

The entire constitution, not just parts of it I like. I feel like our president is in violation of that oath.

I understand that there is a push to get hands of criminals and those mentally unstable away from weapons that can potentially be used against citizens and kids, but this plan that those on the Left want, do not guarantee our safety one bit, instead they take rights of those who are law abiding.

I'm also sick to my stomach that the president and those on the left use kids faces and their parents to stand in front of them like puppets while the politicians try to abnegate. I cannot believe a human being in such power can exploit a tragedy to advance his political views.

Walter—Florida

This story was recent . . . On Friday April 6th, 2013 my place of business received a phone call that ended with the individual threatening to kill my receptionist and everyone in the building. I immediately placed the building on lock down and called the police. While I was waiting for police to arrive, I retrieved my fire arm from my car and began to carry it in my person as I walked around and checked all entry points. The police finally arrived 15 minutes later and very calmly said that there was no crime committed and that they can't do anything. They then left. This really disturbed me as if I did not have a gun in my possession my employees and I would be nothing but sitting targets. The police are great and I respect them a great deal, but they are reactive not proactive. I equate this to if a fire breaks out, I want to put it out with an extinguisher and not only wait for the fire department. At the end of the day I escorted my employees out to their cars and waited until they drove off, all while I was armed. I am a very responsible gun owner who hopes to God that I never ever have to aim my gun at someone, let alone shoot and kill someone. I love my family, employees and friends too much than to not be armed and just stand around if God forbid something were to happen and I stand helpless watching them be injured or killed. Just because I follow the laws doesn't mean the person who made the death threat does. Please fight for my right to protect the ones I care about most. Thank you and God bless!

EddieJean—Utah

My family for generations have fought with their lives to protect the constitution of the United States. I remember as a child feeling pride in my country by saying the pledge of allegiance. I am still a very proud American and believe in the rights of all Americans. When my husband, daughter and I moved from Arkansas to Arizona (while my husband was in the military) it was a shocker to my system. Moving was exhausting, and like many new young couples with no money and moving ourselves, we were so excited to find an affordable home in a not so scary neighborhood. It was about 2 weeks when we woke (we slept in our living room, we did not have a bed) to someone trying to open our front door. Terrified, my husband told me to go get our young daughter, while he grabbed his revolver. I got our daughter, got behind my husband and called the police. The lady on the line was very concerned and talked to me the whole time. The person trying to get in was very persistent, and moved the window. I was so scared and asked where are the police, what is taking so long, she explained that they put calls in order of threat. I said this is important and the person or person's are trying to get in. She asked if we were armed I said yes, but we did not want to hurt anyone (a crazy statement), because I did not know the person on the other side, who would possibly kill me and my whole

family for what \$10.00 and no items of value. My husband finally yelled I have a gun and I know how to use it; I am not sure but the person on the other side must have decided not to take the chance, seeing our Arkansas plate that we probably did know how to use it, or to find a less threatening home. It took the officers over 45 minutes to arrive to our home and when I asked what took so long, one responded, if you had been shot or dying we would have been here sooner. I am a law abiding citizen and have the right to defend myself, that is why I believe in the 2nd amendment. Criminals do believe in the laws and they will find a gun with or without laws. So if you take away my rights, my death and many others will be on the heads of foolish government officials who do not know what they are doing. For Obama is out for power not the rights of Americans. I like many Americans was so saddened by the death of the children and adults by the hand of a madman, but I need to be armed and have done so legally, to protect my family. When are we going to hold people responsible and not the objects they use? Maybe we should ban cars, for they kill more people than guns, or how about a baseball bat, or a hammer, or my purse (now that is a deadly weapon). People are responsible for their actions, not objects. Thank you Senator Lee, Eddie Jean Mahurin, a proud American.

Maureen—New York

As a woman a firearm is an equalizer against those bigger and stronger than me. I have the right to protect myself!

Patricia—Nebraska

Living in the Midwest, it allows me self-protection of property and family. We live in the country and there are only limited law enforcement here with extremely long response times. We need the ability to defend ourselves against the ever increasing influx of crime.

We are also very much of the belief that the Constitution guarantees our right to bear arms to protect us from tyranny—politicians in power who seek to do our country harm.

It is your obligation to uphold our rights as per the Constitution, as all elected officials took an oath to do just that and We the People will not settle for less . . .

Melissa—Utah

Being a military wife, my husband is away most of the time. I don't believe the federal government should have the power to tell me what I need and don't need in order to keep myself and my family safe. They do not know my comfort level and ability with firearms, so how can they decide what would be best for me to use? That decision should be mine. Whether I decide a rifle or handgun or none at all, is of no concern to anyone else. Controlling me will not keep anyone else safe from criminals. It will only make me less safe.

Our constitutional liberties should never be up for a vote. This whole thing is quite disturbing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SARAH JEWELL TO BE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Sally Jewell, of Washington, to be Secretary of the Interior.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, there will be 2 hours of debate equally divided prior to a vote on the nomination.

The senior Senator from Oregon is recognized.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, this afternoon we will take up in the Senate the confirmation of Sally Jewell to head the Department of the Interior. The Department is one of America's biggest landowners and is the second largest source of revenue for the Treasury after the Internal Revenue Service. The Department of Interior has the unique mission of protecting America's treasures while pursuing balanced approaches to promote sustainable economic development.

The Department administers the Outer Continental Shelf Program, which is vital to the gulf coast, and Oregon's forest lands in southwestern Oregon where we are pushing hard to increase forest health because we know forest health equals a healthy economy.

The Department has significant trust responsibilities for Native Americans, and it manages water reclamation projects throughout the West. Public lands, which are administered by the Department, are a lifeline for our ranchers, and they are especially important given the recent droughts our country has experienced.

In addition to these traditional responsibilities, increasingly the Department of the Interior is responsible for providing recreational opportunities for millions of our citizens. Today millions of Americans use these lands to hunt, camp, fish, hike, and boat. Let's make no mistake about it. Outdoor recreation is now a major economic engine for our country, generating more than \$645 billion of revenue each year.

This is why I am especially enthused today to be able to strongly recommend Sally Jewell to head the Department of the Interior. She has exceptional qualifications. Somehow she has managed to pack into just one lifetime two or three lifetimes of experiences. She has been a petroleum engineer, corporate CEO, a banker, and a citizen volunteer. Her qualifications clearly made an impression on the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which I chair. Last month our members voted 19 to 3 to approve her nomination, and I believe she got that resounding vote because she is the right person to oversee the multitude of programs at the Department of the Interior, several of which I have just mentioned. She certainly made clear in her confirmation hearing that she understands there is an enormous responsibility to balance the dual roles of conserving and developing resources.

I think we all understand that jobs in our country come from the private sector, and if through this Department we can come up with innovative, fresh policies to set the climate for job growth while we protect our treasures, that is clearly going to be good for the United States of America.

Let's look at a few of the areas where she is going to be involved. Natural gas is just one. This resource has been a huge, positive development for our country. We have it, the world wants it, our prices are lower, and we are seeing a significant interest among American manufacturers in bringing jobs back home. I know this has been of great interest to the Presiding Officer today. A lot of these manufacturers are saying they want to come back from overseas because America has a price advantage in terms of clean natural gas.

There are significant environmental questions associated with natural gas. We have already talked about them in our committee. We are going to have to deal with fracking issues and methane emissions and underground aquifers. Based on some of the discussions we have had—and we had a very good dialog between Frances Beinecke of the Natural Resources Defense Council and Senator HOEVEN from North Dakota where they have a significant interest in natural gas—I believe that under Sally Jewell, when it comes to our public lands, we are going to be able to strike the kind of responsible balance that will make sense for the Senate in a bipartisan way.

I see my friend and colleague Senator MURKOWSKI is here. She has more than met me halfway as we have tried to look at the issues associated with these questions, such as natural gas.

I will only say that with someone with the brains and energy and the willingness to reach out that Sally Jewell has—and she certainly did that based on the number of visits she made to Senators—we may be able to have a natural gas policy where we can have it all, where we can have modest prices for our businesses and consumers that make for a significant economic advantage, we can bring back some of those industries from overseas to Oregon and Ohio and other parts of the country, and we can do it by using, for example, best practices on our public lands as it relates to managing these resources. But we will only have a chance to accomplish those kinds of things if we have someone with Sally Jewell's talents and professional track record of actually bringing people together on these kinds of issues.

I do not believe you can run a multi-billion-dollar company, such as REI, which has been Ms. Jewell's current position, without showing the ability to manage, to bring people together, and in particular to anticipate some of the exciting trends in the days ahead in terms of outdoor recreation, where we all have enjoyed the American tradition of the great outdoors. I think few thought it would be a \$646 billion contributor to the American economy. But that happens because individuals like Ms. Jewell are willing to step up to take these positions. Because she is from our part of the world in the Pacific Northwest, we are particularly pleased to see her secure this position.

But, again, you do not run—and run well—a nearly \$2 billion outdoor equipment company, as Ms. Jewell has, by osmosis but because you are a good manager, you are good with people, and in particular you understand what the challenges are all about.

At this point, I would like to give some time to my friend and colleague. I know that Washington Senators are very interested in being part of this debate, and before we wrap up this afternoon, I also would like to talk about the wonderful track record of Ms. Jewell's predecessor, our current Secretary, Secretary Salazar, who is Senator MURKOWSKI's and my personal friend.

For purposes of this part of the discussion, I would only like to say to the Senate that in Sally Jewell we will have an individual with the experience and with the expertise and the drive to lead the Department of the Interior. I believe she will listen to Senators who have concerns, listen to Senators who want, as Senator MURKOWSKI and so many in our committee have tried to do, to find common ground. So I strongly urge the Senate today, when we vote a little bit later on, to join me in voting to approve Sally Jewell's nomination for the Department of the Interior.

I will now be happy to yield to my friend and colleague from Alaska.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Alaska is recognized.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I follow my colleague from Oregon, the chairman of the Energy Committee, here in discussing the qualifications of the nominee for Secretary of the Interior, Sally Jewell. We recognize as westerners that this is an appointment, this is a position that has great significance, great meaning to our States, so we pay attention to these nominees, we pay attention to who is the Secretary of the Interior.

I have taken the position that our constitutional responsibility for advice and consent should begin with very thoughtful questions on our part, and then, absent any seriously disqualifying factors, we should conclude with the confirmation of the President's nominees. Our obligation to get answers to our questions is always a serious one, and the duty weighs most heavily when the interests of our constituents are directly at stake.

I mention the impact the Department of the Interior has particularly on our Western States—our States that have so much in public lands, our States where we have national forests, where we have BLM lands, rangelands, refuge lands. In Alaska and really in many parts across the West, the Federal Government's biggest and most prominent role is really that of a landlord. Sometimes you have a good relationship with your landlord, and other times it feels as if the landlord won't even let you put a nail in the wall to hang a picture. So, again, we look very critically and very carefully at this position.

In several States, the Federal Government controls the majority of the land. In Alaska, 64 percent of the State is controlled from here in Washington, DC. So that means an individual who may have an inholding in some Federal land basically has to get permission to get to his or her inholding within a park. It is almost hard for many of my colleagues to believe that so much of what it is we do has to go through this process of approval, but that is our reality.

In Alaska, with the Federal ownership, there are more than 230 million acres that are held in Federal ownership. That is an area which is larger than the State of Texas. We always like to compare ourselves—Alaska to Texas—but the fact is that the Federal public lands in Alaska are larger than the size of the State of Texas. We have over 57 million acres of wilderness. That is about the size of the State of Minnesota. And that is just sitting in my State.

The proportion of Federal land in Alaska is exceeded only by that of our colleagues from Nevada. The majority leader and Senator HELLER remind us quite frequently the Federal lands held in their State are at about 85 percent.

So when you think about what this does, the Federal land classifications that we have to deal with, oftentimes it not only severely restricts the usage of Federal lands by our people, but as a practical matter they restrict the use of State and private lands too.

So, again, the Secretary of the Interior is important to the future of a State such as Alaska and the West, but really, as it relates to other Cabinet members, this is one to which we are going to pay serious attention.

I had occasion to come to this floor several months ago to discuss a decision that came out of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In that decision, they somehow found cause to oppose a single-lane gravel road, 10 miles, that would connect the community of King Cove—near the Aleutians—connect it to the smaller community of less than 100 people of Cold Bay. The reason for the need to connect these two communities is Cold Bay has the second longest runway in the State of Alaska. King Cove, on the other hand, where most of the people live—about 900-some-odd Native Alaskans—has an airport that is dicey at best. We have seen accidents, we have seen lives lost as folks have tried to leave King Cove for medical services.

It was an issue that, for me and for the people of King Cove, was far beyond a discussion about what happens when you put a small road through a refuge. For the people of King Cove, this was about safety, this was about life and safety, and they felt they were not being heard by their Federal landlord. The agencies had not heard the people. In fact, the Department had not heard the people. Now, they had listened to the biologists and they had gotten that message, but the people had not been heard.

So through a series of very lengthy discussions with Secretary Salazar, through a series of conversations with the nominee Sally Jewell, and through the impassioned words of many of the people of King Cove, who traveled over 4,000 miles to come here to Washington, DC, to knock on the door of the Secretary and say: Please hear our voices, there has been an accommodation, there has been an agreement reached. And I appreciate my colleague, the chairman, helping us with this. The Department of the Interior has agreed to have the new Secretary as well as the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs review the public health and safety impacts of the decision to build this road.

But I think it is important that folks understand this wasn't a parochial issue I was raising here on the floor. I kept referring to it as the King Cove issue, but it is not one single issue, and it is not parochial. It is obvious to the people of Alaska why this was such a considerable deal, why it was so important the people of King Cove be heard. For them, it was not just about a road, it was an issue of overreach. It was a symbol of Federal overreach on way too many policies we see come out of the Department and the harm that causes across our Nation.

The reality is so many of us, particularly those in the Western States, have our own King Cove. We all have those instances when issues have come up, where the people from the States we represent have to go knocking on the door of some Federal agency for permission, have to try to navigate a morass of regulations, and they do not feel as though they are being heard. Every day we have Federal restrictions making it harder for local people to live and to prosper.

I made a big effort to make sure the incoming Secretary of the Interior not only understood the particulars of King Cove—and I welcome the opportunity to travel with her when she comes to Alaska and flies out to King Cove hopefully at the end of the summer—for her not only to understand this issue but for her to understand the bigger role she will assume as Secretary of the Interior and how important it is for her to listen to all sides and to listen to the people she represents. As Secretary of the Interior, she is the one to implement that special trust responsibility the Federal Government has to our first people, to our Native people, so she needs to see and hear for herself.

She also needs to fully understand what she has in front of her—as Senator WYDEN mentioned, the massive public lands that will be under her jurisdiction as Secretary, understanding that that means to ranchers and farmers and those who are the recreators in our national parks, to those who will harvest timber, to those who will use our lands in the manner in which they are intended—multiple use—for her to fully understand what it means to be the custodian, the landlord of our

amazing public lands in this country. We all need to be working with her.

I have no question about Ms. Jewell's intelligence and her competence as a manager. I have been very impressed with what I have seen as her level of sincerity with her very distinguished private sector career. It has been noted that she has probably spent more time in Alaska prior to coming to the Department of Interior than any other nominee outside of Walter Hickel, who was our former Governor and served as Secretary of the Interior. So she gives me comfort with that, knowing that she understands much of what we have to deal with in Alaska.

These are all important qualities as we think about her competence as a manager, as we think about her intelligence. But dealing with an agency the size, the scope, and the complexity of the Department of Interior really requires the ability to focus not only on the debates and conflicts that we are facing today, but it is going to require an understanding of how we got here, the fact that the debates and conflicts of today often are based on years, decades, perhaps even centuries of history. Those who are steeped in this history raise the importance of the Secretary understanding the context for the many difficult decisions that will be made.

I had an opportunity to ask a lot of questions of Sally Jewell not only in our private meeting but before the committee and then also in writing. I asked questions about my questions. I wanted to be thorough. And I do concede that Ms. Jewell will be on a learning curve as she assumes the position of Secretary. But in her answers to questions at the hearing and in her written submissions, she has pointed out her experience and her skill at bringing diverse groups of people together to solve difficult problems on which they have been divided historically, and I do take her at her word there. I will certainly commit to participating in that dialog and to bringing all of my fellow western constituents with me, whether it is literally or figuratively. I believe that is important.

Ms. Jewell has used the word “convener” when describing herself, and I think this will be a very important task and role that she will assume. There are conflicting groups and conflicting interests, and Ms. Jewell has spoken to how she has reconciled that in the past with her previous work experience, not only at REI but at other places, and I do believe she has the skill sets to accomplish just that.

So with this commitment she has made to me and to others on the committee, I will certainly take the view that the fact that Ms. Jewell has perhaps not been through the full gamut of the conflicts that surround so much of what happens within Interior, perhaps that is a good thing because perhaps she is able to look at some of these issues through a fresh perspec-

tive, a different lens. Perhaps because she is not so embedded in the history, she will be able to look at this anew. And I think that is good. I think that is a positive. I certainly will look forward to engaging substantively with her as we complete this process—and beyond—on these issues, on how she can really bring her problem-solving skills to bear in a way that will serve all Americans.

I think it is telling—and it was noted in the Energy Committee hearing by one of our colleagues—that Ms. Jewell brings to the table as the nominee for the Secretary of Interior a business background that is quite considerable. She is a petroleum engineer who has actually fracked a well, so she has experience there. She has experience in Alaska and worked on the beginning portion of how we built out the Trans-Alaska Pipeline. She did it from the Seattle area but has that skill set as well.

It was asked somewhat tongue-in-cheek by one of my colleagues on the Republican side: Well, you have all these great characteristics. Why would President Obama select you?

So I think it is important to recognize that we have before us a nominee who brings a unique set of skill sets and experiences to us that I am hopeful will be beneficial. This is important to me as an Alaskan, to know we have someone who will be a listener, who will be a convener, who will work to solve problems. I am looking forward to the opportunity to spend time in Alaska with her as she visits with the people up north to better understand some of the challenges we face and hopefully work with us on these issues that are so critically important.

I appreciate the good work of my colleague and the chairman of the committee in getting us to this point so that we can move Ms. Jewell's nomination forward. I look forward to supporting her and working with her during her tenure as Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Washington State is recognized.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to join my colleagues and urge them to vote in support of Sally Jewell, who has been nominated to serve as Interior Secretary. I thank Senator WYDEN for all of his work in moving her through this process to today. I was thrilled when President Obama nominated Sally for this position, and I couldn't be more excited to support her confirmation.

Sally is going to come to the Department of the Interior at a difficult time for our country. As a nation, we are working very hard to protect our environment and invest in new technologies to meet our energy demands. And on the local level, including in my home State of Washington, Sally is going to face some complex issues, such as protecting tribal lands and

treaty rights. But I can think of no one better prepared for this task than Sally.

After she studied at the University of Washington to become an engineer, Sally left the Northwest for the oilfields of Oklahoma and Colorado, where she learned about the energy sector from the inside out. She moved from the outdoors—as you can see from this picture—to the boardroom and spent nearly two decades in finance helping businesses grow and learning what it takes to succeed in the marketplace.

Time and again, Sally has broken the mold to take on tough tasks—often in male-dominated industries. When she joined Recreational Equipment, Incorporated, the Seattle-based outdoor retailer, it was struggling. But after 8 years with Sally as CEO, REI is now thriving, topping \$1 billion in sales, while leading the charge to protect our environment. And finding that balance—navigating the business world while keeping REI's commitment to the outdoors—is what will make Sally great as our next Interior Secretary. Perhaps better than anyone, Sally knows that businesses and the environment both benefit when we are committed to protecting our national parks and promoting our national treasures. At REI, Sally has proven that sustainability and responsibility make sense for the environment and the company's bottom line.

In Washington State, she has worked closely with me to help create the Wild Sky Wilderness area and expand our other important environmental protections throughout our State. She has worked with industry and environmentalists to expand recreational opportunities throughout the Northwest and has helped us work toward permanently protecting BLM lands in the San Juan Islands, where my colleague Senator MARIA CANTWELL was at the forefront. That is truly a gem of Washington State and has recently been declared a national monument.

Sally has backed crucial public-private partnerships that create jobs through recreation, and she has supported groundbreaking programs to get young people involved in the outdoors.

So whether it is our forest lands in the Northwest or mineral deposits in the Southwest or oil reserves along our coastlines, Sally is going to lead an Interior Department where economic growth and long-term sustainability go hand in hand.

I am here today to urge my colleagues to vote in support of Sally Jewell, and I am really pleased she has been nominated. Again, I thank Senator WYDEN for all of his work in getting her to this point in this process.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington State is recognized.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I join my colleagues from the Northwest who have come to the floor this after-

noon to speak in support of the nomination of Sally Jewell as Secretary of the Interior. Like my colleagues from the Northwest, I wish to express how much we appreciate her willingness to serve and how proud we are of her legacy and interests in a variety of issues so far.

Obviously, the Department of the Interior is so important to us, with its broad range of services, including everything from our national parks, to wildlife refuge, to offshore drilling lease management, to the important science done by the USGS Service, and many other things. In fact, I read somewhere kind of humorously that the Department of the Interior was called the Department of Everything Else.

As a nominee, Ms. Jewell came before our committee. I thank her family for their willingness to support her in her efforts to come to Washington, DC, because Sally is the exact type of leadership we need at the Department of the Interior. She represents a balanced person who not only knows how to help a growing business, as she did, she has served on the university board of regents and also worked on the non-partisan National Conservation Parks Association. She has done everything in business, from dealing with oilfields in Oklahoma to commercial banking to, of late, running REI, one of our most successful companies in the Pacific Northwest. I know she has the kind of leadership it takes to figure out these issues about best use of public lands or the vigorous challenges the Department faces when it comes to modernizing the bureaucracy or thinking about climate change at the same time you are talking about deepwater drilling. There are a myriad of things we have to forge through, and Sally Jewell is the right person with the right balance to get that done.

Having grown up in Washington, where over 40 percent of our lands is in public land, I know Sally understands these western issues, whether it is water rights or salmon recovery or understanding the impact on water levels, the fire season, wildlife on BLM lands, or the importance of access to hunting and fishing. I guarantee, because she grew up there, Sally Jewell understands these issues. I know she has been involved in many organizations to express that, and that has been a good training ground for her.

I am confident, because she is a trained engineer, she is going to bring a very pragmatic, can-do attitude to the Interior Department's management and problem-solving efforts.

I know science will be her compass, and I know she is not going to have an ideological bent, but she is going to have a "get it done" mentality.

Given the importance of the Interior Department's agencies and very challenging mission, I am excited we are going to have somebody with a business background and a science background at the Department of the Interior.

I hope our colleagues will vote today to move Ms. Jewell out of the Senate so we can get her into the Department of the Interior so she can begin this important job and continue to move our Nation's agenda forward.

As the chairwoman of the Indian Affairs Committee I look forward to working with Ms. Jewell on all the issues related to Indian Country as well. There is much to accomplish and much to address. I think her background is exactly what we need in the Department. I hope my colleagues will move quickly on this issue.

I thank the chairman, Senator WYDEN, for his leadership in moving her nomination through the process.

I yield the floor.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, before she leaves I want to thank Senator CANTWELL for all her good work. As northwesterners know, and I hope the rest of the country knows, Senator CANTWELL is one of those who understands the opportunity in the great outdoors. I know she is climbing a mountain this summer and is always in shape. She is always fit and ready for a mountain.

To have the opportunity to work with folks in the Pacific Northwest, particularly with Sally Jewell's background, as the Senator has eloquently outlined, I think it is going to be an advantage not just for our region but for the rest of our country.

I see our colleague from New Mexico is here. If he would like to make some remarks at this point, we welcome him. I have some additional remarks as well.

Would my colleague from New Mexico like to make any remarks at this time?

All right.

Let me, then, talk for just a few more minutes about Ms. Jewell and some of the challenges ahead of her, particularly in natural resources. Obviously, with authorities, as my colleagues have outlined, that range from managing national parks, to offshore oil and gas development, to protecting fish and wildlife, serving as Secretary of the Interior, it is almost like an extreme sport for multitaskers. You are going to have to juggle. Ms. Jewell knows a little bit about multitasking, as we have outlined, from being a petroleum engineer, a CEO, a conservationist, and a banker.

Particularly in my part of the world, Oregon, there are some especially important challenges. The Federal Government owns most of our land. Particularly in forestry, we need to find a way to bring together all sides—timber owners, environmentalists, scientists—and we need to go in there and clean out millions and millions of acres of overstocked timber stands. We can get that material to the mills. It is an ideal source of biomass, a clean source of energy.

Because we are working to build relationships with the environmental community, we can also find a way to protect old growth as we get to harvest

timber. But it is, again, not going to happen just by osmosis or because somebody waves a wand in Washington, DC. It is going to happen because we have responsible administrators like Sally Jewell who are going to take the time to learn the checker-board pattern of O&C lands and our local communities, and particularly understand some of our traditions that have worked particularly well in the past and I think can be of great benefit as we look to future solutions.

Back in 2000 I had the honor of writing the secure rural schools bill and the timber payments bill with our former colleague, Senator Larry Craig. What we included in that legislation is the kind of model for collaborative forestry that we are going to see Sally Jewell pick up on. We established something called resource advisory councils where, in effect, on the local level people from the timber industry, people from the environmental community, scientists, and a whole host of others—frankly, some people who as a general rule had not done much talking to each other, probably done a lot of litigating against each other—they would use these resource advisory councils to come together and try to find some common ground.

It worked. Regarding these resource advisory councils, when I meet people from the timber industry, from any of the extractive industries, and environmental folks, they say: Use that model. Use that collaborative model that we are seeing used in timberlands in southwestern Oregon as a way that we can build on the opportunity to bring people together.

We have been able to do that with Forest Service lands in eastern Oregon to some extent. I think we can do it also in western Oregon and in the communities that are affected by the Bureau of Land Management lands. Probably to do it we are going to have to extend the timber payments law for another year to give us the time to come up with a long-term solution. I have talked about this with Sally Jewell in the past and about her willingness to see that this is an issue that now finally has to be addressed, addressed in a way that will get the timber harvest up in O&C lands but also protect our treasures. Our old growth is some of the very pristine treasures of America. If we do not figure out a way to promote forest health and go in there and thin out these overstocked stands, these fires that we are seeing—they are not natural fires, they are really magnets for infernos because of years and years of neglect—are going to continue.

I think Sally Jewell is up to the challenge of coming up with the kind of policies for the O&C lands, for the lands in eastern Oregon and those my colleagues talked about in Montana and Colorado and Idaho, and I think she is up to that challenge.

Before we wrap up today I want to take a few minutes and talk about—I

know the Presiding Officer has great affection for him as well—our former colleague, Ken Salazar. Ken Salazar has been Secretary of the Interior throughout the Obama administration to date. It is my view he has done an exceptional job. I think we all understand in the Senate that when Ken Salazar is involved, get ready for a great smile, an enormous amount of energy, enormous amount of intelligence, and someone who, in a very persistent way, is interested in solving problems. Ken Salazar has sure done that in a number of important areas.

For example, before Ken Salazar took office—I am looking at a headline from when there was a huge scandal at the Department of the Interior. I am looking at an article from the fall of 2008 headlined, “Sex, Drug Use and Graft Cited In The Interior Department.”

Basically, what it talks about is an investigation, a number of reports delivered by the inspector general, that basically document, at the Department of the Interior, a culture of lax ethics. It basically describes something like a dozen current and former employees of the Minerals Management Service, an agency that collected at that time billions of dollars of royalties annually—you basically had an “anything goes” kind of environment, and the reports go on and on. It feels more like a litany for a late-night television show.

The reports focused on a culture of substance abuse and promiscuity in what was the Service’s royalty and in-kind program—essentially, officials who seemed to be exempt from expense accounts limits, one ethical lapse after another, as documented in these reports. I remember at the hearing, the confirmation hearing, Senator Salazar—it was unusual because he had been my seatmate over the years at the Senate Energy Committee—I said: Senator Salazar, you have to go in there and drain the swamp at the Minerals Management Service.

In fact, he certainly did that. Essentially, the successor agency has been free of scandal. I think that is representative of both the integrity and professionalism that Secretary Salazar has brought to the agency.

Also, I note after the gulf spill he overhauled the offshore drilling practices, ensured that they were beefed up in terms of safety while at the same time allowing for the drilling that is so important to the industry.

I am also going to reflect on Secretary Salazar’s accomplishments, mention that he has done yeoman work in terms of promoting green and renewable energy. I note in one of the comments about his departure that Christy Goldfuss, Public Lands Director at the Center for American Progress, stated Secretary Salazar championed “a new model of conservation which focused on partnerships with private land owners and States” and “that approach has paid off with cooperatives in the Everglades in Florida, the Prairie Potholes region of the Dakotas, and other areas.”

I would like to note something else as well about Secretary Salazar. I know Senators on both sides of the aisle would call him when they had those kinds of resource questions. I know Senator MURKOWSKI brought up one of Secretary Salazar’s final acts in office today. Under his leadership the State of Idaho and the Fish and Wildlife Service entered into an arrangement so that the State of Idaho’s plan for addressing the sage grouse could be implemented. I know this is a critical issue for Senator RISCH. He and I talked about it often. I am going to work with him on these issues, and what Secretary Salazar did today is an example of the new kind of partnership that we all are looking to the Interior Department and the states for, and certainly something I want to promote, and I know Senator MURKOWSKI shares that view.

I think it is fair to say that Sally Jewell has very large boots to fill. We all remember Secretary Salazar’s wonderful western boots and the anecdotes about them. She has certainly got a challenge to try to step in after a Secretary who has accomplished so much. But as I and Senator MURKOWSKI and the Washington Senators have outlined today, we believe strongly that Sally Jewell is up to this challenge. I hope she will receive a resounding vote in the Senate. I believe we are close to the point where we will be able to vote on Ms. Jewell.

For all the reasons that I and my colleagues have outlined this afternoon, I hope there will be very strong bipartisan support for Ms. Jewell when we vote.

With that I yield the floor. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for a quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent all remaining time on the Jewell nomination be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. All time is yielded back.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

There is a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nomination of Sarah Jewell, of Washington, to be Secretary of the Interior?

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 87, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 94 Ex.]

YEAS—87

Alexander	Franken	Moran
Ayotte	Gillibrand	Murkowski
Baldwin	Graham	Murphy
Baucus	Grassley	Murray
Begich	Hagan	Nelson
Bennet	Harkin	Paul
Blumenthal	Hatch	Portman
Blunt	Heinrich	Pryor
Boozman	Heitkamp	Reed
Boxer	Heller	Reid
Brown	Hirono	Risch
Burr	Hoehn	Roberts
Cantwell	Inhofe	Sanders
Cardin	Isakson	Schatz
Carpenter	Johnson (SD)	Schumer
Casey	Johnson (WI)	Sessions
Coats	Kaine	Shaheen
Cochran	King	Shelby
Collins	Kirk	Stabenow
Coons	Klobuchar	Tester
Corker	Landrieu	Thune
Cornyn	Leahy	Toomey
Cowan	Levin	Udall (CO)
Crapo	Manchin	Udall (NM)
Cruz	McCain	Warner
Donnelly	McCaskey	Warren
Durbin	Menendez	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Merkley	Wicker
Flake	Mikulski	Wyden

NAYS—11

Barrasso	Fischer	Rubio
Chambliss	Johanns	Scott
Coburn	Lee	Vitter
Enzi	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—2

Lautenberg	Rockefeller
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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.

SAFE COMMUNITIES, SAFE SCHOOLS ACT OF 2013—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, tomorrow at 11 o'clock we are going to vote on cloture on the motion to proceed to the gun legislation that is now before this body.

This morning and throughout the day, our friend from Connecticut spoke, a freshman Senator who was brought to the Senate with this tragedy having taken place shortly after he arrived. My friend the Presiding Officer, a longtime attorney general, the chief law enforcement officer of the State of Connecticut, has lived with this tragedy that happened at Sandy Hook like nothing that ever happened in his career. And, of course, for Senator HEINRICH, a new Senator, this was something he never appreciated he would be faced with.

I saw the pictures today of those little babies who were murdered, some of

them shot multiple times—little tiny kids shot multiple times. The shooting was on December 14, about 4 months ago—120 days. So the time has come—it has arrived—when we have to debate this issue. We have to have a response to this tragedy.

When this incident took place on December 14, it struck me, as it did everyone in America—virtually everyone in America; we had been through Aurora, CO—that vicious, brutal machine-gunning of people going to watch a movie, and then little kids getting killed in an elementary school, kindergartners, first-graders—so we need to respond, this great deliberative body, to what the American people want. So we are going to vote. It is time to vote. I hope we get cloture on this matter. We certainly should. After that, there is no reason not to start legislating immediately. I hope we do not have to go through this procedural mishmash—30 hours; somebody on the floor all the time; if people are not, there are dilatory tactics; only one quorum call—and all this. Let's get past that. If somebody has something to say, come and say it. But this week we are going to start legislating. We are going to start legislating whether there is cloture or not. One will be a little longer process. But we are going to start legislating on this bill this week. I hope we can get to it tomorrow.

I do not think it is any secret, if we are on this bill, I am going to—the first amendment in order will be the amendment to change the background checks that has been worked on for weeks by Senator MANCHIN, Senator KIRK, and Senator TOOMEY, and then we will decide where we go from there.

To all my friends, we are going to have amendments. Some of them are going to take a little bit of time. We are not going to finish the bill this week. I do not know if we will finish it next week. But that really does not matter. Are we going to legislate the right way? Are we going to legislate? I have in my mind these little children who were murdered. What we do here is not going to prevent all gun violence in America, but if we stop a few, isn't that remarkably important for us to do? I think we can do a lot more than saving the lives of just a few people.

But let's work on this bill. We are going to start. If we have to use up the 30 hours, we will use up the 30 hours. I think there are ways around that procedurally. I hope we do not have to test that. There are a number of amendments. We all know. We have been reading about them. There are lots of amendments; people have been waiting a long time for this legislation.

One of my Republican colleagues yesterday said: I have a number of germane amendments I want to offer.

I said: Fine. Good. Do it.

We know we have to do background checks, assault weapons, the ammunition capacity of clips or magazines, mental health. That is just to name a few of the things. And I repeat, we are

going to begin this process before we leave here this week.

I so appreciate the work done by Senators MANCHIN, TOOMEY, KIRK, and many others. My friend Senator SCHUMER has been working on this issue. My friend DICK DURBIN, who has been involved in guns for a long time, has been involved. I appreciate the work of everyone. As the press has indicated, we are likely going to get cloture on this tomorrow. I hope so. But, as I have told individual Senators, if we do not get cloture, we are going to have a vote in the Senate on capacity clips, assault weapons, background checks, and some mental health items or item. That we are going to do. I hope we can do it in the regular process.

We have had people for a long time now—my friends on the other side of the aisle—saying: We want regular order. We want to be able to offer amendments. Well, I do too. And I hope people will not see how many amendments they can offer, not see if they can set a record for how many amendments can be laid down, because we should have this as a civil process and culminating in a better set of laws for our people in this great country in which we live.

For those of us who have the opportunity to try to address this issue, I hope we all understand that the world is watching what we do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

NOMINATION OF SRI SRINIVASAN

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, earlier this afternoon I had the opportunity, the honor, to chair a hearing of the Senate Judiciary Committee, on which we both serve, to consider the President's nomination of a highly qualified lawyer, Sri Srinivasan, to serve on the DC Circuit Court of Appeals.

I am encouraged by what the majority leader has just said about the very real possibility that we will get a vote on the floor of this Senate on vital and important issues affecting guns, immigration, and other issues, but what I speak to today is the absolutely essential role this Senate must fill of voting on qualified judges who have been nominated to the circuit courts of the United States.

Earlier today at this hearing, 10 of our colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, asked thoughtful questions, and Mr. Srinivasan gave thorough and thoughtful answers. I came away convinced that he has the background, the education, the skills, and, most importantly, the temperament to serve as a circuit court judge. And I was encouraged by comments of my colleagues, both Republican and Democratic, that they too were inclined to support this nomination.

Under normal historical circumstances, today's hearing would be the beginning of a deliberate, timely, orderly process—a process required of this body by article II, section 2 of our Constitution by which we advise and consent to the President's nominations.