

is the longest the EPA has gone without an Administrator. How is this the right thing to do? This is the United States of America. This President deserves to have his people in place the same as a Republican President.

Gina McCarthy has a deep understanding that the health and safety of the American people and a growing economy go hand in hand. She will lead the EPA in a manner consistent with her past track record of success.

From my perspective, approving Gina McCarthy to head the EPA is a very important step toward helping the health of our children as well as future generations, and that is our most sacred obligation. We need her strong bipartisan approach to lead the EPA.

It is no great secret that in this last election both parties were fighting for the votes of women. It was a knock-down, drag-out battle. The Democrats won the women's vote, which helped to elect President Obama—by a lot. The Republicans said: You know what, we have to change, we have to reach out. This is their chance.

This woman deserves a promotion. There is nothing in her record that should make anyone fear her. She is a good woman and a hard-working person. She has won unanimous support from this body before, and there is no reason why we should not confirm her.

I am going to continue to speak out for Gina. I really do believe my colleagues are hearing the truth about Gina. I think they are getting the message that she is quite bipartisan. She has strong support in the business community as well as among scientists and others in the health community.

I am very hopeful, first of all, that there will not be a filibuster. This woman deserves an up-or-down vote. Secondly, my colleagues will think long and hard, and they will agree with so many Republican lawmakers and former Governors who served with Gina and will stand up and say: She is a good woman and deserves this promotion.

I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I wish to thank my colleague from California Senator BOXER for her very eloquent and powerful words on behalf of my client and friend Gina McCarthy and her appointment as Administrator of the EPA. I don't make any pretense of matching the persuasiveness of her statement on behalf of Gina McCarthy, but I am going to be speaking throughout this week and for as long as it takes about Gina McCarthy because she is not only a client and friend, she is a consummate public servant and environmental protector.

I have known Gina McCarthy for many years. In fact, I was her lawyer, which is why I say she was a client. As her lawyer, as attorney general of the State, she became a friend, not just because of her personal qualities of integrity and intelligence but because of her professionalism as an environmental protector who has sought always to recognize the need for a balance between environmental activism and economic growth. She recognizes a balance involving ardent and passionate protection of environmental values as much as anyone could possibly bring to this task. She also brings a willingness to listen, a willingness to hear all sides and consider all facts and, in fact, act as a passionate fact finder and lawyer as well as someone who respects the letter and spirit of the law.

I wish to speak to my colleagues about her respect for the law. It isn't just the letter of the law she follows; it is the spirit and intent of the legislature. I think that is important and should be important to this body because she has reflected throughout her career, working for two Republican Governors in Massachusetts and Connecticut, her dedication to public interests and to the legislative intent of the laws she fulfills.

She is truly an environmental protector for all seasons. She is a woman for all seasons and a public servant for all seasons. Over the years we worked together she was consistently tough, fair, and smart as an environmental law enforcer. She recognized the need to balance environmental activism with economic growth, and she also understood that the two are almost always mutually supportive.

I am proud and delighted she has demonstrated her willingness to assume this critical position and to face the kind of difficult path this confirmation process has imposed. Achieving confirmation, which I actively support, should be truly bipartisan. Blocking a vote on her nomination is disappointing and destructive. It is paralyzing partisan gamesmanship at its worst.

My former colleague is well respected in the environmental and business community in my State of Connecticut and around the country for her dedication to listening and developing public leadership and practical solutions to environmental challenges. She protects environmental values and policies while enhancing economic opportunity. She is no foe of the business community or economic progress and job creation. In fact, she sees how protecting economic values is complementary and supportive to environmental activism.

The President couldn't have picked a more qualified person to lead the EPA at this critical time. The combination of her experience, intelligence, energy, and unquestioned expertise will make Gina McCarthy an effective EPA Administrator. She has a deep understanding that the health and safety of the American people depends on clean

air and clean water. The American people, more than ever, understand that fact. She is the right person for this job at this time.

I urge my colleagues to move forward with her confirmation, to avoid obstructionist tactics, and to embrace this nomination as good for all of the American people, for all of the interests she has sought to represent. I urge us to move forward as quickly as possible so this critical agency will have the kind of leadership that is so important at this point in our history.

I urge my colleagues to support my friend and the President's choice to lead the EPA. I assure my colleagues they will not be disappointed.

I thank the Chair. I yield the floor and 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. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

TRIBUTE TO RONALD L. FANN

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today in recognition of the service of Ronald L. Fann, who will be retiring August 1, 2013, after 42 years of dedicated service to the Federal Government. Mr. Fann demonstrated great dedication to enhancing the safety and security of the U.S. Senate, its staff, and visitors.

Mr. Fann began his career in 1969, as a military intelligence officer in the U.S. Army, where he performed counterintelligence operations against East Germany and the Soviet Union. He continued his intelligence work in Germany as a U.S. Army civilian, protecting our Nation during the height of the Cold War, serving in Bremerhaven and Frankfurt. Mr. Fann went on to work at the Pentagon for the U.S. Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence, supervising intelligence operations worldwide.

In 1986 Mr. Fann was assigned to an important classified program that supported the Nation's national security and emergency preparedness operations. During his 27-year assignment to this project, he was appointed to the National Security Agency's Senior Cryptologic Executive Service in 1991, serving as its deputy and later as program director.

Mr. Fann is a proud Texas A&M Aggie alumnus and a graduate of the National War College.

I commend Mr. Fann's contributions and longstanding career in public service. I, along with my colleagues from

both sides of the aisle, congratulate him on his well-earned retirement and wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

WASHAKIE COUNTY, WYOMING

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, it is my pleasure to honor the residents of Washakie County, WY as they celebrate their Centennial.

Located in northern Wyoming, and nestled in the Big Horn Basin, Washakie County is a great place to live and work. Nearly 8,500 residents call Ten Sleep and Worland and the surrounding rural areas home. This unique county offers a glimpse into Wyoming's traditions and proud culture.

Washakie County got its start when Wyoming Gov. Joseph M. Carey signed the enabling act on April 19, 1911. Worland was chosen over Ten Sleep in the election for county seat in November 1912 by a vote of 582 to 245. County officers took their positions to launch the county in January 1913.

Washakie County was named for the head chief of the Shoshone people, Chief Washakie. He was so important to our State and Nation that Wyoming chose to commemorate his leadership by placing a sculpture of him by Dave McGary in the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center's Emancipation Hall.

World-class archaeological sites are plentiful throughout the Big Horn Basin. Worland boasts one of the finest interpretive centers for geology, archaeology, and paleontology at the Washakie Museum and Cultural Center. Exhibits portray the historical people first inhabiting Wyoming's northern area. The Colby Mammoth Site near the Big Horn River contained some of the earliest known evidence of human activity in the Cowboy State. One of Washakie County's most famous citizens is George Frison. This world-renowned archeologist began a lifelong love of archeology when he found stone tools, rock shelters, and rock art on his family ranch near Ten Sleep. His study of the prehistoric hunters of the high plains earned him a place on the National Academy of Sciences.

In the past 100 years, Washakie County has seen a variety of industries thrive and evolve. Agriculture has long been the backbone of the area. Pioneering irrigation districts made it possible for hard-working operations to survive off the Big Horn River, fed by Wyoming's steep mountain snow runoff. Farmers spend their summer tending to the fields for a variety of crops, including barley for the hops component in MillerCoors and Budweiser products. A number of farms produce sugar beets that are processed by Wyoming Sugar Company LLC, which is owned by producer-investors. Other crops grown in the area include alfalfa, beans, beets, and corn.

Residents of Washakie County have worked hard to ensure a healthy relationship between energy, natural re-

sources, and agriculture. Oil reserves were discovered as far back as 1914. Coal bed methane has also boomed over the years, helping the United States move toward our goal of energy independence. Bentonite is abundant throughout the Basin, helping make Wyoming the leading bentonite supplier in the world.

Ten Sleep currently holds the honor of Wyoming's "Best Tasting Drinking Water" proclaimed by the Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems. Water from the Madison Aquifer is not only bragged about, it also provides the opportunity for a niche industry. Relied upon for decades by local farmers and ranchers, Aquavista 100% Pure Artesian Drinking Water is bottled locally. Admiral Beverage Corporation also utilizes the water source. Operations began in Worland in 1945 and they have become the primary supplier of carbonated soft drinks throughout the region.

Washakie County welcomes all adventure seekers, young and old. In the winter, the Meadowlark Ski Lodge hosts skiers and snowboards within the boundaries of the Big Horn National Forest. Endless recreation opportunities can be found on over 900,000 acres of Bureau of Land Management public land access, including hunting, fishing, hiking, horseback riding, rock climbing, photography, and wildlife watching. In fact, you can still observe horses roaming the rolling hills and rugged canyons and badlands within the Fifteenmile Herd Management Area, established in 1985. US highway 16's Scenic Byway is an ideal route for travelers headed to Yellowstone. The majestic vistas, seen while driving through Ten Sleep Canyon, are unparalleled.

It is an honor to recognize the residents of Washakie County as they celebrate their 100th anniversary. This year, the Washakie County Centennial Committee has planned a countywide celebration on July 12 and 13 to commemorate this milestone. A committee of dedicated citizens spearheaded this celebration and deserves recognition. A big thank you goes to Cheri Shelp, Dustin Fuller, Lauree Schmeltzer, Phyllis Lewis, Bert Bresach, Linda Abell, and Sherryl Ferguson. I invite my colleagues to visit the communities of Washakie County. The county's rich heritage, geological wonders, and genuine cowboy hospitality provide a truly wonderful experience to visitors from all over the world.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KRYS BART

• Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Kryz Bart, president and CEO for the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority. After 14 years as president and CEO of the Reno-Tahoe Airport Authority and directing operations at Reno-Tahoe International Airport,

RNO, Kryz is retiring. She has demonstrated commendable leadership during her tenure and service to the people of the State of Nevada.

As the principal director of Reno-Tahoe International Airport, Kryz has established a reputation for efficiency and excellence. Her role required her to manage a multi-million dollar budget, and under her leadership, Reno-Tahoe International Airport has twice been recognized by the Air Transport Research Society as one of the five most efficient airports in North America. She was named the 2007 Airport Director of the Year by the Airport Revenue News Magazine, and her dedication to the aviation industry has earned her the Distinguished Service Award from the American Association of Airport Executives, AAAE.

Her dedication as a business executive is no less impressive. In 2004, Kryz was named one of the seven most respected CEOs in Nevada by the Nevada Business Journal, and was inducted into the Reno Business Leaders Hall of Fame the following year. Kryz is also heavily involved in her local community, serving on the board of directors for the Economic Development Authority of Western Nevada, as well as on the Nevada Humane Society Board.

I want to thank Kryz for her many lasting contributions to aviation and air travel in the State of Nevada, as well as for her dedicated efforts in business and community development. I congratulate her on the special occasion of her retirement, and join with all Nevadans in wishing her many successful and fulfilling years to come.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 28, 2013, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, without amendment;

S. Con. Res. 19. Concurrent resolution providing for a conditional adjournment or recess of the Senate and an adjournment of the House of Representatives.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2013, the Secretary of the Senate, on June 28, 2013, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

H.R. 324. An act to grant the Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the First Special Service Force, in recognition of its superior service during World War II.

H.R. 1151. An act to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to obtain observer status for Taiwan at the triennial International Civil Aviation Organization Assembly, and for other purposes.