

it around. It is kind of a creepy, natural development. It happens in the insect world. And it looks like it happened on the other side of the building, because what the fossil fuel industry has done is to take over the Republican Party and now just drive it around.

So fossil fuel money makes the MCCARTHY package serve its Big Oil master. It is a deeply sad and dangerous state of affairs when one of America's two main political parties abandons all pretense of responsible governance just to service its prime political benefactor. That is what Speaker MCCARTHY and House Republicans are doing. That is this bill.

They threaten default, propose terrible cuts, deny climate warnings, and are willing to kneecap the American economy, all in service to the fossil fuel industry and its dark money.

It is time to fix our democracy so that it functions honestly and this nonsense stops. It is time to wake up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF ESCORT COMMITTEE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the President of the Senate be authorized to appoint a committee on the part of the Senate to join with a like committee on the part of the House of Representatives to escort His Excellency Yoon Suk Yeol, President of the Republic of Korea, into the House Chamber for the joint meeting on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

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

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, introduced earlier today: S. Res. 176, S. Res. 177, and S. Res. 178.

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

S. RES. 177 AND S. RES. 178

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, in two criminal cases pending in Federal district court in the District of Columbia and arising out of the events of January 6, 2021, the prosecution has requested testimony from a Senate witness.

In these cases, brought against Leo Christopher Kelly and Rachel Powell, respectively, trials are expected to commence in early May, and the prosecution has requested testimony from Daniel Schwager, formerly counsel to the Secretary of the Senate, concerning his knowledge and observations of the process and constitutional and legal bases for Congress' counting of the Electoral College votes. The prosecution in the Kelly case has additionally requested Mr. Schwager's testimony regarding certain property de-

struction that occurred on January 6, 2021. Senate Secretary Berry would like to cooperate with these requests by providing relevant testimony in these trials from Mr. Schwager.

In keeping with the rules and practices of the Senate, these resolutions would authorize the production of relevant testimony from Mr. Schwager, with representation by the Senate legal counsel.

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

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

EARTH DAY 2023

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, on Saturday, Earth Day turned 53. For the past half-plus century, we have paused each spring to celebrate and reflect on our relationship with the natural world and to demonstrate support for environmental protection.

This year's theme, Invest in Our Planet, served as a reminder of our responsibility to deliver Federal resources and spur innovation to ensure peace and prosperity for future generations.

The environmental challenges facing our planet, fueled increasingly by climate change, are urgent and require immediate action. According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency—EPA—nearly half of our rivers and streams are polluted by excess nutrients. During extreme rain events, river flow increases, pouring more fresh water into estuaries like the Chesapeake Bay.

Stormwater runoff pushes nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants off the land and into rivers and streams. Excess nutrients then lead to the growth of harmful algal blooms that harm plants and animals. Pollution not only affects our aquatic life but can contaminate drinking water sources and impart costly impacts to recreation, tourism, and fisheries.

Low-income and communities of color often face disproportionately high pollutant exposures. The communities who are most affected by nitrates are also less likely to be able to afford the necessary water treatment. That is why I applaud the Biden administration's focused attention on delivering the benefits of historic Federal investments to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution. For too long, the Nation has under-

invested in water infrastructure threatens the environment, and it risks people's health, safety, and livelihoods.

Congress responded with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which delivers more than \$50 billion to EPA to improve our Nation's drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater infrastructure. This is the single largest investment in water that the Federal Government has ever made. EPA recently announced \$775 million in funding Congress appropriated for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund, CWSRF. This funding, along with the investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, is critical for communities across the country to upgrade their wastewater and stormwater systems, protect public health and preserve our precious water bodies. In its allotment, my home State of Maryland received \$18.3 million towards improving water quality, toward a total of over \$167 million this fiscal year to upgrade drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act also invested in EPA's geographic programs, including the Chesapeake Bay Program. These programs are long-standing, location-specific programs that help protect local ecosystems and communities from climate change, habitat loss, and pollution.

I am also pleased to report that due in part to concerted efforts to control nutrient pollution, the Chesapeake Bay had the tenth smallest area impacted by low-oxygen water this past summer. Long-term trends indicate this "dead zone" where fish, crab, and other species cannot live because there is not enough oxygen in the water has been getting smaller. Low-oxygen or hypoxic water is caused by excess nutrients like nitrogen or phosphorus from agricultural runoff and urban and suburban stormwater entering the bay. It is encouraging to see that efforts to reduce nutrient pollution are making a difference. The Chesapeake Bay Program is a model for a regional partnership that unites an array of stakeholders—from producers to nonprofits to local governments—behind a common goal: Restore and protect the Bay.

Globally, cooperation offers similar benefits. The recovery of the Earth's protective ozone layer announced in January is a hopeful example. The ozone layer plays a critical role in shielding us from harmful ultraviolet radiation from the sun. Human activities, such as the use of ozone-depleting substances like chlorofluorocarbons—CFCs—have caused significant damage to the ozone layer. Fortunately, collective action to limit these substances, such as the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, an international agreement to protect the ozone layer, is allowing it to recover. According to the United Nations, if commitments like these stay in place, the ozone layer could fully recover to 1980 levels by 2040. However,

we must ensure solving one environmental challenge does not create another. Hydrofluorocarbons—HFCs—which are often used as substitutes for ozone-depleting substances, are even more potent greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide.

The Kigali amendment addresses this issue by adding HFCs to the list of substances that need to be limited in the Montreal Protocol. For our part, Congress not only passed the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act—AIM Act—to phase down HFCs, but also ratified the amendment. It was America's space Agency that demonstrated the link between hydrofluorocarbons—HFCs—and climate change. In 2015, a NASA study found that HFCs damage the ozone layer and that their impact could cause a 0.035 percent decrease in ozone by 2050. Today, federally supported science is returning the U.S. to the Moon: Artemis II is NASA's first crewed Artemis mission. On this 10-day long mission, four astronauts announced earlier this month will fly around the Moon before returning to Earth and test the Space Launch System and Orion spacecraft capabilities that will help send more people to space in the future.

This kind of exploration enables us to learn more about our planet and gather valuable data on the environment. I am so proud of the Marylanders involved with the mission, including Commander Reid Wiseman, with whom I had the opportunity to speak earlier this month. The flight, set to build upon the successful uncrewed Artemis I mission completed in December, will set the stage for the first woman and first person of color on the Moon through the Artemis Program, paving the way for future for long-term human exploration missions to the Moon and, eventually, Mars. This is the Agency's Moon to Mars exploration approach. Overcoming the challenges of working in space will lead to many more technological and scientific advances here on Earth in areas including healthcare, transportation, public safety, consumer goods, energy, information technology, and industrial productivity.

I am heartened by all the positive changes to improve our environment, but there is still work to be done. The Inflation Reduction Act laid the groundwork to make a just, clean U.S. economy a reality, saving trillions of dollars from avoided illness and death, reduced property damage from climate-related disasters and sea level rise, and reduced costs related to increasing temperatures.

Still, climate change and other environmental issues continue to pose a threat to Earth's health that disproportionately impacts vulnerable communities. Further steps will be needed to fully meet President Biden's pledge to reduce U.S. climate pollution by 50 to 52 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. We cannot become complacent; we must remain committed to taking ac-

tion to protect our environment. I am confident that our Nation can further promote sustainability through thoughtful policies and legislation.

This year, let us celebrate our achievements and not forget our responsibility to invest in our planet.

TRIBUTE TO LYNN MALERBA

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Chief Mutawi Mutahash (Many Hearts) Marilyn "Lynn" Malerba, who was recently named the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut's 2023 Citizen of the Year.

Chief Malerba has an impressive list of accomplishments. In 2010, she became Chief of the Mohegan Tribe in Connecticut, the first female Chief in the Tribe's modern history. Before her current role, Chief Malerba held many leadership positions, including chairwoman of the Tribal council and executive director of health and human services for the Mohegan Tribe. Before her work in Tribal government, Chief Malerba also had a long career as registered nurse, earning a doctor of nursing practice at Yale University and eventually serving as the director of cardiology and pulmonary services at Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London, CT.

Currently, Chief Malerba serves as the 45th Treasurer of the United States, the first Native American to hold this office. As Treasurer, Chief Malerba has direct oversight over the U.S. Mint and Fort Knox and is a key liaison with the Federal Reserve. She also oversees the Office of Consumer Policy at the Department of Treasury and serves as a senior adviser to the Secretary of Treasury on community development and engagement.

From her long career as a healthcare professional, to her leadership of the Mohegan Tribe, and now her national role as U.S. Treasurer, Chief Malerba has made Connecticut immensely proud. I applaud her selection as the Chamber of Commerce of Eastern Connecticut's 2023 Citizen of the Year, and I hope my colleagues will join me in celebrating Chief Malerba's remarkable achievements.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR BRIAN FOCARETO

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, today I honor an exemplary leader, liaison, and soldier. After a year of service in the U.S. Senate, MAJ Brian Focareto will continue his service to the Nation in the 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell.

On this occasion, I believe it fitting to recognize Major Focareto's distinguished service, leadership, and dedication to fostering the relationship between the U.S. Army and this Chamber. Over the past year, Major Focareto served in the Army Senate Liaison Division. He was invaluable in educating

Senators and staff on Army priorities and policy initiatives. He also supported multiple congressional delegations within the United States and to many countries abroad. He became a trusted adviser and friend to many of us.

Prior to his time on the Hill, Major Focareto served our Army in multiple operational assignments over the last 10 years. He commissioned out of the University of Dayton as an armor officer and began his career as a platoon leader, executive officer, and operations officer in the 101st Airborne Division. He deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Following Maneuver Captains Career Course, Major Focareto served as a staff officer in the 2d Cavalry Regiment in Vilseck, Germany, where he planned and executed numerous multinational training exercises with NATO and partner nations across Europe. Major Focareto then commanded a reconnaissance troop and the regimental weapons troop in 2CR. Following troop command, Major Focareto completed a master of policy management from Georgetown University and served as a deputy legislative assistant for the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

On behalf of Congress and the United States of America, we thank Major Brian Focareto, his wife, and their children for their continued commitment, sacrifice, and contributions to this great Nation. We join our colleagues in wishing him future successes as he continues to serve our great Army and Nation.

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR SARA MILLER

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, today it is my esteemed pleasure to honor MAJ Sara Miller for her outstanding military service and her exemplary work in my office for the people of New Hampshire. Sara is truly a servant leader who excelled in her year in my office and then for a year and a half as an Army liaison with the Office of the Chief Legislative Liaison. A dedicated mother, wife, and soldier, Sara is leaving her current assignment and—with her husband Daniel, who is also an Army major—heading to Fort Carson, CO, for their next duty assignment. As a dual military family, the Millers know service and sacrifice better than most.

MAJ Sara Miller was born in Lancaster, PA, and moved to Marietta, GA, in 1997. A natural athlete, Sara was recruited out of high school where she earned a scholarship to play soccer at Newberry College in Newberry, SC. After graduating in 2010, her Army career began when she was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army's Adjutant General's Corps.

Over the past 13 years, Sara's primary responsibilities have been ensuring that units under her purview met all personnel readiness requirements to accomplish a variety of critical missions. Her duty assignments included