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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable ALAN ARMSTRONG, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Lord God, do not forget our lawmakers. In the midst of the difficult challenges they face and the weighty responsibilities they carry, remember them in Your mercy. As they struggle to protect freedom, defend the principles upon which this Nation was founded, and secure a better future for generations yet to come, turn Your ear toward them and answer their prayers.

When their spirits grow weary, renew their strength. When uncertainty clouds their judgment, grant them clarity. When discouragement threatens their commitment, restore their optimism and remind them that nothing is impossible for You.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

The senior assistant executive clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2026.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable ALAN ARMSTRONG, a Senator from the State of Oklahoma, to perform the duties of the Chair.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ARMSTRONG thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

SURVIVOR JUSTICE TAX PREVENTION ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 2347, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2347) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

Pending:

Thune (for Capito) amendment No. 6883, in the nature of a substitute.

Thune amendment No. 6884 (to amendment No. 6883), to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 6885 (to amendment No. 6884), of a perfecting nature.

Thune amendment No. 6886 (to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 6883), to change the enactment date.

Thune amendment No. 6887 (to amendment No. 6886), of a perfecting nature.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Democratic leader is recognized.

ASEAN SUMMIT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on Trump's trip to Asia, well, you can sum up Trump's misplaced priorities on this trip to Asia with three words: adversaries over allies.

Instead of focusing on strengthening our alliances in Southeast Asia to counter China, Trump is treating the ASEAN conference in the Philippines as little more than a layover on his way to meet with Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin, and potentially even Kim Jong Un.

As always, Trump is more interested in securing headlines than in upholding our national security. Trump would rather cozy up with foreign autocrats and dictators than stand up for our interests and our partners in the region. Rather than spending this trip catering to Xi and Putin and overlooking our allies, Trump ought to toughen up.

Toughen up, Donald.

Enforcement of the new rules restricting China's access to our most sensitive AI chips should start today with Trump personally securing commitments from ASEAN partners to bar China from acquiring this critical American technology.

Trump also needs to work with these leaders to reverse the PRC's stranglehold on critical materials, to block China's access to compute through the region, and to collaborate on countering the CCP's efforts to defraud Americans with scam centers that operate in the region.

There is real progress to be made on this trip, if only Trump would take our partners and allies as seriously as he takes his photo ops. Instead, Trump arrived in Manila only 30 minutes before the summit ended and is off to China tomorrow to spend the rest of the week with Xi Jinping. This trip is a gift to Beijing and Moscow and a severe letdown for America and our allies.

WHITE HOUSE RENOVATIONS

Mr. President, now on White House renovations, this is just incredible. The

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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President continues to think the American people chose him to serve as ''interior decorator in chief.'' Trump has unveiled a slew of new White House renovations that will cost millions of taxpayer dollars. Asked about this new White House renovation yesterday, Trump said: This is peanuts. This doesn't cost money. This is called talent—something Trump is awful at picking, as shown by his Cabinet Secretaries and other appointments.

The only talent Trump has is for wasting Americans' hard-earned tax dollars. Trump would rather waste Americans' money, remaking DC in his own image, than tackle the pressing issues facing working Americans.

Forget upgrading air traffic control after 17,000 flights were grounded this weekend. Trump is too busy inspecting the new bricks in Lafayette Square. Here, tens of thousands of Americans are stranded, and he is busy looking at new bricks in Lafayette Square. What is wrong with this man? What goes on in his mind? He is President of the United States, not ''decorator in chief.''

Forget explaining why his administration didn't reveal that a Chinese spy infiltrated one of America's leading companies. Trump has his hands full explaining the West Wing's granite walkway.

What about lowering Americans' backbreaking costs? Nope. Trump is too preoccupied with wasting taxpayer dollars on his golden ballroom. To Trump, this White House spending spree is peanuts, but to working families, it is their paychecks.

Americans didn't elect an interior decorator. They elected a President. It is past time Trump started acting like one.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

PERMITTING REFORM

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, one of our priorities this Congress has been finding ways to make life easier for hard-working Americans, and one of the ways we have gone about that is by eliminating some of the redtape that drives up prices and causes headaches for consumers, business owners, and builders.

We have rescinded costly regulations through the Congressional Review Act that would have driven up prices for a host of items. In fact, we have voted 25 different CRA—Congressional Review Act—resolutions of disapproval to undo burdensome, Biden-era regulations. Mr. President, 25 times here the Senate has voted on those in an attempt to try and lessen the cost and the redtape of doing business, creating jobs in this country, and ultimately of driving up costs for consumers, which is what all that redtape in the end does.

We passed the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, which cuts some of the redtape that has driven up the price of housing by making it difficult to build new homes.

And we are continuing those efforts this week with the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act—a major permitting reform bill to help America build again.

The Federal permitting process is broken. Too often, projects are bogged down in bureaucratic delays for months and often years at a time. Delays cause project budgets to balloon, which then leads to higher costs for American consumers.

And it is not just the dollars-and-cents cost. Project delays have serious opportunity costs as well: jobs put on hold because a new factory won't open on time; communities without internet access because broadband infrastructure is delayed; and Americans driving on bad roads and rickety bridges while plans for improvements are stuck in an office in Washington.

It is not that construction projects shouldn't undergo a thorough review of their impacts on communities and the environment. Input from the local community, from State and local governments, and from other stakeholders is a critical part of determining whether and how to execute a project. But the Federal permitting process has unfortunately gone far beyond these reasonable expectations, and that is due in large part to senseless delays caused by cascading litigation from environmental groups and by agencies determined to study a project to death. We have seen those delays happen to everything from water projects to broadband deployment to affordable energy and improving roads and bridges.

Last week, I mentioned the Potomac Interceptor, which burst earlier this year and sent nearly 250 million gallons of raw sewage spewing into the Potomac River. The local water company identified vulnerabilities in this 60-year-old sewer pipe a full 7 years before it burst, but proposed repairs languished in the Federal permitting process year after year after year. The project was still undergoing an environmental review when the pipe burst and caused an environmental disaster. And that was just to replace something that had been there for decades.

For Americans wondering why important projects aren't making progress, the answer is too often Federal permitting delays. It takes 4½ years, on average, for Federal Agencies to approve an environmental impact statement. Add another 15 months to that for a new bridge. And if a NEPA lawsuit is filed over a proposed project, it takes almost 2 years to resolve it.

If we want better roads and bridges, if we want to strengthen American manufacturing, if we want to be energy independent, we need permitting reform. I am grateful to Chairs SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO and MIKE LEE for working with their Democrat counterparts to put forward a bipartisan permitting reform bill that I hope we will complete this week.

This bill would streamline the review process, putting Federal bureaucrats on the clock to give a ''yes'' or ''no'' answer to a project. This would make a huge difference on energy projects. As I said, projects are often stuck in limbo for years as they work their way through government approvals. That adds cost to the project, delays construction, and ultimately leaves American families paying higher utility bills. But by streamlining those processes, the Council of Economic Advisers estimates that provisions in this bill could save a typical household hundreds of dollars on energy bills and other expenses every single year.

Importantly, this bill also provides much needed certainty and clarity to a variety of stakeholders, including farmers and ranchers. For one, it extends Clean Water Act permits from 5 to 10 years, giving farmers more time to complete projects before having to renew their permits. It shortens reviews under the Endangered Species Act, allowing grazing-related projects like a new fence on a ranch to move along faster. And it ensures that local governments and landowners will continue to have a say in projects that affect them.

For a lot of Americans, the type of project that most concerns them these days is the data center coming to their community, and I am pleased to report that the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act would enact new protections for local communities when it comes to data centers. That starts with requiring—requiring—data centers to shoulder their own energy costs, whether that is their operating and construction costs or the cost of grid improvements needed to accommodate them.

This legislation ensures those costs don't show up on household utility bills. It would also provide assistance to communities to help them understand and explore the impact a proposed data center would have on their locality—everything from the economic impact to the energy costs and infrastructure requirements that would be associated with the project.

Well-intentioned rules and regulations can quickly turn into death by a thousand cuts or, as is too often the case, death by delay. The Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act restores the balanced approach to permitting that is needed. It ensures local stakeholders have a say in projects in their community, and it provides accountability to ensure that bureaucrats in Washington don't prevent needed projects from moving forward.

A closed bridge, a burst sewer pipe, a factory built overseas—bureaucratic delays have real consequences. We need to get permitting reform done to get things built in this country and to make life more affordable for American families.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, the top priority of Republican Senators is to elevate conservative judges to the Federal courts. Today, the U.S. Senate is going to confirm another in a string of Federal judges. This is during President Trump's second term. We confirmed one yesterday and another today. And these are lifetime appointments. These are judges who honor and follow the Constitution, judges who apply the law of the land as it is written, and they protect our God-given rights.

But Republicans aren't stopping here. We are going to confirm four more judges this week. They are ready for a vote on the floor right now in the U.S. Senate, and more are ready to come here. Chairman GRASSLEY and the Judiciary Committee will approve more judges in committee this morning. They are soon going to be sent to the floor again here in the Senate. By the end of this year, we will have installed dozens of additional judges onto the courts. Senate Republicans will leave no vacancy behind.

I want to commend Chairman GRASSLEY and the Senate Judiciary Committee. We are here with this many to be confirmed because of their diligent work. The Senate Judiciary Committee is indispensable for vetting and advancing conservative judges, and Senator GRASSLEY is pursuing a bold confirmation schedule. Already, we have confirmed judges faster than anytime in decades. When judges reach the floor, we are proceeding with strength, with unity, and with energy.

The importance of confirming Federal judges is clear. Remember, Federal judges serve for life. They hear cases and apply the law. They will shape our courts and our country for generations to come. This is a solemn responsibility. The men and women whom we are confirming have earned our trust; they have earned the trust of the U.S. Senate.

As Chairman GRASSLEY noted last week, these are judges who have taken different paths to the Federal courts. Some defended our Nation in the military. Others represented clients in private practice. Others argued cases in State and Federal court. All are experienced, highly qualified, and firmly committed to upholding the Constitution and the rule of law. We will confirm them.

Democrats have tried repeatedly to torpedo qualified nominees like these. For the past 2 years, they have waged a campaign of obstruction—for 2 full years. Why? Because of politics, pure and simple. The priority of the Democrats is to stonewall President Trump. Ultimately, their goal is to load the Federal courts with leftwing activists—that is what their goal is—activists who will rewrite the law, interpret it as they want it to be written as opposed to how the law itself is written.

Think about it. For the first 227 years under our Constitution—1789 to 2016—this Senate confirmed 94 percent of judicial nominees by unanimous consent. Everyone agreed. Good to go. Ninety-four percent.

In this Congress, with President Trump making the nominations, not a single judge has cleared this body by unanimous consent—not one—because of Democrat obstruction. When the Senate has voted on these judges, nearly every single Democrat voted in lockstep against every single one. All of this is the fruit of the politics of the radical left. Democrats want to paralyze President Trump and derail anyone who challenges their liberal ideology. It has been going on for 2 years now.

In the days and the weeks ahead, Republicans are going to continue to burst through this Democrat blockade. This Republican Senate has already confirmed judges at the fastest pace in decades. Today, more judges who are serving in the Federal courts were nominated by President Trump compared to any other recent President. It is quite a record. Senate Republicans refuse to allow Democrats to set back or to scuttle the confirmation of qualified judges.

The Senate still has much work to do in the next 47 days, and there will be more work and more votes. The Senate is going to keep working, keep voting, and keep confirming conservative judges to the courts. We will leave no vacancy behind.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. GRAHAM). The Senator from Oklahoma.

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

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

PERMITTING REFORM

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam President, I rise today in support of this bipartisan permitting reform legislation because it tackles a fundamental challenge to American prosperity: making energy affordable for everyday families by building the critical infrastructure needed to connect our Nation's abundant resources, connecting it directly to the fast-growing demand. The more it costs and the longer it takes to build this critical infrastructure, the higher our utility bills will be across the Nation.

I want to commend our committee leadership and the staff for the extraordinary work that they did to pull this package together. I will admit that going into this process, I was genuinely concerned that we might wind up with a bill that was permitting reform in name only, rather than a truly meaningful bill. But what leadership has assembled surpassed my expectations.

Senators CAPITO, LEE, WHITEHOUSE, and HEINRICH and their teams did a fantastic job pulling together a tremendous amount of good work from across Congress, adopting a lot of great bipartisan work that came right out of the House alongside Senate priorities, like Senator RISCH's critical provisions on mining and Senator MURKOWSKI's geothermal energy bills, into one cohesive reform bill.

Holding this coalition together across the Senate, the House, and the Administration during such a tumultuous time was an amazing feat, and leadership deserves immense credit for delivering a durable, commonsense reform that reduces litigation risk and will unlock the capital investment that is needed to eliminate bottlenecks and lower energy costs for American consumers.

And that connection between infrastructure investment and affordability is really what is at the heart and why this bill matters.

I spent my entire career building linear infrastructure in the private sector, and because of that, I see the link between interconnectivity and affordability very plainly.

We have an abundance of energy in this country, but utility prices keep climbing. Why is this? Why is it that we have all the abundance in our country and all the great natural resources, but yet our utility bills keep climbing?

Well, the root cause is simple. We have a severe lack of infrastructure, and our grid networks, as result of that, are constrained. When that infrastructure gets bottlenecked, that is precisely when we see prices soar.

Everyone in Washington, while I have been up here, talks endlessly about affordability, and permitting reform is the one very practical solution that we have that delivers real cost relief to consumers and unlocks investment without requiring a major new Federal spending program.

That is right. You know, a lot of the solutions here in Congress wind up being a debate about what we are going to spend. This is a bill that actually reduces spending for the folks that develop and connect our energy resources in our country, and, eventually, the benefits of those lower costs go directly to the consumers' pockets.

So this bill stayed with some simple, commonsense principles that we laid

out when we were working to bring alongside a very diverse group of industry players: No. 1, it needed to be energy source neutral; No. 2, it needed to have no degradation of our environmental protections that we enjoy today in the United States; No. 3, no subsidies or taxpayer burdens; No. 4, dramatically reduce the litigation risk driven by environmental groups that make their living off of obstructing progress in our Nation; and No. 5, where possible, establish a lead Agency to coordinate the multitude of Agencies involved in a Federal permitting process—basically, a list of commonsense principles that people could stand behind.

And, crucially, this bill accomplishes these key objectives and more. It stays away from picking winners and losers or relying on government subsidies. It simply creates a technology-neutral playing field where energy sources compete fairly on their own economic merits. No matter where power comes from—whether it is wind, solar, or natural gas—if a particular resource is the lowest cost and most reliable alternative, the market will work and let it compete fairly without government subsidies.

That gives everyday Americans exactly what they want and deserve—direct access to the lowest cost and most reliable energy available.

And nowhere is that connection between infrastructure and affordability more important than when it comes to the tremendous growth that we are seeing from data centers.

We want America to lead the world in AI. We want those investments, those jobs, and that economic activity right here in the United States.

But here is what I don't want: I don't want a hard-working family in Oklahoma paying higher electric bills because a multibillion-dollar technology company needs new power infrastructure.

And this legislation addresses that issue head-on. This bill solves the massive affordability challenge by requiring new facilities to pay 100 percent of all grid upgrade costs and pay the full tariff on the existing system, rather than receiving subsidized rates.

Because the data center funds its own rate base additions under this bill, the utility's capital costs for regular customers don't go up, but the overall system volume and revenue on the system increase significantly. That increased revenue helps to lower the monthly utility bills for retail consumers, while giving data centers a clear, cost-effective path to build their facilities right here in America, instead of being forced overseas.

What makes this legislative moment so remarkable is the sheer scale and diversity of the coalition standing shoulder to shoulder behind this bill.

For years, permitting reform talks have stalled in Congress because individual sectors fought against each other. But looking across the spectrum today, it is remarkable when you see the list of supporters, from industry and labor unions to consumer protection groups.

What is happening is truly unprecedented: the renewables industry, the fossil fuel industry, hydropower, geothermal, and mining all stuck together to support this legislation.

Whether you are in the pipeline business, building highways, constructing power transmission lines, or developing critical minerals, every sector has seen the exact same bottlenecks, and every sector recognizes that we can no longer afford to leave American infrastructure trapped in the regulatory gridlock that exists today.

This broad alignment has held together because this bill does not pick winners and losers, it does not grant subsidies, and it does not compromise our environmental protections.

We aren't dictating wind, solar, or natural gas. We are simply creating a level, technology-neutral process to build the grid infrastructure required to connect low-cost resources directly to consumer demand.

Holding this coalition together during a tumultuous time in politics demonstrates a shared national consensus.

We all agree that America cannot grow if we cannot build, and we need to recognize what is at stake if we let this opportunity slip away.

If we fail to get this bill passed, the immediate reality is that we are going to start shipping our most critical economic opportunities overseas. We have already been losing our mining sector to foreign competitors like China, which can approve a project overnight. And without the infrastructure to power the future, our data center and artificial intelligence leadership will follow them right out the door.

For energy development at home, walking away from this bill won't stop demand. It just makes the outcome actually much worse. Instead of building a modern grid that connects all energy sources, tech companies will simply put gas-fired generation behind the meter, and the grid expansion will be stalled, leaving our affordable and abundant resources stranded. That means everyday consumers will continue to suffer from high utility bills because our infrastructure remains constrained.

After 10 years of debate, we finally have industry, labor, and a broad bipartisan coalition aligned. If we don't seize this moment now, I frankly don't know when anyone will ever have the momentum or appetite to fix permitting in this country again.

This is an incredibly important moment for our country. This is a big step in getting us back to build infrastructure rather than supporting the sue-and-settle industry that drives up our monthly bills for electricity and gas.

This is such a powerful bill for our country, and it is time to end the debate and deliver real affordability for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

RECESS

Mr. ARMSTRONG. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled recess begin immediately.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12 noon, recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Acting President pro tempore.

SURVIVOR JUSTICE TAX PREVENTION ACT—Continued

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Anna St. John, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

NOMINATION OF ANNA ST. JOHN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Anna St. John to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Judge St. John's record on the bench is short. She began her tenure as a district judge in April of this year. At the time of her nomination to the Fifth Circuit, she had not presided over any trials. But she is being quickly promoted because of her record as a lawyer, where she repeatedly challenged class-action settlements and litigated politically charged issues.

In November 2021, as Congress considered legislation ending forced arbitration in cases of workplace sexual assault and harassment, Judge St. John testified in support of compelling abuse survivors into forced arbitration. The reality is that forced arbitration denies sexual assault survivors a day in court and shields misconduct from public view.

Former Fox News journalist Gretchen Carlson, who strongly advocated for the legislation, publicly opposed Judge St. John's district court nomination.

Ms. Carlson wrote: ''While women around the country bravely shared the urgency of eradicating forced arbitration, St. John used her power and influence to gaslight these women and the public. She downplayed their stories and minimized their pain.''

I oppose Judge St. John's nomination, and I ask my colleagues to join me.

VOTE ON ST. JOHN NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the St. John nomination?

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. MURPHY) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 265 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Armstrong	Fischer	Moran
Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Rounds
Budd	Husted	Schmitt
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Collins	Justice	Sheehy
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cotton	Lankford	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Curtis	McConnell	Young
Daines	McCormick	
Ernst	Moody	

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Baldwin	Hirono	Schatz
Bennet	Kaine	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Shaheen
Booker	King	Slotkin
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Coons	Luján	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Markey	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gallego	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Murphy	Risch

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). 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 action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Missouri.

HOUSE BILLS

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about a monument that is near and dear to my heart in my hometown of St. Louis. The Gateway Arch stands as one of the most recognizable monuments in the United States, a soaring testament to the American spirit, a monument to the restless ambition of a people who refuse to be tied down, a people who looked into the void and saw more than danger. They saw destiny.

In our country's then short history, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark were those men who stared into the unknown. From that fearless determination and restless spirit came the America we know today: the great rivers; the cities of the Midwest; the railroads, factories, farms, and settlements that would rise across an entire continent.

The mighty Mississippi became America's first economic superhighway, carrying on her back the commerce of a growing republic.

And at the center of this great national undertaking was my hometown of St. Louis, the ''Gateway to the West.''

The Gateway Arch stands as a permanent monument to that uniquely American story. It was completed in 1965, built by another generation of Americans, who believed that the achievements of their ancestors were worthy of remembrance.

It was 1965. Think about that. At a time when Americans were reaching for the Moon, they were also reaching into their past, erecting a monument to the pioneers who had carried the American flag across a continent.

A truly confident nation honors its inheritance precisely because it intends to build something worthy of it. The arch represents not the dominion over an entire continent but the character of a people who have built a civilization upon it.

In my hometown, the people of St. Louis continue to prove just how much the monument means to them through the CityArchRiver Project, one of the largest private investments in the national park to date.

The Gateway Arch National Park is now, more than ever, a place to meet, gather, and to celebrate. That is why I introduced the Gateway Partnership Act.

This bipartisan legislation, which I am proud to lead, is a commonsense measure that strengthens the partnership between the National Park Service and its official philanthropic partner, the Gateway Arch Park Foundation. The foundation has already demonstrated its commitment to preserving and improving this extraordinary national landmark. This modest piece of legislation would allow that partnership to continue in a new and meaningful way.

If enacted, this would authorize the National Park Service's ability to enter into a defined agreement with the Gateway Arch Park Foundation to manage, market, and execute private events at Gateway Arch National Park. It would create opportunities for gatherings and events that bring people into closer contact with one of America's greatest monuments, while supporting the stewardship of the park itself. It would allow Park Service personnel to actually focus on the park and highlight a stellar public-private partnership.

It does not surrender control of the park. It does not diminish its national significance. And it doesn't abandon the obligation to preserve this landmark for future generations.

It simply recognizes the responsible private partnership that can help strengthen the institutions and places that belong to the American people.

I ask my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation and help preserve the ''Gateway to the West'' for generations to come.

Notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: Calendar No. 617, H.R. 8454, Ackerson Meadow Land Exchange; and Calendar No. 662, H.R. 5254, Gateway Partnership Act.

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

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, 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 with no intervening action or debate, all en bloc.

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

The bills were passed, en bloc, as follows:

PROVIDING FOR THE TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION OVER CERTAIN FEDERAL LAND IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

The bill (H.R. 8454) to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of California, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

GATEWAY PARTNERSHIP ACT

A bill (H.R. 5254) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to enter into an agreement with the Gateway Arch Park Foundation to host private events in Gateway Arch National Park buildings, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

SURVIVOR JUSTICE TAX PREVENTION ACT

MODERN SKIES ACT

Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, on Friday, our nationwide ground stop was a stark reminder that we cannot remain the world's aviation leader while relying on technology from a bygone era.

For hours and hours, air travel came to a total standstill. Americans were afraid. Americans were stranded, separated from their families, and left wondering when or if they could make it home.

Fortunately, our air traffic controllers, pilots, and safety precautions did what they were supposed to do. But let's be clear: The absence of tragedy is not proof that everything is fine. It is

not fine. It is not proof that the status quo must remain either.

Our air traffic control system depends on aging infrastructure, antiquated equipment, and communications technology designed for decades past. Keeping aging systems running gets harder and more expensive the longer we put off replacing them. When those systems fail, the consequences can reach far beyond one airport ground stop, missed connections, and families stranded far from home.

We Americans rely on these systems every time that we fly. Millions of us do each and every day. Yet those systems are dated, lagging behind, and deteriorating right before our very eyes. We cannot accept their continued deterioration.

For heaven's sake, we invented aviation in this country. The Wright brothers, Charles Lindbergh, Neil Armstrong—within a single lifetime, Americans saw photos of the Wright brothers taking to the skies of Kitty Hawk, of Lindbergh's crossing the Atlantic alone, and the video of Neil Armstrong walking on the Moon. We accomplished all of this because we were a nation of builders, of people who believed that there was no frontier beyond the reach of American ambition.

And yet, today, the Nation that taught the world to fly is depending on infrastructure designed for another century.

For decades, Washington became very good at spending money on stupid things. Yet, still, you will walk these halls and hear the echoes of innovation, technological advancement, and the promise of the future, while the men and women responsible for managing the most complex airspace on Earth are asked to make do with tools from 50 years ago.

Like with most things here in Washington, it does not have to be that way, and some progress is being made. Since the authorization and the Working Families Tax Cut, a little over a year ago, 70 percent of copper wire has been replaced with fiber, nearly 470 radios converted to modernized systems, new electronic flight strips installed in 25 control towers, 220-plus new IP voice switches in place. And the list goes on and on, including nearly 20 new tower simulation systems loaded for controller training.

But there is much, much more to do. That is why I introduced the Modern Skies Act. My legislation would modernize the digital backbone of air traffic control, address infrastructure needs, and replace deteriorating control towers, all while investing seriously in the future of American aviation.

The Modern Skies Act, which I introduced months ago, would invest $30 billion to finish that work, building on the $12.5 billion downpayment already made through the Working Families Tax Cut. This includes billions for new telecommunications infrastructure needed to support our national airspace.

Last week's failure showed how a problem in that communications network can spread, disrupting radar feeds and communications with aircraft. This investment would help modernize that infrastructure with the goal of building a more resilient system that can contain failures before they become national disruptions.

More broadly, this bill provides critical upgrades that will lead to a more resilient telecommunications system, better tools to help controllers keep aircraft safely separated, and modern technology to manage traffic and make better use of our airspace.

Oftentimes, this town is tone deaf, but this is a chance to meet the moment and to do something that the American people would actually want us to do.

We cannot let the next disruption bring us back to the floor, having the same conversation about the same aging systems. We should fix the problems we know about right now.

And let me just finish on this point. I think what the voters—there are two data points. What the voters were expressing, a couple of weeks ago, is they want this place to be more responsive to their needs and concerns.

Another data point: Last Friday, we had another reminder, unfortunately, of the aging infrastructure and technology that we have in our airspace.

I would hope that this Chamber could come together in a bipartisan way and meet the moment to hear what the people told us—that they want us to be responsive to a problem we know exists.

It was right in front of our face on Friday, and it isn't going away. And it is not going to get any better.

We owe it to the American people to provide for their safety with the technology that our air traffic controllers need, the infrastructure that our airports and towers need to keep people safe. Let's get it done. Let's not make this partisan. This isn't a Republican issue. This isn't a Democrat issue. This is an American issue. Let's fix the problem.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

DREAMERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been 25 years since I first came to the Senate floor with a simple request—for Congress to protect the Dreamers. Dreamers are immigrants who were brought to the United States as children. They grew up pledging allegiance to the same flag that we do. But because of a decision on immigration that they had no control over, they are forced to live their lives in fear of deportation.

I first heard about this issue when my Chicago office was contacted by a constituent about one of her students; the young lady's name was Tereza Lee. Tereza was a brilliant piano prodigy in her teenage years. She was brought to the United States when she was 2 years old. Her parents were Korean. She was born in Brazil. She was brought to the United States and grew up here, went to school, participated in the activities of children in the Chicago area.

My office first heard about her case when she was unable to fill out her college application forms because she didn't have a Social Security number. My staff researched it and looked into it closely. We learned that Tereza, under the law, would have to leave the United States for 10 years and then reapply for legal status. That was her only legal option.

I couldn't believe there was no path to citizenship for a young person like her, so I decided to introduce a bill to change it. I joined forces with Republican Senator Orrin Hatch of Utah, and, together, we introduced the DREAM Act.

Since then, I have come to the floor of the Senate over 150 times to share the stories of Dreamers who are doctors, nurses, business owners, educators, parents, and members of our military. I have pushed for this legislation to be included in bipartisan measures like the 2013 Gang of 8 immigration bill, which passed the Senate with 68 votes.

It is worth remembering what happened in 2013. Eight of us got together, four Democrats and four Republicans, and spent months writing a compromise bipartisan bill. We brought it to the floor of the U.S. Senate. It had the support of business and labor and religious groups across America. We called it for a vote, and it came up with 68 votes, more than enough to pass in the U.S. Senate.

We sent the measure over to the Republican-controlled House, and Paul Ryan refused to call it or amend it or consider it.

Over the years, the Senate has passed the DREAM Act, which was included in that bill, and the House of Representatives has passed it too, but never at the same time so that we can send the legislation to the President's desk to be signed into law.

I am not going to give up on the Dreamers. Just last week, President Trump said he was willing to work with Democrats on a bipartisan immigration deal. I have spoken directly to the President. In fact, the first time I ever spoke to the President, it was about the Dreamers.

I ask the President of the United States now to keep his word, work with us to pass the Dream Act and do it now. We have enough time left to get it done this year.

As I near the end of my Senate career, I ask my colleagues to support these young people who are American in every way except for their immigration status. In fact, 81 percent of Americans support citizenship for Dreamers, including 56 percent of Republicans.

And so I come to the floor today to share my 154th Dreamer story.

This is a photograph of Brenda Bedolla. Brenda arrived in Little Village, a section of Chicago, from Mexico when she was 2 years old. From a young age, her parents instilled in her a deep desire to learn and to use her education as a means to have a better life and help make a better nation.

As she began to apply to college, Brenda realized she was ineligible for financial aid due to her immigration status, but she refused to let that stop her. She earned a full-ride scholarship to Morton College in the suburbs of Chicago.

At Morton, Brenda ran on the school's cross-country team, reported for the college newspaper, served as student body vice president, and received the Lincoln Academy of Illinois Student Laureate for outstanding achievement.

She then transferred to Northeastern Illinois University where she served as student body president, worked an on-campus job as well as a restaurant at nights and weekends to support not only her education, but her family.

These experiences exposed Brenda to what it meant to advocate, organize, and represent others. They led her on the path to becoming an organizer for the Service Employees International Union, or SEIU, representing the States of Illinois and Indiana.

Since 2019, Brenda has served as a representative of more than 90,000 home care workers in essential jobs—home care, childcare, nursing homes, and hospitals—90,000 workers. She has helped hospital workers organize and supported members who have workplace grievances.

Brenda also serves on the board of Morton College Foundation to fundraise for scholarships for students at her alma mater, as well as Arise Chicago, a faith-based work center educating and organizing low-wage workers about fighting injustice.

Brenda says her family's own experience with exploitive working conditions are what led her to this job. In her words—and I want to quote her directly:

> Labor organizing gave me an opportunity to turn those experiences into something meaningful. It allowed me to be a part of a movement that gives working people a collective voice and creates opportunities for families.

Brenda is exactly the type of person we need in America. This is who we might lose if we fail to pass the Dream Act.

To my Republican colleagues, I ask you: Is this a person you want to remove from the United States, an advocate for healthcare workers who care for the elderly, our children, our grandchildren, and our sick? Does Brenda sound like the ''worst of the worst,'' the target of ICE? No.

She is one of hundreds of thousands of Dreamers who serve our country every day, even as they worry about being forced to leave this Nation. We owe it to these talented young people to help, and there is still time in the final weeks of the 119th Congress to get it done.

To all of my Republican colleagues, please join me and Senator LISA MURKOWSKI of Alaska in standing up for these young people who epitomize the American dream. We have an opportunity to finally give Dreamers the justice they deserve. We can do it. We have the time to do it. Let's get to work.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

RECOGNIZING THE DEATH OF JOHN DAVISON ''JAY'' ROCKEFELLER IV, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I am joined here by my fellow Senators, and I am very excited and happy today to rise to honor the life and legacy of a remarkable West Virginian: former Governor and U.S. Senator Jay Rockefeller.

You know, Jay was many things: one, very tall; he was also an incredibly dedicated public servant; a passionate advocate for West Virginia. And I am going to put his photo up here so you can see him.

He always wore those glasses too—I remember that. A very much respected leader in our Chamber here. But, for me—for me, Senator CAPITO—he was a mentor, a friend, and a really true gentleman.

I would like to also take a moment to recognize his beloved wife Sharon who is in the gallery and daughter Valerie who is joined here with us today. Sharon and Jay were married 59 years. They married in 1967.

Sharon herself is a very accomplished public servant and has been president and CEO of WETA since 1989 and also very friendly to both my husband Charlie and I, and I appreciate that. So I want to thank them for being here.

Anyone who knew Jay knew how deeply he loved West Virginia and the people that he represented. But above all else, he loved his family—his children and his grandchildren. At the center of that love, of course, was his wife Sharon. Their partnership was a special one. And I know how much his grandchildren and children meant to him as well and how they miss him.

My personal relationship with Jay began under difficult circumstances. My father Arch Moore was a political rival of Jay's. And to put it politely, I would say they were not the best of friends. Apparently, my father, when he was Governor, would throw some very critical comments about Jay out into the public. But rest assured, Jay would return fire.

So when I was elected to the House of Representatives in 2000, I just wasn't sure what to expect. But what I got was a warm friendship from a man who expressed to me over the phone when he called me to congratulate me that his relationship with my father was immaterial as to how our relationship would progress. So that showed me that not only was he a man of integrity, but he was kind and thoughtful throughout our years of service together.

Jay and I come from different political parties, and we certainly did not always agree, but those differences never stood in the way of our friendship. Jay understood that working together for the good of the people we represent always comes first. And I think that is something we can all be reminded of from time to time.

Jay was born into a very famous family of tremendous wealth. He could have lived anywhere, done anything, and enjoyed quite the life of privilege. But he was called to serve. And extraordinarily, he found a place where he felt like he belonged, and he did—and that place was our State of West Virginia.

You know, that song that we hear all the time ''Country Roads,'' it is about a feeling of belonging. It is about that feeling of home. It talks about the feeling—it has a line in there where it says, ''I feel that I should have been home yesterday,'' and I think that is a feeling that Jay felt when he came to Emmons, WV, in the sixties.

He uprooted his life in New York to come and be a VISTA worker in our State to try to make a difference. And what began as an opportunity to serve grew into a lifetime of public service.

He went on to serve as a delegate in the house of delegates in the West Virginia Legislature, secretary of state, Governor, and then on to DC where he served in the Senate for 30 years.

He devoted his life to a State and a country, but our State he chose to call home. And in doing so, he helped shape generations to come.

There was much more to Jay than just his impressive public service. Now, I have read about his very self-deprecating, great sense of humor, and I would second that, but he was also a man of many wonders with a particular love for baseball, Asian art—and when he told me the next one, I didn't even know a song that would fit into this—but he really apparently liked Baroque music.

He studied Japanese at the International Christian University in Tokyo and Asian history at Yale, and he received a degree in Far Eastern languages and history from Harvard.

His experiences enabled him to view life from all different points of view. And his depth of knowledge and understanding to what others think, I think, made him fit for his so many roles, which made his work so special.

He was a problem-solver and brought thoughtful solutions to the needs of West Virginia with an unrelenting passion.

He approached the challenges with an unwavering commitment to having people improve their lives.

Few areas demonstrate that commitment more clearly than his work on healthcare. Jay played a monumental role in advancing the Children's Health Insurance Program, or CHIP. And because of that leadership, hundreds of thousands of West Virginian children—but millions of children across the country—have benefited from that vision.

Following his mother's diagnosis with Alzheimer's disease, Jay became a strong advocate for neurological research and treatment helping lay the groundwork for what is now the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute at West Virginia University where they are doing incredible work.

As someone—me—whose own parents battled Alzheimer's, that part of Jay's legacy is particularly meaningful to me. I know firsthand the devastating toll this disease can take on individuals and their loved ones, and I am proud to continue building on the work that Jay championed and the hope he helped to provide to so many families.

Jay was also a fierce advocate for the men and women who power our country. Following the Sago Mine tragedy in 2006, he spent much of his time working with our coal miners to learn how we can better advocate for health and safety.

He authored the Rockefeller Coal Act to protect lifetime healthcare and retirement benefits for all retired miners and the widows of those who had passed—as well as the MINER Act to help improve underground mine safety, emergency response, and rescue protocols.

One of his most enduring accomplishments was bringing an enormous Toyota plant to West Virginia. Now, remember, he spent a lot of time in Japan. He actually knew Dr. Toyota. There was—for the young people in the room—a guy name Toyota. That is how it started.

Toyota now has over 2,100 employees creating cutting-edge automobiles in our State. I am proud to have worked with him over the years to foster our relationship with Toyota, but the strength of his relationship with Toyota was the single fact of the prosperity that we have seen and the technology and the education that has come along with that plant. This is Jay. And so I will continue to build on that legacy.

During his time in the Senate, he served in some of this Chamber's most consequential leadership roles—chairman of the Intelligence and Commerce Committees. He took those responsibilities seriously and delivered meaningfully for West Virginia.

You know, Jay epitomized, in my view West Virginians' warmth and friendliness, and I am grateful for his leadership and guidance.

His willingness to work with others, ability to put differences aside for the good of our country, is commendable. I am incredibly honored to have succeeded him in the U.S. Senate, and I am indebted to the advice and support he offered to me early on and throughout my career.

One of the things he told me early on in that very first phone call, was that he was extremely proud that I was the first female representative in our State here in Washington in the Senate.

He fought hard for our State. He treated people with kindness, and he always found a way to move our country forward together.

He served with integrity and, as I said earlier, he really was a true gentleman. And in this day and age, I think those are extremely great traits for a public servant and a man.

West Virginia is a better place because of Jay Rockefeller, and I am a better public servant, I think, for having known him.

He will be deeply missed, but his legacy will endure for generations to come.

So I have some folks here on the floor that want to talk about Senator Rockefeller as well. My fellow Senator, Senator JUSTICE, who I know knew Senator Rockefeller in a couple different roles.

Mr. JUSTICE. That is right.

Mrs. CAPITO. And he has joined me here.

So, JIM, why don't you get up and give us your take.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. JUSTICE. Well, first of all, I never had the opportunity to work with Jay Rockefeller, but I can tell you just this: What he did for all of us, we should carry as an example today. You know, he worked with people. He cared about people. And really and truly, for all that I ever saw of Jay Rockefeller was one thing, and that is this: He didn't care so much if you were a Republican or a Democrat. He didn't care so much about that. In fact, I could give you a perfect example.

My mom—and I was probably your age or maybe even younger—but my mom was at the Greenbrier Hotel—that is kind of a nice place. But she was there, and I was with her, and all of a sudden, Jay Rockefeller walked up—and I don't remember if he was the Governor at the time, secretary of state at the time, or a Senator at the time. But when he walked up, he said to—my mom really didn't feel very comfortable because my mom was a dyed-in-the-wool Republican absolutely through and through, through and through, through and through.

And she reached out her hand to shake hands with him, and she said—either Governor or Senator Rockefeller. She said: I want you to know that I am a Republican.

And he looked right back at her, and I will never forget it until I die. He said: You see, my family has been both, and I could care less. Really and truly, I want to be someone that you respect and someone who will always respect you.

It was amazing to me. Long, long, long ago.

Now, with all that being said, one thing else he did for the greatest State on the planet, in my opinion, which is West Virginia, he chose West Virginia, didn't he? He came there and he never left. Absolutely he grew a family unbelievable. And Sharon is here somewhere. I don't know where Sharon is with some of the family.

But nevertheless, you know, today, in a lot of ways, I am sure, for Sharon and a lot of the family it may be a sad day, but at the same time, it is a really proud day too.

Now, with all that being said, whether it was the coal miners or our vets or children, working families, all those people, this man stood up for all those people all the time, did he not? And he had his values—his values.

Now, we all have our values. I am sure that SHELLEY and I both have very conservative values. He may have had different values at the time. But I don't know why in the world—and of all times right now, we should take his example and use it in many ways.

We should always be respectful for those on the other side of the aisle and absolutely try to work, as I always have said 10 million times, for Toby and Edith. Toby and Edith need all of us all the time, and this food fight nonstop—he wouldn't have approved, and I know we don't approve either. So we have to stop that.

Now, with all that being said, let me just say this: For a man of life in politics like crazy, the one thing that came to my mind—and you see all I have is just a bunch of gobbledygook I have written down—but really and truly, what do we want to accomplish as public servants? What do we want to accomplish in politics? We want to make a difference, don't we? I mean, we don't just want to hang out here; we want to really try to make a difference. And he did.

So to Shar and all the family, Cathy and I will always remember my mom standing there with a man that really told us all he needed to tell us right there that day; a man who was a good man with a good heart and did an awful lot for the great State of West Virginia, but he did a lot, lot, lot for this Nation.

So, as I end, I would say just this: He chose West Virginia. God bless this great man, and God bless all that he gave all of us in every way.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I would like to recognize Senator DURBIN.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator CAPITO and Senator JUSTICE, the senior and junior Senators from the State of West Virginia, for calling us together and organizing this moving tribute.

I am particularly happy that Sharon, his wife, is in the audience with members of the family. Sharon, of course, is a daughter of Illinois, a daughter of Senator Charles Percy, who represented Illinois. She and I have talked many times about common experiences.

She and Jay were quite a team. If you happened to watch public broadcasting, you were bound to see their names. They really cared for it. Sharon led the way, and Jay was right there with her. I want to acknowledge that to the family, the extraordinary contribution they made.

In thinking about the legacy of Jay Rockefeller, I can't help but reflect on the countless people across the Nation who are healthier because he cared. Let me just mention one of them—Rachael Hoffman. She is a resident of Orland Park, IL. She lost her job in 2011 shortly after she found out she was pregnant. Suddenly, she was faced with the terrifying task of affording healthcare as an expectant mother. She earned too much money to qualify for Medicaid but without a job, could not secure health insurance through her employer.

Fortunately, she had another option: the Children's Health Insurance Program, the CHIP program. Rachael signed up for CHIP, and for years, it was a lifeline for her and her family. CHIP helped Rachael afford the many medical expenses associated with childbirth. When her daughter Hazel was born with epilepsy, CHIP helped pay for her numerous hospital visits.

To hear Rachel tell it:

[Hazel] might not even be here if not for the CHIP [program]. We wouldn't be able to pay for hospital stays without it.

I share this story because it was Senator Jay Rockefeller who helped launch the very program that benefited this woman in my home State of Illinois. It was Senator Rockefeller who fought for this funding for decades.

Heir to one of the wealthiest dynasties in the United States, Jay devoted his life to helping people like Rachael and her daughter Hazel. For 50 years, as Governor and Senator from West Virginia, Jay was a paragon of public service who fought for those born with far less privilege and power than himself.

Jay was the eldest son of the eldest son of the eldest son of the founder of Standard Oil, America's first billionaire, John D. Rockefeller. Jay grew up amid wealth in Manhattan and Westchester County, NY. He prepped at Exeter and attended Harvard. But outside Boston, a question began to nag him. He asked himself: What am I doing? What am I here for?

The life of comfort and privilege that had been laid out before him felt so incomplete. In search of answers, he decided to go off and study. Where? In Japan for 3 years. I remember him telling me he once played tennis with the Crown Prince of Japan.

When he returned home, he found the Nation swept up in ''Kennedy fever.'' As Jay said, the President made Americans believe ''that America could achieve anything.'' Jay called his father and his uncle, Nelson Rockefeller, then Governor of New York, to let them know that he was switching from being a Rockefeller Republican to a Kennedy Democrat. The family took the news surprisingly well, according to Jay.

Upon joining the Democratic Party, he was asked by Robert Kennedy, Sr., to establish the Peace Corps. For 2 years, Jay worked as a chief assistant to Sargent Shriver, the first Peace Corps Director.

In 1964, a friend told him that he didn't have to travel halfway around the world to help people; there were people in the United States, in his friend's home State of West Virginia, living on the outskirts of hope. So Jay Rockefeller asked Bobby Kennedy to send him to West Virginia as a volunteer for VISTA, the precursor to AmeriCorps. He planned to spend a year in West Virginia, but, as Senator JUSTICE noted, he never left; West Virginia was home.

Jay found his purpose in the tiny coal community of Emmons, WV. This was the North Star of his public service and where his ''real life'' began, according to Jay. Whether he was in hearings or on the Senate floor, Emmons was always on Jay's mind. Years ago, during a late-night markup in the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Rockefeller recalled the people he met from that little mining town 50 years before. His voice broke with emotion as he spoke about their hardships and the unfairness that pervaded their lives. He also spoke about the hope that programs like Medicare and Medicaid brought to their lives. The bill at the center of that late-night Senate Finance Committee markup would become the Affordable Care Act, Obama's health insurance plan.

During his VISTA years in Emmons, Jay said he kept a journal and wrote detailed notes every night. He said that he could not bring himself to open the book; it was too painful for him to look back and recall those stories. But Jay never passed up the opportunity to give back to Emmons, WV, or our Nation.

His legacy can be seen in children who go to better schools, miners who have safer working conditions, and seniors who have been able to retire with dignity. Through his efforts to create CHIP, 7 million children today receive quality healthcare in America.

Thank you, Jay.

An additional 20 million people now have reliable health insurance because of the Affordable Care Act—a bill Jay fought tirelessly to pass. No one in the Senate worked harder than Jay for affordable healthcare for all Americans.

He didn't toil alone; he was blessed to have Sharon, his wonderful and accomplished wife of 59 years.

Loretta and I send Sharon, their children—John D., Valerie, Charles, and Justin—and their nine grandchildren our deepest condolences.

In reflecting on his service, Jay said that ''important undertakings can't be halfhearted. You must commit your whole self.'' Jay Rockefeller certainly did so. In late nights, in floor speeches, in legislation, in every aspect of his life, Jay gave his all to the people he served. May his memory be a blessing.

Mrs. CAPITO. Senator MURRAY.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues in honoring the memory of Senator Rockefeller.

Jay was an incredible public servant who loved the work and loved the people that he worked for. He understood that this job doesn't start with policy; it starts with listening to people—listening to your colleagues, of course, to find common ground, but most importantly, listening to folks back home—what hardships they have, what fears they have, what hopes they have—and then keeping those voices in your head, carrying those concerns in your heart, and making them heard in the Halls of power. If anyone here forgot that, Jay would never hesitate to point to the photograph on his wall of a West Virginia miner and tell you: That is why I am here. That is who he works for.

His legacy isn't simply written in our Nation's laws—the Children's Health Insurance Program, mining safety regulations, reforms to the VA, and retirement benefits he secured for workers and their families, just to name a few of a very long list—his real legacy is written in the faces and futures of people across West Virginia whose lives he made better—the children who grew up with access to medical care and the opportunity to get a quality education; the miners who went to work confident they had a safe working environment and a secure retirement; and the families in small towns like Emmons, WV, that he gave a big voice to here in the U.S. Senate.

My heart goes out to Jay's family—his wife Sharon, their kids, their grandkids; his staff, who served loyally for him for many years and through many challenges; and to all the people of West Virginia, who are mourning a champion and a friend.

My thoughts go toward the causes that Jay fought so hard to advance that we have to continue to push forward, like ensuring dignity for all of our workers and universal health coverage for all of our families.

Leaders today in the Senate, in the White House, and on Wall Street would do well to learn the lessons he lived out every day—that privilege comes with responsibility, that service to others is demanded of those with power, and that people must always come before politics or profits or personal grievances.

Jay's humility, his humanity, and his clarity of purpose are sorely missed today, and they are why his example of public service only shines brighter with time.

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I thank my colleagues Senator JUSTICE, Senator DURBIN, Senator MURRAY, and others that I think will be submitting comments for the RECORD. I think they are beautiful tributes to a forceful public servant.

His portrait is in our State capitol, so he will long be remembered in the

halls of—by every West Virginia child that comes through our capitol.

So I appreciate everybody, and I know the family appreciates that as well.

Mr. President, with that, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 959, which is at the desk.

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

The senior legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 959) recognizing the death of John Davison ''Jay'' Rockefeller IV, former Senator for the State of West Virginia.

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

Mrs. CAPITO. I also ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble 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 resolution (S. Res. 959) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

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

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Louisiana.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, No. 1, the government is going to shut down December 11 unless we do something. What does that mean? That means that the current budget that we have through which the Federal Government operates ends December 11. Unless we pass a new budget, which is not going to happen, or we do what is called a continuing resolution, which would continue the current budget for the amount of time that we would stipulate, the government is going to shut down.

I don't want that to happen. And I think most of my Republican colleagues don't want that to happen. And in fairness, I don't think my Democratic colleagues want that to happen.

Republicans are ready to agree on an amount of time to extend the current budget so we can put together a real—a new budget.

But some of my Democratic colleagues have said they will only extend the current budget and keep the government from shutting down if we will agree to end all funding with respect to the war in Iran.

Now, that is not going to happen. That is not going to happen in your or mine—or my or our natural lifetimes, nor should it. We have still got soldiers and sailors and pilots in harm's way. We are not going to cut their money off. No one wants another Afghanistan.

I understand politics, and I understand that there are some people in America that hate the war. And I certainly think we should listen to them. But you don't do that by just cutting and running and leaving our people in harm's way.

So I am here to say: Please, my Democratic colleagues, I understand the political pressure you are under from the ''loon'' wing of your party, but please don't shut down the government.

Democrats are ready—or Republicans are ready to keep it going. Please, I beg my Democratic colleagues, don't shut down the government—because it is their decision right now.

H.R. 2347

Mr. President, No. 2, we are considering right now a permitting bill. And what am I talking about? And I just want to spend a few minutes explaining how important it is.

What am I talking about? The Federal rules and regulations with which Americans have to comply cost $3 trillion a year—not millions, not billions—$3 trillion a year. That is the cost of all of the Federal Government rules and regulations.

Now, the businesses that have to comply with those rules and regulations pay those costs. And what happens after they pay those costs? In some cases, businesses have to eat the cost of the rules and regulations. In other instances—and, in fact, in most instances—businesses pass those costs on to the American people, to the consumers.

That is not the only reason we are having inflation, but that is a big part of it. I am not saying get rid of every Federal rule and regulation. I am just saying be reasonable and understand there is no free lunch, and you don't get one now. Anything free, somebody had to work for. It is not free.

So what we are trying to do with this bill—and it has bipartisan support, Democrats and Republicans—is to make it faster and cheaper and easier to build infrastructure projects, particularly energy projects.

Let me give you an example. Suppose we wanted to build a pipeline from Texas to Louisiana. Sounds simple enough. Well, before you can even start, you have to have permits and approvals from the Federal Government. You have got to have a permit with respect to any environmental impacts, and, first, you have to study the environmental impacts. And sometimes that takes years.

You have to have a permit with respect to wetlands. You have to have a permit with respect to any endangered species. You have to have a permit with respect to historic preservation. You have to have a permit if you go across Federal lands. You have to have a permit if it involves interstate energy.

It takes forever. Time is money. And that is why these projects have become so expensive.

Now, all our bill would do, as I say, is make it faster, cheaper, and easier. Nobody is going to lose their right to ask questions. But what we are going to do is speed up those reviews that I just talked about. No longer are they going to take years. They are going to take months.

We are not taking away anybody's right to sue. If you think it is a bad project and you want to sue, have at it. But you can't take forever making a decision. And we are going to encourage that litigation to be moved forward with all deliberate speed.

And this is going to help us build natural gas pipelines, oil pipelines, electric transmission lines so you can get electricity, nuclear energy, solar farms. It is going to make it easier to build solar farms, easier to build wind farms, easier to do mining projects, easier to do hydroelectric projects, and that is all this bill is going to do.

Let me give you two very practical ramifications: No. 1, under this bill, data centers have to pay their own way. They have got to pay their own electricity bill. Period. Full stop. End of discussion.

And No. 2, if we do this right and if we pass this bill, then it will result in lower electricity prices for Americans because, in the last 6 years, the average electricity bill in America has gone up between 30 and 40 percent. Mine has. Yours has. And we need to start talking about how to make it cheaper. This bill is a start.

TRIBUTE TO REAR ADMIRAL BRIAN P. MONAHAN

Mr. President, No. 3, I want to tell you about a gentleman by the name of Brian Patrick Monahan. He is a doctor. He is absolutely brilliant. And he has been Congress' attending physician. He recently retired, and I want to recognize him today, since 2009.

What is the Office of Attending Physician? It is about 10 people, 5 of whom are doctors. They are all Navy personnel. They treat Members of Congress, certain public officials, members of the Supreme Court, people who get hurt up here on Capitol Hill in an emergency.

Dr. Monahan has been the attending—the actual attending physician, which means he has run that office since 2009. He is also a rear admiral in the U.S. Navy.

He is the former director of hematology and oncology at Walter Reed. He is a Master of the American College of Physicians. He is a member of the Academy of Medicine. He got his undergraduate degree summa cum laude from Fairfield University. He graduated from medical school magna cum laude at Georgetown University Medical School.

And I don't like to read stuff to you, but I can't explain the expertise that Dr. Monahan has in internal medicine or hematology or oncology without reading this to you. I will be brief.

In May of 2003, Dr. Monahan was presented with the 18th Annual Clinical Investigation Program Award for his project entitled ''A Pilot Study of Oxaliplatin and Capecitabine''—I am probably mispronouncing that—''in

Adult Patients with Refractory Solid Tumors.''

The 3-year project tested the effectiveness of an anti-cancer drug on 100 patients with colon cancer. And with the National Cancer Institute, Dr. Monahan served as the principal investigator on clinical trials of novel anticancer drugs and discovered the unexpected sudden death associated with the first nonsedating antihistamines like Seldane.

The man is brilliant, and he has had an incredible career. And he has been an incredible attending physician. And every single Member of the Senate and every single Member of the House knows Dr. Monahan. There has been a time when they have gone to see Dr. Monahan. I don't think he ever sleeps. He is there day and night, he and his team.

There is not a single Member of this Congress that has ever gone to him—ever not gone to him and said: Doc, we are in the middle of a bunch of votes or I have got a committee hearing or I have got to do that, you know, my stomach is upset. I think I might be catching the flu. Get me back on my feet.

And he can get you well. And that has happened with every single one of us. And he has done it with compassion, and he has done it with grace, and he has done it with sheer unadulterated talent.

Brian Monahan is not only brilliant, but he is—I wish you could all meet him. He is temperate. He doesn't get caught up in the mania of the moment. He is firm. He will tell you: You have got this. Don't fool with this. We are going to put you in the hospital or we are going to treat you with this or you have got to go home and rest. But he does it with care, and he does it—he has this calming effect. And he has served so well.

Now, Dr. Monahan has stepped down—stepped down—I don't know, a week or so ago. And there have been some things written in the paper about him, really on the internet, that aren't true.

And the people who wrote that stuff ought to be really glad when they hit their knees tonight. If they believe in God, they better thank their God, those who wrote this trash—they better thank their God that they don't live in the United Kingdom under their libel laws because under the United Kingdom libel laws, they would all be in serious trouble.

Our libel laws and slander laws in America are much more generous, sometimes too generous, in my judgment. But there has just been a lot of foolishness, a lot of lies, a lot of trash written about Dr. Monahan, and it is not true.

Now, here is what happened, and here is why I think Brian decided to retire. He hasn't told me this, and if I am wrong, I apologize. This is one person's point of view. All of the people who work in the Office of Attending Physician are naval officers, are members of the Navy.

Dr. Monahan himself is a rear admiral. The Navy is part of the executive branch. Congress is part of the legislative branch. The Office of Attending Physician is in the legislative branch. The Navy decided, whoever over there, powers that be—I am not saying they didn't have the right—they wanted to do an investigation of the Office of Attending Physician. The lawyers—some lawyers in the House and some lawyers in the Senate—said basically to the Navy: Like hell you are. We are a separate branch of government. You have no jurisdiction.

And the Navy said: We are the Navy, and the people working in your branch of government in the Office of Attending Physician are members of the Navy. And we said—and our lawyers, apparently. I learned about this all after the fact. I wish I had known about it earlier. Our lawyers apparently said no, and they instructed Dr. Monahan: Don't talk to the investigators.

Well, what the hell is he supposed to do? What is he supposed to do? He had to sit there, and there were some complaints from some people who worked in the Office of the Attending Physician. I don't know if they were right or they were wrong. But they said ''Dr. Monahan is working us too hard—or whoever is in charge of personnel, ''They are working us too hard.'' Maybe that was true. Maybe it wasn't. I am not minimizing complaints because I don't know. But Dr. Monahan couldn't explain, so he said ''To hell with it—I am retiring.''

He wouldn't say this, but he has enough self-awareness to know that he is brilliant. He is absolutely brilliant. I mean, his resume is as long as King Kong's arm, and he doesn't have to do this, so he retired. And I regret the circumstances. And shame on all the people that didn't work this out. I wish he was still there. And shame on the people that wrote these lies about him on the internet because none of it is true, and it is not right to tarnish or try to tarnish the reputation of an honorable man. He just got caught in a fight between the executive branch and the legislative branch, and it wasn't fair. And I don't know why bad things happen to good people. If I make it to Heaven, I am going to ask.

But I don't want to end on a negative note. I am so grateful to Dr. Brian Patrick Monahan for his many years of service as our Attending Physician. I think he is the longest serving Attending Physician that we have ever had. I am going to miss him, and all Members of Congress are going to miss him. And I want to thank him—thank him—for his many, many years of service.

For all those people that wrote lies about him on the internet, you know, God is going to punish you someday. You don't treat people like this—not for clicks, not for anything.

So that is all I have to say.

Happy trails to you.

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.

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

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 4591

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, every American has an article I, section 8, clause 8 constitutional right to benefit from their creative works. We know this applies to every innovator that we have in this country.

Our Founding Fathers understood that intellectual property rights are the foundation of our economic vitality, the entrepreneurial spirit, and unparalleled prosperity. Yet for millions of Americans—people that are innovators, creators, musicians, songwriters, artists, writers, and more—these fundamental rights are in jeopardy. With the click of a button, bad actors can create unauthorized replicas of their work, undermining their IP rights while jeopardizing their livelihoods.

Now, Congress can and must address this issue. That is why I have come to the floor today to seek unanimous consent to pass my and Senator COONS' bipartisan legislation, the NO FAKES Act.

The NO FAKES Act provides a landmark Federal protection for the voice and visual likenesses of creators and all Americans from the proliferation of harmful AI-generated deepfakes that are created without their consent. From artists and songwriters to students and everyday citizens, our Nation deserves meaningful protections against these harmful deepfakes.

Our bill would establish clear guardrails that protect our innovators and creators not only in Tennessee but across the entire country. In addition to establishing a Federal intellectual property right in every American's voice and visual likeness, we also provide for a clear notice-and-takedown framework as well as safe harbor provisions for companies that comply.

These provisions ensure that when a platform receives proper notice of a deepfake, that platform must promptly remove or disable access to that harmful content. If they promptly remove the content, they won't face liability under the bill.

When I called for unanimous consent for this legislation in September, one of my colleagues objected that the legislation lacked protections for free speech. That is absolutely not true. We have included explicit First Amendment protections in the bill. For example, we have excluded commentary, criticism, scholarship, satire, and parody content from being removed, as well as news and sports broadcast material.

This legislation would protect artists while safeguarding creative uses for AI, which is why it has received endorsement from a wide range of stakeholders, including record labels, streaming platforms, AI companies, and musical artists.

Every American has a right to protect their name, their image, their likeness, their voice; and the NO FAKES Act would empower them. It would protect that right.

Mr. President, therefore, notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 446, S. 4591; further, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, Senator BLACKBURN and Senator COONS are trying to solve an important problem, which is protecting people's likeness from being misappropriated using AI. I agree this is a topic that Congress should be legislating on, and we need additional protections.

However, as I have noted previously, the bill, as currently drafted, raises serious First Amendment concerns. It has the potential of creating liability for legitimate satire and legitimate political speech.

For example, in the L.A. mayor's race, we saw Spencer Pratt do a series of videos online that were, quite frankly, hysterical and that were clearly protected First Amendment speech. We have seen California Democrats argue that those videos should be blocked under a law similar to this.

Now, I doubt anybody watching those videos believed that Los Angeles mayor Karen Bass was actually the Joker from ''Batman,'' although Spencer Pratt memorably portrayed her as the Joker from ''Batman.''

And I had made clear to both Senator BLACKBURN and Senator COONS that I am happy to work with them on enhancing the free speech protections in this bill so that we can protect legitimate commercial interests, prevent people from having their voice expropriated, and also prevent against fraud and deception, but we must do so in a way that does not stifle free speech. This bill does not currently do so, and so I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I will note for the Senator that, just as we came to the floor, his staff finally sent some redlines to us. This is something we have waited on for over 6 weeks now, and prior to that, we had waited even longer. So we appreciate that they did that. Maybe this will kick them into gear to resolve this issue.

And I want to be clear. The NO FAKES Act does not chill free speech. It does not chill the First Amendment. My team and I have worked on this. We have had advice from First Amendment legal experts in drafting the bill. We have worked closely to make certain free speech is going to be protected.

Now, Tennessee already has a protection against this. It is called the ELVIS Act, and it provides those protections against misappropriation of a person's name, image, likeness, voice. And those statutes have been upheld. They do not infringe on free speech.

In addition, the stated goal of our bill is for courts to make decisions regarding First Amendment jurisprudence and not the platforms—not the platforms. The platforms are not the arbiters for making First Amendment decisions. This is particularly helpful in preventing censorship of conservative speech online.

The bill contains broad exceptions for entire categories of speech, including bona fide news, public affairs, and sports broadcasts; documentaries and biopics; commentary—including political commentary—criticism, scholarship, satire, and parody. Those protections are written into the bill.

What it goes after is impersonation, which is a crime. In the physical world, it is a crime. My colleague would not be able to impersonate an individual in order to defraud, to deceive, to commit fraud, or to commit personal harm. You cannot do that.

So this is dealing with that crime. It allows for funny parody, as he has referenced. It allows for that mimicking, that satire. What it does do is to protect an individual with their name, their image, their likeness, who they are, their voice.

And we have one case on this, and it is the Zacchini v. Scripps case. And we know that this legislation protects more than the First Amendment would and more than what is laid out in that Supreme Court case.

Further, if somebody believes that their content was removed under the bill and that it was protected speech, they can submit a counternotice, triggering judicial review within 14 days if the victim wants the material to stay down. Otherwise, the content would go back up. This ensures that any protected speech that is removed based on a notice stays down for a very short time, while preventing platforms from engaging in censorship. We have already addressed that issue in this bill.

Now, we want to make certain that it is clear to all of our colleagues and certainly to the Senator that is objecting that we are open to finding a way to work with changes. But they have got to come forward to us. We have offered different provisions, such as ''any applicable digital replica that constitutes speech or expression protected by the First Amendment''—what they considered clarifying language. But we have been told that that edit was insufficient, and I am looking forward to reviewing the redlines that just came as we were here on the floor and seeing if we can work through this.

We have to realize it is an individual's constitutional, article I, section 8, clause 8 right to benefit from their ideas, to benefit from their creation, to own that. That is their property. And in this digital age, with these utilizations of AI, we have too many of our Nation's innovators, whether they are singers or songwriters or preachers or online teachers—they are having their right to benefit taken away from them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

STOP INSIDER TRADING ACT

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. President, I ran for public office. I ran for the U.S. Senate because I wanted to do hard but important things. Oftentimes, that means casting votes that I know are apt to be understood by constituents, by fellow conservatives, people I love and respect and whose values I share. To me, that is often the essence of public leadership.

But, from time to time, there are issues that emerge that require immediate attention, immediate action, and they, by happenstance, are issues in which our convictions align with public sentiment in which the common good is reflected in common sense.

So I stand before this body today and all who may be watching these proceedings to discuss such an issue. It is time that this Chamber speaks with a unified voice, and in very short order, about the issue of insider trading, trading of stocks by Members of Congress and immediate members of their family.

Alexander Hamilton is the man who helped build America's financial system. He helped design our form of government. He described corruption and intrigue as the most deadly adversaries of republican government. Every practical obstacle, he wrote, should be placed in their way.

James Madison, the author of our Constitution, famously observed:

> If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary.

The Framers understood that corruption, even the appearance of it, leads to cynicism, and it erodes trust and public confidence in our representative government.

Our forefathers didn't rely on the hope, the prayer, that politicians would resist temptation. Politicians are human. They are susceptible to temptation.

And I know my colleagues run for public office. They stand here in this body. They toil in their States and in their congressional offices because they want to do the right thing, but, nonetheless, politicians, like all humans, are susceptible to temptation. And so our forefathers built institutional guardrails that prevent public

duty from, in any way, providing private gain.

And they wrote the Constitution with a deep humility about government and a clear-eyed understanding of human flaws. They were students of history, of previously failed experiments in government, particularly democratic government. They also had the humility to know that while the nature of man does not change, the world would. And so they gave future Congresses the ability to pass laws, laws that protect the public trust as new industries and new temptations emerge.

This Congress is called by the American people to pass such a law today. Now, the midterm elections made it perfectly clear. If any of my colleagues watching this are not yet convinced when it comes to potential self-enrichments, Americans—regardless of their party—have little faith in government. They have little faith, in particular, in government officials abiding by an honor system. You see a broad majority of voters from both parties voted against perceived government corruption earlier this month. According to one poll, 90 percent of Americans indicated that corruption was a motivating factor for how they cast their ballot.

If there is even a perception—a perception—that officials are double dealing, already declining levels of trust, we know, will continue to plummet. It is hard to believe they could go further to the south, but that is indeed possible. That is, in fact, what will happen if we fail to act, especially as support for this measure has grown.

The project of restoring confidence in Washington is a long-term endeavor, I know. But we don't need to do it all at once. There is a small step we can take—we should take—to begin this work. We should pass the Stop Insider Trading Act.

Messrs. Hamilton and Madison were most concerned about public officials trading or using public actions for personal gain or the influence of foreign powers through bribes and titles.

Today, Congress wields regulatory power over the world's largest economy. Lawmakers write and pass bills that significantly impact the market. And we all sit on committees of jurisdiction that oversee entire sectors of America's economy. We regularly have access to briefings and updates that provide nonpublic market information. And there is little to prohibit Members of Congress from using such privileged information, such privileged positions, of public trust to guide their personal selection of stocks.

In fact, in the last two decades, Members have made trades conspicuously timed around market-moving events, events shaped by information they had access to or legislation they helped advance. Roughly 200 Members of Congress own shares in publicly traded companies. They sit on committees that craft policy for and conduct oversight on the very industries in which they invest.

Again, most are good, ethical people. They came to Washington for the right reasons. Many came to Washington with substantial assets. But representative government runs on public confidence. Even the slightest opportunity for lawmakers to profit from their office—or the perception that the system allows it—significantly erodes trust, and it alienates the public. It is a cynicism that is, I think, entirely justified, having been here long enough to take it all in, so to speak.

Since 2021, the cost of groceries, gas, housing, everyday essentials has risen. Inflation has caused many American families to stretch their savings thin. I hear from these Hoosiers every day. I fight for these Hoosiers. Then they look at the Capitol. They look at the Capitol, and they see people elected to represent their interests potentially engaging in insider trading; people insulated from the pain of high prices for essential goods.

This is a double standard, and Americans are right to be angered by it. So we need to respond to these concerns, especially in the wake of this election. We need to pass the Stop Insider Trading Act today. Let's pass this bill to end double dealing and ban Members of Congress, their spouses, their dependent children from purchasing individual stocks.

Let's look again at the numbers. Banning Members of Congress from trading stocks is incredibly popular. So I tell my colleagues not only is this an important step we can take to restore a measure of public trust, it is a popular step. It can feel good. In fact, nationally, we see 86 percent of our constituents favoring a ban on Members of Congress from trading stock using insider information. Among Republicans, the number is 87 percent; Democrats, 88 percent; Independents, 81 percent. That is, I think, profoundly persuasive on a moral level, on a civic level, and from a political level.

Over two centuries ago, we saw Hamilton, Madison, and their Founding colleagues recognize that corruption was among the greatest dangers to republican government as it is today. They designed a government that drew a line between personal gain and public office, and they charged us—they charged us—and all future generations with the task of ensuring that it remained in place. So let's honor their wisdom, let's keep their charge, and let's answer the demands of the voters and pass the Stop Insider Trading Act. It is an important first step we can take to restoring trust in the institution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

H.R. 2347

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, we need to turn off the tap on Big Oil. Right now, the Senate is considering a permitting bill. It is called the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act, or BAAJA. Under this bill, fossil fuel companies are making a killing while killing our planet with fossil fuel gases, carbon dioxide, and methane.

Now this legislation is being promoted as making it easier for our Nation to permit energy infrastructure projects, especially that focus on electrical transmission lines and fossil gas, natural gas pipelines. And we do need electrical transmission lines to get renewable energy from where it is most easily created by sunshine or by wind or by geothermal onto the places where it is needed.

But this bill is far less about that than it is about doubling down on expensive, dirty fossil fuels and locking them in for decades to come. Kind of picture a faucet, and you have got cold water and hot water. In this case, we are looking at the renewable energy and the fossil energy.

This bill might or might not increase the faucet for renewable energy. There are good reasons that it will have little impact. But it absolutely opens the faucet for natural gas wide open, and that is a problem.

It was not that long ago that we were recognizing that the buildup of carbon and methane in our atmosphere was causing major problems—more powerful storms, more floods, more fires, temperatures in the ocean and in our rivers that were problematic for our fish, for our sea life.

And that was when the carbon dioxide levels were going up by about one part per million per year. And then not so long after, they were going up by two parts per million per year. And then during the time I have been here at the Senate, they have exceeded three parts per million per year.

In other words, we have talked about the problems that releasing all of this carbon dioxide and methane are creating, and then we have absolutely failed to address it.

And here is a bill before us that might help some renewable electrons get to where they are needed, but what it really does is turn the faucet wide open on more fossil electrons—and that is not in the interest of anyone.

So one of the challenges as to why the faucet for renewable electrons may not increase so much—or maybe not at all—is because there is no guarantee that renewable energy projects will go forward under this bill. President Trump said so himself.

On October 22, he said imports of wind turbines and their components were ''a threat to national security.'' And he said that to try to trigger—well, it would trigger—provisions that would allow him to put tariffs on wind turbine components to prevent them from being brought to the United States.

And then he said on November 9, just a couple days ago:

I will not approve wind turbines because wind turbines are a major loser.

So here we have a bill that says: Well, maybe it will help us do some more renewable energy. But we have a President saying: No, it won't.

And we have a chief of staff of the President who is so excited. He says this is his single top priority. And why? Because he is rewarding the fossil fuel community. The President said he wanted their money to get elected, and they are just tied together like Siamese twins.

In the past, the President has blocked dozens of wind project approvals; he has canceled grants for transmission lines; he has held up routine improvements like repowering wind turbines, including two projects in my home State. Why would you not want to put a more efficient motor on an existing wind turbine after the wind turbine has been up there for 15 years?

So the bill does not open the faucet for renewable electrons, but it certainly puts the faucet wide open on fossil fuel electrons. That has a massive consequence for our communities, our country, our climate.

Let's look at some of the issues here: First, it makes it a lot easier to build data centers.

Did anybody notice data centers were a big issue in this most recent election? Here we come, right after the election, and we are going to pass a bill that makes it easier to do data centers by striking down tools that States have when they decide they do not want to have a data center because it threatens key clean air or clean water issues.

Last Monday, the New York Times noted:

> The largest data centers in the United States are responsible for an estimated [25.6] million metric tons [MMT] of carbon dioxide [emissions] annually—almost as much as entire countries like Bolivia or Denmark.

So the data centers, they are a massive producer of climate gases.

Now, how does this bill actually do that? First, it creates an expedited process for permits for data centers.

A second problem is, it creates a blanket exemption for gas pipelines in an existing right-of-way.

So there would be no meaningful environmental review under the NEPA—the National Environmental Policy Act—no review of the impacts on wildlife under the Endangered Species Act.

So, in addition, together, this bill—the expedited permits and the blanket exemptions—would help data centers be powered by behind-the-meter natural gas.

What does ''behind-the-meter'' mean? It means it creates a huge incentive for the data centers to run a gas pipeline—which now is easily run because there are no barriers to expanding existing pipelines or establishing new ones—and then run generators in order to find the electrons so they are not even going to be transmitted over the grid.

''Behind-the-meter''—it is a term of art for when fossil gas is provided directly to the site to generate power so it is never metered on the grid. And that means data centers would burn massive amounts of fossil fuels without ever being connected to renewables.

A third problem is that there is a 5-to-7-year wait for combined cycled gas turbines, the more efficient version of using natural gas to create electrons. That means these companies are exploring extreme measures to produce those electrons with natural gas, even converting old jet engines.

Engines are only two-thirds as efficient as combined cycle gas plants, so they pollute a lot more per electron produced.

What this bill does is help Trump define those generators as nonstationary sources, thereby exempting them from the air pollution limits under the Clean Air Act. That is in this bill.

The bill then locks in the permits. It locks in the permits that Trump approves in this fashion: It allows the data centers to install these gas turbines without public notice, without public engagement, without reviewing local air quality impacts, without considering cleaner alternatives, and it weakens Clean Water Act protections.

This creates several problems as well. The first problem is, it undermines section 401 of the Clean Water Act, which requires State or Tribal certification if a project produces a discharge into the waters of the United States. That is a critical step in the process, whereby States can give a thumbs-up to a project because States want to defend their clean water.

But this bill restricts the ability of States to protect clean water. It severely limits the conditions that States and Tribes can put on these projects to protect their waterways.

The State cannot bring forward the problem that a project will reduce the instream flow and therefore affect—well, damage the quality for fish and wildlife. They can't ensure—States can't ensure that erosion or sediment do not destroy ecosystems.

States cannot, under this prohibition, make sure that work is not done during sensitive times of the year—like when fish are spawning.

Another big problem in this bill is it makes it almost impossible for States or Tribes to marshal enough proof of environmental harms to deny certification. And certification is that step in the process where States say: OK, this will work. This is OK.

It would rewrite the statute to restrict States and Tribes from considering a project's downstream effects on water quality, such as how it might affect an ecosystem or even a neighboring State.

It also undermines section 404 of the Clean Water Act, making it easier for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue dredge-and-fill permits. In fact, it increases by a factor of six things that are just universally exempted from review when it comes to dredging.

So if you can envision folks kind of running a shovel through a stream—and before, if that exceeded one-third of an acre, you had to get a permit but now can be six times that area. So we are going to see a lot more projects, including hyperscaled data centers or oil and gas pipelines devastating wetlands and waterways.

Here is another problem: The bill doubles down on the Trump administration's efforts to allow the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to issue a new nationwide general permit for data centers, and it codifies the ones in place for oil and oil pipelines.

General permits are intended for very low-impact, noncontroversial activities—like maybe envision a boat ramp, not a data center, not a pipeline.

A nationwide general permit would mean corporations could build data centers without any public comment and without site-specific analysis of impact or harm.

These are dramatic changes—dramatic changes—in a bill that has never had a single hearing, that has so many impacts on our society.

Is that really what democracy is all about, Mr. Chair? Mr. Presiding President? Is that what it is about? Like, a bill comes in here that has never had a hearing; has all of these impacts; over 400 pages; big, complicated issues; has an impact on Tribes, on the ecosystems, on the massive increase in climate- and planet-damaging climate gases, and it never gets a hearing?

Mr. President, do you consider that as acceptable? I know you are not allowed to answer because you are in the Chair.

But I am really asking it of this entire Chamber: Is this really the democratic process in the United States of America?

Didn't the Nation just weigh in for transparency? They don't like these bills written outside the public's eye, written by the fossil lobbyists on behalf of these gas pipelines with massive impacts on existing environmental law.

And then it never even has a hearing so no stakeholder can come forward and say: Well, there is a little problem here we should consider.

Here is another problem: This bill doesn't just apply to data centers, but it also applies to construction and expansion of ICE facilities like the one they tried to build in Newport, OR, by gutting required environmental reviews under the National Environmental Policy Act.

And it paves the path for Trump's vanity projects. If you have concern that the East Wing of the White House—the ''People's House''—was torn down, and the President is putting up a massive gold-plated ballroom boondoggle that we never gave authorization to, and perhaps the only restriction was the fact that it didn't have an environmental review or a review under the National Historic Preservation Act, but we are going to strike down those things and say that a President can do things that have never been authorized or we have never appropriated money for them?

How about his sniper nest memorial arch that he wants to desecrate the Arlington Cemetery with? The factor that

the courts are considering right now is the role of the Environmental Policy Act and whether it has been followed.

When we strike down the NEPA, we are basically saying to hell with any environmental considerations on the air, on the water, no review.

And this bill goes further. It can make it all but impossible to enforce future environmental protections because this bill contains something called forever permits, and it works like this. The President says: Submit your permits now for whatever dream you have to someday do in the future. I will approve them.

Envision the Arctic. Every oil and gas company saying it wants every possible permit or every possible place to desecrate the entire wildlife refuge. ''Get your permits in now. I will approve them.'' And then no future changes to protect air or water will apply.

Well, that is a forever permit, and it is backed up by a so-called certainty provision, which means that any effort to actually apply the environmental regulations that might be crafted in the future to those projects, you have to do a massive buyout that makes it economically impossible. So that is a complete contravention of anything remotely resembling a democratic process—certainty provisions, forever permits; restricts the government's ability to spend, to cancel, to revoke, to modify those permits that are issued now, even far into the future, even if we find big problems down the road.

Ten years ago in 2017, during his first term, President Trump signed a reconciliation bill that opened up the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil and gas drilling. This bill would fast-track those fossil fuel projects and lock in those drilling leases, creating massive problems for areas that a tremendous number of Americans care a great deal about.

You would destroy irreplaceable ecosystems and disrupt countless species, from polar bears to caribou.

But the damage isn't just confined to drilling sites; there is another problem. The extracted crude oil and fossil gas would be transported through massive pipelines, stretching from the Arctic to export terminals, to be shipped around the world. Those pipelines themselves have a big impact that doesn't get reviewed because of this bill. The permits get locked in despite future concerns about impact because of this bill. And then those terminals get easily built because of this bill. And it gets shipped around the world and burned.

The estimates of the carbon impact that came and that several people here have relied on to say, ''Well, it is not so bad''—they don't count the fossil gas incentives for what is going to be burned at data centers; they don't count the impact of what is going to be shipped overseas. Yet it doesn't matter where you burn it. It is kind of like being on an airplane and saying, ''Hey, you can't smoke in this seat, but the people in the adjacent seat can smoke. But you are protected because you can't smoke in the seat you are sitting in.'' And you go, ''Well, smoke is in the cabin here. I can't avoid breathing it.'' Well, it is the same thing with carbon dioxide and methane.

Ignoring the impact of massive shipments of carbon overseas, of fossil gas overseas through LNG—ignoring that is just deliberate ignorance about the impact of this bill.

This bill threatens Tribal cultural resources. Our government has a shameful history of trampling Tribal rights, and yet this bill repeats the mistakes of the past. It would fundamentally change the section 106 review process of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires the Federal Government to engage Tribes in early, meaningful consultation on projects that affect historic properties.

Another problem: It redefines what is considered an ''undertaking,'' narrowing which projects even qualify for Tribal input in the first place, and then it narrows the harms that are counted as ''adverse affects'' to exclude a whole list of impacts. You can't even consider those visual, atmospheric, audible impacts.

You know, a data center is a very noisy place, especially when powered by very noisy generators. Well, no impact. It produces a lot of pollution. Well, too bad—atmospheric impacts can't be considered.

So those are a lot of concerns in the context of this bill, but it does even more—even more. It provides extreme deference to Federal Agencies, including permission to determine unilaterally whether a project affects historic properties. So you are basically saying a Federal Government that is inclined to say, ''No, it doesn't affect them. They assert it, but we don't agree. Too bad''—that is a complete run over the top of the idea of early and thoughtful consultation with sovereign Tribes. It strips Tribes of any input on their own cultural resources.

As I mentioned, this bill has never had a hearing. Don't you think it should have a hearing when it has profound impacts on climate, profound impacts on the pollution of our waterways, profound impact on pollution of our air, profound impact on Tribal sovereignty and input into the process, a big impact on States' rights? That is a whole lot of stuff going on.

Did you know that it even says that if a court finds that the NEPA law has been violated, they can't issue an injunction. In other words, they can't enforce the law. What the hell? Are you kidding me? A court finds that the law has been violated but can't issue an injunction under this bill; therefore, the court is irrelevant, and the violation of the law continues. Where is that consistent? How is that consistent with a nation of laws? The law is there, but it is not meaningful. You go to the court, and the court finds that, yes, you are right, but they can't issue a cease and desist order, called an injunction, while the issue is appealed. So while it is being appealed, the project continues, and the interests of the party that brought the case are completely run over the top.

These are the things that are hidden in this multihundreds of pages bill. It is a wish list straight out of the fossil fuel world.

This bill has a tragic parallel to 2015. In December 2015, as part of the 2016 Consolidated Appropriations Act, there was a negotiation going on over incentives to assist—kind of spark the building of renewable energy, so some tax credits for a couple years for wind and for solar. But the other piece of it was allowing the export of American oil. Well, that was estimated by the so-called analyses to not be much of an impact—well, we won't be exporting that much—but, of course, it increased massively.

I mean, take a look at this. This is when the negotiation occurred in 2015 over exports. Here we are in 2024, 2025—from here to here. Oh, I guess not going to have much of an impact. A couple years of tax credits to help jump-start renewable energy and a massive increase in carbon.

This bill is parallel to that. It doesn't guarantee the faucet gets turned on much for renewables, if at all, but it absolutely guarantees a massive increase in fossil pollution.

So anyone who actually cares about the generations to come would say: Wait, this is a serious thing. We have to really examine the details of this bill, not rush it through this Chamber.

This is the 2015 damage done to global climate. We are about to do a 2026 damage to global climate. Shouldn't we learn from mistakes of the past and actually have hearings?

You know, I was in Paris during that negotiation, and there were little huddles about that deal. It didn't get examined then either. Now we are doing this much more comprehensive deal with many more impacts in many more areas without a hearing, without the opportunity for stakeholders to present their concerns. That is no way to run a legislative process in a democratic republic. That is what you do in an authoritarian state.

This bill needs to have the opportunity for stakeholders to share their concerns. It is complicated. Environmental law is complicated. The review process for projects is complicated. The impact on climate, on Tribal rights, on clean water, on States' rights—there is a lot going on here.

So I encourage my colleagues to say: Let's slow down. Let's actually act like we understand what it is to be a democracy and have hearings about this mega bill and its mega impacts. Then we can wrestle with how to find the right balance so that the underlying initial goal, which was to help get transmission lines for electrons built faster, is something we can accomplish.

We can't accomplish it through this amendment process. This amendment

process is bogus as hell. We haven't seen any amendments considered, and any that are considered, the majority party is saying they have to be at 60 votes to make sure we can defeat them even if they are germane to the bill, and if we can't defeat them at 60 votes, we won't let them be voted on in the first place.

So it is all pretense. This is ramming through in an authoritarian fashion a bill that has major consequences with not a single hearing in the House and not a single hearing here in the Senate. That is wrong. These big policy issues merit careful consideration.

I encourage my colleagues to say: Unless there is a real amendment process where these issues can be considered after we have had real hearings where the issues can be fully vetted, then vote no.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING ED BOLEN

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ed Bolen, a distinguished aviation leader and proud Kansan whose decades of service helped shape the future of our Nation's aviation industry.

Born and raised in Salina, KS, Bolen developed a lifelong passion for aviation at an early age. His father, who served on the board of the Salina Regional Airport, introduced him to flying. Bolen earned a degree in economics from the University of Kansas, a law degree from Tulane University, and a master of laws degree from Georgetown University Law Center. Early in his career, he served as legislative director for U.S. Senator Nancy Kassebaum, playing an instrumental role in securing passage of the General Aviation Revitalization Act of 1994.

For more than three decades, Bolen dedicated himself to advancing American aviation. He joined the General Aviation Manufacturers Association in 1995 and became its president and CEO in 1996. In 2004, he assumed the same role at the National Business Aviation Association, where he served for 22 years. Under his leadership, NBAA became a leading voice for business aviation, advocating for aviation safety, airport and airspace access, air traffic control modernization, and workforce development. He also championed sustainable aviation fuel and worked to protect the Nation's air traffic control system from privatization.

Beyond his leadership in the aviation industry, Bolen served our Nation through several public appointments. He was nominated by President Clinton and confirmed by the Senate to serve on the Federal Aviation Administration's Management Advisory Council, which he chaired from 2000 to 2004. President George W. Bush later appointed him to the Commission on the Future of the U.S. Aerospace Industry.

Yet Bolen's legacy extended far beyond his professional accomplishments. Known throughout the aviation community for his kindness and humility, he left a lasting impression on those he met. His dedication to aviation and to Kansas was recognized just one day before his passing, when he was inducted into the Kansas Aviation Hall of Fame.

Though Ed Bolen will be greatly missed, his legacy will endure through the countless individuals he mentored and his many contributions to American aviation. He is survived by his wife Beth and their two sons Jack and Robert.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the life and legacy of Ed Bolen and in expressing our gratitude for his profound impact on Kansas and American aviation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING IOWA U.S. PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS FOR 2026

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, it is my privilege to recognize three outstanding students from Iowa who have been named U.S. Presidential Scholars for 2026: Christopher Kenneth Gebhardt of Guttenberg, a student at Clayton Ridge High School; Jackson Wallace Andrew Lampe of Dubuque, a student at Wahlert High School; and Vienna B. Rossmnanith of Ames, a student at Ames High School.

The U.S. Presidential Scholars Program was established to recognize and honor some of our Nation's most distinguished graduating high school seniors. This prestigious honor recognizes students for their exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and contributions to their communities.

I am proud to see these students from across our State recognized for their impressive accomplishments. Their achievements reflect the outstanding educational opportunities available in Iowa, the support and commitment of their families and teachers, and the promise of Iowa's next generation of leaders.

I congratulate Christopher, Jackson, and Vienna on receiving this well-deserved honor. I am confident they will continue to make their home towns, schools, and families proud, and I look forward to following their accomplishments in the years to come.●

RECOGNIZING OLSON IRON WORKS

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, I am pleased to recognize Olson Iron Works of Greene, County, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Shane Olson's passion for building inspired him to open Olson Iron Works. Shane discovered a love for hands-on work at a young age when he learned how to weld from his father and shop teacher. At the age of 17, Shane enlisted in the Marine Corps, where he continued building his skills by working on AV–8B Harriers, lifted trucks, and different types of gas, diesel, and turbine-powered equipment. After leaving the Marines, Shane returned to Iowa where his wife Alisa suggested that he turn his passion into a small business. In 2012, Shane bought and remodeled an old barn and started Olson Iron Works as a part-time venture. During the day, Shane helped build and repair equipment for local farmers. At night, Shane worked full-time at a factory, where he continued to strengthen his welding skills by repairing machines. Shane decided he wanted to do more for his country, which led him to join the Iowa Air National Guard as a firefighter. There, he was able to put his welding and fabricating skills to use by developing protective equipment during his deployments. Shane continued serving as a firefighter for 20 years and worked in the shop on his days off. Eventually, Shane shifted his focus to Olson Iron Works, making it his full-time job in 2018.

What began as a small operation in a tiny barn has grown into a 14,000-square-foot shop with a team of four employees including Shane's wife, Alisa, who handles logistical matters like financing and contracting for the shop.

Shane also continues what he considers his ''artistic'' roots by crafting ornamental garden pieces out of metal. Whether it is a monogram, firepit, basketball hoop, or a custom item, Shane and his team ensure that their customers receive the highest quality products. That quality keeps customers coming back, as 80 percent of Olson Iron Works' customers are repeat buyers.

In addition to running a small business, Shane remains an active member of the veteran community. Olson Iron Works regularly makes and donates metal flags honoring deceased veterans and fallen first responders in the area. Additionally, Shane is a lifetime member of the American Legion and VFW, where he often volunteers with the Legion's post in Churdan, IA, and the VFW post in Jefferson. Furthermore, Shane has previously served on the Greene County Conservation Board and Greene County Veterans Affairs Commission. Today, Shane is also a member of his local school board. Through these acts of service, Shane has demonstrated that he cares deeply for his fellow Iowans and the veteran community.

I am pleased to recognize Shane and the employees of Olson Iron Works for their commitment to serving Greene County. I look forward to their continued success and wish them the very best in the years ahead.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

At 2:35 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 4930. An act to expand the sharing of information with respect to suspected violations of intellectual property rights in trade.

H.R. 8552. An act to increase, effective as of December 1, 2026, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRIVILEGED NOMINATION REFERRED TO COMMITTEE

On request by Senator ROGER F. WICKER, under the authority of S. Res. 116, 112th Congress, the following nomination was referred to the Committee on Armed Services: Arthur Miller, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy, vice R. Russell Rumbaugh.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–5238. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Review of the Commission's Broadcast and Cable Equal Employment Opportunity Rules and Policies; Delete, Delete, Delete'' ((DA 26–1058)(MB Docket No. 26–1058)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5239. A communication from the Legal and Policy Advisor, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modernizing the Commission's National Environmental Policy Act Rules, Report and Order'' ((FCC 26–64)(WT Docket No. 25–217)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5240. A communication from the Branch Chief of Coastal and Marine Resources, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Marine Mammals; Incidental Take of Polar Bears and Pacific Walruses in the Beaufort Sea and North Slope of Alaska'' (RIN1018–BI93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5241. A communication from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Television Broadcast Stations, Elko, Nevada'' (DA 26–1125) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5242. A communication from the Chairman of the Surface Transportation Board, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fees for Services Performed in Connection with Licensing and Related Services-2026 Update'' (Docket No. EP 542 (Sub-No. 34)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5243. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Eliminating Obsolete Regulations Related to the 911 Grant Program'' (RIN0660–AA40; RIN2127–AN06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5244. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Streamlining the Regulations Governing Testimony by Employees and the Production of Documents in Legal Proceedings'' (RIN0660–AA93) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 2, 2026; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC–5245. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Obsolete Portion of Regulation Relating to Care and Treatment of Ineligible Individuals'' (RIN0917–AA14) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 15, 2026; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–5246. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Removal of Obsolete/Suspended Regulations'' (RIN0917–AA13) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 15, 2026; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–5247. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Office of the Secretary, Health and Human Services, transmitting, a report entitled ''Annual Report To the Congress of the United States On Sanitation Deficiency Levels for Indian Homes and Communities for Fiscal Year 2025''; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC–5248. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on five related personnel management demonstration projects at the United States Department of the Navy; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5249. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, transmitting the report of two officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC–5250. A communication from the Division Director, Rural Housing Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Single Family Housing Guaranteed Loan Program-Limited Party Concessions'' (RIN0575–AD47) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 12, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5251. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Utah; Update to Materials Incorporated by Reference'' (FRL No. 11727–01–R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5252. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modification of Significant New Use Rules of Certain Chemical Substances (23–1.M)'' (FRL No. 12967–02–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5253. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Isocycloseram; Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemption'' (FRL No. 13569–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5254. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Ethephon; Pesticide Tolerances'' (FRL No. 13588–01–OCSPP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2026; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–5255. A communication from the Acting Branch Chief of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Nevada: Codification and Incorporation by Reference of Approved Underground Storage Tank Program'' (FRL No. 12910–02–R9) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 22, 2026; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–5256. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Heightened Requirements for Foreign Importers of Record'' (RIN1685–AA48) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5257. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Amendments to the 'Small Business' and 'Small Organization' Definitions for Investment Companies and Investment Advisers for Purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act'' (RIN3235–AN39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2026; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC–5258. A communication from the Board Members of the Railroad Retirement Board,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's fiscal year 2026 Annual Report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5259. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Prohibiting Illegal Discrimination in Registered Apprenticeship Programs'' (RIN1205–AC21) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5260. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Rules of Practice and Procedure for Administrative Hearings Before the Office of Administrative Law Judges'' (RIN1290–AA36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5261. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Postsecondary Education, Department of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Accreditation, Innovation, and Modernization: The Secretary's Recognition of Accrediting Agencies; Institutional Eligibility Under the Higher Education Act of 1965, as Amended; Student Assistance General Provisions'' (RIN1840–AD82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2026; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC–5262. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Telework in the Federal Government Report to Congress-Fiscal Year 2025''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5263. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26–452, ''Broadband Price Transparency Regulation Temporary Amendment Act of 2026''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5264. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26–459, ''Cybersecurity and Accountability Amendment Act of 2026''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5265. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26–461, ''Duke District BID Grantmaking Temporary Amendment Act of 2026''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5266. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26–459, ''Strategic Parking Enforcement Enhancement Amendment Act of 2026''; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC–5267. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Calendar Year 2027 Home Health Prospective Payment System (HH PPS) Rate Update; Requirements for the HH Quality Reporting Program and the Expanded HH Value-Based Purchasing Model; Medicare Provider Enrollment, Durable Medical Equipment (DME), and DME, Prosthetics, Orthotics, and Supplies (DMEPOS) Policies'' (RIN0938–AV80) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5268. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Medicare Program: Hospital Outpatient Prospective Payment and Ambulatory Surgical Center Payment Systems; and Quality Reporting Programs; including the Hospital Outpatient Quality Reporting Program and Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Program; Request for Information on Strengthening the Standardization and Comparability of Hospital Price Transparency (HPT) Data; Prior Authorization; Accrediting Organization (AO) Deeming for Emergency Medical Treatment and Labor Act (EMTALA); and Notices of Closure of Teaching Hospitals and Opportunities To Apply for Available Slots'' (RIN0938–AV83) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–5269. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''CY 2027 Payment Policies under the Physician Fee Schedule and Other Changes to Part B Payment and Coverage Policies'' (RIN0938–AV82) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 9, 2026; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRUZ, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1885. A bill to require the Federal Trade Commission, with the concurrence of the Secretary of Health and Human Services acting through the Surgeon General, to implement a mental health warning label on covered platforms, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 119–164).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. GRASSLEY for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Robert E. Long, Jr., of Florida, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida.

Peter M. Mansfield, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Jesus A. Osete, of Missouri, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Missouri.

Stephen Husk, of Virginia, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission for a term of six years.

Samuel King Lee, of Tennessee, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee for the term of four years.

Gretchen C.F. Shappert, of Virginia, to be United States Attorney for the District of Guam and concurrently United States Attorney for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands for the term of four years.

Robert Troester, of Oklahoma, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma for the term of four years.

Reid McAlister Creswell, of South Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Carolina for the term of four years.

James Christopher Edge, of North Carolina, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Christopher Walter Inabinett, of Alabama, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of Alabama for the term of four years.

James Richard Jackson, of Texas, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Texas for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 5724. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization and claims denial under Medicare Advantage plans; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 5725. A bill to ensure that whistleblowers, including contractors, are protected from retaliation when a Federal employee orders a reprisal, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BUDD:

S. 5726. A bill to modify the organization of the Department of Defense with respect to special-operations peculiar matters, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. HUSTED):

S. 5727. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the military housing allowance exclusion for purposes of determining area gross income in determining whether a residential rental property is a qualified residential rental property for purposes of the exempt facility bond rules; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

S. 5728. A bill to withdraw normal trade relations treatment with respect to the products of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 5729. A bill to establish education partnership programs between public schools and public health agencies to prevent the misuse and overdose of synthetic opioids by youth, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 5730. A bill to promote registered apprenticeships and on-the-job training for small and medium-sized businesses within in-demand industry sectors, through the establishment and support of eligible partnerships; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JUSTICE (for himself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 5731. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat qualified water competency and water safety lesson expenses as medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5732. A bill to amend the 21st Century Cures Act and the Public Health Service Act

to ensure that expenses relating to the acquisition or use of devices for use in the detection of fentanyl, xylazine, and other emerging adulterant substances, including test strips, are allowable expenses under certain grant programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. CURTIS):

S. 5733. A bill to establish a best-available transmission conductor standard for certain transmission projects under the Federal Power Act and to provide for presumptions regarding cost recovery for such conductors; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 5734. A bill to promote meat product innovation, including in specialty meats, and value-added meat product development for the economic benefit of United States farmers and their communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 5735. A bill to allow Americans to receive paid leave time to process and address their own health needs and the health needs of their partners during the period following a pregnancy loss, an intrauterine insemination or an assisted reproductive technology procedure that did not result in a live birth, a stillbirth, a failed adoption arrangement, a failed surrogacy arrangement, or a diagnosis or event that impacts pregnancy or fertility, to support related research and education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 5736. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to modify the definition of the term ''hemp'', and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HUSTED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. Res. 959. A resolution recognizing the death of John Davison ''Jay'' Rockefeller IV, former Senator for the State of West Virginia; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 467

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 467, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards.

S. 1088

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1088, a bill to provide that the memorial to commemorate the sacrifice and service of the women who worked on the home front to support the efforts of the United States military during World War II may be located on the National Mall, and for other purposes.

S. 1650

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1650, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the collective bargaining of employees in the Veterans Health Administration.

S. 2042

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2042, a bill to provide lasting protection for inventoried roadless areas within the National Forest System.

S. 2377

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2377, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every person, and for other purposes.

S. 2990

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2990, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 and the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy and Campus Crime Statistics Act to combat campus sexual assault, and for other purposes.

S. 3077

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3077, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide appropriate standards for the inclusion of a term of supervised release after imprisonment, and for other purposes.

S. 3395

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3395, a bill to expand the telescreening mammography pilot program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 3492

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) and the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) were added as cosponsors of S. 3492, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to require skilled nursing facilities, nursing facilities, intermediate care facilities for the intellectually disabled, and inpatient rehabilitation facilities to permit essential caregivers access during any period in which regular visitation is restricted.

S. 3694

At the request of Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3694, a bill to provide for the development of transportation demand management strategies, and for other purposes.

S. 3774

At the request of Mr. GALLEGO, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3774, a bill to prohibit online platforms from displaying fraudulent or deceptive commercial advertisements, and for other purposes.

S. 4318

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 4318, a bill to amend title 39, United States Code, to extend the authority of the United States Postal Service to issue a semipostal stamp to raise funds for breast cancer research.

S. 4590

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4590, a bill to limit the Department of Homeland Security from detaining children and individuals with a cognitive disability and to prohibit immigration enforcement actions at sensitive locations without a court-issued criminal warrant.

S. 4621

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4621, a bill to amend the Commodity Exchange Act to reduce systemic risk while increasing geographical diversity and competition with respect to depositories for the storage of precious metals, and for other purposes.

S. 4724

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4724, a bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to deem certain substances to be unsafe for use as food contact substances, and for other purposes.

S. 5308

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 5308, a bill to designate Afghanistan under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to permit nationals of Afghanistan to be eligible for temporary protected status under such section, and for other purposes.

S. 5326

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 5326, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to strengthen program integrity oversight for the Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program, and for other purposes.

S. 5331

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5331, a bill to provide that no Federal funds may be used to carry out the final rule of the Department of Homeland Security entitled ''Public Charge Ground of Inadmissibility'', and for other purposes.

S. 5464

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5464, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to modify the report on the health of women veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 5504

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5504, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program on Department of Defense partnerships with institutions of higher education recognized in the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity program for Cyber Research, and for other purposes.

S. 5608

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 5608, a bill to extend the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

S. 5652

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. SHEEHY) were added as cosponsors of S. 5652, a bill to clarify the evidentiary treatment of documentation generated under a qualifying process standard for purposes of compliance with the Build America, Buy America Act, and for other purposes.

S. 5656

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5656, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for victims of crime to be notified of firearms-related activity by the offender, and for other purposes.

S. 5675

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5675, a bill to require that certain notifications and certifications relating to WIC be available to members of the Armed Forces undergoing a permanent change of station, and for other purposes.

S. 5683

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5683, a bill to require the development of a best practices guide for individuals seeking to establish and operate a Family Child Care home on a military installation.

S. 5686

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5686, a bill to prohibit recording or broadcasting military executions and to prohibit the use of Federal funds for public executions.

S. 5722

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5722, a bill to amend the definition of professional degree in the Higher Education Act of 1965.

AMENDMENT NO. 6855

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) and the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 6855 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 6882

At the request of Mr. SCHIFF, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6882 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 6893

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6893 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 6895

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6895 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 6913

At the request of Mr. KIM, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6913 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 6915

At the request of Mr. KIM, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6915 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 6933

At the request of Mr. VAN HOLLEN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6933 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 6944

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6944 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 6961

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 6961 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 6971

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the names of the Senator from Colorado

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) were added as cosponsors of amendment No. 6971 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 6997

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6997 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 6998

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6998 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 7000

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 7000 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

AMENDMENT NO. 7011

At the request of Ms. ALSOBROOKS, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 7011 intended to be proposed to H.R. 2347, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 959—RECOGNIZING THE DEATH OF JOHN DAVISON ''JAY'' ROCKEFELLER IV, FORMER SENATOR FOR THE STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCHUMER, Ms. ALSOBROOKS, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BANKS, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BENNET, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. BUDD, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. COTTON, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DAINES, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. ERNST, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. GALLEGO, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. GRAHAM, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. HUSTED, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. KIM, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. LEE, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. MOODY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MORENO, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. RISCH, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. SHEEHY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. YOUNG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 959

Whereas John Davison ''Jay'' Rockefeller, born in New York City, came to West Virginia in 1964 as a Volunteers in Service to America worker;

Whereas Jay Rockefeller, rather than return to New York, embraced West Virginia and dedicated his public life to serving the State;

Whereas Jay Rockefeller was first elected to the West Virginia House of Delegates in 1966, representing Kanawha County, and then elected as the 22nd West Virginia Secretary of State in 1968, serving from 1969 to 1973;

Whereas Jay Rockefeller served as President of West Virginia Wesleyan College from 1973 to 1975;

Whereas Jay Rockefeller served as Governor of West Virginia from 1977 to 1985;

Whereas, in 1984, Jay Rockefeller was elected to the United States Senate, serving West Virginia in the Senate until 2015;

Whereas, during his tenure in the Senate, Jay Rockefeller Chaired the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

Whereas Jay Rockefeller was a tireless advocate for the people of West Virginia, championing health care for children, miners, and veterans, and increasing economic development across the State;

Whereas Jay Rockefeller, in memory of his mother, who suffered from Alzheimer's disease, created what is now the Rockefeller Neuroscience Institute at West Virginia University, a cutting-edge research and medical treatment center dedicated to advanced neurological care, mental health treatment, and education; and

Whereas Jay Rockefeller died on November 6, 2026, at the age of 89, leaving behind his wife Sharon, 4 children John D. Rockefeller V, Valerie Rockefeller, Charles Rockefeller, and Justin Aldrich Rockefeller, and 9 grandchildren: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the Senate—

(A) has heard with profound sorrow and deep regret the announcement of the death of the Honorable John Davison ''Jay'' Rockefeller IV, former member of the Senate; and

(B) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate—

(i) communicate this resolution to the House of Representatives; and

(ii) transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the family of the deceased; and

(2) when the Senate adjourns today, it stand adjourned as a further mark of respect to the memory of the Honorable John Davison ''Jay'' Rockefeller.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 7022. Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 6883 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. HEINRICH)) to the bill H.R. 2347, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 7023. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 6883 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. HEINRICH)) to the bill H.R. 2347, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 7022. Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. HEINRICH, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 6883 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. HEINRICH)) to the bill H.R. 2347, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 73, line 9, strike ''9(b)'' and insert ''19(b)''.

On page 120, lines 12 and 13, strike ''subclause'' and insert ''clause''.

On page 120, line 20, insert ''the'' before ''certifying''.

On page 160, line 14, strike ''(B)(i)'' and insert ''(B)''.

On page 170, line 1, insert ''and final'' after ''necessary''.

On page 182, line 22, strike ''(d)'' and insert ''(c)''.

On page 202, line 15, strike ''(b)'' and insert ''(c)''.

On page 202, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

(h) REQUIREMENT TO MAKE FEDERAL AUTHORIZATIONS OR PERMITS PUBLIC.—Any action that is a Federal authorization or permit shall be made public (as defined in section 3 of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969) unless otherwise provided for by applicable law.

Beginning on page 237, strike line 17 and all that follows through page 238, line 2, and insert the following:

''(5) LANDOWNER INPUT.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'landowner input' means input received—

''(i) by the Commission;

''(ii) from affected landowners, such as farmers and ranchers, in the path of the proposed construction or modification of an electric transmission facility; and

''(iii) pursuant to notification provided to, and consultation with, those affected landowners, farmers, and ranchers by the Commission.

''(B) NOTIFICATION.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(iii), the term 'notification' means a written notice that includes—

''(i) a general description of the proposed facilities, including the purpose and general location of the facilities, accompanied by a map or a reference to an easily accessible map; and

''(ii) information on—

''(I) the general process of Commission proceedings; and

''(II) the rights that affected landowners retain in Commission proceedings.

On page 242, strike line 2 and insert the following:

the siting of the applicable facility.

''(6) LAND RESTORATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall have the power to attach to the issuance of a permit under subsection (b) such reasonable terms and conditions as the Commission may find necessary to appropriately restore the applicable land following construction.

''(B) CORRECTIVE ACTION.—If the holder of a permit issued under subsection (b) fails to comply with any requirement or condition imposed by the Commission that is related to the preservation or restoration of, or mitigation of impacts to, affected property, the Commission shall require corrective action, including through an order requiring corrective action, the costs of which shall be borne by the permit holder.

''(C) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this paragraph precludes measures or requirements that differ from those prescribed in this paragraph to protect or restore affected property or to mitigate impacts on such property.

''(7) STANDARD OF CONDUCT FOR COMMUNICATING WITH AFFECTED LANDOWNERS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—An applicant for a permit under subsection (b) shall adopt and implement a standard of conduct for communicating with affected landowners, including, at a minimum, requirements—

''(i) to maintain a log accounting for each instance of applicant communications with each affected landowner;

''(ii) to ensure that all communications with each affected landowner are transparent and accurate to the maximum extent possible;

''(iii) to refrain from any coercive or threatening communications with an affected landowner; and

''(iv) to hold, in each county in which the proposed facilities would be located, a reasonable number of public meetings accessible to affected landowners.

''(B) PRESERVATION OF OTHER PROTECTIONS.—The requirements of subparagraph (A) shall not be construed to limit or supersede any additional or more stringent requirement established by the Commission.''.

On page 284, strike lines 6 through 12 and insert the following:

(ii) EXCLUSION.—The term ''computational load site'' does not include—

(I) computing or data storage equipment that is ancillary to a facility the primary purpose of which is a commercial or industrial activity other than an activity described in clause (i); or

(II) a facility or any equipment that is primarily used to provide—

(aa) Internet access (as defined in section 1105(a) of the Internet Tax Freedom Act (47 U.S.C. 151 note; Public Law 105–277)); or

(bb) cable service (as defined in section 602 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 522)) or telecommunications service, information service, interconnected VoIP service, non-interconnected VoIP service, or other wire communications (as those terms are defined in section 3 of that Act (47 U.S.C. 153)).

On page 459, strike lines 13 through 19 and insert the following:

other form of financial assistance with respect to which a Federal agency does not exercise predominant control and responsibility over the subsequent use of such financial assistance or any adverse effect of the project, activity, or program on a historic property;

On page 461, strike line 17 and insert the following:

section.

''(C) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION WITH RESPECT TO FEDERAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

''(i) TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS.—For purposes of clause (ii) of subparagraph (B), the Department of Transportation shall be considered to have predominant control and responsibility over the subsequent use of financial assistance described in that clause for any project, activity, or program that receives more than $10,000,000 of financial assistance from the Department of Transportation.

''(ii) OTHER FEDERALLY ASSISTED PROJECTS.—Nothing in clause (i) precludes a determination that a Federal agency exercises predominant control and responsibility over the subsequent use of financial assistance described in subparagraph (B)(ii) with respect to a project, activity, or program that receives financial assistance from any other Federal agency, without regard to the amount of such assistance.''; and

On page 491, line 21, strike ''$200,000,000'' and insert ''$300,000,000''.

SA 7023. Mr. MERKLEY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 6883 proposed by Mr. THUNE (for Mrs. CAPITO (for herself, Mr. LEE, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. HEINRICH)) to the bill H.R. 2347, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income any damages, other than punitive damages, received on account of any sexual acts or sexual contact; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 61, line 2 of the amendment, strike ''or''.

On page 61, line 7 of the amendment, strike the period and insert ''; or''.

On page 61 of the amendment, between lines 7 and 8, insert the following:

''(vii) a shortage of qualified personnel within the Federal agency responsible for preparing or reviewing the environmental document or issuing the authorization that materially impairs the ability of the agency to meet the relevant deadline established under paragraph (1) or (2).

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I have eight 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 AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 4 p.m., to conduct a briefing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, immediately following the executive business meeting, to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON RULES ADMINISTRATION

The Committee on Rules and Administration is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, November 17, 2026, at 3 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to grant floor privileges to my intern for his shadow day on the following date, and that is December 9, 2026, for Phineas Papenfus.

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

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provision of Public Law 106–398, as amended by Public Law 108–7, and in consultation with the Chairmen of the Senate Committee on Armed Services and the Senate Committee on Finance, the appointment of the following individual to serve as a member of the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission: Keith Krach of the District of Columbia.

The Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 114–255, appoints the following individuals to serve as members of the Health Information Technology Advisory Committee: Dr. Roxana Lupu of South Dakota; and Dr. Patrick Woodard of South Dakota.

NATIONAL LOGGERS DAY

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 949.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 949) designating October 12, 2026, as ''National Loggers Day''.

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

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 949) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 30, 2026, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 21 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 25, 2026, AS ''NATIONAL HAZING AWARENESS WEEK''

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 908.

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 908) supporting the designation of the week of September 21 through September 25, 2026, as ''National Hazing Awareness Week''.

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

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 908) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 24, 2026, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Wednesday, November 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 2347; further, that all postcloture time expire on substitute amendment No. 6883 at 11:45 a.m.; and if Senator MERKLEY or his designee raises a point of order on substitute amendment No. 6883, the Senate vote in relation to the point of order at 11:45 a.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the provisions of S. Res. 959.

There being no objection, as a further mark of respect for the late John D. ''Jay'' Rockefeller, IV, former Senator from West Virginia, the Senate, at 6:08 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, November 18, 2026, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate November 17, 2026:

THE JUDICIARY

ANNA ST. JOHN, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT.