

you want to be taken seriously in this country, you have to be consistent.

My attitude and my approach is straightforward and nonpartisan. Let's see it all: Clinton, Uranium One, Russia—all of it. Let it hang out. Sunshine is the best disinfectant.

To my colleagues in the Democratic Party: Are you afraid to be consistent? Are you afraid of what might be found? Let's work to make sure the American people have as much information as possible about all of these investigations. After all, the taxpayers are paying for the work. And don't forget that the American taxpayers ought to have some consideration when their money is spent to make sure that equality and enforcement of the law is the same for all.

I yield the floor.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

You may proceed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JEREIMA “JERI” BUSTAMANTE ON THE 1-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF HER PASSING

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of one of Florida's brightest lights—a light that was extinguished far too soon.

One year ago today, we lost Jeri Bustamante in a tragic accident. She was my press secretary, but she was so much more. She was my Spanish tutor. She was my travel partner. She was so kind to everyone that you couldn't help but love her.

Everyone thought Jeri was their best friend because she was so loving to everyone. She brightened every room that she walked into and made everyone around her better. There is not much that brings the Florida political world together, but Republicans, Democrats, and even her friends in the press loved and respected Jeri.

She lived the American dream. As a small child, Jeri moved from Panama to the United States with her family, speaking only Spanish. She grew up in Miami, where she attended Miami Beach High, Miami-Dade Community College, and Florida International University.

She had a passion for communications. She started out at a local Miami TV station and eventually worked for the Miami-Dade property appraiser under Carlos Lopez-Cantera, who became my Lieutenant Governor.

She joined my reelection campaign for Governor in 2014, and she was with me for 4 years. She was determined. She was courageous. She had big goals. She wanted to be the Press Secretary for the President of the United States,

and I have no doubt she would have been. That is the kind of person she was. She never stopped working to meet her goals in life, but she always did it with a smile, with a joke, and with a kind word.

In Jeri's memory, my wife Ann and I established the Jeri Bustamante Memorial Scholarship to support a graduate of Miami Beach Senior High School, who, like Jeri, is trying to become the first in their family to go to college.

Today Senator MARCO RUBIO and I are introducing a resolution to honor Jeri's memory. We will never forget her, and we will never forget the ways she made all of us better.

Now I would like to honor Jeri in the best way I know how, speaking the Spanish she taught me.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate in Spanish.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I have provided a translation to the Senate for the RECORD.

(English translation of statement made in Spanish is as follows:)

Jeri lived the American dream. She was determined. She was brave. She had great goals. She wanted to be the Press Secretary of the President of the United States. I have no doubt that she would have achieved it. That is the kind of person she was. She never stopped struggling to fulfill her goals in life and always did so with a smile, a joke, and a kind word.

Senator RUBIO and I today present a resolution to honor Jeri's memory. We will never forget her.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 147, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 147) honoring the memory of Jereima “Jeri” Bustamante on the 1-year anniversary of her passing.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 147) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

I yield the floor.

COLORADO RIVER DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN AUTHORIZATION ACT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arizona.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. President, the Colorado River is the lifeblood of the Southwestern United States. The river provides drinking water to 40 million Americans, irrigation to 5.5 million acres of farmland, and more than 4,000 megawatts of carbon-free hydropower to communities across the West in seven States.

Unfortunately, the last 19 years have been the Colorado Basin's driest on record. This long and intense drought has left the combined water stored behind Lake Powell and Lake Mead near critically low levels, putting the water supply for some of the Nation's largest cities in danger.

The Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan—otherwise known as the DCP—was negotiated among the seven Colorado River Basin States to respond to this prolonged drought. It is designed to protect Lakes Mead and Powell from reaching certain critical water elevations that would trigger severe water supply and hydropower impacts, including the risk of reaching crisis levels where operational control of the Colorado River system would be lost.

These States put in a lot of hard work and sacrifice for the good of all who rely on the river. By doing this, they avoided having the Department of Interior directing draconian measures and cuts from the Federal Government. But the plan must be codified in law. It literally takes an act of Congress to approve the DCP, and it is urgent. That is why I am on the floor today.

I am proud of the bipartisan nature of this legislation. As the Water and Power Subcommittee chair, I am leading this legislation with my Democratic ranking member from Nevada, Senator CORTEZ MASTO. We have all 14 Senators from all 7 States—8 Democrats and 6 Republicans spanning a wide ideological spectrum—as original cosponsors. This bill is about an impending water crisis impacting Western States like Arizona. The effort to get this bill to this point is an example of bipartisanship that Arizonans and Americans are calling for. This is about the livelihood and the safety of 40 million Americans.

The Colorado River DCP Authorization Act puts sound water policy over partisan politics. People thought that never happened in Washington, DC. Today, they should be celebrating about this bill. I ask all my colleagues to join the 14 bipartisan Senators from the Colorado River Basin and support this bill.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 1057. I further ask consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, would the

Senator from Arizona modify her request to add that when the Senate receives the papers on H.R. 2030, and if the text is identical to S. 1057, the bill be considered read three times and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Arizona so modify her request?

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. President, I would gladly modify my request. It seems that our House colleagues—again, both sides of the aisle—will be passing an identical version of our bill tonight. As we talked about, this is urgent. It is urgent for Arizona. It is urgent for all the seven States that rely on the Colorado River. So the fastest way we can get this legislation to the President's desk is what I support. I support this modification.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the modified proposal?

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

The bill (S. 1057) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 1057

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 “Colorado River Drought Contingency Plan Authorization Act”.

SEC. 2. COLORADO RIVER BASIN DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law expressly addressing the operation of the applicable Colorado River System reservoirs, immediately upon execution of the March 19, 2019, versions of the Agreement Concerning Colorado River Drought Contingency Management and Operations and the agreements attached thereto as Attachments A1, A2, and B, by all of the non-Federal parties thereto, the Secretary of the Interior shall, without delay, execute such agreements, and is directed and authorized to carry out the provisions of such agreements and operate applicable Colorado River System reservoirs accordingly.

(b) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section shall—

(1) be construed or interpreted as precedent for the litigation of, or as altering, affecting, or being deemed as a congressional determination regarding, the water rights of the United States, any Indian Tribe, band, or community, any State or political subdivision or district of a State, or any person; or

(2) exempt the implementation of such agreements and the operation of applicable Colorado River System reservoirs from any requirements of applicable Federal environmental laws.

Ms. MCSALLY. Mr. President, I want to thank you, and I want to thank Senator CORTEZ MASTO and all of our colleagues for supporting this critical legislation. It is now going to allow immediate action to increase the water security for Arizona and all of the seven Colorado River Basin States.

We just introduced this legislation last Tuesday. By acting so quickly, the Lower Basin States will be able to im-

mediately begin saving hundreds of thousands of acre-feet of water behind Hoover Dam, and this will dramatically reduce the risk of reaching critically low reservoir levels and ensure that Mexico's water contribution to Lake Mead will be made beginning next year.

We worked hand in hand with Chairman GRIJALVA to develop this legislation. As I said, we have identical bills passing now in the House and the Senate on the same day. I want to thank our House colleagues, Chairman GRIJALVA, Ranking Member BISHOP, and I want to thank all the staff on both sides of the House and the Senate. This bipartisan, bicameral effort only came into fruition because of their hard work over these last years and days to make this happen. Thanks again to everybody.

This is a really great day for the Colorado River Basin and for Arizonans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO MARY SKEENS

• Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. President, I wish to recognize a friend and colleague, Mary Skeens, who has been a tireless advocate for affordable housing for West Virginians. Mary is retiring as the executive director of Community Works where she has spent the last 12 of her 40-year housing career.

A native of Kentucky, Mary realized at an early age that not every family in a warm, secure home. Her pressing concern for the living conditions of her classmates and peers led her into a career in housing. In 1990, her husband, Jim, had a desire to return to his family farm in Roane County, WV. This allowed Jim to return to his Mountaineer roots, and Mary embraced her new adopted home State and entered the housing profession.

Mary started her housing career as manager at a senior living high-rise apartment complex in Dunbar. She was later offered a position at the West Virginia Housing Development Fund as the head of the community development office overseeing the newly-created HOME Program during President Clinton's Administration. Mary worked with nonprofit housing agencies all over West Virginia in an effort to qual-

ify as them as community Housing Development Organizations, also known as a CHDOs. Over the next 10 years, Mary worked with numerous housing providers to develop many worthwhile projects that serve West Virginians to this day, creating domestic violence shelters, affordable multifamily rental complexes, and affordable housing subdivisions in underserved areas of our State. Mary is well known throughout West Virginia for her housing finance skills and her ability to provide much-needed technical assistance.

In 2007, Mary became executive director of Community Works in West Virginia. This agency was newly created and in its early years of operation. Community Works is a licensed mortgage lender providing home ownership loans, owner occupied rehabilitation loans, and a commercial loan program to its nonprofit housing member organizations. Mary stepped in and grew the agency by expanding its reach. This agency's work can be seen in most every housing development in the State through its loan programs and outreach. In addition to providing affordable financing opportunities, Mary has overseen many initiatives to improve housing policy and awareness that will affect this industry for years to come. She has also dedicated much time serving on many housing related boards of directors, and, as a result of her work, was inducted into the West Virginia Affordable Housing Hall of Fame in 2012.

Mary has accomplished so much in her years of service to West Virginia's housing community. I would like to thank Mary for aiding our State and its residents by providing safe, decent, and affordable housing to so many citizens who could not have afforded it otherwise.

Thank you for working with me and my staff over the years to serve as a resource on housing policy. I wish you well in your retirement. It is truly an honor to call you a friend and fellow West Virginian. •

RECOGNIZING THE EMPORIUM SENIOR CENTER AND THE CLEARFIELD SENIOR CENTER

• Mr. CASEY. Mr. President. I recently visited two senior centers in Pennsylvania, the Emporium Senior Center in Cameron County and the Clearfield Senior Center in Clearfield County, to discuss issues on the minds of older Pennsylvanians and those who serve them. We spoke about the need to protect Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security; the importance of bringing down the high cost of prescription drugs; and how to prevent con artists from scamming older adults out of their hard-earned savings.

We must continue to support senior centers and other gathering places for older adults. For many, senior centers are a hub for services and a place where older Americans find a sense of community and belonging. They are the