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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Eternal God, today, make our lawmakers instruments of Your grace and goodness. Teach them to be patient with themselves and others. Forgive them when they permit impatience to lead them astray, making them miss the wonder and majesty of Your purpose for our Nation and world. Lord, renew in our Senators the joy of belonging to You, as they lovingly yield to Your guidance. Direct their steps so that no duty will be left undone and no constructive words will be left unsaid.

We pray in Your great Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 28, 2022.

To the Senate:

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

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

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

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Constance J. Milstein, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Malta.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

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

INFLATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, minutes ago, new data confirmed what a supermajority of Americans already knew: Democrats have plunged America into a recession. According to official statistics, the U.S. economy just shrank for the second consecutive quarter. Democrats inherited an economy that was primed for a historic comeback and promptly ran it straight into the ground.

Of course, working families didn't need any experts or statistics to tell them today's Democratic Party is a walking, talking economic disaster.

Democrats' failures are causing working families deep personal pain on a daily basis.

Americans know Democrats can't be trusted. They know it every time they fill the gas tank, every time they check out at the supermarket, every time parents stay up late at the kitchen table trying to figure out which bills they can afford to pay this particular month.

Because Democrats spent us into inflation, 90 million American households say they are having a hard time meeting expenses—90 million American households. The average household in this country is having to pay an extra \$5,300 and climbing every year just to tread water. Democrats' inflation is stealing more than \$5,000 from the average family per year, and like a supermajority of Americans already knew before this morning, it has now driven the country into a recession.

A few years back, our colleague the senior Senator from West Virginia said: "I don't think [that] during a time of recession, you mess with any of the taxes, or increase any taxes." But, alas, yesterday, Washington Democrats announced they plan to do exactly that. The Democrats who robbed American families once with inflation now want to rob the country a second time through a gigantic, gigantic job-killing tax hike.

Apparently, our Democratic colleagues do not want to be responsible for just skyrocketing prices alone. They want Americans to be faced with skyrocketing prices and higher taxes and fewer jobs all at the same time.

Democrats have outlined a giant package of huge, new job-killing tax hikes, Green New Deal craziness that will kill American energy, and prescription drug socialism that will leave us with fewer lifesaving medicines—a reckless taxing-and-spending spree that will delight the far left and hammer working families even harder.

The Democrats are going all in on a multihundred-billion-dollar tax hike

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



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on American jobs that experts called—listen to this—the single most economically damaging part of their entire BBB plan from last year. Years of research show the burden would be overwhelmingly passed down to workers. This one tax hike alone would kill tens of thousands of American jobs.

Democrats aren't sticking it to the fat cats. They are sticking it to the same middle-class families they have already crushed with inflation.

So Democrats want to respond to their inflation crisis by killing jobs. They also want to respond to the global energy crisis by attacking American natural gas. This reckless taxing-and-spending spree includes a massive, massive new tax on American natural gas, our country's single largest source of electricity.

We all know that when you tax something, you get less of it, and Democrats want new taxes on American natural gas wells, new taxes on American pipelines, and new taxes on American LNG exporting—higher electricity bills in the summer, higher heating bills in the winter, less reliable energy for our country, and less American energy exported to our allies abroad; doubling down—literally, doubling down—on inflation.

I have only scratched the surface of all the ways Democrats want to pick Americans' pockets. They want to pour new funding—listen to this—into IRS agents so Americans end up with more audits. IRS agents get new computers and smartphones so that American small businesses get more audits.

Also, Democrats want to drain money out of medical innovation and leave terminally ill Americans with fewer real treatments and cures as a result. The experts say this Big Government money grab will literally cost Americans their lives.

But, remember, Democrats say all of these historic tax hikes are their answer to the inflation they already created themselves.

So do you hear that, America? Democrats' answer to hurting you once is to hurt you again. Democrats say the response to Democratic inflation is Democratic tax hikes.

It wasn't enough that Democrats have already destroyed your family's purchasing power. Now they want to kill your job and tax your electricity as well.

So the natural next question is, What do Democrats want to do with all that money? What spending spree do the Democrats want so badly that they will raise taxes in the midst of a recession?

Ah, here is the answer: Green New Deal nonsense and goodies for rich coastal elites. They want these job-killing tax hikes so they can spend tens of billions of dollars on slush funds for "green banks" and "environmental justice." They want job-killing tax hikes so they can finance new handouts for wealthy households earning up to \$300,000 a year to buy an

\$80,000 electric car. Let me say that again: tax hikes so they can finance new handouts for wealthy households earning up to \$300,000 a year to buy an \$80,000 electric car. They want to subsidize rich people buying electric cars that cost more—more—than the median American household earns in an entire year.

They want to tax American natural gas. They want to tax your electricity so they can spend billions making solar and wind power look artificially ready for prime time when they are not yet—billions of dollars so Democrats can meddle in what kind of car you drive; what kind of stove, hot water heater, or clothes dryer you can afford; and how you are allowed to heat your house. This is the nonsense that Democrats are focused on—not helping you put gas in your car, not helping you afford your groceries.

They want to use the middle-class economic crisis they themselves created as an excuse to raise your taxes and ram through their Green New Deal nonsense, all of this liberal waste with no proof—none—that any of it would lead to a meaningful reduction in global emissions, much less global temperatures.

America has already been reducing our emissions considerably over the last 15 to 20 years. Countries like China have just kept on emitting more and more, totally washing out our reductions and then some. Democrats want to forcibly reengineer our entire economy out from under working Americans' feet while China keeps on emitting more and more.

Democrats are seeing American families the worst inflation in 40 years and raising them job-killing tax hikes and—and—a war on American electricity.

Our colleagues across the aisle have already completely lost Americans' trust on the economy before this reckless taxing-and-spending spree. Apparently, they now want to see how much farther they can fall.

PACT ACT

Madam President, now on a completely different matter, yesterday, the Senate should have been able to clear bipartisan legislation expanding VA benefits for millions of men and women who have served bravely in our Armed Forces. I appreciate the work our colleagues on Veterans' Affairs have done on the PACT Act. I support the substance of the bill.

But even on legislation this major and this costly, the Democratic leader tried to block the Senate from any semblance of a fair amendment process. Specifically, the senior Senator from Pennsylvania has an amendment that would ensure we do not just apply a financial bandaid to the problem but actually fix the underlying accounting issue. As written, the legislation would not just help America's veterans as designed. It would also allow Democrats to effectively spend the same money twice and enable hundreds of billions in

new, unrelated spending on the discretionary side of the Federal budget.

There is no excuse why the Democratic leader should continue to block Senator TOOMEY's commonsense amendment. A bill this important and this bipartisan deserves for us to fix the accounting gimmick, and then it deserves to become law.

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

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

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, say it isn't so, Joe.

Yesterday afternoon, Democrats, Senator MANCHIN—JOE MANCHIN from West Virginia—and their leadership announced the latest version of their Build Back Better tax-and-spending spree, which they are, bizarrely, calling the Inflation Reduction Act.

Now, I have to say that when they announced it, I think it certainly blindsided the Republicans, but I think it also blindsided, I am told, an awful lot of Democrats who didn't know or hadn't been consulted about what was going to be in this so-called Inflation Reduction Act.

Let me just tell you a few of the things the bill does. It imposes a new tax on job creators. It provides funding to the IRS to harass small businesses and nonprofits. It provides tens of billions of dollars in tax credits for Green New Deal projects and the purchase of costly electric vehicles. It extends increased government subsidies for people on ObamaCare.

Well, I think the question you have to ask is, What exactly is any of that going to do to address inflation? How are more IRS audits going to help Americans who wonder how they can continue to afford to pay more than \$4 a gallon for gas? How is a new tax on businesses going to drive down the price of chicken or milk or fruits or vegetables?

As for electric vehicle tax credits, they might make purchasing an electric vehicle slightly less painful, but that is if you can afford to purchase one in the first place, especially in the midst of an inflation crisis. These tax credits are going to do nothing to cool down our overheated economy or bring inflation under control.

Then there is the fact that Democrats are attempting to help sell this bill by claiming it is going to help reduce the deficit. Well, it is not that I am not glad to see Democrats actually considering deficit reduction, even though their deficit reduction is unlikely to do much to actually reduce the deficit. Perhaps they should have thought about deficit reduction last

year when they passed a massive, partisan \$1.9 trillion spending spree financed with deficit spending—a spending spree, I might add, that overheated our economy and helped push us to our current inflation crisis, which is the biggest inflation that we have seen literally in 40 years, a 40-year high.

So we found out, of course, about this bill literally hours before we learned this morning that for the second quarter in a row, our economy not only failed to experience any growth but actually contracted. And the news was not unexpected. There have been signs that the economy was weakening for a while now.

But I have to say, as I think about that news—the inflation news coupled with the fact that the economy is, in fact, contracting—that it seems really incredible that the prescription for either one of those problems in this country would be a massive new tax-and-spending bill. This bill isn't going to do anything about inflation. It is not going to do anything for economic growth. In fact, I wouldn't be surprised if this bill's new tax on businesses actually slows down parts of our economy.

It begs the question about why you would need new taxes when the taxes that are coming into the Treasury already are, frankly, at record levels. We saw year-over-year increases from the last 2 years in the amount of revenues coming into the Treasury from taxes paid by the American people, increased by 18 and 20 percent—18 percent one year and 20 percent the next year. There have been huge increases in tax revenue, in fact, so big, such big increases in tax revenue that the revenue generated by the tax owed to this country as a percentage of our gross domestic product—in other words, as a percentage of our total economy—reached the highest level since the year 2000, a 22-year high revenue to GDP. That is what has happened in the last couple of years. Revenues have been going up. Revenues coming from individual income tax returns, from business tax returns, from capital gains taxes all have gone up by double digits, and big double digits, 18 and 20 percent in the last 2 years, to the point where revenue to GDP is at the highest level that it has been literally since the year 2000, 22 years ago.

Couple that with the fact that, because of inflation, which at 9.1 percent is the highest we have seen in 40 years—you have to go back to the time when I was literally in high school and college to find a time when we saw this kind of inflation and the impact that has on American families and consumers. So the Joint Economic Committee did an analysis recently which found out that the increase in costs for an average American family year over year as a result of this level of inflation is about \$9,000.

That is \$9,000 more for the same basket of goods, the same basic necessities that Americans bought last year; \$9,000

higher this year, roughly about \$700 a month. So that is \$700 a month out of an American family's budget pocket that goes toward nothing more than paying the inflation tax.

So you already have this huge tax on American families because of inflation. Now you couple that with the fact that the economy is slowing down. It is getting a little wobbly. You would think just intuitively that when you have an economy like that, the last thing you would want to do, the very worst prescription for high inflation and slow growth would be more taxes and more spending, particularly given the fact that you even have liberal Democrat economists who have said that the \$1.9 trillion spending bill last year contributed to—was largely responsible for this inflation and perhaps one of the worst policy decisions ever made. Yes, that has been not just Republicans saying that; that has been liberal Democrat economists.

So in light of that situation, that sort of cluster of economic data—slow growth, or in this case, negative growth, a recession, technically speaking—now, of course, there is a question by the administration about what really constitutes a technical recession, but I think if you are an American family or an American consumer, you know, 9 percent inflation and, you know, slow growth in the economy and a concern about what the future economic outlook is going to look like for yourself and your family suggests they probably think that we are in a recession already. I think that is the experience of most Americans who are dealing with the day-to-day pocketbook issues.

So you have to ask the question, again, with higher prices already out there and concerns about the economy, why more taxes on businesses, which in most cases—and people think of taxing—always tax businesses because businesses make all this money, they are very rich and all that, but what happens typically with businesses is, obviously, they have to hire employees, so if you hit them with a big fat tax burden, typically what happens is it results in lower wages for their employees or, conversely, it could also result in higher prices for consumers, for their customers, because that typically gets passed on. In most cases, those taxes don't just get eaten or absorbed; they get passed on in the economy in the form of higher prices or lower wages, and there are all kinds of economic studies on both sides of the political equation that show that.

So the question, again, is why would you do this, particularly now, when, in fact, what we ought to be doing is focusing on those solutions that actually would reduce inflation, starting with reducing wasteful, out-of-control spending? If spending overheated the economy in the first place—and, of course, the textbook definition of inflation is too many dollars chasing too few goods. If that is what we have experi-

enced in our economy over the past several months, then you would think you would want, if you are in a hole, to quit digging—don't spend more, don't flood the zone with more dollars out there and increase that demand and put higher pressure on prices. You would think that would be a solution.

And you would also think that, since a lot of inflation has to do with the price of energy in this country, that you would focus on reducing the price of energy rather than increasing the price of energy, and this bill does the exact opposite.

It puts taxes—taxes on energy production in this country—oil and gas—all in the name of and in the interest of trying to push people into electric vehicles.

Now, interestingly enough, when I mention electric vehicles—average cost, about \$80,000. So when the suggestion is—you know, so gas prices are high, fuel prices are high, just go get an electric vehicle. Well, when you have got 9 percent inflation and a wobbly economy, the idea that an average American person out there or an average American family is going to go out and drop 80 grand on an electric vehicle seems a little bit far-fetched.

But, then, it is not just the average American family. This incentive to buy electric vehicles can be taken, experienced, enjoyed, if you will, by people making \$300,000 a year—hardly the average American who is getting hit by high gas prices.

So instead of lowering energy costs by increasing more supply, opening up Federal lands, you know, approving permits to drill, approving infrastructure projects, encouraging investment in energy production in this country instead of discouraging it and pressuring companies not to invest in energy production, this has the opposite effect. It is going to tax energy. It is going to put a tax on energy.

So you are going to have higher electricity costs, higher fuel costs—I don't get it. I honestly don't get it.

Now, I understand there is a very distinct difference in this country in political philosophies and all that, and I also know—I have been here long enough to know—that when Democrats are in power, they tend to grow and expand government.

There are—I don't know, I can't think probably of a spending debate that I have been involved with in the time that I have been here where Democrats haven't wanted to spend more and Republicans haven't wanted to spend less, with one exception, and that would be defense. National security is always something that seems to be on the menu when it comes to cutting government as far as Democrats are concerned, but when it comes to just overall spending, government, the role of government, that sort of thing—and these are—I mean, they are philosophical differences, they are ideological differences, whatever you want to call them, but the fact of the matter is

that Democrats like to grow and expand government. They like more government. They like more government control.

And this achieves that in a lot of ways. Obviously, it makes people more dependent upon government, and particularly if—when it comes to, you know, what you choose to drive, pushes people more into electric vehicles. And it is government, again, picking winners and losers. But I would also suggest that one of the other provisions in the bill locks in policies that socialist countries have adopted, places in Western Europe, that fix drug prices. That is not something we have done in this country.

And everybody around here says: Well, Europe does it, why can't we do it? Well, as I recall, we left Europe for that reason. We wanted less government control. We wanted more personal freedom, coupled with individual responsibility. That was part, I think, of the defining principle of this country.

So now we are going to adopt the price-fixing policies that have been adopted in places in Europe in an attempt to try and get drug costs down at the same time we are going to be sacrificing the innovation, the investment, and the ingenuity that has resulted in so many of the great cures that we have seen in this country, and as recently as a couple years ago with COVID, which was a record time in terms of getting a vaccine out there into circulation that was actually effective in trying to keep people from getting terribly sick with that disease.

So what this, as far as I can tell, does, is it sort of socializes medicine, at least to the extent that it pertains to the pharmaceutical business. It has government fixing prices. It has us adopting the European model when it comes to drugs. It has us taxing energy production here in the United States and investing in all kinds of different green energy things.

By the way, \$60 billion—\$60 billion—in this proposal for “environmental justice,” defined, evidently, as grants to communities who are having a hard time keeping up with environmental standards in their communities, which, again, all of us—and I would argue, in my experience here, I have been one of the most forward-leaning people when it comes to renewable energy, you know, coming up with new sources of energy that, obviously, not only are good for our economy, but benefit our environment as well—but \$60 billion for environmental justice, nothing for funding the police or law enforcement to keep our communities safe, which is a huge, huge crisis in this country.

So I would just argue that if ever there was a time when priorities are misplaced, this would have to be it. I just can't think of a way in which anything that is being talked about here does anything to address the fundamental economic hardship that is being experienced by tens of millions of

Americans; and that is, when they go to the gas station to fill up their tank with gas, or a farmer who needs diesel, which has literally doubled in cost, in price, since the President took office, or going to the grocery store, where all these inflation and energy costs and everything else get passed on—everything has gone up.

Groceries in this country, on average, up 12 percent, utility gas up 38 percent, gasoline up 60 percent. And that is just year over year. If you go since the time the President took office, the price of gasoline has almost doubled. It is 90 percent higher now than it was when the President took office.

And so you have got all this economic bad data and hardship and—you know, the American people are experiencing, and so just kind of out of nowhere, really—I mean, there has been some discussion about this, as we all know, over the past year or so, but everybody, I think, kind of concluded when we got the inflation numbers last month at 9.1 percent, a 40-year high, that: Let's cool it down a little bit. Let's cool our jets here, and let's just see what is going to happen with the economy before we do anything rash.

Well, you can't say that \$1 trillion in spending and taxes isn't pretty rash, especially when you try and drive it through on a party line vote, the same way that the \$2 trillion in spending was done last year, where you had, again, all these warnings, and not just Republicans. I was saying this, but I am not unique. There were lots of Democrat economists who were suggesting at the time that that kind of spending would do nothing but overheat the economy, overstimulate the economy, and you get too many dollars chasing too few goods and leading to inflationary impacts, which is ultimately what happened.

So here we are, with 9 percent inflation, two quarters now of negative economic growth, negative GDP, and Democrats saying: OK. Let's raise taxes and let's raise taxes a bunch, at a time when revenues to GDP are at their highest level since the year 2000, and when we have had two successive years now, year over year, of revenue growth, 18 percent and 20 percent.

Surely—surely—the problem here can't be not enough revenue. The issue, I think, is—and it comes back to my fundamental point in the first place. You want to grow government, you want to expand government, you want to have \$60 billion—\$60 billion—going to environmental justice and zero going to funding the police or addressing the issues of law enforcement, crime in our communities around this country, or maybe putting some money toward the border, addressing another out-of-control problem that I can see—you can point back directly to policy decisions made by this administration and the ultimate consequence and result that we have seen, the outcome that we have seen.

But this is going to be done on a party line basis. This is going to be

done with Democrat-only votes and, again, sort of came out of nowhere.

So I say: Say it ain't so, Joe. I wish I had a better story here, but the fact of the matter is, this will be done with zero consultation with Republicans, and what it appears like very little, if any, consultation with Democrats. Sounds like it was a deal that was cut by basically two people, and it is going to be shoved through on a party line vote, 51 votes here in the U.S. Senate at a time when we have got historic issues related to our economy which are impacting American families in a very direct and real way, starting with the fact that they are now putting more of their purchases on their credit cards, they are dipping into retirement savings to be able to keep up with just the daily cost of living.

We have already put—I say “we,” not we, but if you think about it, in some ways, the policies that went through here last year, the 1.9 trillion-dollar, party line spending bill, led to a lot of this inflation.

So the American people right now, average family, according to the Joint Economic Committee, which is a bipartisan committee here in the Senate, says that it is costing the average family in this country \$9,000 more this year than it did last year for the same basic necessities, for the same basket of goods. So they have already seen a \$9,000 tax, and now they are being told that there is going to be a big tax increase. Oh, yes, it is going to hit corporations, but don't think for a minute that those costs don't get passed on in the form of higher costs to consumers and lower wages to employees, because these things don't happen in a vacuum. There are decisions, and there are effects that happen as a result of those decisions.

I hope my Democrat colleagues will think better of this. I can't think, honestly, of a time where there hasn't been a worse prescription for what ails our economy and ails our country than what is being proposed here in the form of more taxes, more spending, more government control, and more pain and economic hardship for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise, along with Senator CAPITO, today to say a few words on behalf of S. 3742, Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act of 2022, and S. 3743, the Recycling Composting Accountability Act.

Senator CAPITO and I have the pleasure of leading the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. With the legislation that we are about to discuss here, along with Senator BOOZMAN—Senator BOOZMAN is on his way. We are all a part of the Recycling Caucus in the U.S. Senate. We work with our

staffs and others outside of this body in order to make possible this legislation, to debate it, to report it. And if I am not mistaken, Senator CAPITO reported it unanimously out of our committee, as we do with so much legislation.

These bills were introduced by Senator CAPITO and myself and Senator BOOZMAN. As an avid recycler and composter, for a long time I have long believed in environmental stewardship. After all, we have a moral duty to leave behind a cleaner, healthier planet for our children.

Senator CAPITO and I are both born in West Virginia. My sister and I grew up along Beaver Creek, right outside of Beckley. My dad used to take me and my grandfather fishing and hunting, even at a young age, along the New River and other parts of Raleigh County. One of the things that my dad and my grandfather always made clear to me was that if we are out in a boat and there was trash or something in the water or there was something that could be recycled, to pull it out of the water and to put it in something we were carrying and take it home. The idea was to try to leave our State—West Virginia then—better, better than we found it. So from a very early age in West Virginia, I really had those values instilled in me. And they still are. We instilled them in our sons too.

But we have a moral obligation to leave behind a cleaner, healthier planet for our children. There are many ways to meet that moral obligation. One of those is to make sure that the products that can be recycled, we recycle them. We don't have to landfill them. We can actually address the climate change in a very positive way but especially with respect to aluminum cans and things like that that we recycle.

I wish I could stand here today to say our recycling rate in Delaware is 100 percent, West Virginia is 100 percent, or the country is 100 percent; it is not. The recycling rate in our country is something like 35 percent. It is like getting a grade in school. If you get a 35 on a paper or test, that is a failing grade. With respect to recycling, unfortunately, we are racking up failing grades year after year after year, and we ought to do something about it. As it turns out, we can. Part of that doing something about it is the legislation before us today.

We have to do more when it comes to improving our Nation's recycling and our composting efforts. These bills would take action to address several of the challenges facing America's recycling efforts.

One of the challenges that we face is the availability of good data. That might sound strange, but it is true. This past November, for example, the Environmental Protection Agency, though, released its first-ever National Recycling Strategy. Now, that is kind of late to the game, but it is better to be late to the game than not to be there at all. It turns out it is a good document. It is a document that re-

flects input that we provided, our staffs provided, others on our committee, and across the country provided. And to the EPA's credit, they accepted that input, and they actually did something with it. So it is reflected in the National Recycling Strategy that was promulgated.

The document offers a transformative vision for shrinking our Nation's waste management efforts, and it also highlights the need for greater standardization around data collection.

To address this, Senator BOOZMAN and I developed the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act. Senator BOOZMAN, myself, Senator CAPITO, and others are part of the Recycling Caucus here in the Senate, a bipartisan group that focuses on how do we promote and encourage recycling, not just on Capitol Hill, not just in the District of Columbia, not just on the east coast, not just in West Virginia but across the country from coast to coast.

Our legislation, the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act, would improve EPA's ability to gather data on our Nation's recycling systems and explore opportunities for implementing a national composting strategy.

Another area where we can improve is by increasing access to recycling. Many Americans in disadvantaged communities want to recycle, they want to compost, but they are unable to do so. That is because they live in neighborhoods that lack curbside pickup, bottle return, and other necessary recycling infrastructure.

Senator CAPITO's Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act would help address this by creating a pilot program at EPA to improve recycling services in underserved areas. This legislation would bring many communities into the recycling world, including those in urban and suburban areas, while also protecting our environment.

I commend Senator CAPITO for her work and her leadership on this bill. I want to commend her staff and my staff, led by Mary Frances Repko, who is our staff director, and Adam on the other side of the aisle. Members don't do this by themselves, as we know, and we are really blessed with terrific staff who help us put these provisions together.

I commend Senator CAPITO heartily for her work and her leadership on this legislation, her support of the legislation Senator BOOZMAN and I have offered.

I want to work with her to make sure that this bill helps jump-start recycling in communities with the greatest need, especially those who have been historically left behind, and there are too many of those.

Both of these bills that we will have an opportunity to consider here today are the result of a true collaboration and reflect a substantial amount of bipartisan efforts dedicated to explore our Nation's recycling and composting challenges.

I know a lot of people, if you watch the news, whether it is the television

or on the radio, newspapers, you read online, they think all we do here is fight with one another; that we never find anything like common ground on important issues like the one we are talking about right now. The committee that Senator CAPITO and I are privileged to lead actually reports out important legislation, including bipartisan infrastructure legislation, all kinds of issues that enjoy bipartisan support, unanimous bipartisan support.

S. 3743

Mr. CARPER. So with that, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 358, S. 3743.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3743) to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out certain activities to improve recycling and composting programs in the United States, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Recycling and Composting Accountability Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—In this Act:

(1) *ADMINISTRATOR.*—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) *CIRCULAR MARKET.*—The term "circular market" means a market that utilizes industrial processes and economic activities to enable post-industrial and post-consumer materials used in those processes and activities to maintain their highest values for as long as possible.

(3) *COMPOST.*—The term "compost" means a product that—

(A) is manufactured through the controlled aerobic, biological decomposition of biodegradable materials;

(B) has been subjected to medium and high temperature organisms, which—

(i) significantly reduce the viability of pathogens and weed seeds; and

(ii) stabilize carbon in the product such that the product is beneficial to plant growth; and

(C) is typically used as a soil amendment, but may also contribute plant nutrients.

(4) *COMPOSTABLE MATERIAL.*—The term "compostable material" means material that is a feedstock for creating compost, including—

(A) wood;

(B) agricultural crops;

(C) paper;

(D) certified compostable products associated with organic waste;

(E) other organic plant material;

(F) marine products;

(G) organic waste, including food waste and yard waste; and

(H) such other material that is composed of biomass that can be continually replenished or renewed, as determined by the Administrator.

(5) *COMPOSTING FACILITY.*—The term "composting facility" means a location, structure, or device that transforms compostable materials into compost.

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

(7) MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “materials recovery facility” means a dedicated facility where primarily residential recyclable materials, which are diverted from disposal by the generator and collected separately from municipal solid waste, are mechanically or manually sorted into commodities for further processing into specification-grade commodities for sale to end users.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term “materials recovery facility” does not include a solid waste management facility that may process municipal solid waste to remove recyclable materials.

(8) RECYCLABLE MATERIAL.—The term “recyclable material” means a material that is obsolete, previously used, off-specification, surplus, or incidentally produced for processing into a specification-grade commodity for which a circular market currently exists or is being developed.

(9) RECYCLING.—The term “recycling” means the series of activities—

(A) during which recyclable materials are processed into specification-grade commodities, and consumed as raw-material feedstock, in lieu of virgin materials, in the manufacturing of new products;

(B) that may include sorting, collection, processing, and brokering; and

(C) that result in subsequent consumption by a materials manufacturer, including for the manufacturing of new products.

(10) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given the term in section 1004 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6903).

(b) DEFINITION OF PROCESSING.—In paragraphs (7), (8), and (9) of subsection (a), the term “processing” means any mechanical, manual, or other method that—

(1) transforms a recyclable material into a specification-grade commodity; and

(2) may occur in multiple steps, with different steps, including sorting, occurring at different locations.

SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) recycling and composting conserve resources, protect the environment, and are important to the United States economy;

(2) the United States recycling and composting infrastructure encompass each of the entities that collect, process, broker, and consume recyclable materials and compostable materials sourced from commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential sources;

(3) the residential segment of the United States recycling and composting infrastructure is facing challenges from—

(A) confusion over what materials are recyclable materials or compostable materials;

(B) reduced export markets;

(C) growing, but still limited, domestic end markets; and

(D) an ever-changing and heterogeneous supply stream;

(4) in some areas, recycling and composting infrastructure is in need of revitalization; and

(5) in an effort to address those challenges, the United States must use a combination of tactics to improve recycling and composting in the United States.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON COMPOSTING INFRASTRUCTURE CAPABILITIES.

The Administrator, in consultation with States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes, shall—

(1) prepare a report describing the capability of the United States to implement a national composting strategy for compostable materials for the purposes of reducing contamination rates for recycling, including—

(A) an evaluation of existing Federal, State, and local laws that may present barriers to implementation of a national composting strategy;

(B)(i) an evaluation of existing composting programs of States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes; and

(ii) a description of best practices based on those programs;

(C) an evaluation of existing composting infrastructure in States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes for the purposes of estimating cost and approximate land needed to expand composting programs; and

(D) a study of the practices of manufacturers and companies that are moving to using compostable packaging and food service ware for the purpose of making the composting process the end-of-life use of those products; and

(2) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, submit the report prepared under paragraph (1) to Congress.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON FEDERAL AGENCY RECYCLING PRACTICES.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States, in consultation with the Administrator, shall make publicly available a report describing—

(1) the total annual recycling and composting rates reported by all Federal agencies;

(2) the total annual percentage of products containing recyclable material, compostable material, or recovered materials purchased by all Federal agencies, including—

(A) the total quantity of procured products containing recyclable material or recovered materials listed in the comprehensive procurement guidelines published under section 6002(e) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6962(e)); and

(B) the total quantity of compostable material purchased;

(3) recommendations for updating—

(A) the comprehensive procurement guidelines published under section 6002(e) of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6962(e)); and

(B) the environmentally preferable purchasing program established under section 6604(b)(11) of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 13103(b)(11)); and

(4) the activities of each Federal agency that promote recycling or composting.

SEC. 6. IMPROVING DATA AND REPORTING.

(a) INVENTORY OF MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and biannually thereafter, the Administrator, in consultation with States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes, shall—

(1) prepare an inventory of public and private materials recovery facilities in the United States, including—

(A) the number of materials recovery facilities in each unit of local government in each State; and

(B) a description of the materials that each materials recovery facility can process, including—

(i) in the case of plastic, a description of—

(I) the types of accepted resin, if applicable; and

(II) the packaging or product format, such as a jug, a carton, or film;

(ii) food packaging and service ware, such as a bottle, cutlery, or a cup;

(iii) paper;

(iv) aluminum, such as an aluminum beverage can, food can, aerosol can, or foil;

(v) steel, such as a steel food or aerosol can;

(vi) other scrap metal;

(vii) glass; or

(viii) any other material not described in any of clauses (i) through (vii) that a materials recovery facility can process; and

(2) submit the inventory prepared under paragraph (1) to Congress.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMPREHENSIVE BASELINE OF DATA FOR THE UNITED STATES RECYCLING SYSTEM.—The Administrator, in consultation with States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes, shall determine, with respect to the United States—

(1) the number of community curbside recycling and composting programs;

(2) the number of community drop-off recycling and composting programs;

(3) the types and forms of materials accepted by each community curbside recycling, drop-off recycling, or composting program;

(4) the number of individuals with access to recycling and composting services to at least the extent of access to disposal services;

(5) the number of individuals with barriers to accessing recycling and composting services to at least the extent of access to disposal services;

(6) the inbound contamination and capture rates of community curbside recycling, drop-off recycling, or composting programs;

(7) where applicable, other available recycling or composting programs within a community, including store drop-offs; and

(8) the average cost to States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes of recycling and composting programs.

(c) STANDARDIZATION OF RECYCLING REPORTING RATES.—**(1) COLLECTION OF RATES.—**

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may use amounts made available under section 9 to biannually collect from each State the nationally standardized rate of recyclable materials in that State that have been successfully diverted from the waste stream and brought to a materials recovery facility or composting facility.

(B) CONFIDENTIAL OR PROPRIETARY BUSINESS INFORMATION.—Information collected under subparagraph (A) shall not include any confidential or proprietary business information, as determined by the Administrator.

(2) USE.—Using amounts made available under section 9, the Administrator may use the rates collected under paragraph (1) to further assist States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes—

(A) to reduce the overall waste produced by the States and units of local government; and

(B) to increase recycling and composting rates.

(d) REPORT ON END MARKETS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes, shall—

(A) provide an update to the report submitted under section 306 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116–224; 134 Stat. 1096) to include an addendum on the end-market sale of all recyclable materials, in addition to recycled plastics as described in that section, from materials recovery facilities that process recyclable materials collected from households and publicly available recyclable materials drop-off centers, including—

(i) the total, in dollars per ton, domestic sales of bales of recyclable materials; and

(ii) the total, in dollars per ton, international sales of bales of recyclable materials;

(B) prepare a report on the end-market sale of compost from all compostable materials collected from households and publicly available compost drop-off centers, including the total, in dollars per ton, of domestic sales of compostable materials; and

(C) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to Congress the update to the report prepared under subparagraph (A) and the report prepared under subparagraph (B).

(2) CONFIDENTIAL OR PROPRIETARY BUSINESS INFORMATION.—Information collected under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) shall not include any confidential or proprietary business information, as determined by the Administrator.

SEC. 7. STUDY ON THE DIVERSION OF RECYCLABLE MATERIALS FROM A CIRCULAR MARKET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall develop a metric for determining the proportion of recyclable materials in commercial and municipal waste streams that are being diverted from a circular market.

(b) *STUDY; REPORT.*—Not later than 1 year after the development of a metric under subsection (a), the Administrator shall conduct a study of, and submit to Congress a report on, the proportion of recyclable materials in commercial and municipal waste streams that, during each of the 10 calendar years preceding the year of submission of the report, were diverted from a circular market.

(c) *DATA.*—The report under subsection (b) shall provide data on specific recyclable materials, including aluminum, plastics, paper and paperboard, textiles, and glass, that were prevented from remaining in a circular market through disposal or elimination, and to what use those specific recyclable materials were lost.

(d) *EVALUATION.*—The report under subsection (b) shall include an evaluation of whether the establishment or improvement of recycling programs would—

- (1) improve recycling rates; or
- (2) reduce the quantity of recyclable materials being unutilized in a circular market.

SEC. 8. VOLUNTARY GUIDELINES.

The Administrator shall—

(1) in consultation with States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes, develop, based on the results of the studies, reports, inventory, and data determined under sections 4 through 7, and provide to States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes best practices that the States, units of local government, and Indian Tribes may use to enhance recycling and composting, including—

(A) labeling techniques for containers of waste, compostable materials, and recycling, with the goal of creating consistent, readily available, and understandable labeling across jurisdictions;

(B) pamphlets or other literature readily available to constituents;

(C) primary and secondary school educational resources on recycling;

(D) web and media-based campaigns; and

(E) guidance for the labeling of recyclable materials and compostable materials that minimizes contamination and diversion of those materials from waste streams toward recycling and composting systems; and

(2) not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, submit to Congress a report describing the best practices developed under paragraph (1).

SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act for each fiscal year.

Mr. CARPER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3743), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESSIBILITY ACT OF 2022

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I feel like the Senator from West Virginia right now.

I am very glad that we are going to be passing these two recycling bills.

I will just briefly say I am the cosponsor of the bipartisan Recycling and Infrastructure Accessibility Act. Sometimes the simplest things that we can do have such great impacts, and I think that is what we are going to see here today.

In rural America, we don't have the accessibility to recycling and the infrastructure that we need, and that is the point of my bill. It helps us, obviously, protect our environment, supports jobs, and it helps our municipalities and others be able to sustain these.

This is a pilot program that would give Federal support for recycling infrastructure projects, such as transfer stations and dropoff facilities. That is the difficulty; you can't have one in every small town. You need to have a spoke-and-hub sort of system, and that is what this is looking at.

I will speed it up here. I want to thank all the different organizations and groups that have helped: The National Water Resources Association, the Plastics Industry Association, the American Beverage Association, our associated staffs, and particularly the chair of the full committee. He has been just a champion here in working on the recycling bills. He is the main sponsor of the Recycling Composting Accountability Act, of which I am also a cosponsor.

These will fill great and important data gaps. These are recycling bills that were reported out by voice votes so we have unanimous consent by our committee. I am glad that our colleagues have agreed to pass them.

S. 3742

So I will move on and say, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 357, S. 3742.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3742) to establish a pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility, and for other purposes.

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

Mrs. CAPITO. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (S. 3742) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3742

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 "Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. RECYCLING INFRASTRUCTURE AND ACCESSIBILITY PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) CURBSIDE RECYCLING.—The term "curbside recycling" means the process by which residential recyclable materials are picked up curbside.

(3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term "eligible entity" means—

(A) a State (as defined in section 1004 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6903));

(B) a unit of local government;

(C) an Indian Tribe; and

(D) a public-private partnership.

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

(5) MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term "materials recovery facility" means a recycling facility where primarily residential recyclables, which are diverted from disposal by a generator and collected separately from municipal solid waste, are mechanically or manually sorted into commodities for further processing into specification-grade commodities for sale to end users.

(B) EXCLUSION.—The term "materials recovery facility" does not include a solid waste management facility that may process municipal solid waste to remove recyclable materials.

(6) PILOT GRANT PROGRAM.—The term "pilot grant program" means the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Program established under subsection (b).

(7) RECYCLABLE MATERIAL.—The term "recyclable material" means obsolete, previously used, off-specification, surplus, or incidentally produced material for processing into a specification-grade commodity for which a market exists.

(8) TRANSFER STATION.—The term "transfer station" means a facility that—

(A) receives and consolidates recyclable material from curbside recycling or drop-off facilities; and

(B) loads the recyclable material onto tractor trailers, railcars, or barges for transport to a distant materials recovery facility or another recycling-related facility.

(9) UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—The term "underserved community" means a community, including an unincorporated area, without access to full recycling services because—

(A) transportation, distance, or other reasons render utilization of available processing capacity at an existing materials recovery facility cost prohibitive; or

(B) the processing capacity of an existing materials recovery facility is insufficient to manage the volume of recyclable materials produced by that community.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a pilot grant program, to be known as the "Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Program", to award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities to improve recycling accessibility in a community or communities within the same geographic area.

(c) GOAL.—The goal of the pilot grant program is to fund eligible projects that will significantly improve accessibility to recycling systems through investments in infrastructure in underserved communities through the use of a hub-and-spoke model for recycling infrastructure development.

(d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under the pilot grant program, an eligible entity shall submit to the Administrator an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Administrator may require.

(e) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting eligible entities to receive a grant under the pilot grant program, the Administrator shall consider—

(1) whether the community or communities in which the eligible entity is seeking to carry out a proposed project has curbside recycling;

(2) whether the proposed project of the eligible entity will improve accessibility to recycling services in a single underserved community or multiple underserved communities; and

(3) if the eligible entity is a public-private partnership, the financial health of the private entity seeking to enter into that public-private partnership.

(f) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible entities to receive a grant under the pilot grant program, the Administrator shall give priority to eligible entities seeking to carry out a proposed project in a community in which there is not more than 1 materials recovery facility within a 75-mile radius of that community.

(g) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity awarded a grant under the pilot grant program may use the grant funds for projects to improve recycling accessibility in communities, including in underserved communities, by—

(1) increasing the number of transfer stations;

(2) expanding curbside recycling collection programs where appropriate; and

(3) leveraging public-private partnerships to reduce the costs associated with collecting and transporting recyclable materials in underserved communities.

(h) PROHIBITION ON USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity awarded a grant under the pilot grant program may not use the grant funds for projects relating to recycling education programs.

(i) MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM GRANT AMOUNT.—A grant awarded to an eligible entity under the pilot grant program shall be in an amount—

(1) not less than \$500,000; and

(2) not more than \$15,000,000.

(j) SET-ASIDE.—The Administrator shall set aside not less than 70 percent of the amounts made available to carry out the pilot grant program for each fiscal year to award grants to eligible entities to carry out a proposed project or program in a single underserved community or multiple underserved communities.

(k) FEDERAL SHARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Federal share of the cost of a project or program carried out by an eligible entity using grant funds shall be not more than 90 percent.

(2) WAIVER.—The Administrator may waive the Federal share requirement under paragraph (1) if the Administrator determines that an eligible entity would experience significant financial hardship as a result of that requirement.

(l) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date on which the first grant is awarded under the pilot grant program, the Administrator shall submit to Congress a report describing the implementation of the pilot grant program, which shall include—

(1) a list of eligible entities that have received a grant under the pilot grant program;

(2) the actions taken by each eligible entity that received a grant under the pilot grant program to improve recycling accessibility with grant funds; and

(3) to the extent information is available, a description of how grant funds received under the pilot grant program improved recycling rates in each community in which a project or program was carried out under the pilot grant program.

(m) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Administrator to carry out the pilot grant program such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027, to remain available until expended.

(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Of the amounts made available under paragraph (1), the Administrator may use up to 5 percent—

(A) for administrative costs relating to carrying out the pilot grant program; and

(B) to provide technical assistance to eligible entities applying for a grant under the pilot grant program.

Mrs. CAPITO. Thank you.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask that Senator BOOZMAN, who is a charter member of the Senate Recycling Caucus, be recognized to speak on behalf of these measures, which he has played a key role on.

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

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Thank you, Mr. President, and thank you, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member CAPITO, for your leadership in that this area.

As has been said and should be said many times more, we appreciate the great work of our staffs in getting this done.

The other thing that is so important is the answers to our problems need to come from the ground up. Through the Recycling Caucus and hearings, and the list goes on and on, this is where those answers were generated—from the people who are out fighting the battles.

We talk a lot about the lack of bipartisanship and things. This is a great example of people working together for the common good up here.

It is great for the environment in the sense that recycling is not just gathering. We don't want to have a situation continuing, like we do now, where so much of that that is gathered actually winds up in the landfill eventually.

Conservation is the low-hanging fruit. You know, it makes all the sense in the world to reuse things. It creates a situation where we lessen the dependence on landfills, things like that. And then, again, in this age of globalization and things, we really do need to use the resources that we have and then continue to use the resources as we go forward.

So we are talking about jobs. We are talking about the environment. And, for that reason, I very much support and appreciate, as I said, the leadership of the chairman and the ranking member for their great effort in pushing this forward.

And, with that, I yield the floor to Senator CARDIN—Mr. Chairman.

I yield the floor.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I just want to say again my thanks to—I think I am pretty rabid on recycling, but this fellow from Arkansas is right there with me. I appreciate very much both your leadership and Senator CAPITO's.

I think we are going to shift gears here. We just passed two very signifi-

cant recycling bills for our country. This is something that I am thrilled about, and I know Senator CAPITO is as well. And we are going to shift gears and take some time to consider other important legislation: the Water Resources Development Act.

Senator CARDIN, who chairs the subcommittee, has jurisdiction on the water resources bill. I think he is prepared to speak.

I think I need to make a unanimous consent request before we do that.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and consider H.R. 7776, as provided for under the previous order.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7776) to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, amendment No. 5140 is agreed to.

There will now be up to 1 hour of debate equally divided in the usual form.

The amendment (No. 5140) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of July 20, 2022, under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, with that, I would please yield to the chairman of the subcommittee that has jurisdiction over the Water Resources Development Act, BEN CARDIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, let me thank Chairman CARPER and Ranking Member CAPITO and my counterpart on the Subcommittee on Infrastructure, Senator CRAMER, for bringing us to this moment where we will soon be voting on the Water Resources Development Act.

I must tell you, this is an extremely important bill that gives the Army Corps the authorization they need to advance critically important water projects in our country.

Mr. President, this was passed by a unanimous vote in the Environment and Public Works Committee. Due to the leadership of Senator CARPER and Senator CAPITO, this bill involves the input of all the members of our committee and—dare I say—all the Members of the U.S. Senate. So I want to thank them for getting this bill to the point where we will be able to vote on it this afternoon.

This bill is truly bipartisan. It incorporates the input from every single Senator and reflects priorities for our

water resources in States and communities across the country. It provides crucial authority for projects and guidance for the Army Corps of Engineers to engineer better solutions to our Nation's toughest water infrastructure supply and quality challenges.

The work of the Army Corps of Engineers is vital for keeping commerce flowing in our waterways, for restoring aquatic ecosystems, and for helping communities deal with the risks and impacts of flooding.

In my State of Maryland, we have challenges in all of these areas, and we are partnering with the Army Corps to address them. The Port of Baltimore, for example, is critical in our national supply chains and an economic engine for the State of Maryland.

To enhance the port's ability to serve commerce and provide safe navigation, the Army Corps is moving forward with a Mid-Chesapeake Bay Island Ecosystem Restoration Project, or Mid-Bay, which will put dredged material to beneficial use restoring our ecosystems in the Chesapeake Bay, a major win-win for commerce and the environment. Here we are taking dredged materials and using it for environmental restoration, providing a very popular place to put dredged material so we can keep our harbors and our channels dredged but we also can restore our environment at the same time.

A project the size of Mid-Bay also has the opportunity to benefit smaller channels along the Chesapeake Bay. In Maryland, we have dozens and dozens of smaller channels that support economic activity, recreational opportunities, and are an integral part of the identity of the small communities they serve, but these channels have not received the maintenance that they require.

I am proud that this year's WRDA bill provides the Corps with new authorization to address these underserved harbors and channels, directing the Corps to take a closer look at them according to the significance to their community and not just based on the total amount of cargo they move. This is going to help many of our communities around America.

In doing so, this bill adds new perspective to the Army Corps' thinking so that the Chesapeake Bay is fully understood not just as an artery for commerce but as a national environmental treasure that is home to living waterfronts that support a variety of community, economic, and nature-based activities. The WRDA reauthorization takes an important step in that direction with its provisions for underserved harbors.

I am also proud that this bill includes a new statewide authorization for the Army Corps to provide assistance to Maryland on environmental infrastructure. We very much will take advantage of this opportunity. We know that we have challenges with the Chesapeake Bay, and this environ-

mental study assistance will certainly help us in meeting our obligations.

This authorization will also help communities across my State deal with the impact of aging infrastructure and move forward on the backlog of critical repairs and upgrades to water supply, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure.

The bill recognizes that because the Army Corps work is in high demand around the country, the Corps needs to be accessible to communities and engage with them directly on the challenges they face. The Planning Assistance to States Program, which has been so important to Maryland, will now include a new authority for the Corps to conduct this outreach to communities.

The Army Corps is carrying out its important work on navigation, flood risk mitigation, ecosystem restoration, and environmental infrastructure against the backdrop of a worsening climate crisis.

This reality is forcing us to act with new urgency to protect our communities from multiple hazards that our country is already experiencing with increased frequency and severity, including concentrated catastrophic rainfall events, sea level rise, and the associated erosion and flooding that these impacts bring. It is also forcing us to prioritize the restoration of ecosystems harmed by climate change that can still play a role in building resilience. All of that is incorporated in this bill, and we will be able to have those tools that are available.

I just want to mention that one example is marshlands, which absorb tons of carbon dioxide in the United States each year. They buffer waves and reduce flooding during storms. We had a hearing in the Environment and Public Works Committee yesterday—it was a good hearing—on how we can get carbon capture. Well, one of the ways we can get carbon capture through natural causes is to restore wetlands, which trap carbon, and this bill will allow us to move forward in that direction.

Finally, I want to note that, this year, the Army Corps' Baltimore District is celebrating its 175th anniversary. I congratulate the Baltimore District on this important milestone. The district has played an instrumental role in the history of our Nation and the State of Maryland, dating back to the construction of Fort McHenry, and I am proud of the ongoing partnership of Colonel Pinchasin, the current regional director.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I again applaud the great leadership we have on our committee, the very open way that we do business, the way that we listen to each other and are able to get the priorities accomplished.

To Senator CARPER and Senator CAPITO and Senator CRAMER, it is a pleasure to work with you, and thank you for making this possible.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I would like to thank the Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN, for his good, hard work with Senator CRAMER on the subcommittee. Senator CARDIN and I share the Chesapeake Bay. He has got a lot more of it than I do, but we have worked on those issues for years together, and I think that shows his dedication not just to his State but to the environment. So I appreciate all of his efforts.

I am very pleased to rise today in strong support of the bipartisan Water Resources Development Act of 2022. This is the bill we are considering today. We call it WRDA. Most of us know it as WRDA.

Congress authorizes water resource projects and sets national policies for the Civil Works Program and for the U.S. Corps of Engineers. The work of the Corps facilitates commerce throughout the country and internationally. Projects along our inland waterways, which are important in my State, and in our ports enable the movement of cargo while also bolstering our supply chain. Their support and partnership during this process were integral for us to reach a solid agreement.

So, Mr. Chair, I would like to thank you and your staff, and I am going to go through our staff list really quickly: Mary Frances Repko, John Kane, Jordan Baugh, Mayely Boyce, Tyler Hofmann-Reardon, Milo Goodell, and Janine Barr from your staff.

So thank you all very, very much.

Today proves, again, the ability of our EPW Committee to develop bipartisan infrastructure legislation that addresses the needs of Senators in the communities that we represent. Our colleagues submitted more than 800 policy and project priorities to the committee. We worked hard to thoughtfully incorporate a majority of their requests into this legislation, and I think that shows with the vote we got in committee.

True to the Corps' tradition, the bill moves forward projects that benefit local communities and the entire country.

We know that natural disasters such as floods and hurricanes can strike at any time and have devastating consequences for our communities. The Corps' work to protect the lives and livelihoods of millions of Americans is furthered by congressional authorization of flood and coastal storm risk management projects.

Since 2014, Congress has enacted WRDA every 2 years, and I am thrilled that we are here again continuing that tradition. I again want to thank Chairman CARPER for his leadership and dedication to this critical piece of legislation, as well as—and I think I already mentioned them, but I will mention them again because Senator CARDIN and Senator CRAMER have been

very integral as the subcommittee chairs.

Specifically, the WRDA bill authorizes 30 projects around the country, including projects for navigation, flood and coastal storm risk management, and ecosystem restoration. One such project is a coastal storm risk management project along the eastern coast of Texas. Think of all of the hurricanes and damage that we have heard over the years that have come in on the eastern shore at Galveston and Houston. This will help mitigate the impacts of future hurricanes and ensure that critical port assets can continue to serve our country's shipping and supply chain needs as we are moving forward.

The bill also directs the Corps to expedite the completion of 24 previously authorized projects, and it authorizes 36 studies that will develop solutions to water resources challenges that we have ahead.

While this bill is very much oriented toward advancing critical projects and studies in our States, it also includes several policy changes that I would like to highlight. At the beginning of this process, I outlined areas in which I believe changes would be beneficial. I said we needed to reduce the confusion that some communities experience when they are dealing with the Corps and ensure more effective delivery of our projects—and efficient delivery. So the bill bolsters the Agency's technical assistance authorities, specifically the Floodplain Management Services and Planning Assistance to States Program—again, one that impacts my State greatly.

This bill authorizes the Corps to conduct outreach to ensure that our communities are knowledgeable of the ways in which the Agency can help them with their water resources needs. It directs the Corps to designate staff in each district that can do this outreach.

The bill makes important improvements to the Tribal Partnership Program and other authorities to assist Indian Tribes. It also expands existing programs and includes new authorities to assist communities that are economically disadvantaged, including those located in rural areas.

It requires reporting on timelines for the environmental review process for projects. The bill directs the GAO to conduct a study: a review of projects that are overbudgeted and delayed—find out what is going on—as well as a review of the Corps' mitigation practices for projects.

The bill includes several provisions that improve flexibility with regard to financial accounting; for example, the bill allows Federal Agencies to provide funding to help satisfy the non-Federal sponsor's contribution for a project or study under certain circumstances. It authorizes, for the first time, a dedicated research and development account for the Corps to spur innovation and provides contracting flexibility in undertaking these activities.

The bill directs the Corps to support science, technology, engineering, and math—STEM—education and recruit individuals for careers at this Agency. The input of non-Federal entities is crucial to successfully resolving water resources challenges now and in the future.

This bill establishes a new advisory committee for non-Federal interests to voice their opinions on how the Corps can better meet their needs.

We preserve the integral part of the non-Federal cost share partners in the project delivery process by avoiding mandates from Washington, DC, and ensuring that the Corps continues to evaluate a full array of solutions during the feasibility study phase.

In addition to my role as a ranking member, I represent the great State of West Virginia, and I worked to address the needs of my home State. Here are just a few highlights before I close.

This legislation advances a critical flood control project of the city of Milton, WV. Authorized in the 1990s, this project is longtime coming, and I am proud to have helped move it forward.

The bill also supports flood control studies for the Kanawha River Basin and the city of Huntington. And it continues to provide environmental infrastructure assistance to communities throughout the State.

Finally, the bill will provide additional critical support to riverbank stabilizations such as those on the Kanawha River.

In closing, there is a lot in this bill—I could go on and on, but I won't—for communities across the country. It is the culmination of a true bipartisan agreement and represents our shared goal of addressing the Nation's water resources needs.

I am very proud of our committee. I am very proud to be here today with you. We are active; we are cooperative; and we are fruitful. We get things done. I like that. It is a testament to the values and goals that Chairman CARPER and I share, and it is a testament to our personal friendship and our working relationship. Thank you for that.

Before I close, I would like to thank my staff as well for all of their hard work and dedication to seeing that we get this across the finish line: Adam Tomlinson, Murphie Barrett, Max Hyman, Kim Townsend, Katherine Scarlett, Jacob Mitchell, and Haden Miller.

I would also like to thank the technical assistance that we received from the U.S. Corps of Engineers staff: Amy Klein, Dave Wethington, and countless other technical staff.

And, then, from Senate legislative counsel, we would like to thank Deanna Edwards.

I look forward to a rousing vote here in a few minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I could not improve upon what has already been said about the work on this im-

portant bill. Senator CAPITO has articulated much more eloquently than I all of the priorities that are important in the bill.

I am just going to add my thanks to Chairman CARPER and to Ranking Member CAPITO and, of course, to subcommittee Chairman CARDIN as well. It has been a great team effort, as is, I think, illustrated in the final product and the overwhelming vote. Let's keep the team together. And let's just pass a really big, important WRDA bill.

And I emphasize again, we did this through regular order, colleagues. We stayed on the 2-year schedule, colleagues. And when we work together, we can do good work for the people we serve.

With that, I urge a strong vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator CRAMER not just for his words but—I will take my mask off—not just for his words but for his great participation, he and his staff, in this effort.

I don't think it has been said in our short time we have been on the floor here this morning: In the subcommittee, we don't just make up this legislation. We have a tradition of reaching out to other Senate offices. We reached out to all 100 Senate offices. We ask everybody—Democrat, Republican, a couple of Independents—and say: What are your priorities? What would you like to see prioritized, included in this legislation?

We received feedback and input from, I think, every single office. And we have tried to reflect that input in this legislation.

So this is very much a community effort. And for everyone who has participated, thank you for doing so and putting us in a position today to vote and, hopefully, in an affirmative way.

Before we do vote, I just want to express one more time my very, very strong support for the Water Resources Development Act of 2022. As we have heard before this bill: Affectionately known as WRDA, it is an ambitious, bipartisan water resources package that ensures the timely reauthorization of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer studies and projects. The bill also equips the Corps with critical authorities to restore ecosystems and protect communities from climate-change-exacerbated events like flooding and drought.

This legislation is a product of tireless commitment to bipartisanship and doing the right thing. Senator CAPITO, Senator CARDIN, Senator CRAMER, and myself and our staffs look past the party differences and find, once more, a path forward on critical infrastructure needs, just as we did last year on the bipartisan infrastructure bill that the President signed into law late last year.

This is not the first time we have done this, and it won't be the last. This Congress, the Environmental Public Works Committee, has consistently advanced bipartisan legislation on drinking water; legislation on wastewater;

legislation on transportation—roads, highways, bridges—and on recycling just today, just today. All of those bills passed EPW unanimously, just like this Army Corps of Engineers bill passed unanimously.

As EPW chairman, I am quite proud of the committee's work. I just wish that everybody in the country who thinks that all we do is fight around here and agree on nothing—I wish they had a chance to kind of tune in and maybe be a fly on the wall and hear how when you work together, you can get some amazing stuff done and really important, really important things, as well, for all of our States, for every corner of this country.

A word, if I could, about the Army Corps of Engineers. I am a Navy guy. I spent something like 23 years Active Reserve Duty. I am the last Vietnam veteran serving here. But I have huge respect—huge respect—for the Army Corps of Engineers. I like to say: Different uniforms, same team. And in my State and, frankly, all 50 States, they do extraordinary work—sometimes without a lot of recognition, without a lot of thanks. And I just want to say, we recognize you in Delaware; we recognize you even in the Navy; and we are deeply grateful for the work that you do, the great work you do. We couldn't do a lot of what we do without your help. And this legislation is needed for the Army Corps to meet their responsibilities and obligations.

But all the bills that I mentioned earlier passed committee unanimously, as did this bill. And, again, we are so proud of the committee's work.

What a joy it is to work with Senator CAPITO. And I wish I could say the same thing about her staff. No. I am just joking.

Adam, you know we love working with you and your team, and we are really privileged.

We were privileged to be led on our side of the staff by Mary Frances Repko, who is new at this. She has not worked long for many weeks or months on the Hill. Actually, she has probably for a quarter of a century or so, and I think she started at the age of 12. She has done a lot, and she still has a lot of gas in the tank.

But going back to the Corps—the Corps is the principal steward of our Nation's water infrastructure, and it serves both as a facilitator and protector of our diverse economy.

This bill—WRDA 2022—recognizes that the Corps is an essential part of our lives. This bill takes critical steps to better support the Agency as it serves all parts of our country. From navigation to ecosystem restoration and flood control, the Corps is the backbone—really, the foundation, if you will, on which our country was built.

I would like to reiterate that every provision in this bill is the result of bipartisan work. I can confidently say that WRDA 2022 will benefit all corners of our nation—from Alaska to Cali-

fornia to Kentucky to New York, from Maryland to rural towns and every place in between.

Again, I want to express my heartfelt thanks to staff on the Democratic side, the majority staff, and to Senator CAPITO's staff on the minority side, the Republican side.

Actually, you can walk into a meeting, some of the meetings we have with Senator CAPITO and myself and our staffs, and if you didn't know who worked for whom, you wouldn't know. You wouldn't know, which I think is an amazing thing, a wonderful thing.

With that in mind, again, I want to thank again my staff and Senate CAPITO's staff who worked so hard. I want to recognize, again, Mary Frances Repko and Adam Tomlinson for their dedicated leadership on the Democratic side and the Republican side of our committee.

I also want to thank Murphie Barrett, Max Hyman, Kim Townsend, Katherine Scarlett, Jacob Mitchell, Haden Miller, Mayely Boyce, Tyler Hofmann Reardon, Jordan Baugh, Milo Goodell, Janine Barr, and John Kane—especially John Kane—for their tireless efforts.

John, you are a force of nature. And thank you very, very much for your great leadership.

I would like to say, again—I just said that, so I am not going to say that again. I also want to thank Amy Klein and David Wethington of the Corps—Amy Klein and David Wethington of the Corps—for their countless hours of technical assistance and support as the bill was developed.

In closing, I want to encourage all of our colleagues to join us in supporting this excellent bill, because every State stands to benefit from the legislation before us today.

Mr. President, the Senate is now considering the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, affectionately known as WRDA. Not only is this biennial legislation an ambitious water resources bill, it is also the product of a tireless commitment to bipartisanship. Earlier this year, we reached out to all 100 Senators to solicit their input for this legislation. We developed this legislation using that feedback, and in May, we advanced this legislation out of the Environment and Public Works Committee by a vote of 20 to 0, something I am quite proud of as EPW chairman.

In these times of partisan divide, it is not often we see legislation receive unanimous support. But, as we all know, bipartisan solutions are lasting solutions. That is how I think we should approach much of our work in the Senate—by reaching across the aisle to find lasting solutions, where possible, to the problems we face as a nation. The bill before us today is a result of that partnership.

Before I delve into all we accomplish in this bill, let me thank everyone who played a role in its development—especially our EPW committee ranking member, Senator CAPITO, our Trans-

portation and Infrastructure Subcommittee chair, Senator CARDIN, our subcommittee ranking member, Senator CRAMER, every member of our committee, and the members of our staffs. I also want to thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for supporting us throughout the drafting process.

This legislation continues the 2-year cycle for WRDA. By passing it, we will ensure timely authorization of the Army Corps' studies and projects. This work is critical in supporting our economy, restoring critical ecosystems, and protecting communities from climate change and extreme weather events like flooding and drought.

When we talk about WRDA, I cannot overstate just how important the Army Corps' work is in the lives of Americans across the country. The Corps is the principal steward of our Nation's water infrastructure. That includes our beaches, our waterways, and our flood control systems. Without the enactment of WRDA, our economy could well grind to a halt.

The Corps operates and maintains America's water highway, a 12,000-mile-long system of inland waterways with 209 locks that are vital to domestic and international commerce. Each year, more than 500 million tons of commodities move through this system, including 60 percent of our Nation's agricultural exports. Operating and maintaining this extensive network results in an economic benefit of nearly \$14 billion each year for our country.

In addition to managing the waterways that connect our ports to world commerce, the Army Corps of Engineers is also responsible for ensuring safe, reliable, and efficient navigation at our coastal ports. As we have seen over the past 2 years, navigable shipping channels are essential to keeping global supply chains moving.

More than 99 percent of U.S. overseas trade volume moves through the 13,000 miles of coastal channels maintained by the Corps, supporting over 30 million jobs across the country. Cargo activity at our Nation's ports supports more than a quarter of the U.S. economy. And, over the next decade, an estimated \$66 billion in future investment will be needed to ensure continued domestic job creation and economic growth.

Recognizing the economic importance of our Nation's inland shipping channels, WRDA 2022 adjusts the Inland Waterways Trust Fund cost share to expedite much needed project improvements.

The legislation also addresses the harbor deepening and maintenance needs of commercially significant ports, as well as underserved community harbors. While commercially significant ports are vital to our Nation's economy, community harbors are similarly important to local and regional economies.

WRDA 2022 ensures that these community harbors, which provide essential fishing, recreation, and navigation services, will continue to receive maintenance that will allow for their continued use.

As a recovering Governor, I often like to say that it is our responsibility as elected officials to create a nurturing environment for job creation and job preservation. Maintaining our ports and coastal waterways is a cornerstone of that nurturing environment.

The Corps is also a leader in flood and storm damage mitigation and ecosystem restoration. In addition to managing over 700 dams and more than 13,000 miles of levees and floodwalls, it restores and nourishes the Nation's dunes and beaches, constructs and maintains wetlands and floodplains, and protects shorelines and riverbanks.

In total, the Corps' flood and coastal storm risk management activities, and infrastructure portfolio, provide the nation an economic benefit of nearly \$260 billion in damage prevention and reduction. This is critical to understand because more than 40 percent of our Nation's population lives in coastal counties. If coastal counties were their own nation, they would rank third in the world in gross domestic product—beaten out only by China and the United States as a whole.

This work is especially important for the communities I represent in Delaware. Earlier this year, on the Saturday before Mother's Day, a nor'easter pummeled beaches up and down the Delmarva Peninsula. When I toured the damage, it was staggering to think that in 2 weeks, these communities needed to be ready for the first real beach season since the start of the COVID pandemic.

While many beaches had experienced severe erosion and destruction, the dune system that the Corps had built worked as designed and protected Delmarva communities from the storm. Homes and buildings remained intact. Businesses could still operate. States were prepared to handle the storm because of the work that the Army Corps had done. Now, we are working with the Corps to rebuild these beaches, which are the lifeblood of our States' economies.

Water, as we all know, is essential for life and a critical input into virtually all economic activity. It is hard—in fact, it is impossible—to have life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, without the use of water and water-related infrastructure. Unfortunately, climate change is fueling extreme weather in the form of longer and stronger nor'easters, hurricanes, and droughts. This threatens the Corps' ability to be a good steward of our water infrastructure, as well as that infrastructure's ability to protect and support our economy.

And this is not just a problem for coastal communities. For inland communities like those along the Missouri

River, climate change means heavier and more frequent precipitation events, inland flooding, riverbank erosion, and the inundation of water treatment systems with sediments and contaminants in some areas. For other communities out west, climate change means historic droughts, water shortages, and deeply destructive wildfires.

The Water Resources Development Act of 2022 recognizes these challenges posed by climate change. It accounts for the new realities that the Corps faces in carrying out its primary missions and takes critical steps to address these looming concerns. How?

First, WRDA 2022 overhauls the Corps' project development authorities, allowing the agency to better address the impacts of climate change. This will make a big difference in States like Arizona, where we are witnessing the worst drought conditions along the Colorado River in 12,000 years.

Under our legislation, the Corps and local project sponsors will, for the first time, be able to partner and develop cost-shared plans to address drought risk management and water supply conservation during the planning, constructing, and operating of water resources development projects.

Communities in coastal States will also be able to develop projects that address their specific climate-related impacts. This means that we will see projects better formulated to combat sea level rise, as well as back bay flooding or even sunny day tidal changes instead of just storm surge protection.

In addition to overhauling the Corps' project development authorities, WRDA 2022 makes clear that the protection and restoration of shorelines and riverbanks from erosion and other damaging forces is a primary responsibility. It also improves the Corps' ability to make shorelines and riverbanks more resilient.

In crafting this legislation, we also made equity a top priority. I am pleased to report that WRDA 2022 builds on the significant inroads made in WRDA 2020 to rectify historical inequities for Tribal and disadvantaged communities.

WRDA 2022 establishes a new Tribal and Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Committee to help the Corps more effectively deliver projects, programs, and other assistance to these communities. It also makes permanent the 2020 pilot programs that cover cost shares for economically disadvantaged communities.

In addition, this legislation reauthorizes the Corps' Tribal Partnership Program and makes a series of targeted improvements to increase opportunities for Tribal communities to partner with the Corps on essential projects in a more cost-effective way.

Finally, WRDA 2022 establishes a new workforce development and STEM outreach program at the Corps with a priority to recruit new engineers from historically disadvantaged communities.

As we move to the consideration of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, I am reminded of an old African proverb that goes something like this: "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, travel together." On this bill, we can proudly say that we have chosen to travel together.

With that in mind, I would like to take a moment to thank my staff and Ranking Member CAPITO's staff who together spent tireless hours drafting and negotiating each provision in this bill.

I would like to recognize our staff directors, Mary Frances Repko and Adam Tomlinson, for their dedicated leadership.

I would also like to thank Murphie Barrett, Max Hyman, Kim Townsend, Katherine Scarlett, Jacob Mitchell, Haden Miller, Mayely Boyce, Tyler Hofmann-Reardon, Jordan Baugh, Milo Goodell, Janine Barr, and John Kane for their tireless efforts.

I like to say that if you walked in a room and saw our staff in discussions, you would be impressed at how well they work together—even when discussing difficult issues.

I would also like to thank Amy Klein and David Wethington of the Corps for the countless hours of technical assistance and support as this bill was developed.

In closing, I urge all of my colleagues to join Senator CAPITO and me in supporting this excellent bill because every State stands to benefit from the legislation before us today.

I yield the floor.

With that, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

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

Under the previous order, the bill, as amended, is considered read a third time.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

Mr. CARPER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 1, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 273 Leg.]

EXECUTIVE SESSION

YEAS—93

Baldwin	Hagerty	Portman
Barrasso	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Heinrich	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Brown	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Johnson	Schumer
Capito	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kennedy	Shaheen
Casey	King	Shelby
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Lankford	Smith
Coons	Lee	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lujan	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Lummis	Tester
Cotton	Markey	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Menendez	Tuberville
Daines	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Moran	Warner
Ernst	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Fischer	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wicker
Graham	Paul	Wyden
Grassley	Peters	Young

NAYS—1

Braun

NOT VOTING—6

Burr	Leahy	Murkowski
Durbin	Manchin	Sasse

The bill (H.R. 7776), as amended, was passed.

CHANGE OF VOTE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, on rollcall vote No. 273, I voted no. It had been my intention to vote yea. Therefore, I ask unanimous consent to change the vote since it will not affect the outcome.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table.

The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 1063, David Pressman, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary; that the Senate vote on the nomination at 1:45 p.m. today, without any intervening action or debate; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; further, that the July 19, 2022, order with respect to the Milstein nomination remain in effect.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

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

The bill clerk read the nomination of David Pressman, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

PACT ACT

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I am coming down to the floor to speak briefly on our efforts to protect women's access to birth control and contraception, but before I do, I just want to note something that happened here today that was really odd.

So a few weeks back, we came together and had a consensus bipartisan vote to stand up for our veterans. A number of Republican and Democratic legislators here in the House and the Senate worked together to develop something called the PACT Act.

This is groundbreaking legislation, decades in the making, that provides veterans access to healthcare for exposure to toxic chemicals, exposure that comes through being subjected to military burn pits—these are pits where a lot of toxic chemicals and plastics are burned at military installations—but also for exposure to chemicals like Agent Orange.

So we had an 84-to-14 vote here just a few weeks ago in favor of the PACT Act and then the bill came back to the Senate due to some technical corrections having nothing to do with the substance of the bill. And yesterday the vote went from 84 to 55. Thirty Senators reversed their vote, and the bill failed. All 30 of those were Republicans.

What happened in 2 weeks that convinced 30 Republicans, who previously thought it was a good idea to help veterans, to decide instead to tank a bill that was helping veterans?

There are really only two explanations.

The more charitable explanation is that 30 Republicans just changed their minds; that 3 weeks ago they thought it was a good bill, helping veterans was a good idea, and 3 weeks later they decided that it wasn't a good idea; that they would rather spend that money on somebody else instead of our most vulnerable veterans.

Now, that would be pretty fantastic to have 30 Members of the Senate change their minds on the merits of a bill, especially a bill that helps veterans, the most vulnerable veterans in this country, veterans who are dealing with cancer and respiratory illnesses.

The less charitable explanation is this. Republicans are mad that Demo-

crats are on the verge of passing climate change legislation and have decided to take out their anger on vulnerable veterans because that is the other thing that has changed in the last 3 weeks. Republicans thought that Democrats weren't going to be able to pass a bill asking corporations to pay a little bit more, tackling climate change. Yesterday, news emerged that there is an agreement that makes it likely that a climate change bill is going to proceed on the Senate floor, and, magically, 30 votes flipped.

That is the less charitable explanation because that would be pretty horrific if Republicans were mad about a climate change bill and decided to take out their anger on veterans—on vulnerable veterans.

So maybe in the coming days we will figure out which one it was. Maybe we will figure out if 30 votes flipped because the merits of the bill dictated that flip or maybe we will find out that Republicans have decided to just take out their anger about the reconciliation bill on veterans. Either way, this is not a good day for veterans in this country.

Democrats are standing up for veterans. We are going to keep voting for the PACT Act. We are going to bring it back. But 30 Republicans who thought helping veterans was a good idea just 3 weeks ago all of a sudden abandoned the cause.

WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

Mr. President, I came down to the floor to talk about something that happened yesterday as well. That was an effort by Democrats to get a bill on the floor that would protect women's access to contraception, and Republicans, predictably, blocked that bill from receiving consideration. I want to talk about the broader picture of what is going on here today.

J.D. Vance is a candidate for the U.S. Senate. He is a Republican star, maybe the party's highest profile candidate running for the Senate. Here is what he said about men who beat up their wives. He said: "[O]ne of the great tricks that I think the sexual revolution pulled on the American populace" was convincing people in "unhappy" or "violent" marriages that getting divorced would "make [them] happier."

Women should stop complaining, he suggests, about getting the crap beat out of them, stop trying to leave abusive husbands and just stick it out.

Senator HAWLEY, a few months ago, gave a whole speech explaining how men have certain virtues critical to the maintenance of the American Republic like aggression and competitiveness and independence that women don't have in equal measure. He made a pretty unapologetic case for the superiority of men over women.

MARJORIE TAYLOR GREENE, who is the biggest draw in the Republican Party right now—nobody gets a bigger crowd than she does. She says that women should just accept that they are the "weaker sex."

A few weeks ago, on this floor, Republicans refused to allow a debate on a bill that simply said government can't tell women which States they can travel to in order to receive healthcare. And yesterday, Republicans blocked proceeding to a bill that simply says that men shouldn't be able to stop women from buying birth control.

So put that all together. Do you see the pattern emerging here? Do you see what is going on? This is a pretty coordinated, industrial-scale effort to bring women under control of the State, to take away decades of rights accumulation for women, and put them back where they were in the 1940s and the 1930s.

This is a massive, coordinated effort by Republicans to put more women under government control: no more abortion services, no more divorces from your abusive spouses, no more driving your car wherever you want, no more birth control. Women are on their way back to becoming second-class citizens. That is what the cumulative agenda looks like here.

And I don't think I am paranoid. I don't think I am overreading the tea leaves. I am just picking up the pieces that Republicans keep putting down day after day after day.

I know Republicans will dispute this characterization, but if they do, we are going to continually give them the chance to prove us wrong—vote for a bill that says States can't ban birth control, vote for legislation that says States can't tell women where they can drive. What we are asking for is not an expansion of women's rights, just a protection to make sure that we don't take these big leaps backward.

Other Republicans will say that these are imagined crises; that States really aren't going to ban birth control. But just pay attention to what is happening in State legislatures right now all over the country. States are trying to restrict women from accessing contraception because many Republicans will tell you that protecting life, in their view, involves banning the use of birth control.

In Texas, the State already bans its family planning centers from distributing birth control. In Missouri, conservatives are trying to block healthcare providers who receive Federal funds from prescribing contraception. And the Supreme Court in the Dobbs decision basically briefed that it is likely to strike down the right to birth control sometime soon.

So this isn't a fake crisis; this is real. And I am not making up this new wholesale Republican effort to try to drag women back 100 years and to sideline them in a way that we thought was history. That is all real too. And we will give Republicans the chance, over and over again, to prove that wrong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

PACT ACT

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I want to talk just a few minutes about the circumstances we now find ourselves in, in passing what I consider to be one of the most important pieces of legislation—perhaps the most important piece of legislation that is currently pending certainly before the U.S. Senate—and that is what we have been referring to as the PACT Act.

It is legislation that we have talked about many times on the Senate floor. It is a piece of legislation that I and Senator TESTER introduced. It is a piece of legislation that follows a long line of bills coming from the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee with broad bipartisan support that have consequential outcomes for the veterans of our Nation.

We started years ago, several years ago, in regard to the MISSION Act. We followed that with the John Scott Hannon Act.

The MISSION Act provided additional opportunities for veterans to access care in settings across the country to bring medical care to veterans closer to home to make it more available.

And we followed that with the John Hannon Act, which dealt with mental health and trying to reduce and eliminate the use of suicide in veterans' lives.

And then, finally, we have this major piece of legislation that has been a long time coming—way too long—in meeting the needs of those veterans who served, now, a long time ago in Vietnam and in Southeast Asia and our veterans who more recently served in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is the subject of toxic exposure, where veterans come into contact with something that maybe not at the time created any healthcare concerns for them but over time has become a significant medical and healthcare challenge for those who served in those areas, in Iraq and Afghanistan, their location in relation to the location of a burn pit—where many things were burned and caused toxic exposure for those veterans in the vicinity—and going back to Vietnam, Agent Orange, which has been so devastating to so many people.

Veterans have waited for a long time. The process to date has been so slow. The legislative efforts, while they have occurred, were never sufficient to meet the needs of those who served our Nation.

And the actions at the Department of Veterans Affairs have delayed decisions for veterans that would make certain that those who encountered these traumatic and damaging healthcare consequences of their service to our Nation receive the medical care that they deserve and the benefits, the financial benefits, that come from being disabled as a result of military service.

I want to reiterate my support for that piece of legislation. The PACT Act needs to—as it came out of our committee by a unanimous vote. It passed

the Senate previously with 84 votes. And we need to continue the practice of taking care of our Nation's veterans in a way that is not partisan on either side of the issues.

I often tell my constituents, with some level of pride, that I serve on a committee, and, unfortunately, one of the few remaining committees in which it is difficult sometimes to tell whether there is a Republican chairman or a Democratic chairman. I have been a ranking member and the ranking member of that committee and I have been the chairman of that committee. The Senator from Montana and I have worked hard. And in many ways, because of our veterans, it is a natural occurrence that we find common ground, and our committee members have done the same.

We are now at the point in which we need to make certain that the PACT Act be considered, that cloture be invoked, the difficulties we have had with whether there needs to be an amendment or amendments need to be resolved, and this issue needs to pass the U.S. Senate in short order.

Our veterans need to be reassured. I would do this to the best of my ability to reassure veterans that, for whatever is in my capabilities, I am going to be the advocate, the spokesperson, the one who is trying to make—along with my colleagues. I am not trying to single myself out as the only one who cares about this issue. But for what I can do, I am going to do it to make sure that we have success in this legislation. Success, to me, is passage by the Senate, passage by the House, and signed by the President, and a law that then can be implemented by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

I have said many times that there are lots of challenges still to come. No piece of legislation that we pass is easily implemented by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and we will have our work to do. But at the moment, the work before us, the work that needs to be accomplished today, now, this week, is the passage of the PACT Act so that our veterans who are encountering significant medical challenges have the care and benefits that come from being a veteran.

I am one of those who agree with the thought, the belief, that if you serve in our military, we owe you to live up to the promises we made. I am of the belief that the costs of war—they certainly come with the service. We then have an obligation not only to fund the military activities but to fund the programs and benefits that are necessary to care for those who serve who, as a result of their service, are damaged mentally, physically, socially, and emotionally.

Again, I ask the leaders of the U.S. Senate and my colleagues here to—let's get this resolved, let's get it resolved quickly, and let's make certain that our veterans, as we want to serve them, are served in the way they should be.

I just would only add that time is of the essence. This bill has been pending before the Senate for a while and, before that, in the U.S. House of Representatives. But it has been a conversation by our veterans service organizations, their members; it has been a conversation by veterans organizations across the country now for decades: Solve this problem.

We are on the cusp of doing so, and we should not let this moment pass. There are veterans who are dying every day. There are veterans who have died since this legislation was introduced. I would like to make certain that there is no veteran, even if he or she is nearing that time of the end of their life, worried about whether their children or their spouse is going to receive the care and treatment and the benefits that they earned by their service.

So, Mr. President, please, my colleagues of the U.S. Senate, please, let's make certain we do our work to honor their service.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

VLADIMIR KARA-MURZA

Mr. WICKER. Mr. President, I rise this afternoon to make sure that the plight of Russian leader Vladimir Kara-Murza is not forgotten, that the outrageous imprisonment of Vladimir Kara-Murza by the Russian dictator Vladimir Putin is not forgotten.

We remember three decades ago what hope we had for a new Russia. Russia had entered a new age of possibility some three decades ago. After more than 70 years of communist repression, the Soviet order had collapsed, and with it, the Iron Curtain that kept freedom away from millions was torn down.

As the red flags came down in Moscow, the free world watched with anticipation, hoping that democracy and the rule of law might finally take root in a free Russia. Regrettably, that has not happened. Instead of democracy and freedom, the Russian people got Vladimir Putin, a man who has used his office to murder, imprison, and force into exile anyone who threatens his grip on power, all the while enriching himself beyond anyone's wildest imagination while ordinary Russians, especially out in the countryside of Russia, live in squalid conditions.

One of his latest victims is Vladimir Kara-Murza, a Russian patriot and a friend I had the privilege of hosting in my office just 4 months ago. As a matter of fact, I have hosted him several times.

Today, Vladimir Kara-Murza spends his days in a prison cell, where the only thing he can see through the window is a barbed wire fence. What was his crime? He simply spoke the truth about Putin's war on Ukraine. His trial—if it can even be called a trial—was held in secret. No journalists, no diplomats, or spectators of any kind were allowed to be there. And for his offense of talking about the Russian

war against Ukraine, he now faces up to 15 years in prison.

This is not the first time the Russian dictator has tried to silence him. Mr. Kara-Murza has been poisoned twice—in 2015 and 2017—and almost died in both cases. Since then, his wife and three children have had to live abroad, although he himself has chosen to spend most of his time in Russia.

In a recent interview with National Review, his wife Evgenia explained why he insists on working in Russia:

He believes that he would not have the moral right to call on people to fight if he were not sharing the same risks.

As Mr. Kara-Murza put it in a recent CNN interview the day of his arrest, he said:

The biggest gift we could give the Kremlin . . . would be to just give up and run, and that's all they want from us.

What a contrast in character to the man currently running the Kremlin.

The National Review story goes on to describe Mr. Kara-Murza's courageous work for democracy through the eyes of his wife Evgenia, as well as the costs that he and his family have endured, along with so many other Russian dissidents.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent at this point to have printed in the RECORD the National Review story that I referred to.

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

[From the National Review, May 31, 2022]

IN DARK TIMES, A BRAVE MAN

(By Jay Nordlinger)

On March 15, Vladimir Kara-Murza gave a speech to the Arizona legislature. "These are very dark times in Russia," he said. "These are times when we have hundreds of political prisoners, and that number is only going to grow." Less than a month later, Kara-Murza himself became a political prisoner.

Born in 1981, he is one of the most prominent opposition figures in Russia. (Given the state of things, we should probably return to the word "dissidents.") He is a politician, journalist, and activist. A proponent of democracy. For 15 years, he worked alongside Boris Nemtsov, the opposition leader. They became the closest of friends. Nemtsov was godfather to one of Kara-Murza's children. ("In Russia," Kara-Murza once told me, "that makes you family.")

Together, they worked for passage of the Magnitsky Act in the U.S. Congress. This is the act that allows the government to sanction individual human-rights abusers rather than whole peoples or societies. Nemtsov and Kara-Murza were sitting in the gallery on November 16, 2012, when the House passed the act. Nemtsov commented, "This is the most pro-Russian law ever enacted by a foreign government." At last, the persecutors of Russians would face consequences.

On February 27, 2015, Boris Nemtsov was murdered—gunned down within sight of the Kremlin. This had a deep impact on the Russian democracy movement, and it had a deep impact on Vladimir Kara-Murza, personally. He told me, "My life is divided into before and after February 27, 2015."

His wife, Evgenia, confirms the importance of Nemtsov's murder to her husband. "He will never come to terms with it. I just know him all too well. Boris Nemtsov was his teacher, his mentor, and then he became his close friend." Plus, "he was family."

Three months after Nemtsov's murder, Vladimir Kara-Murza himself was nearly murdered. He was subject to a poison attack, of the kind for which Vladimir Putin's agents have become infamous. After he recovered, Kara-Murza kept working, not scared off. Approximately two years later—in February 2017—he was again almost murdered. Again in a poison attack.

On the floor of the U.S. Senate, John McCain made a statement about Kara-Murza, a friend: "Vladimir has once again paid the price for his gallantry and integrity, for placing the interests of the Russian people above his own interest." Congressman Ed Royce, then the chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, called Kara-Murza "one of the bravest people I know."

For the record, lots of people have called Kara-Murza "one of the bravest people I know." Also for the record: McCain asked Kara-Murza to serve as a pallbearer at his funeral, which he did, when the time came (September 2018).

After the second poison attack, doctors told Kara-Murza, "If there's a third one, you won't survive it."

Last year, a team of independent investigators was able to identify the exact unit of the Russian secret police that poisoned Kara-Murza—and Alexei Navalny and others. (Navalny is the current Russian opposition leader, and also a political prisoner.) The investigators pinpointed the agents who carried out the attacks.

Wrote Kara-Murza, "My emotions are difficult to express with words. It's one thing to know intellectually that someone has tried to kill you—and it's quite another to see the names and photographs of the actual people who did this."

For some years, Evgenia Kara-Murza and the couple's children have lived abroad. "Obviously, it's not an ideal situation," Vladimir told me in 2017, "but it has to be this way. I go back and forth, but I spend most of my time in Russia." He was willing to put his own neck on the line, but he was not willing to do the same with his family's.

Many people asked him, or pleaded with him, to work in the West, rather than in Russia itself. That way, he would be safer, if not entirely shielded from danger. Nemtsov was dead. Kara-Murza almost died, twice. Wasn't this enough? Hadn't he paid his dues, so to speak? Did he really need to be on Russian soil, making it easier for Putin's men? Kara-Murza rejected all entreaties, saying that he belonged in Russia.

"What does Evgenia think of all this?" I asked him in 2017. He answered, "If you ask her, she'll say, 'I knew what I was signing up for.'" Then, with a hint of a blush, he said, "I'm grateful to have such a woman in my life."

Today, Evgenia tells me the following: "When we were dating, 20 years ago, I was looking at him and thinking, 'You know, I can imagine spending my life with this man. He's smart, he's funny, he's honorable. He has so much integrity.' Later, when the poisonings and persecutions began, I thought, 'I wish our lives could be a little more boring.' But I do admire Vladimir. I've always admired and respected him for his principled stand, and I would never have him any different."

Explaining Vladimir's insistence on working in Russia, Evgenia says, "He believes that he would not have the moral right to call on people to fight if he were not sharing the same risks."

Back in 2017, I asked Vladimir whether his name would protect him. He was a friend of U.S. politicians, he had been featured on 60 Minutes, he had spoken at forums around the world. He was a bit of a celebrity. Kara-Murza looked at me and said, in effect, "Are

you kidding?" Then he said (I will quote directly), "If they can kill the leader of the opposition on the bridge next to the Kremlin"—he was speaking of the Nemtsov murder—"they can do anything."

Vladimir Putin launched his all-out assault on Ukraine on February 24 of this year. Kara-Murza, naturally, cried against this assault. On March 15, he gave his speech to the Arizona legislature. On April 11, he appeared on CNN, from Moscow. He spoke of the Putin regime's history of murder. Mincing no words, he said, "This regime that is in power in our country today—it's not just corrupt, it's not just kleptocratic, it's not just authoritarian. It is a regime of murderers. And it is important to say it out loud."

He went on to say, "It's tragic, frankly, that it took a large-scale war in Europe for most Western leaders to finally open their eyes to the true nature of this regime."

His interviewer asked him about being in Russia, after all that had happened to him, and others. Wasn't he afraid of being killed? Kara-Murza answered, "Look, I'm a Russian politician, I have to be in Russia, it's my home country. I think the biggest gift we could give to the Kremlin—those of us who are in opposition—would be to just give up and run, and that's all they want from us."

He was arrested that night. Five or six agents rushed at him when he was returning to his apartment building and parking his car. They dragged him into a van and took him to a police station. He was denied the right to call a lawyer. The next day, the authorities sentenced him to 15 days in prison for resisting arrest (something Kara-Murza had not done). It is typical for the government to sentence a dissident to 15 days on some little charge, while they cook up a bigger charge. Agents took Kara-Murza to a detention center.

Eventually, he did have lawyers, and very good ones: Vadim Prokhorov and Olga Mikhailova. (The latter is also lawyer to Navalny.) Kara-Murza does not have access to a phone or the Internet or anything like that. But, in detention, he was able to dictate a column to one of his lawyers.

On this matter of resisting arrest, Kara-Murza said the following:

Sofia Kalistratova, the legendary Moscow lawyer who defended dissidents in the "anti-Soviet" trials of the 1960s and 1970s, told her charges: "Everyone else may cross the street on a red light, but you must always cross on green." She knew that her clients couldn't give the authorities the slightest excuse to accuse them of breaking the law.

I have always tried to follow this principle.

In the column he dictated, Kara-Murza also reported a very interesting detail. When agents brought him to the detention center, they rang the doorbell and said to the person opening, "Here's a political for you. They should have called you from headquarters." (By "a political," they meant a political prisoner, not a common criminal.)

"Among the inmates in the special detention center," said Kara-Murza in his column, "are a young man and woman who had staged a protest in response to the murders in Bucha, Ukraine." Also, there were "students of the Higher School of Economics who were detained for an antiwar demonstration."

Altogether, some 15,000 Russians have been detained for protesting the assault on Ukraine. These people have assumed great risks and have exhibited notable bravery. In a column before his arrest, Kara-Murza recalled the seven people who protested in Red Square against Moscow's invasion of Czechoslovakia in August 1968. (Horrible things happened to them, naturally.) The Kremlin of the time was saying that the whole nation supported the invasion. One of the pro-

testers, Natalia Gorbanevskaya, a poet, reflected on those days, many years later.

"A nation minus me," she said, "is not an entire nation. A nation minus ten, a hundred, a thousand people is not an entire nation." So, thanks to the Red Square protest, the government "could no longer say that there was nationwide approval for the invasion of Czechoslovakia."

On April 22, when Kara-Murza had been in prison for a week and a half, the authorities lodged their bigger charge against him. They accused him of violating a new law, instituted on March 5. This law essentially criminalizes any criticism of the Ukraine war whatsoever. It is punishable by up to 15 years in prison.

Before the war, there were a few independent media outlets left in Russia—the venerable radio station Echo of Moscow, for example, and the venerable newspaper Novaya Gazeta. (Over the years, six of the paper's correspondents have been murdered.) Now all independent media have been shut down. Social media have been blocked. In another of his pre-arrest columns, Kara-Murza wrote, "Near-total darkness has descended on Russia's information space with frightening speed."

The first person charged under the new law—the March 5 law—was a blogger, Veronika Belotserkovskaya, who does not live in Russia, but in France. Her response: "I was officially recognized as a decent person!" In Kara-Murza's case, the authorities cited the Arizona speech in particular. As of this writing, he is awaiting a court date.

Earlier this year, I talked with Kara-Murza about what seemed to me the increasing, galloping re-Sovietization of Russia. The government had shut down Memorial—the leading civil-society organization in the country. Memorial was founded at the urging of Andrei Sakharov in the late 1980s. Sakharov—the great scientist and dissident—was its first chairman. The purpose of the group was to uncover and tell the truth about the past, and to promote freedom and democracy in the present.

As Kara-Murza pointed out to me, plenty of Soviet men are in the Russian government now—starting with the KGB colonel at the top. Who wants to be reminded of his past crimes? Or his present ones?

In Russia's supreme court last December, the chief prosecutor, Alexei Zhafyarov, said, "Memorial creates a false image of the Soviet Union as a terrorist state." He also said that Memorial "makes us repent of the Soviet past, instead of remembering glorious history"—and "probably because someone is paying for it."

Over the past eight years—since Putin's initial invasion of Ukraine—Kara-Murza and I have had several conversations about just that: Ukraine. Kara-Murza's view is that Putin is very, very nervous about a democratic example in that country. It's one thing if New Zealand, let's say, is a democracy. New Zealand is far away, and, besides, it's "Anglo." But Ukraine? There are many ties between Ukraine and Russia: cultural, religious, linguistic. Millions of families have direct ties across the border. And if Russians see that Ukraine has a decent, open, democratic society . . . they may demand the same for themselves, which makes Putin and his men very nervous indeed.

In one of our conversations, Kara-Murza put it this way: "A successful democratic experiment in Ukraine presents an existential threat to Vladimir Putin's authoritarian kleptocracy in Russia."

It is Kara-Murza's strong belief that Russia, one day, will be free and democratic. People should avoid "cultural condescension," he says. That is a phrase he borrows from Ronald Reagan. In his Westminster

speech of 1982, Reagan said, "Democracy already flourishes in countries with very different cultures and historical experiences. It would be cultural condescension, or worse, to say that any people prefer dictatorship to democracy." Earlier this year, Kara-Murza told me, "I have absolutely no doubt that one day we will have a normal, modern, accountable democratic government in Russia. There's no reason that our nation is destined to be an outlier in Europe or the world, and to live under the yoke of a dictatorship."

At the moment, Vladimir Kara-Murza sits in prison, and faces many years of it. His friends and allies are making as much noise as they can. Charles Krauthammer once told me about something that Meg Greenfield had said to him. She was the editorial-page editor of the Washington Post. When the life of Sakharov hung in the balance, she wanted something about him in her pages at least once a week, she said. That way, the Post might help keep him alive.

Chief among the shouters, or campaigners, today for Kara-Murza is his wife. I think of Avital Sharansky, who campaigned for her husband, Anatoly (later Natan), during his nine years in the Gulag. She had obtained a visa to go to Israel, he had not. Sharansky told me a few years ago, "The biggest mistake the KGB made was letting Avita I out."

"I've never been a public person," Evgenia Kara-Murza says, "and I've never enjoyed being in the public eye. I am a quite introverted person, so I like working from home, and I like taking care of the kids, but unfortunately the situation sometimes changes, and I emerge when my husband is either poisoned or thrown in jail, because this is my partner, my soulmate, and I am prepared to do everything I can to bring my children's father home."

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Kara-Murza's imprisonment is part of Mr. Putin's larger assault on what remains of political freedom in Russia. In Mr. Kara-Murza's words, Putin's regime has gone "from highly authoritarian to near-totalitarian almost overnight."

In March, Russian officials passed a new censorship law forbidding all criticism of Mr. Putin's war in Ukraine. That law has been the basis for more 16,000 arrests since the war began in February, including that of Mr. Kara-Murza. Another 2,400 Russians have been charged with administrative offenses for speaking out against the war. Meanwhile, Putin's propaganda machine is ramping up. Independent Russian media outlets have all but vanished, having been blocked, shut down, or forced out of the country by the Kremlin.

The last embers of freedom in Russia are going cold. Putin's crackdown on domestic freedom began in 2003, when Mikhail Khodorkovsky was arrested on trumped-up charges of tax fraud after he simply criticized the government. A former member of the elite, Mr. Khodorkovsky had successfully led the Yukos Oil Company through privatization after the Iron Curtain fell. And contrary to the Kremlin's claims, the company consistently paid its taxes. But that didn't stop Vladimir Putin from plundering its assets and throwing Mr. Khodorkovsky in jail, where he stayed for 10 years.

I would note that just before his arrest, Mr. Khodorkovsky displayed the

same courage and patriotism that we now see in Vladimir Kara-Murza. Like Mr. Kara-Murza, he knew very well he could go to jail for speaking out against the government, but Mr. Khodorkovsky did so anyway and refused to flee the country, saying:

I would prefer to be a political prisoner rather than a political immigrant.

Of course, by then, Mr. Putin had already shown himself willing to violate the international laws of war, having leveled the Chechen capital of Grozny in his own Republic of Russia in 1999. In 2008, he launched a new assault on international law with the invasion of Georgia. In 2014, he started a bloody war in eastern Ukraine. In 2016, Russian dictator Putin and his forces attacked the Syrian city of Aleppo, killing hundreds of civilians and prolonging the rule of Bashar al-Assad.

Meanwhile, Putin ramped up his attacks on domestic freedom as well. In 2015, Boris Nemtsov, leader of the democratic opposition, former Deputy Prime Minister of Russia, was shot to death in broad daylight just yards away from the Kremlin. Three months later, Mr. Kara-Murza was poisoned for the first time. More recently, in 2020, Alexei Navalny, the current leader of the opposition, was himself poisoned and had to seek treatment in Berlin. This is Vladimir Putin's Russia today. When Navalny recovered, he chose to return to Moscow, knowing the risks, and immediately upon landing, he was arrested.

This is the deplorable state of Russia and freedom under Vladimir Putin. Time and again, he has shown that he is bent on stamping out the aspirations of his people for freedom and the rule of law.

As leader of the free world, America must continue to condemn Putin's lawless acts and stand in solidarity with our Russian friends who are courageously fighting against all odds for a better future in Russia and are suffering as a result.

These are modern-day heroes—Alexei Navalny, Vladimir Kara-Murza—and we should not forget them.

My friend the distinguished senior Senator from Maryland, Mr. CARDIN, and I, along with Congressmen STEVE COHEN and JOE WILSON, are the four House and Senate leaders of the Helsinki Commission, which monitors human rights in former Soviet countries. We recently sent a joint letter to President Biden calling on the administration to name and sanction all of those who have been involved in the arrest, detention, and persecution of Vladimir Kara-Murza. I issue that call again today, and I invite my colleagues from both parties to stand with Vladimir Kara-Murza and work for his release.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to be able to complete my remarks.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the confirmation of Dr. Lester Martinez-Lopez to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs, or ASDHA.

The Defense Department is responsible for the health and welfare of over 1.3 million Americans who are entrusted with protecting our Nation. In order to ensure they get the care they need and deserve, the DOD must have an Assistant Secretary of Defense in place to lead their health affairs.

This position is the principal adviser to the Secretary of Defense for all health and force health protection policies, programs, activities, and the Integrated Disability Evaluation System. The ASDHA is responsible for the execution of the DOD medical mission, to provide and maintain physical and mental health readiness for medical services and support to members of the military services, their families, and those held in the control of the military services.

Dr. Martinez-Lopez is eminently qualified for the position and has an impressive history of public service. Dr. Martinez-Lopez graduated from medical school in 1978. He retired from the U.S. Army as a major general and was the first Latino to head the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command at Fort Detrick, MD. He is the former director of the Army's worldwide medical research, acquisition, and logistics program, overseeing a vast research portfolio that included cancer, trauma, infectious diseases, aviation medicine, and telemedicine research.

Dr. Martinez-Lopez also directed the premier national biological and chemical defense laboratories and research program and led the development of the National Biodefense Campus at Fort Detrick.

He served as the commanding general of the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, where he directed a worldwide public health organization and was responsible for preventive medicine, health promotion and wellness, global medical surveillance, occupational and environmental health, and health risk communication.

Dr. Martinez-Lopez has an extensive military and medical background that makes him eminently qualified to fill this critically important role. But Republican obstruction has left us without a confirmed Assistant Secretary for Health Affairs for nearly a year, endangering the health of our servicemembers and the safety of our Nation.

Unfortunately, Dr. Lopez is not the only critically important civilian DOD nominee Senate Republicans are blocking. Just yesterday, Chairman REED came to the floor to ask for unanimous consent on the nominees to serve as inspector general of DOD, Assistant Secretary of the Navy, and a judge of the

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

This unprecedented obstruction must end, and we must fill these important positions, including Dr. Martinez-Lopez, as quickly as possible.

I urge my colleagues to confirm this nominee.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 779, Lester Martinez-Lopez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I rise in objection to this nominee due to his support of President Biden's irrational and now proven foolish vaccine mandates for our military.

Last August, the Biden administration imposed a COVID-19 vaccine mandate across the entire military. This led to the expulsion of thousands of qualified, honorable servicemembers who elected not to receive the vaccine. This DOD mandate failed to account for immunity to the virus many troops gained through natural infection, which we now know is equal to or greater than the effectiveness of the vaccine. The mandate also failed to account for the fact that these men and women are our bravest and healthiest Americans, with strong immune systems.

Recently, we learned that the Army cut roughly 60,000 National Guard and Reserve members from pay and benefits for refusing to take the COVID vaccine at the beginning of July. This decision was made at a time when more than 30 percent of its recruitment slots are not fulfilled.

The recruiting crisis has gotten so bad that the Army is now placing enlistees who exceed body fat standards into a dietary and exercise program in order to lose weight. This manpower shortage could result in undermanned units and potentially longer deployments as well as greater dependence on National Guardsmen to meet mission goals.

These personnel shortages are clear and obvious, and they are getting worse. Yet the ideologues in charge of this administration refuse to drop the vaccine mandate for the military. There is no longer any rational basis to persist in this demand other than as a deliberate campaign to punish dissenting opinions and oppress political enemies.

The Department also appears to be going out of its way to deny religious accommodations for our troops. More than 24,000 members across the branches have submitted religious accommodation requests. Almost all have

been rejected. The Air Force approved fewer than 130 of the more than 9,000 religious requests submitted by airmen.

It is time for this administration to do what is morally right and patriotic, what is decent and sensible and prudent for the readiness of our military, and drop this vaccine mandate. Further, the Defense Department should reinstate those servicemembers who have been expelled for this reason, return them to their previous positions, and provide backpay for time missed.

But until they do so, I will continue to object to this nominee. And, therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, very briefly, the fact that my colleague is objecting to the consequences of not adhering to the requirement for vaccination is not within the purview of Dr. Lester Martinez-Lopez. So, therefore, their objection as to this particular nominee is misplaced and, in my view, irrelevant.

I again call on my colleagues to enable this nominee to come forward under unanimous consent.

VOTE ON PRESSMAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Pressman nomination?

Ms. HASSAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), and the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE).

The result was announced—yeas 61, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 274 Ex.]

YEAS—61

Baldwin	Crapo	Merkley
Bennet	Feinstein	Moran
Blumenthal	Gillibrand	Murphy
Blunt	Graham	Murray
Booker	Hassan	Ossoff
Brown	Heinrich	Padilla
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Peters
Capito	Hirono	Portman
Cardin	Kaine	Reed
Carper	Kelly	Risch
Casey	King	Romney
Collins	Klobuchar	Rosen
Coons	Lujan	Rounds
Cornyn	Markey	Schatz
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Schumer
Cramer	Menendez	Shaheen

Sinema	Toomey	Whitehouse
Smith	Van Hollen	Wyden
Stabenow	Warner	Young
Tester	Warnock	
Tillis	Warren	

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Grassley	Marshall
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Cruz	Kennedy	Sullivan
Daines	Lankford	Thune
Ernst	Lee	Tuberville
Fischer	Lummis	Wicker

NOT VOTING—9

Burr	Inhofe	Murkowski
Duckworth	Leahy	Sanders
Durbin	Manchin	Sasse

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President shall be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1068.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth Wilson Hanes, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1068, Elizabeth Wilson Hanes, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

Charles E. Schumer, Christopher Murphy, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith, Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, Jeanne Shaheen, Jeff Merkley, Alex Padilla, Richard J. Durbin, Jack Reed, Gary C. Peters, Edward J. Markey, Sherrod Brown, Tim Kaine, Ben Ray Lujan, Mazie Hirono.

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, July 28, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, a few weeks ago, the fate of the CHIPS Act, our collective effort to shore up the vulnerable semiconductor supply chain, was in limbo. Republicans said we would not move forward with what was then known as USICA, the U.S. Innovation and Competition Act, while Democrats were crafting a partisan reckless massive tax and spending bill behind closed doors.

Then Senator MANCHIN, the Senator from West Virginia, made a decision that angered most of his Democratic colleagues—he slammed the door on the climate and tax provisions and reconciliation. He said:

Until we see the July inflation figures—

Which we haven't seen yet—

until we see the July Federal reserve interest rates, then let's wait.

He noted that families were struggling to buy such essentials as gasoline and groceries and added:

I can't make that decision basically on taxes of any type.

That was what I will call the old Joe.

After we received assurances privately from some Senate Democrats, including the staff of the Senate majority leader, that the tax and climate provisions were off the table, we were able to move forward with USICA and the funding of this vulnerable semiconductor supply chain that is an important part of the bill that the House is voting on today.

So Republicans and Democrats went to work, negotiating in good faith to reach an agreement because we recognized that the vulnerability of our semiconductor supply chain was an economic and national security existential threat because 90 percent of the advanced semiconductors in the world that power everything from your cell phone to the F-35, to the Stinger or the Javelin missiles that are being used in Ukraine today—90 percent of those come from overseas, and the United States makes zero percent of them. That was the vulnerability and the risk we were exposed to, so that is why we worked so hard on a bipartisan basis to pass what used to be called Endless Frontier. I guess it has had about four or five different names so far, but it started, in my mind, with the CHIPS for America Act that Mr. WARNER, the Senator from Virginia, and I introduced in June of 2020.

So we all celebrated with a bipartisan press conference just in the LBJ Room over here, but then shortly after that bipartisan announcement, we learned some astonishing news: The climate and tax provisions apparently

were never off the table despite what we had been told.

Apparently, Democrats—specifically, the majority leader and Senator MANCHIN—just moved those discussions out of the public eye, into a secret back room. And I pretty much believe that other Democratic colleagues were not clued in on those negotiations. That is my impression. It was a secret deal between the majority leader and Senator MANCHIN.

Well, as I said, the CHIPS Act was part of this larger China competitiveness bill passed around 1 o'clock, and it was just 4 hours later that Senator MANCHIN sent out a press release that "Build Back Broke" was now on track. After saying repeatedly he would not support such reckless policies, he has done an Olympic-worthy flip-flop, and there is simply no denying it.

Let me talk about the new JOE.

It simply can't be overstated how dramatic this reversal is. Democratic Senators called me and texted me yesterday after Senator MANCHIN's announcement.

One said:

I am so shocked and upset.

Another said:

I am appalled.

A member of the President's Cabinet said:

I hope you know and trust that I had absolutely no idea this was going on.

Just 2 weeks ago, Senator MANCHIN said he wouldn't support the climate policies and tax increases out of fear that it would fan the flames of inflation.

Last month, as we will recall, inflation hit a new four-decade high. Everyday expenses for food, groceries, and other necessities of life were up more than 9 percent from just a year ago. Our colleague from West Virginia said he told the Democratic leader it would be "wrong" and "not prudent" to move forward while inflation was at a record high. Unfortunately, it didn't take long for that sense of fiscal responsibility to fade.

I don't know the details about the secret deal between Senator MANCHIN and Senator SCHUMER that resulted in this reversal, but I have to say, it was ugly. Now Senator MANCHIN not only supports the "Build Back Broke" bill, he now said it is his proposal—he, in effect, wrote it—and it includes the same policies that he previously opposed.

Tax hikes on working families and small businesses, Green New Deal climate policies, socialist price controls on prescription drugs, things like subsidies for wealthy purchasers of electric vehicles—forget the fact that somebody who can't afford an electric vehicle, who has to drive an old clunker, perhaps, or buy a used car—they are the ones subsidizing wealthy people buying electric vehicles—it is all in there.

Democrats could not have picked a worse time to push this reckless, irresponsible bill. This morning's news on

the state of the economy confirms what millions of Americans have known for months: that the Biden recession is officially here. Our economy is not just stuck in the mud; it is sinking. Families and small businesses deserve better than a toxic combination of higher prices and feeble economic growth. Instead of helping the people survive this recession, our Democratic colleagues want to push them even deeper into the hole.

In 2008, Senator SCHUMER himself, the majority leader, said that raising taxes during a recession was a bad idea.

President Obama said exactly the same thing. In 2009, President Obama—in the aftermath of the great recession due to the financial crisis in 2008—President Obama said virtually the same thing that Senator SCHUMER said:

The last thing you want to do is raise taxes in the middle of a recession.

And that is exactly where we are.

The following year, in 2010, Senator MANCHIN agreed with Senator SCHUMER and President Obama. He said:

I don't think during a time of recession you mess with any of the taxes or increase any taxes.

That is the old JOE. That is the same Senator who is now proposing to raise taxes on families in the middle of a recession.

Now, here is the real joke, but I guess the joke is on all of us: They are calling it the Inflation Reduction Act. What an insult to the intelligence of the American people. Do they think anybody will be fooled? Do they think the American people are so stupid that they will believe this is an honest attempt to address inflation? There is not a chance. This proposal is a wolf in sheep's clothing. Our Democratic colleagues can try to rebrand the "Build Back Broke" bill that they tried to pass earlier this year all they want, but it is filled with the same rotten policies that will hurt families, small businesses, and energy producers, while the President, by the way, goes to Saudi Arabia hat in hand, asking the leader of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to produce more oil overseas rather than encourage domestic production here in America.

If this bill were to pass, it would eliminate any chance we had of escaping the recession policies that Democrats have landed us in.

Families are being crushed by the worst inflation in four decades. For every dollar you have, it is worth 91 cents in purchasing power because of the broken policies of the Biden administration. But it is not the politicians who pay the price; we are doing just fine. It is the working families all across this country who are paying the price for Democrats' war on American energy, for example. And they are sick and tired of being told by Washington Democrats that you can tax and spend our way out of this mess.

I have some bad news: If the Democratic leader can manage to keep all 50 Democrats on board, it is going to get

worse. Our only hope is that a single Democratic Senator will oppose this massive, irresponsible bill, and it only takes one in a 50–50 Senate.

Not only will this bill have a devastating impact on the American people, it will absolutely paralyze this Chamber.

There have been recent discussions about, well, amidst polarization, there is possibility for bipartisan cooperation, and I have been proud to be a part of some of that bipartisan cooperation. I think we have done some important things for the American people.

But the Senate functions on trust. There are only 100 of us, and the relationships and the confidence that we have that when somebody looks you in the eye and tells you something, that they are going to stick with it, is important to negotiating in good faith and building consensus that is necessary to pass legislation. That is the only way we can pass legislation—work in a bipartisan, candid, good-faith way to get things done, like our mental health and school safety bill recently. That trust was eviscerated yesterday.

Senators MANCHIN and SCHUMER did not draft this 725-page bill in the 4 hours between the passage of the CHIPS Act and Senator MANCHIN's press release. They have been working on this the entire time, when they told us it was off the table. How is this Chamber supposed to function if we don't have at least some modicum of trust in what our colleagues tell us? How can we negotiate in good faith, compromise where necessary, and get things done together after the majority leader and the Senator from West Virginia pull a stunt like this?

The American people are sometimes left to wonder whether our institutions, including this one, can work anymore. Well, I can only speak for this Senator when I say: This betrayal is an absolute declaration of political warfare.

For years, many of our Democratic colleagues have claimed that the Senate is broken because of the filibuster. They act as though a procedural vote with the 60-vote threshold is an end of democracy as we know it. But look where we are now. The Democratic leader is crafting secret deals in back rooms. He is keeping members of his own political party in the dark, such that they have to apologize to people like me who have been willing to trust that what people say—that their word is their bond.

Look, if somebody can't agree with me, I would prefer they tell me outright, and then we can figure out where we can agree if we can't agree in some areas. But to look you in the eye and tell you one thing and then to do another is absolutely unforgivable.

Now the majority leader is trying to abuse the rules of the Senate to pass a \$700 billion partisan spending bill in the next week, in the next matter of days—a bill that was only announced in a press release yesterday.

The Senate is not broken, but I am afraid, if this stunt pays off, Democrats are about to break it.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho is recognized.

NATO

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I rise today, colleagues, to urge the Senate to proceed quickly—quickly—to the consideration of the accession protocols for Finland and Sweden to join NATO.

Once again the Senate has been given the responsibility of offering advice and consent to ratifying the accession of two new members to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. We have been advising aggressively for quite some time, and it is time now to move to the consent portion of getting this done. NATO is the most successful political-military alliance in history. It helped bring down the Soviet Union, and it united Europe so it could rebuild economically.

The Senate has the opportunity to expand NATO and bring both Finland and Sweden into the alliance. Over the years, these countries never sought membership. They were content to just partner with NATO, but they did not join. However, Putin's attempt to rewrite the security landscape in Europe with his invasion of Ukraine convinced the people of Finland and Sweden that they should become formal members of NATO. Why wouldn't they?

After the past 2 weeks—and really the entire summer—the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has carefully considered and discussed the prospective membership of our longtime partners, Finland and Sweden.

The Senate has already shown bipartisan support for Finland and Sweden joining NATO. As my colleagues and I have laid out in a resolution of support in public statements at Senate Foreign Relations Committee meetings and hearings in June and in the committee report submitted to the floor along with the protocols, Finland and Sweden will make model members of the NATO alliance.

Once approved by all 30 current members of NATO, these two nations will become integral members of the alliance. Both have strong and capable militaries and are already net contributors to the security alliance. Although militarily unaligned for decades, Finland and Sweden have long defended Europe's high north—a region becoming even more important with the competition from Russia and China in the Arctic.

Both have already demonstrated the interoperability and commitment necessary to join the alliance. Finland already spends more than 2 percent of its GDP on defense, and Sweden laid out its plan to reach that mark shortly—both requirements for joining NATO.

These countries also bring additional capabilities to NATO. Both are intimately familiar with the north and east flank of Europe. Finland also trains U.S. forces in cold weather oper-

ations and the Finnish Navy is especially suited to operate and defend the Baltic Sea, where some Navy ships have less maneuverability, being a blue-water Navy.

They have both participated in NATO missions in Afghanistan, the Balkans, and Iraq. In fact, these countries operated with less restrictions on their militaries in these missions than other NATO members. Finland and Sweden also share our democratic values, have strong military and defense industries, and extensive experience in Russian matters.

One only has to take a look at a map to see the benefits of adding Finland and Sweden to NATO. With their proximity to the Baltic States—the Baltic States, which are small—they are well-positioned to provide support, if needed, to our current Baltic NATO allies, just as the rest of NATO would if the Baltic States have a problem with Russia.

Adding these two nations as full members to our alliance will further deter any temptation by Russia to engage in military adventurism in the Baltic area or the Arctic regions. Although my sense is Russia has already learned this year of the ineptitude, clumsiness, and just plain inabilities of its way-overrated military, which can't even win against a small, substantially less-equipped adversary, even when Russia used barbaric medieval tactics. Russia's efforts have been pitiful and, at the same time, despicable.

Many Senators have already given firm statements of support for this succession, and we deserve the timely chance to make our support known through a vote. Let's get on with it.

There are few things more important than voting on accession for Finland and Sweden to NATO. This accession process is an important chance for the United States to demonstrate leadership in NATO and commitment to its modernization and, very importantly, NATO's future.

When the shooting is over in Ukraine, it won't be over. There is no doubt that NATO is going to take a long, hard look at what it is doing, what its priorities are, and, very importantly, hardening the eastern and northern flanks.

Since this wave of NATO enlargement was first announced, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee has carefully consulted and coordinated with our NATO allies, the governments of Sweden and Finland, with the administration, and within the Senate itself to ensure this process can move as efficiently and quickly as possible. I can't count the number of meetings and conversations we have had in this regard.

We now have only one step left until ratification, and it makes no sense to dillydally at this stage. There should be no issue with moving this treaty as quickly as possible. The Senate's quick ratification of Finland and Sweden as new members of NATO will both send a strong message of transatlantic unity

to a now foundering Russia and will strengthen NATO against Russia's growing threat.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

CHIPS ACT OF 2022

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the CHIPS and Science Act, a bill approved by the Senate yesterday and, I am told, just approved literally in the last several minutes by the House of Representatives, a bill that I am proud to be able to support, along with many of my colleagues.

This bipartisan legislation will invest in our Nation's semiconductor industry, strengthen America's manufacturing competitive edge over foreign competitors, and reduce supply chain burdens that exist with respect to our country and our people. Yesterday's vote marked an important step in providing America the authority to set the rules of the road for a 21st-century economy.

I was pleased to join so many of our colleagues in support of this bill so that States like Delaware and like Nevada can continue to punch above our weight in the global economy for years to come.

We probably all heard the saying before: "Today, they don't make cars like they used to." Well, some of my colleagues know and many folks in Delaware know I can attest to that personally. For two decades, I drove a 2001 Chrysler Town and Country minivan, a silver one, affectionately called by many the Silver Bullet. It had 600,000 miles on it.

When I went to the DMV and took with me the young man who wanted to buy it, they asked me how much I was going to sell it for.

I said: \$1.

The lady there at the desk at the DMV said: Well, what you have to do, you have to turn it over and sign on the back of title "\$1."

So I wrote "\$1," and I signed the document, as did the purchaser.

Then the lady at the DMV said: There is a transfer fee you have to pay for the vehicle.

I said: What is it?

She said: 3 percent.

I said: 3 percent of \$1?

She said: Yes.

I pulled a nickel out of my pocket and gave it to her and said: Keep the change.

But my old minivan is more popular and famous in my little State in a lot of places than I was.

But anyway, that vehicle had seen every corner of the First State, with some 600,000 miles to her name. She carried "Carpertown" staffers, constituents, family members, and even a future President—even a future President.

When it came time to retire her early last summer, through anguish and heartache, I opted for a slight upgrade: a red Tesla Y that maybe someday will have 600,000 miles on it. We will see.

Let me tell you, though, they don't make cars like they used to. They make them a lot better, a whole lot better and a whole lot cleaner as well.

On top of being fully electric—and let me just say that 2, 3, 4 years ago, our selection of electric vehicles, low-emission, no-emission vehicles, was limited, very limited, and folks from Tesla were largely outside of the gate.

First, the people from GM had come up with a very good hybrid vehicle for a number of years, but it took a long time for us to actually get into the business—both domestic manufacturers and foreign manufacturers—of building and selling fully electric vehicles.

But on top of being fully electric, right when you step into these new cars, including the one I own, you see a world of technology in front of us—a state-of-the-art touchscreen GPS system, backup cameras, digital heating and air-conditioning controls. It is a far cry from my own minivan that drove so many miles.

The odometer actually died on me at 500,000 miles. I don't know exactly how many miles it did have, but it had a lot. But at 500,000 miles, we went to Dover Downs, the Miracle Mile, the Monster Mile, where they do auto racing and NASCAR racing. They let me drive my minivan around the track as fast as it would go. Holding the starter flag out the window, I thought it was going to rip my arm off, but it didn't. But it didn't.

One ride in a car like my new one, and it is clear, automotive technology and the American economy have drastically advanced in the last 20 years. That is thanks, in part, to the advances of semiconductor technology or, as we sometimes say, chips.

Now, folks at home might have read about chips or may have heard about some connection with semiconductors and our supply chain woes on the nightly news, but they still wonder what that has to do with their everyday lives. So here it is, a little bit of chips 101, a little bit of chips 101 before I get in my new vehicle and head for the Delaware State Fair as fast as I can go—legally, legally.

Chips 101: a semiconductor, oftentimes referred to as a chip, is commonly used material in tech manufacturing made of elements like silicon that are valued for their ability to manage the flow of electricity.

In our technology, a chip as small as a puzzle piece or even smaller than a fingernail is vital to creating the phones that we carry in our pockets or in our purses, the washing machine in our basements, the television in our family rooms, and, yes, all that technology in our new vehicles.

But more than that, the semiconductors have a vital role to play in some of the medical equipment that monitors our health and in the weapons systems that protect our country.

But after 2 years of the COVID-19 pandemic and economic shock, unpredictable shutdowns, along with labor

shortages and logistic failures, have led to severe supply chain constraints. These supply chain issues have caused the same inflation that Americans have seen play out in empty shelves at your local grocery stores or in new technology that they have saved up for years to buy but are having a hard time finding on the market as of late.

Just last month, Senator JOHN CORNYN and I chaired a Finance Trade Subcommittee hearing, and it was a hearing on supply chain resiliency. We did it in order to take a look at what is causing supply chain backlogs and hurting American consumers.

We heard that day from the experts about the need for greater investments in semiconductor manufacturing here at home and about the vulnerabilities we face when companies thousands and thousands of miles away—maybe on the other side of the world—can determine the economic success of entire American industries. Because our manufacturing sector relies on this technology, we are beholden to the companies that produce semiconductors and we are hamstrung—hamstrung—by the delays that slow these companies down.

That is increasingly a problem when America's share of global chips production drops from 37 percent—37 percent—in 1990 to just 12 percent today or when more than 75 percent of chips are manufactured in Asia on the other side of the world. This reliance on foreign manufacturers makes our economic and our national security vulnerable to geopolitical shocks from halfway around the planet.

And that is a problem for companies in my State of Delaware and your State of Nevada, Madam President. But one of the companies that I would mention from our State is Hologic, and they are located in Newark, DE, near the University of Delaware, the northern part of our State. They rely on a reliable stream of chips to produce mammography machines. For Hologic, a shortage of chips means not just slower production of new mammography machines but a struggle to replace and repair old machines that women across our country rely on for vital preventive care to detect breast cancer.

After more than 2 years of this pandemic and cancer screenings all too often delayed for months, that means more clinics and doctors' offices with outdated equipment will offer limited screenings, and that means more women in States like mine and like yours across America will have to put screenings that could save their lives on the back burner.

That is just one very serious, real-world example of why these investments are critical to families and they are critical to businesses up and down the "First State" and across the United States. So, Madam President, we can and we should take action to address some of the weaknesses in our economy and to compete with countries like China in the process.

That is why I am proud to support the CHIPS and Science Act. It is a much needed investment for the manufacturing of semiconductors and the development of other critical technologies in our country, and it will provide tax incentives to make our tech sector the envy of the world once again.

By investing in American-made chips, we can reduce costs of technology for Americans, improve supply chain reliability, and we can create new opportunities and jobs for a lot of American workers.

And by investing in the National Science Foundation and the American innovation hubs, we have an opportunity to jump-start American innovation and growth once again.

This legislation will make life a bit easier for businesses and consumers across America, from car dealerships in Delaware, on the east coast, and in your State of Nevada, out there in the middle of the great West—from car dealerships in Delaware that don't have enough inventory to meet customer demands to manufacturers struggling to access critical parts and inputs.

As Secretary of Commerce Raimondo and the Defense Secretary have made clear over the last couple of weeks, including in a briefing that they held with us, this bill will bolster both our economic and our national security—but not only that. To not act, to not invest in American jobs and manufacturing, as Secretary Raimondo described it, would cause—her words—"irreparable harm to the United States economy and the United States military operations"—because when America isn't in the driver's seat, someone else is taking the wheel, and Americans may well fall behind as a result.

So we have not just an opportunity, I think we have an obligation to American consumers and to our Nation's workforce to invest right here at home. The action we are taking should be the beginning rather than the end of our efforts to strengthen, once again, American economic competitiveness.

There were many bipartisan ideas on the table through the debate over this legislation, some ideas that didn't make it into the final bill. Many of them are worthy of our future consideration. And as the chairman of the Finance Subcommittee on International Trade that I lead with Senator CORNYN, I will continue advocating for greater economic engagement with our allies across the globe and especially—especially—in the Asia-Pacific.

There is more we can do. I will say that again. There is more we can do—and must do—to strengthen supply chain resiliency, combat unfair trade practices, and support the American worker and innovation.

I was proud to vote in favor of the CHIPS and Science Act because, first and foremost, I serve the people of the "First State." And yesterday's vote will mean investments that create jobs

for Delaware workers and States around us. We have a lot of people in other States who work in Delaware even though they live in Pennsylvania or New Jersey or in Maryland.

Yesterday's vote will mean support for the technology that keeps our loved ones healthy and safe, and it will also mean more affordable goods, delivered faster, to families in the "First State" and every other State.

I want to commend the House of Representatives for the action that they took today in passing this legislation. And when I leave here today, I am going to go out and get in that red sports car that I drive these days. And it has incredible music, just incredible music, as you probably know. Most cars have that these days. And I think that, first, I am going to head for the Delaware State Fair, which I love. The first time I ran for office, that was sort of like where I announced it a million years ago.

I will probably pick out some music to listen to, and the first song, I think, is a Willie Nelson song. It is a Willie Nelson song: "On the Road Again." And I am going to get on the road again and head for the "First State," for the Delaware State Fair, and look forward to meeting a lot of people.

I wish you a great weekend. To my colleague DAN SULLIVAN from Alaska, the marine colonel who is about to take the floor, have at it. Danny, it is all yours.

I yield the floor.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I want to compliment my colleague from Delaware, whom I enjoy working with very much on the EPW Committee.

Normally at this time, the end of the week, I talk about the Alaskan of the Week. So stay tuned for next week when we continue that series. It has been going on for 6 years.

NEPA

Madam President, today, actually, I want to talk about the Americans of the century, the Americans of the century. This is an iconic, iconic picture of the men—and, of course, women—who built our great Nation: the working families, the union members who built our great Nation, won World War II.

This is, by the way, the Empire State Building. Some of our workers built that. I want to talk about that here in a minute. They are having a little bit of lunch. But these are the workers who built America, certainly helped us win World War II: the machinists, electricians, welders, builders.

And, Madam President, next week, my colleagues are going to be put to the test, and it is going to be a simple test. It is a question that is a really important one right now: Where do you stand? Do you stand with the working men and women of this great Nation, the ones who built our country and their incredible heritage of building America, or do you stand with the coastal elites—represented by this individual—who are actually focused on

not building the country but in many ways shutting it down?

Well, I will tell you where I stand. I stand right here with the men and women who have built this great Nation.

Here is what is going to happen next week. I am bringing together a joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act, what we call a CRA, that will be a simple vote to nullify a recent Biden administration regulation that clearly is going to make it harder in America to build infrastructure projects—to build buildings, to build energy projects. These regulations will waste taxpayer dollars, but the biggest thing they will do is they will prevent workers from working and building the country.

So that is it. We are going to have a simple vote on whether you stand with the people who take a shower before work or the people who take a shower after work, the people who spend their day holding tools to build things or holding lattes—the people with dirt under their fingernails.

The vote will answer the question posed by the late folk singer Pete Seeger: Which side are you on? Now, right now, there are 50 Republican Senators who are on the side of the working men and women. They cosponsored my resolution. So let's talk a little bit about the background of what we are going to vote on next week.

This is a very famous structure in America, the Hoover Dam, and it is part of a great American tradition that we are all proud of—every single American—that we used to build big things: our roads, our dams, our ports, our bridges, our pipelines. We built engineering marvels in the world, a source of immense pride for all Americans. The Hoover Dam—look at that—5 years—actually, less than 5 years—to build that dam. The Empire State Building, you just saw a picture of men and women building that. It took 410 days to build the Empire State Building. The Pentagon, the biggest office building in the world: 16 months.

Let me talk a little bit closer to home. The 1,700-mile Alaska-Canada Highway, through some of the world's most rugged terrain: 11 months. We did that. America did that. Workers did that. The Trans-Alaska Pipeline—think of this: 70,000 sections of 48-inch-wide pipe, joined and laid—70,000 sections—across three mountain ranges, 800 riverbeds, tundra, forests, lakes, from the Arctic Ocean to the Pacific—800 miles—3 years. Incredible.

The American worker can build anything, can build anything. And then the engineering. We put a man on the Moon in less than 10 years. We used to do big things, big infrastructure. And the men and women of America have always been the best, most productive workers in the country.

Well, that is no longer, unfortunately, the legacy of America. And here is part of what is going to happen next week. Let me talk a little bit of a

background issue here. And I know some of my colleagues aren't going to like to hear it, but the Democratic Party was once home to these great American workers. That is true.

My family was part of this tradition—Irish-Catholic immigrants, Democrats. My great-grandfather Frank J. Sullivan was one of the founding members of the IBEW, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. He passed on the values of hard work throughout his family. And the Democratic Party long supported the union members, the workers who built not just America but the middle class. And I think that is a proud tradition. I think that is a proud tradition—certainly something that my family was part of. But that has been abandoned.

Right now, the focus is much more on coastal, progressive elites and what they want versus what these men and women want. That was yesterday's Democratic Party. You are seeing headlines more like this: "The Democrats' Working Class Voter Problem." That is a headline from the Democratic ally blog titled "The Liberal Patriot."

Newsweek: "Democrats Have Forgotten the Working Class."

Here is a doozy from the Economist recently: Democrats in America are realizing they must moderate or die.

Now, some attribute this problem to cultural issues. As James Carville said "Wokeness is a problem."

Cultural issues, wokeness, and all that implies are certainly issues driving the working class away from the Democratic Party. But I believe the problems that the Democrats are having with the working class run much deeper than wokeness. I believe they are structural. And at the end of the day, they are pocketbook issues. One issue that impacts everybody, but especially America's workers, is the regulatory system—the permitting system that we have in America.

It hurt so much of our country. But I will tell you who it really hurts: the men and women who build things. They are on the ground. They see their projects being delayed when they are killed. They are the ones who get the pink slips when there is endless litigation on a resource development project in Alaska. They are the ones worrying about feeding their families because they can't have good work because they can't build things anymore. They are the ones who are attacked by the far left because they produce things like American energy, which we all need.

We live in a nation now that is increasingly divided into two countries: one of builders and doers, of working men and women, of working families, and the other side that soaks up the spoils of those workers and then figures out ways to make their job even harder, oftentimes resulting in putting them out of work altogether.

And I have seen this time and time again in my State—in my State. When

these men and women try to build things—and there is a choice with my Democratic colleagues between the coastal elites who want to shut things down and the men and women in America who want to build things—unfortunately, the default position for them is the coastal elites, forsaking the working men and women of our country.

So why am I so animated by this? It is because our great Nation that built so many great things is now caught up in redtape. It is now caught up in redtape. So I want to talk a little bit more about my resolution and the vote we are going to have next Wednesday, or next Tuesday. The National Environmental Policy Act was a good idea when it passed in late 1969. It required environmental impact statements when things were being built so the public could be engaged.

That act, called NEPA, resulted in people participating in the permitting process but not overburdening it. So normally, a NEPA Environmental Impact Statement—an EIS—at the beginning, when it was first passed, would take less than a year, a couple hundred pages. That was it.

Now you look at the system in America. To try to build things, the average EIS takes 4 to 6 years to just complete—4 to 6 years to just complete. And it usually costs several million dollars just to build anything in this country. That wasn't the purpose of NEPA. We are killing ourselves as a nation with our inability to build infrastructure because we are tangled up in redtape.

In his recent reporting, the progressive New York Times writer Ezra Klein looks at the cost of building things in America relative to other industrialized countries. Klein writes that Japan, Canada, and Germany build a kilometer of rail for \$170 million, \$254 million, and \$287 million, respectively. That seems like a lot, until you get to the United States. One kilometer costs \$538 million, way more than any other industrialized country. Delays are costs. Of course, we know that.

According to the GAO—and this is a study several years ago; I am sure it is much worse—a new U.S. highway construction project, just to build a highway normally takes 9 to 19 years.

Come on, America. We built the Alcan Highway, 1,100 miles, in 11 months.

This is a topic that I am very passionate about. It sounds kind of geeky. Permitting, rules, regulations—it is the core of our economy, and it is the core of what is keeping so many working families down.

Let me give you a couple of other examples. The new—not new now—recently expanded runway at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport took about 3 years to build. We had a hearing on the Commerce Committee. I asked the head of the Sea-Tac Airport, “How long did it take you to get the permits before you could build that?” New runway, Sea-Tac needs it. He looked at me, and he said “Senator, 15 years.”

Fifteen years to get permits to do a runway expansion at Sea-Tac Airport.

He actually said:

By the time we got the permits and the construction time, almost 20 years. I think that the ancient Egyptians would have built the pyramids by then.

This is what we are talking about. Every State, every city, every community sees this problem.

Let me give you a couple of other examples. The Gross Reservoir in Colorado, which is going to offer clean water to all the people of Colorado, has taken two decades—20 years—to get this project permitted. California's bullet train that they are still working on—approved in the late 1990s—is still not built because of permitting delays. The costs have gone from \$33 billion to \$105 billion.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline in Virginia and West Virginia, trying to transport natural gas—litigation is stopping that.

Of course, in Alaska, we are ground zero for a lot of this. The Kensington Mine right now is producing gold for our country. Hundreds of people are working there. The average wage is \$110,000. Those are good jobs. Twenty years to permit that line, if you include the litigation—20 years.

Here is how James Callahan, great American worker, president of the International Union of Operating Engineers—the men and women who really build America, the operating engineers—put it in a letter supporting my resolution next week. You can see it right here. He nails it:

Since its modest beginnings, NEPA has evolved into a massive edifice, capable of destroying project after project—

Destroying, not helping—job after job, in virtually every sector of the economy.

He goes on:

Dilatory strategies employed by project opponents frequently exploit provisions in NEPA, weighing down projects, frustrating communities, and raising costs to the point that many applicants, whether public or private, simply walk away.

By the way, when I talk about the coastal elites—the radical environmental groups—that is their goal, to use NEPA to just kill projects. And they are really, really good at that.

So what happens, as James Callahan says—when that happens, when the applicants simply walk away—well, we know what happens. Work dries up. Layoffs happen. The dignity of work and hope that can lift entire communities dissipates. Families struggle. Communities struggle.

When we talk about good-paying jobs in our country, we are talking about so much more than men and women punching a clock. We are talking about the health of families, the pride in communities, the pride in our country.

Look at the pride of those men and women who built the Empire State Building, the pride of men and women who built the Alaska pipeline. We see it over and over again that commu-

nities without hope, without an economic future, without good-paying jobs, who get crushed by these burdensome regulations and groups that want to shut them down, are much more prone to experiencing violence, crime, succumbing to kinds of huge challenges like the opioid crisis.

And so these issues matter across the country. But, again, they matter to working families more than anyone.

So what are we going to do next week? Well, a surprise to me—and I must admit, it was a surprise; I came down here and talked about this a while ago—was that during the negotiations for the infrastructure bill that many of us voted on—I voted for it last year, in part because it had really good provisions—not as good as I would have wanted—but on permitting reform. These built on what I worked on with the Trump administration when they put out regulations as it related to building infrastructure that, by the way, was supported by millions and millions of Americans for the reasons I just talked about: streamlining permitting, getting projects online, not so costly.

So some of the NEPA reforms that we got in the infrastructure bill were things that we had built on during the Trump administration. Let me give you a couple of examples: one Federal agency in charge of all regulatory decisions, timelines on NEPA, limitations on the pages required by NEPA. These were commonsense reforms that we worked on with the Trump administration and some of which we got into the infrastructure bill.

So imagine, this is supposedly Joe Biden's top legislative achievement—4 months ago, kind of under the radar, the White House, the Biden White House—counts on environmental quality—put out new regulations.

And here is the Wall Street Journal's editorial on what these new regulations were meant to do. And anyone who has read them—and I encourage all Americans to read them—these regulations have one goal in mind: slowing down the ability to build American infrastructure, especially American energy infrastructure.

The new NEPA regulations from the Biden White House make it harder to build our country, when the President supposedly supported the infrastructure bill. I truly wonder if the President has any clue that his White House issued regs to undermine what we all viewed as a very important bipartisan achievement.

Now, I gave a speech a couple of weeks ago saying: How did this happen? How are we killing infrastructure on the sly through these regulations when, supposedly, this administration wants to build infrastructure, wants to support the working men and women of our country?

My view is like a lot of things. John Kerry, Gina McCarthy were probably behind it, but who the heck knows. But here is what I do know. The only people who like these rules—the rules that

are meant to slow down the building of American infrastructure—are certainly not the working men and women of America; it is the radical environmental groups, probably the trial lawyers. And I will give you another group that loves it when we do this to ourselves: the Chinese Communist Party. They look at us and go: Holy cow, these Americans can't get out of their own way. Nine years to permit a bridge. This is killing us in terms of competitiveness. Mayors don't like these rules.

So what we are going to do next week, my Congressional Review Act resolution is very simple. It says, we are going to rescind this Biden rule that is going to make it harder to build American infrastructure.

And here is the thing: Right now, we have a very big list of groups that are supporting my resolution. We got all the building trades of America; the operating engineers; the AFL-CIO of Alaska; the Laborers' International, LIUNA—the biggest construction union in America; and so many groups—farmers, independent business men and women. Dozens of groups are supporting our resolution to say we are not going to allow that. We want to build things. We want to build things.

President Biden likes to talk about his supposed blue collar roots. Well, I wonder where the President is going to be on my resolution because all the unions in America that build stuff are supporting it. Again, maybe he didn't even know his White House put it out there. Maybe he wants to support my Congressional Review Act resolution.

But I will tell you who this resolution is going to be really good for. It is going to be good for these men and women in America who built this country, who built this country.

I will end where I began. Next week, there is going to be a big vote here, a simple vote. I have 50 Republicans who cosponsored my resolution to get rid of the Biden administration regulation that is going to kill infrastructure. If you support the building trades and the labor unions who built America, you are going to vote yes on my resolution. If you support infrastructure for America and building it in a timely fashion, you are going to vote yes on my resolution. If you support American energy that we need so much in our country, that we have right here, that we don't need to import from Saudi Arabia or Russia or Iran or Venezuela, you are going to support my resolution. If you support the men and women who actually build this country, all of whom who are supporting my resolution, you are going to support my resolution.

But if you stand with the coastal environmental elites who want to shut down this country, shut down my State, shut down the economy, maybe you will vote the other way. Like I said in the beginning, it is going to be a test next week. Whose side are you on? Are you with these men and women and their heritage and their heroism who

built this country, or are you going to be standing with this individual, the epitome of arrogant coastal elite, smugly telling Americans that they shouldn't build energy projects?

I know where I am standing next week. I am standing with the great men and women who built this country, the great men and women who continue to build this country, the great men and women who are supporting my resolution. And I sure hope all my colleagues vote the same way. This is an easy vote for America. This should be 100 to 0. That is the reason why.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The majority leader.

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, it has been a momentous 24 hours here in the Congress.

A legislative one-two punch that the American people rarely see. A little while ago, the House voted to approve the largest investment in decades to lower costs, increase manufacturing, invest in science, and help fix the semiconductor crisis. The CHIPS and Science bill now goes to the President's desk after 3 long years.

And, last night, Senator MANCHIN and I announced an agreement on the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, a bill that will take historic steps to lower costs, fight climate change, and make healthcare more affordable in this country.

Again, the past 24 hours have been a legislative one-two punch that Americans rarely ever see and which will benefit them immensely: first, a bill that will supercharge the American industry and now a bill that will fight inflation and mark a turning point in our fight against climate change.

This morning, I met with my Democratic colleagues to review the big wins contained in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, and we discussed our plan for passing it through reconciliation next week.

With the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, this Senate majority will finally take on Big Pharma and lower prescription drug prices.

This Senate Democratic majority will tackle the climate crisis with the largest package on the climate ever. This Senate majority will ensure we close tax loopholes and make the wealthy corporations and individuals pay their fair share, and this Senate Democratic majority will fight inflation and reduce the deficit.

The Inflation Reduction Act is common sense; it is bold; and it is very much needed. For decades, many in Washington have promised to address these challenges. But where previous efforts have fallen short, Senate Democrats in this majority will move swiftly to deliver to the American people.

Now, there is so much to like in the Inflation Reduction Act. By a wide margin, this legislation will be the largest action on climate change ever passed by the Congress.

Like the creation of the EPA and the passage of the Clean Air Act half a century ago, this legislation will mark a turning point in our Nation's commitment to protect our planet for our children and our grandchildren.

Through this bill, we will at last put the United States on a path to roughly 40 percent emission reductions by 2030. And it will help us achieve climate justice for communities long left behind, especially communities of color. But that is not all, for many years, people in Washington—including President Trump, including the Republican Senate—promised to lower the cost of prescription drugs, but they failed to follow through.

Under this Senate Democratic majority, that is changing. Our proposal will finally lower the cost of prescription drugs by empowering Medicare—for the first time ever—to negotiate the prices of certain drugs in Part B and Part D.

We will prevent healthcare premiums from skyrocketing for millions of Americans in the coming months. And through it all, we will ensure that no small business or family making under \$400,000 a year will see their taxes go up.

Republicans go on and on and on about how this is a tax on the American people. No, Republicans, you try to hide the truth. The truth is this bill will close tax loopholes exploited by the wealthiest Americans and largest corporations and will not touch Americans who make below \$400,000 a year. Why don't you say that? Because you know your tax policies are so unpopular with the American people, which we proved in 2017. You tried the same shibboleth then. Oh, we are cutting taxes for the American people. We Democrats make clear to the American people, no, no, no, they were cutting taxes on the very wealthy. And by the time the 2018 campaigns rolled around, they didn't even mention it. We are going to do the same thing now. We are going to tell the truth.

Yes, we are raising taxes on very wealthy people and big corporations that pay no money, not on average Americans, and you are afraid to do that.

The American people want these tax reforms. They support making sure the ultrarich and big corporations play by the rules and pay their fair share. It is common sense. The American people know that.

So when Republicans fret and panic about taxes, the truth is what they really hate is the idea of increasing taxes on Big Business and those at the very top.

And they are afraid to admit to the American people that they know they are on the wrong side of the issue. As I said, Republicans should have learned their lesson in 2018 when the American people rejected their tax cuts for rich Americans.

We all saw what the results are, what happens when Republicans cut taxes for the ultrarich and corporations: It

fuels hundreds of billions in corporate stock buybacks, and since then, stock buybacks have only increased.

According to S&P, buybacks are forecast to reach a trillion dollars this year. The American people don't want a tax code that is skewed to the top 1 percent, which is what happened under Republicans, under President Trump when they had the majority.

Republicans really know that, so they, in fear—they distract and distort and ignore the fact that under our plan, small business and middle-class families making under 400,000 won't see their taxes go up at all.

It is the same thing for the deficit. For years, Republicans have howled at the Moon about lowering the Federal deficit, but when they were in the majority, they blew a \$2 trillion hole in our deficit in order to pay for their gargantuan tax cuts to big corporations and the ultrarich.

The Democrats' proposal will actually lower the deficit significantly, which will go a long way to easing inflation.

If Republicans really care about fighting inflation, if they really care about lowering the deficit as they claimed, they should support our proposal, which would lower the deficit by hundreds of billions of dollars.

Now, at the end of the day, the American people want us to do a few commonsense things: Lower the cost of their daily expenses like healthcare, protect our planet for future generations, make sure everyone plays by the same rules and has a fair shot at achieving the American dream, and that is what the Inflation Reduction Act will do.

These are not easy matters, but we didn't come here to do easy things. To be sure, the work is not done. There is a lot we have to do in the coming days, but I am proud that right now we have a strong, bold package to move on, one that will lower inflation, fight the climate crisis, and help preserve America's place as a nation of immense opportunity into the 21st century.

Let us get to work and pass the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote

No. 273, had I been present for the vote I would have voted yea. I was necessarily absent for rollcall vote No. 274, had I been present for the vote I would have voted yea. •

THE BALTICS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, today is a very important date for the relations between the United States and the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania.

Today marks 100 years of continuous, uninterrupted diplomatic relations between our country and each of the Baltic countries.

Let me explain why I emphasize continuous, uninterrupted diplomatic relations. Last Saturday marked 82 years since Acting Secretary of State Sumner Welles issued a declaration that is remembered to this day in each of the Baltic countries. Soviet troops had entered the Baltic states, arrested leaders, and organized rigged elections to create pro-Soviet government.

The Welles Declaration decried the "devious processes whereunder the political independence and territorial integrity of the three small Baltic Republics—Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—were to be deliberately annihilated by one of their more powerful neighbors." It was a clear, principled statement that the United States would not recognize Soviet control over these countries as legitimate.

During the 50 years the Soviet Union forcibly occupied Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania, diplomats from each of the Baltic states continued their work in the United States, and we continued to recognize them as independent, sovereign countries under foreign occupation.

The Soviet Union justified sending troops to the Baltics on the basis of the threat from Nazi Germany. However, just a year before, the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact between the Nazis and Soviets contained a secret protocol whereby Hitler and Stalin agreed to carve up their neighbors into "spheres of influence." Under this agreement, the Baltics, Finland, eastern Poland, and what is now Moldova would be controlled by the Soviet Union, and the rest of Poland would go to Germany. Finland was able to fight back in the Winter War, retaining its sovereignty, but losing significant territory to Russia. The rest of the pact played out just as Stalin and Hitler agreed.

This isn't just history. This is directly relevant to Vladimir Putin's rhetoric, attitude, and actions in Ukraine. He believes he has a right to a sphere of influence over his neighbors just like Stalin and Hitler thought. To this day, Putin maintains that the three Baltics joined the Soviet Union in 1940 and ceased to exist as countries until the breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Russian Duma has even threatened to repeal a Soviet law recognizing Lithuania's independence from the USSR—what a joke.

Let's be clear: The Baltic states are not former Soviet republics. They have been independent countries for over a century. Following in Stalin's footsteps, Putin justifies attacking Ukraine, at least to audiences outside of Russia, as a reaction to NATO encroaching on Russia. Putin casts NATO as a threat, even making up a claim that NATO was planning to put missiles in Ukraine targeting Russia.

The fact is, even our eastern flank allies in NATO do not currently have the kinds of defensive missiles they would need to repel a Russian invasion, which is unfortunate. Currently, we have meager "tripwire" forces that are insufficient to stop the kind of invasion we saw in Ukraine in February. Russia's military leaders know that NATO cannot begin to threaten Russian territory.

There were no allied reinforcements in any NATO country bordering Russia until the invasion of Ukraine in 2014. Ukraine was militarily neutral then, but seeking economic ties with the European Union, thus slipping away from economic dependency on Russia.

The fact that NATO has become attractive to Ukraine since Russia seized Crimea and part of the Donbas is a threat not to the territory of the Russian Federation, but to Russia's imperial desire for a sphere of influence. Putin blames Ukraine's westward turn on provocations by western intelligence agencies, failing to recognize that Ukrainians are making their own choices. Just like in 1940, the United States has refused to recognize another Russian occupation of a sovereign country as legitimate.

We were once a small collection of colonies seeking to chart our own, independent course free from European empires. That is why the Welles Declaration expressed admiration for the Baltic countries as they pursued self-government and democracy.

That is why the Welles Declaration made clear that the people of the United States oppose intervention or the use of force by large or powerful countries on smaller, weaker ones. That principle applies today to Ukraine. No one should decide Ukraine's fate except the Ukrainian people. True to our principles, the United States can never, directly or tacitly, consign Ukraine to Russia's sphere of influence.

As we celebrate 100 years of excellent diplomatic relations with our Baltic allies, there is no doubt in retrospect that we were right to stand up for their sovereignty, even when that seemed hopeless, even foolish. Fifty years of Russian occupation could not turn them into Russians, just as centuries of Russification policies have not convinced Ukrainians to accept the Russian view that they are just "little Russians." The Baltic countries are thriving democracies with strong Western values and some of our closest allies. Thank God they regained their independence and are now in NATO.

WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I rise today to convey my support for the Columbia River Federal Power System. The congressionally-authorized Federal dams on the Columbia River System bring unparalleled benefits to the Pacific Northwest and stand as an example to other hydropower projects worldwide. The system's capacity to generate always-on, baseload carbon-free power is vital to the Northwest. As many other parts of the country have experienced rolling blackouts, the dams in the Columbia Basin have consistently kept the lights on.

In the Northwest, we enjoy numerous other benefits from this infrastructure, including flood control, irrigation, navigation, and recreation. Due to its remarkable lock and dam system, even my landlocked home State of Idaho benefits from a seaport, sending Idaho's agricultural and manufactured products around the world in a cost-effective, low-carbon manner. As additional challenges have risen, scientists and managers at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have adapted under the direction of Congress to ensure the dams are still simultaneously beneficial to humans and our natural environment.

It is due to these important considerations that I speak on the Water Resources Development Act before the Senate today. Among a list of studies that can generally be measured in acres or at most counties is a sweeping and far-reaching study directed at aquatic habitat restoration in the Columbia River Basin. The Columbia River Basin spans nearly 260,000 square miles over seven States. This is not just another small, localized review, but instead authorizes an exhaustive study on aquatic restoration in one of the largest basins in the country.

I have long supported improving salmon and steelhead populations in the Northwest. In fact, I worked tirelessly with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass legislation—ultimately supported by the entire Northwest delegation—to address the predation that was devastating salmon populations before they had a chance to go upriver. However, what I cannot support are the constant efforts to remove the benefits provided by our hydropower system under the guise of salmon recovery or "aquatic restoration."

We have studied this river and these dams ad nauseam. Most recently, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers completed the 3-year Columbia River System Operations review, which intentionally and specifically considered whether dam breaching was necessary for fish recovery and determined the opposite. It has been proven, time and again, salmon and hydropower dams do, can, and should coexist. It is futile and irresponsible to spend further taxpayer dollars considering dam breaching. But this reality has not prevented the administration or other political actors from continually pushing

against the intent of Congress to protect both the species and the numerous benefits from the Columbia River Federal Power System.

With this in mind, let us revisit the ecosystem study in title II. I deeply appreciate the chairman and ranking member's attention to this issue and work to create suitable limitations to ensure this study will be held strictly to the congressionally authorized purposes of the system and considerations that would maintain the energy, flood control, navigation, irrigation, and other benefits it currently provides. While I still regard this study as too far-reaching and unfocused to result in timely proposals for anadromous fish recovery—yet again wasting taxpayer dollars better utilized elsewhere in the region—with this vital check, I am able to support this version of WRDA overall and the many essential water infrastructure priorities contained within it. Should this proposed study be signed into law, I will take special notice and trust that it meets congressional intent of preserving the Columbia River Federal Power System, all of its current infrastructure as authorized by Congress, and its innumerable benefits.

Despite political maneuvering from the administration, it is an irrefutable fact that decisions regarding the Columbia River Federal Power System are solely the responsibility of Congress. I look forward to continue working with my colleagues to identify solutions to salmon recovery that do not inhibit the clean energy, flood control, navigation, agricultural, and recreation benefits of our Federal Power System.

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

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

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE,
Washington, DC.

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN 2064, the nomination of Rebecca Lee Haffajee, of Massachusetts; to be an Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services having been referred to the Committee on Finance, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 14 ayes to 14 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution."

RON WYDEN.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would

have voted no on the confirmations of Executive Calendar No. 1057, Enix Smith III, of Louisiana, to be United States Marshall for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-40, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Japan for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$293 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a new release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-40

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * \$257 million.

Other \$ 36 million.

Total \$293 million.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One hundred fifty (150) AIM-120C-7/C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs).

Three (3) AIM-120 AMRAAM Guidance Sections.

Non-MDE: Also included are AIM-120 missile containers and control sections; weapon support and support equipment; classified software delivery and support; spare and repair parts, consumables, and accessories; classified publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (JA-D-YAX, JA-D-YBD).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: JA-D-YAI, JA-D-YAK, JA-D-YAO, JA-D-YCM, JA-D-YAU.

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 25, 2022.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Japan—AIM-120C-7/8 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs)

The Government of Japan has requested to buy one hundred fifty (150) AIM-120C-7/8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAMs); and three (3) AIM-120 AMRAAM Guidance Sections. Also included are AIM-120 missile containers and control sections; weapon support and support equipment; classified software delivery and support; spare and repair parts, consumables, and accessories; classified publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total program cost is \$293 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region.

The proposed sale will improve Japan's capability to meet current and future threats by defending the Japanese homeland and U.S. personnel stationed there. Japan already has AMRAAMs in its inventory and will have no difficulty absorbing these missiles into its armed forces.

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

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

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

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-40

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The AIM-120C-7/8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missile (AMRAAM) is a supersonic, air launched, aerial intercept, guided missile featuring digital technology and micro-miniature solid-state electronics. This potential sale will include AMRAAM Guidance Section. AMRAAM capabilities include look-down/shoot-down, multiple launches against multiple targets, resistance to electronic countermeasures, and interception of high and low-flying and maneuvering targets. The AIM-120C-8 is a form, fit, and function refresh of the AIM-120C-7 and is the next generation to be produced.

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

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

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

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

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 22-37, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Singapore for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$630 million. After this letter is delivered to your office, we plan to issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCHE,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-37

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

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Singapore.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment* \$14.7 million.
Other \$615.3 million.

Total \$630.0 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

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

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Ninety (90) MXU-651 Air Foil Groups (AFGs) for 2000LB Paveway II (PWII), GBU-10.

Ninety (90) MAU-169 or MAU-209 Computer Control Groups (CCGs) for 2000LB PWII, GBU-10.

One hundred forty (140) MXU-650 AFGs for 500LB PW-II, GBU-12.

One hundred forty (140) MAU-169 or MAU-209 CCGs for 500LB PWII, GBU-12.

Twenty (20) Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) KMU-556 tail kits for GBU-31.

Twenty-two (22) JDAM KMU-572 tail kits for Laser JDAM, GBU-54.

Two hundred (200) FMU-152 Fuzes.

Fifty (50) MK-84 2000LB General Purpose (GP) Bombs.

Fifty (50) MK-82 500LB GP Bombs.

Six hundred twenty-five (625) Mk-82 500LB Inert Bombs.

Non-MDE: Also included are DSU-38 and -40 Precision Laser Guidance Sets (PLGS) for Laser JDAM, GBU-54; KGV-135A cryptographic devices; impulse cartridges, chaff, and flares; training rounds and practice bombs; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; integration support and test equipment; aircraft and munitions support and support equipment; telemetry kits; military exercise participation and support; transportation, airlift, and aircraft ferry support; jet fuel; aerial refueling support; personnel training, and training equipment and maintenance; medical and other exercise- and training-related services and support; personnel clothing and equipment; facilities and construction support; and U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, maintenance, and logistics support services, as well as other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (SN-D-NAA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: SN-D-NAG.

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

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

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 25, 2022.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Singapore—Munitions and Follow-On Training and Sustainment for PEACE CARVIN V (F-15 Training Detachment)

The Government of Singapore has requested to buy ninety (90) MXU-651 Air Foil Groups (AFGs) for 2000LB Paveway II (PWII), GBU-10; ninety (90) MAU-169 or MAU-209 Computer Control Groups (CCGs) for 2000LB PWII, GBU-10; one hundred forty (140) MXU-650 AFGs for 500LB PW-II, GBU-12; one hundred forty (140) MAU-169 or MAU-209 CCGs for 500LB PWII, GBU-12; twenty (20) Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) KMU-556 tail kits for GBU-31; twenty-two (22) JDAM KMU-572 tail kits for Laser JDAM, GBU-54; two hundred (200) FMU-152 fuzes; fifty (50) MK-84 2000LB General Purpose (GP) bombs; fifty (50) MK-82 500LB GP bombs; and six hundred twenty-five (625) Mk-82 500LB inert bombs. Also included are DSU-38 and -40 Precision Laser Guidance Sets (PLGS) for Laser JDAM, GBU-54; KGV-135A cryptographic devices; impulse cartridges, chaff, and flares; training rounds and practice bombs; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; integration support and test equipment; aircraft and munitions support and support equipment; telemetry kits; military exercise participation and support; transportation, airlift, and aircraft ferry support; jet fuel; aerial refueling support; personnel

training, and training equipment and maintenance; medical and other exercise- and training-related services and support; personnel clothing and equipment; facilities and construction support; and U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, maintenance, and logistics support services, as well as other related elements of logistical and program support. The total estimated program cost is \$630 million.

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

The proposed sale will enable the Singapore Air Force to continue its flight training program to develop mission-ready and experienced pilots to safely and effectively fly its F-15 aircraft, as part of the Peace Carvin V Detachment Training Program. The well-established pilot proficiency training program at Mountain Home Air Force Base will support professional interaction and enhance operational interoperability with U.S. Forces. Singapore will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment and support into its armed forces.

This proposed sale will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

There is no prime contractor involved in this proposed sale. Manpower support will be determined through competition with defense articles anticipated to come from U.S. inventory, as needed. Sources of supply may award contracts when necessary to provide the defense articles if items are not available from U.S. inventory or are considered long lead-time away. There are no known offset agreements proposed in connection with this sale.

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

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

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-37

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

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Paveway II (PWII) is a maneuverable, free-fall Laser Guided Bomb (LGB) that guides to a spot of laser energy reflected off the target. The LGB is delivered like a normal General Purpose (GP) warhead and the semi-active guidance corrects for many of the normal errors inherent in any delivery system. Laser designation can be provided by a variety of laser target markers or designators. A LGB consists of a non-warhead specific MAU-209 or MAU-169 Computer Control Group (CCG) and a warhead specific Air Foil Group (AFG) that attaches to the nose and tail of the GP bomb body respectively.

a. The GBU-12 is a 500LB GP bomb body fitted with the MXU-650 AFG to guide to its laser designated target.

b. The GBU-10 is a 2000LB GP bomb body fitted with the MXU-651 AFG to guide to its laser designated target. The inert GBU-12 uses a BDU-50 inert bomb body and MAU-169 CCG for training purposes.

2. The Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) is a guidance set which converts unguided bombs into an accurate, adverse weather "smart" munition. The Guidance Set consists of a Tail Kit, which contains the Inertial Navigation System (INS) and a Global Positioning System (GPS), a set of

Aerosurfaces and an umbilical cover, which allows the JDAM to improve the accuracy of unguided, general purpose bombs. The JDAM weapon can be delivered from modest stand-off ranges at high or low altitudes against a variety of land and surface targets during the day or night. The JDAM is capable of receiving target coordinates via preplanned mission data from the delivery aircraft, by onboard aircraft sensors (i.e., FLIR, Radar, etc.) during captive carry, or from a third-party source via manual or automated aircrew cockpit entry. The Guidance Set, when combined with a warhead and appropriate fuze, forms a JDAM Guided Bomb Unit (GBU).

a. The GBU-38 is a 500LB bomb body fitted with a KMU-572 guidance kit.

b. The GBU-31 is a 2000LB bomb body fitted with a KMU-556 guidance kit.

3. The Laser Joint Direct Attack Munition (LJDAM) is a JDAM that incorporates all the capabilities of the JDAM guidance tail kit and adds a precision laser guidance set (DSU-38 or DSU-40). The LJDAM gives the weapon system an optional semi-active laser guidance in addition to the INS/GPS guidance. This provides the optional capability to strike moving targets. The GBU-54 is a 500LB bomb body fitted with a laser guidance set and KMU-572 guidance kit.

4. The KGV-135A is a high-speed, general purpose encryptor/decryptor module used for wide-band data encryption.

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

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

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

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0F-22. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 15-24 of June 9, 2015.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0F-22

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

(i) Purchaser: Republic of Korea.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 15-24; Date: June 9, 2015; Military Department: Navy.

(iii) Description: On June 9, 2015, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 15-24, of the possible sale under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act of 3 Aegis Shipboard Combat Systems, 3 MK-41 Vertical Launching Systems, 3 Common Data Link Management Systems, 3 AN/UPX-29(V) Identification Friend or Foe Interrogators, spare and repair parts, support equipment, publications and technical documentation, personnel training and training equipment, tool and test equipment, U.S. Government and contractor technical, engineering, and logistics support services, and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated total cost was \$1.91 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$1.21 billion of this total.

On July 9, 2018, 0G-18 reported the addition of one (1) Global Positioning System (GPS)-based Positioning, Navigation, and Timing Service (GPNTS) (MDE); three (3) Command and Control Processors (C2P) (MDE); and three (3) Multifunctional Information Distribution System Joint Tactical Radio System (MIDS JTRS) (MDE). These additions did not result in a change to the estimated MDE value of \$1.21 billion. The total estimated case value remained \$1.91 billion.

On August 26, 2020, 0O-20 reported the inclusion of three (3) Multifunctional Information Distribution System (MIDS) On Ship (MOS), Modernization (MOS MOD) as MDE. The estimated total value of the MDE items was \$2.7 million, resulting in a new MDE total of \$1.217 billion. The total notified case value remained \$1.91 billion.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of an additional two (2) GPNTS (MDE). The estimated total value of the new MDE items is \$3.1 million, resulting in a new MDE total of \$1.221 billion. These costs will not increase the total case value, which will remain \$1.91 billion.

(iv) Significance: The inclusion of the additional GPNTS will provide the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) the ability to properly employ their Aegis Shipboard Combat Systems. By acquiring these upgraded capabilities, Korea can successfully perform missions with its destroyers and will provide greater protection for its forces.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Indo-Pacific region.

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

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 26, 2022.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

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

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

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

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(C) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 22-OK. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 19-65 of October 29, 2019.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 22-OK

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

(i) Purchaser: Government of Japan.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 19-65; Date: October 29, 2019; Implementing Agency: Air Force.

(iii) Description: On October 29, 2019, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 19-65 of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of the upgrade of up to ninety-eight (98) F-15J aircraft to a Japanese Super Interceptor (JSI) configuration consisting of up to one hundred three (103) APG-82(v)1 Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) Radar (includes five (5) spares); one hundred sixteen (116) Advanced Display Core Processor II (ADCP II) Mission System Computer (includes eighteen (18) spares); and one hundred one (101) ALQ-239 Digital Electronic Warfare System (DEWS) (includes three (3) spares). Also included were Joint Mission Planning System (JMPS) with software, training and support; Selective Availability Anti-spoofing Module (SAASM); ARC-210 radio, aircraft and munition integration and test support; ground training devices (including flight and maintenance simulators); support and test equipment; software delivery and support; spare and repair parts; communications equipment; facilities and construction support; publications and technical doc-

umentation; personnel training and training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering; technical and logistics support services; studies and surveys; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total program cost was \$4.5 billion. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted \$2.4 billion of this total.

This transmittal reports the addition of the following MDE items: one hundred three (103) AN/ALQ-250 Eagle Passive Active Warning Survivability System (EPAWSS) Electronic Warfare (EW) suites. The total cost of new MDE articles is \$956 million. This does not increase the total net cost of MDE, which will remain \$2.4 billion. The total case value will not increase, remaining \$4.5 billion.

(iv) Significance: The inclusion of this MDE represents an increase in capability over what was previously notified. The proposed articles and services will support Japan's defense of its airspace.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a major ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in the Asia-Pacific region. It is vital to the U.S. national interest to assist Japan in developing and maintaining a strong and effective self-defense capability.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology: The Eagle Passive Active Warning Survivability System (EPAWSS) is an advanced all-digital EW suite which provides the F-15 with fully integrated radar warning, geolocation, situational awareness, and self-protection solutions to detect and defeat surface and airborne legacy, current, and future threats in highly contested, dense signal environments. EPAWSS is equipped with advanced Radio Frequency (RF) Electronic Countermeasures (ECM), enabling deeper penetration against modern integrated air defense systems and providing rapid response capabilities designed to protect the aircrew.

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

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: July 26, 2022.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER JAMES ASHLEY, OFFICER CLAYTON KELLY, AND OFFICER CONNOR MALONEY

• Mr. PAUL. Madam President, on Thursday, May 12, 2021, three Louisville Metro Police Department Officers bravely saved the lives of two citizens from their burning vehicles.

After another driver collided with a pulled-over vehicle, Officers James Ashley, Clayton Kelly, and Connor Maloney quickly responded to the scene. The circumstances in which these officers arrived were less than ideal. Both drivers were unresponsive in vehicles moments from being engulfed in flames on a dangerous and busy interstate. In addition, these relatively new officers had never been trained to extract people from burning vehicles. But without hesitation, these brave officers quickly jumped into action.

Officers Kelly and Maloney used a baton to bust out a window and pulled one of the drivers to safety. Officer

Ashley did the same and communicated with the other driver allowing him to crawl from his burning vehicle.

Seventh Division Lieutenant Jeff Lauder stated, "These people would not have survived had it not been for the quick decision making and bravery of these officers." The actions of these three officers directly saved the lives of two citizens in an extremely dangerous situation.

Officers Ashley, Kelly, and Maloney are brave servants to the city of Louisville and a true testament to the hard-working Louisville Metro Police Department. I am proud to salute these officers and have no doubt they will continue to be an incredible asset to citizens of Louisville.●

RECOGNIZING BUBBY'S BBQ

• Mr. PAUL. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Bubby's BBQ of Corbin, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

For as long as he can remember, Marcus "Bubby" Shepherd loved to cook. He appreciated how food could bring people together and create a sense of comfort for everyone at the table. After working as a truck driver for 15 years, Marcus decided to switch career paths and open a restaurant that showcased his specialty: cooking and smoking meat. Hence, Bubby's BBQ of Corbin, KY, was born and very quickly became a Shepherd family affair, spearheaded by Marcus.

From carefully crafted pulled pork barbecue to exceptionally crisp fried catfish, Bubby's BBQ has a vast selection of menu items that are undeniably delectable. Whether customers choose to order from the menu or opt for the all-you-can-eat buffet, it is certain that the food will always be excellent. Marcus ensures that all of the food served abides by his recipes, so that each meal eaten at Bubby's tastes as if Marcus had whipped it up himself. The barbecue is smoked for 10-12 hours each night using hickory wood, and everything is homemade, right down to the BBQ sauce. This attention to detail is what has made Bubby's BBQ widely recognized for its consistency and high-quality food. A testament to their success, Bubby's BBQ has won the People's Choice Award for Best Restaurant several years in a row in various categories.

The delicious food attracts thousands of customers from all over Kentucky, and the welcoming ambience and high-quality service at Bubby's makes people never want to leave. The waitstaff goes out of their way to guarantee the customers are always satisfied and their drinks are never empty. Everyone that visits Bubby's BBQ feels as if they

are part of the restaurant family, and a missing regular never goes unnoticed by the staff. Some will go to the restaurant as many as four to five times a week and never get tired of the food. Bubby's care is not limited to its customers; it extends to its local community. The restaurant hosts many fundraising events to raise money for the youth sports teams in the Corbin area. Bubby's BBQ also uses its resources to support those who do not have stable access to food through its involvement in the Corbin Community Backpack Program, an initiative that provides local schoolchildren, who have little or no food available at their home, backpacks full of food to last them over the weekends. Additionally, Bubby's BBQ assists with Operation James Scott, a veteran-led community activity that purchases Christmas presents for local children.

Bubby's BBQ has cultivated a famed reputation for its authenticity. There is a strong sense of comfort every guest can feel when they dine at Bubby's. With food that resembles family cooking, phenomenal service that prioritizes customer satisfaction, and interior design that reflects a southern country style, Bubby's makes you feel at home. This quality of care and intimacy with customers is distinct to small businesses. Everyone who goes to Bubby's BBQ knows there is just no place like it, nor could it ever be replicated. Marcus's ability to transform his passion into a successful business is an embodiment of the entrepreneurial spirit that uplifts this country. I want to thank Marcus Shepherd and the Shepherd family for all of the work they have done to support their community of Corbin and the American people. I look forward to watching your continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

TRIBUTE TO NICHOLAS BOSTIC

● Mr. YOUNG. Madam President, I rise today to formally express my gratitude for the heroic actions of Nicholas Bostic in Lafayette, IN, on July 11, 2022.

Just after midnight on Monday, July 11, Nicholas Bostic ran into a burning home and rescued five children inside. Nicholas was driving and observed a home engulfed in flames. He stopped to make sure the residents had left the building, and he saw a teenager and three younger children stuck inside. Nicholas ran into the building to help the four children exit safely. When he discovered one child was still missing, Nicholas immediately reentered the home to find the missing child. By the time he found her, the fire had spread, making it unsafe to exit through the downstairs door. Nicholas broke the second story window and jumped out, sheltering the girl from the fall by landing on his side. Thanks to Nicholas, the child escaped with only minor injuries, and the other four children were unharmed.

In helping shield the children from injury, Nicholas developed first-degree burns and suffered from smoke inhalation. I pray for Nicholas as he recuperates from his injuries and wish him a full and swift recovery. I also want to recognize and thank the first responders who helped put out the fire and treat Nicholas and the children.

Despite the danger, Nicholas did not hesitate to run into the burning building—twice—to make sure everyone safely escaped. I share the view of Lafayette Police Department who noted, “Nicholas Bostic's heroic actions saved lives.” I join the Lafayette community in commending Nicholas for the selflessness he displayed. Today, I thank Nicholas for his heroism and am proud to call him a fellow Hoosier.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Swann, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13441 OF AUGUST 1, 2007, WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON—PM 37

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to Lebanon declared in Executive Order 13441 of August 1, 2007, is to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2022.

Certain ongoing activities, such as Iran's continuing arms transfers to Hizballah—which include increasingly

sophisticated weapons systems—serve to undermine Lebanese sovereignty, contribute to political and economic instability in the region, and continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13441 with respect to Lebanon.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, July 28, 2022.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:40 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 623. An act to extend the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3771. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research and improvement of cardiovascular health among the South Asian population of the United States, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3952. An act to strengthen the role of the Chief Scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in order to promote scientific integrity and advance the Administration's world-class research and development portfolio.

H.R. 3962. An act to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4040. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4551. An act to amend the U.S. SAFE WEB Act of 2006 to provide for reporting with respect to cross-border complaints involving ransomware or other cyber-related attacks, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4990. An act to codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 5313. An act to protect children and other consumers against hazards associated with the accidental ingestion of button cell or coin batteries by requiring the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety standard to require child-resistant closures on consumer products that use such batteries, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6929. An act to increase the benefits guaranteed in connection with certain pension plans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6933. An act to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require reporting relating to certain cost-share requirements.

H.R. 7132. An act to preserve safe access to communications services for survivors of domestic violence and other crimes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7361. An act to upgrade the communications service used by the National Weather Service, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7569. An act to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure.

H.R. 7624. An act to make available additional frequencies in the 3.1-3.45 GHz band for non-Federal use, shared Federal and non-Federal use, or a combination thereof, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7733. An act to amend the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 to reauthorize and improve the community development financial institutions bond guarantee program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7981. An act to require qualifying smoke alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes.

At 3:51 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7900. An act to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes

The message also announced that the House agrees to the amendment of the Senate to the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 4346) making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 623. An act to extend the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3771. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for research and improvement of cardiovascular health among the South Asian population of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 3952. An act to strengthen the role of the Chief Scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in order to promote scientific integrity and advance the Administration's world-class research and development portfolio; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 3962. An act to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and for other

purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 4040. An act to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to extend telehealth flexibilities under the Medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

H.R. 4551. An act to amend the U.S. SAFE WEB Act of 2006 to provide for reporting with respect to cross-border complaints involving ransomware or other cyber-related attacks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 4990. An act to codify the Institute for Telecommunication Sciences and to direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to establish an initiative to support the development of emergency communication and tracking technologies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 6933. An act to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to require reporting relating to certain cost-share requirements; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7361. An act to upgrade the communications service used by the National Weather Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 7569. An act to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish a program to provide financial assistance to graduate students and postdoctoral researchers pursuing certain courses of study relating to cybersecurity and energy infrastructure; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7624. An act to make available additional frequencies in the 3.1-3.45 GHz band for non-Federal use, shared Federal and non-Federal use, or a combination thereof, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 7733. An act to amend the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 to reauthorize and improve the community development financial institutions bond guarantee program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 7981. An act to require qualifying smoke alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following bill was discharged from the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions, and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. 4490. A bill to promote digital citizenship and media literacy.

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-4695. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Spiropidion; Pesticide Tolerances" (FRL No. 9839-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 19, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4696. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Methylobacterium extorquens strain NLS0042; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 9964-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-4697. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General James M. Richardson, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4698. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of the continuation of the national emergency with respect to the situation in Mali that was declared in Executive Order 13882 of July 26, 2019; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4699. A communication from the Congressional Assistant, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Collection of Checks and Other Items by Federal Reserve Banks and Funds Transfers Through Fedwire" (RIN17100-AG16) (Docket No. R-1750) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4700. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Prerinse Spray Valves" (RIN1904-AE56) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4701. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program for Appliance Standards: Certification for Ceiling Fan Light Kits, General Service Incandescent Lamps, Incandescent Reflector Lamps, Ceiling Fans, Consumer Furnaces and Boilers, Consumer Water Heaters, Dishwashers, and Commercial Clothes Washers, Battery Chargers, and Dedicated-Purpose Pool Pumps" (RIN1904-AE90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4702. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Final Determination of Air Cleaners as a Covered Consumer Product" (RIN1904-AF25) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4703. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Metal Halide Lamp Fixtures" (RIN1904-AE17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4704. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants; Delegation of Authority to Oklahoma" (FRL No. 8847-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 19, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4705. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Improvements for Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Test Procedures" ((RIN2060-AV21) (FRL No. 7423.1-01-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4706. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Major Sources: Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Boilers and Process Heaters: Amendments" ((RIN2060-AU20) (FRL No. 6312-01-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4707. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "State of Michigan Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class II Program; Primacy Approval" (FRL No. 8378-04-OW) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4708. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Oklahoma; Volatile Organic Compound Emissions in Nonattainment Areas and Former Nonattainment Areas" (FRL No. 8698-02-R6) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4709. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Arizona, California, Nevada; Emissions Statements Requirements" (FRL No. 8997-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4710. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; California; Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District; Reasonably Available Control Technology" (FRL No. 9264-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4711. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Missouri; Removal of Control of Emissions from Bakery Ovens" (FRL No. 9767-02-R7) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4712. A communication from the Chief of the Division of Bird Conservation, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Migratory Bird Permits; Administrative Updates to 50 CFR Parts 21 and 22" (RIN1018-BF59) received on July 20, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4713. A communication from the Regulations Writer, Office of Regulations and Reports Clearance, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Expiration Dates for Three Body System Listings" (RIN0960-A173) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4714. A communication from the Chief of the Trade and Commercial Regulations Branch, Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension and Amendment of Import Restrictions on Archaeological and Ethnological Material from Cyprus" ((RIN1515-AE74) (CBP Dec. 22-15)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4715. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Sections 506(a)(1) and 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4716. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report on other U.S. contributions to the United Nations and its affiliated agencies during fiscal year 2020; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4717. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director of the National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 27, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4718. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Board's compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4719. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-4720. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Retroactive Quota Transfer from NC to MA" (RIN0648-XA843) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4721. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous Materials: Harmonization with International Standards" (RIN2137-AF46) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 25, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4722. A communication from the Program Analyst, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Petition for Rulemaking of Sprint Corporation, Report and Order" ((FCC 22-48) (CG Docket No. 03-123)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4723. A communication from the Program Analyst, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program; Misuse of Internet Protocol Relay Service" ((FCC 22-49) (CG Docket No. 03-123) (CG Docket No. 10-51) (CG Docket No. 12-38)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4724. A communication from the Program Analyst, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services" (WC Docket No. 12-375) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2022; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-4725. A communication from the Program Analyst, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities; Structure and Practices of the Video Relay Service Program; Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service; Petition for Rulemaking and Interim Waiver of Convo Communications, LLC, Report and Order" ((FCC 22-49) (CG Docket No. 03-123) (CG Docket No. 10-51) (CG Docket No. 13-24)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 20, 2022; 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-173. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to enact federal legislation requiring food service establishments to notify patrons if they are serving imported shrimp; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 253

Whereas, according to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, in 2019 the United States imported six billion pounds of edible seafood products, including one and one half billion pounds of shrimp, an increase of nearly six and one half million pounds more than the shrimp imported in 2018; and

Whereas, the 2019 shrimp imports alone, valued at six billion dollars, accounted for twenty-seven percent of the total value of imported seafood that year, which reached twenty-two billion dollars; and

Whereas, it is estimated that over half of the imported seafood consumed in the United States is from aquaculture, or seafood farming, rather than wild-caught; and

Whereas, the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is responsible for the safety of all fish and fishery products entering the United States and sold in Louisiana; and

Whereas, the FDA's seafood safety program is governed by its Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point regulations, which address food safety management through the analysis and control of biological, chemical, and physical hazards from raw material production, procurement and handling, to manufacturing, distribution, and consumption of the finished product; and

Whereas, FDA regulations are supposed to measure compliance for imported seafood with inspections of foreign processing facilities, sampling of seafood offered for import into the United States, domestic surveillance sampling of imported products, inspections of seafood importers, foreign country program assessments, and the use of information from foreign partners and FDA overseas offices; and

Whereas, in 2011 the FDA was only inspecting two percent of the seafood imported into the United States; and

Whereas, unfortunately 2011 is the last year for which data regarding the percentage of imports inspected is available due to a lack of transparency and inadequate assessment measures; and

Whereas, in 2011 the Government Accountability Office (GAO) noted that the FDA's assessments of foreign aquaculture operations was limited by the FDA's lack of procedures, criteria, and standards; and ten years later, a 2021 GAO report found that the agency was failing to monitor the effectiveness of its own enforcement policies and procedures; and

Whereas, in contrast, the European Union regularly conducts physical checks of approximately twenty percent of all imported fish products that are fresh, frozen, dry, salted, or hermetically sealed, and for certain fishery products, physical checks are conducted on approximately fifty percent of imports; and

Whereas, the Louisiana State University School of Renewable Natural Resources published a 2020 paper titled "Determination of Sulfite and Antimicrobial Residue in Imported Shrimp to the USA", which presented findings from a study of shrimp imported from India, Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam, China, Bangladesh, and Ecuador and purchased from retail stores in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; and

Whereas, a screening of these shrimp for sulfites and residues from antimicrobial drugs found the following: (1) five percent of the shrimp contained malachite green, (2) seven percent contained oxytetracycline, (3) seventeen percent contained fluoroquinolone, and (4) seventy percent contained nitrofurantoin, all of which have been banned by the FDA in domestic aquaculture operations; and

Whereas, although the FDA requires that food products exposed to sulfites must include a label with a statement about the presence of sulfites, of the forty-three percent of these locally purchased shrimp found to contain sulfites, not one package complied with this labeling requirement; and

Whereas the drug and sulfite residues included in this screening, can be harmful to human health during both handling and consumption

and have been known to cause all of the following: liver damage and tumors, reproductive abnormalities, cardiac arrhythmia, renal failure, hemolysis, asthma attacks, and allergic reactions; and

Whereas, the results of this study confirm that existing screening and enforcement measures for imported seafood are insufficient; whatever the percentage of imports inspected may be, seafood is currently being imported that contains unsafe substances that put American consumers at risk; and

Whereas, because imported seafood is not held to the same standards as domestic seafood, domestic fishing industries are put at a distinct and significant disadvantage commercially; and

Whereas, according to the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, the average value of Louisiana shrimp fell from three dollars eighty cents per pound in 1980 to one dollar fifty cents per pound in 2017; and

Whereas, this unfair competition allows foreign competitors to flood the United States market with shrimp harvested under intensive farming practices using antimicrobial drugs, while devastating local industries and the coastal communities built around them; and

Whereas, Louisiana passed a law in 2019 requiring food service establishments to provide notice to patrons that they are serving shrimp imported from, a foreign country; and

Whereas, Louisiana Revised Statute 40:5.5.4 requires any food service establishment that sells or provides cooked or prepared shrimp originating outside the United States to display the country of origin of such shrimp, or denote that it is imported, on all menus in the same font as the rest of the menu, or if no menu is used, to display such information on a sign at least eighteen inches tall and wide, located in a conspicuous place, with lettering at least one inch in size; and

Whereas, like Louisiana consumers, consumers across the United States deserve to be protected from harmful chemicals and residues found in imported shrimp; and

Whereas, consumers across the United States likewise have the right to know whether the shrimp prepared and served to them in food service establishments are imported; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to enact federal legislation requiring food service establishments to provide notice to patrons if they are serving imported shrimp; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of Congress and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-174. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to support the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, including Congressman Troy Carter's amendment to review recreational hazards along the banks of the Mississippi River, in order to protect lives by alerting the public to dangerous conditions on the river and riverbank; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 210

Whereas, three children tragically lost their lives in Algiers on April 23, 2022; and

Whereas, 8-year-old Ally Wilson, 14-year-old Brandy Wilson, and 15-year-old Kevin Poole went missing while playing on the bank of the Mississippi River near the Crescent City Connection and are believed to have been taken by the strong current of the river; and

Whereas, this devastating tragedy has called attention to the dangers posed by open access to the banks of the Mississippi River and the lack of safety measures and warning signs cautioning the public against hazards along the riverbank and dangerous river conditions; and

Whereas, the New Orleans City Council unanimously passed a resolution directing several government agencies to take all necessary steps to install warning signs in the area where these children accessed the river; and

Whereas, Congress is currently considering the Water Resources and Development Act of 2022 (WRDA), a bill passed by every session of Congress that authorizes and funds the activities of the United States Army Corps of Engineers relative to flood control, navigation, and ecosystem restoration; and

Whereas, the Mississippi River levee system is under the jurisdiction of the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the banks of the Mississippi River can be regulated through legislation under WRDA; and

Whereas, on May 18, 2022, Congressman Troy Carter of Louisiana was able to add an amendment to the United States House of Representatives version of WRDA, introduced as H.R. 7776 of the 117th Congress, which would require the United States Army Corps of Engineers to review potential threats to human life and safety from recreational areas at the banks of the Mississippi River in Louisiana and to install signage and other measures at such recreational areas necessary to alert the public of hazardous water conditions or to otherwise minimize or eliminate any identified threats to human life and safety; and

Whereas, these efforts by the City of New Orleans and Congressman Troy Carter have the potential to save lives and prevent the type of tragic loss experienced by the Wilson and Poole families, and the Algiers community, this spring: Now, Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to support the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, including Congressman Troy Carter's amendment to review recreational hazards along the banks of the Mississippi River, in order to protect lives by alerting the public to dangerous conditions on the river and riverbank; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the United States Senate, the House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. WYDEN for the Committee on Finance.

*Jay Curtis Shambaugh, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE for Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Roopal H. Desai, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

E. Martin Estrada, of California, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of California for the term of four years.

Gregory J. Haanstad, of Wisconsin, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Wisconsin for the term of four years.

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

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

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

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

S. 4650. A bill to establish the position of Special Envoy to the Pacific Islands Forum; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BARRASSO (for himself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 4651. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to require the Secretary of Energy to stipulate, as a condition on the sale at auction of any petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, that the petroleum products not be exported to certain countries, to prohibit such sales to certain state-owned entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4652. A bill to provide for the loan and lease of defense articles to the Government of Taiwan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. RISCH):

S. 4653. A bill to provide for certain authorities of the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

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

S. 4654. A bill to amend section 324 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to incentivize States, Indian Tribes, and Territories to close disaster recovery projects by authorizing the use of excess funds for management costs for other disaster recovery projects; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 4655. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to permit the Merit Systems Protection Board to hear certain cases relating to allegations of certain reprisals by employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 4656. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to create stronger accountability mechanisms for Joint Task Forces; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4657. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to establish a grant program to fund qualified investor advocacy clinics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 4658. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to support apprenticeship programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 4659. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related

agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN:

S. 4660. A bill making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 4661. A bill making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. COONS:

S. 4662. A bill making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. TESTER:

S. 4663. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 4664. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce and Justice, Science, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4665. A bill to provide for cash refunds for canceled airline flights and tickets; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 4666. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a deduction for attorney fees awarded with respect to certain wildfire damages and to exclude from gross income settlement funds received with respect to such damages; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 4667. A bill to amend the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act of 1978 to require additional reporting and public disclosure of information; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 4668. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 400 North Main Street in Belen, New Mexico, as the "U.S. Senator Dennis Chavez Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4669. A bill to establish the Western Riverside National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCHATZ:

S. 4670. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 4671. A bill to provide for accurate energy appraisals in connection with residential mortgage loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

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

S. 4672. A bill to modify the authority of the Secretary of Defense to transfer excess

aircraft to other departments of the Federal Government and to authorize the Secretary to transfer excess aircraft to the Governor of a State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. SHELBY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4673. A bill to reauthorize the National Computer Forensics Institute of the United States Secret Service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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

S. 4674. A bill to amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve system to prescribe regulations relating to network competition in credit card transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4675. A bill to amend the Child Care and Development Block Grant Act of 1990 to provide grants to States to establish positions to minimize administrative burden on families seeking child care assistance; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr.

WYDEN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KING, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. REED, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 4676. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to classify broadband as telecommunications service; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4677. A bill to increase language access to mental health services at certain health centers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 4678. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 4679. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act and the Natural Gas Act with respect to the enforcement of certain provisions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO:

S. 4680. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a credit for the domestic production of rare earth magnets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 4681. A bill to establish a process for expedited consideration of legislation relating to decisions by the Supreme Court of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 4682. A bill to provide for disapproval by Congress of the invocation of authorities under the Defense Production Act of 1950; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4683. A bill to amend the River and Harbor Act of 1958 to improve provisions relating to invasive species management, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4684. A bill to provide for the implementation of dredged material management plans at certain federally authorized harbors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN:

S. 4685. A bill making appropriations for financial services and general government for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. MERKLEY:

S. 4686. A bill making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. SINEMA, and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4687. A bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. Res. 727. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the United States should negotiate strong, inclusive, and forward-looking rules on digital trade and the digital economy with like-minded countries as part of its broader trade and economic strategy in order to ensure that the United States values of democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech, human and worker rights, privacy, and a free and open internet are at the very core of digital governance; to the Committee on Finance.

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

S. Res. 728. A resolution commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the human rights and pro-democracy activists in Cuba one year after the historic march led by such activists through the streets of Cuba to exercise the fundamental right to peacefully assemble and speak out against the human rights atrocities committed by the brutal, totalitarian, and illegitimate Communist regime in Cuba; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SASSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. THUNE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. Res. 729. A resolution designating the week beginning November 7, 2022, as "National Pregnancy Center Week" to recognize the vital role that community-supported pregnancy centers play in saving lives and serving women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. COONS):

S. Res. 730. A resolution remembering the 30th anniversary of the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires on March 17, 1992, the 28th anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association building in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for the victims of the attacks; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. Res. 731. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of July 2022 as "Muslim-American Heritage Month" and celebrating the heritage and culture of Muslim Americans in the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 766

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards.

S. 1157

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1157, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow workers an above-the-line deduction for union dues and expenses and to allow a miscellaneous itemized deduction for workers for all unreimbursed expenses incurred in the trade or business of being an employee.

S. 1429

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1429, a bill to provide compensation for United States victims of Libyan state-sponsored terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 1578

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1578, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a loan repayment program for mental health professionals to relieve workforce shortages, and for other purposes.

S. 1981

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1981, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify rules relating to donor advised funds, and for other purposes.

S. 2130

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Cali-

fornia (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2130, a bill to modify the disposition of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues and to open Federal financial sharing to heighten opportunities for renewable energy, and for other purposes.

S. 2273

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the names of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2273, a bill to authorize Inspectors General to continue operations during a lapse in appropriations, and for other purposes.

S. 2677

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2677, a bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act to limit overdraft fees and establish fair and transparent practices related to the marketing and provision of overdraft coverage programs at depository institutions, and for other purposes.

S. 2710

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) were added as cosponsors of S. 2710, a bill to promote competition and reduce gatekeeper power in the app economy, increase choice, improve quality, and reduce costs for consumers.

S. 2931

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2931, a bill to amend the Defense Production Act of 1950 to prevent harm and disruption to the United States agriculture industry by protecting against foreign influence over agriculture production and supply chains, and for other purposes.

S. 3018

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 3018, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3518

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3518, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 5.1 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 3742

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 3742, a bill to establish a pilot grant program to improve

recycling accessibility, and for other purposes.

S. 4003

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4003, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for training on alternatives to use of force, de-escalation, and mental and behavioral health and suicidal crises.

S. 4009

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 4009, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 4069

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4069, a bill to amend the National Firearms Act to provide an exception for stabilizing braces, and for other purposes.

S. 4105

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4105, a bill to treat certain liquidations of new motor vehicle inventory as qualified liquidations of LIFO inventory for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 4168

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4168, a bill to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Park Foundation.

S. 4192

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4192, a bill amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end the tax subsidy for employer efforts to influence their workers' exercise of their rights around labor organizations and engaging in collective action.

S. 4203

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4203, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 4279

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4279, a bill to increase efficiency and conservation in public water systems, and for other purposes.

S. 4325

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4325, a bill to amend

the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 4416

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4416, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 4460

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of Florida, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4460, a bill to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry.

S. 4612

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4612, a bill to protect a person's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.

S. 4634

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4634, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to administer polygraph examinations to certain foreign nationals with access to nonpublic areas or information of the National Laboratories.

S. RES. 713

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 713, a resolution recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 4666. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a deduction for attorney fees awarded with respect to certain wildfire damages and to exclude from gross income settlement funds received with respect to such damages; to the Committee on Finance.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of legislation that I introduced today along with Senators ALEX PADILLA and JOHN HICKENLOOPER. This is a companion to the bipartisan bill that Representative MIKE THOMPSON has introduced in the House of Representatives.

In 2020, the Fire Victim Trust was established after Pacific Gas & Electric, PG&E, was found legally responsible for major California wildfires in 2015, 2017, and 2018. PG&E contributed about \$13 billion to this fund to pay victims

of these wildfires to cover losses they suffered.

Unfortunately, the specific situations of each of these victims is different, and it is unclear to many whether they will need to pay Federal income tax on the amounts they receive. Moreover, it is unfair that these victims should have to worry about paying taxes on amounts that are simply intended to make them whole.

In addition, about 30 percent of settlement payouts are devoted to attorney fees, for attorneys whom the victims did not hire. It appears that victims will even owe taxes on the full amount of the settlement, including these attorney fees.

This is a problem now for wildfire victims in California. However, as the frequency and severity of wildfires grows across the Western United States due to climate change, it is more likely that this is a problem that California and other States will face again.

Our legislation would do two things. First, it would clarify that such wildfire settlement fees are not taxable. Second, it would create an above-the-line tax deduction for relevant attorney fees. This would provide tax certainty and fairness to wildfire settlement victims now and into the future.

With the incidence of wildfires rising, this is an important issue for Congress to address now to avoid victims having to worry about paying taxes on settlement payments that are meant to make them whole from devastating losses that many of them have suffered.

I hope my colleagues will join me in support of this bill.

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4669. A bill to establish the Western Riverside National Wildlife Refuge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to introduce the Western Riverside County National Wildlife Refuge Act, along with my California colleague, Senator ALEX PADILLA.

As our country's population grows, so does the need for infrastructure like housing and highways. However, we must find a way to balance the needs of growth with the preservation of our natural resources, including endangered species habitat and green space for the health and safety of our communities.

Senator PADILLA and I are proud this legislation would accomplish those goals by creating a Federal wildlife refuge in western Riverside County as part of a collaborative land management plan created by Riverside County.

The newly created wildlife refuge would provide expanded recreation, conservation, and educational opportunities for the local community—one of the fastest growing in the Nation.

This legislation builds off Riverside County's multiple species habitat conservation plan, allowing land that has already been acquired by the Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority to be included in the new Federal wildlife refuge this bill would create.

Our bill would establish a new unit of the National Wildlife Refuge System—the Western Riverside County National Wildlife Refuge. The refuge would be comprised of donated lands from Western Riverside County Regional Conservation Authority, as well as any additional lands deemed appropriate by the Interior Department acquired from willing sellers or donors, including Federal, State, or local agencies, Tribes, or private land owners.

This refuge would not only create increased recreation, outdoor access, and educational opportunities in Southern California but also work to protect endangered species in the region like the arroyo toad, the southwestern willow flycatcher, and the quino checkerspot butterfly. These protections would in turn help streamline infrastructure projects and support smart growth and land management planning.

As temperatures continue to rise and California experiences another historic drought and wildfire season, it is more important than ever to ensure that we conserve green spaces. As I stated earlier, Riverside County's population is one of the fastest growing in the country, and it is well documented that human development can have damaging effects on the health of endangered and threatened species. Additionally, overdevelopment results in poor community health and well-being.

That is why smart, collaborative land management planning is our best option on how to move forward with a growing population and economy, while safeguarding the resources that keep our communities and wildlife populations healthy.

This bill would support the conservation of habitat for 146 different species in the region, including 33 species that are listed as threatened or endangered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The acquisition boundary for the refuge was created in collaboration with the county, environmental groups and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The boundary area expands on local conservation efforts and increase access to green spaces, especially to underserved communities.

The coronavirus pandemic and recent extreme heat waves in our State have served to underscore the importance of ensuring access and preservation of open spaces, especially as our Nation's population grows and its cities expand.

This bill also meets the Biden administration's call to conserve 30 percent of U.S. lands and waters by 2030, an initiative known as America the Beautiful. We are proud the creation of this refuge would contribute to that important goal.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

S. 4672. A bill to modify the authority of the Secretary of Defense to transfer excess aircraft to other departments of the Federal Government and to authorize the Secretary to transfer excess aircraft to the Governor of a State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. PADILLA, Mr. President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan Emergency Aircraft Act of 2022.

Currently, DOD has a program to transfer excess aircraft to Federal Agencies for wildfire suppression purposes. However, under current law, DOD is limited to providing only seven aircraft total to each Agency.

After years of increasingly catastrophic wildfires, it has become clear that the Federal Government must do more to support suppression efforts to get fires under control quickly, as well as support search and rescue to keep communities safe. If there are excess aircraft available, they should be put to use suppressing fires and protecting communities.

Furthermore, as fire activity has exploded in the past few years, States have stepped up and greatly increased their own suppression efforts. They should also be allowed to utilize these excess aircraft to increase suppression capabilities and put fires out faster. However, under current law, States do not have access to these excess aircraft.

This bill would remove the arbitrary cap on how many excess aircraft DOD can transfer to Federal Agencies for wildfire suppression efforts; allow States to receive excess aircraft; expand the purposes for which these aircraft could be used from just "wildfire suppression purposes" to include purposes of "wildfire suppression, search and rescue, or emergency operations pertaining to wildfires"; and mandate an annual report from DOD to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives on aircraft transferred during the previous fiscal year.

This bill represents a commonsense step forward to expand fire suppression and search and rescue operations across the Federal Government and State governments.

I want to thank Senator CRAMER for joining me in this bipartisan effort, and I urge my colleagues to join us in working to pass this bill as quickly as possible in light of the extreme wildfire danger facing States across the country.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 727—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD NEGOTIATE STRONG, INCLUSIVE, AND FORWARD-LOOKING RULES ON DIGITAL TRADE AND THE DIGITAL ECONOMY WITH LIKE-MINDED COUNTRIES AS PART OF ITS BROADER TRADE AND ECONOMIC STRATEGY IN ORDER TO ENSURE THAT THE UNITED STATES VALUES OF DEMOCRACY, RULE OF LAW, FREEDOM OF SPEECH, HUMAN AND WORKER RIGHTS, PRIVACY, AND A FREE AND OPEN INTERNET ARE AT THE VERY CORE OF DIGITAL GOVERNANCE

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. WYDEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 727

Whereas over half of the world's population, totaling more than 5,000,000,000 people, use the internet;

Whereas the digital economy encompasses the economic and social activity from billions of online connections among people, businesses, devices, and data as a result of the internet, mobile technology, and the internet of things;

Whereas the Bureau of Economic Analysis found that the digital economy contributed nearly 10.2 percent of United States gross domestic product and supported 7,800,000 United States jobs in 2020;

Whereas the technology-commerce ecosystem added 1,400,000 jobs between 2017 and 2021, and served as the main job-creating sector in 40 States;

Whereas United States jobs supported by the digital economy have sustained annual wage growth at a rate of 5.9 percent since 2010, as compared to a 4.2 percent for all jobs;

Whereas, in 2020, United States exports of digital services surpassed \$520,000,000,000, accounting for more than half of all United States services exports and generating a digital services trade surplus for the United States of \$214,000,000,000;

Whereas digital trade bolsters the digital economy by enabling the sale of goods on the internet and the supply of online services across borders and depends on the free flow of data across borders to promote commerce, manufacturing, and innovation;

Whereas digital trade has become increasingly vital to United States workers and businesses of all sizes, including the countless small and medium-sized enterprises that use digital technology, data flows, and e-commerce to export goods and services across the world;

Whereas digital trade has advanced entrepreneurship opportunities for women, people of color, and individuals from otherwise underrepresented backgrounds and enabled the formation of innovative start-ups;

Whereas international supply chains are becoming increasingly digitized and data driven and businesses in a variety of industries, such as construction, healthcare, transportation, and aerospace, invested heavily in digital supply chain technologies in 2020;

Whereas United States Trade Representative Katherine Tai said, "[T]here is no bright line separating digital trade from the digital

economy—or the ‘traditional’ economy for that matter. Nearly every aspect of our economy has been digitized to some degree.”;

Whereas industries outside of the technology sector, such as manufacturing and agriculture, are integrating digital technology into their businesses in order to increase efficiency, improve safety, reach new customers, and remain globally competitive;

Whereas the increasing reliance on digital technologies has modernized legacy processes, accelerated workflows, increased access to information and services, and strengthened security in a variety of industries, leading to better health, environmental, and safety outcomes;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has led to increased uptake and reliance on digital technologies, data flows, and e-commerce;

Whereas 90 percent of adults in the United States say that the internet has been essential or important for them personally during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas United States families, workers, and business owners have seen how vital access to the internet has been to daily life, as work, education, medicine, and communication with family and friends have shifted increasingly online;

Whereas many individuals and families, especially in rural and Tribal communities, struggle to participate in the digital economy because of a lack of access to a reliable and affordable internet connection;

Whereas new developments in technology must be deployed with consideration to the unique access challenges of rural, urban underserved, and vulnerable communities;

Whereas digital trade has the power to help level the playing field and uplift those in traditionally unrepresented or underrepresented communities;

Whereas countries have negotiated international rules governing digital trade in various bilateral and plurilateral agreements, but those rules remain fragmented, and no multilateral agreement on digital trade exists within the World Trade Organization;

Whereas the United States, through free trade agreements or other digital agreements, has been a leader in developing a set of rules and standards on digital governance and e-commerce that has helped allies and partners of the United States unlock the full economic and social potential of digital trade;

Whereas Congress recognizes the need for agreements on digital trade, as indicated by its support for a robust digital trade chapter in the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement;

Whereas other countries are operating under their own digital rules, some of which are contrary to democratic values shared by the United States and many allies and partners of the United States;

Whereas those countries are attempting to advance their own digital rules on a global scale;

Whereas examples of the plethora of non-tariff barriers to digital trade that have emerged around the globe include—

(1) overly restrictive data localization requirements and limitations on cross border data flows that do not achieve legitimate public policy objectives;

(2) intellectual property rights infringement;

(3) policies that make market access contingent on forced technology transfers or voluntary transfers subject to coercive terms;

(4) web filtering;

(5) economic espionage;

(6) cybercrime exposure; and

(7) government-directed theft of trade secrets;

Whereas certain countries are pursuing or have implemented digital policies that un-

fairly discriminate against innovative United States technology companies and United States workers that create and deliver digital products and services;

Whereas the Government of the People's Republic of China is currently advancing a model for digital governance and the digital economy domestically and abroad through its Digital Silk Road Initiative that permits censorship, surveillance, human and worker rights abuses, forced technology transfers, and data flow restrictions at the expense of human and worker rights, privacy, the free flow of data, and an open internet;

Whereas the 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices of the Department of State highlighted significant human rights issues committed by the People's Republic of China in the digital realm, including “arbitrary interference with privacy; pervasive and intrusive technical surveillance and monitoring; serious restrictions on free expression, the press, and the internet, including physical attacks on and criminal prosecution of journalists, lawyers, writers, bloggers, dissidents, petitioners, and others as well as their family members, and censorship and site blocking”;

Whereas the United States discourages digital authoritarianism, including practices that undermine human and worker rights and result in other social and economic coercion;

Whereas allies and trading partners of the United States in the Indo-Pacific region have urged the United States to deepen economic engagement in the region by negotiating rules on digital trade and technology standards;

Whereas the digital economy has provided new opportunities for economic development, entrepreneurship, and growth in developing countries around the world;

Whereas negotiating strong digital trade principles and commitments with allies and partners across the globe enables the United States to unite like-minded economies around common standards and ensure that principles of democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech, human and worker rights, privacy, and a free and open internet are at the very core of digital governance;

Whereas United States leadership and substantive engagement is necessary to ensure that global digital rules reflect United States values so that workers are treated fairly, small businesses can compete and win in the global economy, and consumers are guaranteed the right to privacy and security;

Whereas the United States supports rules that reduce digital trade barriers, promote free expression and the free flow of information, enhance privacy protections, protect sensitive information, defend human and worker rights, prohibit forced technology transfer, and promote digitally enabled commerce; and

Whereas the United States supports efforts to cooperate with allies and trading partners to mitigate the risks of cyberattacks, address potentially illegal or deceptive business activities online, promote financial inclusion and digital workforce skills, and develop rules to govern the use of artificial intelligence and other emerging and future technologies: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States should negotiate strong, inclusive, forward-looking, and enforceable rules on digital trade and the digital economy with like-minded countries as part of a broader trade and economic strategy to address digital barriers and ensure that the United States values of democracy, rule of law, freedom of speech, human and worker rights, privacy, and a free and open

internet are at the very core of the digital world and advanced technology;

(2) in conducting such negotiations, the United States must—

(A) pursue digital trade rules that—

(i) serve the best interests of workers, consumers, and small and medium-sized enterprises;

(ii) empower United States workers;

(iii) fuel wage growth; and

(iv) lead to materially positive economic outcomes for all people in the United States;

(B) ensure that any future agreement prevents the adoption of non-democratic, coercive, or overly restrictive policies that would be obstacles to a free and open internet and harm the ability of the e-commerce marketplace to continue to grow and thrive;

(C) coordinate sufficient trade-related assistance to ensure that developing countries can improve their capacity and benefit from increased digital trade; and

(D) consult closely with all relevant stakeholders, including workers, consumers, small and medium-sized enterprises, civil society groups, and human rights advocates; and

(3) with respect to any negotiations for an agreement facilitating digital trade, the United States Trade Representative and the heads of other relevant Federal agencies must—

(A) consult closely and on a timely basis with the Committee on Finance of the Senate and the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives about the substance of those negotiations and the requisite legal authority to bind the United States to any such agreement;

(B) keep both committees fully apprised of those negotiations; and

(C) provide to those committees, including staff with appropriate security clearances, adequate access to the text of the negotiating proposal of the United States before presenting the proposal in the negotiations.

SENATE RESOLUTION 728—COMMENDING THE BRAVERY, COURAGE, AND RESOLVE OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND PRO-DEMOCRACY ACTIVISTS IN CUBA ONE YEAR AFTER THE HISTORIC MARCH LED BY SUCH ACTIVISTS THROUGH THE STREETS OF CUBA TO EXERCISE THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT TO PEACEFULLY ASSEMBLE AND SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE HUMAN RIGHTS ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY THE BRUTAL, TOTALITARIAN, AND ILLEGITIMATE COMMUNIST REGIME IN CUBA

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. CRUZ, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 728

Whereas July 11, 2022, marked 1 year since the largest anti-government demonstration in Cuba when thousands of brave protestors took to the streets in more than 40 cities to peacefully demand access to fundamental freedoms and civil liberties and call for an end to communism, censorship, and the oppressive leadership of the Communist regime in Cuba;

Whereas the regime, in an attempt to silence the Cuban people, responded to the demonstration with a wave of terror, repression, and criminalization and detained and persecuted more than 1,400 protestors;

Whereas more than 700 of such protestors, including children, remain unjustly imprisoned and are subjected to torture and inhumane living conditions, with many of such protestors having been sentenced to decades-long prison sentences;

Whereas the ongoing imprisonment of Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia, a Cuban human rights and democracy activist who has worked tirelessly to advocate for fundamental civil liberties for the Cuban people, is representative of the tactics of the brutal and despotic regime;

Whereas Garcia was among the hundreds of protestors who were unlawfully detained, were denied due process, and received unfair trials conducted by secret tribunals;

Whereas, according to a statement by the family of Garcia in January 2022, Garcia was subjected to months of solitary confinement, physical and psychological torture, and inhumane treatment from Cuban operatives, resulting in dire health conditions;

Whereas Garcia has suffered from severe headaches, mouth bleeding, malnutrition, bouts of coughing, and the inability to sleep;

Whereas, more than 1 year into the unjust imprisonment of Garcia by the Communist regime in Cuba, Garcia continues to be subjected to brutal, torturous, and inhumane conditions by the regime, including isolation and confinement to a small-walled cell with no access to natural light, denial of physical or verbal contact with family for months at a time, and denial of daily contact with other individuals;

Whereas, according to the family of Garcia, Garcia is now suffering from breathing problems and vision loss and shows bodily signs of ongoing torture;

Whereas the deteriorating and dire health conditions of Garcia are directly attributable to the cruel and inhumane conditions to which the regime has subjected Garcia, solely for engaging in peaceful demonstrations and calling for freedom and democracy for the people of Cuba;

Whereas hundreds of pro-democracy activists have been imprisoned solely for peacefully exercising their God-given right to freedom of expression, including—

(1) Luis Manuel Otero Alcantara and Maykel “Osorbo” Castillo of the San Isidro Movement;

(2) Jose Diaz Silva of the Opposition Movement for a New Republic;

(3) Arianna Lopez Roque of the Julio Machado Academy;

(4) Emiyosian Roman Rodriguez, a 17-year-old who shouted “Patria y Vida” and was sent to a forced labor camp for 5 years;

(5) Duannis Dabel Leon Taboada, a 22-year-old barber who was sentenced to 14 years; and

(6) young women such as Lisandra Gongora Espinosa and the Garrido sisters, Loreto Hernandez and Donaida Perez;

Whereas the illegitimate Communist regime in Cuba—

(1) is terrified of brave and courageous leaders who stand resolute in speaking out against the crimes against humanity committed by the regime; and

(2) will persecute, kidnap, torture, and eventually kill anyone who stands up against the tyranny of the regime; and

Whereas, by working together, freedom-loving nations can help bring positive change and democracy to the people of Cuba: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the bravery, courage, and resolve of the pro-democracy movement and all freedom activists in Cuba for risking everything to bring freedom to the Cuban people;

(2) condemns the repression of the hundreds of pro-democracy activists and polit-

ical prisoners, including children, that the Cuban regime is unjustly detaining and subjecting to physical and psychological torture, and calls for the immediate and unconditional release of such prisoners;

(3) condemns the brutal torture and inhumane treatment of Jose Daniel Ferrer Garcia by the Cuban regime, and calls for an immediate humanitarian medical visit to Garcia and all political prisoners who have been unjustly and illegally detained since July 11, 2021;

(4) condemns the brutal totalitarian Communist dictatorship in Cuba, and demands an end to the suffering of the Cuban people and the impunity of the human rights abusers of the regime;

(5) calls for the international community to stand with the Cuban people and speak out against the totalitarian Communist regime in Cuba for infringing on the freedom of thought, will, expression, assembly, and prosperity of the Cuban people; and

(6) urges the President to firmly declare that the United States Government will not consider any more concessions or sanctions relief to the brutal, illegitimate Communist regime in Cuba until all conditions for removing sanctions are met in accordance with the laws of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 729—DESIGNATING THE WEEK BEGINNING NOVEMBER 7, 2022, AS “NATIONAL PREGNANCY CENTER WEEK” TO RECOGNIZE THE VITAL ROLE THAT COMMUNITY-SUPPORTED PREGNANCY CENTERS PLAY IN SAVING LIVES AND SERVING WOMEN AND MEN FACED WITH DIFFICULT PREGNANCY DECISIONS

Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. HAWLEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SASSE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. DAINES, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. THUNE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 729

Whereas, for more than 100 years, young women facing unplanned pregnancies have found support from charitable organizations ranging from Catholic Charities and Jewish maternity homes to the Salvation Army;

Whereas many charitable organizations banded together on November 13, 1971, to form the first United States association of nonprofit organizations dedicated to rescuing as many lives as possible from abortion;

Whereas, as of 2019, there were approximately 2,700 pregnancy centers (also known as “pregnancy care and resource centers”) in the United States;

Whereas women in every part of the United States turn to pregnancy centers for help, hope, and healing;

Whereas pregnancy centers are local, nonprofit organizations that provide vital and compassionate support to women and men faced with difficult pregnancy decisions;

Whereas pregnancy centers reach almost 2,000,000 people each year through a combination of client services, including—

(1) pregnancy tests;

(2) ultrasound and medical services;

(3) options counseling and education; and

(4) parenting and childbirth classes;

Whereas the estimated value of services provided in 2019 to women and men of all ages and backgrounds was nearly \$270,000,000;

Whereas some pregnancy centers offer specific medical services, including—

(1) consultation with a licensed medical professional;

(2) a limited ultrasound for pregnancy confirmation; and

(3) testing for sexually transmitted infections and diseases;

Whereas the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates—

(1) provides life-affirming pregnancy centers with legal counsel, education, and training;

(2) has assisted hundreds of pregnancy centers in becoming medical clinics; and

(3) has represented nearly 1,300 pregnancy centers that currently operate as medical clinics;

Whereas more than 53,000 people in the United States volunteer at community-supported pregnancy centers each year;

Whereas more than 2,130 medical pregnancy centers provide a limited ultrasound at little or no cost to women;

Whereas, in 2019, more than 486,000 ultrasounds were performed at medical pregnancy centers;

Whereas pregnancy centers understand that pregnancy can be emotional for mothers and fathers, and the compassionate staff and trained volunteers of pregnancy centers—

(1) provide each patient with educational materials; and

(2) offer each patient emotional support and care to help each patient through difficult situations;

Whereas close to 86 percent of pregnancy centers in the United States offer specialized parenting education—

(1) through direct services on premises; or

(2) in nearby churches, schools, or other locations;

Whereas nearly every pregnancy care and resource center provides clients with material support for pregnancy and infant care, which may include—

(1) maternity clothing;

(2) baby clothes and furniture;

(3) housing assistance; or

(4) nutritional counseling and resources;

Whereas pregnancy centers—

(1) do not discriminate based on age, race, nationality, creed, religious affiliation, disability, or arbitrary circumstances; and

(2) take special care to provide help to underserved minority populations;

Whereas pregnancy centers have committed to engaging fathers so that they can acquire the skills necessary to become involved and responsible fathers;

Whereas Care Net-affiliated pregnancy centers have saved more than 823,000 babies since 2008;

Whereas Heartbeat International reports that the Abortion Pill Rescue Network has saved more than 2,000 lives;

Whereas, in the last 12 years, 8 of 10 women considering abortion when they entered a Care Net-affiliated pregnancy care and resource center ended up choosing life;

Whereas, in the last 12 years, Care Net-affiliated pregnancy centers—

(1) provided 1,300,000 free ultrasound scans;

(2) provided parenting support and education to 1,100,000 individuals;

(3) provided material resources to more than 1,700,000 individuals; and

(4) administered 3,200,000 pregnancy tests;

Whereas the 24-hour Option Line of Heartbeat International—

(1) helps carry out a mission of reaching and rescuing as many lives as possible around the world through an effective network of life-affirming pregnancy centers; and

(2) answers questions by phone, text, email, or chat before connecting an individual with the individual's local pregnancy center, where the individual will receive 1-on-1, compassionate, caring support;

Whereas Heartbeat International has made contact with over 4,000,000 women and men through the Option Line;

Whereas the Care Net Pregnancy Decision Line is the only national hotline that provides immediate pregnancy decision coaching by highly trained coaches;

Whereas Heartbeat International reports the existence of approximately 450 maternity homes in the United States;

Whereas Care Net, Heartbeat International, the National Institute of Family and Life Advocates, and other groups issued a statement entitled "Our Commitment of Care and Competence", which—

- (1) addresses issues including—
 - (A) scientific and medical accuracy;
 - (B) truth in advertising;
 - (C) compassion;
 - (D) nondiscrimination;
 - (E) patient confidentiality;
 - (F) staff training; and
 - (G) a consistent life ethic; and
- (2) expands the determination of the pregnancy help movement to comply with applicable legal requirements regarding—
 - (A) employment;
 - (B) fundraising;
 - (C) financial management;
 - (D) taxation;
 - (E) medical licensure; and
 - (F) operation standards;

Whereas less than 10 percent of the income of pregnancy centers in the United States is derived from governmental sources, which ensures that pregnancy centers—

- (1) minimize burdens on each taxpayer; and
- (2) engage local communities to provide sustainable support; and

Whereas, after the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* (410 U.S. 113 (1973)), pregnancy centers have wrongfully been the subject of vandalism and violence; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

- (1) designates the week beginning November 7, 2022, as "National Pregnancy Center Week";
- (2) supports the important work of pregnancy centers across the United States;
- (3) appreciates and recognizes the thousands of volunteers and staff of pregnancy centers in the United States who give millions of hours of service each year to women and men who are faced with difficult pregnancy decisions; and
- (4) recognizes the importance of—
 - (A) protecting life; and
 - (B) assisting women and men in need as they bring children into the world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 730—REMEMBERING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF THE EMBASSY OF ISRAEL IN BUENOS AIRES ON MARCH 17, 1992, THE 28TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOMBING OF THE ARGENTINE-ISRAELI MUTUAL ASSOCIATION BUILDING IN BUENOS AIRES ON JULY 18, 1994, AND RECOMMITTING TO EFFORTS TO UPHOLD JUSTICE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE ATTACKS

Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. COONS) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 730

Whereas, on March 17, 1992, a truck laden with explosives struck and detonated at the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 29 people and wounding more than 200 others;

Whereas Argentina is home to the largest Jewish community in Latin America—and the sixth largest in the world, outside Israel;

Whereas, in 1999, the Supreme Court of Argentina, after conducting an investigation, found that the Lebanese terrorist organization Hezbollah was responsible for the bombing, which claimed the lives of Israeli diplomats, their relatives, and numerous Argentine citizens and children;

Whereas, 2 years after the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Argentina, on July 18, 1994, a car bomb detonated at the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center building in Buenos Aires, killing 85 people and wounding more than 300 others, rendering it the deadliest terrorist attack in Argentina's history;

Whereas, for 25 years, the investigation into the AMIA bombing has been stymied by international inaction, political interference, investigative misconduct, and allegations of cover-ups, including the removal of the Federal judge in charge of the case in 2005 for "serious" irregularities in his handling of the case;

Whereas, in October 2006, Argentine prosecutors Alberto Nisman and Marcelo Martín Burgos formally accused the Government of Iran of directing Hezbollah to carry out the AMIA bombing;

Whereas the Argentine prosecutors charged the following Iranian nationals as suspects in the AMIA bombing:

- (1) Ali Fallahian, Iran's former intelligence minister;
- (2) Mohsen Rabbani, Iran's former cultural attaché in Buenos Aires;
- (3) Ahmad Reza Asghari, a former Iranian diplomat posted to Argentina;
- (4) Ahmad Vahidi, Iran's former defense minister;
- (5) Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's former foreign minister;
- (6) Mohsen Rezaee, former chief commander of the Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps;
- (7) Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, former President of Iran; and
- (8) Hadi Soleimannpour, former Iranian ambassador to Argentina;

Whereas, in November 2007, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) published Red Notices on 5 of the Iranian nationals and Hezbollah operative Ibrahim Hussein Berro;

Whereas those with INTERPOL Red Notices have repeatedly traveled internationally with impunity on more than 20 occasions since 2007;

Whereas, in May 2013, Argentine prosecutor Alberto Nisman published a 500-page report accusing the Government of Iran of establishing terrorist networks throughout Latin America;

Whereas, in January 2015, Mr. Nisman released the results of an investigation alleging that then-President Fernandez de Kirchner and then-Foreign Minister Timerman conspired to cover up Iranian involvement in the 1994 AMIA bombing and that they had agreed to negotiate immunity for Iranian suspects and secure the removal of the INTERPOL Red Notices;

Whereas Mr. Nisman was scheduled to present his findings to a commission of the Argentine National Congress on January 19, 2015, but on January 18, 2015, was found dead as the result of a gunshot wound to his head in his apartment in Buenos Aires; and

Whereas, to date, no one has been brought to justice for the 1992 bombing of the Israeli

Embassy in Argentina, the 1994 bombing of the AMIA Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires, or the death of Argentine prosecutor Alberto Nisman: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) reiterates its strongest condemnation of the 1992 attack on the Israeli Embassy in Argentina and the 1994 attack on the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) Jewish Community Center in Buenos Aires;

(2) honors the victims of the 1992 bombing of the Israeli Embassy in Argentina and the 1994 AMIA bombing, and expresses its sympathy to the relatives of the victims, who are still waiting for justice;

(3) underscores the concern of the United States regarding the continuing, decades-long delay in resolving the 1992 and 1994 terrorist attacks in Argentina, and urges the President of the United States to offer technical assistance to the Government of Argentina to support the ongoing investigations;

(4) urges the Government of Argentina and the international community to continue efforts to bring the perpetrators of the March 17, 1992, and July 18, 1994, terrorist attacks to justice, including enforcing the INTERPOL Red Notices and extending them when they are up for review in November 2022;

(5) commends the Government of Argentina for designating Hezbollah as a terrorist organization and urges other United States allies and partners in Latin America and the Caribbean to do the same; and

(6) commends the Government of Argentina for adopting the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of antisemitism and encourages other partners and allies to do the same.

SENATE RESOLUTION 731—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE RECOGNITION OF JULY 2022 AS "MUSLIM-AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH" AND CELEBRATING THE HERITAGE AND CULTURE OF MUSLIM AMERICANS IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mrs. MURRAY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 731

Whereas the Senate is proud to recognize and commemorate "Muslim-American Heritage Month", an observance that celebrates the contributions of Muslim Americans;

Whereas, in keeping with its time-honored traditions, the Senate recognizes and pays tribute to those who foster cultural pride and enhance the profile of diverse communities across the United States;

Whereas the immigration of Muslims to the colonies of the United States began with the arrival of indentured workers;

Whereas, during the 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, a significant number of slaves of Muslim heritage were brought to the United States;

Whereas, in the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, successive waves of immigration brought additional Muslims to the United States, who sought to pursue economic and social opportunity, as well as freedom of religion, and enriched the fabric of the society of the United States as business owners, entrepreneurs, health care professionals, humanitarians, scientists, and students;

Whereas Muslim Americans contribute greatly to charitable organizations that help people from all faiths in the United States

and around the world by feeding the hungry, providing recuperation efforts following natural disasters, and providing medical assistance, family services, scholastic supplies, and before and after school programs;

Whereas Muslim Americans have contributed to every part of the society of the United States to make advancements in architecture, arts, business, culture, diplomacy, government, law, medicine, the military, national security, religion, and sports;

Whereas Bangladeshi-American Fazlur Rahman Khan left his mark on cityscapes in the United States by pioneering a new structural system of frame tubes used to construct iconic buildings like the World Trade Center in New York City, the Hubert H. Humphrey Metrodome in Minneapolis, and the Willis "Sears" Tower in Chicago;

Whereas many Muslim Americans pursue the American dream and contribute to the economy of the United States as business owners and entrepreneurs, including Pakistani-born billionaire Shahid Khan, owner of the auto parts company Flex-N-Gate and the National Football League team Jacksonville Jaguars;

Whereas Syrian immigrant Ernest Hamwi's invention of the ice cream cone is a practical confection with a near ubiquitous presence in the lives of the people of the United States;

Whereas, in 2006, Keith Ellison of Minnesota was elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Muslim American to serve in Congress;

Whereas, in 2008, Ambassador Sada Cumber was appointed by President George W. Bush to serve as the first Special Envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference from the United States, representing the United States to 57 Muslim-majority nations;

Whereas actor Mahershala Ali became the first Muslim American to win an Oscar for his supporting role in "Moonlight" in 2017;

Whereas, in 2018, Rashida Tlaib of Michigan and Ilhan Omar of Minnesota were elected to the House of Representatives, becoming the first Muslim American women to serve in Congress;

Whereas, in 2021, Zahid Quraishi was confirmed as the first Muslim American to serve as an Article III Federal judge as a District Judge of the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey;

Whereas, in 2021, Rashad Hussain was confirmed as the first Muslim American to serve as the United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom;

Whereas Pakistani-American neurosurgeon Ayub Ommaya's invention of the intraventricular catheter system provides chemotherapy to treat brain tumors;

Whereas Muslim Americans have fought in support of the United States in every major war, from Bampett Muhamed and Yusuf Ben Ali under the command of General George Washington in the American Revolutionary War to Captain Humayun Khan, who made the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq in 2004;

Whereas Imam Warith Deen Mohammed, the first Muslim American to deliver an invocation in the Senate, and El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz, the civil rights activist and reformer also known as Malcolm X, were prominent religious leaders and scholars;

Whereas Muslim American professional athletes like National Basketball Association Hall of Fame members Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Hakeem Olajuwon, and Shaquille O'Neal, and 2-time world heavyweight champion Hasim Shariff Rahman, thrilled sports fans around the world during their respective careers;

Whereas Muslim American Olympians, such as boxer Muhammad Ali, track and field athlete Dalilah Muhammad, and fencer

Ibtihaj Muhammad, won medals in international competitions;

Whereas, with roots in at least 77 different countries, and identifying racially as White, Black, Arab, and Asian, Muslim Americans are an extremely diverse population;

Whereas the current population of Muslims living in the United States is estimated at more than 3,450,000;

Whereas more than 7,400 Muslims serve on active duty and more than 4,000 Muslims serve as selected reserve personnel in the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas the Muslim population has been growing in the United States, and the Muslim-American population is a tapestry of ethnic, racial, linguistic, social, and economic groups;

Whereas nearly 50 percent of Muslim Americans have reported experiencing religious discrimination, with that number rising to 64 percent for Muslim Americans whose appearance identifies them as Muslim, such as women who wear a hijab, or headscarf; and

Whereas the incredible contributions and heritage of Muslim Americans have helped to build a better United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates the month of July 2022 as "Muslim-American Heritage Month";

(2) honors the contributions and integral role of Muslim Americans to the economy, culture, and identity of the United States;

(3) recognizes the need for public education, awareness, and policies that are culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts of being Muslim American in all aspects of the society of the United States, including in discourse and policy; and

(4) urges the people of the United States to observe "Muslim-American Heritage Month" with appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities that celebrate the contributions of Muslim Americans to the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

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

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 28, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

MAX CLELAND VA MEDICAL CENTER ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3369, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3369) to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, as the "Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center".

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The bill (S. 3369) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 3369

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 "Max Cleland VA Medical Center Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was born August 24, 1942, in Atlanta, Georgia, the child of Juanita Kesler Cleland and Joseph Hughie Cleland, a World War II veteran, and grew up in Lithonia, Georgia.

(2) Joseph Maxwell Cleland graduated from Stetson University in Florida in 1964, and received his Master's Degree in history from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia.

(3) Following his graduation from Stetson University, Joseph Maxwell Cleland received

a Second Lieutenant's Commission in the Army through its Reserve Officers' Training Corps program.

(4) Joseph Maxwell Cleland volunteered for duty in the Vietnam War in 1967, serving with the 1st Cavalry Division.

(5) On April 8, 1968, during combat at the mountain base at Khe Sanh, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was gravely injured by the blast of a grenade, eventually losing both his legs and right arm.

(6) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was awarded the Bronze Star for meritorious service and the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

(7) In 1970, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was elected to the Georgia Senate as the youngest member and the only Vietnam veteran, where he served until 1975.

(8) As a Georgia State Senator, Joseph Maxwell Cleland authored and advanced legislation to ensure access to public facilities in Georgia for elderly and handicapped individuals.

(9) In 1976, Joseph Maxwell Cleland began serving as a staffer on the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the United States Senate.

(10) In 1977, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to lead the Veterans Administration.

(11) He was the youngest Administrator of the Veterans Administration ever and the first Vietnam veteran to head the agency.

(12) He served as a champion for veterans and led the Veterans Administration to recognize, and begin to treat, post-traumatic stress disorder in veterans suffering the invisible wounds of war.

(13) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was elected in 1982 as Secretary of State of Georgia, the youngest individual to hold the office, and served in that position for 14 years.

(14) In 1996, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was elected to the United States Senate representing Georgia.

(15) As a member of the Committee on Armed Services, Joseph Maxwell Cleland advocated for Georgia's military bases, members of the Armed Forces, and veterans, including by championing key personnel issues, playing a critical role in the effort to allow members of the Armed Forces to pass their GI Bill education benefits to their children, and establishing a new veterans cemetery in Canton, Georgia.

(16) In 2002, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed to the 9/11 Commission.

(17) In 2003, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed by President George W. Bush to the Board of Directors for the Export-Import Bank of the United States, where he served until 2007.

(18) In 2009, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed by President Barack Obama as Secretary of the American Battle Monuments Commission overseeing United States military cemeteries and monuments overseas, where he served until 2017.

(19) In 2010, Joseph Maxwell Cleland was appointed Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Arlington National Cemetery, where he served until 2017.

(20) Joseph Maxwell Cleland authored three books: *Strong at the Broken Places*, *Going for the Max: 12 Principles for Living Life to the Fullest*, and *Heart of a Patriot*.

(21) Joseph Maxwell Cleland received numerous honors and awards over the course of his long and distinguished career.

(22) Joseph Maxwell Cleland was a patriot, veteran, and lifelong civil servant who proudly served Georgia, the United States, and all veterans and members of the Armed Forces of the United States.

(23) On November 9, 2021, at the age of 79, Joseph Maxwell Cleland died, leaving behind a legacy of service, sacrifice, and joy.

SEC. 3. JOSEPH MAXWELL CLELAND ATLANTA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MEDICAL CENTER.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in metropolitan Atlanta, Georgia, shall after the date of the enactment of this Act be known and designated as the "Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center" or the "Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta VA Medical Center".

(b) REFERENCE.—Any reference in a law, regulation, map, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the medical center referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the Joseph Maxwell Cleland Atlanta Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

DISCHARGE AND REFERRAL— S. 4490

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 4490, a bill to promote digital citizenship and media literacy, and the bill be transferred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

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

COVID-19 EIDL FRAUD STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 7334, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title. The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7334) to extend the statute of limitations for fraud by borrowers under certain COVID-19 economic injury disaster loan programs of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 7334) was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the motion 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.

PPP AND BANK FRAUD ENFORCEMENT HARMONIZATION ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 7352 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

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

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7352) to amend the Small Business Act to extend the statute of limitation for fraud by borrowers under the Paycheck Protection Program, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (H.R. 7352) was passed.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I finally ask that the motion 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.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Senators BALDWIN, SMITH, and WARNER be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions through Monday, August 1, 2022.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, AUGUST 1, 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business, it adjourn until 3 p.m. on Monday, August 1; that following the prayer and the 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 day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Hanes nomination; further, that the cloture motion filed during today's session ripen at 5:30 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,
AUGUST 1, 2022, AT 3 P.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 4:28 p.m., adjourned until Monday, August 1, 2022, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY

JOE H. RITCH, OF ALABAMA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY FOR A TERM EXPIRING MAY 18, 2025. VICE RICHARD CAPEL HOWORTH, TERM EXPIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

RICHARD MILLS, JR., OF GEORGIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA.

HUGO YUE-HO YON, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MIN-

ISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

JESSICA LOOMAN, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION, DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, VICE CHERYL MARIE STANTON.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION

ALMO J. CARTER, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A COMMISSIONER OF THE UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION FOR A TERM OF SIX YEARS, VICE J. PATRICIA WILSON SMOOT, TERM EXPIRED.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. THOMAS P. SHERMAN

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. CARY J. COWAN, JR.
BRIG. GEN. JOSEPH D' COSTA
BRIG. GEN. WILLIAM B. DYER III
BRIG. GEN. EDWARD H. MERRIGAN, JR.
BRIG. GEN. JAN C. NORRIS

To be brigadier general

COL. THAD J. COLLARD
COL. ROGER F. DEON, JR.
COL. RACHEL E. HUMPHREY
COL. MARTIN C. JUNG
COL. VANCE KUHNEN
COL. JENNIFER A. MARRAST HOST
COL. MATTHEW N. METZEL
COL. CHARLES R. PHARISS II
COL. RAUL L. RODRIGUEZ
COL. ANDREW F. SCARCELLA
COL. TOMIKA M. SEABERRY
COL. KATHERINE A. TROMBLEY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be brigadier general

COL. SONYA A. POWELL

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate July 28, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

DAVID PRESSMAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO HUNGARY.