

today to highlight the importance of broadband expansion.

There is still so much work to be done to get rural America up to speed, and I realize this work will never be done, just like our roads and bridges that were amplified so much in the 1950s and 1960s. We still have to go back and repair those roads and bridges. There is always one more road and bridge that we need to go back and fix, and that will be the rule with high-speed internet. There is always something bigger and faster out there that we need to keep pace.

I am proud to have played a role as a member of the Kansas House Agriculture Committee in 2018 when we drafted the farm bill, which directed both the USDA and FCC with dollars to fund new and innovative ways to connect rural residents.

In 2018, we authorized the ReConnect Program at the USDA, which awarded funding for broadband connectivity services to under- and unserved areas. ReConnect provided \$5.2 million to connect over 1,300 households, 16 businesses, and 23 farms in Kansas during its first round of funding.

In 2023, we introduced a new effort in the 2023 farm bill, with my colleague and fellow member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, Senator PETER WELCH of Vermont. The ReConnecting Rural America Act provides a minimum speed of 100/100 high-speed internet build-out speeds, prioritizing long-term broadband infrastructure in our most rural communities.

Every Kansan I have spoken to has voiced the need for symmetrical speeds in their community and for increasing investments in fiber to be made by providers. By bolstering broadband infrastructure for our rural communities, we are able to stay up to speed with what is happening in the rest of the world.

Through these Federal efforts, combined with the administration of funds at the State level, I believe that we are getting closer than ever to making a real impact in rural broadband connectivity. Still, we must stay dedicated to the task at hand and ensure that this infrastructure is built to last.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, yesterday, the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Human Rights and the Law hosted a hearing to examine the rise of artificial intelligence. In the last few months, we have had a lot of conversations here about AI, and I am grateful that we are looking at this issue. Although there are many areas

where we disagree, our colleagues on each side of the aisle are paying close attention to this issue. I would encourage my colleagues to review the high points of yesterday's hearing because it truly demonstrated the scope of the challenges that we find ourselves facing.

We fielded several firsthand accounts of how this technology can be weaponized against human beings in our homes and on a national scale. We heard from Jennifer DeStefano, who was the victim of an attempted AI kidnapping and extortion scheme. Scam artists used AI to clone her 15-year-old daughter Brie's voice and then used this manufactured recording to try and extort \$1 million in ransom.

Fortunately, Jennifer was able to confirm that Brie was safe. But you can see how criminals could, and indeed will, and certainly are beginning to leverage this technology against other families.

We also heard from Jeffrey Cain, an investigative journalist who has witnessed how destructive AI can be in the hands of oppressive governments. He has reported extensively on how the Chinese Communist Party is using AI to enhance their brutal surveillance state.

According to one account, the CCP has used facial recognition to track the movements of Chinese citizens. They have even used it to track their citizens as young as 9 days old. This is how the Chinese Communist Party is using this technology.

One of the things that we have learned is that China and the CCP are trying to control the market for artificial intelligence, just the same that we have learned they are doing for 5G, for quantum computing, and for other groundbreaking technologies.

They said as much back in 2017, when they released their national AI development plan. Their goal is to be the dominant force in artificial intelligence by the time we reach 2030.

But whether we are talking about the threat from scam artists or hostile foreign powers, it is time to prove that the U.S. Senate understands why we must lead in setting the standards for and developing artificial intelligence, rather than ceding this authority and this place to Xi Jinping and the Chinese Communist Party.

That means continuing the work that we started in yesterday's hearing. It is important to note this was a bipartisan hearing. Chairman OSSOFF did a great job in leading this discussion. We had great participation in this hearing.

And we have to continue to look at the uses of artificial intelligence. There are some for good, and there are some for evil, which is what we heard so much about yesterday and how it impacts human rights.

As we think about deploying AI on a broad scale, we need to focus on preserving the freedoms and the democratic values that we hold dear here in

our country. It also means finally enacting a national data privacy standard to govern the collection and the sharing of our personal information.

One of our witnesses, Alexandra Givens, mentioned that this needed to be done as a fundamental foundational element before we begin to look at guardrails for AI, giving individuals the ability to protect their virtual views themselves and their information in the virtual space.

This is something that, as policy-makers, we need to make sure that our existing laws can adapt to meet the challenge that is before us as we look at artificial intelligence.

I yield the floor.

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

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

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY RELATING TO "CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION FROM NEW MOTOR VEHICLES: HEAVY-DUTY ENGINE AND VEHICLE STANDARDS"—VETO

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message on S.J. Res. 11 be considered as having been read and be printed in the RECORD and spread in full upon the Journal.

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

The veto message was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 11, a resolution that would disapprove the rule entitled "Control of Air Pollution From New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards."

This rule amends the Environmental Protection Agency's heavy-duty emissions control program—including its standards, test procedures, and other requirements—to further reduce the air quality impacts of heavy-duty engines. The rule cuts pollution, boosts public health, and advances environmental justice in communities across the country. It will prevent hundreds, if not thousands, of premature deaths; thousands of childhood asthma cases; and millions of missed school days every year.

The resolution would deny communities these health benefits by resulting in weaker emissions standards for heavy-duty vehicles and engines, which are significant sources of pollutants that threaten public health. If enacted,

the resolution would squander \$36 billion in benefits to society—and an opportunity to lead on the defining crisis of our time.

Therefore, I am vetoing this resolution.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 14, 2023.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 11

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the veto message with respect to S.J. Res. 11 be considered at a time to be determined by the majority leader in concurrence with the Republican leader prior to June 23; that there be up to 2 hours for debate, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; and that the Senate then vote on passage of the joint resolution, the objections of the President to the contrary notwithstanding.

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

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

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote begin.

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

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

##### NOMINATION OF PATRICK CASEY PITTS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Patrick Casey Pitts to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. After receiving his B.A. and J.D. from Yale University, Mr. Pitts clerked on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Following his clerkship, Mr. Pitts joined Altshuler Berzon LLP, where he has spent his entire legal career. His practice focuses on advocating on behalf of employees—often from low-income, minority, and underserved communities—and unions in labor disputes. Mr. Pitts has extensive litigation experience, trying one case to judgment and litigating more than 100 matters that were resolved through a decision on the merits. And if confirmed, Mr. Pitts will bring vital demographic diversity to the Northern District of California as the only openly LGBTQ article III judge actively serving in that district. He will also bring professional diversity to the Federal bench as a lawyer who has defended the rights of employees and labor organizations.

The American Bar Association rated Mr. Pitts “qualified,” and he has the strong support of his home State Senators: Mrs. FEINSTEIN and Mr. PADILLA. Mr. Pitts is a seasoned litigator whose

credentials and experience make him an outstanding addition to the Northern District of California.

I urge my colleagues to support Mr. Pitts's nomination.

##### VOTE ON PITTS NOMINATION

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

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

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 161 Ex.]

##### YEAS—53

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

##### NAYS—46

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

##### NOT VOTING—1

Scott (SC)

The nomination was confirmed.

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

##### NOMINATION OF DALE E. HO

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Dale Ho to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York. A graduate of Princeton University and Yale Law School, Mr. Ho began his legal career as a clerk for Judge Barbara S. Jones on the Southern District of New York and Judge Robert S.

Smith on the New York Court of Appeals. After working in private practice for 2 years, Mr. Ho pursued a career as a civil rights lawyer, focusing primarily on protecting Americans' right to vote.

Mr. Ho has more than a decade of experience litigating long-running, complex civil matters, giving him great insight into the real-world impact of judicial decision-making and an understanding of the importance of fairly applying the law to the facts. Mr. Ho will be a valuable addition to the bench, given his underrepresented perspective as a civil rights lawyer.

The American Bar Association rated Mr. Ho “well qualified,” and he has the strong support of his home State Senators: Mr. SCHUMER and Mrs. GILLIBRAND. As a highly skilled litigator who has experience in complex civil litigation and has a significant appellate practice, including arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court, Mr. Ho is well-positioned to serve on the Southern District of New York with distinction.

I urge my colleagues to support Mr. Ho's nomination.

##### VOTE ON HO NOMINATION

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

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 162 Ex.]

##### YEAS—50

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

##### NAYS—49

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