

they had an election that was a spirited election, but it came out the way the people of Georgia wanted it to come out and that things would go forward.

It wasn't too long after that that we started to have suspicions that it wasn't going as well as it should. And, indeed, that was the case, and it continued to deteriorate and continues to deteriorate today to where it is of an urgent nature.

Look, this country is a country that, after Ronald Reagan brought down the Soviet Union and all these countries got their freedom—most of them took it—this is one of those countries that has not been able to get complete footing and get the complete shake-off of Russia that it wants.

The ghosts of the Russian Empire still are there in that country, and they are showing up in what is happening today. The tactics that are being used by the government that is in place today are the tactics that they use in Russia. It is brutal. It involves tortures. It involves arrests. It involves all of the things that we see from the old Soviet Union.

This is not what the Georgian people want. You say: Well, how can you say that? The Georgian Constitution actually has enshrined in it that they will pursue—and they have been pursuing—membership in the European Union. When that happens, of course, things change dramatically in the country. They go much more to Western values than what they inherited from the old Soviet Union, and that is the direction that Georgia's people want to go.

And, again, not only is it in the Constitution, the polling there says that 80 percent of people want to continue to pursue both European Union membership and NATO membership.

So what has the current government done about the Georgian Dream? Well, they have done the things that the Senator from New Hampshire has laid out. They have done awful things that resulted in arrests and torture and the kinds of things that autocratic governments do in order to get their way.

The Georgian people have not stood by passively and let this happen. There have been lots of protests in the country over recent weeks. Indeed, some of them are quite violent because the Georgian Dream party is cracking down on these people who are just simply trying to pursue their dreams for Georgia, both as expressed in the Constitution and expressed by the will of the people. We had an opportunity to talk to the President of Georgia just recently and came away again disappointed with the way things are happening.

But, look, there is hope here. We passed a bill that gives the Biden administration the ability to go in and levy sanctions on the people that should be sanctioned.

And it is not a secret. We know who they are. They know who they are. The State Department knows who they are.

The Biden administration knows who they are. So let's get at it.

And just as my colleague from New Hampshire, I am deeply, deeply disappointed that we haven't done that. Look, putting sanctions on is not a strain on this country. It is easy to do. But it can be and will be a real strain on the people who were sanctioned.

We really need to do that, and like my friend from New Hampshire, I don't understand why it is not being done. Is it incompetence? Is it laziness? Is it that they don't know better? We have all talked to them, but it just doesn't get done.

So, again, I want to join in with my friend from New Hampshire and urge the administration to step in and do what should be done, follow the law that we have put in place, and take the opportunities for sanctions that we have put in place.

I want to continue to be hopeful for the Georgian people. They don't want what is going on there. They don't want to drift back to the Soviet Union or to Russia. They want to look westward, by their Constitution, by their own will. They want to be part of the European Union and part of NATO.

Let's give them every help that we can possibly do, and it won't cost us anything.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—H.R. 8413 AND H.R. 8219

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise again today to request passage of the Swanson and Hugh Butler Reservoirs Land Conveyances Act.

Over the past 50 years, the residents of the Swanson and Red Willow Reservoirs communities have built friendships, started supportive businesses, and enjoyed the recreation that Southwest Nebraska has to offer.

Now, starting on February 1, in less than 2 months, these people will be forcibly removed from the reservoirs unless this bill passes. This is per a contract signed between local parties and the Bureau of Reclamation.

I worked with the Nebraska delegation, the residents, the small businesses, the Bureau, as well as both Democrats and Republicans on the ENR Committee to draft a bill that would solve this issue.

Senator HIRONO and I are following regular order, but we have to use unanimous consent. Our bills passed the House. Our bills have passed out of the Senate ENR Committee.

This is what we all say in here, what we all tell our constituents, that this has to happen: We need to follow regular order. We travel our States talking about regular order all the time. We say one side or the other is not following it. This is the way to do bills.

This needs to happen. We need one subject bills, another demand of our constituents, instead of piling 150 bills that aren't in a package yet, trying to get them into a package.

But I understand we will have an objection. Senator HIRONO and I paired a Democrat bill with a Republican bill so that we can move forward and other Members can then move forward on noncontroversial bills for our people at home and for our people who support this.

So as if in legislative session and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate en bloc consideration of H.R. 8413 and 8219, which were received from the House. I further ask that the bills be considered read a third time and passed and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. PADILLA. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to object to H.R. 8413, the Swanson and Hugh Butler Reservoirs Land Conveyances Act. I want to be clear. I want to assure my colleague from Nebraska that I don't object on the substance of the bill itself.

As she alluded to just a moment ago, there is a larger effort underway to pull together a package of public lands and water bills like this one. We have over a hundred pending land and water bills, in fact, that are awaiting final consideration. And, yes, there is only about a week or so left before the holiday recess. But there are a lot of bills awaiting final consideration, and so we need to make sure that they can pass altogether as a final package, both out of fairness and out of efficiency—the way the process works here.

I understand that this particular bill is a priority for Senator FISCHER and the Nebraska delegation and their constituents. I respect that. I appreciate that. I, too, have land and water bills before the Senate that are universally supported by constituents and constituencies in my State that I am working hard to get enacted before the end of the Congress.

And, in fact, as a member of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I can report to all of you that, just last month, we held one final business meeting in committee, and we reported out nearly 80 bills, most of them with unanimous, bipartisan support. So the holdup here, the objections here, et cetera, continue to not so much be on substance but the process being what it is. There is so much good work that we are trying to finalize for so many States in the final days of this Congress.

So I think, to help get us there, I want to continue to urge Chair MANCHIN, urge Ranking Member BARASSO and their House counterparts, Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA, to continue working and negotiating in good faith to assemble a public lands and water package that will be of tremendous service

to the country. And I urge both the Senate and House leadership to agree to move all lands and water packages that we can send to President Biden as soon as possible.

So for those reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. I am astounded by this once again. As I have said, the situation is dire. My constituents will lose their homes. The communities they have built for the last 50 years will be destroyed.

I don't know of any other bill, in the 100 or 150 bills, that is on this kind of time crunch. My bill has to pass now. Yes, it is a priority. As the Senator from California, his bills are a priority as well for himself, his constituents. I respect that. But we are on a time crunch. This has to pass now or next week. Maybe we won't be home for Christmas because I plan to keep coming back here and get this done.

We did our work; we did it the right way; and we did it on time. We have presented a solution that everyone—and I mean everyone—agrees with. It is so uncontroversial, it was voice-voted out of committee. Even the Senator from West Virginia who objected last night—he doesn't have any concerns with this legislation.

Nebraskans' very homes and communities are now on the line in this final hour. They cannot wait. They should not have to pay the price for stalled negotiations. Saying there is going to be an agreement after working a year on an agreement, saying there is going to be an agreement on this 100- to 150-bill land package—come on. That isn't even realistic at this point in time. Going to work through the weekend. You know, I hope it comes together, but come on.

These are noncontroversial bills. And using my constituents as political pawns instead of moving bills in normal order, which we all tout, is unacceptable. In fact, it is absurd. We bet-ter do better.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF PATRICK GOTTSCH

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, as if in legislation session, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 733.

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 733) honoring the life and legacy of Patrick Gottsch.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on adopting the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 733) was agreed to.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that 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.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to ask unanimous consent that the Senate adopt my resolution honoring the life and legacy of my dear friend Patrick Gottsch. Patrick was a strong friend and ally of rural America, and it is only appropriate that the Senate commemorate his life.

Along with so many other rural Americans, I miss Patrick every day. It is an honor to remember Patrick by advocating for and promoting the American rural way of life in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

NOMINATION OF MATTHEW JAMES MARZANO

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, before we vote this afternoon, I want to rise to express my strong support for the nomination of Matthew James Marzano to serve as a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Today there is a critical need for nuclear power in our country and in the world.

This carbon-free energy source is essential to ensuring the reliability of our electricity grid and to continuing our work to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

I have said on this Senate floor before, but it bears repeating: Nuclear energy has become the largest source of reliable clean energy in the United States.

I will say that again.

Nuclear energy has become the largest source of reliable clean energy in the United States, providing about 20 percent of our Nation's electricity—but get this—nearly half of our clean power. Nearly half. As it turns out, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission plays an important role in facilitating the deployment of safe and clean nuclear power.

Most American citizens never heard of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Every one of them have an interest in making sure that we address this climate crisis that we face as a nation, as a planet. Everybody here wants to

make sure that the electricity, when we turn on the lights, that it works and that the prices that we pay for that are affordable.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission helps on those fronts. But a really big thing that they do is to make sure that the energy that is created through nuclear sources is safe and something that we can go to bed at night and not have to worry about causing calamity or disaster in this country.

That is a big reason why it is critical that we, in this body, confirm Matthew Marzano to be a member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. They have five seats. One of those seats is vacant, and we need to fill that fifth and the last remaining vacancy on the Commission.

Let me take a moment to discuss why Matt is uniquely qualified for this position. To put it simply, no other Commissioner has the distinct and valuable set of credentials that Matt possesses. He has extensive technical expertise. He has gained over the course a series of positions in the nuclear industry, including as a nuclear engineer. He has run a nuclear power plant control room and has overseen safety, operations, and maintenance personnel onsite. He has trained with sailors—I say this as a retired Navy captain, proudly I say this. He has trained sailors for service aboard our Navy's nuclear ships, one of which I was on last week: the USS *Delaware*. And he has actually worked on the safety systems of a new reactor that is under construction.

Most recently, Matt has applied his background as a nuclear engineer through his role as a member of my staff—our staff—on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee. Matt worked tirelessly with me, Senator CAPITO, and her team—our team—to move the ADVANCE Act—her legislation, she led us on this—but it was our legislation to accelerate the deployment of nuclear energy safely and to move that legislation through the Senate, through the Congress, and to the President's desk.

In my view, no one—no one—is in a better position to help implement the ADVANCE Act legislation that we passed here overwhelmingly—no one better prepared than Matt Marzano. And no one else on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission possesses his combination of, on the one hand, a deep expertise and, on the other hand, relevant experience.

Matt is pragmatic. Matt is hard-working. He is thoughtful, and he is kind. He believes, as I do, in working across the aisle to find common ground. He is a dedicated public servant of the American people.

It is no surprise that his nomination has won the support of a number of key organizations involved, as we attempt to bring about a new nuclear era. They include the Nuclear Innovation Alliance, Third Way, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers,