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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Ever-loving and eternal God, a source of the light that never dims and of the love that never fails, draw near to us today. Lord, we know not what the future holds, but You do. We rejoice that You hear and answer prayers as we watch the unfolding of Your prevailing providence. Lord, continue to be the sustaining presence in all of our tomorrows, bringing us to the destination of Your choosing. Today, use our lawmakers for Your glory. Strengthen them in all goodness that they may experience the joy of your Eternal Presence.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, November 14, 2024.

To the Senate:

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

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK 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 resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cathy Fung, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

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

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, our Republican colleagues officially decided who will lead their conference beginning in the new year.

Once again, I congratulate Senator THUNE on being chosen by his colleagues as the next Republican leader.

I have served with Senator THUNE in this Chamber for many years, and I am glad to say we have found common

ground on a number of different issues, including veterans' assistance, strengthening our national security, and more recently the Kids Online Safety bill, among other bills.

We have gotten along well and worked together in the past. I look forward to finding ways to work together in the future. We will have our differences for sure, and we will make those differences known on a regular basis here on the Senate floor, but my friend from South Dakota can rest assured our side of the aisle will always seek to work in good faith and seek common ground whenever possible. But if the Senate is to be successful in the years to come, if we are to continue to be productive and effective in representing the American people as well as we have over the past 4 years, there are a few things the new Republican majority should not forget. Hopefully, they won't.

Most importantly, Senate Republicans should continue to prioritize bipartisanship when they enter into the majority next year. On my first day as majority leader, I pledged to make bipartisanship a key part of how the Senate does its business. I said then—I have said it many times since—the Senate works best when both sides work together. Four years later, Democrats have not only kept our promise, but we have proven that bipartisanship can work in very significant ways. This majority was the most productive majority the Senate has had in decades, but that could not have happened had we not made the conscious choice to reach across the aisle.

It was bipartisanship that cleared the way for the biggest infrastructure bill in a generation. It was bipartisanship that got the CHIPS and Science bill done and now hundreds of thousands of jobs are returning to the United States and we are making those chips here.

It was bipartisanship that held the line against Putin and defended Ukraine.

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



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It was bipartisanship that made sure we saw zero government shutdowns under this administration. The list goes on: marriage equality, the first gun safety bill in decades, Kids Online Safety. All of these accomplishments were possible because Democrats were willing to work with the other side.

We still have work to do in this Chamber before the year is out, but I am proud of the record we have built over the last 4 years, one that we accomplished by reaching across the aisle whenever the chance presented itself.

I earnestly hope the next few years are as fruitful and collaborative as the last four. I earnestly hope bipartisanship continues because that is the only way we will be successful in the Senate, but that will be up to Senate Republicans to decide for themselves.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, now on Senate business, there is much the Senate has yet to accomplish before the end of the year. It will be a busy time.

Government funding is scheduled to run out on December 20. Both sides must work together to prevent a shutdown before then. Nobody wants to hear the words “Christmastime shutdown” a few weeks from now. I can’t think of something the American people would want less during the holidays. Just as we have done repeatedly over the past couple of years, both sides must compromise and work together to make sure the government remains funded.

We also need to pass the National Defense Authorization Act—the NDAA—to provide for our troops and hold the line against America’s adversaries. I hope our Republican colleagues work with us to advance key policies to outcompete the Chinese Communist Party and secure America’s leadership on some of the most cutting-edge technologies of our time, from AI to innovations in biotech and quantum computing and more. We have gotten the NDAA done over the last six decades without fail, and we must do it again this year.

Another issue that requires our attention is disaster aid funding, to support communities across the country in times of disaster. No State or community is immune from disaster. We have seen that over the last few years—from hurricanes in Florida and wildfires in Hawaii, floods in the Northeast, droughts on the west coast, and everywhere in between. If we want to help these communities recover and rebuild after disasters, we must pass comprehensive, robust funding that leverages all programs across the Federal Government to help our communities in need.

It has been a hallmark of America that when one of the regions of our country, one of the parts of our country—the towns, the villages, the counties, the States—have had real trouble because the hand of God, through weather and disaster, has affected them, the whole country rallies to

their side. That has been a tradition. A few haven’t abided by it on instances on the other side, but it is a tradition we must keep, and, hopefully, we can move forward on disaster aid.

We also need to make progress on the farm bill, and I commend Chair STABENOW for her bipartisan work on this matter. Democrats are serious about getting a farm bill done, one that represents the needs of everyone, from farmers and ranchers to hungry Americans.

Finally, as we continue to work through these matters, the Senate continues to make progress on confirming President Biden’s highly qualified nominees. Today, the Senate will confirm another judge on the U.S. Tax Court and the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, and we will advance Embry Kidd’s nomination for circuit court judge for the 11th Circuit.

So, Mr. President, we have a lot of work to do on several fronts, but I am encouraged, so far, by the cooperation on both sides.

I yield the floor.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

INSTITUTIONAL THANKS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yesterday, Senate Republicans elected leaders to steer our incoming majority through the 119th Congress. Senator THUNE, Senator BARRASSO, Senator COTTON, Senator CAPITO, Senator LANKFORD, and Senator TIM SCOTT have earned the trust and support of their colleagues.

I would like to congratulate each of them and reiterate that the entire Republican conference stands united and ready to tackle the important work of the country.

As I have said before, I am very much looking forward to taking on this next chapter from a different seat here on the floor. But before the year is out, I would like to continue thanking the many individuals and teams who have served this institution so well during my time as Republican leader.

I have had the privilege of working with consummate experts and relying on the professionalism of so many unsung heroes.

Take the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. Under the leadership of a distinguished career Army officer, Karen Gibson, and with the deep bicameral experience of senior staff like Jennifer Hemingway, the SAA shoulders enormous responsibilities—from the day-to-day security procedures to telecommunications infrastructure.

I am particularly grateful to the staffs of the Protocol Office, whose

work helps us navigate the most solemn and visible occasions; the Chief Information Office, telecom, and the Help Desk, who keep essential communications and technology across the Senate running smoothly; Capitol facilities, including Gary “Tiny” Richardson, who clean and maintain this magnificent building and the campus around it with unfailing care; the Employee Assistance Program, who help dedicated public servants around the Senate access important resources; the doorkeepers and Press Gallery, who carefully control access to this Chamber and make constituents feel welcome here in the Gallery; the Appointment Desk, who greet and direct a steady stream of distinguished individuals—in particular Patty Reilly, who has made a habit of sharing a daily word of motivation with my chief of staff; the Senate Recording Studio and Photo Studio, who capture the Senate for posterity; the Office of Printing, Graphics, and Direct Mail and State office operations, who put Senate business within reach for the American people; and the Office of Security, Emergency Preparedness, and Continuity, whose careful attention, training, and planning ensure that the Senate is able to discharge its constitutional duties even under the most trying circumstances.

So to everyone whose work under the Sergeant at Arms keeps the Senate safe and operating smoothly, thank you very much.

Now, every day, my team also relies on the work of several more teams working under the leadership of the Secretary of the Senate, Ann Berry, and her professional staff, like Sydney Butler. Stretching from here on the floor to outposts across the Senate campus, the Secretary’s Office is involved in a dizzying array of critical operations.

I would like to thank the staffs of the Senate Library, who collect and maintain a rich archive of institutional knowledge and help Senators and staff tap into it; the Senate Historical Office, the Office of the Senate Curator, and the Office of Conservation and Preservation—including the frame shop—who dedicate deep expertise to understanding the Senate’s history and maintaining its home here in the Capitol for posterity; the Office of Senate Security, who maintain our ability to conduct oversight and address highly sensitive matters of national security here in the Capitol; the Office of Interparliamentary Services—particularly Sally Walsh—who support Senate delegations and conferences overall; the Office of Printing and Document Services, the Daily Digest, and the Office of the Official Reporters of Debate, who carefully transcribe, format, and preserve Senate proceedings, and the Office of Captioning Services who make them accessible to all Americans; the Stationery Room and the Senate Gift Shop, who keep every office supply closet well-stocked and offer mementos for every occasion; the Disbursing Office, who diligently process all Senate

compensation and patiently answer all manner of staff questions; the faculty and staff of the Page School, under the leadership of Principal Joshua Dorsey, who make the page program such an enriching experience for bright, aspiring public servants throughout the year; and, of course, the Secretary's most visible teams here on the Senate floor, from our formidable Parliamentarian Elizabeth McDonough, and her capable team: Leigh Hildebrand, Christy Amatos, and Josh Moscow; our Bill Clerk Lindsey Gibmeyer and her team: Ryan Lefferts, Mark Amato, and Emily Harris; Enrolling Clerk Cassie Byrd, along with Allys Lasky; Executive Clerk Rachel Creviston, along with Alaina Skalski and Chris Ferrari; Journal Clerk Megan Pickel, along with Adam Gottlieb and Skyler Mansell; and our dulcet-toned Legislative Clerks John Merlino and Mary Anne Clarkson.

So to all of you who devote yourselves to the important work of the Secretary's Office, thank you so much.

There are, of course, still many more proud members of the Senate family who deserve our thanks, including the youngest members of the institution.

Mr. President, if I may speak directly to our impressive class of pages here on the floor, it is not easy throwing a full-time job on top of full-time schoolwork, and we are so grateful for your interest in public service and for all you do to keep this place humming. We are glad you are here, and we will be proud to watch as you step into careers of leadership and service.

I also want to thank Chaplain Black—Barry Black—and his staff, including Suzanne Chapuis, an honorary member of the McTeam, who tend with grace and care to the spiritual needs of a flock who so often carry heavy weights, as well as the staffs of the Architect of the Capitol, who manage the many moving pieces of an ancient building and its many occupants; the Rules Committee, who oversee the protocol that keeps the Senate a safe and smoothly functioning environment for conducting the American people's business; the Congressional Budget Office and the Congressional Research Service, whose work informs many of the most consequential votes we have; the Office of Legislative Counsel, who work often in demanding circumstances, under tight deadlines, to put the will of the Senate and the Nation on paper; the Office of Senate Legal Counsel and the Chief Counsel for Employment, whose sober assessments and reliable representation are a tremendous access to the Members and staff of the article I branch; the Office of the Attending Physician, whose care helps the Senate meet mundane ailments and grave public health challenges alike; the Food Service Program, who feed thousands of daily meals, both delicious and nutritious, and greet staff and visitors alike with a smile; and the Training and Development Office, who help cultivate professional excellence among Senate staff at all stages of their careers.

Now, I could go on thanking the outstanding members of the Senate staff a good while longer, and in the coming weeks, I will, but for today, I will close with the men and women who form the Senate's first line of defense. The U.S. Capitol Police—and in particular the Senate Division—make all of the other work we do possible. They ensure that the Senators and their staff can work in safety, that members of the public can visit in safety, and that this institution carries on in the face of very real threats to its security.

As I look back on my time in party leadership, I am particularly grateful for the devoted service of the members of the Dignitary Protection Division, who safeguard the continuity of our government by surrounding me and other senior leaders with around-the-clock security.

Sometimes, it has meant spending long hours on the road. Other times, it has meant making split-second decisions to avert danger. In every case, I have been so fortunate to have these professionals on duty.

So to members of my detail past and present, to members of the Senate Division here in the Chamber and across the campus, and to the entire force of the Capitol Police, my staff and I are deeply grateful for your service and your sacrifice.

So, as I said, the work of thanking the outstanding staff that have made my job easier over the years continues. I will look forward to paying tribute to more of them very soon.

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

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

Mr. WARNER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Republican whip.

2024 ELECTION RESULTS

Mr. THUNE. Last Tuesday, the American people spoke, and they spoke decisively. They made it clear that they have had enough of the failed Biden-Harris-Schumer agenda, and they chose Donald Trump and Vice President-elect VANCE to lead our country, along with Republican majorities in the House and Senate.

I congratulate President Trump and Vice President-elect VANCE on their tremendous victory.

It is difficult to overstate what President Trump did in this election. Republicans improved our margins in three out of every four counties in the United States and grew support with nearly every demographic group. President Trump won more Hispanic support than any Republican President ever before, and younger voters played a crucial role in his victory.

The Republican coalition is broad and strong and growing.

The American people handed President Trump and Senate Republicans a decisive victory, and now the real work begins: delivering on our agenda. That starts with ending the Biden-Harris border crisis and deporting illegal immigrants.

Also at the top of the list is strengthening our economic and fiscal future. The last 4 years of Democrat inflation have been very difficult for working Americans, and so Republicans will be focused on doing everything we can to expand economic opportunity and to increase growth. That starts with taking action via reconciliation to preserve the tax relief Republicans delivered for Americans during the first Trump administration. It is also time to check the bureaucratic machine here in Washington, DC.

A key element of making America prosperous again is taking a hatchet to the regulatory apparatus choking our economy, starting with the 1,000 Biden-Harris regulations that have already cost Americans nearly \$2 trillion. And of course a major focus of both the Trump administration and the Republican Congress will be restoring American strength to promote peace at home and abroad. That includes restoring American energy dominance for the sake of both economic growth and our national security.

Yesterday, my colleagues chose me to lead Republicans here in the Senate during the 119th Congress. I am honored by the trust they have placed in me, and I will work every day here in the Senate to serve my colleagues and to advance President Trump's agenda.

My philosophy of leadership is inspired by my dad. Some of you know that I played basketball growing up. I remember one game particularly. I had 36 points and 12 rebounds. At one point in the game, there was a time when it came down to fast break, and I pulled up and made a shot off the glass. After the game, my dad pointed that out, and he said, "You know, Chris was open, wide open, under the basket, and you should have given him the ball."

That was my dad. He hated ball hogs. He wanted me and my siblings to be team players. He always believed that if there was somebody else who had a better shot than you did, that you got him the ball. That is my goal as leader: to pass the ball to the best-positioned player, to empower everybody on the team.

We have a lot of brilliant people in the Republican conference, brimming with ideas and knowledge, and it will be my job to make sure that they have the chance to use those ideas and that knowledge to strengthen our country and make life better for the American people. That is what I focused on as chairman of Senate Commerce Committee, it is what I have focused on as whip, and it is what I plan to do as leader.

The leader's office will be a resource, not a roadblock, for Members seeking to achieve their legislative goals. That

starts with empowering committees, which will in turn ensure that individual Members at all levels of seniority have a real voice in the legislation we consider.

As whip, I have consistently advocated for our Members' amendments, resulting in over 100 amendment votes this Congress. In the majority, we can do better, and I will continue my commitment to amendments as leader.

The committee process is key to developing strong legislation, but all Members of the Senate—and not just the Members of a particular committee—should have a voice in final legislation through amendments on the floor. Members should assume that amendment votes will be the norm. That will mean taking tough votes at times, but that is part of our jobs.

Members should also expect a return to regular order in the Senate next year. I will devote serious time in the summer to floor consideration of appropriations bills so that we don't constantly wind up with an end-of-the-year pileup and problematic continuing resolutions.

Needless to say, the floor priority at the start of the year will be confirming President Trump's nominees, and Members should expect an aggressive schedule until those nominees are confirmed.

I know communication has been a concern for Members of our conference. As whip, I have tried to be very accessible, whether that is by phone or in person, and that is something I intend to continue as majority leader. That includes regular, substantive updates for Members and staff. Neither Members nor staff should be left without information, wondering what is coming next.

I plan to have regular meetings with Speaker JOHNSON and with the White House to ensure smooth coordination and a strong working relationship between the House, the Senate, and the administration as we work together to implement President Trump's agenda.

I will have more to say on all of this down the road, but for now, I want to once again thank my colleagues for the trust they have placed in me. I will work every day to honor that trust and to serve our Members and the American people.

I want to also express my gratitude to Leader MCCONNELL for his tireless service to the Republican Party and to the Senate. I am glad that, while he may be stepping down as leader, he will still be serving here in the Senate.

I want to again congratulate President Trump and Vice President-elect VANCE. They ran a tremendous race, and it will be my honor to work with them to advance our Republican agenda.

I want to say a special word of congratulations to Vice President-elect VANCE, who has been our colleague here in the Senate for the past couple of years. He made an impact right out of the gate and has been a stalwart ad-

vocate for his constituents. Now he will be a stalwart advocate for the American people. I look forward to continuing to work with him in his new role as Vice President.

A big thing that drew me into politics was Ronald Reagan. His philosophy of limited government and peace through strength resonated with me. But I was also drawn by his sense of humor, his optimism, and his belief in America. I suspect that a lot of people who voted for President Trump in this election were attracted in part by the fact that President Trump conveys a lot of that optimism and faith in our country.

It has been a tough 4 years for the American people, but, like President Trump and Ronald Reagan, I believe that America's best days lie ahead. I look forward to working with my Republican colleagues here in the U.S. Senate and with President Trump and Vice President VANCE to build a strong and prosperous America and a bright new dawn for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 6651

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I come to the floor today, and I am ultimately going to be offering a unanimous consent for the body, but beforehand, I want to talk a little bit about what happened in North Carolina with the storm of Hurricane Helene. It actually starts a couple of days earlier when a weather system came into Western North Carolina and dumped inches and inches of rain on several—more than a dozen—major river basins and saturated the land.

Now we have Hurricane Helene come in through the Florida Panhandle, through Georgia, through South Carolina, and into North Carolina. It largely maintained the integrity of a category 1 storm, tropical storm, a couple hundred miles inland in a mountain range. It is a first-of-a-kind storm that is the most deadly in North Carolina history—and, folks, we have been hit by Florence, Matthew, Hugo; I can go through a long list—over 102 people dead, some still missing. We have families who are disconnected and will likely not even have electricity.

There is a community called Big Creek. Asheville is without drinkable water today. Businesses are suffering. The Small Business Administration is out of money. They are telling people who have had claims processed that "Your claim has been approved" and that as soon as the Federal Government replenishes the Small Business Administration account, then they will get the money. Think about that. If you are one of thousands of people in Western North Carolina in a land mass the size of the State of Massachusetts—ladies and gentlemen, that is how big the land mass was that had devastating storms. Mr. President, 102 people died, and hundreds of businesses are out of business.

I have a 20-mile segment of I-40 that is impassable. It is not from rockslides; it is because the land underneath the roads no longer exists. There are 5 miles that are going to have to be repaired. Twenty years ago, when we had a three-tenths-of-a-mile segment, it took 7 months to repair it. And that was just removing a landslide; the integrity of the roadbed was there. We don't have that anymore.

We have 80 miles of rail tracks gone. We have hundreds of businesses out of business right now. We have a major water system that hopes to have drinkable water by Christmas. We have people suffering. We have businesses suffering. We have a disaster that we have to respond to, and a lot of work is going to have to be done before the end of this Congress and certainly in the next Congress, when the nearly \$50 billion between State and Federal dollars is going to have to be appropriated just to help North Carolina, not to mention the \$3 billion of agricultural damage in Georgia, and I can go down the list to Florida.

We have a lot of work to do, but, folks, this is a time where you don't question what we are doing. You don't question how you pay for it. You get the money there, and you get these communities back on track.

I am not saying that we shouldn't be paying for this. We absolutely should. And up here in the rarified air of Washington, DC, we could say "Well, let's just, you know, be responsible about this and let these people suffer until we get it," but that is not how it works in Western North Carolina. They need help now, today.

I will talk a little bit more about that before I offer my unanimous consent request, but before I do, if I may, I would like to pass it over to Senator BUDD. I believe Senator BUDD will pass it over to Senator WARNER, and then I would like to reserve recognition at that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I want to thank my friend Senator TILLIS for his partnership not just for today but throughout this whole crisis in our State.

Hurricane Helene represents one of the worst natural disasters ever to happen to our State—in particular, Western North Carolina. More than, as he mentioned, 100 people were killed and hundreds more injured, and some are still missing.

Thousands of North Carolinians lost their homes and their family businesses. Every day that I was present in the region, I was stunned by the enormity of the damage. It is unlike anything I have ever seen.

Now, I went to college at Appalachian State in Boone, and you learn very quickly how tough these mountain folks are. They are proud. They are self-sufficient people. The citizens of Western North Carolina are some of the toughest, most resilient people

around. They don't look for handouts. They don't complain. So when there is a need like this, government needs to be ready, needs to be there to help them.

They have to be able to access the loans from the SBA so they can continue to rebuild and recover their communities. Now, this program provides victims with low-interest loans to replace lost property or to rebuild their businesses or their homes or shops. This is very important because very few Helene victims—they don't have flood insurance, and it covers—you know, anything that covers a disaster of this magnitude.

Now, it is critical that this program be funded and effectively managed to get loan dollars flowing to those in need immediately, but, as my colleague mentioned, the SBA announced on October 15 that it ran out of money.

Now, every day that this fund sits empty, it further slows the process of rebuilding the lives for thousands of North Carolinians, and that is why we are here. We have to replenish it, and we need to do it now.

So I stand ready to work with my Senate colleagues to cut through the delays and provide the folks of Western North Carolina and the whole Appalachia region the resources they need as quickly as possible. So in this spirit, I strongly want to support Senator TILLIS's RELIEF Act to refill the SBA's Disaster Loan Program, and I hope the Senate can pass it today. I also strongly support the quick approval of a supplemental bill to help fund the long-term recovery for the folks in Western North Carolina. Congress should take up this bill without any further delay.

I either yield to Senator TILLIS or to Senator WARNER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my friends from North Carolina, Senator BUDD and Senator TILLIS.

Let me acknowledge in front of you that you guys got hit the hardest, but we got hit as well in southwest Virginia, and we have got communities that without this relief are going to die.

I want to echo what both of my colleagues have said in that this RELIEF Act is bipartisan. It is what we do as a matter of course when an entity like the SBA runs out of money. Since October 15, 34,000 businesses across the country have applied for SBA relief. Many of them have gotten approved, but they get a response that says: We will give you money when Congress does its job. This is done as a matter of course, and, frankly, the SBA screwed up a little bit on not getting better numbers before we broke before the election.

Let me take one moment and tell you about a community in particular in southwest Virginia.

Damascus, VA, was an old town. Basically, its economy had disappeared. It

came back because there is something called the Creeper Trail, with biking and hiking. I bike this trail.

And, Senator TILLIS, parts of that trail are gone now. We have 34 road trestles, and 18 of them are damaged or gone. We have got part of our road that gets to the top of the mountain that is gone as well. I went to Damascus, and I went to 10 jurisdictions in southwest Virginia, but in this little town, every business and home was affected. One guy had three businesses—two restaurants and a bed and breakfast. He paid out of his pocket to try to keep his workers on, even though it will be months before anything happens, even if the money were there.

We owe it to the folks in Damascus, across southwest Virginia, in North Carolina, and across all of the jurisdictions in our country that have been hard hit to do our job. Just like the folks in western North Carolina, the folks in southwest Virginia are proud, and they have an enormous amount of self-help. But this kind of assistance, whether it is FEMA dollars or SBA loans, is not charity; it is their right as Americans. It is what we pay our taxes for. Instead, thousands of Virginians who have asked for that right to apply for this loan have gotten a note, saying: We can't send you the money until Congress does its job.

We have a chance today for unanimous consent to take this bipartisan piece of legislation, to pass it through, and get those businesses the funds they deserve.

I thank my colleague.

I yield back to the senior Senator from North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, there are 233 people dead—102 in North Carolina, 7 still unaccounted for; the total damage estimated to be between \$30 and \$48 billion across seven States; in North Carolina, 1,400 landslides, 6,000 miles of road damage. One million-plus houses and businesses lost utilities. Some municipalities, like Asheville, like I said earlier, may not have drinkable water. This is a major urban center in western North Carolina that may not have drinkable water for tens of thousands of people before the end of August. That includes businesses that are struggling right now—think restaurants.

Struck during the peak of western North Carolina's season, the majority of our revenue occurs in western North Carolina, starting in October and ending in November. We have lost that. They are gone. A lot of these people lost loved ones who have businesses. Now they are just trying to keep their businesses afloat while they are going to funerals. And we tell them: Well, we have just got to wait for Congress before we can send you a check, because for the first time in this body we are going to demand a pay-for for disaster recovery.

Down about where the pages are sitting, a few months ago, BRIAN SCHATZ

came to me—he is a Senator from Hawaii—and he said: THOM, I hope you will support me on the supplemental for the fires in Maui.

I said: Count me in, BRIAN, because—do you know what?—I have no doubt—and count me in every time for a disaster supplemental because this is when we cut the crap and do our jobs. So count me in because I am pretty sure, before this season is over, I am going to have to come to you for help in North Carolina.

I had no idea that it was going to be a record-setting deadly storm, but if we want to keep these communities vibrant—Asheville will come back. It has the critical mass. Canton, Clyde, Burnsville—I can list dozens of towns that are hanging in the breach. Let's give them a chance. And if we don't, then businesses are going to make the right business decision. There are two here, OK? We have the small businesses, and, hopefully, they can bridge the gap and recover.

Again, these are also people who have lost loved ones, and many of them lost their own homes. So while they are trying to figure out a place to live, they are all trying to figure out how they can run their businesses and how they can keep people employed.

Now, big businesses are looking at what the business network—or what the ecosystem is going to look like. We have major employers who may make the decision to leave if we don't send a signal that we are going to be there to help them recover.

I could go on ad nauseam, but I am telling you, when I tell you it is a crisis in North Carolina when a major road like I-40 is going to be down for years, I can't tell people, just because I don't like the way it gets appropriated, it sucks for you that you may have to go out of business while I try to fix the dysfunction in Washington. This is a time for us to act and do like we have done every time with a disaster supplemental.

So—oh. And, by the way, in advance, Senator PAUL is going to offer an amendment that I love so much I would like to marry it. I am also going to object to it because it is the right amendment at the wrong time. I am looking forward to having that incorporated in a vehicle that my Democrat colleagues are going to hate that I hope we get passed in the next Congress, but there is no time for that now. I have said that, in spite of the fact that I support it, I want to be the one to object to it because I want mission certainty here. My mission is to get this disaster supplemental for the Small Business Administration passed through like we have on every other disaster supplemental to this day.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 465, H.R. 6651. I further ask that the Tillis-Warner substitute amendment at the desk 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 an objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I lived for 4 months in Asheville and worked at the VA hospital, so I have fond feelings for western North Carolina. I have an uncle who lives just up the road from Asheville. I know about the devastation. One of my best friends from my wedding lives in Asheville as well.

But the thing is, the reason why we won't do this in a responsible way is because the Senate voted to send all of your money to Ukraine. The Senate voted to send \$200 billion to Ukraine.

I have been all over the mountains of Appalachia. When I ask people, "Would you rather your Senators take care of you here in Asheville or here in Pikeville or here in Appalachia or would you rather them send your money to Ukraine?"

I don't get anybody wanting to send a penny to Ukraine.

Look, you can have all kinds of sympathy in the world for Ukraine and hostility toward Russia being the aggressor nation, but we don't have the money. We are \$2 trillion in the hole. Interest this year is going to be \$1 trillion.

As far as passing this, I am willing to let it pass today. He is going to object to passing his own bill today simply because it gets paid for. How crazy is that? He will not even let the other side object to it. He is going to object to his own bill. I am willing to let the bill pass, but take some of the fluff and boondoggle subsidies from the Green New Deal and put it into here. The money is sitting here. We put it into here for disasters. We help Asheville today.

"Oh, no. It is not the time or the place to pay for things."

The question before the Senate is whether, on behalf of the American people, we should borrow and spend an additional \$810 million for small business loans.

Do you know who gets small business loans right now? Ukraine. We are funding—"60 Minutes" did a special on this—a purse and dress store in Ukraine. We fund the Ukrainian Government's pensions. Look, half of our State governments are short in pensions. Our U.S. Government is short in pensions, and we are funding them in Ukraine.

So some of the same people who want this immediately—now, now, now, now; we don't want to pay for it—are happy to pay for crap all over Ukraine, including government salaries and pensions and small business loans to Ukraine.

Do you know what? The job of legislators is to make decisions to set priorities. We don't have an infinite amount of money, but we do have enough

money to take care of them in Asheville and in Virginia. Simply pay for it, but realize the people assembled will object to their own bill today. I am offering their bill. All we have got to do is take some money that is laying around in a pot of money—Green New Deal boondoggle money going to big corporations—and put it in for a disaster. We can do that today. If you still want to subsidize green energy, come back and do that next year. Pay for it now.

We don't have to borrow hundreds of millions of dollars to bail this program out, but Congress has a habit of refusing to do what you and I would do if faced with a new and large expense: Congress refuses to cut elsewhere even when saying yes to every new spending proposal and program that has led to record high inflation. Americans have been forced to learn the hard way that they are the ones who have to pay for Congress's addiction to spending.

So I offer a fiscally responsible path to pay for the bill and spare Americans from increasing the hidden tax of inflation.

My amendment would rescind \$810 million from the Department of Energy's boondoggle green new energy deals. It is a \$4.75 billion program that has had repeated bankruptcies in it previously. It is absurd to force taxpayers to subsidize rich companies—with vast resources of their own—to gamble on energy projects that the private sector finds too risky. And, actually, it should be about priorities: the people in Asheville or the Green New Deal. No. This is the best time to put them in contrast, not some other time when people are not hurting, when people can't see the contrast.

Everybody in Asheville should wake up today and find out their Senators are going to reject the disaster money because it is paid for. That is it. They are going to reject taking it from the Green New Deal boondoggle and sending it to Appalachia. It can go today. It can go in 10 minutes. I approve of the money. Just take it from somewhere where it is being wasted. Ideally, I would take it from Ukraine, but that is not available right now, but a lot of the money went to Ukraine also.

A 2015 report from the Government Accountability Office found that when five companies defaulted on these Green New Deal loans, the government—the taxpayers—lost \$800 million. It is not a good program to begin with, but it is an easy place to go looking for something that is more important, like the people of Asheville in North Carolina.

This money would have nearly covered today's disaster loan funding, but it was needlessly squandered previously, but there is still money in the fund today. I offered this identical amendment to pay for another bill a month ago, and every Republican voted for it. So I don't understand why Republicans would rise today and object to a pay-for they all voted for last

month. If the Small Business Administration must have this additional money, the least we can do is respect the taxpayers and act as good stewards for their money.

Therefore, I ask the Senator to modify his request to include my amendment, which is at the desk, as this would allow the bill to pass if my amendment is attached to it; that the amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as further amended, be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I was wondering if the Senator from Kentucky would yield for two questions, and then I would like to speak on the—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Kentucky yield?

Mr. TILLIS. I think I know the answer to this, Senator PAUL, but I just want to confirm it. Do you recall how you voted on the PACT Act?

Mr. PAUL. I don't think we have—we have an objection. You know, I have asked for a unanimous consent. He either objects, or he doesn't object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Kentucky yield?

Mr. PAUL. I don't have the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. I thought he did.

Mr. PAUL. I have made a motion.

Mr. TILLIS. And I reserve the right to object to that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from North Carolina object—

Mr. TILLIS. I have subsequently asked the Chair—

The PRESIDING OFFICER.—to the modification?

Mr. TILLIS. I have subsequently asked the Chair—

Mr. PAUL. You have got to respond to the motion.

Mr. TILLIS.—if the Senator from Kentucky—

Mr. PAUL. I have made a motion to pass the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Order in the Senate. This is not debatable.

The Senator from Kentucky has not agreed to yield.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. In reserving the right to object, the question I would have asked him is how he voted on the PACT Act. I don't know the answer to it. I think he voted against it. I am not sure. The other question I was going to ask him is has he ever voted for a disaster supplemental that wasn't offset. Those were the two questions I was going to ask. I will find it out later on.

Look, our State motto is "Esse Quam Videri." It says, "To be rather than to seem."

This is a disingenuous offer to amend my bill. Let me tell you why. Maybe it will even be in a fundraising campaign later this week: "I am fighting to dismantle the Green New Deal, and Tillis objected to doing that today."

This bill, if it got amended, has no prayer. I came to the Senate to make a difference, not to make a point. I get the point.

There are a lot of things in the Inflation Reduction Act and in the Green New Deal that need to be clawed back, and I look forward to, under President Trump's leadership, having that vote.

I assume that Senator PAUL knows how to count votes. He has to know that he doesn't have the votes to get this bill done if it is amended.

To be rather than to seem. I am focused on getting North Carolina back on track and not playing a game on this Senate floor. I am going to object to this, Mr. President, in a minute because it is a game.

We never fund disaster supplementals because we know that people are hurting.

You take that case to Ukraine, to Asheville. You take it to Burnsville. You take it to Banner Elk. You take it to Cashiers, Senator PAUL, and I will go with you, and I will see if they are as worried about that or if they are just worried about making sure that their families have a place to live and their businesses have a chance to survive.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the modification.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. The insinuation is made that there is a better time—we will vote on this at another time; maybe, you know, young man, it is just not the time. It is not the time nor the place.

Actually, it is the time or the place, and the only vote against the disaster bill today will be the Senator from North Carolina. He will, today, vote to kill the disaster aid. He says: Well, there aren't enough votes.

We won't know because he is objecting. He isn't allowing the Democrats to object because they always object to anything that is pay-for. But, by his objection, he is not allowing the system to play out. If the Democrats want to object, we will find out that they are opposed to pay-fors, and we will further the definition of who is for not for paying for stuff and who is. But to say that we, as Republicans, are never for paying for disaster relief is to say that we are equally—or the Republicans who are for this—are equally complicit in the accumulation of \$35 trillion worth of debt.

So no matter how good the cause is—I don't care whether it is a fire or aid or a flood or rain or all the damage—it all should be paid for. It is the responsible thing to do, no matter how terrible the disaster is.

And it is not like I am saying: Well, let's just wait 2 years until we can earn enough money to pay for Asheville. We have the money. We are a rich country.

It is sitting here. I just simply ask: Take it from something here—that is a wasteful corporate bailout to green energy companies—and put it over here.

But the fact is that the Senator from North Carolina is going to kill his own bill today. He is going to vote not to allow it to be heard. And we have no idea whether there are enough votes or not. He can say there aren't enough votes, but he is now the vote that stops the spending from getting easy passage.

What we are going through is a procedure of easy passage. This is allowing things not to go to committee, not to be deliberated but to easily pass. And I am in favor of doing that because of the emergency, because of the tragedy. We allow this to easily pass by simply taking some money from a pile of money over here. If he weren't to object and the Democrats don't stand up, it passes like this.

But then it is not on me; it is on them. They decide that they don't want to pay for anything. And disasters should never be paid for? Well, that is how we have this disaster of a \$35 trillion debt, because nobody pays for anything. Nobody cares. It is never the right time.

Well, now is the right time. So if you want easy passage, you have to hear what the problems we face are.

So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Ladies and gentlemen, I have prided myself on working on a lot of legislation over the last 10 years, and I am proud of the fact that I figured out how to get votes in this Chamber and get votes in the other Chamber and get bills to the President's desk. Let me explain to you how this process works. We were going to pass a bill out of here. Even if it is not funded, I am pretty sure that the House is going to insist on some sort of a pay-for.

What we are doing here is playing a game of being disingenuous. Folks, I support what Senator PAUL does. By the way, I will be checking the fundraising emails to see if we are fighting to—that TILLIS is against the Green New Deal dismantling. Count me in for that.

What I am not for is putting a poison pill in here that prevents this bill from going to the House. My colleagues in the House intend to get a pay-for. They intend to get a pay-for. I mean, how hard is it? I have got a community college education, and I am smart enough to figure this out. So are a lot of other people from community colleges. But this is a game. It will be paid for in the House, or it won't pass. We have a majority there. So instead of facilitating the process to move it there and thus find a way to offset it, we are trying to kill it here.

I support so many provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan being repealed and

using the money for better purposes, and disaster recovery is one of them. But that is not what we are here to do today in this Congress with that President. That is what we are going to be here to do next year, in the next Congress, with a different President.

So I just want to set the record straight. I don't like games being played. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle know I try to be evenhanded. I told Senator MARK WARNER I was going to object because it was a procedural game. And if it is characterized as anything other than that, let me know who you are because I will educate you. Thank you.

Mr. WARNER. Will the Senator yield for a question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. TILLIS. Yes. I am back to the happy THOM now.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I just want to say, I am prepared to object as well.

And is it not the case, even when it comes to SBA—frankly, if SBA had gotten their act together a little earlier and had a better accounting so we knew how much we needed to refill the pot, we might not have been here.

But this is—if we want to change the law about how the SBA operates and disaster relief, that is a fair debate, and I will take on anyone in this Chamber. In the meantime, whether it is in your community or mine, people are sitting there with a piece of paper that says: You will get your loan, you have been approved, once Congress does its job.

Would not your bill, my bill, our bipartisan bill, if it had been able to go through today, wouldn't those folks in North Carolina, Virginia, and across our country who have been hit be one step closer—those small businesses—to getting the SBA loans that they have earned, deserved, and should be funded?

Mr. TILLIS. Without a doubt, Senator WARNER. And, quite honestly, there are some people today saying: If I have got to wait until next Congress, I have got to fold up. I am trying to find a place to live, and I am also trying to keep my business afloat.

Absolutely, it gives them hope. And our failure to act doesn't.

Mr. WARNER. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON FUNG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fung nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY),

and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 261 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin	Heinrich	Romney
Bennet	Helmy	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Luján	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warner
Cramer	Murphy	Warnock
Crapo	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Ossoff	Welch
Durbin	Padilla	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	Young
Hassan	Risch	

NAYS—37

Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Ricketts
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	
Graham	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—4

Cardin	Kennedy
Cassidy	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years.

VOTE ON HUITEMA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Huitema nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been requested.

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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Sen-

ator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 262 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Helmy	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Fetterman	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Mullin	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Cardin	Kennedy
Cassidy	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

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. 464.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

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 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. 464, Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Cory A. Booker, John W. Hickenlooper, Martin Heinrich, Laphonza R. Butler, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz.

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. 466.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sarah French Russell, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 466, Sarah French Russell, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R.

Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

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. 651.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Rebecca L. Pennell, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

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 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. 651, Rebecca L. Pennell, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Cory A. Booker, John W. Hickenlooper, Martin Heinrich, Laphonza R. Butler, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call on the Kidd nomination be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

HONORING THE SOUTHEAST REGION LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM FROM LAKE MARY, FLORIDA, FOR WINNING THE 2024 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 874.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 874) honoring the Southeast Region Little League baseball team from Lake Mary, Florida, for winning the 2024 Little League Baseball World Series.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 874) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 25, 2024, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled vote occur immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 704, Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Cory A. Booker, John W. Hickenlooper, Martin Heinrich, Laphonza R. Butler, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY),

the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 263 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Helmy	Sanders
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Booker	Kaine	Shaheen
Brown	Kelly	Sinema
Butler	King	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeben	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—7

Braun	Kennedy	Vance
Cardin	Moran	
Cassidy	Rubio	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 44.

The motion was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

REMEMBERING

BILLY LAWLESS, SR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, when many people think of Chicago, they think of Irish culture. Chicago's Irish American community is a thriving, invaluable part of the city. And no person represented the rich marriage of cultures more than my friend Billy Lawless. So, it is with great sadness that I share the news of his passing.

Though Billy's path would later take him to Illinois, much of his life was spent in Ireland. A native of Galway, Billy grew up in a family that owned pubs and a hotel, instilling in him a passion for the hospitality industry

from a young age. He long harbored dreams of opening a restaurant in the United States, but it was not until 1998—on the heels of his daughter earning a rowing scholarship at Boston University—that Billy made this dream a reality. He and his family moved to Chicago, and Billy soon fell deeply in love with the city, a love affair that would last until his final days.

In Chicago, Billy combined his love for the restaurant industry with his love for Ireland, opening the bar, the Irish Oak, in the Wrigleyville neighborhood. In the wake of the bar's success, he opened several other bars and restaurants across the city, establishing himself as a mainstay of Chicago culture and eventually creating the Gage Hospitality Group. But what made Billy special was that he channeled his business power into political power, using his growing success to give back to both Chicago and America's Irish communities.

Namely, Billy became a fierce advocate for undocumented Irish immigrants and a staunch proponent of immigration reform. In pursuit of these ends, he was a board member and co-founder of the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition, chair of the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform, and he was a leader of the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights. In short, he was a tireless champion of the Irish diaspora in the United States. It was over the matter of immigration reform—a matter to which I have devoted a large portion of my policy efforts over my career in public office—that Billy and I bonded. His work on immigrant and refugee rights in Chicago was invaluable. We all owe him a debt of gratitude.

Even from across the Atlantic Ocean, his commitment to the Irish people remained steadfast. And this did not go unnoticed. In 2015, Billy joined the ranks of those such as President John F. Kennedy when he was made a Freeman of Galway, an honorary title given to valued members of the community. In 2016, then-Taoiseach Enda Kenny nominated Billy to the Seanad, the Irish Senate, where he served one term as a member of the Seanad Independent Group. In this role, he served as an overseas Irish Senator for the Irish diaspora, the first person ever to hold that title. In that role, he gave voice to the hundreds of thousands of Irish men and women living in the U.S. and across the world.

In a lot of ways, Billy represents the American dream. He came to this country with hope for prosperity. And he quickly found it. But, despite his success, he never forgot where he came from. To the contrary—it was his love for Ireland, his passion for the rights of immigrants and refugees, and his commitment to making sure America lived up to its ideals that motivated him to give back to both of the countries he considered home. He was a businessman of integrity, a political force to be

reckoned with, and most importantly, a genuinely good man. In asking how he could use his position to give back, he made our Nation better.

My wife Loretta and I send our deepest condolences to Billy's wife Anne; his four children Amy, Clodagh, Billy Jr., and John Paul; and his eight grandchildren on their tremendous loss. Billy was a lot of things. But he took most pride in being a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Though we will no longer get to feel the warmth of his embrace, and though we will certainly feel the pain of his loss, Billy's remarkable legacy will live on across oceans—in pints of beer and the fight for immigration reform alike. We will miss him dearly.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY SAGE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in the Jewish faith, there is a central concept known as "tikkun olam." Literally translated, it means "world repair," and it has come to represent many Jewish individuals' commitment to bettering the world around them. While I do not practice Judaism, I share this idea that each of us has a role to play in bettering our communities. And Nancy Sage has done just that in my hometown of Springfield, IL.

Executive director of the Springfield Jewish Federation for nearly a decade, Nancy has strengthened the Jewish community and improved the lives of countless people in Springfield. Prior to taking this role, Nancy had served as a volunteer for the National Jewish Federation Board. When Nancy was approached to apply for the position of executive director, she knew she could not pass up the opportunity to give back to two communities she cared deeply about: the Springfield community and the Jewish community.

In her role, she has created partnerships between the Jewish community and other religious and racial groups to address challenges such as interfaith harmony and food insecurity. An example of her leadership can be found in her work to educate her community about Julius Rosenwald as part of Springfield's Rosenwald Initiative, which brought together the Jewish and Black communities to honor the life of Springfield-born philanthropist Julius Rosenwald and his work to educate African-Americans in the rural South.

But her work has reached beyond Springfield and benefited communities across the country and world—Jewish and non-Jewish, alike. Under her leadership, the Jewish Federation of Springfield's Annual Campaign successfully raised money for the Jewish Federation of North America to bring humanitarian funds to sites of natural disaster and social upheaval. These efforts supported communities in need, regardless of religion or nationality.

But, of course, Nancy's work was primarily centered around supporting Springfield's Jewish community, mak-

ing sure that every Jewish person felt that they had a home. This work became especially important in the wake of the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack in Israel, which claimed the lives of more than 1,200 Jewish people, saw more than 250 hostages abducted, and contributed to a rise in anti-Semitism across the world. In response to her diligent, empathetic, and determined work keeping Springfield safe for all community members, the FBI awarded the Jewish Federation of Springfield with the FBI Director Community Leadership Award, which Nancy accepted on behalf of the organization. The award recognizes the achievements of those working to better their communities by promoting education and violence prevention.

But that is far from the only recognition Nancy has received for her work strengthening Jewish identity, promoting religious and cultural understanding, and supporting Springfield's diverse community. As a past chair of the Small Cities Division of the Jewish Federations of North America, she received national recognition for her professionalism and work in community building.

After nearly a decade in her role of executive director and a lifetime committed to the idea of tikkun olam, Nancy will retire from her role this year. Loretta and I join our neighbors in Springfield in thanking Nancy for her tireless work making our community stronger and more resilient. We are grateful for all you have done for our hometown.

Nancy, in your work and in the values with which you live your life, you represent the best of Springfield. I wish you and your family all the best in this new chapter of your lives.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA EHARDT AND RECOGNIZING AMERICAN WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today, I join Idaho State Representative Barbara Ehardt to recognize and honor her enduring fight to protect title IX and the freedoms of female athletes.

For more than 50 years, title IX has been instrumental in leveling the playing field for women's sports. It has ensured safer and fairer competition and opened doors to incredible opportunities for generations of American girls and women. By recognizing the fundamental, biological differences between men and women, title IX allows each to pursue educational programs and activities equally, including athletics. Title IX is not just a bureaucratic regulation; it is a representation of our dedication to fairness and opportunity for men and women.

Representative Ehardt is quick to say that title IX changed her life. It gave her opportunities to participate and win in school athletics—eventually propelling her to a 15-year career as a NCAA Division I women's basketball coach. Representative Ehardt's story is

echoed by countless women across the county who have worked tirelessly to compete in the sport they love.

Generations of Americans have devoted themselves to promoting and advancing women's sports, including right here in the Gem State. In 2020, Idaho became first in the Nation to enact legislation that protects female athletes through the Fairness in Women's Sports Act. I thank Representative Ehardt for spearheading this bill and Idaho Governor Brad Little for signing it. The Fairness in Women's Sports Act protects the integrity of women's sports and guarantees fair competition for Idaho's female athletes.

Despite more than 50 years of progress, threats to dismantle and distort the protections in title IX persist. Today, Americans fear the loss of safety and opportunity for their daughters in education and athletics.

In Congress, I will continue to fight to protect fairness in women's athletics and defend the provisions in title IX from these dangerous attacks. We must not erase the contributions of women and girls in athletics. We must empower and provide the framework that allows young girls and women to play, compete, and win.

With the support and incredible work of people like Representative Ehardt, I am certain we will ensure these rights for women in Idaho and beyond. I am proud to deliver Representative Barbara Ehardt with this gold letter in recognition of her devotion to fairness in women's sports and selfless efforts to provide Idaho girls and women with opportunities to succeed.

REMEMBERING DR. ELEAZER ROOT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to ask that the Senate join me in honoring an accomplished Revolutionary War veteran, doctor, and former president of the Columbia County Medical Society of New York, Dr. Eleazer Root. Dr. Root dedicated his life to serving his community and his country, and it is a privilege to recognize him here today in honor of his grave dedication on October 13, 2024.

On July 28, 1764, in Coventry, CT, Eleazer Root was born to Thomas Root. In the face of uncertainty for the future of North America, Root enlisted in 1779 at the young age of 15 to serve with the patriots and helped usher out an era of aristocracy and monarchy in favor of establishing a republic democracy which stands strong to this day.

Stationed in West Point, NY, Root served there for 1 year. Following his service in the war, he traveled north to Spencertown, NY. It was there he began his pursuit of a career in medicine.

Dr. Root's medical career was met with much success, made evident by his appointment as president of the county medical society in Columbia County, NY. This position served as a

testament to his expertise in medical care and leadership.

While in Spencertown, Dr. Root would go on to marry Lucinda Bostwick, also from Coventry, CT, in 1793. They then relocated within Columbia County to a city called Canaan, where they would plant their roots and raise a family. While in Canaan, their 10 children were born: 7 sons and 3 daughters. Many of Dr. Root's children would go on to share his passion for service of others, three of which followed in Dr. Root's footsteps, becoming doctors themselves.

Following his 48 years of continual, dedicated service to the greater Columbia County region, he eventually relocated to the Michigan Territory in 1834. He moved to Manchester, MI, in Washtenaw County, just 8 years after the city's establishment.

Then tragically on January 31, 1837, just 4 years after his migration to what will come to be known as the Great Lakes State, Dr. Root passed away at the age of 72. He became the first grave to be buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Manchester. His wife Lucinda was buried by his side 12 years later, following her passing, where they both remain to this day.

His immense passion and care for the serving his community have had lasting impacts that supersede centuries, culminating to his honoring here today on the Senate floor. He helped fight to make the Nation we see before us today and led a life of service. Dr. Root's grave serves as a poignant reminder that the freedom and independence we enjoy today was brought about by the sacrifice and service of others.

I trust that my colleagues here in the Senate will join me in honoring Dr. Eleazer Root for his contributions to the freedoms and liberties we enjoy today, as well as his lifetime of service to the public health of his local community.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD TEAM

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the U.S. Ski & Snowboard teams as they prepare for the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Milano-Cortino, Italy.

For nearly 120 years, U.S. Ski & Snowboard has provided leadership, support and direction for young athletes as they work to achieve excellence in their sports. U.S. Ski & Snowboard athletes participate in 10 different Olympic sports, including alpine skiing, para snowboarding, cross country skiing, ski jumping, and many others. At a typical Winter Olympics, U.S. Ski & Snowboard athletes compose more than half of Team USA. In the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing, U.S. Ski & Snowboard athletes won 60 percent of Team USA's medals. These able-bodied and adaptive athletes share a commitment to excellence, team work, and fair competition.

To Coloradans, skiing and snowboarding are more than just sports; they are part of our State's rich history. During World War II, 15,000 soldiers traveled to Camp Hale—located between Leadville and Red Cliff, CO, in the high alpine terrain of the Rocky Mountains—to train to defeat the Nazis. These Americans formed the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division. Among them were the best skiers in America. The men of the 10th Mountain Division trained relentlessly in 10 feet of snow and temperatures of 50 below zero. In 1945, 10th Mountain soldiers climbed more than 1,800 feet up a Riva Ridge and scaled Mount Belvedere to surprise the Germans who believed their position in the Alps was unassailable. The 10th Mountain Division took the skills they learned in the Colorado mountains and punched a hole through the German line to clear the way for Allied victory in Europe.

After the war, veterans of the 10th Mountain Division founded Colorado's ski and outdoor recreation industries, including ski resorts like Steamboat Springs and Vail. As a result of their hard work, Steamboat Springs has produced more Winter Olympians than any other town in the United States, and Vail is now known as the birthplace of the most decorated ski racer of all time, Mikaela Shiffrin.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard team and its able-bodied and adaptive athletes for inspiring all of us as they compete on the international stage and for their positive representation of American ideals throughout the world.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTINE HANISCH

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today, I rise to honor and recognize the extraordinary career of Kristine Hanisch, whose dedication to the U.S. Senate spans over 35 years. During her storied tenure, Kris has diligently and graciously served in the offices of four U.S. Senators: Senators Symms, Craig, Allard, and myself. She has witnessed and contributed to a significant chapter of American and Senate history.

Kris's journey from a small town in north Idaho to a senior position in the U.S. Senate is a testament to her determination and commitment to improving the lives of others. Few possess Kris's depth of knowledge about the inner workings of the U.S. Senate. Her insights and understanding of the legislative process have made her a valuable asset to our team and to the institution as a whole.

In addition to her many accomplishments, Kris was involved with, and at one point led, the Administrative Managers Steering Committee—a select, bipartisan group of administrative managers and chief clerks chosen to represent their peers in the Senate community. This committee focuses on influencing solutions that improve efficiency and modernize operations within the Senate. She was a member of the

very first advisory group that helped create the Senate personnel system, known as OTIS. Kris also participated in the peer support group through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), demonstrating her commitment to fostering a supportive environment for her colleagues.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Kris for her exceptional service. She is truly one of a kind, and our office will not be the same without her. On behalf of myself, Vicki, and all who have worked alongside Kris in the Risch organization over the past 16 years, I want to express our deep appreciation for her contributions to Idaho and our Nation.

As Kris embarks on this new chapter in her life, we wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Thank you, Kris, for your devotion and for being an integral part of our Senate office. ●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING S5G AT THE NAVAL REACTORS FACILITY

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, alongside my esteemed colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, I rise today to honor the formal turnover of the S5G Prototype from the Naval Reactors Idaho Branch Office (NR-IBO) and Fluor Marine Propulsion, LLC (FMP) to the U.S. Department of Energy Idaho Cleanup Project (DOE-ICP) and Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC). This momentous occasion marks the early completion of the turnover of the S5G Prototype, a defueled naval nuclear propulsion plant that holds significant historical and strategic importance in safeguarding our national defense.

The S5G Prototype is a technological marvel born in 1961 and represents a pivotal chapter in our Nation's engineering history. Operational from September 1965 to May 1995, this remarkable prototype played a critical role in training 11,844 enlisted, officer, and civilian operators. The third and last prototype at the Naval Reactors Facility (NRF), S5G represented the pinnacle of science and technology in its generation, and the contributions to Cold War military applications and the U.S. Naval Nuclear Program is recognized by S5G's eligibility for listing in the National Record of Historic Places. The accomplishments of the S5G Prototype paved the way for the construction and commissioning of the USS *Narwhal*, SSN-671, a submarine of such versatility that much of its record is still classified.

The NRF's original, and main purpose, until 1995, was to test the concepts for nuclear propulsion and train sailors on their applications with three NRF Prototypes: S1W, A1W, and S5G. This turnover brings us to the final leg of a journey with a clear and achievable goal: the removal of all three prototypes at NRF by 2030. The journey

began with the turnover of the S1W in January 2022, followed by the turnover of the A1W Prototype in November 2023, and, now, the turnover of the final prototype, S5G.

This turnover marks the end of an era and a continued commitment from the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program to manage radioactive and hazardous materials from cradle to grave, ensuring no adverse effects on the environment or public health. Decommissioning older, non-mission-critical facilities not only reduces workforce needs, but also allows resources to be allocated more efficiently to support the core mission of the U.S. Navy.

The formal turnover of the S5G Prototype serves as a milestone and testament to the incredible results that can be achieved when people and organizations are united with a shared purpose. We extend our sincere gratitude to each person involved for their unwavering dedication and hard work. This turnover is a significant step toward ensuring the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program continues to power maritime dominance for the Navy and our Nation well into the future. It also reaffirms our steadfast commitment to safeguarding our national defense, paying homage to our history, and preserving our national treasures. ●

RECOGNIZING SOLDIER MOUNTAIN HIGHLANDS & HUNS

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month, I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Soldier Mountain Highlands & Huns as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for November 2024.

Soldier Mountain Highlands & Huns (SMH Ranch) is a first-generation family ranch nestled on 120 acres at the base of the Sawtooth Mountains. The fulfillment of Dennis Stitt's lifelong dream, SMH Ranch focuses on promoting a healthy lifestyle, conserving precious wild lands, and preserving the heritage of small farmers and ranchers. SMH Ranch is feeding the world one steak at a time. Stitt has proven that small farms can be profitable by producing the best steaks through environmentally enhancing soil regenerative practices. SMH Ranch prioritizes sourcing from and selling to the local community, even buying hay from farmers on the Camas Prairie. They take pride in their herd of heritage Scottish Highland cattle, which are naturally hardy and thrive on arid grasslands. In addition to their cattle production, Soldier Mountain Highland is home to an Airbnb for those who wish to learn more about the operation.

Dennis Stitt, the founder of SMH Ranch, served in the Army and Army National Guard for 39 years, including

as an engineer officer and commander at the company, battalion, and brigade level of the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team and the Idaho Training Center. Dennis is active in the veteran community, serving on the boards of the Idaho chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition, FARE Idaho, and the Idaho Horse Council. He is the founding chair of Soldiers of the Soil LLC and Idaho Mounted Cavalry LLC. Soldiers of the Soil, a podcast dedicated to educating and inspiring veteran farmers and military trained land managers, is one of Dennis's many efforts to improve the veteran and farming community.

Congratulations to Dennis and the rest of the team at SMH Ranch on their selection as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for November 2024. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success. ●

RECOGNIZING BMW MANUFACTURING

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor BMW Manufacturing for its 30th anniversary and strong legacy of promoting economic growth, job creation, and innovative excellence in South Carolina's Upstate.

Since 1994, BMW's presence in the Upstate has demonstrated South Carolina's top-of-the-line workforce to the rest of the world. South Carolinians' focus on excellence has allowed BMW to prosper over the last 30 years and hopefully for future generations.

Today, BMW's Spartanburg plant employs nearly 43,000 jobs and produces over 1,500 vehicles daily, totaling over 400,000 yearly.

This continued partnership has grown a \$600 million investment into over \$26.7 billion in assets that flow from the automotive industry in our State, directly impacting countless local families and strengthening our State's economy.

Congratulations to Dr. Robert Engelhorn and the entire BMW Group for this incredible milestone and ongoing partnership. ●

RECOGNIZING GREENWOOD GENETICS CENTER

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor Greenwood Genetics Center as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Fifty years ago, the first independent center in the United States to offer comprehensive genetic services was established. Beginning as a small building tucked away in the heart of Greenwood, SC, Greenwood Genetics Center quickly blossomed in more ways than one. Greenwood Genetics Center has

made incredible strides in providing personalized, accessible, and effective genetic services since opening its doors in 1974.

Genetic medicine has transformed from a minor subspecialty to a driving force in revolutionizing medicine. Greenwood Genetic Center's research initiatives have not only significantly contributed to the understanding of genetic conditions, but have led to groundbreaking discoveries, helping transform the landscape of personalized medicine.

Today, it is my pleasure to recognize Greenwood Genetics Center and their dedication to advancing genetic research, education, and patient care. As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we honor both the achievements of Greenwood Genetics Center but also the many lives they have touched along the way. Thank you to Greenwood Genetics Center for your profound contributions to genetic medicine and your enduring commitment to enhancing the lives of so many.●

RECOGNIZING THE INDIAN LAND MIDDLE SCHOOL 7TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL TEAM

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor the Indian Land Middle School 7th grade volleyball team for winning the 2024 FMAC Championship. This achievement is not only a testament to their skills on the court, but a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and teamwork demonstrated throughout the season.

Despite the many challenges faced, this team continued to support one another and show remarkable resilience. Their ability to celebrate each other's successes, whether in times of victory or moments of adversity, has fostered an atmosphere of positivity and motivation that has created a lasting impact not only on their performance but also within their school community. Whether in practice or during games, each teammate played an important role in shaping the team's success.

As the team celebrates this incredible achievement, I encourage each player to reflect on their journey and take pride in what they have accomplished together. Whether some will return next season or move on to new challenges, the memories and friendships created will always remain. The skills and lessons learned this season will undoubtedly extend beyond the volleyball court and into all aspects of life.

Congratulations to the Indian Land Middle School 7th grade volleyball team on an outstanding season.●

HONORING TONY RAY GARRISON AND BRANDON RUPPE

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, today I rise to remember and honor the lives of two North Carolinians: Fairview, NC,

Volunteer Fire Department Battalion Chief Tony Ray "Bones" Garrison, and his nephew Brandon Ruppe.

When Hurricane Helene hit their community and caused historic, life-threatening flooding, Tony and his nephew Brandon selflessly worked to rescue others. During the rescue attempts, Tony and Brandon were tragically killed in a mudslide.

Tony was born and raised in Buncombe County and served his community as a battalion chief with the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department and the Garren Creek Fire Department and as a member of the Buncombe County Task Force. A lifelong native of Buncombe County, Tony served his community with distinction throughout his years of service with the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department. He was known for his humility, warmth, and, most of all, his deep love for his family. He is survived by his wife of 28 years Mary Garrison, daughter Hannah Sherie Garrison, son Dylan Garrison, and mother Martha Garrison, all of Fairview.

Brandon will be remembered for his huge heart and sense of humor. Brandon had a deep love for his family and many friends, and his relatives have said, "If you knew him, you knew it." He is survived by his mother and stepfather Annette and Ricky Branks; maternal grandmother Martha Garrison; and his brothers Christopher Branks, Cody Branks, Adam Ruppe, and Daniel Ruppe.

Brandon Ruppe and Tony Ray Garrison will forever be remembered in North Carolina for the tremendous sacrifice they made in saving the lives of others. Susan and I send our deepest condolences to their loving family, friends, and colleagues. May God Bless these fallen heroes.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, 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 and four withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

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-180. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to support a \$100,000,000 supplemental funding request to

address the ongoing impacts on public health, the environment, and the local economy caused by cross-jurisdictional pollution from the Navy North Hangar Fire, to declare a national emergency due to those ongoing impacts, and to include in future federal budgets sufficient ongoing operational and maintenance funding for Navy North Hangar Fire remediation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

Whereas, The United States Navy owns the site of former Marine Corps Air Station Tustin, on which the North Hangar structure was located before a catastrophic fire that started on November 7, 2023; and

Whereas, The Navy North Hangar Fire burned for 24 days, deposited tons of debris, including toxic contaminants such as asbestos and lead from the Navy North Hangar, into a broad area of the community of Tustin, California, and affected over 1,500 homes and businesses, 29 schools, and 14,000 individuals; and

Whereas, The debris has been studied for exposure levels by an environmental health team that includes the South Coast Air Quality Management District, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Orange County Health Care Agency, United States Navy, Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, and University of California, Irvine, and that is determined to protect against significant public health risks; and

Whereas, The City of Tustin has proclaimed a state of local emergency since November 9, 2023, as a result of asbestos and lead debris contaminants deposited into the City of Tustin; and

Whereas, The Tustin Unified School District and its students were greatly impacted by school closures and disruptions due to threatening air quality conditions and the contamination impacts; and

Whereas, The Orange County Transportation Authority was impacted due to public concern for air quality; and

Whereas, The County of Orange, on November 9, 2023, proclaimed a local emergency due to the public health, environmental, and economic impacts of the pollution disaster; and

Whereas, The City of Tustin has contracted for emergency services to protect the public and environment in excess of \$80,000,000; and

Whereas, The City of Tustin is expending over 100 percent of its annual budget on this incident; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the United States Congress and President Joseph R. Biden to support a \$100,000,000 supplemental funding request to address the ongoing impacts on public health, the environment, and the local economy caused by cross-jurisdictional pollution from the Navy North Hangar Fire; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges President Joseph R. Biden to declare a national emergency due to the ongoing impacts to public health, the environment, and the local economy caused by cross-jurisdictional pollution from the Navy North Hangar Fire; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges President Joseph R. Biden and the United States Congress to include in future federal budgets sufficient ongoing operational and maintenance funding for Navy North Hangar Fire remediation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the

Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, to the Governor, to the Attorney General, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-181. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress to renew funding for the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 82

Whereas, Millions of Americans, many of whom are low-wage earners or live in rural areas, are without access to broadband Internet services; and

Whereas, Broadband is critical to everyday activities such as work, school, and accessing healthcare; and

Whereas, Consequently, without access to broadband Internet services, individuals struggle to improve social outcomes through education, achieve upward economic mobility, gain digital literacy skills, and receive quality healthcare; and

Whereas, To close the digital divide, in 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and

Whereas, In addition, the program offers a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers, under specific circumstances, for eligible households; and

Whereas, Since its inception, the ACP has helped to expand broadband access to over 20 million households in the United States; and

Whereas, In New Jersey, as of January 2024, 335,079 households are enrolled in the ACP, which means that roughly one in 10 households in the State benefit from the program; and

Whereas, Since the ACP's launch in 2021, New Jersey alone has received nearly \$152 million in ACP funding, resulting in \$8.3 million per month in collective cost savings on broadband Internet services for all New Jersey households enrolled in the program; and

Whereas, However, the FCC announced that, without additional funding from Congress, the ACP is slated to expire in April 2024 when the program is scheduled to exhaust its \$14.2 billion budget; and

Whereas, To improve broadband access for millions of Americans, and thereby advance social, economic, and health outcomes for the underserved, Congress is respectfully urged to renew funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to renew funding for the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program.

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

POM-182. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the withdrawal of proposed Bureau of Land Management regulations affecting the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and urging meaningful engagement with tribes, local

governments, and affected communities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, in 1923, President Warren G. Harding issued an Executive Order establishing Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 on the North Slope region to provide a potential supply of oil for the United States Navy; and

Whereas 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976) redesignated Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 as the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and transferred responsibility for its administration to the Secretary of the Interior; and

Whereas the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska encompasses 23,500,000 acres, with boundaries extending south from Icy Cape to the drainage divide of the Brooks Range, then following the divide eastward to 156 degrees west longitude, then north to the Colville River, and following the Colville River downstream to its mouth; and

Whereas the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska falls entirely within the boundary of the North Slope Borough and includes the communities of Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright; and

Whereas Alaska Natives have continuously inhabited the region that includes the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska for over 10,000 years; and

Whereas President Biden has signed multiple Executive Orders directing federal agencies to elevate and honor tribal self-determination and the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government; and

Whereas there are nine federally recognized tribes on the North Slope and five federally recognized tribes in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

Whereas federally recognized tribal governments have a nation-to-nation relationship with federal agencies; and

Whereas President Biden's Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments) and Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships both require meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials and require tribal voices in policy deliberations that affect tribal communities; and

Whereas the federal government is directed to consult with Alaska Native corporations on the same basis as tribes, and Alaska Native corporations own land within and directly adjacent to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

Whereas North Slope municipal and tribal governments, Alaska Native corporations, and other Alaska Native organizations have requested the proposed Bureau of Land Management regulations restricting development within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska be withdrawn pending meaningful tribal consultation, public meetings, and stakeholder engagement; and

Whereas President Biden has directed federal agencies to consider the potential benefit and harm of federal regulations, including in relation to wages and inequality; and

Whereas employment with Alaska Native corporations and their subsidiaries and high unionization rates in the energy industry directly contribute to better wages and lower rates of economic inequality; and

Whereas the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement estimates that the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas in the reserve could generate 3,600 direct jobs and 2,750 indirect jobs annually over a period of 30 years; and

Whereas state royalties from oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Re-

serve in Alaska are allocated to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Impact Mitigation Fund, which is used to provide the local communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Wainwright, Utqiagvik, and the North Slope Borough with grants to mitigate impacts related to oil and gas development; and

Whereas resource development in the state has benefited rural communities by bringing family-supporting jobs and wages, increased educational opportunities, safe water and wastewater facilities, and expanded health care services to those communities; and

Whereas, because of resource development and associated revenue and infrastructure investments, compared with the national average, rural areas of the state experienced greater increases in life expectancy between 1980 and 2014 in locations where resource development activities, including oil and gas development, mining, and fisheries operations, have occurred; and

Whereas continued development of the state's renewable and oil and gas resources with rapidly advancing carbon sequestration deployment ensures that the state can meet its own energy needs and contribute to national security and global decarbonization goals; Now be it

Resolved, The Alaska State Legislature recognizes the authority of a legislative body and further recognizes that regulations are not intended to usurp codified law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature affirms the importance of consultation among the federal government, tribal governments, local governments, and Alaska Native corporations regarding proposed federal regulations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature concurs with local tribal governments and indigenous stakeholders that consultation regarding the proposed Bureau of Land Management regulations affecting the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska was insufficient given the potential economic impact of withdrawal of land from development and effects on the ability of tribal and local governments to fund basic infrastructure with property tax revenue; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges withdrawal of the Bureau of Land Management's proposed rule to adopt regulations affecting the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, as proposed in September 2023, asserting that the proposal (1) lacks the benefit of consultation; (2) does not align with the congressionally adopted policy of oil and gas production, subject to reasonable mitigation measures, as reflected in 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976); and (3) does not serve the public interest; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges that future proposed regulations consider the full economic impact of resource development, including jobs within the region and throughout the state, funding for apprenticeship and other workforce development programs, employment of Alaska Native corporation shareholders and tribal members, and effects on wages for working class Alaskans; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges that future proposed regulations by the federal Bureau of Land Management align with the congressionally adopted policy of oil and gas production, subject to reasonable mitigation measures, as reflected in 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976); and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges that future proposed regulations by the federal Bureau of Land Management consider the role of energy production in advancing national security and energy independence for the United States and its allies.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; Steve Cohn, Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-183. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland urging the federal government to publish, without delay, the federal Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and urging the United States Congress to pass a joint resolution affirming the Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-eighth Amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT NO. RESOLUTION 1

Whereas, in 1972, the 92nd Congress of the United States, at its second session, in both houses, by a constitutional majority of two-thirds, adopted the following proposition to amend the U.S. Constitution:

“Joint Resolution Resolved by the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States of America in Congress Assembled (Two-Thirds of Each House Concurring Therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

ARTICLE

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.”; and

Whereas, Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides a two-step procedure for the adoption of an amendment; and

Whereas, The first requirement for the adoption of an amendment under Article V is the proposal of an amendment either by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress or by a convention called by application of two-thirds of the states; and

Whereas, The second requirement for the adoption of an amendment under Article V is ratification of an amendment by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, The U.S. Constitution does not limit the time for states to ratify an amendment and does not grant Congress the authority to unilaterally limit the time by which an amendment may be ratified; and

Whereas, A time limitation for the ratification of amendments by the states would be a substantive change to the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, To have full force and effect, a substantive change to the U.S. Constitution must be within the text of an amendment so that it may be ratified by the states as part of the requirements of Article V; and

Whereas, The time limitation on state ratifications was in the preamble section of the resolution by Congress and not within the text of the amendment presented to states for state approval; and

Whereas, Because of the placement of the time limitation, the states ratified the text of the Equal Rights Amendment but did not ratify the time limit by Congress; and

Whereas, A time limit was approved in the Equal Rights Amendment by Congress in 1972, but has not been subsequently approved by the states and thus is without force or effect; and

Whereas, in comparison, in 1978, Congress passed the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, which included a time limitation within the text of the Amendment offered to the states for ratification; and

Whereas, The time limitation for the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment ended before ratification of the amendment by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, Because the time limit was within the text of the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, the time limit had full force and effect and the amendment expired in 1985; and

Whereas, In comparison, the Twenty-first Amendment and the Twenty-second Amendment include time limitations within the text of each amendment, and the timelines were ratified by three-fourths of the states in accordance with the text of the amendments; and

Whereas, in 1789, the First Congress proposed, in accordance with Article V, the Madison Amendment relating to compensation of members of Congress; and

Whereas, Over 202 years later, the Madison Amendment was ratified by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, In 1992, having finally met the requirements of Article V, the Madison Amendment was published as the 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by the Archivist of the United States during the Administration of President George H.W. Bush; and

Whereas, Following publication of the Madison Amendment by the Archivist of the United States, Congress affirmed the Madison Amendment as the Twenty-seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, As of January 27, 2020, three-fourths of the states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas, Unlike the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, the Equal Rights Amendment does not contain a time limit in its text where it would be of full force and effect; and

Whereas, In contrast to the Madison Amendment, which took 203 years to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment took only 48 years to ratify; and

Whereas, The text of Article V of the U.S. Constitution grants the states the power of ratification, not rescission; and

Whereas, Samuel Johnson's dictionary of 1755 defines “ratify” as “to confirm; to settle”; and

Whereas, Bouvier's Law Dictionary of 1856, considered to be the first American legal dictionary, states that a ratification once done, “cannot be revoked or recalled”; and

Whereas, James Madison wrote in a July 20, 1788, letter to Alexander Hamilton that ratification is “in toto and for ever”; and

Whereas, Various attempts to rescind ratifications of provisions of the U.S. Constitution or its amendments, including the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Nineteenth Amendments, have never been honored; and

Whereas, The General Assembly of Maryland set a precedent for this resolution in 1961 by passing House Joint Resolution 14 urging Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas, Maryland was one of the early states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in May 1972, two months after Congress proposed it for ratification; and

Whereas, Maryland adopted the Maryland Equal Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution in 1972; and

Whereas, The Maryland Equal Rights Amendment is only effective to the degree that it does not conflict with federal law; and

Whereas, The Maryland Attorney General filed an amicus brief in 2022 in support of a lawsuit brought by three ratifying states to require the Archivist of the United States to certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, Over several decades, the General Assembly of Maryland has passed laws and created protections attempting to guarantee equal rights under the law for all Marylanders, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed, religion, or sex—which includes legal equality and protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and decisions regarding reproductive healthcare or other aspects of an individual's bodily autonomy; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it is the opinion of the General Assembly of Maryland that the Equal Rights Amendment meets the requirements of Article V of the U.S. Constitution and should be recognized as the 28th Amendment; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the Administration of President Joseph R. Biden to publish, without delay, the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the Congress of the United States to pass a joint resolution affirming the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland calls on other states to join in this action by passing similar resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Colleen Joy Shogan, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20408; the Maryland Congressional Delegation; and the presiding officer of each House of the legislature of each state of the United States, with the request that it be circulated among leadership of the legislative branch of the state governments.

POM-184. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire reaffirming support for the child labor amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 24

Whereas, widespread child labor was common in the 1800's and into the early 1900's; and

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court ruled in 1918 in *Hammer v. Dagenhart* that Congress did not possess the authority to regulate child labor prompting the writing of the Child Labor Amendment; and

Whereas, the Child Labor Amendment authorizes Congress “to limit, regulate, and

prohibit the labor of persons under eighteen years of age” and recognizes state legislatures sharing that authority with Congress; and

Whereas, the Child Labor Amendment was passed by Congress in 1924 and sent to the states for ratification, and the New Hampshire legislature ratified it in 1933; and

Whereas, no state has ratified the Child Labor Amendment since 1937 and in 1941 the United States Supreme Court overturned *Hammer v. Dagenhart* in United States v. Darby Lumber Co.; and

Whereas, while United States v. Darby Lumber Co. remains precedent, since 2018 there has been renewed interest in the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment, including passage by the Hawaii Senate in 2021 and 2022 and introduction in several other state legislative chambers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the New Hampshire legislature reaffirms its ratification of the Child Labor Amendment to the United States Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the clerk of the New Hampshire house of representatives is directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and New Hampshire’s congressional delegation.

POM-185. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire urging the United States Congress to remove the exception from the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution: “except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, slavery and involuntary servitude are antithetical to the concept of freedom and liberty put forth by the founding fathers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the House of Representatives hereby urges Congress to remove the exception from the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution reading “except as a punishment crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted”; and be it further

Resolved, That the house clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and to all the members of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

POM-186. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States to use the federal Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish the Chuckwalla National Monument, to establish a National Park Service-managed Joshua Tree National Monument adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park, and to establish the Kw’atsan National Monument; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, Approximately 60 percent of land in the continental United States is in a natural state, but we are losing a football field worth of it every 30 seconds, and the decline of nature threatens wildlife, as approximately 1,000,000 animal and plant species are at risk of extinction in the coming decades across the globe, including one-third of United States wildlife; and

Whereas, The United States Geological Survey reports that only 12 percent of the

nation’s lands and inland waters are permanently protected, and other studies show that roughly 23 percent of the nation’s coastal waters are currently strongly protected, with the vast majority of ocean protections found in the Pacific Ocean along the western coast of the United States; and

Whereas, On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order No. 14008, which launched a governmentwide effort to confront climate change, restore balance on the nation’s public lands and waters, create jobs, and provide a path to align the management of the nation’s public lands and waters with national climate, conservation, and clean energy goals; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. 14008 directs the United States Department of the Interior to outline steps to achieve the President’s commitment to conserve at least 30 percent each of the nation’s lands and waters by the year 2030, known as the 30x30 goal, in order to safeguard the nation’s health, food supplies, biodiversity, and the prosperity of every community and to undertake the process with broad engagement, including agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, outdoor enthusiasts, sovereign tribal nations, states, territories, local officials, and others, to identify strategies that reflect the priorities of all communities; and

Whereas, in October 2020, Governor Newsom outlined a comprehensive and results-oriented agenda to expand nature-based solutions across California through Executive Order No. N-82-20, elevating the role of natural and working lands in the fight against climate change, advancing biodiversity conservation as an administration priority, and committing the state to the goal of conserving 30 percent of state lands and coastal waters by 2030; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. N-82-20 directs the Natural Resources Agency to coordinate the execution of the 30x30 goal with other state agencies and stakeholders through a series of actions, including the development of a strategy document by February 2022 titled “Pathways to 30x30” that sets California on the path to successfully implement our 30x30 conservation goal; and

Whereas, California tribal nations have protected and conserved their indigenous and aboriginal lands since time immemorial, utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge, also known as Indigenous Knowledge or Native Science, evolved over hundreds of thousands of years through direct contact with the environment, and are continuing the tradition of stewardship by leading efforts to establish or expand national monument land protections in California; and

Whereas, The Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano nations are leading the effort to establish the Chuckwalla National Monument to protect approximately 627,000 acres of federal public lands that reach from the Coachella Valley region in the west to the Colorado River in the east; and

Whereas, Designating the Chuckwalla National Monument would help ensure equitable access to nature, honor a cultural landscape, and protect the desert’s unique biodiversity, wildlife habitat, landscape connectivity, and history; and

Whereas, The Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano nations are calling to protect approximately 17,000 acres of public lands that are adjacent to the east side of Joshua Tree National Park, as these lands are a living landscape with interconnected cultural, natural, and spiritual significance, which sustains the well-being and survival of Indigenous peoples today; and

Whereas, The Joshua Tree expansion area would connect to the proposed Chuckwalla

National Monument and other protected places, which would help ensure land connectivity for indigenous species, and would also preserve places of cultural and historical importance, including the homelands of the Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano nations; and

Whereas, The Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe is leading the effort to establish the Kw’atsan National Monument, which would protect more than 390,000 acres of the tribe’s aboriginal homelands located in the County of Imperial, California; and

Whereas, The proposed Kw’atsan National Monument lands contain incredible cultural, ecological, recreational, scenic, and historic values, including trails, desert life, petroglyphs, geoglyphs, and lithics, and the establishment of a national monument would provide protections for wildlife, cultural places, sacred sites, and scenic features; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the State of California urges the President to use the federal Antiquities Act of 1906 (54 U.S.C. Sec. 320101 et seq.) to establish the Chuckwalla National Monument, to establish a National Park Service-managed Joshua Tree National Monument adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park, and to establish the Kw’atsan National Monument; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States

POM-187. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States to use the federal Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish the Sattitla National Monument; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Whereas, Approximately 60 percent of land in the continental United States is in a natural state, but we are losing a football field worth of it every 30 seconds, and the decline of nature threatens wildlife as approximately 1,000,000 animal and plant species are at risk of extinction in the coming decades across the globe, including one-third of United States wildlife; and

Whereas, The United States Geological Survey reports that only 12.9 percent of United States lands are permanently protected, and other studies show that roughly 23 percent of the ocean waters under United States jurisdiction are currently strongly protected, with the vast majority of these protected waters being in the Pacific Ocean along the Western United States;

Whereas, On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order No. 14008, which launched a governmentwide effort to confront climate change, restore balance on our nation’s public lands and waters, create jobs, and provide a path to align the management of our nation’s public lands and waters with national climate, conservation, and clean energy goals; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. 14008 directs the United States Department of the Interior to outline steps to achieve the President’s commitment to conserve at least 30 percent each of our lands and waters by the year

2030, known as the 30x30 goal, in order to safeguard our health, food supplies, biodiversity, and the prosperity of every community and to undertake the process with broad engagement, including agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, outdoor enthusiasts, sovereign tribal nations, states, territories, local officials, and others to identify strategies that reflect the priorities of all communities; and

Whereas, in October 2020, Governor Newsom outlined a comprehensive and results-oriented agenda to expand nature-based solutions across California through Executive Order No. N-82-20, elevating the role of natural and working lands in the fight against climate change and advancing biodiversity conservation as an administration priority and committing the state to the goal of conserving 30 percent of state lands and coastal waters by 2030; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. N-82-20 directs the Natural Resources Agency to coordinate the execution of the 30x30 goal with other state agencies and stakeholders through a series of actions, including the development of a strategy document by February 2022 titled "Pathways to 30x30," that sets California on the path to successfully implement our 30x30 conservation goal; and

Whereas, California tribal nations have protected and conserved their indigenous and aboriginal lands since time immemorial utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge, also known as Indigenous Knowledge or Native Science, evolved over hundreds of thousands of years through direct contact with the environment, and are continuing the tradition of stewardship by leading efforts to establish or expand national monument land protections in California; and

Whereas, The Pit River Tribe is leading the effort to establish a S ttitla National Monument, totaling approximately 205,000 acres so that the area will be recognized for its cultural, geologic, and ecological value, and its resources and wildlife preserved; and

Whereas, S ttitla is an irreplaceable resource as a major source of water for the state of California, an area of singular geological features, and home to numerous endangered species, including the bald eagle and the northern spotted owl, and is also culturally significant to the Pit River, Modoc, Shasta, Karuk, and Wintu peoples of north-eastern California, and is a spiritual center for the Pit River and Modoc Tribes who gather there for ceremonies and other important gatherings; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the State of California urges the President to use the Antiquities Act of 1906 (54 U.S.C. Sec. 320101 et seq.) to establish the S ttitla National Monument; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-188. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to amend federal law to allow states to provide for the consolidation of federally funded workforce development services with federally funded social safety net services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Whereas, The State of Texas desires to provide the most streamlined and consolidated

customer service for those seeking work, unemployment benefits, or social safety net services; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Labor and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) currently restrict the consolidation of federally funded employment and job training services with other federally funded services such as safety net services; and

Whereas, in Texas, federally funded employment services and workforce development services are provided by local workforce development boards and the Texas Workforce Commission, and federally funded social services are provided by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission; and

Whereas, Texans seeking assistance with employment and job training services, as well as social safety net services, are forced to seek such services at more than one location of state and local government agencies, with little to no consolidation or coordination of such services; and

Whereas, The State of Texas desires to develop a consolidation plan for the delivery of workforce development and social services to its citizens in order to provide a broader and more streamlined delivery of services to those seeking such services; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to amend federal law to allow states to provide for the consolidation of federally funded workforce development services with federally funded social safety net services; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-189. A petition from the House of Councillors of the National Diet of Japan expressing their deepest sympathies on the wide-spread damage caused by the powerful hurricane Helene; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ryan Young Park, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Sharad Harshad Desai, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Bobby Jack Woods, of Kentucky, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky for the term of four years.

(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. PETERS:

S. 5315. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance border secu-

rity by seeking to expand partnerships with appropriate law enforcement entities in Mexico and Central American and South American countries to combat human smuggling and trafficking operations in Mexico and such countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 5316. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the period of time for making S corporation elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 5317. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Homeland Security Information Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 5318. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the heads of certain agencies and organizations, to conduct a study on the health effects of indoor residential mold growth in military unaccompanied housing or other housing on military installations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 5319. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security to conduct an annual audit of the information systems and bulk data of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5320. A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to authorize certain long-term contracts for Federal purchases of energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 5321. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity Internship Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5322. A bill to amend the United States Sentencing Guidelines applicable to human smuggling offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 5323. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to impose time limits on the completion of certain required actions under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 5324. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure veterans of secrecy oath programs receive the full benefits they have earned, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 5325. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 5326. A bill to fully fund the Prevention and Public Health Fund and reaffirm the importance of prevention in the United States healthcare system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 5327. A bill to advance and protect the internationally recognized human rights of all Sudanese people, to hold perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Sudan accountable for their crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 5328. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 5329. A bill to amend section 321 of the Tariff Act of 1930 to enhance transparency with respect to shipments seeking an administrative exemption from duties for low-value entries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KING, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 5330. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program regarding treating pregnancy as a qualifying event for enrollment in TRICARE Select; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. 5331. A bill to create a National Science Foundation scholarship-for-service Humanitarian Tech Corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 5332. A bill to appropriate amounts to the Disaster Loans Program Account, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 894. A resolution designating December 1, 2024, as "Drive Safer Sunday"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1673

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1673, a bill to amend title XVIII to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 2514

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2514, a bill to amend the Colorado

River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.

S. 2647

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2647, a bill to improve research and data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 3236

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3236, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage of ambulance services that do not include transportation.

S. 3591

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3591, a bill making appropriations to improve border security, imposing new reporting requirements relating to border security, and enhancing criminal penalties for destroying or evading border controls.

S. 4499

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4499, a bill to reauthorize grants to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, the Boy Scouts of America, the National 4-H Council, and the National FFA Organization to establish pilot projects to expand the programs carried out by the organizations in rural areas and small towns, and for other purposes.

S. 4510

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4510, a bill to amend the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 to delay implementation of the inclusion of oral-only ESRD-related drugs in the Medicare ESRD prospective payment system.

S. 4522

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 4522, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a public awareness campaign to increase awareness of the importance of father inclusion and engagement in improving overall health

outcomes during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum, and for other purposes.

S. 4630

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 4630, a bill to establish an interagency committee to harmonize regulatory regimes in the United States relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

S. 4917

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4917, a bill to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes.

S. 5201

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5201, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to limit Federal funding of the procurement of certain buses under the Clean School Bus program, and for other purposes.

S. 5310

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5310, a bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to make changes with respect to the Federal Acquisition Security Council, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 74

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 74, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 158

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 158, a resolution condemning the deportation of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation and the forcible transfer of children within territories of Ukraine that are temporarily occupied by Russian forces.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 894—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 1, 2024, AS "DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY"

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 894

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas every individual traveling on roads and highways needs to drive in a safer

manner in order to reduce deaths and injuries that result from motor vehicle crashes;

Whereas, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saves more than 15,000 lives each year;

Whereas Road Safe America, a non-partisan, nonprofit organization founded after the tragic death of Cullum Owings on December 1, 2002, in a preventable truck accident, has been committed to raising awareness about the importance of driving safely;

Whereas the Senate wants all people of the United States to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt and encourages motorists to drive safely, not just during the holiday season, but every time they get behind the wheel; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is 1 of the busiest highway traffic days of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to focus on safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms—

(i) to alert employee drivers to be especially focused on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(ii) to publicize the importance of the day through use of Citizens Band (commonly known as “CB”) radios and truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergies to remind their members to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(E) all people of the United States to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates December 1, 2024, as “Drive Safer Sunday”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have three 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 FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 10 a.m., to consider a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 11 a.m., to consider nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff, Payton Thomas, during the pendency of the 118th Congress.

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

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Caleb Carlin, Preston Romanov, and Dalton Barnett, interns from Senator PAUL’s office, be granted floor privileges until December 12, 2024.

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

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to my following interns and fellows for today: Alberto Arevalo, Clara Munguia, Autumn Thatcher, Keiko Tani, Lars Eckerstrom, Mia Adams, and Elliana Rainey.

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

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT RISK REDUCTION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 519, S. 4716.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4716) to amend section 7504 of title 31, United States Code, to improve the single audit requirements.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs 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 “Financial Management Risk Reduction Act”.

SEC. 2. SINGLE AUDIT IMPROVEMENTS.

Section 7504 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) participate in and furnish information for the review under subsection (e); and

“(4) identify recipients that expend \$300,000 or more in Federal awards or such other amount specified by the Director under section 7502(a)(3) during the recipient’s fiscal year but did not undergo an audit in accordance with this chapter.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding “and” at the end;

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 2 years thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on

Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report listing the recipients identified under subsection (a)(4).

“(e)(1) The Director shall designate 1 or more Federal agencies to conduct a Government-wide analysis of single audit quality, which may include a consideration of the results of reviews of single audit quality by—

“(A) Federal agencies;

“(B) inspectors general of Federal agencies;

“(C) State auditors; and

“(D) external peer reviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

“(2) Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 6 years thereafter, the Federal agencies designated under paragraph (1) shall complete a Government-wide analysis of single audit quality.

“(3) The Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and make publicly available a summary of the results of each review under paragraph (2).

“(f) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection—

“(1) the Administrator of General Services, in coordination with the Director, the Council on Federal Financial Assistance (or any successor thereto), and key management single audit liaisons of Federal agencies designated as described in section 200.513 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor thereto), shall develop analytic tools to use audit data in the Federal clearinghouse to identify cross-Governmental risks to Federal award funds; and

“(2) the Director, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services, the Council on Federal Financial Assistance (or any successor thereto), and key management single audit liaisons of Federal agencies designated as described in section 200.513 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor thereto), shall develop a strategy to use audit data in the Federal clearinghouse to identify cross-Governmental risks to Federal award funds.

“(g) Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete an evaluation of—

“(1) the effectiveness of the strategy and analytic tools developed under subsection (f);

“(2) reporting burdens for auditors and audited entities and the capacity of auditors and audited entities to fulfill the requirements under this chapter; and

“(3) the responsiveness of Federal agencies to repeat single audit findings and corrective action plans.”.

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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

The bill (S. 4716), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE WORKERS OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 889.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 889) designating October 30, 2024, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

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

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

The resolution (S. Res. 889) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 25, 2024, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

FISCAL YEAR 2024 VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6324, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

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

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6324) to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and 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.

The bill (H.R. 6324) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, November 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Kidd nomination, postcloture, and that all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; and finally, that if the nomination is confirmed during Monday's session, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024, AT 3 P.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:47 p.m., adjourned until Monday, November 18, 2024, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

CAROL KELLERMANN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2030, VICE KATHY K. IM, TERM EXPIRED.

ADAM JEFFREY WHITE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2030, VICE JANICE MIRIAM HELLEREICH, TERM EXPIRED.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

LOIDA NICOLAS LEWIS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, VICE ALEXANDER CRENSHAW, TERM EXPIRED.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

DEVIN S. ANDERSON, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, VICE MARSHA J. RABITEAU, TERM EXPIRED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 14, 2024:

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

DAVID HUITTEMA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

CATHY FUNG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on November 14, 2024 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

JENNIFER D. GAVITTO, OF COLORADO, 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 STATE OF LIBYA, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 8, 2024.

MARTIN JOSEPH WALSH, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2029, VICE DONALD LEE MOAK, TERM EXPIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 29, 2024.

CARL WHITNEY BENTZEL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2029, (REAPPOINTMENT), WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JULY 11, 2024.

DEVA A. KYLE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE GORDON HARTOGENSIS, TERM EXPIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JULY 11, 2024.