

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RUBIO). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.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

BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, on December 28, 2016, President Obama designated the Bears Ears National Monument in Southern Utah, and I wish to commend him on protecting these important lands. This designation is an important step forward in the conservation of some of southern Utah's important national treasures.

The 1.35-million acre monument, which spans from forested mesas to redrock canyons and plateaus, will protect the region's abundant cultural resources, including well-preserved cliff dwellings, rock and art panels, artifacts, and Native American burials.

The Bears Ears National Monument, which derives its name from twin buttes that lie at the heart of the majestic Cedar Mesa, was requested by a coalition of five Native American tribes that united to protect a landscape revered in their shared histories and cultures. The Hopi Tribe, the Navajo Nation, the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, the Pueblo of Zuni, and the Ute Indian Tribe have all passed through the area at some time, leaving behind scores of fragile dwellings, pottery, petroglyphs, and pictographs. The Bears Ears region is a living natural and cultural landscape, where the people of these tribes still use the lands to collect herbs and medicines and pass their stories to the next generation.

I have fought to protect this area's resources through the America's Red Rock Wilderness Act, a bill I have introduced every Congress since 1997. My bill would safeguard 9.2 million acres of wilderness in Utah—some of the last great wild places in the lower 48 States.

Historically, national monuments have been the first step in protecting some of our most beloved public lands—the Grand Canyon, the Grand Tetons, and indeed, four of Utah's five national parks. Not only do these monuments help preserve precious habitat, landscapes, and history, they create jobs and invigorate nearby communities.

President Obama's decision to protect the Bears Ears came after significant public input in Utah, with the administration holding multiple listening sessions. Those sessions made clear that even diverse stakeholders agreed the Bears Ears is special and needs to be protected. It is the right decision for the present, and it is the right decision for the future.

Republican President Theodore Roosevelt signed the Antiquities Act into law in 1906, and a review of its history and its controversy showed that, time and again, the temporary anger over designated lands was overshadowed by the long-term benefits to our Nation. Teddy Roosevelt said it best, “Of all the questions which can come before this nation, short of the actual preservation of its existence in a great war, there is none which compares in importance with the great central task of leaving this land even a better land for our descendants than it is for us.”

I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the Bears Ears National Monument and defending it and the Antiquities Act that made it possible.

SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN BECOMING RANKING MEMBER OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today, the Senate Judiciary Committee convenes for the first time in the 115th Congress, and we mark an historic moment in the committee's 200-year history. Last week, Senator DIANNE FEINSTEIN was named the committee's ranking member, the first time in American history that a woman has served in this capacity. It is striking that 352 Members have served on the committee, and only six of those—all Democrats—have been women. Three of those six women are proudly serving on this important committee today: Senator FEINSTEIN, Senator KLOBUCHAR, and Senator HIRONO, whom we welcome back to the committee.

Senator FEINSTEIN has long been a leading voice on this committee. I have enjoyed working with her on countless issues ranging from national security to immigration reform to Supreme Court nominations. Senator FEINSTEIN has broken down barriers throughout her career, and her new role as ranking member of the Judiciary Committee is only the latest example. As the committee grapples with some of the most pressing issues facing our country, we will all be counting on Ranking Member FEINSTEIN's leadership. We should all congratulate her on this historic moment.

REMEMBERING DR. PIERS SELLERS

Mr. NELSON. Mr. President, on December 23, 2016, the world lost a true hero.

Dr. Piers Sellers was a scientist and an astronaut, having flown three times

on the space shuttle. On his first mission, he flew aboard the Space Shuttle Atlantis to the International Space Station, where he completed nearly 20 hours of space walks outfitting and assembling the orbiting outpost.

Several years later, following the tragic loss of the Space Shuttle Columbia, Piers returned to space and to the International Space Station aboard Discovery, carrying out the second of two test flights NASA needed to test critical on-orbit inspection and repair procedures resulting from the Columbia accident investigation.

On his third and final mission, he once more flew aboard Atlantis to the ISS. On this mission, he served as the robotics officer, again playing a key role in assembling and outfitting the space station.

His career as an astronaut exploring the frontier of space is by itself sufficient to justify Piers' status as a national hero; yet his service as an astronaut and explorer is a small subset of the contributions Piers made to our country and to our entire civilization.

Piers was a renowned climate scientist, specializing in using computer modeling and space-based observations to understand and predict the dynamics of our changing planet. He was also a brilliant communicator, whether testifying at a Commerce Committee field hearing in Miami about the impending dangers of sea level rise or standing in front of NASA's “hyperwall” video system narrating stunning and informative visualizations of the massive data sets that embody the “vital signs” of planet Earth. Countless policymakers, industry leaders, and even other scientists owe much of their understanding of the complex interactions of Earth's systems and of the alarming and undeniable signs that our civilization's carbon emissions are warming the planet to Piers.

Yet Piers' most heroic deed may be the decision he made shortly after being diagnosed with stage IV pancreatic cancer. He simply decided to keep going to work. To those that knew Piers, this was no surprise. A three-time shuttle astronaut and very capable manager, scientist, and engineer, Piers no doubt had many lucrative offers for employment following his final shuttle flight in 2010. Instead he chose to remain a civil servant scientist at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center because he felt that was where he could contribute most to the future of our home planet. A few years later, when Piers received the devastating news that he had not long to live, he chose to spend his remaining time continuing his work at NASA and communicating climate science to the public in the calm and charming manner that was uniquely his.

In a short video Piers recorded shortly before his death, despite his body having been ravaged by cancer and surely knowing that he had very little time left, he appeared as cheerful and hopeful as ever. In the video, he said

“to reach a safer future, we will need the resources of everybody here. The scientists, the policy makers, and the industrialists, all working together towards a common goal. And that goal is a planet that can continue to support life, including all of us.”

These words are even more powerful knowing that they came from a man who contributed the most precious resource available to him—the small number of days he had remaining in his life—toward the common goal he speaks of.

We would do well to follow the advice of Piers and to follow his heroic example.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:03 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 302. An act to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State.

H.R. 304. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services.

H.R. 309. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with a complex metabolic or autoimmune disease, a disease resulting from insulin deficiency or insulin resistance, or complications caused by such a disease, and for other purposes.

H.R. 315. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services.

H.R. 353. An act to improve the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's weather research through a focused program of investment on affordable and attainable advances in observational, computing, and modeling capabilities to support substantial improvement in weather forecasting and prediction of high impact weather events, to expand commercial opportunities for the provision of weather data, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 302. An act to provide protections for certain sports medicine professionals who provide certain medical services in a secondary State; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 304. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act with regard to the provision of emergency medical services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 309. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to foster more effective implementation and coordination of clinical care for people with a complex metabolic or autoimmune disease, a disease resulting from insulin deficiency or insulin resistance, or complications caused by such a disease, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 315. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity

care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-273. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Propiconazole; Extension of Pesticide Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions” (FRL No. 9956-54) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-274. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Methyl Isobutyrate and Isobutyl Isobutyrate; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9955-82) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-275. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Isobutyl acetate and isobutyric acid; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance” (FRL No. 9950-40) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2016; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-276. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Butanedioic acid, 2-methylene-telomer with sodium phosphinate (1:1); acidified, potassium salts; Tolerance Exemption” (FRL No. 9954-53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-277. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Aequinocyl; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9956-85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-278. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Tetraconazole; Pesticide Tolerances” (FRL No. 9955-74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2017; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-279. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to violations of the Antideficiency Act that involved fiscal years 2006 through 2010 Air Force Operations and Maintenance funds, and was assigned case number 12-01; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC-280. A communication from the Executive Secretary, Board of Actuaries, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the 2016 Report of the Department of Defense (DoD) Board of Actuaries; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-281. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Commerce Control List: Updates Based on the 2015 and 2016 Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) Plenary Meetings; Conforming Changes and Corrections to Certain Nuclear Nonproliferation (NP) Controls” (RIN0694-AH20) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 4, 2017; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-282. A communication from the Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Alaska; Subsistence Collections” (RIN1024-AE28) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 30, 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-283. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “State of Kentucky Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class II Program; Withdrawal of Primacy Approval” (FRL No. 9925747-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-284. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “State of Kentucky Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class II Program; Primacy Approval” (FRL No. 9957-48-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-285. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Extension of Deadline for Action on the November 2016 Section 126 Petition From Maryland” (FRL No. 9957-29-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-286. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Extension of Deadline for Action on the November 2016 Section 126 Petition From Delaware” (FRL No. 9957-28-OAR) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-287. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Clean Water Act Methods Update Rule for the Analysis of Effluent” (FRL No. 9957-24-OW) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 28, 2016; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-288. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval of California Air Plan Revisions, South Coast Air Quality Management District” (FRL No. 9955-94-Region 9) received during adjournment of the Senate in