

checking are making a mess of what is going on at the southern border.

So I would say to the President: There is a much better way to address the migration issue than with tariffs. Deal with the problems in the Central American countries that are causing the migration in the first place.

The Democrats have proposed legislation that would do just that—stem the tide of migrants and help to reduce the backlog of cases. How?

First, allow asylum seekers to apply for asylum in their home countries. If the people under all of this gang violence and viciousness and economic hardship would be able to apply for asylum in Honduras or in Guatemala or in El Salvador instead of having to take a dangerous and often expensive 1,000-mile trek, they would do it. Why don't we do that? Let's increase the number of immigration judges so there could be adjudication rather quickly, and let's build the capacity of Central American countries to crack down on the violent gangs and vicious drug cartels.

Our bill would provide \$1.5 billion in security assistance to these countries, which is far more than the Trump administration has cut, but it is still nonsensical to have cut this money. This administration gets in its own way almost every day, but the solutions we proposed are the types we should debate.

So we are going to push forward with these proposals. Democrats will seek to add these policies to any package of border legislation that comes here before the Senate. If no legislation dealing with the border comes up, Democrats will seek to add security assistance for Central American countries to an appropriations bill and push for language that requires the administration to use it. This is so important that we will push hard in whatever vehicle we can find to move this proposal.

Again, all of these policies would have a far greater impact, with far less disruption, than slapping tariffs on one of our Nation's largest trading partners.

Now, frankly, I don't believe President Trump will actually go through with the tariffs. When he doesn't, we should be ready to proceed to these commonsense policies instead.

President Trump has a habit of talking tough and then retreating because his tough talk can't be implemented or doesn't make sense. President Trump has a habit of proposing asinine and dangerous policies before backing off, and President Trump has a habit of pretending that the very act of not following through on a misguided policy is somehow a victory. I wouldn't be surprised at all if President Trump didn't follow through on these tariffs either.

We Democrats have proposed a much better solution to the problems the President is talking about, and when the President backs off on tariffs, as I believe he will, this is a solution ready

to go that can get bipartisan support that can actually stem the problems we have at our southern border.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Madam President, next, on the 19th Amendment anniversary, today we observe the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment by the U.S. Senate—a critical step in the long march for equality that began at the very founding of our country, when Abigail Adams implored her husband to “remember the ladies” when drafting the Constitution, a reminder that fell on deaf ears. It was a march that gathered numbers and force at Seneca Falls, under the leadership of brave New Yorkers like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and found expression in the abolitionist movement.

While that march for equality under the law achieved a great and long-overdue victory 100 years ago, it is still not over. We have a lot to do. Wearing the yellow rose is wonderful, but it is not enough.

When women in the workplace do 100 percent of the work but only earn 80 percent of the pay as a man in the same position, the march is not over.

When good legislation like the House-passed Violence Against Women Act to provide justice to survivors of domestic violence and stalking languishes in this Chamber in a legislative graveyard because the NRA is opposed to it, that march is not over.

When the States are passing laws making it harder for minorities to vote, when State parties gerrymander districts to limit minority representation, and when the Supreme Court pretends that discrimination no longer exists in this country and guts the Voting Rights Act, the march to equality and universal suffrage is not over.

Without universal suffrage, democracy is incomplete. That was the lesson of the women who organized, protested, and compelled their government to pass the 19th Amendment by the slimmest of margins. So let us not consider June 4 a day to look back with complacency and remark on our historical progress, but rather as a day to look forward and recognize what we still must achieve.

There is no shortage of good work we could take up here in the Senate—pay-check fairness, Violence Against Women Act, the Equality Act, voting rights, election reform—to make sure all Americans can enjoy the full blessings of liberty. These pieces of legislation have passed the House and ended up in the legislative graveyard of the Senate. I can think of no better way to honor the legacy of the suffragists than to continue their work on breaking down barriers and strengthening our democracy.

ELECTION SECURITY

Madam President, finally, on election security, today's anniversary should also be a reminder of how precious our elections are and how we must guarantee that they continue to be fair and to be free.

Last week, Mr. Mueller reminded us once again that Russia conducted a

malign campaign to interfere in our 2016 elections. Director Wray and our intelligence community leaders have issued clear and unambiguous warnings that foreign powers will try to do it again in 2020.

The Senate must act on this. How can we sit by idly with our arms folded complacently while foreign countries try to interfere with our democracy—our beautiful, wonderful democracy?

We have bipartisan legislation ready right now to harden our election infrastructure and to hold foreign powers accountable for trying to meddle in our elections, but so far, much to our dismay—much to the Nation's dismay—Leader MCCONNELL has not indicated any openness to have this body consider it.

As frustrating as that is, we have made progress on my request for an all-Senators briefing on the threats of election meddling. We should hear from our leaders of the FBI and Homeland Security about the upcoming threats. Director Wray has already said something publicly about this.

Now, the good news here is that I spoke to the Republican leader, Leader MCCONNELL, and he has agreed to hold such an all-Senators briefing. We haven't gotten a date yet. I urge him to hold it as soon as possible, and certainly it should take place during this work period. This briefing should only be the beginning—the beginning only—of a larger conversation about the steps we must take to secure our elections.

Ladies and gentlemen, Democrats and Republicans, Americans, this is not optional. There aren't two sides to this issue. Our democracy was attacked, and we—both Democrats and Republicans—must take steps to prevent an attack in the future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE 19TH AMENDMENT

Mr. THUNE. Madam President, before I begin, I would like to take just a second to mention the resolution the Senate will be passing this week celebrating the 100th anniversary of the passage and ratification of the 19th Amendment.

This was a landmark moment in the history of freedom in our country—a major step forward in realizing America's promise of liberty. It is an important moment to celebrate, and I look forward to voting for this resolution this week and honoring all the women whose courage resulted in the 19th Amendment's passage.

STREAMLINE ACT

Madam President, just a few years ago, a lot of our current technology would have been unthinkable—watching a football game on your phone, using an app to see who is ringing the doorbell at your house while you are across town at work, ordering groceries using your computer, or, with voice-activated technologies like Alexa, putting groceries in your online cart without even having to click a button.

But while the technological advances of the last couple of decades have been tremendous, there is a lot more to come. The 5G mobile broadband technology will deliver speeds that are 100 times faster than what today's technology can deliver. It will be vastly more responsive than 4G technology, and it will be able to connect 100 times the number of devices that can be connected with 4G.

It is hard to imagine. After all, our devices today are pretty fast and responsive as it is, but 5G will be much, much faster. That means near-instant responsiveness from your phone and computer, but it means a lot more than that.

So 5G will enable massive breakthroughs in healthcare, transportation, agriculture, and other key industries, and 5G will pave the way for automated vehicles, which have the potential to dramatically reduce traffic injuries and fatalities. It will facilitate surgical innovation and new ways to treat chronic illnesses and to heal injuries.

It will allow precision agriculture to take off, empowering America's farmers and ranchers to make better decisions about field management and substantially increase their crop yields. The U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates that precision agriculture will reduce farmers' operational costs by up to \$25 per acre and increase farmers' yields by up to 70 percent by the year 2050.

The technology for 5G is already here, but it requires more than simply having the technology to make 5G a reality. In order to deploy 5G, wireless providers need access to sufficient spectrum, and they need to be able to deploy the infrastructure needed to support the technology in a reasonable and timely manner.

Last year, the President signed the bipartisan MOBILE NOW Act. It was legislation that I had introduced to help secure adequate spectrum for 5G technology.

Yesterday, along with Senator SCHATZ, I reintroduced the STREAMLINE Small Cell Deployment Act to address the other part of the 5G equation, and that is infrastructure. The 5G technology will require not just traditional cell phone towers but small antennas called small cells that can often be attached to existing infrastructure like utility poles or buildings.

Everybody has seen the cell phone towers rising a couple hundred feet into the air. This is going to be a different type of technology.

I was encouraged to see the Federal Communications Commission under Chairman Pai's leadership modernize its regulations on the approval for small cells, but more work can and should be done. That is where the STREAMLINE Act comes in.

My STREAMLINE Act updates current law to better reflect emerging technology. It will expedite the deployment of small cells while respecting

the role of State and local governments in making deployment decisions. Importantly, it will make it more affordable to bring 5G to rural areas by addressing the costs of small cell deployment.

Too often, rural areas, like those in my home State of South Dakota, have lagged behind when it comes to getting the most modern broadband technology. It is important that we remove barriers to deployment in rural areas so that rural communities can have the same access to the benefits of 5G.

In addition to fostering tremendous technological breakthroughs in everything from agriculture to energy, 5G has the potential to add \$500 billion to the economy and to create millions of new jobs. But in order to achieve those economic benefits, we need to stay at the head of the 5G revolution.

The United States lagged behind other countries in deploying 2G and 3G technology, which had real economic consequences. Europe, for example, took the lead in 2G and cornered most of the market in sales of networking equipment and telecom hardware. As 4G emerged, however, the United States' wireless industry stepped forward, investing billions in 4G deployment. The government also took steps to support the wireless industry, freeing up spectrum and making it easier to deploy the necessary infrastructure.

That is what we need to do again today. If we want to stay at the head of the race to 5G, the government needs to make sure that wireless companies have access to the necessary spectrum and the ability to efficiently deploy small cell infrastructure.

While we pursue licensed spectrum for 5G, we must also be mindful of the critical role that unlicensed spectrum plays in the development of 5G and throughout the communications landscape. Wi-Fi operating on unlicensed spectrum is responsible for a tremendous and growing amount of the data transmitted in our homes and offices and will play an increasing role in the future.

Identifying spectrum resources, not just for the next few years, but for the next 10 years and beyond is essential if we are to retain American leadership. My MOBILE NOW Act was an important step forward in increasing access to both licensed and unlicensed spectrum, but there is more work to be done. While we have made good progress on securing low- and high-band spectrum, China and South Korea are far ahead of us in opening up mid-band spectrum for 5G.

If we don't want to lose out to China and South Korea on 5G, we need to substantially increase the amount of mid-band spectrum available to U.S. companies. And, of course, we need to focus on streamlining the deployment of small cells through measures like the STREAMLINE Act, so that companies can get the necessary infrastructure for 5G in place. The STREAMLINE Act would substantially expedite the de-

ployment of 5G technology, and I hope the Senate will take up my bill in the near future.

Americans have always been innovators and pioneers. We have been on the cutting edge of more than one technological revolution, and we can lead the world again in 5G. I look forward to continuing to work to ensure that U.S. companies have the framework they need to carry America into the 5G future.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of Florida). The Senator from Utah.

MAIDEN SPEECH

Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I have been a Member of this body for several months now, and I would like to offer a few observations about the experience.

I had been told that I might not like it here. Having previously been a Governor, some friends thought I might find the pace a little too slow and decision making too diffuse and cumbersome, but that has not been the case.

My committee assignments are interesting and the work is important, and while few bills actually become law, the fact that both political parties must reach consensus for a bill to pass reinforces the ties that bind our Republic.

Given the public passion of our politics these days, I had also presumed that the atmosphere here would vary between prickly and hostile, but the truth is that Senators on both sides of the aisle are remarkably friendly and collegial once the cameras are off.

I have now met privately with 68 of my fellow Senators. Like them, I came here in part because I believe my life experience could help us confront our national challenges. I also believe that the values and policies practiced in Utah can inform national debates. Our State has the fastest job growth in the country. It balances its budget every year. It has the country's most highly educated workforce.

It is a great privilege to represent the people of Utah in the Senate. I am humbled by the history that has been made here, by the character of the patriots whose sculptures adorn our halls, and, of course, by the great sacrifice made to construct the Capitol of the greatest Nation on Earth. To serve here is to be reminded daily of the history and greatness of this blessed country.

The American character has been distinct from our very beginning. Alexis de Tocqueville observed that Americans had fashioned a culture different from any other he had encountered.

Just a few weeks ago, I attended the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad at Promontory Summit in Utah. In his keynote address, historian Jon Meacham observed that, in a number of ways, that endeavor revealed some of the distinct elements of the national