff; or

(II) the private sector, for processes or activities determined to not be inherently governmental (as such term is defined in section 5 of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–270)); or

(ii) automated.

(F) Improvements needed during secondary inspections to meet food safety standards defined by applicable statutes for the commodities being inspected.

(3) ANALYSIS REQUIREMENTS.—In compiling the threat and operational analysis required under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall consider and examine the following:

(A) Personnel needs, including K–9 Units, and estimated costs, at each port of entry, including such needs and challenges associated with recruitment and hiring.

(B) Technology needs, including radiation portal monitors and non-intrusive inspection technology, and estimated costs at each port of entry.

(C) Infrastructure needs and estimated costs at each port of entry.

(b) PORTS OF ENTRY STRATEGY AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the submission of the threat and operational analysis required under subsection (a) and every 5 years thereafter for 10 years, the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Finance of the Senate a ports of entry strategy and implementation plan.

(2) CONTENTS.—The ports of entry strategy and implementation plan required under paragraph (1) shall include a consideration of the following:

(A) The ports of entry threat and operational analysis required under subsection (a), with an emphasis on efforts to mitigate threats and challenges identified in such analysis.

(B) Efforts to reduce wait times at ports of entry and standards against which the effectiveness of such efforts may be determined.

(C) Efforts to prevent the unlawful movement of people, illicit drugs, and other contraband across the borders of the United States at the earliest possible point at ports of entry and standards against which the effectiveness of such efforts may be determined.

(D) Efforts to focus intelligence collection and information analysis to disrupt transnational criminal organizations attempting to exploit vulnerabilities at ports of entry and standards against which the effectiveness of such efforts may be determined.

(E) Efforts to verify that any new port of entry technology acquisition can be operationally integrated with existing technologies in use by the Department of Homeland Security.

(F) Lessons learned from reports on the business transformation initiative under section 802(i)(1) of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015 (Public Law 114–125).

(G) CBP staffing requirements for all ports of entry.

(H) Efforts to identify and detect fraudulent documents at ports of entry and standards against which the effectiveness of such efforts may be determined.

(I) Efforts to prevent, detect, investigate, and mitigate corruption at ports of entry and standards against which the effectiveness of such efforts may be determined.

(c) PORTS OF ENTRY DESCRIBED.—In this section, the term “ports of entry” means United States air, land, and sea ports of entry.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 714—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT CROWN PRINCE MOHAMMED BIN SALMAN BIN ABD AL AZIZ AL SAUD OF SAUDI ARABIA BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE FOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN YEMEN, PREVENTING A RESOLUTION TO THE BLOCKADE OF QATAR, THE JAILING AND TORTURE OF DISSENTS AND ACTIVISTS INSIDE THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, THE USE OF FORCE TO INTIMIDATE RIVALS, AND THE ABHORRENT AND UNJUSTIFIED MURDER OF JOURNALIST JAMAL KHASHOGGI

Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 714

Whereas following the accession of King Salman bin Abd al Aziz Al Saud to the throne of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in January 2015, King Salman appointed his son, Prince Mohammed bin Salman, as Minister of Defense;

Whereas, on April 29, 2015, King Salman appointed Prince Mohammed bin Salman as Deputy Crown Prince and elevated him to the line of succession;

Whereas, on June 21, 2017, King Salman appointed Prince Mohammed bin Salman as Crown Prince and heir apparent to the Saudi throne;

Whereas Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has frequently disregarded the rights of Saudi citizens and in an effort to consolidate his personal control over Saudi government decision-making;

Whereas, following his appointment as Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman began carrying out a systematic purge of individuals opposed or agnostic to his rule and vision;

Whereas, in November 2017, numerous members of the royal family, prominent businessmen, cabinet ministers, and former officials within Saudi Arabia were detained and allegedly tortured in Riyadh's Ritz-Carlton hotel at the order of Mohammed Bin Salman;

Whereas one of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's first acts as Minister of Defense was to launch a military campaign in Yemen with the stated objective of restoring the internationally recognized Government of Yemen, which had been forced out of Yemen by the Iran-backed Houthi rebels;

Whereas, in March 2015, Saudi Arabia instituted a naval and aerial blockade on Yemen, and currently maintains strict limits on air and sea transit to the country which contribute to delays of critical humanitarian aid and commercial supplies to a nation that imports as much as 90 percent of its food and relies on imported fuel;

Whereas the Saudi-led intervention in Yemen is in its fourth year and has contributed to 22,200,000 Yemenis needing humanitarian assistance;

Whereas, on December 4, 2018, President Donald J. Trump's nominee to serve as the Ambassador to the Republic of Yemen testified that the ongoing civil war in Yemen has exacerbated the world's largest food security

emergency, created power vacuums that terrorists have exploited, facilitated Iran's ambitions, and complicated United States counterterrorism efforts;

Whereas, on June 5, 2017, Saudi Arabia, along with the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Egypt, and other countries, severed diplomatic relations with Qatar, recalled their ambassadors, expelled Qatari diplomats, and imposed limits on the entry and transit of Qatari nationals and vessels in their territories, waters, and airspace;

Whereas the blockade against Qatar has significantly complicated relationships in the region and hindered United States counterterrorism and counter-Iran objectives, and undermined United States efforts to end conflicts across the region;

Whereas, in November 2017, Mohammed bin Salman pressured Lebanon's Prime Minister, Saad Hariri, to resign from his position via a television broadcast while in Saudi Arabia;

Whereas, according to the organization Reporters without Borders, the arrest of journalists and bloggers has doubled since the appointment of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and an estimated 28 individuals are currently still detained;

Whereas, under Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the Government of Saudi Arabia continues to detain political prisoners, including Saudi blogger Raif Badawi since 2012 and Saudi women's rights activists since August 2018;

Whereas Jamal Khashoggi was a prominent Saudi journalist and an outspoken critic of Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman;

Whereas, on September 18, 2017, Jamal Khashoggi wrote of increased "waves of arrests ahead of the Crown Prince's ascension to the throne," and stated that he had left Saudi Arabia and gone into self-imposed exile in the United States of America due to his fear of arrest by the Crown Prince;

Whereas, throughout 2017 and 2018, Jamal Khashoggi wrote a series of opinion articles offering pointed critiques and advice to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and to United States and Saudi officials;

Whereas, prior to his death, Jamal Khashoggi had sought status as a lawful permanent resident of the United States and was the father to three United States citizens;

Whereas, on October 2, 2018, Jamal Khashoggi disappeared during a visit to the Consulate of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Istanbul, Turkey;

Whereas, following the disappearance, Turkish authorities reported that Jamal Khashoggi had been murdered inside the Saudi consulate;

Whereas, on October 8, 2018, the brother of Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and Saudi Ambassador to the United States, Prince Khalid bin Salman, stated that "the reports that suggest that Jamal Khashoggi went missing in the Consulate in Istanbul or that the Kingdom's authorities have detained him or killed him are absolutely false, and baseless";

Whereas, on October 19, 2018, the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that Mr. Khashoggi was murdered inside the Saudi consulate by Saudi nationals on October 2, 2018; and

Whereas, on November 15, 2018, the United States Department of the Treasury sanctioned 17 Saudi officials, including senior Saudi government official Saud al-Qahtani, his subordinate Maher Mutreb, and Saudi Consul General Mohammed Alotaibi, for their connection to the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, including some individuals who worked directly for Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman and his personal security apparatus: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the murder of Jamal Khashoggi;

(2) finds that as Crown Prince, Mohammed bin Salman was in control of the security forces at the time of Jamal Khashoggi's murder;

(3) based on evidence and analysis made available to this institution, has a high level of confidence that Mohammed bin Salman was complicit in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi;

(4) urges the United States Government and the international community to hold all parties, including Mohammed bin Salman, involved in the murder of Jamal Khashoggi accountable;

(5) calls on the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to negotiate directly with representatives of the Houthi movement in order to end the war in Yemen, agree on a political resolution, reverse the humanitarian crisis, and refocus efforts on defeating al Qaeda and ISIS in Yemen;

(6) calls on the Government of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to negotiate a political solution to its dispute with Qatar expeditiously and in a way that restores diplomatic relations with Qatar; and

(7) urges the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to immediately release Saudi blogger Raif Badawi, the Saudi women's rights activists, and other detained political prisoners.

SENATE RESOLUTION 715—HONORING THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. ALEXANDER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORKER, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DONNELLY, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. ERNST, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GARDNER, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HATCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. HELLER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. JONES, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KYL, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. LEE, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MORAN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. NELSON, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PERDUE, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. ROBERTS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SASSE, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCOTT, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TESTER, Mr. THUNE, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. UDALL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 715

Whereas George Herbert Walker Bush, the 41st President of the United States, was born on June 12, 1924, in Milton, Massachusetts, to

former Senator Prescott Bush and Dorothy Walker Bush;

Whereas George H.W. Bush was raised in Greenwich, Connecticut, and was active in leadership and athletics during high school;

Whereas, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, George H.W. Bush enlisted in the United States Naval Reserve in 1942 on his 18th birthday, was assigned to a torpedo squadron as a photographic officer, and went on to become one of the youngest aviators in the Navy during World War II;

Whereas, during an attack against Chichi Jima, a heavily fortified island held by Japanese forces, the aircraft George H.W. Bush was flying was damaged by Japanese anti-aircraft fire, however, George H.W. Bush released his payload against his target before ejecting from the aircraft and being rescued by the USS Finback, a lifeguard submarine;

Whereas George H.W. Bush served the United States honorably as a naval pilot during World War II, logging 1,228 hours of flight time, 126 carrier landings, and 58 combat missions;

Whereas George H.W. Bush was awarded the United States Navy Air Medal with 2 gold stars and the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in action;

Whereas, on January 6, 1945, George H.W. Bush married his great love and best friend, Barbara Pierce, and their marriage lasted 73 years, the longest presidential marriage in the history of the United States;

Whereas, while enrolled at Yale University following World War II, George H.W. Bush played in 2 College World Series games as a left-handed first baseman and met Babe Ruth before graduating in 1948 with a degree in economics and moving to Texas with Barbara and his eldest son, George W. Bush;

Whereas upon moving to West Texas, George H.W. Bush became a successful businessman, establishing himself in the oil and gas industry before being elected to the House of Representatives in 1966;

Whereas George H.W. Bush served 2 terms in the House of Representatives as Congressman from the 7th District of Texas;

Whereas George H.W. Bush served as United States Ambassador to the United Nations from 1971 to 1973, which led to the appointment of George H.W. Bush as Chief of the United States Liaison Office in the People's Republic of China in 1974, improving relations between the United States and China during his 14-month tenure;

Whereas President Gerald Ford appointed George H.W. Bush to serve as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency in 1976;

Whereas George H.W. Bush served as Vice President of the United States for 8 years under President Ronald Reagan, managing Federal deregulation, championing anti-drug efforts, combatting terrorism, and leading North Atlantic Treaty Organization negotiations during the Cold War;

Whereas, in 1988, the people of the United States elected Vice President George H.W. Bush to serve as the 41st President of the United States, the first serving Vice President to be elected President since 1836;

Whereas President George H.W. Bush appointed Justice Clarence Thomas and Justice David Souter to the Supreme Court of the United States;

Whereas President George H.W. Bush worked closely with his international counterparts throughout his Presidency and oversaw the end of the Cold War, the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the reunification of Germany, and worked with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to sign 2 treaties reducing the threat of nuclear war;

Whereas the efforts of President George H.W. Bush to negotiate the North American Free Trade Agreement led to the adoption of that Agreement in 1993;

Whereas President George H.W. Bush protected the Panama Canal from a corrupt regime, assembled a multinational force to compel the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait in the Persian Gulf War, and convened the Madrid Peace Conference in 1991;

Whereas President George H.W. Bush worked with Congress to enact the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.) and Public Law 101-549 (commonly known as the "Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990") (104 Stat. 2399), hosted an education summit with Governors from all 50 States in the pursuit of systemic education reform, and capped discretionary spending that led to historic deficit cuts;

Whereas President George H.W. Bush believed "there could be no definition of a successful life that does not include service to others" and therefore, as President, launched the Points of Light initiative to promote volunteerism and community service across America and, while in office, awarded 1,020 Daily Points of Light to Americans representing all 50 States;

Whereas, after leaving office, President George H.W. Bush remained dedicated to volunteerism and community service, raising hundreds of millions of dollars for charity;

Whereas President George H.W. Bush was the father of the 43rd President of the United States, George W. Bush, who was also the former Governor of Texas, and former Governor of Florida John (Jeb) Bush;

Whereas, in 2009, the USS George H.W. Bush, a United States naval supercarrier, was commissioned and named after President George H.W. Bush with the Motto "Freedom at Work";

Whereas President George H.W. Bush accepted the Presidential Medal of Freedom on February 15, 2011, from President Barack Obama;

Whereas President George H.W. Bush never lost his zeal for life and adventure and commemorated his 75th, 80th, 85th, and 90th birthdays with parachute jumps, the latter two with former Sergeant First Class Elliot of the United States Army Golden Knights parachute team;

Whereas, President George H.W. Bush was a dedicated family man and husband of 73 years who, with Barbara, had 6 children, 17 grandchildren, and 8 great-grandchildren, and resided in Houston, Texas and Kennebunkport, Maine; and

Whereas President George H.W. Bush showed unwavering love and devotion to his family, the United States, and the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) notes with deep sorrow and solemn mourning the death of President George H.W. Bush;

(2) extends heartfelt sympathy to President George W. Bush and the entire family of President George H.W. Bush;

(3) honors and, on behalf of the United States, expresses deep appreciation for the outstanding and important service of President George H.W. Bush to his country;

(4) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives and transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of President George H.W. Bush; and

(5) when it adjourns on December 5, 2018, stands adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of President George H.W. Bush.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I have 2 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

The Committee on Agriculture is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 05, 2018, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 05, 2018, at 4 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Robert Ivanauskas, a Federal Energy Regulatory Committee detailee with the Senate Energy Committee, be granted privileges of the floor until and through December 21, 2018.

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

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that my military fellow, our military detailee, MAJ Aaron House be given floor privileges during the duration of my remarks.

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

HONORING THE LIFE OF PRESIDENT GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 715, submitted earlier today.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 715) honoring the life of President George Herbert Walker Bush.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 715) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2018

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Thursday, December 6; 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 proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the McNamee nomination, with the time until 12 noon equally divided between the two leaders or their designees.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 715 and do so as a further mark of respect for the late George Herbert Walker Bush, 41st President of the United States.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:37 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 6, 2018, at 9:30 a.m.