

is a rare combination. Thank you to the Buffalo Bills. Thank you to the NFL and Roger Goodell. Thank you to all the student athletes and great champions in Buffalo and everywhere who pushed for this bill. They all made it happen.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, later today, I will meet with the President-elect's pick to serve as the next Secretary of Commerce, Howard Lutnick of New York. I look forward to a fruitful and positive discussion. I have known Howard Lutnick for many years. He is an intelligent and capable man.

I think it is very important for New York and every other State and for America that the next Commerce Secretary is willing to build on the progress of the last few years and help the United States outcompete the Chinese Communist Party on AI, chip manufacturing, and in many other areas as well. It is especially important for States like New York and many others where we are bringing manufacturing back from overseas to strengthen domestic supply chains and our national security.

I can assure Howard Lutnick and all of the President-elect's nominees that we will give them fair and thorough consideration in the Senate. As I said in my letter to Senator THUNE last week, it is important that everyone goes through the standard process nominees have always had, including access to full FBI investigation materials, hearings with questions, and a vote on the floor.

I look forward to my conversation with Howard Lutnick later today.

WATER REOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. President, on WRDA, last night, the House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed the 2024 Water Resources Development Act, named this year in honor of our dear retiring friend Senator CARPER, who has been a champion of this bill for so long. WRDA is one of Congress's most important bills for water infrastructure projects carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The bill passed with resounding bipartisan support—399 to 18—in the House, with all Democrats in favor.

This year's bill also includes reauthorization of the Economic Development Administration and several regional Commissions, making critical investments in infrastructure, workforce, and supply chains that will help the United States outcompete the rest of the world.

This bipartisan bill passed out of the EPW Committee earlier this year with unanimous support. The Senate is now working on a path to get WRDA and the EDA package cleared through this Chamber. It is my hope we can act on these bipartisan bills as soon as possible.

Reauthorizing WRDA opens the floodgates to authorize all sorts of water-related projects for our economy. It helps improve our ports and in-

land waterways. It helps communities protect against flood damage. It safeguards our delicate ecosystems, and it enhances access to public water.

WRDA is also critical for New York, where it improves, among other things, shoreline resiliency and flood protections from the Great Lakes all the way to New York City. The EDA authorization part of the bill will also direct more Federal investment to our most distressed regions and help them rebuild from economic hardship and from disasters.

WRDA and EDA are great examples of bipartisanship in action. So I hope we can reach agreement to get this important bill done as soon as we can.

TRIBUTE TO THOMAS R. CARPER

Mr. President, about my dear friend Senator CARPER, this week, two of our longtime Democratic colleagues have delivered farewell addresses, Senators TESTER and CARDIN.

Today, another Senator, another dear friend, will deliver his farewell address: the senior Senator from Delaware—TOM CARPER. And when I say “dear friends” about these individuals, it is really true. It is not just verbiage. We are really friends as we have become in this caucus, and that is certainly true of TOM CARPER.

Last night was the annual Taste of Delaware event, one of my favorite events of the year, where everything that is amazing about Delaware is on full display. And if you spend just a few minutes there, you will notice something: The State of Delaware loves TOM CARPER, and TOM CARPER loves Delaware.

He hates being away from home, which is why half the time when I call him about all the issues that we care about together, he is on that Amtrak, hopping home to be with Martha and his family. He does it even on weekdays while we are in session.

Serving Delaware is all TOM knows. He did it first as State treasurer, then Congressman, then Governor, and then, for the last two decades, as Senator. If you put all these elected offices together, it means the people of Delaware have elected and reelected TOM a record 14 times into office, and he never lost an ounce of fight.

Here in the Senate, what a great ambassador he was for the First State. Our caucus relied on TOM's expertise, not just about Delaware, which, of course, we became quite familiar with due to his persistence but also on many different issues, especially when it came to the environment.

TOM is a climate warrior, plain and simple. Few Senators have fought as long or as hard to take action against the climate crisis as TOM has. As chair of the EPW Committee, he expertly negotiated many of the climate and clean energy investments we secured in recent years and had great input into the IRA, the Inflation Reduction Act.

And TOM was both idealistic and practical. When he worked on environmental issues, he knew how important

it was to maximize the amount of clean energy we produce, but at the same time, he knew how to talk to Members on the other side of the aisle, Members who might not agree with him on everything and get them to support a coalition that would support that legislation. He was amazing in action.

As the Senate's last Vietnam war veteran, TOM was also an unflinching champion for our servicemembers and their families. TOM will tell you that despite his time in elected office, his greatest privilege was serving in the Navy for 23 years. And not a day goes by when TOM isn't looking for ways to help our veterans in need.

He is an amazing guy. I even had a nickname for him. TOM and I love old lyrics from the fifties, sixties, and seventies, both songs, music, but TV shows, so his nickname, his initials, for me, were TC, Top Cat. He and I are among the few in this Chamber who remember the cartoon “Top Cat,” but TOM CARPER was certainly a Top Cat in this body. Top Cat, you are great. I will miss you.

A final testament to TOM's willingness to go out of his way to help others, he was so enthusiastic about his successor, LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER. She got her start in politics as an intern in TOM's office, and when he knew he wasn't going to run, one of the first things he said to me was: Make sure you help LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER. She will be a great Senator. And we can begin to see that already.

So I can't think of a more appropriate way to conclude a long career in public service than by making sure your successor can continue your legacy. Senator Moynihan did that, in many ways, with me.

So to TOM, to Martha, the entire family, his two sons, thank you, thank you, thank you for your service. We will miss you very much.

And in the words a Navy man can appreciate: We wish you fair winds and following seas.

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. DURBIN. 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.

The Senator from Illinois.

TRIBUTE TO SHERROD BROWN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, on the floor, I thanked five of my colleagues in the Senate who will be leaving at the end of this Congress. Today, I would like to thank three more.

If you read any profile on Senator SHERROD BROWN of Ohio, there is a good chance you will see the word “rumpled” in the description of his presentation before the Senate. A rumpled suit has become his trademark. In