

Venues of harassment included K-12 schools (99), businesses (76), and universities (67). Common also was vandalism and leafleting on private property (40) and epithets and slurs hurled from moving vehicles (38).

At an elementary school in Texas: My 13 yo half Filipino daughter was approached by a child she didn't know as she waited to board her bus after school. The

young man stated "You're Asian, right? When they see your eyes you are going to be deported" and he walked away. I reported this to my district Superintendent.

From a news report in Georgia:

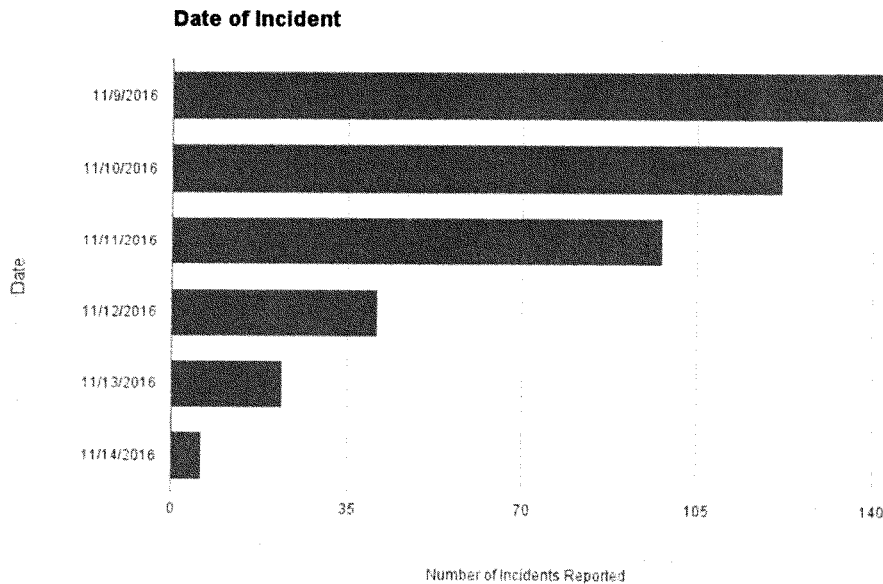
A Gwinnett County high school teacher said she was left a note in class Friday telling her that her Muslim headscarf "isn't allowed anymore." "Why don't you tie it

around your neck & hang yourself with it . . .," the note said, signed "America!"

Vandalism involving swastikas (35) was also frequently reported. In California:

A swastika was spray painted on a billboard for the movie "Almost Christmas," which shows an African American cast.

It appears that incidents are subsiding, although earlier incidents are still being reported:



Mr. REID. Mr. President, I see no one on the floor. So I ask the Chair to tell us the business of the day.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

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

AMERICAN ENERGY AND CONSERVATION ACT OF 2016—MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will re-

sume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 3110, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 543, S. 3110, a bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Arizona.

REMEMBERING SERGEI MAGNITSKY AND BORIS NEMTSOV

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, 7 years ago, in a squalid cell inside the prison that once held the political opponents of the Czars and the Soviets, Sergei Magnitsky was murdered for defying the tyranny of Vladimir Putin's Russia.

Many Americans are not familiar with the life of this Russian patriot, but it was one life dedicated to and ultimately sacrificed for principles that we all hold dear.

Sergei Magnitsky was an unlikely hero in the cause of freedom. He didn't spend his life as a human rights activist or as an outspoken critic of the Russian Government. He was an ordinary man, but he became an extraordinary champion of justice, fairness, and the rule of law—principles that have lost their meaning in Putin's Russia.

Magnitsky was a tax attorney working for an international company that had invested in Russia. He blew the whistle on tax fraud and large-scale theft by Russian Government officials who had looted more than \$230 million from the Russian state, but the Russian Government blamed the crime on Magnitsky and his company.

He was thrown into one of Russia's harshest prisons without trial. Russian officials pressured Magnitsky to deny what he had uncovered, to lie and recant. He refused. He was sickened by what his government had done, and he refused to surrender principle to power. For his refusal, he was beaten and tortured. He was denied medical care. After 358 days in prison, he died in excruciating pain on November 16, 2009. He was 37 years old. Even after his death, Russian courts convicted him of tax evasion in a show trial.

Sergei Magnitsky's torture and murder is an extreme example of a problem that is unfortunately all too common and widespread in Russia today—the flagrant violations of the rule of law and basic human rights committed by the Russian Government and its allies.

Today I also remember my friend Boris Nemtsov, a true Russian patriot who committed his life to fighting against Putin's tyranny and corruption, and fighting for freedom, human rights, and the rule of law.

In 2015, Boris was murdered on a bridge in the shadow of the Kremlin in one of the most secure parts of the Russian capital—another victim of the culture of impunity that Vladimir Putin has created in Russia, where individuals are routinely persecuted and attacked for their beliefs, including by the Russian Government, and no one, no one, is ever held responsible.

It has been said that in a time of universal deceit, telling the truth is a revolutionary act. My friend Boris Nemtsov was a revolutionary and, without a doubt, Sergei Magnitsky was a revolutionary. He told the truth, and he gave his life for it.

That is why, when the circumstances of Magnitsky's death became known to the world, Congress acted to protect those still under attack for the crime of telling the truth in Putin's Russia.

In December 2012, Congress passed and the President signed the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act, which gives the Federal Government the ability to ban entry to and

freeze the American assets of anyone “responsible for extrajudicial killings, torture, or other gross violations of internationally recognized human rights” committed against whistleblowers or human rights activists in Russia.

This important piece of legislation is a fitting tribute to Sergei Magnitsky, and it is a foundation on which we must continue to build. We must fully implement the Magnitsky Act by expanding its reach to more individuals who fit the criteria in the law, and we must pass the Global Magnitsky Human Rights and Accountability Act, which will provide new tools to hold perpetrators of corruption and human rights abuses accountable for their actions around the world.

The Senate has already passed this legislation, and I hope the House and Senate will soon have an opportunity to send Global Magnitsky to the President's desk when we consider the conference report on the Defense authorization bill.

Our message must be clear. If you violate the human rights and civil liberties of others, the United States will hold you accountable. By living up to that principle, we honor the life and memory of Sergei Magnitsky. Our Nation and free people everywhere must continue to draw strength from his example and, with that strength, renew our commitment to stand by those who carry on the fight for freedom around the world.

I yield the floor.

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

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business on a matter related to privacy protection, to be succeeded by Senator RON WYDEN and, if he arrives during the time of our remarks, by Senator DAINES.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. COONS, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. DAINES pertaining to the introduction of S. 3475 are printed in today's RECORD under “Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.”)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I am here to speak about the American Energy and Conservation Act, which we will be voting on today. I thank once more my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their hard work on this American Energy and Conservation Act of 2016.

Yesterday, the senior Senator from Florida made some statements, and I would like to address some of those.

The senior Senator from Florida suggested that developing America's energy resources off our coast is incompatible or somehow conflicts with Department of Defense activities.

Let's be honest. Let's just be honest. There have been oil and gas operations in the Gulf of Mexico for almost 80 years. Through all of this activity, industry and the United States military have been able to coexist. As for future production off the Atlantic, I personally sat with representatives from the Department of Defense to discuss this issue. Their analysis showed that in President Obama's original Atlantic Draft Proposed Program, less than 2 percent of the acreage was recommended to not have oil and gas development because of operation conflicts.

Now, here sometimes it is “he said, she said” or “she said, he said.” This is objective. This is the DOD Mission Compatibility Planning Assessment regarding the Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Leasing Program from October 30, 2015. That is where that 2 percent number comes from. The American people deserve honesty. We should not mislead them. The senior Senator from Florida can vote as he wishes, but, again, Department of Defense operations are not an excuse.

Secondly, the senior Senator from Florida suggested that he is looking forward to working with the new administration. Although he did not support President Trump, he is looking forward to working with the new administration on behalf of the American people. Again, let's be honest. If there is one thing that came out of this last election, it is that Americans want better jobs with better benefits. The last 8 years have been hard on working families. That is why they are desperate for these better paying jobs. It is fitting in that regard that we are voting on the American Energy and Conservation Act. This has been studied and is said to incentivize the creation of 280,000 new jobs by 2035. This legislation is expected to trigger \$194 billion in new capital investment in our economy, creating \$51 billion in cumulative government revenue for our Federal Government and for States.

Now, let's be honest. If you are going to work with the new President, let's work on programs that will create hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs for Americans who need those jobs, as well as revenue to address debt, deficit, and other issues in our State and Federal Government.

Now, let's also be honest. If America does not develop our natural resources, the vacuum will be filled with the likes of Iran, Venezuela, Russia, and Cuba—Cuba, which would like to drill off their coastline. Now, the choice is either to create good-paying jobs in the United States—off States like Virginia and North Carolina—or to forfeit these jobs abroad.

By the way, the senior Senator from Florida gave the reason why Senators

from mid-Atlantic States should vote for this. He spoke specifically about the billions of dollars in revenue that would come to States. He complains about it. If I were from Virginia and North Carolina or a Middle Atlantic State, I would say: My gosh, I get hundreds of thousands of new high-paying jobs and billions of dollars to address our States' needs? I would be all about this.

Now, there are different ideas about the future of energy in the United States, and this legislation does not discriminate. It includes language introduced by two Democrats and two Republicans—Senators HELLER, HEINRICH, RISCH, and TESTER—that streamlines the process for developing renewable energy on public lands and establishes the first-ever revenue-sharing paradigm for renewables.

For those who say we need to do something for carbon-free energy as well, this bill does so. The change would incentivize the production of 27,000 megawatts of carbon-free energy that the Bureau of Land Management estimates could be provided for these projects.

Additionally, we bring offshore wind into the mix, by creating the first-ever revenue sharing for offshore wind, incentivizing the development of 4,233 gigawatts of carbon-free generation that, again, the Bureau of Land Management estimates will be available for development off our coast. Now, some say they don't want to look at development off their coastline. This would be 50 miles out—at least in the case of the oil rigs, 50 miles out. Your sight line stops somewhere around 25 miles, at most. So this would not be seen by anyone who is otherwise enjoying the beach.

This legislation makes investment and conservation projects across the country. We included another bipartisan provision that provides an estimated \$807 million for projects that increase access to public lands for hunting, fishing, and other outdoor recreational activities. This provision was included in Senator MURKOWSKI's Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act of 2015, which 24 Senators have cosponsored. The legislation makes investments in a variety of important programs—important to Western States—including the Payment in Lieu of Taxes Program.

The bill also restores the traditional 50-percent onshore oil and gas State and Federal share for production on public lands, which the Obama administration had reduced since 2010 to pay for spending elsewhere. Again, all of this is of particular importance to Western States.

The American Energy and Conservation Act of 2016 is supported by over 50 important stakeholder groups, including the National Association of Manufacturers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the American Chemistry Council, the American Petroleum Institute, the Western Energy Alliance, and the Consumer Energy Alliance.

There is one more thing. It has been suggested by implication by the senior Senator from Florida that we are trying to open up acreage off the coast of Florida—that we are trying to open up acreage in general. We don't open up any acreage at all offshore in this bill. All this does is say that if a new President—President Trump—decides to have Outer Continental Shelf drilling, there would be a certain model of revenue sharing. But we absolutely do not open up new acreage. Again, that sometimes seems to be implied. We need to be honest with the American people.

All energy-producing States deserve to share the revenue derived from energy developed both onshore and offshore. Responsible revenue sharing allows States hosting energy production to mitigate for the historic and prospective infrastructure demands of energy production. It just makes sense. They need more roads. It helps those States build the roads and allows States to make the strategic investment needed to ensure for future generations the resiliency of the infrastructure and for vital natural resources.

I urge my colleagues to support proceeding to the legislation so the Senate's voice can be heard on this important topic.

Let's be honest with the American people. This is about creating great jobs. It is about sharing revenue with States. It is not about opening up new acreage. It is thoroughly compatible with the Department of Defense's mission to protect our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, Americans are concerned that we are overspending. We are overspending by more than half a trillion dollars a year. That is more than \$500 billion a year. Now, \$500 billion sounds a lot more than half a trillion.

As chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, one of the most important things that we focus on is oversight on what exactly the Federal Government spends its money on. This critical oversight has been missing. It is critical that we follow the money because, as we say in the budget world, you can lie about the numbers, but the numbers never lie.

Now, Congress evidently doesn't have the time to allocate to see how the money is spent because it takes us so much time to allocate the money to be spent. In fact, in the last 40 years we have only had four times that the budget process has been finished by October 1. The budget process for this year, which started October 1, still is not finished. We are under a continuing resolution for that. So that would leave it up to the administration. Any administration, any business is supposed to efficiently manage its area of responsibility. That hasn't been happening.

Just to give an example of some responsibility, I had one young man come to me and say: You know, the job that I do in the Federal Government doesn't make any difference. Nobody ever uses what I produce. He said: I probably shouldn't tell you this because I will lose my job.

I said: Well, I will do everything I can to see that you get promoted for doing what you are supposed to be doing.

I want to give one small example of what I am talking about on oversight. Last October, a little known Federal agency called the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration hired a big-time public relations agency to ask reporters for help "refining their agency messaging." This PR firm asked the reporters to "keep the conversation confidential" and not to "report anything discussed in the interview." Naturally, that caught my attention.

I immediately reached out to the Director of the President's Office of Management and Budget to get more information on the individual agency's contract and other such "messaging" activities conducted by the executive branch entities.

Simply put, agency spending on advertising, public relations, and media relations is largely a black hole, according to the recent Congressional Research Service report. No one really knows how much these agencies spend on trying to influence the American public about what a great job the government is doing. Well, I can tell you that America is not buying it. It is hard to tell how much is spent and where the money is going, according to the CRS, which reports that agencies tend to have great discretion over how such funds are spent. Well, why do they have all that discretion?

To my surprise, President Obama's Director of the Office of Management and Budget not only did not know how much the government spends on public relations and advertising activities, but he also didn't seem to care. That is because they don't want the oversight responsibility. Remember that President Obama's administration was supposed to be the "most transparent administration" in history. As Congress and the American people have now learned, it has been anything but.

But the bigger question was now raised: How much do Federal agencies spend on public relations and advertising? As Lewis Carroll famously wrote in *Alice in Wonderland*, "How far down does the rabbit hole go?" The reason this is so important is that Federal law prohibits the use of appropriated Federal funds for publicity or propaganda purposes.

It was this pursuit of fiscal transparency that resulted in my request to the Government Accountability Office, or GAO, to investigate how much the Federal Government actually spends annually on advertising and public relations. What we found is a cautionary

tale of how little Congress and, possibly, the administration actually understand about what the Federal Government spends its money on.

It turns out this administration spends \$1.5 billion annually on public relations and advertising. President Obama added hundreds of PR staffers between 2009 and 2011 to the thousands who already worked in these agencies, which cost hardworking taxpayers more than \$500 million a year in employee expense. These employees have an average salary of \$90,000. This contrasts with the average household income in America at almost \$54,000.

This information is crucial for policymakers because America's overspending problem has created a mammoth national debt of more than \$19 trillion, on its way to almost \$29 trillion in a few short years. We hardly have any years where overspending in that year doesn't exceed half a trillion dollars—\$500 billion.

GAO notes that these salary and advertising figures do not include the \$100 million spent on private PR consultants to bolster the government's PR efforts. The government also spends more than \$800 million on contracts with outside advertising firms in 2015 alone to promote the administration's policies, which when you total these numbers equals almost \$1.5 billion. That is with a "b." This is real money we are talking about. The question is, What do hardworking taxpayers get for this money? Some of it probably is essential advertising signs, military recruitment, et cetera, but is all of it essential and really needed? If they are doing a good job, will people not know?

Certain agencies spend much more of their budgets on public relations and advertising than others. In fact, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau spent a higher percentage of its total budget on public relations and advertising than any other agency. I called it an agency. It is really not an agency of the Federal Government. We don't have any oversight. We don't have any review of the agency's budget or Director. That money comes from the Federal Reserve before their money goes to the Federal Government so it truly comes out of the money that can be spent on projects, but it is taken out so there can be no oversight over that agency.

We got an inspector general appointed to that agency, and he came back to say that we don't have the right to take a look at anything there. How can that be a government agency? Recently, the Court said it is not.

Why am I concentrating on \$1.5 billion? Remember the old saying: A billion here, a billion there, and pretty quickly it runs into real money?

Next year I look forward to holding additional hearings on this oversight issue and others in order to help American families understand where their taxes are being spent and what they are getting for their money. If American taxpayers see waste out there, I

hope they are calling my office or other offices to let them know about it. Evidently, we are going to have to have it come from the bottom up because it is not coming from the top down.

It is time for the Federal Government to become more efficient, effective, and accountable. If government programs are not delivering results, they should be improved, and if they are not needed, they should be eliminated. Americans who work every day to provide for their families and pay their taxes understand it is time for the Federal Government to live within its means, just like they do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, we are going to vote on a very important piece of legislation later on this afternoon. This is a bill that is going to move revenues from 46 States to 4 States. This is no small thing. Let me just tell you a little bit about what this bill will do.

The revenue generated from oil and gas drilling on Federal lands offshore is one of the largest nontax revenue streams for the Federal Government. These oil and gas resources on public lands offshore belong to all of the American people. They are public resources that belong as much to someone living in Massachusetts, Kansas, or California as they do to someone in Louisiana or in Texas. These are resources that should help every American, not just a select few.

The revenue generated from these public resources goes to the Federal Treasury to help pay for Medicare, Medicaid, education, our Defense Department. It helps to pay for everything, including reducing our Federal deficit. However, in 2006, the four Gulf States—Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Texas—succeeded in passing a law that is going to direct an ever-increasing share of these offshore drilling revenues away from the Federal Treasury to just those four States. By redirecting this revenue, that 2006 law is going to take money that should benefit taxpayers in all 50 States and send it instead to just 4 States.

How much money are we talking about? In that 2006 law, over the next 60 years, it is projected to send \$190 billion away from the Treasury, away from the 46 other States, other than the 4 that are Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama. That is the problem. Those are the numbers from the Department of the Interior—\$190 billion. Now the Gulf States are coming back for more. The legislation we will vote on today would divert an additional \$5.4 billion over the next 40 years away from 46 States and to the 4 Gulf States. That is on top of the \$190 billion, which they are already going to get.

If you come from one of these four States, you should absolutely vote for this bill today. You should put out a press release today touting your support for this legislation. If you can pass

legislation to take an additional \$5 billion directly from the pockets of the taxpayers in the other 46 States and send it to your States, that will be one of your greatest legislative victories of your career.

If you come from the other 46 States, there is no reason in the world that you should support this legislation to take even more money from your taxpayers and send it to Louisiana, Texas, Alabama, and Mississippi. That is all we are talking about—a massive wealth transfer from 46 States to those 4 States.

At a time when my friends on the other side of the aisle are saying we need to cut spending to crucial programs that help our seniors, help low-income Americans, and help students, we simply can't afford to divert \$190 billion away from our national priorities and to the Gulf States. We certainly can't afford to divert \$5 billion more as the legislation before us today would do.

The proponents of this legislation argue this revenue is needed to pay for past and future infrastructure demands and to ensure the resiliency of natural resources. The Gulf States have already been getting revenue from offshore drilling in waters near their States for decades, and now most of the fines—\$20 billion from the BP oil spill—are, rightly, going to the Gulf States that were affected by this catastrophe.

We should fund coastal restoration and climate resiliency as a big issue for all States, but this legislation is not about our eroding beaches and wetlands; it is about eroding our ability to pay for our national priorities.

This legislation would go even further by trying to bribe other cash-strapped States into allowing expanded drilling off the east coast and in other areas offshore. We haven't passed a single law to improve the safety of offshore drilling following the BP oil spill, but this legislation would try to incentivize new areas to drill in and to risk ultimately a spill off one of those States' coasts.

Fishing off the east coast produces roughly \$1.75 billion in direct value for our States and more than \$4 billion in total economic activity each year. Tourism on the east coast generates hundreds of billions of dollars in additional economic activity and supports an estimated 800,000. That is what we would be putting at risk on the east coast, as this bill would do. As we learned from the BP oil spill, offshore spills don't respect State boundaries. We would have no protections whatsoever.

OPIOID CRISIS

Mr. President, I would like to take the remainder of my time and talk about what I believe is the most important task facing this Congress in the lameduck session—providing funding to combat the opioid crisis that has spread all across our country.

Last year, Senator McCONNELL of Kentucky and I called on the Surgeon

General of the United States to issue a Surgeon General's report and a call to action on prescription opioid and heroin abuse. We both believed the Federal Government needed to document and outline a national effort to address this opioid crisis.

Today, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy released a new report, "Facing Addiction in America," and I thank him and his staff for their efforts. This report should serve as a call to all Americans to change the way we address substance misuse and substance use disorders in America.

As a nation, we must approach and treat addiction like the disease it is. The physical toll addiction takes on Americans makes this a health imperative. The costs of addiction to society make this an economic imperative, and the human duty to provide care and hope for those suffering from addiction makes this a moral imperative punctuation. In order to get help for all of the families who are suffering from opioid addiction, the Federal Government needs to invest in funding treatment and recovery programs now. So far, I am sad to report that Congress has failed in this task.

When I am home in Massachusetts, I hear enormous frustration from people who don't feel adequate resources are being brought to bear on this epidemic of prescription drug, heroin, and fentanyl addiction. Countless individuals and families suffering with addiction cannot find a bed for detox. Then, when they are at their most vulnerable, they cannot find a place, a provider, or a behavioral support team for long-term treatment and recovery.

To our everlasting credit, this past May, my colleague Senator JEANNE SHAHEEN introduced legislation to infuse a one-time payment of \$600 million in emergency funding to combat this crisis. We were denied. Then, again in July, I and others argued on the Senate floor for the need to invest \$1.1 billion into opioid treatment and recovery programs over 2 years. Again, we were denied. We passed the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act, or CARA, but a vision without funding is just a hallucination. We will not save lives and stop this scourge of addiction with just words and promises.

I stand here again today to call on my colleagues and both parties to come together and pass legislation that includes immediate, massive funding to combat this ever-worsening opioid crisis. Nearly 30,000 people in the United States died from an opioid overdose in 2014. Over the last few years Massachusetts, which is mirrored in numbers across the rest of the country, has seen a dramatic increase in the number of deaths related to opioids.

In 2014, 1,400 people were estimated to have died in the State of Massachusetts from an opioid addiction. Last year the number went up to 1,700 people who were estimated to have died from an opioid addiction. In 2016, it is estimated that that number is going to

go up to 2,000 people who will die this year from opioid overdoses, heroin, fentanyl, carfentanyl. Here is the interesting number. Just from last year to this year, the number of deaths that are estimated to be related to fentanyl has risen to 1,500. Out of those 2,000 people, it is estimated that 1,500 people in Massachusetts alone will die from opioid overdoses. That is a dramatic rise to 75 percent of all opioid deaths in our State in 1 year. That is up from 57 percent of the deaths last year that would be related to fentanyl in the blood system of those who had toxicology exams after they died from an opioid overdose.

Let's take those numbers and project them. If 2,000 people die in Massachusetts this year—and Massachusetts is 2 percent of the population of the United States of America—and all you did was multiply that number by 50 to get the entire country, that would mean that 100,000 people will die this year from an opioid overdose in America—100,000.

This problem is not as huge in the rest of the country as it is in Massachusetts and several other States, but we are a preview of coming attractions. We have to make sure we put in place the programs that are going to help these families deal with this issue.

Let's put that number in context for the entire country. We have 41,000 women who die each year from breast cancer. If we don't stop this, we are on pace to having as many as 100,000 people die from opioid overdoses every single year, which is the same as having two Vietnam wars worth of people dying in our country every single year. We need to declare war on this epidemic. We need to put the treatment and prevention programs in place. Thus far we have not provided the resources to the States, cities, towns, families, and community health care centers to be able to deal with this issue.

Right now in America there are more than 2.5 million people who are dependent upon opioids, but only a very small percentage of them will get the treatment they need and deserve. Our country should be providing for those families.

I believe history is going to judge this Congress on the question of how well we responded to this epidemic, on whether or not we heard the cries of these families across the country to provide them with the treatment they need. This is an epidemic that began because the pharmaceutical industry sold a bill of goods to the Food and Drug Administration and the American people that these prescription drugs were not, in fact, addictive.

Physicians across our country turned a blind eye, and, in fact, rejected mandatory training so they could correctly prescribe opioids. Now it is 20 years later, and this prescription drug epidemic that morphed into a heroin epidemic has now morphed into a fentanyl epidemic, and fentanyl is infinitely more dangerous than heroin and prescription drugs.

We have a moral responsibility here on the floor to provide massive new funding in any legislation we pass over the next 3 weeks that leaves this Chamber. We cannot, on a bipartisan basis, ignore the magnitude of this challenge. Otherwise, we are going to come back here next year and the year after and the year after, and we are ultimately going to see millions of people die from this epidemic, and history will wonder why we did not do enough to deal with it. It is the job of this Congress to begin to provide the massive funding that the States, cities, towns, and families need to deal with this issue.

I thank the Presiding Officer for my time on the floor, and I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise in strong opposition to the bill that is before us today. We hear a lot of nice rhetoric coming from the proponents of this legislation. We hear that the bill is about revenue sharing. We hear that the funds will be used for conservation and coastal restoration. We hear that the bill is about providing parity, and at the same time, there is a lot of rhetoric, but underneath the rhetoric and the rosy picture being painted, one thing is clear: This bill isn't about conservation or infrastructure or environmental restoration. This bill is about one thing and one thing only: another giveaway to Big Oil. It is about paving the way for oil drilling up and down the Atlantic coast. It is about expanding drilling in the gulf, even as those communities work to recover from the BP disaster. It is about turning the Arctic wilderness from a wildlife haven into an oil field.

We have seen this from the majority before—a legislative agenda focused on giving handout after handout to Big Oil no matter what the cost to our constituents. The majority party, the party of so-called fiscal conservatism, has no problem breaking out the checkbook when it is time to give billions of dollars of tax subsidies to oil companies. They see no issue with capping the oil industry's liability for the economic costs of offshore oil spills at \$134 million—for spills that we know can cost tens of billions of dollars, but their liability is limited at \$134 million. They are all too eager to lift the crude oil export ban, shipping U.S. resources and refining jobs overseas, and now we have a bill before us that is designed to make it easier to drill in the Arctic, gulf, and Atlantic. This bill doesn't just line the pockets of oil executives; it takes away revenues from the U.S. Treasury and increases the

deficit by \$7 billion in the long term—a \$7 billion debt that we are signing over to our children and grandchildren, along with a shoreline full of oil rigs. We have a responsibility in Congress to make better for future generations and not to leave them with a dirty, costly legacy based on the fuels of the past, but serving future generations doesn't help oil companies in the short term, and the majority party has made their choice clear. We have seen this before. Yet it is hard not to be surprised by the timing. We are one week past an election where my colleagues on the other side of the aisle campaigned on promises to “drain the swamp” and break the mold in Washington and free government from the powerful special interests. What is the first bill we debate on the Senate floor after that election? Another giveaway to Big Oil, one of the most powerful special interests in Washington.

Unfortunately for voters who bought into the campaign rhetoric, it is very clear who the majority party is here to serve in Washington. It is not the people who elected them; it is the same corporations and special interests that have set the public agenda for years, and that agenda doesn't come without costs.

Drilling for oil is a risk-reward proposition. All of the risk is on the backs of our shore communities, and all of the reward goes to Big Oil. For New Jersey, those risks are substantial. An oil spill in the Atlantic would devastate our tourism industry, which generates \$38 billion a year and supports nearly half a million jobs—nearly 10 percent of the State's entire workforce. An oil spill in the Atlantic would destroy one of the largest saltwater recreational fishing industries in the Nation. Just in our State, it would jeopardize over 50,000 jobs in the seafood industry. An oil spill would sink the value of \$700 billion worth of coastal properties, family homes, and small businesses.

The people I have met on the Jersey Shore are some of the most hard-working, resilient people I have ever known. These are people who, even today, are rebuilding their lives and livelihoods in the wake of Hurricane Sandy. These are the fishermen who wake up at 5 in the morning and spend the day working their fingers to the bone to provide for their families. These are the shore businesses that depend on a summer tourism season to meet their expenses throughout the year. The last thing they need is the threat of an oil spill wiping out their businesses, hard work, and ability to provide for their families.

The oil companies that would benefit from this bill don't need our help. Large oil companies—even with gas prices as low as they are—are making annual profits the likes of which the people on the Jersey Shore will not see in a lifetime. Those people have been working to make their voices heard.

I am proud there are currently 11 other Senators who have cosponsored

my bill to permanently ban drilling in the Atlantic, but I am even more proud that thousands of my constituents have taken the time to email, call my office, or become citizen cosponsors of the bill. Many of them shared their thoughts on why we should ban Atlantic drilling.

Charles from Toms River wrote: “We already have shoreline concerns thanks to Superstorm Sandy. We definitely don't need another threat to our economy.”

Jeanne from New Brunswick wrote: “Tourism is a major New Jersey business. Our beaches are pristine and must be protected.”

Leopoldine from Highland Park wrote: “I would rather give up my car to save on oil consumption than give up the Jersey Shore.”

My constituents are not alone. There are 120 municipalities up and down the Atlantic coast that have opposed offshore drilling and the seismic blasting used to locate oil deposits. Over 1,200 elected officials have done the same. They have been joined by an alliance of over 12,000 businesses and 500,000 fishing families. Their opposition to offshore drilling transcends political boundaries and geographic boundaries alike. It unites local chambers of commerce with environmental advocates.

We are hearing the same message, whether it is from a beach town in Georgia, a homeowners association in Delaware, or the North Carolina Council of Churches: Not on our shores. The people who elected us have spoken clearly, and we in this Chamber should be listening.

This past March, President Obama made it clear that he was listening when he fully removed the Atlantic Ocean from the 5-year oil and gas leasing plan. This was an important victory, but it was only a temporary victory.

It is clear by the Senate's consideration of the legislation before us today that lining the pockets of big oil executives is going to remain a top priority for the majority party. We must do everything in our power to stand up to the oil industry, protect our coastal communities, and fight for the people whose lives depend on a vibrant shore economy.

That is why today I am calling on President Obama to use his authority under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to permanently ban drilling in the Atlantic Ocean. The authority was given to the President by Congress to permanently protect coastal waters from oil and gas drilling, while still allowing for important economic activities such as fishing, shipping, and developing offshore wind energy. Unlike a traditional Executive order, this designation cannot be undone by a future administration. It would ensure that the rights of our shore communities—to run their businesses, to vacation with their families, to fish in clean coastal waters—are protected for generations to come. It would continue the

administration's commitment to preserving our environment, to protecting public health, and to strengthening global economies.

It is not just the Atlantic that deserves this protection; I also hope that President Obama gives the same consideration to the Arctic Ocean. The Arctic is a fragile ecosystem depended on by subsistence hunters and diverse wildlife. Extreme cold and harsh weather conditions make an Arctic oil spill both more likely and harder to clean up.

Declaring the Atlantic and the Arctic off limits to Big Oil is a step the President can take immediately to show that we as a nation are committed to the future of our shore towns, our beaches, and our environment, and to being good stewards of the land for future generations of Americans.

Our public lands should be just that—public assets that are part of our national heritage. This Presidential action will ensure that we treat them that way instead of monetizing them to build profits for the oil industry.

To me, the decision on offshore drilling is a simple question of values. I value the generations of families who spend their vacations on the Jersey Shore. It is a birthright. I value the small businesses and fishermen who have built and sustained a thriving shore economy against all odds in the wake of Superstorm Sandy. I value having clean coastal waters, which are home to diverse and rich ecosystems. I value the commitment New Jerseyans have for a clean energy future. Drilling in the Atlantic is antithetical to any of these values. And it is because of those values that I intend to stand with the millions of Americans who have raised their voices and delivered the message to big oil: Stay off our shores.

I look forward to working with my colleagues and my constituents in the coming weeks to secure a permanent drilling ban for the Atlantic and Arctic Oceans. It will be a lasting message for future generations that we are not willing to sell the future of their economy or the future of their environment for short-term profits. It is a fight worth having, and it is one I believe we can win.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, soon we will have a chance to vote on the American Energy and Conservation Act, a bill that has been championed by our colleague from Louisiana—actually, both of them, Senators CASSIDY and VITTER—and they have done a terrific job of getting us to this point where we are voting on this important piece of legislation.

This bill is about as straightforward as it can get. It incentivizes American energy production through revenue sharing agreements with the Federal Government. This is important because States like mine—especially along the gulf coast—spend an awful lot of

money investing in infrastructure to support an industry that benefits not just our States, not just the region, but the entire country. It is time to balance these costs with reasonable revenue sharing agreements such as we have struck in the past. Given that these States produce a big portion of the oil and gas our entire Nation needs to keep the lights on, it is only right that these States should benefit from some modest revenue sharing. This legislation would make sure that is possible. So I hope our colleagues will support it when we vote on it shortly.

ENERGY POLICY

This legislation is a good example of the kind of energy policy that a new Congress can put forward next year and actually have the prospect of being signed into law under a new administration, under a new President.

One of the things I think I have observed about the Obama administration is that while the President claims to be “all of the above” in terms of his outlook on energy, he really isn’t. He is into picking winners and losers. One of the reasons many people in coal-producing regions in our country felt betrayed by his policies and by the President was reflected in the outcome of the vote. In West Virginia, for example, I think Mrs. Clinton got 27 percent of the vote in a State that previously had been predominantly a Democratic State. That is because many people felt as though their very livelihood had been taken from them as a result of the regulatory overreach and, frankly, what they call—and I think appropriately so—the War on Coal.

But, as I said, “all of the above” is actually the right policy; it is just that I don’t think President Obama ever really meant it.

A lot of folks try to paint with broad strokes about energy: Either you are on the side of the environment, climate change, or you are on the side of innovation and new technologies, or you are on the side of traditional oil and gas development.

I would dare say—and this may come as a surprise to some of my colleagues—that Texas actually produces more clean energy from wind than any other State in the Nation. I know we are known as an oil and gas State, and that is true, but we really do embrace an “all of the above” strategy. As a result, I think it has really helped our economy stay ahead of the national economy, even during tough economic times for the country. So we can have literally an “all of the above” policy, including one that works well for the environment. As a matter of fact, because of fracking and horizontal drilling and the ability to produce more natural gas in the United States, we have actually seen emissions into the environment come down dramatically because more people are opting for natural gas rather than other fuel sources. So this is, frankly, a win/win proposition.

We know that, as I said, Texas is known as leading the way in oil and

gas production, and this fact was underlined and emphasized just this last week when the U.S. Geological Survey announced that one shale formation in the Permian Basin near Midland-Odesa contained the largest estimate of continuous oil that they have ever surveyed in our country. This should give us a little bit of humility when it comes to making long-term predictions. I don’t know whether it was 10, maybe 15 years ago, there was some discussion about something called peak oil. In other words, the argument was that we had basically discovered all of the oil and gas there was to discover and there wasn’t any more out there. This just shows how time and time again people underestimate the initiative and the ingenuity of our entrepreneurs and the people who work hard, including our scientists, to create new technologies to help us move forward. That is why I am optimistic about our country as long as we don’t stand in the way of those innovators and those entrepreneurs.

In Texas we have learned that the best policies sometimes are just to get the government out of the way, off our back, out of our way, with its hand out of our pocket, and frankly, let the experts do their jobs with limited bureaucratic influence. That is something the whole country can benefit from, and I am hopeful that during this new administration under President-Elect Trump, working with Republican majorities in both Houses, we can begin to untangle the stranglehold the regulatory state has imposed on so much of our economy, whether it is in the banking industry—I see the chairman of the Banking Committee here, and he knows this hot topic well. The regulations put on our small businesses, on our energy producers—all of this has stunted the sort of normal economic rebound we would see following a recession like we had in 2008.

I am looking forward to getting a lot done to help free up our Nation’s economy and in particular by promoting our Nation’s energy resources. We used to think of natural resources as a tremendous benefit and a comparative advantage one nation has over another, but I have to tell my colleagues that we have squandered those natural advantages we have had in this country by not unleashing this sleeping giant of American energy.

It is not just important to our economy, it is important to our national security and the world order. As we all know, in Europe and elsewhere, people like Vladimir Putin use energy as a weapon. When people have a sole source of energy and it is from Russia and he can turn it off and on at his whim, that creates a lot of problems for them and, frankly, keeps them from asserting themselves in the world order. But by providing export capacity like we did with lifting the export ban on oil in December and, hopefully, doing the same thing with liquefied natural gas—something we have an

abundance of, cheap, liquefied natural gas—we can provide an alternative energy supply to countries in Europe and around the world.

So we need to seize this opportunity to reform the regulatory process. We need to address the renewable fuel standard, which is not working for anybody, and we need to build on the energy renaissance occurring in States such as North Dakota and Texas and States that take a pro-growth, pro-energy outlook.

I am proud of the energy-friendly environment in my State. The Texas example proves that we can take advantage of the natural resources that God blessed us with to help consumers, to help seniors, to help people on fixed incomes, and we can do this without damaging the environment. We can actually do it and improve the environment, as we have seen in the case of natural gas production and use taking the place of other forms of energy production, and a reduction in emissions occurring consistently as well.

So it is time we take this know-how to the rest of the country.

I want to make it clear that making our energy sector stronger is so essential because it benefits everyone. No. 1, it creates jobs. It creates benefits for families who are provided for by those jobs. It helps daily commuters out on the road with affordable energy. It also helps small businesses do what they can do to keep the lights on, not to mention the jobs, as I said a moment ago, created by a healthy energy industry.

With the election that occurred on November 8, with the Republicans in the majority in both Houses and now with President-Elect Trump coming into the White House, we can make real strides in energy innovation and production. It is really a historic opportunity, if we think about it. I look forward in the future to discussing even more ideas about how we can capitalize on our Nation’s energy resources for everyone’s benefit.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

HONORING JOHNNY MICHAEL SPANN

Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and the legacy of an Alabama patriot and American hero, Johnny Michael Spann.

Nearly 15 years ago, on November 25, 2001, while fighting on behalf of our grateful Nation, Mike made the ultimate sacrifice to our country in northern Afghanistan. Mike Spann served as a U.S. Marine officer and then later with the CIA, when he became the first U.S. combat casualty in the War on Terror in Afghanistan.

As Americans we honored the sacrifices made by those who have served and defended our Nation on Veterans Day last week. Mike Spann is one of the heroic Americans who ran towards danger, putting his life on the line to fight for our freedom. Mike Spann was dedicated to combating the tyranny,

oppression, and terror that would be inflicted on the world by the Taliban and others who share their goals. He gave his life to a noble undertaking, and our Nation will be forever indebted to him and his family for his service.

It is my honor to offer my deep appreciation and gratitude to Mike Spann for his willingness to put himself in harm's way to protect the values and freedoms that we hold dear. His life exemplified honor and courage, and he will always be remembered for his great sacrifice.

As the Director of Central Intelligence said at Mike's funeral, "May God bless Mike Spann, an American of courage, and may God bless those who love and miss him, and all who carry on the noble work that he began."

We should not forget Mike Spann and others like him.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I come to the floor to speak in strong support of S. 3110, the American Energy and Conservation Act. I would like to thank my colleague from Louisiana for introducing it, and I would also like to thank all of the Members who are cosponsoring it with us. I certainly thank Leader McCONNELL for scheduling a vote on it this morning.

I would like to begin by providing a little bit of context for why this legislation is necessary before I move into specifics of what it contains.

For literally centuries in Alaska, we have relied upon balanced and environmentally responsible resource development. Whether it is fish, game, our mineral resources such as copper or gold, timber, our marine mammals, or oil that was used to waterproof ocean-going vessels, resources have been extracted or harvested relatively lightly for thousands of years but more intensively harvested and extracted over the last 100 years. This resource extraction has fed us, it has housed Alaskans, and it has allowed us to sustain a life in oftentimes a very harsh but, without question, an extraordinarily beautiful environment.

In the last few years, resource extraction has become strategically and economically important to the livelihoods of all Americans. We have carefully regulated our resource extraction and protected our environment, and today millions of tourists from all over the world come to Alaska to view nature and look at the amazing landscapes that are hard to find anywhere else in the world.

Some might say that it is a contradiction to have resource extraction on the level that we have in Alaska—

providing oil resources, mineral resources—and still have this amazing place that people from around the world want to see. Our State has truly managed to balance accessing our resources while still maintaining the environment and the natural beauty that makes us who we are.

I think many here are aware that Alaska is this amazing place, but what I am about to say should not surprise or amaze people. A majority of the residents living in Alaska's Arctic, a majority of the tribal governments, a majority of Alaska's Native corporations representing Alaska's Natives who live in the Arctic, a majority of residents statewide, a supermajority of our State legislature, our Governor, and every Member of the Alaska congressional delegation whole-heartedly support oil and gas development in the Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

I know that the President, the Secretary of the Interior, and the team that is responsible for developing a leasing program for Alaska's Outer Continental Shelf have all heard this support because, believe me, we have made sure that they have. So I am hoping that the news reports I have just heard—as I walked onto the Senate floor—from a reporter about rumors that the administration intends to put off-limits the Beaufort and Chukchi in this upcoming 5-year OCS lease plan. I hope the news reports are wrong. I hope they are nothing more than a rumor. I hope the administration will see reason and that it will allow new lease sales to proceed in the Arctic as is clearly the desire of the vast majority of Alaskans.

This is not the only step that this administration should take. When responsible resource production does begin in the Alaska OCS, the 96-year-old Federal policy of sharing resource revenues with the States hosting this development must also apply.

The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 established this policy for Federal onshore revenue sharing at a time when there was very little offshore production occurring in our country. That policy has not forced resource development on States that are not interested, but instead it recognizes that the development requires infrastructure that counties and State governments pay for.

Congress realized in 1920 that we need to share the revenues from resource development to help local and State governments with the impacts of these activities. This policy has nationwide benefits from the east to the west, from the north to the south. Just in the past 10 years, residents of Michigan have received \$5.7 million of shared Federal revenues. Missouri residents have received \$30.6 million. Residents of Nevada have received \$108.6 million. I have full confidence that these States and counties put those dollars to tremendous productive use and certainly do not have any interest in parting with them.

What we are considering today with the legislation that we will vote on shortly is an effort to expand Federal revenue sharing to offshore areas. It is time to do just that. This is a matter of simple fairness. At its core, it is a matter of simple fairness. Offshore production should be no different than onshore production. No other State will bear the burden of development like we will. Most will only see the end result of it. They will see the benefits that come from it—the benefits that come with affordable fuel coming out of the pump at their local gas station, for instance. But those who host the development will bear the burden of development, and in Alaska we are willing to bear that burden.

This legislation has been carefully crafted to apply only to States where responsible OCS development is supported. That is important to reinforce. We are not pushing this on those who do not want development. The legislation applies only to States where responsible OCS development will support it. So if a Senator is not interested in this development, we have respected their views and left their State out of this legislation. This is only about revenue sharing. Our bill will not open any new offshore areas to energy development. So those that would suggest that this is a Pandora's box, well that is clearly not the case. We are talking about the revenue sharing that will come to those who support the development offshore. It will not force any State to develop its resources if that State does not want to do it. Florida is a good example. Florida would see no different treatment after the passage of this bill.

What the American Energy and Conservation Act will do is to make our policies equitable so that the States that bear the burden of development are finally allowed to share in the government's rewards. This is true for both conventional energy such as oil and gas as well as the renewables that many Members of this Chamber claim to support.

In addition to allowing offshore revenue sharing for Alaska and the Middle Atlantic States, we have also incorporated a number of priorities that this Senator believes the Senate would do well to approve.

Some of these priorities are pretty important to us. We have a small funding stream to increase sportsmen's access to Federal areas for hunting, fishing, and similar activities. We have included additional funding streams for energy research and to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog at the National Park Service. This is something so many of us have talked about—how to achieve the funding necessary to reduce the backlog at the National Park Service. This will help them. It also provides a funding stream for TIGER grants at the Department of Transportation.

We fund a tribal resilience program. This is very important to us in my

State of Alaska, to ensure that our Native communities have the ability to adapt to a changing climate and to invest in critical infrastructure. If coastal erosion is impacting this, whether it is the water infrastructure in a place like Barrow, whether it is the need for an emergency evacuation route for a community such as Shismaref or Kivalina or relocation, this can help to facilitate this with our Tribal Climate Resilience Program.

We have also dedicated revenues to the PILT program, which has become a chronic funding challenge. If you vote for this bill, what you are voting for is a more rational energy policy for our country. You are also voting for sportsmen's rights, for renewable energy, for the health of our national parks, for better infrastructure, and for our native communities and their ability to be more resilient and adaptable.

On the other hand, if you vote against this bill, you are not voting to halt or even limit offshore development. What you are doing is voting to continue an unfair practice toward the coastal producing States, and you are also voting against the priorities of thousands of your constituents. Those of us who have assembled this bill have respected those who do not want development off their shores. Now we would ask those Members to respect those of us who do support development for our States. We ask you to support this legislation.

I see my colleague from Alaska. I think it is fair to say that not only is our Congressional delegation very unified on this, but the support from our State and an understanding as to why revenue sharing for Alaska and other coastal States that seek this development is critically important. I appreciate all of the good work he has done on this issue to help it advance.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I commend my colleague Senator MURKOWSKI, who occupies certainly one of the most important positions in the country with regard to energy as the chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, for her leadership on this bill and so many other bills. I am proud to be a cosponsor, with a number of other Senators, of the American Energy and Conservation Act, which will be taken up here in a few minutes.

I echo what Senator MURKOWSKI said about this bill. It is a commonsense bill. We already have revenue sharing for onshore oil and gas production, so it only makes sense—really it is only fair, as she noted very articulately—that the States closest to the impacts of OCS drilling also receive their fair share of revenues from resource extraction off their coast.

Again, as Senator MURKOWSKI mentioned, this is not going to open up development where States don't want it. It is just providing a fair share to the

communities that bear some of the impact of development in the States that do want it, like my State. That is what this is about.

I am hoping all of my colleagues will vote favorably for this very important bill. Senator MURKOWSKI also talked about how this bill does not open new areas. At the same time we certainly should not be shutting down areas that exist right now for responsible resource development in this country.

In addition to focusing on this bill, which I certainly hope we pass soon, we also—I just want to mention we are hearing indications that despite the fact that our country needs more energy and more jobs to grow the economy, the President might move to close the OCS development off the coast of my State to further oil and gas exploration and production before he leaves office. This would not only unilaterally harm Alaska's economy and kill thousands of good jobs, but it also fundamentally misunderstands what is going on in the country right now. It fundamentally misunderstands the enormous opportunity of energy for America.

For 8 years we watched the Obama administration delay, disrupt, and block energy development for America, certainly for Alaska but also for the whole country. It shows an incredible lack of understanding of what a great opportunity this is. Let me give some examples: making sure that we have our own energy, that we produce our energy, that we can be energy independent, that we can create jobs. These are great jobs, by the way, for our country.

Also, something that is never really acknowledged is that in Alaska and other places in the United States we have the highest standards on the environment, the highest standards of developing our natural resources offered anywhere in the world. So when the Obama administration has been delaying projects year after year—tiny cuts—Shell had to spend 7 years and \$7 billion to get permission from the Obama administration to drill one exploration well in 100 feet of water. Eventually they just said: We give up. We are leaving. What does that do to the country? It harms our energy independence. It kills jobs.

But here is something else it does. It doesn't help the environment as some claim, as the Obama administration claims. What it does is take capital to develop energy resources from America, from Alaska, the places that have the highest standards on earth, and it shifts that capital to places like Russia or Azerbaijan or Kazakhstan or Brazil. Remember when the President said: Yeah, we should drill off the coast of Brazil in thousands of feet of water. He was supportive of that, but he is not supportive of drilling off the coast of his own country. It moves the capital to these places that do not have high standards on the environment. So, overall, the global environment is neg-

atively impacted by these policies. Developing energy in America is a win-win-win for everybody, including the environment.

I certainly hope my colleagues will vote in favor of this bill that we are going to vote on in a few minutes. I certainly would urge the Obama administration not to make the short-sighted decision to kill more jobs and energy production in my State by locking up the Arctic OCS before they leave.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, this Senator, who has a great stake in this legislation, is certainly not opposed to drilling off the shore, unless it happens to threaten the interests of the United States. In many places on the Atlantic coast and certainly the gulf coast, such as the Gulf of Mexico off of Florida, it is the largest testing and training area for the U.S. military in the world. Two Republican Secretaries of Defense have said: You cannot have drilling activity off the coast where this restricted military area is.

You looked at a map of what the military has suggested off of Virginia. It is the same thing. It is no oil and gas activity at all, and then no permanent oil and gas activity in a remaining portion off the State of Virginia.

In the State of Florida, of course, we have all the other considerations, the economic ones, a \$50-billion-a-year tourism industry that depends on our beaches being clean.

This Senator certainly does not have an objection to oil drilling off of the coast of Louisiana. The last time I checked, they did not have a lot of beaches. But that is what this bill does. It gives the incentives for States because they get additional Federal revenue. By the way, CBO says that is \$7 billion over a 10-year period that would otherwise go to the Federal Treasury that would go to the States. It gives them that incentive to have drilling off their coasts.

For those reasons alone, I would suggest that the right vote is to vote no on this legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the bill before us would incentivize offshore drilling for vast swaths of the Atlantic coast, in Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, putting one of our most precious natural resources and drivers of economic growth at risk in order to enrich a few big oil companies. The two Democratic leads on the relevant committees—we have just heard from one, Senator NELSON, and we will hear from another, Senator CANTWELL—are very knowledgeable about the risks to coastline communities posed by offshore drilling. They are opposed to this legislation. I agree with them.

It should be readily apparent to everyone in this Chamber why this bill is

a bad idea. Fishing and tourism on the Atlantic coasts accounts for tens of billions of dollars in annual revenue. In my home State of New York, commercial fishing accounts for tens of millions of dollars of revenue.

From the pristine beaches of Florida, from Daytona to the Outer Banks, to Virginia Beach, the Atlantic Seaboard is home to some of our most visited and beloved vacation spots. A drastic increase in offshore drilling, as this bill intends, comes with drastic risks, risks that are not imagined or even hypothetical any longer. We know that after *Deepwater Horizon* and other disasters.

When it comes to protecting our unique and nearby Atlantic Ocean habitats, we must guard against policies that can best be summed as “spill baby, spill.” It is a risk we don’t need to take. Domestic energy production has grown significantly over the past 8 years. Our dependence on foreign oil is at a 40-year low. I would also call into question the revenue sharing proposals of the bill. Over the long term, it would direct \$7 billion—billion, that is, not million—away from the Federal Treasury. States would see some of that money, but the real winners would be the big oil companies for which the market would be tilted even more in their favor.

I think it is telling that one of the first bills the Republican majority puts on the floor is a boon to special interests. I urge my colleagues to vote no on the bill.

I ask unanimous consent that our leader on our Energy Committee, the Senator from Washington, be given the time she needs, even if it delays the vote for a couple of minutes.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I come to the floor to join my colleagues who have already spoken on this issue, but maybe to give a little bit more of a historical context.

I know my colleagues from a variety of States throughout the United States have presented a different viewpoint and have a viewpoint because of their own economic interests in their State, but the larger question here is what is in the economic interests of the United States? All of the land submerged between the territory and seas beyond our shores and the oil and gas resources they contain belong to the Nation as a whole and to the people of the United States. More than 60 years ago, a few of these coastal States tried to claim the submerged lands and their resources, but the Supreme Court rejected that, rejected the coastal States’ claims, and held that submerged lands and their resources did belong to the Nation—the whole Nation. Their response was: “National interests, national responsibilities, national concerns are involved.”

In spite of the Supreme Court’s decision, Congress voted to give away the submerged lands beneath our territories and seas to the adjacent States in 1953. That Submerged Lands Act was dubbed the “Oil Give-Away Law” by its opponents. The law gave the coastal States the submerged lands to a distance of 3 nautical miles from the coast land.

For these historical reasons, Florida, Texas, and others were included. But in the “Oil Give-Away Law,” they also gave coastal States the right to develop oil and natural gas resources beneath the submerged lands and retain all of the royalties for themselves; thus, this big discussion about whether we are going to give Federal resources away to these States and put a hole in our Federal deficit to the tune of \$7 billion. In giving away to the coastal States the first 3 nautical miles of the Continental Shelf, Congress made it clear at that time that it was retaining for the Nation as a whole the Outer Continental Shelf, the rest of the Continental Shelf. So the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act, enacted just 3 months after the lease giveaway, gave the Federal Government exclusive ownership and control over the minerals and wealth of the Outer Continental Shelf.

We are here because States not satisfied with the generous gifts—Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas—persuaded Congress to give them even more revenue in 2006—37.5 percent of the Federal Government royalties. Again, some of my colleagues may have supported this—but also added to our Federal deficit and blew a big hole into what were Federal revenues at that time.

Senator CASSIDY’s bill would compound this huge loss to the Federal Treasury. It begins by raising the \$500 million annual cap on the payment of Federal royalties to the Gulf States from \$500 million to \$835 million from 2027 through 2036 and then, in addition, \$705 million from 2037 to 2055.

But this bill doesn’t stop just there, it extends the payment of royalties to five more coastal States—Alaska, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia—and gives 37.5 percent of the Federal revenues from oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf to the coast of Alaska, and it gives 37.5 percent of Federal revenue from the Outer Continental Shelf to the Atlantic coast: Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

I get that my colleagues would like this money grab out of the Federal Treasury. I am sure many of our colleagues would write Federal legislation that would also give their States revenue. But all of these amounts, in addition to the State royalties by the coastal States for oil and gas leases on the Outer Continental Shelf, are in contrast, I believe, to our national interest.

This may be a great deal for the nine States and the Senators who represent

them, but it is a terrible deal for the Nation as a whole and the other 41 States that will not have the revenue. What will they do about the raid to the Federal budget of over \$7 billion that will be absent from the Federal Treasury? Are my colleagues going to raise taxes on the other side to supplant that revenue, that \$7 billion loss? Again, those revenues belong to the Nation as a whole, to our citizens, not just the nine coastal States.

President Truman said when he voted on an earlier version of the oil giveaway bill:

The vast quantities of oil and gas in the submerged ocean lands belong to the people of all States. They represent a priceless national heritage. This national wealth, like other lands owned by the United States, is held in trust for every citizen of the United States. It should be used for the welfare and security of the Nation as a whole.

I ask my colleagues, please do not blow a \$7 billion hole in the Federal Treasury and give it to a few States, when these lands and resources belong to all of us. If we want to help our coastal States in some other economic way or some way, let’s discuss that, but blowing a hole of \$7 billion in the Federal budget and then trying to make it up later on the backs of the rest of our constituents is an unfair deal for the American taxpayer.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this proposition.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 543, S. 3110, a bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes.

Bill Cassidy, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Mike Crapo, Lamar Alexander, Shelley Moore Capito, Daniel Coats, Mike Rounds, Richard Burr, John Barrasso, John McCain, Orrin G. Hatch, Thom Tillis, Johnny Isakson, John Boozman, David Vitter, Mitch McConnell.

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 motion to proceed to S. 3110, a bill to provide for reforms of the administration of the outer Continental Shelf of the United States, to provide for the development of geothermal, solar, and wind energy on public land, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mr. SESSIONS.)

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 153 Leg.]

YEAS—51

Alexander	Flake	Moran
Barrasso	Gardner	Murkowski
Blunt	Graham	Perdue
Boozman	Grassley	Portman
Capito	Hatch	Risch
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Roberts
Coats	Heller	Rounds
Cochran	Hoeven	Rubio
Corker	Inhofe	Sasse
Cornyn	Isakson	Scott
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Crapo	Kirk	Sullivan
Cruz	Lankford	Thune
Daines	Lee	Tillis
Enzi	Manchin	Toomey
Ernst	McCain	Vitter
Fischer	McConnell	Wicker

NAYS—47

Ayotte	Franken	Paul
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reid
Booker	Kaine	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Burr	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Leahy	Shaheen
Cardin	Markey	Stabenow
Carper	McCaskill	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Collins	Merkley	Warner
Coons	Mikulski	Warren
Donnelly	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Feinstein	Nelson	

NOT VOTING—2

Boxer Sessions

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 47.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The Senator from Indiana.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

BRINGING AMERICA TOGETHER

Mr. PETERS. Madam President, the United States of America has a number of defining characteristics: our diversity, our commitment to free enterprise, our ingenuity, and our creativity. American ingenuity has given us phones, automobiles, airplanes, and the Internet. Our creativity has made us the world's biggest exporter of culture, movies, television, and music ranging from Motown to Nashville and beyond.

While these characteristics are central to who we are as a nation, I believe it is our democratic system of republican government that truly defines

who we are. The American experiment began with the casting off of the British monarchy as American patriots spilled blood for the right to control their own destiny.

I am proud to be standing here today as a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, and one of my ancestors served with General George Washington at Valley Forge.

Our ancestors learned firsthand that freedom is not free, and it is not easy. If you survey the systems of government in place across the planet since the advent of democracy in Greece over 2,500 years ago, it is clear that democracy is the exception and not the rule.

We live in a world that in 2016 has theocracies, monarchies, and autocracies. The creation of a democracy can require revolution, but its preservation requires constant commitment and sacrifice. We must hold onto this commitment if we want to keep our democracy healthy. We have worked toward the more perfect union envisioned by the Framers of the Constitution. We have abolished slavery and expanded the franchise to make sure that Americans can vote and have an equal say in our future.

We have also welcomed new generations of Americans from every corner of the globe. Just as I am proud to be a member of the Sons of the American Revolution, I am also proud to be the son of an immigrant. My father served in World War II and met my mother in France. She immigrated to the United States, started a family with my father, and found opportunity working as a nurse's aide and an SEIU union steward.

My parents are part of the greatest generation—a generation of Americans who defeated Nazism in Europe, struggled to advance equality here at home during the Civil Rights Movement, and saw women move from home to the factory floor, to the company board room.

Our memories can be short as we can become consumed in recent turmoil, but we cannot forget the challenges and successes of the past. We are fortunate to still have living veterans who liberated German concentration camps. Millions of Americans still remember the horrors of Jim Crow laws.

As Martin Luther King, Jr., famously said, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." We have made progress in fits and starts, and we have done so, in significant part, due to our constitutional democracy. Every democracy is different, and our country continues to evolve, but successful democracies share two common traits: One, they have fair, vigorous, and participatory elections where citizens passionately support candidates of their choosing, and, two, when the election is over, all parties accept the outcome and facilitate a peaceful, orderly transition of power.

As long as these traits persist, we will remain a successful democracy. While I am deeply disappointed by the outcome of last week's Presidential

election, I accept it, and so do President Obama and Secretary Clinton.

I hope Americans of all political stripes can acknowledge President Obama's commitment to put President-Elect Trump in a position where he can begin working for the good of the country. I also hope that all Americans are able to appreciate Secretary Clinton's strength and resolve since the election and her acceptance of the electoral college result, once again showing that a person who receives the most votes does not necessarily win, even though she received well over 1 million more votes than President-Elect Trump nationally.

The weeks after elections generally are a time for healing. While President Obama and Secretary Clinton have done their part, we remain a very polarized country. This has been a particularly contentious, abnormal election. I have never seen anything like it in my life.

During a campaign season, we need to engage in vigorous debates about the future of our country and vigorously advocate for our preferred candidates. But when it is all said and done, and the election is over, we must come together as a country and do what is right for America. We must seek a common good, especially at a time when the country is nearly equally divided. We need to think about the dreams that unite us and not the nightmares that could tear us apart.

Michiganders from across the ideological spectrum want the same things: a job that pays a fair wage, the chance to send their children to good schools and live in safe neighborhoods, affordable, quality health care, and, after they have worked their whole life, the ability to retire with dignity. While our economy continues to grow and create jobs, too many families find themselves unable to get ahead. We need to take a step back and ask some serious questions about whether our policies are helping everyone. Are American trade deals working? Are we doing enough to support American manufacturing?

While he tapped into some of these legitimate concerns over the past 2 years, it is no secret that President-Elect Trump, unfortunately, ran a divisive campaign that stoked deep-seated fears and anxieties in many Americans. Much of the rhetoric of the Trump campaign far exceeded the acceptable norms of political discourse.

We cannot have a mainstream political dialogue that demeans women and disabled Americans or that advocates for conversion therapy for LGBT Americans. It is dangerous, it is unacceptable, and it is not normal. It must never, ever be normal. We can never accept or normalize hatred. Trafficking in racism, misogyny, xenophobia, Islamophobia, and anti-Semitism is dangerous, it is unacceptable, and it is not normal. It must never be normal.

What is now happening with the appointment of a White House Chief

Strategist with ties to the White nationalist movement is dangerous, it is unacceptable, it is certainly not normal, and it must never be normal. I am deeply alarmed that President-Elect Trump has appointed Mr. Bannon to such an important position, and I urge him to reconsider this decision.

I am proud that Michigan is a diverse State. I have heard from over 1,000 Michiganders about Mr. Bannon's appointment. Yes, some are angry, but more are scared—scared that the America that had welcomed them and welcomed my mother is at risk of disappearing. I have heard from mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, Muslim Americans, Jewish Americans, African Americans, and Latino Americans. They are asking what their place will be in President Trump's America as our American experiment enters into an unprecedented new era.

As our Nation continues to move forward, I would urge President-Elect Trump to look back and consult the namesake of the city in which he will soon be living—President George Washington. In a letter written in 1790 to the Newport Hebrew congregation, at the time the largest community of Jewish families in America, President Washington succinctly addressed their fears of religious oppression, and he wrote: "The government of the United States, which gives to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance, requires only that they who live under its protection should demean themselves as good citizens."

He added that "every one shall sit in safety under his own vine and fig tree and there shall be none to make him afraid."

President-Elect Trump won, and the people are afraid. It is now his job to bring our Nation together. It is his job to give bigotry no sanction and persecution no assistance. The appointment of Mr. Bannon is clearly a large step in the wrong direction. If this is indicative of how the President-elect is going to run his administration, he can expect me and my fellow Democratic colleagues to fight him every step of the way. On the other hand, if the President-elect is prepared to be a "President for all Americans" and to "bind the wounds of division," as he pledged in his victory speech just last week, I certainly hope that we can find common ground.

Whether it is making trade policy work for American manufacturers, supporting small businesses, bolstering cyber security, establishing meaningful paid and parental leave policies, or investing in infrastructure, if the President-elect is ready to roll up his sleeves and do what is right by American workers and American families, I will work with him.

We don't have Democratic bridges or Republicans roads; we don't have Democratic ports and Republican railroad tracks. They are truly non-partisan. Improving our country's infrastructure is something we can come

together on and show Americans we are ready to do the people's work.

Democracy is a wonderful thing, but history shows us that it can also be fragile. We must preserve our democratic institutions and show the people of America that these institutions and their elected officials are working for all Americans. I intend to spend the next 4 years working for what is right for our country and what is right for Michigan, and I hope our President-elect joins me.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

DEVASTATION FROM HURRICANE MATTHEW

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I come to the Chamber to talk about a devastating event we have experienced in North Carolina. Last month, Hurricane Matthew skirted along the Atlantic coast, and then it plowed right through North Carolina with devastating results. Matthew is the worst storm we have experienced in almost 20 years, and it is already responsible for taking some 28 lives.

Millions of people in North Carolina and across the country watched as the storm made landfall, but after a few days, many of them turned their attention back to their daily lives. I don't fault them for doing this because unless you are there and see it firsthand, it is easy to think it was just a lot of rain and a storm that came and went, but it is far worse than that. Thousands of adults and children will take years to recover from the devastation that they have experienced over the last month.

The first opportunity I had to survey the damage was just 2 days after the hurricane made landfall. I traveled across the State in a helicopter with the commissioner of agriculture, and what I saw was remarkable. In fact, it was after the rain had occurred but before the floods began almost a week later.

The next week I spent time with many of my staff working as volunteers down in one of the areas that was hit hard by the flood. We worked with the American Red Cross, the Baptist Men, and the Salvation Army, which were trying to prepare food and provide shelter for so many people who were displaced.

I was back in the area last weekend, and I had an opportunity to witness firsthand the farm damage and the damage to one of our major areas outside of Fort Bragg, an urban area that

was hit very hard. Over the course of the last 3 weeks, I have literally seen long stretches of interstate highways under water. I have seen major roads completely washed out. I have seen entire communities under water and a couple of towns that have been washed away. Some of them were washed away just 20 years ago.

I have seen farms that were under water for a period of time, and now their crops are rotting in the field. In other cases, farmers who had harvested their crops and prepared their land for the next planting season now have sand and debris on their fields.

I have heard heartbreaking stories from victims, rescue workers, and volunteers. I will share some of those stories. I also heard heartwarming stories about the responsiveness of our local, State, and Federal agencies and the kindness of neighbors and volunteers.

I wish to thank the State and local officials, FEMA, and the first responders, who are doing an excellent job under some of the most difficult circumstances.

The death and destruction caused by Hurricane Matthew is really impossible to comprehend. The 28 lives we lost are a cross section of the State. They are parents and grandparents, sons and daughters, leaders of our community and young people who had their entire lives ahead of them. One of the victims was Charles Ivey. He was a resident of Lumberton, one of the areas that was hardest hit. He was a pillar of his community. Charles served as a deacon and Sunday school director at West Lumberton Baptist Church. He was an active member of the Lumberton Lions Club, Jaycees, Robeson County Fair Board, and West Lumberton Community Watch. He was the loving father of two daughters, had four grandchildren, and leaves behind his wife Wanda.

Another victim who perished as a result of the storms was Isabelle Ralls of Godwin. She was a resilient woman who survived cancer, triple-bypass surgery, and kidney failure. She devoted her life to others, spending years as a caregiver for the Peace Corps. She was a Sunday school teacher and the church historian at Spring Hills Baptist Church. Her family and friends will always remember her as a phenomenal woman and role model who had an inspiring faith in God.

These are just a couple of stories about the victims of Hurricane Matthew. They were all people I could probably tell stories about. They were mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, and loving friends—28 precious lives lost in total. I hope the family and friends of the victims know that millions of North Carolinians and people across the Nation are praying for them and their recovery.

Although the loss of life alone was devastating, it is really not the total story. In fact, it will take years to recover. Hurricane Matthew was a massive storm. To give you an idea, it is what is referred to as a 1,000-year flood