

have access to. We can't get to that land, even though we own the land—the American people own that land—because it is closed off. The Land and Water Conservation Fund allows us to get to that land, to recreate on that land, and to hunt on that land.

In the days leading up to the Land and Water Conservation Fund expiration, a report was published by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership. It published some figures on public land acreage that talked about the inaccessible number of acres in the American public land system. It identified over 9.5 million acres in the United States that was inaccessible to the public because of surrounding private land. In Colorado alone, there are over 250,000 acres of public lands that are closed off to the public. That translates to just shy of 400 square miles of public land in Colorado. There are 400 square miles of public land in Colorado—almost the size of Rocky Mountain National Park—that can't be used to hike, hunt, and fish because we can't access it. We can't access it to explore, to hope, to think, to dream—all of those things our public lands represent. The Land and Water Conservation Fund can be used to help access that land, to find ways to utilize that land. The 400 square miles of property that the public owns can be utilized by the public through programs like the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

I want to talk about this picture right here. This is the Superintendent of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park.

The Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park had a Land and Water Conservation Fund-purchased acquisition. You can see it here on the rim of the canyon. This was at risk of being sold to a developer. The park is right here. This is the park. Imagine if this rim of the canyon had been developed what that would have meant. It would have prevented this national park from meeting the ideals and aspirations of what we believe it should be and what it means to be a national park. Imagine the 2,500 acres on the rim of this canyon inside the boundary of the national park being sold and what it could have done to this public land that surrounds it.

The land acquired provides access to Gold Medal fly fishing on the Gunnison River, creates potential opportunities for the National Park Service to provide more family-friendly hiking near the visitor center, and serves as a potential source of water to the South Rim, which will reduce the operational costs of hauling water like they do now to meet visitor and staff needs. It is a win for all involved. You can see right there what it means.

In the next picture, we have the Great Sand Dunes National Park. Near it is a 12,000-acre ranch, the Medano Zapata Ranch, which borders the Sand Dunes on three sides. It has been 60 days since the Land and Water Conservation Fund has expired, but this

program, this chunk of land, this 12,000 acres was bought by the Nature Conservancy, one of our great conservation partners, and is going through the process to be incorporated into the park using LWCF dollars.

This is an important purchase for our access to existing public lands—12,000 acres to our existing public lands. You can see the Great Sand Dunes in the background there. This preserves access to these public lands and keeps beautiful lands conserved for healthy wildlife habitat.

Inholding purchases are not the only way the Land and Water Conservation Fund benefits the outdoors, however. The National Park Service, through the LWCF State and Local Assistance Program, provides matching grants for State and local park projects that aren't just inside national park boundaries.

Just last week, three State parks in Colorado were awarded funding through the LWCF. Funds awarded to Crawford State Park will be used to complete a trail between the east and west sides of the park, including the construction of two prefabricated pedestrian bridges.

Road improvements will be funded at Chatfield State Park, one of the most heavily used State parks in Colorado, to include resurfacing damaged asphalt, adding asphalt surface to a gravel access road, and adding bicycle lanes.

Finally, funding awarded through the LWCF to Cherry Creek State Park will allow them to resurface one-third of a mile on the Parker Trail.

The Land and Water Conservation Fund isn't just about the West. It is about the East as well. It is not just about our national forests or BLM land or national parks, local parks, bike trails, and playgrounds. It is about those little slices of heaven among the concrete and chaos of our urban corridors, as well.

I urge my colleagues to come together to find ways to permanently authorize and fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Think about what our public lands mean to this country, and go back to the words of Enos Mills, who was one of the founding fathers of Rocky Mountain National Park, who said this: "Within National Parks is room—glorious room—room in which to find ourselves, in which to think and hope, to dream and plan, to rest and resolve.

These are our public lands. We have a chance to act before this Congress closes to reauthorize and to fully fund the Land and Water Conservation Fund. I am going to fight tooth and nail to make sure that we get that job done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SASSE). The Senator from Ohio.

NOMINATION OF KATHLEEN L. KRANINGER

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, our job in this body, in public service, is to fight for the people we serve. If you are

taking a government salary, your job is to fight for the people who make this country work.

Wall Street, the big banks, and corporate special interests have their own army of lobbyists that go in and out of the majority leader's office. They are at their beck and call.

Our job is to fight for everyday Americans. That is why we created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. The Bureau's job is to crack down on Wall Street predators and people who cheat the system and shady lenders who prey on hard-working families.

The people in this town may have collective amnesia about what happened a decade ago. They may have forgotten the financial crisis. They may have forgotten the housing crisis, but families who lost their homes, lost their retirement savings, lost their jobs, and lost their college funds haven't forgotten.

My wife and I live in Cleveland, OH, in ZIP Code 44105. My ZIP Code, a decade ago, in the first half of that year, had more foreclosures than any ZIP Code in the United States of America. I see every day the blight and the damage that the foreclosure crisis brought to us, mostly by Wall Street.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau is supposed to look out for danger before it crashes down on these hard-working families and robs them of their homes, jobs, and savings. The first 6 years on the job, that is what public servants at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau did. They returned \$12 billion to 29 million Americans who had been scammed, cheated, and ripped off.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau follows in this country's proud tradition of progressive achievements: workers safety laws, overtime protections, collective bargaining rights, Social Security, Medicare, safe drinking water laws—all of those things that helped our country grow, that helped build a middle class, that helped to enhance people's quality of life.

Over the last year, Mick Mulvaney turned an agency meant to stand on the side of the American people into yet another outlet for the financial industry to push its agenda. The same people who line up outside the majority leader's office down the hall and the same lobbyists line up at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and push that same Wall Street agenda.

Mick Mulvaney said to the workers and servicemembers who are served by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, to students and seniors who are served by the Bureau: You are on your own now. Don't expect any protection from us.

It is not just an attack on consumers. It is the Americans who work hard, whether they swipe a badge or punch a clock, whether they work for salary, whether they work for tips, whether they are raising children or taking care of an aging parent. Americans work

hard to earn a paycheck, buy a home, send their kids to college, and save for retirement. Every day they find themselves under attack from scam debt collectors and predatory payday lenders, or they see their pensions being raided by hedge fund billionaires.

When we let financial predators strip away at the people in ZIP Code 44105—strip away Americans' hard-earned dollars through fees and scams—we undermine that dignity of work, undermine the dignity people should have when they retire, and undermine the dignity of work that makes this country great.

How do you look Americans in the eye who are working that second or third shift or starting a small business if their government is going to stand by and line up with criminals who fleece people, line up with Wall Street, line up with shady lenders?

It comes down to whose side you are on.

We know that Mick Mulvaney, who has been running the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—sort of moonlighting because he has another Federal job—has been on the side of Wall Street.

Now we have to ask ourselves about the nominee for this job, Kathy Kraninger: Whose side has she been on?

We tried to get answers from Ms. Kraninger. In her job at the Office and Management Budget, she oversaw the agencies that ripped children from their parents at the border. She was involved in that.

We asked Ms. Kraninger to show us what her role was in that policy. She didn't defend it. She just refused to respond. She came in front of the committee. She wanted this nomination. She wanted to be confirmed. She wanted this promotion, and she would not even answer questions. She wouldn't respond to letters about her involvement.

We asked Ms. Kraninger whose side she was on after a devastating hurricane left millions of American citizens—American citizens, don't forget—in Puerto Rico without power, without water, without hospital, without shelter. We asked her to show us who she was fighting for when the government failed to find relief. She didn't deny anything. She refused to answer.

She wants a promotion. She wants this job. She refused to answer questions that we asked, that Senator WHITEHOUSE or I or others asked on behalf of the American people.

Then we asked whose side she would be on if she were head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Would she be on the side of all the lobbyists that lined up outside Majority Leader MCCONNELL's office or on the side of those who have been harmed? Would she be on Mick Mulvaney's side or fight for workers and servicemembers and students and seniors? It is one of the questions she did answer.

She said: "I cannot identify any actions that Acting Director Mulvaney has taken with which I disagree."

We know exactly whose side Ms. Kraninger will be on. She is with Mick Mulvaney, which means she is with Wall Street, with the payday lenders, with the shady special interests. She is not on the side of millions of Americans—the 29 million Americans who have saved \$12 billion because the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau existed. She is not on their side. She is not on the side of her neighbors and my neighbors—her neighbors in her home State and in my home State of Ohio who lost their homes, their jobs, and their retirement savings to Wall Street greed.

She is not on the side of people who work for a living. She is on the side of big corporations like GM, which is shutting down its operations in Lordstown, presumably, costing 5,000 people their jobs, and moving some of those jobs overseas. She is on their side.

She has no experience in banking, finance, or consumer protection. Her one and only qualification is that she will be a rubberstamp for special interests.

I call on everybody in this body—I call on the President: Let's find somebody who will take this job seriously, who will fight for the people who make this country work.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of the nomination of Kathy Kraninger to be Director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

Ms. Kraninger has had a distinguished career in public service, with exposure to a diverse set of Federal agencies. She brings significant leadership experience at Federal agencies on Capitol Hill, with particular expertise in the budget and appropriations processes.

She has served as Associate Director for General Government at the Office of Management and Budget since March 2017. In that capacity, she oversees nearly \$250 billion in the budgetary resources for seven Cabinet Departments, and 30 other Federal Agencies, including the Bureau.

In addition, she serves as OMB's principal policy official for issues related to the Treasury Department, the Department of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Federal financial regulators.

Prior to her time at OMB, Ms. Kraninger served in leadership positions at the Department of Transportation and the Department of Homeland Security, as well as having served on the staff of several congressional committees, including on the Senate Appropriations Committee.

As Director of the Bureau, Ms. Kraninger would be charged with over-

seeing the market for consumer financial products and services, enforcing many Federal consumer financial laws, and protecting consumers. The Bureau's supervision, regulation, and enforcement decisions have an immense impact on consumers' access to critical financial products and services.

At her nomination hearing, Ms. Kraninger reiterated her dedication to fulfilling the Bureau's congressional mandate of ensuring all consumers have access to markets for consumer financial products and services that are fair, transparent, and competitive.

At her hearing, Ms. Kraninger identified what her first four priorities would be if she were to be confirmed: ensuring the Bureau is fair and transparent, including the use of robust cost-benefit analysis, notice and comment rule-making, and tailoring regulations to ensure that consumers are not unnecessarily and smaller companies are not disproportionately harmed; improving collaboration with other financial regulators in the States on supervision and enforcement; limiting data collection to only what is necessary and strengthening its protection; and making sure the Bureau is held accountable.

She was also forceful in saying:

Nothing is more destructive to competitive markets and consumer choice than fraudulent behavior. Under my stewardship, the Bureau will take aggressive action against bad actors who break the rules by engaging in fraud and other illegal activity.

It is good that Ms. Kraninger plans to prioritize limiting data collection and strengthening the protection of consumers' sensitive, personal financial information.

I have long been critical of big data collection activities by private organizations and Federal agencies, particularly that of the Bureau and its encroachment into the private financial lives of Americans across this country. The Bureau's data collection is especially concerning in light of the number of high-profile cyber attacks in recent years and news about how outside groups have collected private information from Facebook users.

It is important that the Bureau, other Federal agencies, and private organizations comprehensively review their data collection processes and narrow and enhance those processes to better protect consumers' personal information.

Big data and privacy issues will be a major priority for the Banking Committee in this next Congress. There is growing support to give people the necessary tools to protect their privacy and opt out of certain data collection.

I am confident that Ms. Kraninger is well prepared to lead the Bureau in enforcing Federal consumer financial laws, in protecting consumers' sensitive personal financial information, and in increasing its transparency and accountability. In fact, many of these issues were key points of discussion during Ms. Kraninger's nomination hearing.

Senator TILLIS asked Ms. Kraninger about the Bureau's immense power and level of accountability. Ms. Kraninger told the Banking Committee: "I have noted that my focus is on running the agency as Congress established it, but, certainly, working with Members of Congress, I'm very open to changes in the structure that will make the agency more accountable and transparent."

In responding to a question that Senator TOOMEY posed about the Bureau's potential impact on small businesses, Ms. Kraninger said:

I absolutely believe that there is a limited intent for the Bureau to be engaged in small business oversight or engagement there. So that's something that should be limited.

Senator MORAN asked Ms. Kraninger about providing greater clarity to companies that are overseen by the Bureau, to which she responded:

I completely agree that it is critical to have clear rules so that lenders, creditors, and consumers themselves know what the rules are, that they are not, somehow, told after the fact that they broke a rule they weren't even aware of or that it had, somehow, changed without any proper notice and comment process, to really understand the impacts and the opportunity to tailor.

In addition, numerous key stakeholders have written to the Banking Committee in support of Ms. Kraninger's nomination and to emphasize the positive attributes that prepare her to lead the Bureau. Ms. Kraninger has received widespread support from community banks and credit unions, consumer bankers, housing organizations and Realtors, taxpayer advocacy groups, and auto dealers.

Rebeca Romero Rainey, the president and CEO of the Independent Community Bankers of America, said:

I believe she understands the critical role played by community banks in creating access to consumer and small business credit and supporting prosperity in American communities. This perspective will strengthen the Bureau's rulemaking. I also believe she has a strong commitment to making the Bureau accountable, effective and efficient.

Following Ms. Kraninger's being reported favorably from the Banking Committee, Rob Nichols, the president and CEO of the American Bankers Association, said:

Ms. Kraninger detailed her substantial government and management experience that would help her lead the Bureau, and she committed to satisfying the Bureau's mandate of ensuring consumers have access to financial products and services that are "fair, transparent and competitive." We welcome that commitment and her pledge to maintain transparency and accountability if confirmed.

Jim Nussle, the president and CEO of the Credit Union National Association, said that until the Bureau's structure moves from a single Director to a bipartisan commission, "consumers and regulated entities will be best served by a Senate-confirmed, permanent Director leading the Bureau."

Dan Berger, the president and CEO of the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions, said: "A Senate-confirmed, full-time Director of the

Bureau will help provide regulatory certainty and clarity while providing important leadership and long-term focus that will allow credit unions to continue to meet the needs of their members."

Neil Bradley, the executive vice president and chief policy officer of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said: "Ms. Kraninger's experience will serve her well as the Director of the Bureau, especially as it aims to be a more transparent and accountable agency."

Richard Hunt, the president and CEO of the Consumer Bankers Association, said that until the Bureau moves from a single Director to a bipartisan commission, "it is imperative the Bureau have a permanent and full-time Director to fulfill its mission, and we look forward to working with Ms. Kraninger on commonsense regulations that protect consumers while also allowing a well-regulated banking system to serve families, small businesses, and local communities. CBA is grateful to Acting Director Mick Mulvaney for his leadership at the agency and for his willingness to listen to the opinions of all stakeholders."

The Bureau was the most polarizing part of Dodd-Frank, and it is not surprising that the confirmation votes of then-nominee Richard Cordray and now Kathy Kraninger are contentious. Some of Ms. Kraninger's opponents have raised questions about her potential involvement with respect to the administration's zero-tolerance policy and the administration's response to Hurricane Maria.

During her nomination hearing, I asked Ms. Kraninger to what extent, if any, she was involved in the development of the administration's zero-tolerance policy or the administration's response to Hurricane Maria. She responded: "I had no role in setting the zero-tolerance policy."

She also said, with respect to Hurricane Maria, that in the Office of Management and Budget, including herself, "we have a role in reviewing disaster declaration recommendations that go to the President. So we are involved from that point. We also put together, at the Office of Management and Budget, the supplemental requests that the administration puts forward to the Hill when they are necessary. Clearly, additional resources were needed [last fall], and the Office of Management and Budget supported the President in putting forward those requests that Congress considered and obviously responded to in providing the resources necessary."

Since Director Cordray's departure, I know some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have been frustrated by the Bureau under Acting Director Mulvaney's leadership. Given changes at the Agency over the last year and frustration felt on both sides of the aisle, now is an appropriate time to reconsider the fundamental structure of the Bureau to increase its accountability and transparency.

I continue to support a bipartisan commission instead of a single Director, a congressional funding mechanism, and a safety and soundness check. It would also be appropriate to give the Bureau its own inspector general.

For the past year, the Bureau has been led by an Acting Director. It is time for the Senate to confirm a permanent Director. I support Ms. Kraninger, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting yes on her nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the vote scheduled for 1:45 p.m. commence now.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### 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 the nomination of Kathleen Laura Kraninger, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years.

Mitch McConnell, Jerry Moran, Mike Crapo, Steve Daines, Richard Burr, James E. Risch, Thom Tillis, John Thune, Roger F. Wicker, John Hoeven, David Perdue, Pat Roberts, John Barrasso, Mike Rounds, Lamar Alexander, John Boozman, John Cornyn.

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 the nomination of Kathleen Laura Kraninger, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection for a term of five years, 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. CORNYN. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INNOFE).

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 252 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

Alexander	Daines	Johnson
Barrasso	Enzi	Kennedy
Blunt	Ernst	Kyl
Boozman	Fischer	Lankford
Burr	Flake	Lee
Capito	Gardner	McConnell
Cassidy	Graham	Moran
Collins	Grassley	Murkowski
Corker	Hatch	Paul
Cornyn	Heller	Perdue
Cotton	Hoeven	Portman
Crapo	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cruz	Isakson	Roberts