

this week without also thinking about those jobs, thinking about the 12.3 million Americans who work at making things, thinking about the more than a quarter of a million Missourians who do that. Think about the others who work at growing things and how an economy that makes things and grows things is a stronger economy than an economy where people just trade services with each other. There is nothing wrong with trading services, but if you do that on top of a productive economy, it has a much better likelihood for everyone involved to serve the people who provide the services, as well as the people who are out there making things that are competitive in the world to have better opportunities.

I appreciate the President and Vice President this week calling attention to that important part of what we do as we move toward transportation and infrastructure and other things.

THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS FOR SENATOR MCCAIN

Mr. President, while I am on the floor, I want to mention for just a minute our friend, JOHN MCCAIN. I know lots of prayers have been said for Senator MCCAIN and his family. Lots of stories today have been told and traded, and there are lots of stories to tell.

When I was in the House for 14 years, I was often in brief meetings with Senator MCCAIN. Frankly, I never grew to appreciate him anywhere near like I did when I had a chance to begin to work with him every day. For me, at least, he was an acquired taste. It took time to really see his strength, his tenacity, and to understand that irascibility was just part of who he is and part of his determination to make the country and the Congress and the Senate better.

It would be hard to find anyone more determined or less fearful. In fact, someone in a recent debate in the last year or so said that Senator MCCAIN had—I think a reporter said that Senator MCCAIN had done something because he was afraid to do the other thing. When asked about it, Senator MCCAIN said: Well, it has been a long time since I was afraid.

He is a man who served his country day after day after day, and still does; a believer in what we stand for; someone who has traveled all over the world, as I have had a chance to travel to dangerous spots and other places. Over and over again, as I would get there, people would say: Here is what Senator MCCAIN had to say when he was here. Here is what Senator MCCAIN did when he was here. Senator MCCAIN was here last week. He was there, always proud of the independence and determination and democracy and freedom that he stands for.

We all know he is in a fight right now, but we all also know he is a fighter. He is not a man who surrenders. I know the prayers of not only the Senate but so many people all over the country and, frankly, all over the world go out to help JOHN MCCAIN as he faces this fight.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I rise today to oppose the nomination of David Bernhardt as the next Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Bernhardt has shown that he is unwilling to fight for the long-term conservation of our public lands and the responsible use of our public resources. By his own admission, he intends to be a big business yes-man for the Trump administration's extreme disregard for our environment and the human lives that are affected.

President Trump promised to drain the swamp of DC, but with each day of this administration, this Republican-controlled Senate approves yet another corporate insider to help out big business. The decision to nominate Mr. Bernhardt is no exception. He is another conflict-ridden, climate-dismissing Trump appointee who favors profits over people.

Let's look at his record. Mr. Bernhardt has extensive political experience in the Department of the Interior under the Bush administration, but in his tenure at the Department, including the 2 years he oversaw the ethics division, the Department was awash in ethical scandals and scientific misconduct.

And what did he do after he left government service? He scooted off to a lucrative lobbying firm to help Big Oil and other extraction companies maximize their profits by expanding offshore drilling and delaying air pollution limits on coal plants, regardless of the impact that would have on our children's future.

Even Mr. Bernhardt isn't proud of his own record. Prior to his nomination, his lobbying firm bio bragged about recently helping corporations fight against the Endangered Species Act, supporting corporate interests in offshore drilling and exploration for fossil fuels, and helping mining companies pursue public lands for development. He openly bragged about recently representing "an entity under investigation by a Federal Agency" and "entities accused of violating the Department of the Interior's regulations." He swaggered through Washington. That is, he swaggered right up until he was under consideration for the No. 2 spot at Interior. Now that he is in the public spotlight, he has scrubbed all those pro-industry, pro-pollution references from his bio. Now that the public is paying attention, he is putting out a clean image of a public servant who just happens to advise big corporations from time to time.

Beyond the ties Mr. Bernhardt still has to industry, I am alarmed by his

willingness to serve as the corporate rubberstamp that President Trump wants. Mr. Bernhardt is a walking conflict of interest who has taken one spin through the revolving door, and now he is coming back around again for a second pass.

The Deputy Secretary serves at the pleasure of the President. But a Deputy Secretary—the No. 2 at the Department—is, first and foremost, bound to serve the American people and the mission of the Department. No President is properly served by a corporate yes-man, and Mr. Bernhardt's yes-man mentality was on full display during his confirmation hearing.

When my colleague from Minnesota, Senator AL FRANKEN, questioned Mr. Bernhardt about climate change at his nomination hearing, he was all too willing to dismiss the urgency of climate change, and he pushed aside the responsibility of the Department of the Interior to act. In defiance of accepted climate science, he stated:

This President ran, he won on a particular policy perspective. That perspective's not going to change to the extent we have the discretion under the law to follow it.

In other words, don't bother me with the facts; we will just stick to whatever President Trump tells us to do.

But the rest of us can't ignore the facts. Our planet is getting hotter. The last 16 years were all among the hottest 17 years on record, and our seas are rising at an alarming rate. Our coasts are threatened by furious storm surges that can sweep away homes and devastate even our largest cities. Our economically disadvantaged communities, too often situated in low-lying floodplains, are one bad storm away from destruction. Our naval bases are under attack—not by enemy ships but by rising seas. Our food supplies and forests are threatened by droughts and wildfires that are becoming so common across the country that they barely even make the evening news.

The effects of manmade climate change are all around us, and things will only continue to get worse at an accelerating pace if we don't do something about it. We can act, and one important step is saying no to corporate raiders who are seeking to exploit public lands and gamble with our children's future.

President Trump thinks leadership is handing over management of our public lands to Big Oil and Big Coal executives who are looking to stuff their pockets while the getting is good. Mr. Bernhardt, a seasoned advocate for corporate interests, seems all too eager to please this President and corporate interests, no matter the cost to the American people. If President Trump's highest ranking agency officials are not brave enough to speak even a little truth to power about this President's climate delusions, then, who will?

The American people deserve leadership at the Department of the Interior—leadership that is committed to ensuring that our public resources and

our public lands are preserved for future generations of Americans. The American people deserve leadership that fights back when the President seeks to cut thousands of jobs at the Department of the Interior or offers a budget that critically undermines the Department's mission and threatens our public lands.

The American people deserve leadership at the Department of the Interior—leadership that works for the people—and that is not David Bernhardt.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. 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.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

VOTE EXPLANATION

• Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, due to a family related matter in Michigan, I was unable to attend today's rollcall vote on the nomination of John K. Bush to be a United States circuit judge for the Sixth Circuit. Had I been able to attend, I would have opposed his nomination.

I also was unable to attend today's rollcall vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of David Bernhardt to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior. Had I been able to attend, I would have voted no on the cloture motion.●

MCKINNEY-VENTO HOMELESS ASSISTANCE ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, July 22, 2017, marks the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, our Nation's landmark law designed to prevent and address homelessness. Many communities in my home State of Washington and across the country are confronting a surge in homeless and housing-insecure individuals, and the resources brought to bear by McKinney-Vento are essential to continued progress. The McKinney-Vento Act also marked the first time that Congress provided dedicated funding to ensure equal edu-

cational opportunities for children and youth who are experiencing homelessness. The law requires States and school districts to remove barriers that homeless children and youth face in receiving a high-quality education. In the years since the McKinney-Vento Act was passed, hundreds of thousands of young people experiencing homelessness have received the supports they need in order to attend school, graduate, and secure a well-paying job that can provide for their families.

I am proud to have introduced and seen enacted legislation to remove barriers and provide support to homeless children and youth, from early childhood through postsecondary education. Many of these laws have codified best practices pioneered by dedicated Washington State educators determined to make a difference for homeless children and youth.

I have fought and continue to fight for funding that makes a difference for homeless children and youth, veterans and other adults, and families experiencing homelessness. I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the success of the McKinney-Vento Act and recognizing how far we still have to go in order to solve our homelessness crisis and make sure that every child in our country has access to a quality education no matter where they live, how they learn, or how much money their parents make.

RECOGNIZING THOSE WHO SERVED ON WAKE ISLAND

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the servicemembers and civilians who served on Wake Island in World War II, as the last gathering of the Survivors of Wake-Guam-Cavite, Inc., is scheduled to be held in Boise in September.

Survivors of the defense of Wake Island and their families have held annual reunions and other get-togethers for the last nearly 71 years. Idaho became home to annual reunions of Wake Island survivors and their families. Many of these gatherings have been organized by Alice Ingham, whose husband was on Wake Island, but since many Wake Island survivors have now, unfortunately, passed away, the organization has decided to wind down their reunions, noting, "We would like to honor all of our Wake men—the living, the deceased, and those who never made it home from the war—with this final reunion." The last worker from Idaho, Joe Goicoechea of Boise, passed away this past year.

The astounding Americans who served on Wake Island and their families are lasting examples of courage and resolve. The history of World War II and the bravery of the American servicemembers who fought for our Nation and its allies are familiar parts of our collective national history, but an often overlooked part of this legacy is the service of the civilian workers on Wake Island who were swept into the

war. The civilian workers, including many Idahoans, working for Morrison Knudsen Company, building infrastructure on the island, when it was attacked the same day as the attack on Pearl Harbor, immediately became soldiers. Their service cannot be forgotten. I thank all those who have helped keep the memories of those who served on Wake Island alive.

In Veterans Memorial Park in Boise, a memorial honoring Americans who served on Wake Island gives the following account: "Five hours after bombing Pearl Harbor on December 7th, 1941, Japanese forces attacked Wake Island, a tiny island midway between Hawaii and Japan. The United States was constructing a runway essential for planes to refuel on their way through the area. There were 449 Marines, 68 Sailors, 6 Army Air Corps, and 1146 civilians employed by the Boise-based Morrison Knudsen Company on the island. Approximately 250 of the MK workers were from Idaho. For 15 days the military and civilians bravely defended the island from the Japanese forces. Wake Island fell to the Japanese on December 23, 1941.

"Following the battle, 98 civilian construction workers were kept on Wake Island to labor for the Japanese. When their work was complete, they were forced to dig their own graves before being executed. The remaining defenders of the island, both military and civilian, were taken as prisoners of war by the Japanese and held for 44 months. These brave heroes endured exceedingly harsh conditions, serving as slave labor for the Japanese government in Japan and China. Many died in captivity. In 1981 the civilian MK employees were granted Veteran status in recognition of their service in the War of the Pacific . . ."

Those who survived and returned home have enriched our communities. Thank you to those who served on Wake Island and their families for the immeasurable service you have given to our country and for your enduring examples of devotion and strength.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR RICHARD E. HAGNER

• Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend MAJ Richard E. Hagner for his dedication to duty and service to the Nation as an Army congressional fellow and congressional budget liaison for the Assistant Secretary of the Army. Major Hagner was recently selected for the Army's prestigious Advanced Strategic Planning and Policy Program and will be transitioning from his present assignment to begin doctoral studies at Vanderbilt University.

A native of Milwaukee, WI, Major Hagner was commissioned as an infantry officer after his graduation from