

victim of it—but we see the ugly effects of government overreach.

It's very hard to pass a law in this country for good reason.

Our revolution was against a king. We chose to be represented by an elected Congress. They're the ones who are supposed to make the laws. Our Constitution makes it pretty hard to pass a law.

In some of our laws, Congress delegates some of the details of how to implement the laws to federal agencies—but it does it with specific requirements: Before those rules come out, the people who are governed have a chance to have a say. That's called notice and comment before you have a federal regulation.

Well, what's happening today is some of these agencies are using something called guidance to get around that requirement, to use the guidance as a non-binding way to tell the people. It's supposed to be a non-binding way of suggesting to people how to follow regulations that are properly in place, but what the agencies are doing is using the guidance to make new laws.

For example, I asked the assistant secretary for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education last year, whether she expects our more than 6,000 colleges and universities to comply with her agency's guidance—these are issued without any sort of notice or comment.

She answered, "We do."

So her agency is writing detailed guidance governing 22 million students on 7,200 campuses and it could be some individual's whim or idea.

How frequent is this? The distinguished group of educators led by the Vanderbilt Chancellor and the University of Maryland Chancellor who recommended the 59 changes in regulations that I talked about said that every single work day, on average, there's a new guidance or rule from the U.S. Department of Education to a college and university.

So, here you are operating with federal grants and loans at a Catholic college out in the Midwest, and you know every single day something's going to change from Washington about what you're doing.

It's very important that Congress make the law. It's very important because Congress answers to the people. That's the way our government ought to work.

When Congress isn't doing its job, the people can throw the bums out. It is very hard for the voters to do that to an unelected bureaucrat, say in the Civil Rights office at the U.S. Department of Education.

So, I'm about to begin a project with one of our outstanding new senators, James Lankford of Oklahoma, to examine whether agencies are abusing guidance and how to solve that problem.

Thank you for inviting me here to speak to you today about this burr that's been in my saddle for a long, long time.

I think that what you are trying to achieve here today is one of the most important things we can do in Washington—because as hard as it is to pass a law, it is almost harder to end one.

Probably the most famous comment about that came from Ronald Reagan who said: "No government ever voluntarily reduces itself in size. Government programs, once launched, never disappear. Actually, a government bureau is the nearest thing to eternal life we'll ever see on this earth!"

Well, at least once or twice, I'd like to prove him wrong.

Thank you very much.●

RECOGNIZING REED BARRETT

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to

express my appreciation to Reed Barrett for his hard work as an intern in my Cheyenne office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Reed is a native of Cheyenne, WY, and is a graduate of Cheyenne East High School. He graduated from the University of Wyoming where he was a psychology major. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Reed for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

RECOGNIZING BRIANA BLACK

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Briana Black for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Briana is a native of Casper, WY, and is a graduate of Kelly Walsh High School. She currently attends the University of Wyoming where she is pursuing a degree in international studies. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Briana for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING BIRNEY BRAYTON

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Birney Brayton for his hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Birney is a native of Sheridan, WY, and is a graduate of Sheridan High School. He is a student at the University of Wyoming where he is pursuing a degree in political science. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Birney for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

RECOGNIZING ERIN JARNAGIN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Erin Jarnagin for her hard work as an intern in my Republican Policy Committee office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Erin is a native of Green River, WY, and is a graduate of Green River High School. She graduated from the University of Wyoming where she was an international studies major, and from The University of Chicago where she received her master's degree. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Erin for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING CATHERINE MERCER

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Catherine Mercer for her hard work as an intern in my Washington, DC offices. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Catherine is a native of Cheyenne, WY, and is a graduate of Cheyenne East High School. She currently attends the University of Wyoming where she is pursuing a degree in psychology. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Catherine for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING MICKALA SCHMIDT

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Mickala Schmidt, once again, for her hard work as an intern in my Casper, WY office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Mickala is a native of Casper, WY, where she graduated from Natrona County High School. She attends Casper College where she is pursuing a degree in international studies and education. She has again demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Mickala for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING TIM STANTON

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Tim Stanton for his hard work as an intern in my Republican Policy Committee office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Tim is a student at the Colby College in Waterville, ME, where he is pursuing a degree in government. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Tim for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

RECOGNIZING KRISTEN TROHKIMOINEN

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Kristen Trohkimoinen for her hard work as an intern in my Indian Affairs Committee office. I recognize her efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Kristen is a native of Casper, WY, and is a graduate of Natrona County High School. She is a student at the University of Wyoming where she is pursuing a degree in political science and international studies. She has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made her an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of her work is reflected in her great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Kristen for the dedication she has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have her as part of our team. I know she will have continued success with all of her future endeavors. I wish her all my best on her next journey.●

RECOGNIZING DIEGO ZEPEDA

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Diego Zepeda, once again, for his hard work as an intern in my Sheridan, WY office. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Diego is from Gillette, WY, and a graduate of Campbell County High School. He currently attends Northern

Wyoming Community College where he is studying business management. He has again demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts during his time in my office.

I want to thank Diego for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It was a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his next journey.●

OBSERVING INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today, I rise to speak in celebration of International Migratory Bird Day. Every spring, waterfowl such as canvasback ducks, northern pintails and goldeneyes, raptors such as sharp shinned hawks, broad winged hawks and kestrels, warblers, buntings, and of course orioles like Maryland's State bird, the Baltimore oriole, return north for the summer to breed, raise hatchlings, and brighten the United States' wildlife spectrum during the months of spring and summer. It is an exciting time of year for birders and naturalists who enjoy witnessing the annual return of these species from the tropics and who contribute billions of dollars to the outdoor recreation economy on travel and gear to support their passion and interests in the very special bird species who return to the United States every year.

In support of conserving these important migratory bird species, in March I reintroduced legislation to reauthorize the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act. This bill promotes international cooperation for long-term conservation, education, research, monitoring, and habitat protection for more than 350 species of neotropical migratory birds, such as the Baltimore oriole. Through its successful competitive, matching grant program, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service supports public-private partnerships in countries mostly in Latin America and the Caribbean. Up to one-quarter of the funds may be awarded for domestic projects.

More than half of the bird species found in the U.S. migrate across our borders, and many of these spend winter in Central and South America. This legislation aims to sustain healthy populations of migratory birds that are not only aesthetically beautiful but also help our farmers through consumption of billions of harmful insects and rodent pests each year, providing pollination services, and dispersing seeds. Migratory birds face threats from pesticide pollution, deforestation, sprawl, and invasive species that degrade their habitats in addition to the natural risks of their extended flights. As birds are excellent indicators of an ecosystem's health, it is troubling that—according to the National Audubon Society—half of all coastal migrat-

ing shorebirds, like the common tern and piping plover, are experiencing dramatic population declines.

The Baltimore oriole is a neotropical migratory bird whose song and bright orange and black plumage brightens all of the Northeastern and Midwestern United States each spring and summer. Sadly, Baltimore oriole populations have steadily declined despite legal protections under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918 and the State of Maryland's Nongame and Endangered Species Conservation Act. Likewise, the iconic red knot, whose legendary 9,000-mile migration centers on a stop-over in the Mid-Atlantic States, is decreasing in population quickly. Threats to these beloved Maryland birds are mainly due to habitat destruction and deforestation, particularly in Central and South America, where the birds winter. In addition, international use of toxic pesticides ingested by insects, which are then eaten by the birds, is significantly contributing to their decline. Conservation efforts in our country is essential, but investment in programs throughout the migratory route of these and hundreds of other migratory bird species is critical.

The goal of International Migratory Bird Day is to raise awareness about the plight of these birds during this special time of year when these birds are returning to the United States, and my legislation is critical to the conservation of these species.

The Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act has a proven track record of reversing habitat loss and advancing conservation strategies for the broad range of neotropical birds that populate the United States and the rest of the Western hemisphere. Since 2002, more than \$50.1 million in grants have been awarded, supporting 451 projects in 36 countries. Partners have contributed an additional \$190.6 million, and more than 3.7 million acres of habitat have been affected. In 2014, the grants totaled \$3.6 million, with \$12 million in matching funds across 20 countries.

On International Migratory Bird Day 2015, I am working with the sponsors of the bipartisan sportsmen's package, S. 659, and the leadership of the Environment and Public Works Committee to incorporate the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation Act into this legislation as it moves through committee. While sportsmen do not hunt songbirds, the financial assistance this program provides for habitat conservation provides cobenefits for game domestic species like wild turkey, deer, pheasant, elk, and quail, and the international investments benefit the conservation of sandhill cranes and migratory waterfowl that are popular game species. The resources of this program also help conserve critical wetland habitat which is incredibly important coastal and freshwater fish species like bass, perch, and sturgeon, as well as both migratory and resident duck and geese species. Incorporation of the