

disadvantage because non-U.S. companies do not have to make the same disclosures and the rule applies only to public companies—not true. The U.S. law covers all oil, gas, and mining companies listed on U.S. stock exchanges—not simply companies based in the United States. This includes BP, Shell, and Total, as well as leading state-owned oil companies from China and Brazil, such as PetroChina and Petrobras.

Republicans also claim that this rule increases prices at the pump—again, not true. Corruption costs oil and mining companies millions of dollars every year from instability and fragility in resource-rich countries, which contributes to increased operating risks, waste, inefficiency, and delays.

When leaders tap a country's oil revenues to keep themselves in power, it is called petro-authoritarianism. When the United States allows companies to secretly pay authoritarian governments for rights to their petroleum and mineral resources, we become implicit in the resulting human poverty and rights abuses. We cannot let that stand, which is why we have this SEC reporting requirement.

I urged my colleagues to vote no on this effort to kill the important protections provided by the SEC rule regarding transparency for extractive industry payments to foreign governments. We should be putting human rights interests ahead of the financial interests of a few powerful oil companies. That is why I urged my colleagues to vote against putting the profits of industry above the interests of our Nation and lesser developed nations all over the world.

CONFIRMATION OF MICHAEL POMPEO

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, the Senate recently voted to confirm Representative Mike Pompeo to be the Director of the CIA. While I do not agree with many of the views that Congressman Pompeo has expressed in the past, I have worked with him on legislation, and I know that he is a dedicated and experienced public servant. I believe he is qualified to lead the CIA at a critical time in our country's history. I was also extremely concerned about the nature of the President's press conference in front of the CIA memorial wall that honors those who lost their lives while in service. This press conference occurred before Representative Pompeo was confirmed by the Senate, and it provided an additional reason for putting seasoned leadership at the Agency without delay.

Like many of my colleagues, I was concerned about Congressman Pompeo's past views on torture. That is why I personally asked Representative Pompeo about the use of torture, and as he did at his hearing, he stated unequivocally that he would not use illegal enhanced interrogation techniques at the CIA. Senator FEINSTEIN

and I have requested and received written confirmation to reinforce the commitment he made at his hearing to uphold laws that ban torture. As a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I intend to exercise robust oversight to ensure that these laws are upheld.

I am opposed to torture. In 2007, I voted against Michael Mukasey for Attorney General because of his views on waterboarding. In 2015, I voted to strengthen the legal prohibition on torture by limiting interrogation techniques and requiring that the Red Cross has access to all detainees. I have also introduced bipartisan legislation, the Torture Victims Relief Act, to support torture treatment programs in the United States and abroad to help torture survivors recover from their trauma and rebuild productive lives.

The 1984 United Nations Convention Against Torture has been ratified by 157 countries, including the United States. The world continues to look to America for its steadfast leadership and we must continue to fight against the practice of torture and other cruel and inhuman treatments.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM "BILL" CANTY

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I wish to recognize and commend William "Bill" Canty of Oxford, MS, on the occasion of his retirement after a distinguished 27-year career as a staff member for the U.S. Senate.

Bill has earned my respect and that of the thousands of people in north Mississippi who know him as a dedicated field representative on my staff. I am confident that the tenacity, loyalty, and work ethic that characterized Bill's work for me were forged early in life with the lessons he learned as an outstanding student athlete.

Bill grew up in the shipbuilding town of Pascagoula, MS, where he earned letters in basketball, baseball, and football. As a college freshman at Furman University, he started at quarterback for the Paladins and set school records throughout his college football career, completing 215 passes for 2,460 yards and 24 touchdowns. He was elected unanimously in 1988 for induction into the Furman University Hall of Fame.

Bill played professional football for the Toronto Argonauts, a Canadian Football League organization, but was soon called to serve his country. After serving as an Army combat training officer, he began an extensive coaching career during which he earned a reputation for developing quarterbacks and strong passing offenses—first at Furman, then at Florida State University and the University of New Mexico.

In 1978, Bill returned home to Mississippi to coach at the University of Mississippi. He is one of the only coaches in the SEC to ever have been both the offensive and defensive coordinator in back to back seasons. Bill left coaching in 1987 and settled in Oxford.

Following his coaching career, Bill turned his leadership talents in a new direction. Fellow Pascagoula native and former U.S. Senator Trent Lott first hired Bill as a field representative, and I was fortunate to bring him on my staff in 2008.

Bill has served my office and the people of Mississippi honorably and with great dedication.

I am deeply grateful for having the benefit of his excellent service to our State and Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO TOM BURAK

● Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, today I wish to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Tom Burack and honoring his more than a decade of service to the State of New Hampshire. As commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, he has been a strong advocate for our State and our environment.

Our economic vitality as a State hinges on our pristine lakes and rivers, our clean air, and our strong protection of these natural resources. Under Tom's leadership, the department has focused on combating the serious challenge of climate change and ensuring that New Hampshire citizens and visitors have access to clean air, water, and land while providing excellent customer service—all of which is critical to our State's economy and future success. This includes the development of the 2009 Climate Action Plan, New Hampshire's entrance into the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, RGGI, the creation of the MtBE Remediation Bureau, and the formation of the State Government Energy Committee, among many others.

Tom has also led and facilitated a voluntary, informal network of State agency commissioners for 8 years, helping to bring agencies together to improve the operations of and drive innovation and efficiency in State government. He is a leader on the regional and national levels as well, including envisioning and coleading an overall modernization of how environmental protection services are delivered nationwide through a joint State-tribal-Federal initiative known as E-Enterprise for the Environment. All of these actions and the many others that are too numerous to list have helped to strengthen our environment, protect public health, and combat climate change.

New Hampshire's natural resources and scenic beauty must be protected, and doing so requires strong collaboration. As commissioner, Tom embodied New Hampshire's "all-hands-on-deck" spirit, working collaboratively with our neighboring States on issues like RGGI, local communities on issues like water quality and contamination, other State agencies on issues like State government energy efficiency, and partners at the Federal level.

New Hampshire and our country have benefitted enormously from Tom's vision, energy, and leadership, and I thank Tom for his tireless dedication to protecting our environment and his immense contributions that have helped make New Hampshire a special place to live, work, visit, and raise a family.●

REMEMBERING BOB BOALDIN

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, throughout his life, Bob Boaldin was dedicated to serving God, his family, his friends, and his community in Elkhart. As a stalwart figure of southwest Kansas who worked in the communication industry for many years, he was in many ways responsible for connecting the Big First to the world.

Bob was born on November 3, 1939, in Oklahoma City. He grew up in Elkhart, KS, and graduated from the local high school. While attending one semester at Oklahoma Panhandle State University, he met his wife of 58 years, Dian Whitecotton. He and Dian raised two sons and a daughter: Travis, Trenton, and Roxanna. Bob was a wheat and milo farmer who worked part time at the Elkhart Phone Company until 1964, when he began his lifelong career in communications.

In the 1970s, he purchased Elkhart Telephone Company and became the owner of Elkhart TV cable system. He also served as president of the State of Kansas Telephone Association and on the board of directors at the OPASTCO, Organization for the Promotion and Advancement of Small Telephone Companies. He was a founding member of the organization's Foundation for Rural Education and Development, which continues to help graduating high school seniors succeed by offering them academic scholarships. In 1986, Bob also began serving on the board of the U.S. Telecom Association.

His service to Elkhart and to Morton County will not be forgotten—he was a city councilman, mayor, and county commissioner for many years. He also worked as a local EMT for 13 years. He was an avid supporter of the county fair and always sought opportunities to serve his city and his State.

Bob's leadership abilities and desire to help his community led him to a number of roles advising members of the local and State levels of government, joining the Kansas Supreme Court Blue Ribbon Commission, helping to found WEKANDO, Western Kansas County Commissioners Organization, participating in the Kansas 911 Coordinating Council, and serving as president of the State of Kansas Legislative Policy Group.

He loved his cow-calf operation and worked hard to keep his cattle well fed. He was an active member of the Hillcrest Baptist Church community and gave his time during his younger years as a Sunday School teacher, nursery worker, school superintendent, and deacon.

Bob was an exemplary neighbor, friend, and leader. His lifelong efforts to improve the quality of life for those around him will impact generations of Kansans to come. I am thankful for my friendship with him and for his service to so many. Our prayers are with his wife and family. May he rest in peace.●

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-668. A communication from the Acting Director, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Direct Investment Surveys: BE-13, Survey of New Foreign Direct Investment in the United States, and Changes to Private Fund Reporting on Direct Investment Surveys" (RIN0691-AA85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 6, 2017; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. BURR, from the Select Committee on Intelligence, without amendment:

S. Res. 48. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Select Committee on Intelligence.

By Mr. HATCH, from the Committee on Finance, without amendment:

S. Res. 52. An original resolution authorizing expenditures by the Committee on Finance.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. ISAKSON (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. ENZI, Mrs. FISCHER, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MCCAIN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 306. A bill to provide for a biennial budget process and a biennial appropriations process and to enhance oversight and the performance of the Federal Government; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mrs. ERNST (for herself, Mr. COONS, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 307. A bill to enhance the database of emergency response capabilities of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 308. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to require applicable manufacturers to include information regarding payments made to physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and other advance practice nurses in transparency reports submitted under section 1128G of such Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 309. A bill to establish a Community-Based Institutional Special Needs Plan dem-

onstration program to target home and community-based care to eligible Medicare beneficiaries; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 310. A bill to clarify that nonprofit organizations such as Habitat for Humanity may accept donated mortgage appraisals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 311. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for training and support services for families and caregivers of people living with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 312. A bill to redesignate the Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site as the "Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. COTTON):

S. 313. A bill to clarify that volunteers at a children's consignment event are not employees under the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 314. A bill to enhance consumer rights relating to consumer report disputes by requiring provision of documentation provided by consumers; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. COTTON, Mr. KING, Mr. MANCHIN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 315. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to place in Arlington National Cemetery a monument honoring the helicopter pilots and crewmembers who were killed while serving on active duty in the Armed Forces during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. HATCH (for himself and Mr. BARRASSO):

S. 316. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to recognize the authority of States to regulate oil and gas operations and promote American energy security, development, and job creation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mrs. MCCASKILL, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. HEITKAMP, Mr. MCCAIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. DAINES, and Mrs. FISCHER):

S. 317. A bill to provide taxpayers with an annual report disclosing the cost and performance of Government programs and areas of duplication among them, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 318. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to enhance the COPS ON THE BEAT grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. FRANKEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 319. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish within the Department of Veterans Affairs a center of excellence in the prevention, diagnosis, mitigation, treatment, and rehabilitation of health