

If we do not work to repair this institution, there will be nothing left worth saving. If this Senate does not work, our Congress does not work. If our Congress does not work, our Nation does not work. If our Nation does not work, we teach the world that democracy is not the model to follow. If we, simply, reflect the bitter partisanship that is growing and festering across our Nation—fueled by some here in Washington—we will fail.

We in the Senate must, instead, follow the Founders' vision for us and, in fact, lead the country to common ground, to consensus, and to a better future. We should, therefore, work together to get back to a place where it is possible for Supreme Court Justices to be confirmed with broad and bipartisan majorities, where it is possible to legislate together on the issues compelling to our time, and where it is possible to hear each other and to hear the concerns of all of our people.

I hope my colleagues will hear my remarks today as an invitation to work together to face this challenge. We owe nothing less to the Supreme Court, to our country, and to our people.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President I would like to discuss my strong support for the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to be Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. In July I had the opportunity to meet with Judge Kavanaugh in my office, and it was clear to me that President Trump had nominated an outstanding jurist who was well-qualified and ready to be our next Supreme Court Justice.

From the very beginning, just minutes after his nomination, some of my Democratic colleagues had already decided to oppose Judge Kavanaugh at all costs. They refused to meet with him, spread a misinformation campaign about his record, and claimed he was outside of the mainstream. The indisputable fact is that Judge Kavanaugh is the mainstream. His reasoning has been adopted by the Supreme Court more than a dozen times, and he is well respected by people across the spectrum, from fellow judges to those who have argued before him.

Judge Kavanaugh sat through more than 30 hours of testimony before the Senate Judiciary Committee and sub-

sequently responded to 1,287 questions for the record, more than every previous Supreme Court nominee combined. It was not until the 11th hour, when Judge Kavanaugh was on the verge of being confirmed, that unsubstantiated and uncorroborated claims from 36 years ago were leaked to the media in a last ditch effort to derail his nomination. The F.B.I. conducted yet another background investigation, its seventh, and yet again, nothing was discovered that would disqualify Judge Kavanaugh from sitting on the Supreme Court.

Montanans overwhelmingly want a Supreme Court Justice with impeccable academic credentials, someone who does not legislate from the bench, but upholds the rule of law and who follows the Constitution. Judge Kavanaugh is without a doubt that person.

Yesterday, I was happy to cast my vote in favor of bringing debate to an end on this nomination. While I was unavailable this afternoon for the vote due to a longstanding family commitment, I spoke with Judge Kavanaugh and assured him that, if my vote was needed for final passage, that I would return as soon as possible. I would like to thank my good friend and colleague, Senator MURKOWSKI, for pairing votes so that my absence would not change the outcome.

However, I would be remiss not to mention that we would not be in this position had my friends across the aisle not turned this entire process into a political circus. They have done this for no other purpose than to obstruct and delay this nomination through the election in hopes that they take back control of this body and block all of President Trump's nominees. I fully support Judge Kavanaugh's confirmation look forward to his many years of service on the Supreme Court.

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. BARRASSO:

S. 3559. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate the credit for new qualified plug-in electric drive motor vehicles and to provide for a Federal Highway user fee on alternative fuel vehicles; to the Committee on Finance.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 4048. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3021, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to provide for water pollution control activities, and for other purposes.

SA 4049. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4048 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill S. 3021, supra.

SA 4050. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3021, supra.

SA 4051. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4050 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill S. 3021, supra.

SA 4052. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4051 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the amendment SA 4050 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill S. 3021, supra.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 4048. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3021, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to provide for water pollution control activities, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

SA 4049. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4048 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill S. 3021, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to provide for water pollution control activities, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”

SA 4050. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3021, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to provide for water pollution control activities, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment.”

SA 4051. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4050 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill S. 3021, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to provide for water pollution control activities, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “3 days” and insert “4 days”

SA 4052. Mr. McCONNELL proposed an amendment to amendment SA 4051 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the amendment SA 4050 proposed by Mr. McCONNELL to the bill S. 3021, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, to provide for water pollution control activities, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike “4” and insert “5”

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Manpreet Teji,

a judiciary staffer from my office, be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the day.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY,
OCTOBER 9, 2018, AT 3 P.M.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 3 p.m. on Tuesday, October 9, 2018.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:43 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, October 9, 2018, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate October 06, 2018:

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

BRETT M. KAVANAUGH, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AN ASSOCIATE JUSTICE OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES.