

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Without objection, it is so ordered.

**MR. RISCH.** Mr. President, I rise today, again, to discuss S. 1 and to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this.

We had a vote just the other day on this, and it has been reconsidered. All Republicans voted for it. Four of our friends on the other side of the aisle also voted with us on this, and I would urge a few more to do so. If that happens, we will actually pass this package of bills, which is so important.

These have been kicked around for some time. The substance of these bills have near—although not complete—unanimous approval of this body. Indeed, Members of this body have voted for these, both in committee and on the floor, individually in the past, but they have not gotten across the finish line because we ran out of time in the last Congress.

Essentially, it is a package of three bills that support our friends. One, of course, supports Israel. One supports Jordan, one of our best friends in the Middle East. And, lastly, one of the bills refreshes and strengthens the sanctions against Bashar al-Assad and his government in Syria.

These should pass. You might ask yourself: Well, what is going on here? Why are we having these party-line votes on this? Well, my friends on the other side of the aisle have said: We are not going to vote on anything while the government is shut down, and we should be focused on this. I would remind my friends that there are a lot of us around here who are veterans of the 2013 Obama-Harry Reid shutdown.

During that shutdown, the U.S. Senate continued to do its job, continued to consider resolutions, continued to pass bills, and continued to do confirmations, as it was required to do.

That is what we have here today—something that we should be doing that reinforces our friends in the Middle East. Particularly with times being somewhat tumultuous there, it is important that we support our friends in the Middle East, and it is important that we put these sanctions on the people of Syria.

I would also remind my friends on the other side of the aisle that they are forcing a vote on the Treasury regulations surrounding Mr. Deripaska, the Russian person who has had sanctions placed on him and who has gone through the process of getting them removed. My friends on the other side are requiring that we debate and then vote on those, which is a good thing to do. First of all, there are some issues that need to be aired there, and, secondly, it is important that we have the process for reviewing actions by the Treasury Department under the sanctions legislation in the past. It is good that we do that. But to say “We can’t do this, but we can do that” because they want to do it really doesn’t make sense. They also want to do this. I think if we had a straight-up vote on this, I would suspect the Democrats would vote unanimously to do this.

This is just the wrong way to do business. We are the U.S. Senate. We are open for business. We are doing business. In the last shutdown, we did business, and there is no reason we can’t do this.

**MR. PRESIDING OFFICER.** Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, John Hoeven, Roger F. Wicker, John Cornyn, Rick Scott, Mitt Romney, Cory Gardner, Marco Rubio, John Thune, Chuck Grassley, Todd Young, John Barrasso, Deb Fischer, Lindsey Graham, Johnny Isakson, James E. Risch, John Boozman.

**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 motion to proceed to S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

**MR. THUNE.** The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. PERDUE).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) would have voted “yea.”

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER (MR. CASSIDY).** Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 2 Leg.]

**YEAS—53**

Alexander	Braun	Cotton
Barrasso	Burr	Cramer
Blackburn	Capito	Crapo
Blunt	Cassidy	Daines
Boozman	Collins	Enzi

Ernst	Lankford	Rubio
Fischer	Lee	Sasse
Gardner	Manchin	Scott (FL)
Graham	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Grassley	McSally	Shelby
Hawley	Menendez	Sinema
Hoeven	Murkowski	Sullivan
Hyde-Smith	Paul	Thune
Inhofe	Portman	Tillis
Isakson	Risch	Toomey
Johnson	Roberts	Wicker
Jones	Romney	Young
Kennedy	Rounds	

**NAYS—43**

Baldwin	Harris	Sanders
Bennet	Hassan	Schatz
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Schumer
Booker	Hirono	Shaheen
Brown	Kaine	Smith
Cantwell	King	Stabenow
Cardin	Klobuchar	Tester
Carper	Leahy	Udall
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warren
Duckworth	Murray	Whitehouse
Durbin	Peters	
Feinstein	Reed	Wyden
Gillibrand	Rosen	

**NOT VOTING—4**

Cornyn	Moran
Cruz	Perdue

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 43. Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is rejected.

**CLOTURE MOTION**

**MR. McCONNELL.** Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 1, S. 1, a bill to make improvements to certain defense and security assistance provisions and to authorize the appropriation of funds to Israel, to reauthorize the United States-Jordan Defense Cooperation Act of 2015, and to halt the wholesale slaughter of the Syrian people, and for other purposes.

Todd Young, Mike Rounds, Richard C. Shelby, James E. Risch, Mike Lee, Josh Hawley, John Boozman, Shelley Moore Capito, Mike Crapo, Tim Scott, Cory Gardner, Roy Blunt, Steve Daines, Marco Rubio, Rob Portman, John Barrasso, Mitch McConnell.

**MR. McCONNELL.** I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call be waived.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** Without objection, it is so ordered.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from South Carolina.

**CIVILITY, FAIRNESS, AND OPPORTUNITY**

**MR. SCOTT** of South Carolina. Mr. President, each new year brings with it a range of different emotions. We look back on what we have accomplished in the last year, what we hope to achieve in the year to come, and think of ways we can better ourselves.

Some of our objectives may include eating just a little less. For me, that

means eating a little less sour cream pound cake or sweet potato pie, which is something I can completely control, and I am trying.

As a nation, though, we need to look at some goals for the new year that will help us move forward together—goals that may be a little tougher and require all of us to work together. While we may have some uncomfortable conversations—and we will—we must recognize that at the end of the day, we are family, both inside our homes and as Americans, in the land of the free and the home of the brave.

As we look to 2019, I am hopeful we can take three lessons and carry them forward. Those who follow me know I have focused my time in the Senate on an opportunity agenda that focuses on helping people rise from poverty in distressed communities, helping folks who are living paycheck to paycheck to experience the greatness that is, in fact, the American dream, and I will continue to focus on those issues in 2019, but you will also hear from me in 2019 what I believe are some missing keys to American progress. Those keys are civility, fairness, and opportunity.

So when you are having dinner and a family member tries to tell you that the reigning Super Bowl Champion Philadelphia Eagles—lucky, of course, to be in the playoffs at all—are in fact the best football team in America, we all know the truth: It is America's team, the Dallas Cowboys. You will have a discussion with your family friend who believes otherwise, and I hope you will disagree strongly, that you will argue with facts, history—the history of Roger Staubach or Troy Aikman or Emmitt Smith or Tony Dorsett or “Too Tall” Jones—and you argue that with history and with passion, but you know, at the end of the day, your crazy uncle is still your crazy uncle. You will see each other next weekend. You will hug, and you will start the same fight all over again, but you see what you have done is you have agreed to disagree without being disagreeable. That, at its core, is the civility our Nation is sorely missing right now.

Too often too many seem too focused on saying whatever they want to say and saying it more loudly, without any concern for the actual content. We need to return to civility, where the other side isn't evil or a traitor or trying to destroy our country, but they simply have a different vision for how to achieve success.

Second, sometimes we struggle to make sure our loved ones, especially our kids around Christmastime, are treated fairly. So as they open their presents, we want to make sure everyone has a chance to play with everything. This is what we call trying to be fair. As a parent—or in my case as the giver of cool gifts—we want to make sure the kids are being fair with their siblings as they play with the new toys. There is something in each and every one of us that yearns for fairness, but

too often, when we leave the comfort of those mornings, we tend to want more for ourselves than we want for others. We want people to treat us in a way that gives us the benefit of the doubt, but sometimes we don't want to give it in return. Being fair means first seeking to understand before being understood.

Finally, opportunity. I want to look back at a Christmas tradition in my hometown of North Charleston, a place where we see amazing things happen around the Christmas holidays. We see police officers, firefighters, and community volunteers coming together about 6 a.m. on Christmas morning to go knock on doors, where they know definitively there are kids without Christmas trees, much less Christmas presents. These police officers, firefighters, and community volunteers join hands and raise a ton of dollars and bring presents to the doors. Anyone who has experienced this, as I have, cannot fully describe the joy on a child's face, the emotion and the tears of happiness for someone who didn't expect a single thing for the holidays, because opportunity is just not about ourselves and our families. While we certainly strive to be successful, the true meaning of the Christmas and the holiday season lies in what we do for others.

For Congress, that means everything we do—everything we do—should be with an eye toward improving the lives of all Americans. For folks at home, remember, there are folks in your community who are less fortunate. This became the greatest Nation on Earth because of our hearts and our minds, the hearts and minds of the American people, the power and endurance of the American dream, and the graciousness and strength of the American spirit; in other words, American exceptionalism. Civility, fairness, and opportunity are three words that can help our Nation heal and move us forward toward a better future.

My hope this year is that we will take some time to think about what each of us can do to further these goals. Resolutions are good. Being resolute in our mission to strengthen our Nation is great. Soon I will speak about my vision for the future, my America 2030 plan.

I want to say happy new year and ask everyone to remember the true spirit of what makes America great.

RECOGNIZING THE CLEMSON TIGERS' 2019 NCAAW CHAMPIONSHIP VICTORY

Mr. President, before I close, I would like to talk, just for a few minutes, about an epic celebration in a small upstate city in the great State of South Carolina—a celebration that is because of a game. Now, in South Carolina, we have real division. The divisions can be seen between those who support the Clemson Tigers and those like myself who support the Carolina Gamecocks. After the Clemson national championship victory, both sides of the great State of South Carolina—at least most

of us—are celebrating the absolute overwhelming success of the Clemson Tigers. You can't help but appreciate and admire the amazing leadership at Clemson University, the leadership of Jim Clements, the President of Clemson University.

Clemson has been an amazing testament to the goodwill and good effort of programs focused on character first. As Coach Swinney has created an absolute powerhouse in Clemson, it is hard to deny that he is not one of the best coaches in college football in America today. He has surrounded himself with amazing players such as Deshaun Watson, DeAndre Hopkins, Vic Beasley, and now Trevor Lawrence, Travis Etienne, and Christian Wilkins.

I want to extend my congratulations to Clemson University on their second national championship in just the last 4 years and their third overall national championship. I wish I could be in Clemson on Saturday morning at 9 a.m. as they—they don't have to paint the streets orange because they are already orange—but as they blow out the great city they live in. I will say that not only am I heartened and excited about the success of Clemson University on the field, I thought, listening to Dabo Swinney as he talked about success in life, it reminded me of my civility, fairness, and opportunity agenda for 2019.

He said something to this effect. When asked about his success and the greatness of his football team and the wonders of winning a national championship, what did he celebrate the most? He said it in this fashion. He said: When I think about being selfless, when I think about real success, it is in this order. First, it is about honoring the Lord Jesus Christ, his Lord and Savior; second, it is about honoring others; and third, finally, it comes down to self. There is something to learn about putting others before ourselves as we look toward a more civil society, filled with fairness, brimming with opportunity.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Senator, and if I may congratulate the junior Senator from South Carolina on the spectacular win that Clemson had and also congratulate him about being so true to the spirit of civility he discussed and not trash-talking the other team involved.

It was a truly splendid victory between two extraordinarily talented and capable teams, and I congratulate the Senator.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Would the Senator yield for a moment?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Gladly.

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. I will concede that while I am exuberant and excited for the enthusiasm for Clemson's success this year, I am aware that next year Clemson and Alabama may meet again. So the more you celebrate this year, perhaps the more you will regret it next year.

Thank you, Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Thank you, Mr. President, and happy new year. The new 116th Congress brings new hope for the Senate to face up to the clear and present danger of climate change. The House of Representatives being in Democratic hands augments that hope.

The Senate Republican majority has failed to address climate change. This is no accident. This is the Senate in the Citizens United era. I was here before Citizens United, and for years we saw Senate climate bipartisanship, before Citizens United. After Citizens United, what we see is immensely powerful climate-denying, dark-money front groups for the fossil fuel industry, all likely funded by fossil fuel interests, and we see no Republican Senator willing to cross them. The spending they do in politics—and the more silent threat of spending—is a blockade. It reeks.

Here is a case study on how dark and unlimited money play in Senate elections. In 2016, in Ohio, Indiana, and Wisconsin, three Democratic Senate candidates stood a good early chance of winning Republican-held seats in 2016. All were solid, experienced candidates who had been Senators before. All were ahead in early polling. Then the big influencers came in hard, launching attack ads, in some cases, well more than 1 year before the election. It is a little like strafing the other side's planes while they are still on the airfield.

The pile-on of so-called outside group spending against these three candidates came to almost \$70 million. All three ultimately lost their races, and their losses meant Republicans kept majority control of this Chamber.

Let's look at that \$70 million that acquired the continued Republican majority control of this Chamber. Of that \$70 million, only about \$11 million came from donors and PACs that appear unconnected to the fossil fuel industry. At least two-thirds of that outside spending—more than \$46 million—can be directly traced to groups that received significant funding from fossil energy, and \$12 million, the remainder of that 70, came through dark money channels. In this day and age in America, powerful influencers can obscure their identities by running their political spending through these dark money channels so it is impossible for us to know whether or how much of this remaining \$12 million was from polluter dollars—fossil fuel dollars. I strongly suspect all of it was. In any event, when one industry can deliver that kind of political artillery, the vast majority of a \$70 million barrage against three specific candidates, that gives that industry remarkable political power with the side that is advantaged—climate action stopping political power, it would seem.

As the mounting effects of climate change have grown ever more dire and

the scientific understanding has grown ever more clear, what has the Senate done? Nothing. Let's look at what we learned and what we witnessed and what we failed to do in 2018.

Mr. President, 2018 saw the release of two landmark climate science reports—one from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on the effects of warming 1.5 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels, and the second, the Trump administration's own "National Climate Assessment." Together, these reports delivered the starker warning on climate change to date. Damage from climate change is already occurring. Economies are now at risk, and we are almost out of time to prevent the worst consequences.

The IPCC report told us that accounting for the costs of carbon pollution by charging a price for carbon emissions is the "central" policy that will allow us to hold the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius or less. Even this dire endorsement was not enough to move a single Republican colleague to join a bill to establish a carbon fee.

More telling was the spectacle of the Trump administration's "National Climate Assessment." This report, written by 13 Federal Agencies, described the monumental damage the United States is facing from climate change, flatly contradicting the climate denial assertions of the President and his fossil fuel-flunkies Cabinet. The administration tried to bury the report by releasing it on Black Friday during the Thanksgiving holiday. That cynical move happily backfired, with more than 140 newspapers around the country featuring the report's stark findings on front pages and Google searches for "climate change" hitting their highest level for the year.

Tellingly, the fossil fuel industry and its bevy of stooges in the Trump administration did not contest the science in the report—an admission by inaction that they know their science denial campaign is phony. They know the real science is irrefutable. It is better to hide from it.

Unfortunately, we witnessed the irrefutable contribution of climate change to the most devastating natural disasters of 2018.

"Irrefutable," by the way, is one way to describe climate science. Another way to describe it is "incontrovertible." The description of climate science as "incontrovertible" was published in a New York Times full-page advertisement in 2009 that was signed by, among others, Donald Trump, Donald Trump, Jr., Ivanka Trump, Eric Trump, and the Trump Organization. How things change.

Anyway, out West, wildfires in California broke records. The Mendocino Complex Fire in July and August was the largest in the State's recorded history. The Camp Fire—this photograph—was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history, killing 86 people. Scientists linked

California's increasing wildfires to climate change, estimating the area burned by wildfires across the Western United States since 1984 at twice what would have burned without the human-driven changes.

Michael Mann, the professor of atmospheric science at Penn State University, told PBS recently:

It's not rocket science. . . . You warm the planet, you're going to get more frequent and intense heat waves. You warm the soils, you dry them out, you get worse drought. You bring all that together, and those are all the ingredients for unprecedented wildfires.

Mr. President, 2018 saw the east coast slammed by hurricanes that were supercharged by warming oceans. Hurricanes gain strength from heat energy in the oceans they pass over. Warmer oceans also evaporate more water up into the storms, generating more storm rainfall. So stronger and wetter storms then ride ashore on higher and warmer seas and push larger storm surges ahead of them.

Hurricane Florence intensified over water 1 to 2 degrees Celsius above average and dumped record rainfall and flooding on the Carolinas. Preliminary analysis suggests that its rainfall was more than 50 percent higher due to climate change.

When Hurricane Michael hit Florida, it passed over water 2 to 3 degrees Celsius warmer than average. Passing over that heat, its winds spun up by 80 miles per hour in just 48 hours, becoming the strongest storm ever to make an October landfall in the United States and almost completely flattening the town of Mexico Beach, FL.

Scientists are increasingly able to identify the role of climate change in extreme weather. The American Meteorological Society reported in December that 15 extreme weather events in 2017 were made more likely due to human-caused climate change, including a devastating marine heat wave off the coast of Australia that would have been "virtually impossible" without human-induced warming. The report drew attention to the role of oceans in many of these extreme events. Jeff Rosenfeld, the Meteorological Society's editor-in-chief, said that "the ocean is actively playing a role in the extremes that we're seeing" and that "we're seeing the oceans as a link in a chain of causes that ultimately tie human causes to extreme weather events on land."

The changes occurring in the ocean are imposing an increasing threat to our coastal communities, from gulf communities in Louisiana to shoreline communities in Rhode Island.

The Union of Concerned Scientists released a report last year finding that over 300,000 coastal homes, with a collective market value of over \$130 billion, are at risk of chronic flooding by 2045. By the end of the century, 2.4 million homes, worth more than \$1 trillion, are expected to be at risk.

A 2018 report from Climate Central and Zillow found that thousands of

homes continue to be built in risky coastal areas that are expected to suffer annual floods by 2050.

Freddie Mac, the big U.S. housing corporation, has taken a look at this and warned of a coastal property values crash as those houses become uninsurable or unmortgageable to the next buyer.

A second economic crash we face is a “carbon bubble” in fossil fuel companies. The “carbon bubble” collapse happens when fossil fuel reserves now on the books of fossil fuel companies turn out to be undevelopable “stranded assets.” Research published by economists in the journal *Nature Climate Change* estimated that in a world where we succeed in limiting warming to 2 degrees Celsius, \$12 trillion of financial value could vanish from balance sheets globally in the form of stranded fossil fuel assets. That is over 15 percent of global GDP, and that is why the Bank of England calls this a systemic risk—i.e., a risk to the entire global economy.

Financial managers are waking up to these risks. At the recent U.N. climate summit in December, a group of 415 global investors, managing \$32 trillion of investments—these are men and women who have been trusted with managing \$32 trillion worth of investments—came together to warn that the world faces a financial crash worse than the 2008 crisis unless carbon emissions are urgently cut. The group called for the end of fossil fuel subsidies and the introduction of substantial prices on carbon emissions. They understand that to limit the worst climate risks, including economic catastrophes, we must cut carbon emissions immediately and substantially.

But back home, the Trump administration—clearly and completely corrupted by the fossil fuel industry—has now taken more than 90 actions to weaken climate policies. Regrettably, after years of decline, U.S. carbon emissions grew 3.4 percent in 2018. Global carbon emissions also grew by 2.7 percent to reach a new carbon emissions record.

If the Trump administration’s 2018 regulatory actions read like a fossil fuel industry wish list, it is because they are. Just one example is the fuel economy rollback for automobiles. It is a perfect example. The new, weaker standards were pushed by—guess who—the largest oil refiner in the country, Marathon Petroleum. Marathon also distinguished itself as a top donor to ethically challenged EPA Administrator Scott Pruitt during his time in political office in Oklahoma. Marathon worked with the creepy Koch Brothers’ network and oil industry lobby groups to run a stealth campaign, including a Facebook ad campaign using a phony front group called Energy4US that hid its oil industry origin.

Fossil fuel energy companies claim to be cleaning up their act. They issue statements voicing support for carbon pricing. Look at what they do when the

prospect of getting a carbon price on the books becomes real, as it did in Washington State’s carbon fee ballot initiative. The campaign against the carbon fee outspent the campaign supporting it by 2 to 1, dumping more money into this ballot fight than any ballot initiative campaign in the State’s history. And who funded the campaign against the initiative? Oil companies. BP, Phillips 66, and, of course, our friends Marathon Petroleum were the top spenders by far.

Oil companies claim to support carbon pricing, but the giant trade associations they fund to go out and do their political work—the American Petroleum Institute, the so-called U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers—all oppose any proposals to reduce carbon pollution. The CEOs say one thing, and their political electioneering and lobbying apparatus is instructed to go out and do the exact opposite.

Another telling aspect of the Washington State ballot initiative is who did not show up. Conspicuously absent are any of the good-guy corporations from the tech, financial, and food and beverage sectors that talk such a good game on climate change. That is telling because it matches what happens here in Congress. The good-guy corporations do not lift a political finger to advance climate legislation here in the Senate. In fact, these are the good guys. Set aside the fossil fuel pirates and what they are all up to through their front groups and their dark money and all the nonsense that they drive. These are the supposed good guys. In fact, they have a net negative presence here in the Senate on climate legislation because they do virtually nothing, and the trade associations they help to fund, like the Chamber of Commerce, lobby against climate action.

So you have American corporations with good climate policies taking sustainability seriously within their corporate precincts. Then, those companies come to the Senate, and their positions, as they appear here in the Senate, are against the climate policies they claim to support because they work through these intermediary groups that have been co-opted by fossil fuel interests and because they don’t show up themselves. In 2019, let’s hope the good-guy American corporations get off the bench, clean up the acts of their trade groups, and get onto the field on the good side of the climate policy fight.

Let me wrap up, through all of that gloom, with the good news for the new year and beyond.

Record low prices for wind and solar projects are now cheaper than fossil fuels in many places. Battery costs are falling rapidly. Amazing electric vehicles keep coming to market. New carbon capture technologies emerge. Xcel Energy, a Colorado-based utility that serves over 3 million customers, has announced a commitment to reduce

carbon emissions 80 percent by 2030 and to have zero carbon emissions by 2050, which shows that players in the energy industry know to make this transition.

Out of the States, California has passed a law requiring 100-percent zero carbon electricity by 2045—100 percent. The Governors of New York and Washington States recently announced 100 percent zero carbon electricity goals. Hawaii has a law requiring 100 percent renewable electricity by 2045. On the same day in late December, the District of Columbia passed a bill requiring 100 percent renewable electricity by 2032, and nine Northeastern States—I am proud to say it includes my Rhode Island—committed to cap emissions from the transportation sector.

Here in the Senate, we can expect the new Democratic House to send climate legislation our way. Whether my Republican colleagues like it or not and whether the fossil fuel industry likes it or not, this will be an issue in the 116th Congress.

My new year’s wish is that my Republican Senate colleagues will finally wake up to the damage that climate change is causing, to the looming threat that climate change presents, and will help us to pass bills addressing the huge climate risk that we face.

This is not impossible. This is the way the Senate behaved until January of 2010. From when I was sworn in in 2007, through the rest of that year and through 2008 and 2009, we had bipartisan climate bills. We had bipartisan climate hearings. We had bipartisan climate negotiations. We had bipartisan climate discussions. It was possible to do that because the five Republican judges on the Supreme Court had not yet given the fossil fuel industry the massive, new political artillery they had given them in the Citizens United decision. Once the fossil fuel industry had that new artillery, the game changed, and it brought it to bear on our friends on the other side, and there has not been a single Republican Senator on a single serious carbon emissions bill since that moment. It shows what happens when you give a big special interest a massive, new piece of political weaponry.

It doesn’t mean it has to be this way. The good guys could show up and counterbalance the political hydraulics here of the fossil fuel industry’s power. Our colleagues could say: Guys, we gave you a heck of a good run. For years, we did nothing, but it is time now. We have taken a look at where voters are. We have even taken a look at where Republican voters are. We have taken a look at where the science is, and we are going to do something.

There are a lot of ways that we can go back to the bipartisan legislation, the bipartisan hearings, and the bipartisan conversations that characterized this issue before Citizens United. It has been too long that big polluter donors have had their way around here. They pay the fee, but our Nation pays the price. We have a responsibility here to

protect future generations from an avoidable disaster of our own making. It is time for us to wake up and do our job.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

REMEMBERING LARRY WEINBERG

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about Larry Weinberg, who was beloved by many Oregonians, one of the original owners of our wonderful basketball team, the Portland Trail Blazers—the owner who won eternal gratitude from the people of my State as he guided our Trail Blazers to their first title. He passed away last week at the age of 92. He was a soft-spoken man who was never one to drone on, so in that spirit, I am going to keep these remarks brief.

The first thing we want everybody to know about Larry is that he was a wonderful family man. I met him for the first time in the early 1980s. I was a young Member of the other body, the House of Representatives, and Larry could have made our first conversation about politics. We were very interested, for example, in ways to promote a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. There were plenty of things we could have talked about with respect to politics, but he made the conversation about basketball, which was one of the great loves of his life, and I think people know around here that my great hope was to play in the NBA. Larry knew that.

Because Larry was a family man, that first conversation we had was about family, and he had an enormous family. If you look at the family photo on the holiday cards that Larry and his wife Barbi sent each year, you would think about half of the 320 million people in our country were actually Weinbergs. The cards were wonderful, and they just seemed to go on and on and on.

During that first conversation, Larry asked me about my family. I told him about my great-uncle Max, who was one of last Jews to be murdered in Auschwitz. I told him about my parents, who fled Nazi Germany as refugees and settled in America before they pitched in to the war effort during World War II.

That was one of the first bonds I had with Larry Weinberg, and I think that was true of many of his friends. We had family who were veterans themselves, loved ones who had wanted to make sure the United States prevailed in World War II, and that was Larry. He served in Europe during the war and sustained serious injuries in France.

Throughout his life, he carried that dedication to service that was so characteristic of so many of his generation.

Larry Weinberg applied the lessons of the war to his leadership of the American Jewish community. He worked to promote understanding between religious groups while demonstrating a firm commitment to the Jewish tradition of *tikkun olam*—improving the world. That is something Jews feel very strongly about. Whether it is healthcare or foreign relations, whatever, we want to be part of making the world a better place, perfecting the world. That is what *tikkun olam* means.

Larry and Barbi Weinberg supported the development of concrete scholarship on issues that face not only Israel but the entire Middle East, understanding that the difficulties affecting one's neighbors are really part of a shared burden, demanding a shared solution.

Portlanders like myself know Larry for another reason. If you are a Portlander of my age and an ardent Blazer fan, you cheered on Bill Walton's Trail Blazers because they won a championship for Rip City in 1977. If you are a young basketball fan in Portland today, you probably root for Dame—that is Mr. Lillard—or C.J.—that is C.J. McCollum. All of us in Portland and in Oregon owe Larry Weinberg a debt of gratitude because he brought the NBA to our State, and had he not done that, all of us who root for the Trail Blazers today wouldn't be able to turn out and see Dame and C.J. and all of our wonderful players who are really community leaders.

I remember back then seeing Larry and his wife Barbi cheering at our home games, and they were always wearing our colors. I particularly saw that bright-red blazer. Whether it was back in the seventies at the Memorial Coliseum or even in their later years at Moda Center, when you looked at Barbi and Larry Weinberg, you got a sense of what it meant not just to be a fan, but the Weinbergs really looked at our town and those Trail Blazers as part of their extended family.

With respect to sports and the intersection of sports and how sports fit into the world, I want to relate something that happened in the late 1980s when Larry approached me with a particular request, something he wanted me to do.

I was traveling to the Soviet Union with a group of Jewish community leaders from Portland. At that time, the Trail Blazers were very interested in bringing a wonderfully talented center, Arvydas Sabonis, to Portland. There was a discussion. It was a period when the United States and the Soviet Union were still talking about the relationship being so ambiguous. Reagan and Gorbachev were trying to sort it out. Larry asked me to present a letter to the Soviet Sports Federation about Arvydas Sabonis. He had actually been drafted a few years before, and the idea

was that the Trail Blazers hoped to bring Mr. Sabonis from the Soviet Union to the United States to play for the Trail Blazers in the NBA.

Now, as I mentioned, relations between the United States and the Soviet Union were still somewhat ambiguous, but they were improving. A lot of people believed that a Soviet-born player coming to play professional basketball in my hometown in Portland would help that along. So on this trip to the Soviet Union, Larry asked me to meet with the Soviet Sports Federation. I was to, in effect, hand over a letter to the Soviet Sports Federation, making it clear—and this was a courtesy letter—that if Mr. Sabonis were permitted to come to Oregon to play basketball for the Trail Blazers—the letter indicated—Mr. Sabonis would be well treated. He would have comfortable accommodations, good training facilities, and there would be people to advise him on nutrition and get him acclimated to our country.

Well, when I walked into this meeting in Moscow, I really felt like I was starring in *Rocky IV*. There I was—a young Congressman from the United States, a former basketball player myself—trying to make the case on behalf of my hometown and the Portland Trail Blazers to these men, all of whom were at least 20 or 30 years older than me. I was trying to make the case that if the Soviet Sports Federation were willing to allow Mr. Sabonis to come, he would be well treated.

What I got from these stern looking Soviet Sports Federation officials were essentially monosyllabic answers, much like you heard in the *Rocky* movies—maybe somebody would say “nyet.” I didn't know everything about the language of my host, but I got the sense that wasn't a good thing when they said that. I could get the sense about their skepticism as if they believed that this young American Congressman in front of them was pulling some sly trick of geopolitical strategy as we tried to bring Arvydas Sabonis to Portland.

I tried to make the point to these Soviet leaders that we were not exactly talking about arms control. We were talking about playing basketball, and we were talking about building bridges.

That, if anything, is what Larry Weinberg's life was all about. He was about building bridges in sports. He did it in terms of housing, when he was trying to create housing opportunities for people of modest means, when he was creating opportunities for people to learn from each other. There he was with this young Congressman, just wanting to offer a guarantee that Mr. Sabonis, the best Soviet player of his time, would be well cared for. It took a few more years. Eventually he made it to Portland, where Larry and Trail Blazer fans got to watch him play and play well.

I cannot find the picture, but back then there was a picture that ensured that Oregonians across the State were

laughing at their breakfast tables. One day it came out that Mr. Sabonis and I were strolling along the waterfront in Portland. I am 6 feet 4 inches—not as tall as Senator COTTON, but 6 feet 4 inches—and I was standing next to Mr. Sabonis, who was as tall as a typical building. I mean, we thought he might have been 7 feet 5 inches, which was much taller than was listed.

It was a wonderful experience for me, and it was a chance to see what Larry Weinberg was all about. He always told me: It is a chance for you to learn a little bit more about the world, RON, a chance for you to go to the Soviet Union—it was the Soviet Union at that time—and see the connection between reforms and what Ronald Reagan and Gorbachev were trying to do and the role of sports in terms of bringing people together.

I was so honored that Larry Weinberg would give me a window into that kind of opportunity and allow me, in a really small way, as a young Congressman to be part of what his life was always about, which is building bridges.

So I am going to close this way. I think some of my colleagues are going to speak about Larry as well. When the Jewish people really want to compliment somebody and say somebody is really special and has exceptional character, what we say is that person is a mensch. What I am here to tell the Senate today is my friend Larry Weinberg, whom we lost just a few days ago, was really a super mensch, a true mensch, a person of enormous integrity, decent at his core. I just want to say that Larry and his wife Barbi were the essence of Rip City pride. He was a soft spoken guy, but he was Portland's loudest fan.

Tonight, I want to say to his family and friends—all, seemingly, 100 million of them—that we are always going to remember Larry Weinberg with great fun and appreciation for his enormous contributions to our city and for all that he did during his lifetime to be in that bridge building business, for working to perfect the world—*tikkun olam*—a wonderful, wonderful man.

Our Larry Weinberg we Oregonians will always remember in our hearts.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, in a few moments I am going to yield the floor to Senator Kaine to make a unanimous consent request that has been cleared by both sides, and I am very pleased about that. This is in regard to S. 24, legislation that I have filed with several of my colleagues.

I particularly thank Senator Kaine, but I also want to thank my colleagues

Senator VAN HOLLEN and Senator MARK WARNER for their work, as well as Senator COLLINS and others in this body who cosponsored that legislation. It is legislation very similar to what we passed in the last hours of the 115th Congress by unanimous consent. It does what I think all of us have said we want to make sure is done; that is, when we reopen government, those who have been working without pay and those who are on furlough without pay will get their backpay. I think that is at least some assurance to our government workforce that when we finally reopen government, they know they will be getting their paychecks. I think it is a very important point to give them at least that comfort.

I don't want to minimize the risk factors that we have for the 800,000 Federal workers who are not getting their paychecks. Just today, I found a letter from a constituent. I am going to read it very briefly.

“Dear Senator CARDIN, As an Air Traffic Controller and Maryland constituent, I want you to know how the partial government shutdown is affecting me and my family. Today, I received my Earnings and Leave statement from the Department of Transportation, indicating I received \$0 for my last 2 weeks of working at the FAA-Washington Enroute Air Traffic Control Center in Leesburg, VA. I have proudly gone to work for this job that I love, and always maintain the highest level of safety. My husband Brad is also a controller with me at Washington Center, and his Earnings and Leave Statement was for \$1.34. We cannot sustain our financial obligations on a total of \$1.34 for our last two weeks of work! We recently were able to build a new house to try to start a family, and we still have increased financial obligations because of that and all that entails. In addition, my family, my brother and father, has minimal income now, and we are supporting them. My father is 69 years old and currently has an enlarged hernia that requires an operation, he has no health insurance, and no income. He lives in NH, and is on even more medication now. The side effects are greatly affecting him. He needs my help, and I don't have the resources now to help him. He is suffering so much, and I love him greatly. My brother recently had to weather a separation from his wife, and has been unable to find affordable housing in MD on a single income for him and my niece and nephew—Ayden 10 years and Ava 7 years old. They have been living in our basement since August 2018, and we have been supporting them in every way we can until he can get back on his feet. I love them so much, and now I can't continue to help them. This hurts so much, we need our pay checks to support our family now!”

It ends by saying: “Please help in any way you can to END THIS SHUTDOWN NOW!”

I couldn't agree more. I urge our colleagues, hopefully in the next couple of

days—even before that—to end the shutdown. But at least, as a result of the unanimous consent request that will be made very shortly, which has cleared both sides, we can tell them that the pay is coming.

I see the distinguished majority leader is here. We had some words earlier. I want to thank the majority leader for accommodating this unanimous consent. It is consistent with what the leader has said in the past, that we will make sure our workers get paid when the government is open.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

#### GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE FAIR TREATMENT ACT OF 2019

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I had an opportunity to talk to President Trump a few moments ago and wanted to indicate to our colleagues that he will sign the bill that we have been discussing here to guarantee that government workers who have been displaced as a result of the shutdown will ultimately be compensated. So I want to ease their anxiety about that particular possibility.

With that in mind, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 3, S. 24.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. YOUNG). The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 24) to provide for the compensation of Federal and other government employees affected by lapses in appropriations.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. McCONNELL. I know of no further debate on the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the bill was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 24) was passed, as follows:

S. 24

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019”.

#### SEC. 2. COMPENSATION FOR FEDERAL AND OTHER GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AFFECTED BY A LAPSE IN APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 1341 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “An officer” and inserting “Except as specified in this subchapter or any other provision of law, an officer”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(c)(1) In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘covered lapse in appropriations’ means any lapse in appropriations that begins on or after December 22, 2018;

“(B) the term ‘District of Columbia public employer’ means—