

The CEO of Ducks Unlimited said:

More than 140 million Americans participate in outdoor recreation activities, including hunting and fishing. DU appreciates the bipartisan effort of this bill in bringing to light the economic impact and importance of sports men and women to the United States. We are also grateful for its inclusion of the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, which is an ideal model for successful private-public partnerships.

I agree. We have an opportunity today to take action on a bill that advances critical priorities for a wide range of sportsmen and conservation groups across the country, bringing those two groups together.

I am proud of the package Senator MURKOWSKI and I crafted and put together. I also recognize that Members on both sides of the aisle have ideas on how to strengthen this bill.

It was always my hope we could take up, debate, and vote on sportsmen-related amendments to the bill, including amendments on some gun issues that are important to sports men and women in my State and across the country. I am disappointed we were not able to reach an agreement to do so.

However, we should not let partisan politics get in the way of passing a good bill that already has strong bipartisan support. It is fiscally responsible, and it is endorsed by more than 40 groups and stakeholders across the United States—6 of whom I have just made statements about from letters we have received.

So here is what I am going to ask all of my colleagues to do today: If you support this bill, vote for this bill. Outdoor recreation activities are a way of life in States across the country. Just as importantly, they are the lifeblood of many of our local communities. These activities actually contribute \$145 billion to our economy every year, and they support over 6 million jobs in this country. This is big business—and especially at a time when we are looking at jobs and the economic recovery.

So at a time when we are desperately trying to help the job market and get our economy back on track, I urge my colleagues to please put politics aside and vote to move forward with this balanced bipartisan bill that boosts our economy, protects our outdoor traditions, and preserves the special places in this country where we hunt, where we fish, where we enjoy the outdoors, and to do this for our future generations.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today in support of the Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act, S.2363. This legislation aims to support outdoor recreation by improving access for anglers, hunters, and recreational shooters. It would also advance conservation by reauthorizing programs that protect wildlife species and habitats, wetlands, migratory birds, and waterfowl.

Hunting, angling, outdoor recreation, and conservation are important economic contributors and support jobs in communities across the country, including many across the State of

Maine. The Federal Government is an important partner in preserving our natural treasures, enhancing recreation, promoting economic growth, and helping to protect the environment, which are all components in sustaining our Nation's outdoor heritage and traditions.

While I understand the concerns that have been raised about the need to strengthen the bill's conservation measures, on balance S.2363 would benefit hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, and conservation. One provision would promote hunting, fishing, and recreational shooting on Federal public lands, preventing arbitrary closures. Another would help States construct and maintain public shooting ranges by allowing a larger proportion of Federal funding to be used for this purpose. Additionally, the bill would reauthorize the North American Wetlands Conservation Act and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, which leverage funding for critical wetlands, migratory birds, native fish and wildlife species, and habitat projects. A permanent authorization of electronic duck stamps, the proceeds of which go to the Migratory Bird Conservation Fund, is also included in the bill.

I am also pleased to be the sponsor of a bipartisan amendment that highlights the many important contributions of the Land and Water Conservation Fund over the last 50 years. In addition to calling for the reauthorization of this landmark conservation program, the amendment calls for full, permanent, and dedicated funding, making good on the promise that was made to the American people in 1964 to take the proceeds from natural resource development and invest a small portion in conservation and outdoor recreation. I am deeply concerned about the continued annual diversion of these funds from their original conservation intent to other purposes. We will not balance our Nation's books today by shortchanging our future.

Upholding Maine's strong tradition of outdoor recreation, including hunting and fishing, and protecting access to the great outdoors for the enjoyment of all Americans continue to be priorities of mine. I also strongly support conservation programs and actions to preserve wildlife and natural habitats. The people of Maine have always been faithful stewards of our environment because we understand its tremendous value to our way of life. The Bipartisan Sportsmen's Act would have a positive impact on hunting, fishing, outdoor recreation, and conservation, and I support its passage.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

BIPARTISAN SPORTSMEN'S ACT OF 2014

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2363, which the clerk will report by title.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2363) to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Reid (for Udall (CO)/Risch) amendment No. 3469, to clarify a provision relating to the nonfederal share of the cost of acquiring land for, expanding, or constructing a public target range.

Reid amendment No. 3490 (to amendment No. 3469), of a perfecting nature.

Reid motion to commit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with instructions, Reid amendment No. 3491, to change the enactment date.

Reid amendment No. 3492 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 3491), of a perfecting nature.

Reid amendment No. 3493 (to amendment No. 3492), of a perfecting nature.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, hereby move to bring to a close debate on S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes.

Harry Reid, Kay R. Hagan, Patrick J. Leahy, Tim Kaine, Angus S. King, Jr., Thomas R. Carper, Bill Nelson, Jon Tester, Patty Murray, Claire McCaskill, Mark Begich, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Debbie Stabenow, Tom Harkin, Tom Udall, Joe Donnelly.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that the debate on S. 2363, a bill to protect and enhance opportunities for recreational hunting, fishing, and shooting, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 41, nays 56, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 220 Leg.]

YEAS—41

Baldwin	Bennet	Cantwell
Begich	Brown	Carper

Casey	Klobuchar	Sanders
Coons	Landrieu	Schumer
Donnelly	Leahy	Shaheen
Franken	Levin	Stabenow
Gillibrand	Manchin	Tester
Hagan	McCaskey	Udall (CO)
Harkin	Merkley	Udall (NM)
Heinrich	Murray	Walsh
Heltkamp	Nelson	Warner
Johnson (SD)	Pryor	Whitehouse
Kaine	Reid	Wyden
King	Rockefeller	

NAYS—56

Alexander	Enzi	Menendez
Ayotte	Feinstein	Moran
Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Blumenthal	Flake	Murphy
Blunt	Graham	Paul
Booker	Grassley	Portman
Boozman	Hatch	Reed
Boxer	Heller	Risch
Burr	Hirono	Roberts
Chambliss	Hoeben	Rubio
Coats	Inhofe	Scott
Coburn	Isakson	Sessions
Cochran	Johanns	Shelby
Collins	Johnson (WI)	Thune
Corker	Kirk	Toomey
Cornyn	Lee	Vitter
Crapo	Markey	Warren
Cruz	McCain	Wicker
Durbin	McConnell	

NOT VOTING—3

Cardin	Mikulski	Schatz
--------	----------	--------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote the yeas are 41, the nays are 56. Three-fifths of the Senators present and voting have not voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

Mr. REID. Madam President, for those students who are out there trying to learn what goes on in the Senate and for those professors who teach what goes on in the Senate, this is not totally new, but this is in the category of being fairly new.

This is an example of the Republicans filibustering not one of our bills but their own bill. How about that? There are 26 Republican cosponsors, and they filibustered their own bill.

We have asked on a number of occasions for what we have done around this body for decades: You come up with a list of amendments, you come up with a list of amendments, and we will work through those amendments.

Do you know why we don't do that anymore? The Republicans cannot agree among themselves what they want as amendments. They cannot come up with a list. They are so tangled up with the tea party here, the tea party there, people running for President, they cannot decide on a list of amendments to bring before the body. So what do they do? They block everything.

I was hoping that with the majority of the Republicans sponsoring a bill, we could at least move forward on it. People who sponsored this bill voted against it. They are bringing to this body a new definition of what it means to sponsor legislation. I mean, who, of the people who have come before us in this body, ever voted to filibuster their own bill? That is what they have done. But it is nothing new.

I see on the floor the senior Senator from New Hampshire. She worked for more than a year with some Republican colleagues to do something that

is so badly needed in this country now; that is, energy efficiency. Energy is wasted every day in this country. She and some Republican colleagues worked on a measure to reduce the waste of energy. It is called the energy efficiency bill. Guess what. The Republicans voted to kill their own bill.

I was originally told by Republicans: Go ahead and let's just vote on it as it is.

I thought that was great because they had been working on it in committee. They had a significant number of amendments that had been dealt with before on the floor, and they put them in the bill and they brought it to the floor. But then I am told—and I have said this before, and I will say it again because we need to repeat something that needs repeating—give us a vote on the Keystone Pipeline. All we want is a sense of the Senate.

I didn't like that because we already had an agreement. I came back and said: OK, do it.

Then we came back after a recess of a few days, and they said: Well, we have a new deal now.

What is that?

We want an up-or-down vote on Keystone.

We cannot do that. We already have an agreement to get this moving.

I go back and mostly talk to myself, quite frankly, because it is not very logical what I am being asked to do, but I talk to myself for a while, and I come back and say: OK, on Keystone, an up-or-down vote right here on the Senate floor.

They couldn't take yes for an answer even on that.

And then—the audacity—Republican Senators have come to the floor since then and said: They won't give us a vote on Keystone.

They did it on Shaheen-Portman. We had an economic development revitalization act. One of the Republican cosponsors there voted to block that. Small business innovation—three Republican cosponsors voted to block that.

This is a new phenomenon for the professors and the students to figure out. You sponsor a bill and then you vote to kill it before you even bring it to the floor. So I guess sponsorship doesn't mean what it used to mean anymore. It means "I am sponsoring this bill, but watch out because I may vote against myself."

So we are going to continue to work on this side of the aisle to try to get work done, but observers need to look no further than Republican sponsors voting against their own bills to see where the problem lies.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF SHAUN L.S. DONOVAN TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET

NOMINATION OF DOUGLAS ALAN SILLIMAN TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF KUWAIT

NOMINATION OF DANA SHELL SMITH TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF QATAR

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

The legislative clerk read the nominations of Shaun L.S. Donovan, of New York, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget; Douglas Alan Silliman, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Kuwait; and Dana Shell Smith, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador of the United States to the State of Qatar.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 2 p.m. will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

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

CHILD CARE TAX CREDIT

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I come to the floor this afternoon to discuss legislation that I introduced this week with our colleagues, BARBARA BOXER, PATTY MURRAY and KIRSTEN GILLIBRAND. Our legislation responds to the rising cost of childcare in the United States and the impact it is having on millions of working families.

Our bill, called the Helping Working Families Afford Child Care Act, would help these working parents. It would help them afford childcare so they can go to work and support their families. What it does is update the child and dependent care tax credit that was passed in 1976 and has only been updated once since that time.

Access to affordable childcare is a necessity for working parents. I raised three daughters and I have seven grandchildren, so I appreciate just how important it is for working parents to know their children are being supervised by quality caregivers.