

Whereas, in August 2022, the United States took its single most aggressive action to tackle the climate crisis and transition to create renewable energy solutions when Public Law 117-169 (commonly known as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 and referred to in this preamble as the “IRA”) was signed into law by President Biden;

Whereas the IRA includes \$369,000,000,000 for energy security and climate change, including investments in disadvantaged communities, projects that repurpose retired fossil fuel infrastructure and employ displaced workers, and setting the United States on course for a renewable energy transition as soon as possible;

Whereas the IRA creates new environmental justice block grants, establishes renewable energy financing, provides funding for Tribal communities to boost climate resilience, makes it more affordable to purchase energy efficient and electric appliances, incentivizes domestic manufacturing of renewable energy technologies, and will boost the renewable energy economy;

Whereas the passage of the IRA is projected to reduce global warming emissions in the United States between 31 percent to 44 percent below 2005 levels by 2030;

Whereas the United Nations Environment Programme still found in October 2022 that the existing commitments made in the Nationally Determined Contributions since the 2015 Paris Climate Conference are insufficient to limit warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius;

Whereas urgent governmental action is still required to address the severe environmental, economic, social, public health, and national security threats posed by the climate crisis;

Whereas the massive scope and scale of action necessary to stabilize the climate will continue to require unprecedented levels of public awareness, engagement, and deliberation to develop and implement effective, just, and equitable policies to address the climate crisis;

Whereas the United States has a proud history of collaborative, constructive, massive-scale Federal mobilizations of resources and labor in order to solve great challenges, such as the Interstate Highway System, the Apollo 11 moon landing, Reconstruction, the New Deal, and World War II;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States protects the fundamental rights to life, liberty, property, and equal protection of the laws, and a climate system capable of sustaining human life is fundamental to a free and ordered society and the preservation of those fundamental rights;

Whereas 18 national governments across the world and the European Union have declared a climate emergency, as well as the State of Hawaii and more than 190 cities, counties, and local jurisdictions in the United States;

Whereas the United States maintains existing resources and international commitments for bilateral and multilateral assistance to support economically emerging countries, including the Green Climate Fund, the Clean Technology Fund, the Adaptation Fund, the Least Developed Countries Fund, and the International Sustainable Landscapes programs, which should be supported with robust funding levels;

Whereas President Biden also maintains existing executive authority under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 181 et seq.), the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act (43 U.S.C. 1331 et seq.), the Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 6501 et seq.), the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.), the various Acts concerning rivers and harbors, the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C.

717 et seq.), and the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) that can be used to address the ongoing climate crisis;

Whereas, under these existing authorities, the President can phase down the rate of fossil fuel production on Federal lands and in Federal waters, limit gas exports, halt approval of new fossil fuel infrastructure projects, establish national limits for greenhouse gases, and decarbonize transportation;

Whereas a national climate emergency declaration would further unlock the broad powers of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.), the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.), and the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.);

Whereas such a declaration can be used to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, address environmental injustice, invest in large scale mitigation and resiliency projects, create additional jobs with family-sustaining wages and benefits, and ensure a just transition to a renewable energy economy;

Whereas such a declaration will allow the United States to further mobilize domestic industry, ramp up domestic manufacturing of renewable energy technologies, and deploy resilient energy infrastructure;

Whereas such a declaration can also reinstate the ban on crude oil exports, suspend offshore fossil fuel leases, curb fossil fuel imports, and stop the hundreds of billions of dollars in investments in fossil fuel projects abroad while taking additional steps toward strengthening our emergency preparedness for thousands of high-risk communities;

Whereas such a declaration necessitates the adoption of policies and processes rooted in principles of racial equity, self-determination, and democracy, as well as the fundamental human rights of all people to clean air and water, healthy food, and adequate land, education, and shelter, as promulgated in the 1991 Principles of Environmental Justice;

Whereas frontline communities, Tribal governments and communities, people of color, and labor unions must be equitably and actively engaged in a national climate emergency declaration, in such a way that aligns with the 1996 Jemez Principles of Democratic Organizing, and prioritized through local climate mitigation and adaptation planning, policy, and program delivery so that workers in the United States, and the communities of those workers, are guaranteed a strong, viable economic future; and

Whereas the United States has an obligation, as a primary driver of accelerated climate change, to mobilize at emergency speed to ensure the safest climate and environment possible, not just for communities of the United States but for communities across the world, particularly those on the frontlines of the climate crisis which have least contributed to the crisis, and to account for global and community impacts of any actions the United States takes in response to the climate crisis: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that—

(1) climate change caused by human activities, which increase emissions of greenhouse gases, constitutes a climate emergency that—

(A) severely and urgently impacts the economic and social well-being, health, safety, and national security of the United States; and

(B) demands that the President wield both existing authorities and emergency powers to ensure a national, social, industrial, and economic mobilization of the resources and labor of the United States at a massive scale

to mitigate and prepare for the consequences of the climate emergency for current and future generations; and

(2) nothing in this concurrent resolution constitutes a declaration of a national emergency for the purposes of any Act of Congress authorizing the exercise, during the period of a national emergency or other type of declared emergency, of any special or extraordinary power.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

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

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 8 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions introduced earlier today: S. Res. 182 and S. Res. 183.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolutions by title, en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 182) supporting the goals and ideals of National Safe Digging Month.

A resolution (S. Res. 183) celebrating the 151st anniversary of Arbor Day.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions (S. Res. 182 and S. Res. 183) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

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

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, May 1; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Johnstone nomination postcloture; further, that all cloture time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. and that the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session ripen on Tuesday, May 2; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Monday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, MAY 1, 2023, AT 3 P.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:26 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 1, 2023, at 3 p.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATIONS

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nominations by unanimous consent and the nominations were confirmed:

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH CYNTHIA DUERR AND ENDING WITH CRISTOBAL ZEPEDA, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2023.

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH TAMIKA D. ABBOTT AND ENDING WITH MICHAEL F. VANNETT, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON JANUARY 26, 2023. (MINUS 1 NOMINEE: LAURA E. WILLIAMS)

FOREIGN SERVICE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JAMES ROBERT ADAMS AND ENDING WITH BRENT L. BROWN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON FEBRUARY 13, 2023.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate April 27, 2023:

IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BRIAN J. BOHENEK, TO BE COLONEL.

IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF JORGE M. ARZOLA, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JAMES F. CANTORNA, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH SANDEEP R. RAHANDALE AND ENDING WITH CHRISTIE A. SHEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF SONG QU, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF TIMOTHY S. MCKIDDY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KEVIN J. HUXFORD AND ENDING WITH DAVID A. RIDGEWAY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATION OF JEROME C. FERRIN, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF CHET M. KORENSKY, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATION OF ANTHONY L. GHEZZI, TO BE MAJOR.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW ACOSTA AND ENDING WITH D016876, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MARK P. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH D016116, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDER ACHEAMPONG AND ENDING WITH D015566, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH EMMANUEL T. ADENIRAN AND ENDING WITH D015933, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATION OF NATHAN D. MORRIS, TO BE MAJOR.

IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH RYAN E. DINNEN AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW C. MILLER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON MARCH 27, 2023.

NAVY NOMINATION OF JILLIAN M. MEARS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MARY J. HESSERT, TO BE CAPTAIN.

NAVY NOMINATION OF MATTHEW A. BUBNIS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COMMANDER.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ANDREW R. FLORA AND ENDING WITH JORDAN J. FOLEY, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICAH R. KELLEY AND ENDING WITH ERICA M. MITCHELL, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ERICA J. BALFOUR AND ENDING WITH JAMES R. TURNER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATION OF CRAIG E. FRANK, TO BE COLONEL.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MAROUANE BALMAKHTAR AND ENDING WITH DANIEL J. LEVINSON, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON APRIL 17, 2023.

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