

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on amendment No. 2953, as amended, offered by the Senator from Alaska, Ms. MURKOWSKI, to S. 2012, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (when his name was called). Present.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 46, nays 50, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 16 Leg.]

#### YEAS—46

Alexander	Gardner	Murkowski
Barrasso	Graham	Perdue
Blunt	Grassley	Portman
Capito	Hatch	Risch
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Roberts
Coats	Heller	Rounds
Cochran	Hoeven	Sessions
Collins	Inhofe	Shaheen
Corker	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Sullivan
Crapo	Kaine	Thune
Daines	King	Tillis
Donnelly	Kirk	Vitter
Enzi	Manchin	Wicker
Ernst	McCain	
Fischer	Moran	

#### NAYS—50

Ayotte	Flake	Nelson
Baldwin	Franken	Paul
Bennet	Gillibrand	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Reid
Boozman	Klobuchar	Sasse
Boxer	Lankford	Schatz
Brown	Leahy	Schumer
Burr	Lee	Scott
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	McCaskill	Tester
Carper	McConnell	Toomey
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cotton	Mikulski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Wyden
Feinstein	Murray	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Whitehouse

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Rubio	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 46, the nays are 50. One Senator responded "present."

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

#### 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 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, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 218, S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Lisa Murkowski, Cory Gardner, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, Bill Cassidy, Pat Roberts, John Hoeven, Shelley Moore Capito, John Thune, James E. Risch, Lamar Alexander, John McCain, Rob Portman.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on S. 2012, an original bill to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 43, nays 54, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 17 Leg.]

#### YEAS—43

Alexander	Gardner	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Murkowski
Blunt	Grassley	Perdue
Capito	Hatch	Portman
Cassidy	Heitkamp	Roberts
Coats	Heller	Rounds
Cochran	Hoeven	Sessions
Collins	Inhofe	Shaheen
Corker	Isakson	Shelby
Cornyn	Johnson	Sullivan
Daines	Kaine	Thune
Donnelly	King	Tillis
Enzi	Kirk	Vitter
Ernst	Manchin	Wicker
Fischer	McCain	

#### NAYS—54

Ayotte	Flake	Paul
Baldwin	Franken	Peters
Bennet	Gillibrand	Reed
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reid
Booker	Hirono	Risch
Boozman	Klobuchar	Sasse
Boxer	Lankford	Schatz
Brown	Leahy	Schumer
Burr	Lee	Scott
Cantwell	Markey	Stabenow
Cardin	McCaskill	Tester
Carper	McConnell	Toomey
Casey	Menendez	Udall
Coons	Merkley	Vitter
Cotton	Mikulski	Warner
Crapo	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Nelson	Wyden

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz	Rubio	Sanders
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 43, the nays are 54.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

The majority leader.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I wish to say to my colleagues that Senator MURKOWSKI and Senator CANTWELL are going to continue to work over the weekend on the path forward. Hopefully, we will be able to salvage this important bipartisan legislation in the next few days.

In the meantime, the next vote will be at 5:30 p.m. on Monday.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

The majority whip.

#### FLINT, MICHIGAN, WATER CRISIS

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I know there are others waiting to speak, and I will be brief. I want to take a couple of minutes to reflect on what just happened on the Senate floor.

We had a bipartisan bill that was shepherded through the Energy Committee by the chair, Senator MURKOWSKI, and the ranking member, Senator CANTWELL. Because our colleagues from Michigan refused to take yes for an answer—objecting to a vote on their very amendment—the Democratic caucus has come together and brought down this bipartisan bill—killing it, at least for the time being.

I share the majority leader's hope that discussions can continue and cooler, more reasonable minds will prevail, rather than just the gamesmanship that, frankly, frustrates all of us and gives Congress a bad name. We know that the vote that just went down was not about the Energy bill. This was about trying to embarrass Republicans and to try to make us look bad and portray us as having no compassion for the poor people of Flint—which is exactly the opposite of true.

The fact is that Senator MURKOWSKI, who is the bill manager and chairman of the Energy Committee, made an offer for a vote on a \$550 million package—a \$550 million package. The Senator from Michigan has asked for a check for \$600 million, but Senator MURKOWSKI, in good faith, trying to be responsible, offered them an alternative of a \$550 million package, and they refused it, instead choosing to bring down this legislation.

I think it is important to note that the State of Michigan has already appropriated somewhere close to \$37 million, including funds specifically set aside for outside experts to conduct an infrastructure integrity study. The fact is, the State of Michigan and the city of Flint don't yet know what they need to do to fix the problem or how much it will cost, and the Senators from Michigan come in here and say: We don't need a plan. We just need cash

upfront of \$600 million. We want this added to the national debt—which is already \$19 trillion.

I think the Senator from Alaska, the bill manager, made a very reasonable suggestion: Let the State and the city get started with the money that has been appropriated by the State, together with the tens of millions of dollars the Obama administration is making available to the State of Michigan that can then be available to the city of Flint to get started, to do the infrastructure integrity study, to come up with a plan. Then the Senators can come back to Congress—hopefully during the regular appropriations process—and come up with a responsible, shared plan for this local government, for the State government, and for the Federal Government to help the poor people of Flint out of this terrible crisis.

Instead, what we seem to have found happening is, in the immortal words of Rahm Emanuel—now the mayor of Chicago, formerly chief of Staff of the White House—never let a crisis go to waste. That is what is happening here. It is not responsible. It is not reasonable. And I think Senator MURKOWSKI's counteroffer to the demands of the Senators from Michigan demonstrates it is not even a good-faith effort to try to solve the problem. It is just trying to put on a show vote and embarrass people.

We also need to understand that the Environmental Protection Agency bears significant responsibility. The Obama administration's Environmental Protection Agency failed the people of Flint when they didn't act sooner. We heard that one Agency director has already resigned.

But let me be clear. There is no disagreement that we all want to work together to help the people of Flint find a solution once we have more information about the needs of the city and the State of Michigan and they know exactly what kind of help they need and in what amount. What we disagree on is that this bipartisan Energy bill should be held hostage until we know the solution. Frankly, that is beyond frustrating. It is disappointing. It is not serving our constituents and the American people the way we should, in a responsible, commonsense, bipartisan way. This is all about gamesmanship. This is all about "gotcha." In other words, this is all about the things the American people have come to loathe and hate about the political process in Washington, DC.

We can do better. We must do better. And I share the majority leader's wish that negotiations continue and that cooler, more sensible minds come together on solutions that we can perhaps agree to.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, this is the fourth time I have come to the floor urging Senator CRUZ to remove his hold on these very important nominees for two of our best allies, the countries of Sweden and Norway.

Norway has been without a confirmed ambassador for 860 days. As we know, the first nominee withdrew, but many of these days have been filled up by the second nominee, who is not controversial—Sam Heins from the State of Minnesota—who made it through the committee without objection. In the case of Sweden, it has been 469 days since the President nominated Azita Raji to be ambassador.

There is no issue with these nominees. In fact, in the words of Senator COTTON from Arkansas, my Republican colleague, "I believe both [nominees] are qualified . . . and we have significant interests in Scandinavia. My hope is that both nominees receive a vote in the Senate sooner than later." We know we have the support of Senator CORKER, the head of the Foreign Relations Committee. We thank Senator CARDIN for his support. We thank Majority Leader MCCONNELL. We thank Senator REID.

This vote is not a controversial vote. Senator CRUZ is not here to object. We understand Senator LEE is here on his behalf. But I would like to know why Senator CRUZ isn't here to object. I think I know why he isn't here to object—because he is in the State of my colleague Senator SHAHEEN.

We cannot hold up the business of the Senate like this. We have two nominees for two countries, the 11th and 12th biggest investors in the United States of America, Sweden and Norway. The country of Norway is the purchaser of 52 Lockheed fighter planes, 22 just ordered at \$200 million apiece, all made in Fort Worth, TX, the home State of Senator CRUZ.

These are allies who are taking in refugees by the thousands. These are allies who are at our side in the fight against Russia to stand up against their aggression in Ukraine. They have stood with us in the fight against Islamic extremism. They have stood with us in the fight against ISIS. And what do we say to them? You can have ambassadors from Russia or from China, you can have ambassadors from every country but not from the United States of America.

I ask Senator CRUZ and I ask his colleagues—or perhaps his staff to ask him—why every other European nation of any major size has an ambassador and why not these two Scandinavian countries.

So it is my hope—and the reasons for these holds are completely unrelated. They are varied. They are many. They change every day. I am hopeful that we are able to negotiate something because Senator SHAHEEN and I have pledged to come to the floor nearly every single day when the Senate is in

session to continue asking, and his colleagues are going to have to come and object on his behalf.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: the nomination of Samuel Heins to be Ambassador to the country of Norway, Calendar No. 263; that the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, on behalf of the junior Senator from Texas, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I now ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: the nomination of Azita Raji to be Ambassador to the country of Sweden, Calendar No. 148; that the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, on behalf of the junior Senator from Texas, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I see the Senator from New Hampshire is here. She is a leader on the Foreign Relations Committee. I know she has a few things to say. But, again, we are simply asking for a vote. Senator CRUZ can choose to be here or not. He can choose to vote or not. He can choose to vote no if he wants. We know these two nominees would pass because they are not controversial. I am tired of hearing from people in America and people who represent and live in these countries: What is wrong with America? Why are you "dissing" us when we stand by your side every day? This has to stop.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Madam President, I am joining my colleague, Senator KLOBUCHAR, to talk not just about these two positions of Ambassadors to Sweden and Norway but also about some of the other 27 nominees who deal with national security issues.

As Senator KLOBUCHAR said yesterday when we were on the floor, we said we were going to come down here every day. The Senate is not going to be in session every day, so we won't be here every day, but we will be back as often as possible to point out that we need to confirm these nominees. It is in the country's national security interests.

The Presiding Officer serves with me on the Senate Armed Services Committee, so she understands just how