

Whereas on February 24, 2025, the United States delegation to the United Nations voted against the Government of Ukraine's United Nations draft resolution A/ES-11/L.10 entitled "Advancing a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in Ukraine";

Whereas the aforementioned vote was cast against Ukraine and the United States' democratic allies, and aligned the United States with the Russian Federation, Belarus, the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea, and other autocracies;

Whereas this was the first instance since 2014 in which the United States voted with Russia at the United Nations on a Ukraine-related resolution, representing a departure from a decade of bipartisan, United States policy on Ukraine and eight decades of alignment with like-minded democratic states at the United Nations; and

Whereas, in the United Nations Security Council, the United States led a resolution that failed to call out Russia as the invading aggressor and lacked the support of all five European members of the Security Council: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the February 24, 2025, United States vote against Ukraine's resolution at the United Nations General Assembly;

(2) decries the refusal of the United States delegation to continue to identify the Russian Federation as an aggressor or to call for the Government of the Russian Federation to completely withdraw its military forces from the territory of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders;

(3) recalls that the principal purposes of the United Nations Charter are to "maintain peace and security" and suppress "acts of aggression or other breaches of peace";

(4) urges the United States to work closely with Ukraine and European allies on future efforts at the United Nations related to Ukraine; and

(5) reaffirms its support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I have nine 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 Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a joint hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 3:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed business meeting followed by a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DIGITAL ASSETS

The Subcommittee on Digital Assets of the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. KAINE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to grant floor privileges to Christopher Creech for today, February 26, 2025.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, February 27; that following the prayer and the 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 Calendar No. 14, S.J. Res. 12, the Hoeven Methane Fee CRA; further, that at 12 noon, all time be expired and if the Senate receives H.J. Res. 35, the Senate vote on passage of the House joint resolution, as provided under the CRA; finally, that upon disposition of the joint resolution, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 24, Linda McMahon, and that the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture at 1:45 p.m.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HOEVEN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator WHITEHOUSE.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, today is a sad and discouraging—even disgraceful—day here in the Senate. The vote that we have just taken signals the utter and complete subservience of the Trump administration and the Republican Party to the polluters of the fossil fuel industry. To the extent that there is any justification for fossil fuel pollution, leaks from pipes and valves and wells that aren't properly maintained by fossil fuel companies are probably the most shameless form of pollution, and yet that is precisely what this vote that we have just taken protects and even encourages.

Let's start, for a moment, with why methane matters.

We are well into a climate crisis. We have been warned about it for decades. The scientists, God bless them, actually got it right. Even Exxon's scientists got it right. And, on the basis of all that science, it then fell to us here in this building, in Congress, to react prudently and sensibly and steer our course away from the worst dangers that the scientists had so well and accurately predicted.

Of course, we did not.

We did not for the worst of all possible reasons, which was improper influence from the fossil fuel industry itself, which was supercharged by the Citizens United decision that allowed the industry to flood unlimited amounts of money into politics and, worse, unlimited amounts of money into politics secretly through front groups and various anonymizing screens so that citizens and the public were deprived of knowing who it was who was actually in their living rooms, on their televisions, telling them lies about climate change. Front groups with phony names like Heartland Institute and Americans for Prosperity shielded the fact that this was a self-interested industry, using political clout of the worst kind to protect its right to pollute for free. Nobody should have the right to pollute for free, but this entitled industry fought to corrupt this body in order to protect its pollute-for-free business model.

Amidst all the pollution that this industry emits, carbon dioxide is the gas that is most discussed. We talk about carbon content. We talk about carbon dioxide limits. We talk about carbon emissions, but methane—methane—actually, is even more dangerous in the short term than carbon dioxide. These