

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cardin substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 3322), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. CARDIN. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 920), as amended, was passed.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, it has been nearly 4 years since I was first sworn in to serve here in the Senate. Since then, as a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I have had the privilege of working alongside my colleagues to provide advice and consent on President Biden's judicial nominees. Over the course of the 4 years, we have confirmed some of the most qualified, extraordinary public servants ever to be nominated to the Federal bench.

As of this week, that has meant that 233 new Federal judges are serving in the Federal judiciary, including 33 in my home State of California. So I rise today to celebrate the three most recently confirmed Federal district court judges in my home State.

In the last week, with your support, we confirmed Judge Anne Hwang to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California. Judge Hwang earned her bachelor's degree from Cornell University and her law degree from the University of Southern California Law School.

After beginning her career as a litigation associate at Irell & Manella in Los Angeles, Judge Hwang went on to serve for 12 years in the Federal Public Defender's Office in Los Angeles—the largest public defender's office in the Nation. During her time there, she rose through the ranks, from deputy public defender to chief deputy public defender, and she gained extensive trial experience. In 2018, she was appointed to the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Informed by the invaluable experience that came from serving as a public defender, Judge Hwang now brings an important perspective to the Federal bench.

Next, earlier this week, we confirmed Judge Cynthia Valenzuela also to the

U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Judge Valenzuela earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Arizona before earning her law degree at the UCLA School of Law.

After graduation, she served as special assistant on the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and later as a trial attorney with the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division Voting Rights Section. Eventually, she returned to Los Angeles to work in the U.S. Attorney's Office as a prosecutor in the Criminal Division.

In 2006, she became national vice president of litigation at MALDEF—you are familiar, Mr. President—the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

She left 5 years later to become a supervising attorney for the California Central District Criminal Justice Act panel.

Finally, in 2016, Judge Valenzuela was appointed to serve as a judge on the California State Bar Court, handling attorney regulatory and discipline cases.

Throughout her confirmation process, Judge Valenzuela has been praised by her current and former colleagues for her tireless work on behalf of victims, for her intelligence, for her integrity, and for her dedication to fair and impartial application of the law.

Her academic credentials and her legal qualifications and experience will make her yet another outstanding Federal judge for the Central District.

Finally, also earlier this week, we had the honor of confirming Judge Noel Wise, President Biden's nominee to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Judge Wise earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and her law degree from Nova Southeastern University Law School and her master of the science of law degree from Stanford Law School.

Judge Wise first clerked on the Florida Fourth District Court of Appeal before joining the U.S. Department of Justice as a trial attorney in the Natural Resources Division, where she also spent a year detailed to the Assistant U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of California.

She then worked in private practice for several years before cofounding the firm Wise Gleicher in 2006, where she litigated at the trial and appellate level in both State and Federal courts.

For the past decade, Judge Wise has served on the Alameda County Superior Court, including as supervising judge since 2019 and as judge pro tem for the California Second District Court of Appeal for a time.

Judge Wise's wealth of experience in State and Federal courts, in civil and criminal litigation, in public and private practice, make her more than prepared to now serve on the Northern District.

On behalf of the State of California, I want to thank my colleagues for help-

ing confirm these three outstanding Federal judges and for continuing to prioritize judicial confirmations here in the days to come.

#### REAFFIRMING THE APPLICABILITY OF THE INDIAN REORGANIZATION ACT TO THE LYTTON RANCHERIA OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 510, S. 4000.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4000) to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PADILLA. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate on the bill, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 4000) was passed as follows:

S. 4000

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. LYTTON RANCHERIA OF CALIFORNIA LAND REAFFIRMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Lytton Rancheria of California is subject to the Act of June 18, 1934 (commonly known as the "Indian Reorganization Act") (48 Stat. 984, chapter 576; 25 U.S.C. 5101 et seq.), and the Secretary of the Interior may acquire and take into trust land for the benefit of the Lytton Rancheria of California pursuant to section 5 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 5108).

(b) LAND TO BE MADE PART OF THE RESERVATION.—Land taken into trust pursuant to subsection (a) shall be—

(1) part of the reservation of the Lytton Rancheria of California; and

(2) administered in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applicable to property held in trust by the United States for an Indian Tribe.

Mr. PADILLA. I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

#### JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE LAND TRANSFER ACT

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, notwithstanding

rule XXII, I also ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 562, S. 3857.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3857) to take certain land in the State of California into trust for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act”.

**SEC. 2. LAND TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST FOR THE JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE OF CALIFORNIA.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The approximately 167.23 acres of land owned in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California located in San Diego, California, and described in subsection (b) are hereby taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California.

(b) *LAND DESCRIPTIONS.*—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the following:

(1) *PARCEL 1.*—The parcels of land totaling approximately 161.23 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that are held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 2022-0010260 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded January 7, 2022.

(2) *PARCEL 2.*—The parcel of land totaling approximately 6 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that is held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 2021-0540770 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded July 29, 2021.

(c) *REAFFIRMATION OF CERTAIN LAND HELD IN TRUST.*—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—Congress reaffirms the approximately 4.87 acres of land located in San Diego, California, and described in paragraph (2) that was taken into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California on July 19 and August 19, 2024.

(2) *LAND DESCRIPTIONS.*—The land referred to in paragraph (1) is the following:

(A) *PARCEL 3.*—The parcel of land totaling approximately 4.03 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that is held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 1998-0020339 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded January 15, 1998.

(B) *PARCEL 4.*—The parcel of land comprised of approximately 0.84 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that is held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 2017-0410384 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded September 7, 2017.

(d) *ADDITIONAL TRUST ACQUISITION.*—The Secretary of the Interior shall accept title in and to, and place into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California, the land depicted as “Proposed 1.1 acres” on the map of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife entitled “Amended Acres Proposal” and dated May 2023 if that land is conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by, or on behalf of, the Jamul Indian Village of California.

(e) *ADMINISTRATION.*—Land taken into trust under subsections (a) and (d) shall be—

(1) *part of the reservation of the Jamul Indian Village of California; and*

(2) *administered in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applicable to property held in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe.*

(f) *GAMING PROHIBITED.*—Land described in subsections (b), (c)(2), and (d) shall not be used for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Padilla substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 3323) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act”.

**SEC. 2. TRUST LAND FOR THE JAMUL INDIAN VILLAGE OF CALIFORNIA.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The approximately 172.10 acres of land described in subsection (b) is held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California.

(b) *LAND DESCRIPTIONS.*—The land referred to in subsection (a) is the following:

(1) *PARCEL 1.*—The parcels of land totaling approximately 161.23 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that are held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 2022-0010260 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded January 7, 2022.

(2) *PARCEL 2.*—The parcel of land totaling approximately 6 acres, located in San Diego County, California, that is held in fee by the Jamul Indian Village of California, as legally described in Document No. 2021-0540770 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded July 29, 2021.

(3) *PARCEL 3.*—The parcel of land totaling approximately 4.03 acres, located in San Diego County, California, as legally described in Document No. 1998-0020339 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded January 15, 1998.

(4) *PARCEL 4.*—The parcel of land comprised of approximately 0.84 acres, located in San Diego County, California, as legally described in Document No. 2017-0410384 in the Official Records of the Office of the Recorder, San Diego County, California, and recorded September 7, 2017.

(c) *ADDITIONAL TRUST ACQUISITION.*—The Secretary of the Interior shall accept title in and to, and place into trust by the United States for the benefit of the Jamul Indian Village of California, the land depicted as “Proposed 1.1 acres” on the map of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife entitled “Amended Acres Proposal” and dated May 2023 if that land is conveyed or otherwise transferred to the United States by, or

on behalf of, the Jamul Indian Village of California.

(d) *ADMINISTRATION.*—Land taken into trust under subsections (a) and (c) shall be—

(1) *part of the reservation of the Jamul Indian Village of California; and*

(2) *administered in accordance with the laws and regulations generally applicable to property held in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian Tribe.*

(e) *GAMING PROHIBITED.*—Land described in subsections (b) and (c) shall not be used for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703)).

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PADILLA. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

The bill (S. 3857), as amended, was passed.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I want to thank you and our colleagues for your support of these two measures, which will help Tribes in my home State of California regain control of their rightful ancestral lands and help the Federal Government take steps to fulfill our sacred trust responsibility to Tribal nations.

The first of these bills that we just approved, the Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act, will establish in trust over 170 acres of land in San Diego County for the Jamul Indian Village of California.

For the Jamul people, what was once over 640 acres of ancestral lands has diminished to just 6 acres—one of the smallest reservations in the country.

In 2005, Tribal members voluntarily moved off the reservation to allow the Tribe to pursue economic development opportunities and become less reliant on the Federal Government. But in order to build a true homeland fitting for their Tribe, the Jamul Indian Village purchased four parcels of land—a combined 172 acres in total—in San Diego County.

By establishing this land in Federal trust, the U.S. Government is now fulfilling our obligation to the Jamul people and returning their Tribal members back to their permanent and proper homeland.

I want to take a moment to thank Representative DARRELL ISSA for his work in the House of Representatives as well as Senators SCHATZ and MURKOWSKI here in the Senate.

I also want to thank all the members of the Jamul Indian Village who have been such honorable and relentless advocates for their community.

Thank you, colleagues, for supporting and passing this bill.

S. 4000

I also thank you for your support in passing S. 4000, my bill to make sure

the Indian Reauthorization Act applies to the Lytton Rancheria of California.

The Indian Reorganization Act addresses a legacy of disenfranchisement for Native communities across the country. It was a landmark bill that helped Tribes reestablish their sovereignty and rebuild their communities after decades of immoral assimilation policies attempted to tear them apart.

The bill we just approved would simply provide clarity that the Lytton Rancheria of California is able to place land into trust through the Department of the Interior's standard land-to-trust process.

I again thank my partners, Senators SCHATZ and MURKOWSKI, for their support and thank you all for your support in passing both of these measures today.

I yield the floor.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. 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.

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

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

#### GEORGIA

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am here on the floor today with the incoming chair and current ranking member of the Foreign Relations Committee to talk about the deteriorating political situation in the country of Georgia and to strongly urge the United States Government to take immediate action in response.

Senator RISCH and I have had a long history of working together on Georgia. We were there in 2012 when Georgian Dream took over in Georgia. We were part of the election observation team. We agreed those were free and fair elections.

Senator RISCH was very eloquent in talking to President Saakashvili at the time—or Prime Minister—about the need to hand over power because it was a free and fair election, and we needed to do that.

Well, in October, Georgia held parliamentary elections, and the vote took place against a backdrop of threats—in some cases, even violence. And there is evidence that the ruling party, Georgian Dream, specifically targeted activists, opposition figures, and ordinary voters. Consequently, those elections, unlike the elections in 2012 that we observed, have not been deemed free and fair. And the majority of the Georgian people, understandably so, do not support the election results.

In the aftermath, the Georgian Dream government decided to yank Georgia off of its Euro-Atlantic path.

It announced the country would cease negotiating with the European Union over its succession to the bloc. Of course, it is a move that pleased Vladimir Putin and the Kremlin and reinforced to many his influence over the politics and policy of Georgia.

This step directly contravened Georgia's own constitution, where the Georgian people enshrined their commitment to joining both the EU and NATO. It has rightfully caused outrage across the country.

For 2 weeks, we have seen widespread protests that brought thousands of people into the streets. The protests are being led by young people—young people who have grown up in an independent Georgia, in a country that was looking toward a better, more democratic future.

In an attempt to control those peaceful protesters, the government has responded with brutal force. And over the last 2 weeks, we have seen Georgian Dream target opposition politicians, media and protest organizers, not only using force in an attempt to disperse crowds, but rounding up individuals at their homes, beating them, and detaining them.

That is not what a democracy does.

The President of Georgia President Zourabichvili has stood in solidarity with the protesters. She urged the government to stop its campaign of violence against its own people. But now in a very concerning turn, Georgian Dream intends to appoint a new President this weekend by holding a vote in Parliament where only its members are participating.

A new President and Commander in Chief—one who stands with Georgian Dream and supports the Kremlin—could dramatically escalate an already volatile situation. As we think about why this is important to the United States, since 1992, the U.S.-Georgia partnership has been based on shared democratic values. We partnered with the Georgian people, successive Georgian Governments to build democratic institutions, a professional civilian-controlled military, and a vibrant civil society capable of cementing the country's trans-Atlantic future.

Georgia is an EU candidate country. It has been, until recently, a close, reliable partner for NATO and the United States. Georgia joined the United States-led coalition in the Iraq war in 2003 and Georgian soldiers deployed to Afghanistan in 2004.

This is a country and a people who have stood by the United States, and it is time now for us to stand by them.

That is why it is so distressing to see what is happening in the country and why we need to see action from our government to condemn what is going on there. The leadership of Georgian Dream is a political party that was founded in 2012 by a billionaire who made his money in Russia and who has drawn increasingly from the Kremlin's playbook in the recent months. They have adopted laws and policies aimed

at constraining civil society's ability to operate, including a foreign agents law that is meant to vilify civic activists as dangerous outside agents.

So what are we doing as the United States? How are we supporting the Georgian people? Well, I am very frustrated because, in my view, we are not doing enough. We are failing to meet this moment and answer this call. We have failed to respond in a meaningful way that would help change the calculus of Georgian Dream's leadership. They are paying no price for their actions, as they defy the will of the people and take pages from Putin's authoritarian playbook.

There are well-documented human rights violations, but the Treasury Department has failed to sanction a single official for their actions. It is perplexing. I don't understand it, and I urge the administration to act immediately. Georgia's future is in jeopardy, and the Georgian people, who have repeatedly supported us, deserve our support. Treasury has all the authorities it needs under the Global Magnitsky Act and other sanction legislations to hold officials to account for the brutal human rights violations they are currently committing against Georgian citizens.

This is not a hard call. The next 2 weeks are critical for Georgia. The administration has bipartisan, bicameral support to act. I urge the U.S. administration to stand with the Georgian people and their fight for a democratic future.

I yield to my colleague from Idaho.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. First of all, let me say, I want to fully associate myself with the remarks of my colleague from New Hampshire. She said it about as well as it can be said, but I am going to underscore it and go back.

As she said, in 2012, she and I were the appointed representatives of the United States to look at and monitor the elections in Georgia, and, I have to tell you, it was an interesting process to do that. We looked and watched the election. From our point of view, it was a straight-up election. It was well done, well executed. And, at the end of the day, the incumbent, President Saakashvili lost; Mr. Ivanishvili's Dream party won.

We had the interesting experience, the next morning, going to see both camps, and one of the things that gave me great hope is it was very much like an American election. Both camps were still in campaign mode when we talked to them, but, as Senator SHAHEEN indicated, we had very candid discussions with both sides. Frankly, before we left the region—I think we went to Turkey after that. But before we left the region, they had made agreements that they were going to talk about a peaceful transition. That was a really, really good sign.

I have to tell you, we left there really quite optimistic that things were headed in the right direction—that here