

lobbyists, corporations, or individuals, that information is at the very minimum relevant to this Committee's assessment of your nomination. Such remuneration may be entirely appropriate, but that determination cannot be made without disclosure.

If you have not received remuneration—directly or indirectly—from foreign sources, then proper disclosure will easily demonstrate that fact.

Your refusal to respond to this reasonable request suggests either a lack of respect for the Senate's responsibility to advise and consent or that you are for some reason unwilling to allow this financial disclosure to come to light.

This Committee, and the American people, have a right to know if a nominee for Secretary of Defense has received compensation, directly or indirectly, from foreign sources. Until the Committee receives full and complete answers, it cannot in good faith determine whether you should be confirmed as Secretary of Defense.

Therefore, in the judgment of the undersigned, a Committee vote on your nomination should not occur unless and until you provide the requested information.

Sincerely,

(Signed by 26 Senators).

Mr. INHOFE. This letter is signed by several Senators, but it was promoted, more than by anyone else, by the Senator from Texas. The Senator has repeatedly requested this information. I have personally heard Senator CRUZ request this information, just yesterday, and on several previous occasions.

In a previous letter, he said: We express our concern—several Senators also signed this letter—on the unnecessary rush to force through a vote on Chuck Hagel's nomination before he has been able to respond adequately to multiple requests from members of the Armed Services Committee for additional information.

I'm reading now from the letter: Those requests have included a request to Chuck Hagel for the disclosure of his personal compensation he has received over the past 5 years.

We are talking about Chuck Hagel.

This is information which he controls. He can provide this information. It is there.

The letter also requests the disclosure of foreign funds he may have received indirectly. This is important because some have raised questions of a potential conflict of interest.

Why does he not want to disclose this? Somehow he would like to be confirmed without disclosing this information.

As Senators we have a responsibility here. I do not care if you are a Democrat or Republican. If a member of the Armed Services Committee requests this information and the information is available and he is able to obtain it and does not provide it, we have a process problem.

Mr. President, my primary objection to Chuck Hagel's confirmation is for policy reasons. That is why I think he is not qualified for that job. Others do not agree with that. That is fine. But they have to agree on the process.

In fact, I cannot remember—and I have been on the Armed Services Com-

mittee in both the House and Senate for 25 years. I do not remember one time when information that was requested, which was perfectly within the purview of the committee was not provided. This has not happened. This is unprecedented.

I heard some people say: you are filibustering a Cabinet appointee. That is not what we are doing. What we are trying to prevent is an unprecedented event where committee members do not receive information which is important for Members to have in order to consider a nomination.

So I will continue to read the letter.

The letter includes a request for a complete list of his prior public speeches, notably, multiple additional speeches on controversial topics that have been made public by the press.

For example, I understand FOX News is going to run a story tomorrow regarding some speeches made by former Senator Hagel. If so, these speeches would certainly give rise to a lot of interest because, I have been informed, we are talking about speeches which were made and paid for by foreign governments. I have also been told, some of these foreign governments may not be friendly to us.

Therefore, I believe Senators are entitled to review this information. Are we entitled to that? Yes; we are entitled to that.

So this letter includes a request for a complete list of his prior public speeches, notably, additional speeches on controversial topics that have been made public in the press, despite those speeches having been omitted from his own disclosure.

I remember in the early stages of the confirmation process, requests were made of Senator Hagel about information we knew existed because the press had written about it in the past. Some may argue that Senators are not entitled to review these speeches. I disagree. A member of the Armed Services Committee has a responsibility to review that information.

The letter also makes the critical request from the administration for additional information on their precise actions during and immediately following the tragic murder of four Americans in Benghazi, Libya on September 11, 2012.

Regardless, if the administration has answered these questions, the Senate is entitled to review speeches that have been made by the person who is up for confirmation to be Secretary of Defense.

I would say to the majority leader, the request for a 60 vote threshold is based on precedent. It is what the majority leader agreed to on the John Bryson and Kathleen Sebelius nominations. It is what he insisted upon when the Democrats forced cloture to be filed on the Dirk Kempthorne and Stephen Johnson nominations. There are several others. Michael Leavitt was one. John Bolton went through this twice. We all remember Miguel

Estrada. We remember ROBERT PORTMAN, now one of our fellow Senators.

So there is nothing unusual about this. But there is a problem with the process we are entering now. That process is, we have made requests—I am talking about Members such as Senator CRUZ from Texas and other members of the Senate Armed Services Committee who have made perfectly reasonable requests for information. In this case, it is on speeches reportedly made to foreign audiences. However, these concerns can be clarified in a matter of minutes.

That is why we should not rush. If this information is provided we could resolve this matter tonight. The information is out there. I have personally talked to Senator CRUZ. He said: Look, if they will just give us that information we have been requesting now for weeks, we can have the vote tonight.

That is our reasonable request. We are not talking about merits. We are not talking about substance. We are talking about a process. Never before in my memory has a Senate Armed Services member's reasonable request been denied before someone has come up for a confirmation. It is a simple request. It has been done on a regular basis. A 60-vote margin is not a filibuster. We are merely saying the Senate is entitled to this information. Hopefully, this will jar some of the information loose. Maybe we can get it now. I hope we do.

I want to move this on and move it as rapidly as possible.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 15 minutes.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am here again to talk about the effects of climate change on the health of our families and our communities. Just as we know that secondhand smoke and too much sun exposure are bad for human health, we know pollution and variations in climate conditions are as well.

I wish to thank our chairman on the Environment and Public Works Committee, Mrs. BOXER, for the briefing she held today with a number of scientists, including one who spoke specifically about the human health effects we can see from climate change. Climate change is threatening to erode the improvements in air quality we have achieved through the Clean Air Act.

EPA-enforced emissions reductions have led to a decline in the number and

severity of bad air days in the United States. These are the days I know the Presiding Officer is familiar with because I am sure they happen in Connecticut as well as in Rhode Island, where the air quality is so poor that it is unhealthy for sensitive individuals: the elderly, infants, people with breathing difficulties to be outdoors. Even healthy people are urged to limit their activities when out-of-doors.

In Rhode Island, about 12 percent of children and 11 percent of adults suffer from asthma. Both are higher than the national average. Our Rhode Island Public Transit Authority runs free buses on bad ozone days to try to keep car traffic down because these days are so dangerous to the public. Of course, the major air pollutant behind bad air days is ozone, commonly known as smog. Ground-level ozone or smog makes it difficult to breathe, causes coughing, inflames airways, aggravates asthma, emphysema and bronchitis and makes lungs more susceptible to infection.

That all means asthma attacks, emergency room visits, hospitalizations, which, in turn, result in missed school and work and a burden not only of worry but also a burden on the economy. Smog, of course, forms more quickly during hot and sunny days. So as climate change drives more heat, it increases the number of warm days and the conditions for smog and for bad air days become more common.

Climate change is also prolonging the allergy season. I am sure there are a number of people listening who suffer from hay fever in the late summer and early fall. Some people suffer from it most acutely. It is most often caused by ragweed pollen. Since 1995, ragweed season has increased across the country. It has increased by 13 days in Madison, WI. It has increased by 20 days in Minneapolis, MN. It has increased by almost 25 days in Fargo, ND. The further north you go, the greater the increase in the ragweed season. So for folks in Fargo, for instance, it is 25 more days of sniffing and sneezing and 25 more days that ragweed pollen might trigger a child's asthma attack.

Not only does more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere mean warmer weather and therefore longer pollen seasons, it also means a higher pollen count. At 280 parts per million, which was the concentration of atmospheric carbon back in the year 1900, each ragweed plant would produce about 5 grams of pollen.

At 370 parts per million, which is where we are now—year 2000 levels to be precise—pollen production more than doubles. It doubles again at 72 parts per million, which is the concentration that is now projected for the year 2075. So as we work to improve air quality and to reduce respiratory illnesses and the allergic conditions that trigger respiratory distress, we need to fight the growing trigger, climate change.

Warming oceans and lakes can also harm our health. Higher water surface temperature is associated with harmful blooms of various species of algae. These blooms are often referred to as "red tide." They deplete oxygen, block sunlight, and they produce toxins. The toxins are very often captured by clams and oysters and other shellfish.

When they are consumed, it can result in neurotoxic shellfish poisoning, which causes debilitating respiratory and gastrointestinal symptoms. A warming climate also is predicted to change the range of disease-spreading parasites, such as ticks and mosquitoes. With longer summers and shorter winters, we will face more exposure to these pests and to the diseases they can carry.

We in New England and Connecticut and Rhode Island and Massachusetts, of course, are very familiar with Lyme disease, which is a tick-borne illness that can have very grave and serious effects.

Slow and steady warming is also causing sea levels to rise, which threatens coastal infrastructure and human safety as well. In South Kingstown, RI, Matunuck Beach Road is the only means of access to approximately 500 homes. That road also covers the public water main. For years, the sand erosion has eaten away at the beach. Now the road is immediately vulnerable to storms. Indeed it has been overwashed in recent storms. A breach in Matunuck Beach Road cuts off those 500 homes from emergency services. If it were damaging enough, it could cut off their water.

Our water quality is also threatened. Many of Rhode Island's wastewater treatment plants are in low-lying areas and flood zones near the coast. It is the story in many other States. In California, for example, the rising sea level has put 29 wastewater treatment plants, responsible for 530 million gallons of sewage processing every day, at increased risk for flooding.

As we know, climate change loads the dice for more extreme weather: heat waves, droughts, storms, all serious threats to human health and safety. Climate change has led to an increase in the likelihood of severe heat waves. Extreme heat causes heat exhaustion. It can cause heat stroke. The need for air-conditioning in heat waves also strains the power infrastructure, which can cause electrical brownouts and blackouts. This hinders emergency services and exacerbates wildfires and drought. These are the kinds of conditions—from extreme heat—that led to literally tens of thousands of deaths in the record-setting Russian heat wave of 2010.

Heavy rainfall can cause physical damage, flooding erosion, and sewage overflow. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that 118,000 sanitary sewer overflows occur annually from storms overwashing through combined sewer systems, overloading those systems, and being released directly

into the open, releasing up to actually 860 billion gallons of untreated sewage and wastewater. In 2010, heavy rainfall and flooding caused millions of dollars in damage in spilled raw sewage in Warwick, RI, my home State. The flood led to the temporary shutdown of the local wastewater treatment facility. These overflows, like the one in Warwick, can result in beach closures, shellfish bed closures, contamination of drinking water supplies, and other environmental and public health problems.

Extreme rainfall, meaning both way too little and way too much rainfall, promotes waterborne outbreaks of disease. In the northeast United States, heavy rainfall has increased by 74 percent since my childhood in the 1950s.

As we have seen with Superstorm Sandy, Hurricane Irene, and Hurricane Katrina, storms can very quickly affect millions of people and require tens of billions of dollars to clean up. The threat gets worse as sea-level rise allows storm surges to reach farther inland and create more damage than just a few decades ago. Much of the east coast was fearful of flooding during Superstorm Sandy last year, including, of course, southern Rhode Island. Because of erosion and sea-level rise, the storm surges on our shores can reach homes that were originally built hundreds of feet from the coastline.

I had the experience of standing with a man who had a childhood home that had been through at least three generations of his family. He was now actually older than me, and that childhood home—which had stood well back from the beach—was canting toward the sea and tumbling into the ocean. The ocean had claimed his home of multiple generations as its victim.

This map shows by ZIP code where the 800,000 people displaced by Hurricane Katrina sought refuge after that terrible storm. Hundreds of thousands of people were strewn across every corner of the country. Hundreds of thousands of lives were disrupted as a result.

Thankfully, not everybody is sleepwalking through these alarming realities. In 2010, Rhode Island created our Climate Change Commission, which has identified risks to key infrastructure and is analyzing data from events such as Hurricane Sandy and the 2010 flood. Other States have formed similar commissions.

I brought last night to our President's State of the Union Address Grover Fugate, who is executive director of our Coastal Resources Management Council, which has to look at and address every day and plan for the effects of our rising sea level, increased storm activity, and the risk that that portends to the shores of our ocean State.

For the past 3 years, Rhode Island has also been part of a regional greenhouse gas initiative nicknamed ReGGie, along with our neighbors in Connecticut, Delaware, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, New Hampshire,

New York, and Vermont. Our region caps carbon emissions and sells permits to emit greenhouses gases to powerplants. This has created economic incentives for both the States and our utilities to invest in energy efficiency and in renewable energy development. And consumers have reaped the benefit of lower prices. In 2012, regional emissions were 45 percent below the annual cap, so just last week the State announced an agreement to cap future emissions at the 2012 rate.

I am proud of the work done in my State, and I know the Presiding Officer's home State of Connecticut is working equally hard on this issue. We are working to both slow climate change and to prepare for what are now its inevitable effects. But sadly, when it comes to this particular threat to our national security and our prosperity, Congress is asleep. It is time for us to wake up. The health and safety of Americans and of people all over the world is at risk. We must awaken to what is happening in the world around us and to the fact that the carbon pollution we are emitting is causing it. This is our responsibility. This is our generation's responsibility. It is, indeed, our duty. It is time for us to wake up.

Mr. President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations, Calendar Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6, and all nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

IN THE AIR FORCE

The following named Air National Guard of the United States officer for appointment in the Reserve of the Air Force to the grade indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. William H. Etter

IN THE ARMY

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army to the grade

indicated while assigned to a position of importance and responsibility under title 10, U.S.C., section 601:

To be lieutenant general

Maj. Gen. Kenneth E. Tovo

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Nurse Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

To be brigadier general

Col. Barbara R. Holcomb

The following named officer for appointment in the United States Army Medical Service Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

To be brigadier general

Col. Patrick D. Sargent

The following named officers for appointment in the United States Army Medical Corps to the grade indicated under title 10, U.S.C., sections 624 and 3064:

To be major general

Brig. Gen. Brian C. Lein

Brig. Gen. Nadja Y. West

NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

IN THE AIR FORCE

PN70 AIR FORCE nomination of Kory D. Bingham, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN71 AIR FORCE nominations (3) beginning MICHAEL A. COOPER, and ending SUSAN MICHELLE MILLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN72 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning VICTOR DOUGLAS BROWN, and ending RODNEY M. WAITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN73 AIR FORCE nominations (4) beginning WALTER S. ADAMS, and ending CARL E. SUPPLEE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN74 AIR FORCE nominations (6) beginning JOHN J. BARTRUM, and ending GEORGE L. VALENTINE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN75 AIR FORCE nominations (8) beginning KIMBERLY L. BARBER, and ending JANET L. SETNOR, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN76 AIR FORCE nominations (11) beginning DINA L. BERNSTEIN, and ending WILLIAM R. YOUNGBLOOD, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN77 AIR FORCE nominations (12) beginning TIMOTHY LEE BRININGER, and ending CHRISTOPHER J. RYAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN78 AIR FORCE nominations (198) beginning FRANCIS XAVIER ALTIERI, and ending KEVIN M. ZELLER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

IN THE ARMY

PN79 ARMY nomination of Jonathan A. Foskey, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN80 ARMY nomination of Marion J. Parks, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN81 ARMY nomination of Karen A. Pike, which was received by the Senate and ap-

peared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN82 ARMY nominations (2) beginning Derek S. Reynolds, and ending Brian D. Vogt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN83 ARMY nominations (2) beginning Edward A. Figueroa, and ending Michael C. Vanhoven, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN84 ARMY nominations (2) beginning JACK C. MASON, and ending TODD B. WAYTASHEK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN85 ARMY nominations (79) beginning RUTH E. APONTE, and ending MICHAEL J. ZINNO, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN86 ARMY nominations (88) beginning LESLIE E. AKINS, and ending MARC W. ZELNICK, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN87 ARMY nominations (217) beginning TIMOTHY G. ABRELL, and ending JOHN A. ZULFER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN88 ARMY nominations (225) beginning RAFAEL E. ABREU, and ending R010075, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN91 MARINE CORPS nomination of Jackie W. Morgan, Jr., which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN92 MARINE CORPS nomination of Dana R. Fike, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN93 MARINE CORPS nomination of Samuel W. Spencer, III, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN94 MARINE CORPS nomination of Larry Miyamoto, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN97 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning GEORGE L. ROBERTS, and ending PAUL A. SHIRLEY, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN98 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning RICHARD D. KOHLER, and ending GARY J. SPINELLI, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN100 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning ERIC T. CLINE, and ending ROBERT S. SCHMIDT, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN101 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning JOSE L. SADA, and ending BRIAN J. SPOONER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN102 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning FREDERICK L. HUNT, and ending CHAD E. TIDWELL, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN103 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning TODD E. LOTSPEICH, and ending DONALD E. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of January 23, 2013.

PN104 MARINE CORPS nominations (3) beginning JASON B. DAVIS, and ending JOHN F. REYNOLDS, JR., which nominations were