

such structures, and other factors relating to such structures as the Secretary of Defense determines appropriate.

(ii) Topographical and environmental considerations associated with the location of wind turbine projects.

(iii) The impact of individual wind turbine structures and the combined impact of proposed and existing wind turbine structures within a 50-mile radius of commercial or military airfields or military training routes.

(iv) The proximity of wind turbine structures to general aviation, commercial or military training routes, installations of the Department of Defense, and special use airspace.

(v) The impact of wind turbine structure operation, individually or collectively, on—

- (I) approach and departure corridors;
- (II) established military training routes;
- (III) radar for air traffic control;
- (IV) instrumented landing systems; and

(V) other factors, as determined by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration and the Secretary of Defense.

(B) An assessment of whether including an analytical model of wind turbines into the existing clearinghouse process of the Department of Defense is practical, necessary, or cost-beneficial as compared to the current process of the Department.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than July 31, 2020, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

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**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have 7 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY**

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 9:45 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 2: 15 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed roundtable.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMUNICATION, TECHNOLOGY, INNOVATION, AND THE INTERNET**

The Subcommittee on Communication, Technology, Innovation, and The Internet of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND SAFETY**

The Subcommittee on Transportation and Safety of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

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**ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2019**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Wednesday, June 26; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of S. 1790; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the cloture motions filed during Monday's session ripen at 12 noon tomorrow.

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

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**ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senators FISCHER, RISCH, and BROWN.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

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**NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT**

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the fiscal year 2020 Defense authorization bill. I want to begin by thanking the chairman and the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee for their leadership and for their hard work in crafting this bill and managing it on the floor.

The bill before us today is the worthy successor to last year's John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act. Like its immediate predecessor, this bill's overarching objective is to reorient the Department of Defense toward the great power competition that our Nation faces today.

Overall, the bill supports a total of \$750 billion in defense spending, which includes \$642 billion for the Department of Defense's base budget, \$23 billion for the Department of Energy's defense activities, and another \$76 billion for overseas contingency operations. This meets the level of spending requested by the President and provides the Department of Defense with real growth above the rate of the inflation in recognition of increasing threats our Nation faces.

The bill also supports the All-Volunteer Force, providing a 3.1-percent pay raise for our men and women in uniform. It meets the President's request with respect to end strength for an Active-Duty force of 1,339,500 soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines.

I serve as chairman of the Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, which has jurisdiction over nuclear forces, missile defense, and national security space programs, and the U.S. Strategic Command, to which Nebraska is home.

I am fond of quoting the statement of former President Obama's Secretary of Defense, Ash Carter, that “Nuclear deterrence is the bedrock of our security and the highest priority mission of the Department of Defense.”

That was true in 2016 when he said it, and it is even truer today as Russia and China continue to expand their nuclear arsenals and deterring great power conflict becomes the central focus of our military.

With this changing security environment in mind, this bill fully funds the nuclear mission of the men and women of USSTRATCOM, including the sustainment of our nuclear forces, as well as the modernization of our triad, our nuclear command and control systems, and the Department of Energy's nuclear complex.

This legislation builds upon last year's support for the supplemental systems announced in the President's Nuclear Posture Review by authorizing funds for the deployment of low-yield ballistic missile warhead. Numerous senior military leaders have testified that this is what is necessary to address gaps in our current deterrence posture.

The fiscal year 2020 Senate NDAA also supports the Navy's ongoing study of restoring a sea-launched cruise missile capability in order to further enhance deterrence and also to reassure allies.

Moreover, the legislation includes a requirement for the administration to submit a report assessing four major categories of nuclear arms that are currently not captured by the New START Treaty. As many of my colleagues are aware, the administration

has announced its intent to pursue a more comprehensive approach to arms control beyond the traditional bilateral limitations of land-based ICBMs, submarine-launched ballistic missiles, and our heavy bombers.

The administration's logic is simple: Threats are shifting. As Russia invests in new and novel nuclear systems that are not captured by the New START Treaty and China's arsenal expands, a new approach is needed that accounts for these new dynamics. In support of this effort, this provision would require that the administration provide a comprehensive assessment of these factors.

Additionally, the Strategic Forces Subcommittee authorized resources for a number of key unfunded priorities for our warfighters. This includes an additional \$113 million for the development of the next generation of GPS receivers to ensure the U.S. military continues to have access to resilient position, navigation, and timing capabilities, and an additional \$108 million for the Missile Defense Agency to continue the development of space-based sensors to track advanced threats, including hypersonic weapons. Finally, it fully authorized critical bilateral US-Israel cooperative missile defense programs.

The critical resources this bill provides will be appreciated by our strategic partners and our men and women in uniform around the globe, as well as those in each and every State here at home.

I am honored to represent the men and women of Offutt Air Force Base, the 55th Wing, and the Nebraska National Guard, and I am proud to say that this legislation authorizes several critical investments that not only support our uniformed men and women in Nebraska; it better enables them to fulfill their roles in defending this Nation.

By passing the fiscal year 2020 NDAA, we keep the "fighting 55th" Wing flying. The bill authorizes full funding for the Air Force budget request to support the C-135 family of aircraft. It supports significant upgrades to the capabilities of the RC-135 Rivet Joint, the continued conversion of KC-135 tankers to WC-135R nuclear detection aircraft, and enables the ongoing OC-135 Open Skies recapitalization.

Just as critically, the bill helps the Air Force to evolve its ISR capability and move toward a more survivable, networked environment, with manned, unmanned, and sensors all acting as key components to give battlefield commanders the best information possible. To achieve this, the bill includes two amendments I authored that will direct the Air Force to examine the integration and dissemination of data from surveillance platforms like the RC-135 to the warfighter.

While the bill authorizes these important new investments, it also provides funding to address ongoing disaster recovery efforts, which are essential to restoring military installations that were affected by the recent flood-

ing in Nebraska. Rebuilding Offutt Air Force Base and the Nebraska National Guard's Camp Ashland are top priorities, and I am happy to report that the bill authorizes millions of dollars in funding to aid in the continued process of cleanup, design, and construction for the facilities that were destroyed.

Because I believe Nebraska's bases are a core component of the Nation's defense, I was also proud to offer two amendments that further support the process of rebuilding. These measures increase the cap on minor military construction for recovery at bases impacted by recent disasters and encourage the military services to work quickly to rebuild Offutt Air Force Base and Camp Ashland.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to work together to support this disaster recovery effort. Many key military installations have been affected across several States, and the work to rebuild these bases must be a collaborative effort. We owe it to our men and women in uniform to do this together.

For 58 years, the NDAA has been the subject of a bipartisan consensus in Congress. Despite other disagreements that may arise and the significant debates we face, this bill has long been a unifying subject of agreement on Capitol Hill. There is good reason for that, and a record that spans a half century does not happen by accident. The fact is that no matter what other issues arise, an area where we must forge agreement is in supporting our service-members and enabling the defense of the Nation.

This year, we had a productive markup, with substantive debate on the issues in this bill. The process worked the way it was intended, and we emerged with a strong bipartisan consensus on the bill before us. I encourage all of my colleagues to support this legislation so that we can continue our tradition of authorizing full funding for the military and ensure that this legislation is signed into law on time.

In that same spirit, it is essential that we take the next step and work to secure a budget agreement that not only supports a robust top line for national defense, but that we do so swiftly to give the Department of Defense the predictable funding they need to plan and budget for the coming year.

Passing NDAA is only half of the job. Yes, we must authorize full funding for our military, but if we are truly committed to our military men and women, we must also vote on the defense appropriations bill to fund what we do here this week on NDAA. As we continue to debate the fiscal year 2020 NDAA, we should all remember the reason we have this debate every year. One of the primary responsibilities of Congress is to provide for the common defense. That responsibility is written in the Constitution, and it is an oath each of us swore to uphold. I am reminded of that oath frequently when I am back home in Nebraska. Each time I shake hands with a Nebraskan in uni-

form or meet a family member with a loved one overseas, I think about the responsibility we have and the debt we owe the ones who serve.

Over the years, countless sons and daughters of the heartland have answered that call to service. They are regular men and women from every background and every walk of life, united by their desire to safeguard their homeland and protect the cause of freedom. Yes, they are regular men and women, but they are also exceptional Americans, and their spirit and their sacrifice are examples that we should remember every day.

I hope we can come together in the spirit of service and work together to swiftly pass the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. McSALLY). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. RISCH. Madam President, I rise today to discuss the proposed Udall amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act. It is not pending, but it has been filed, and thus I do want to talk about it for a few minutes.

First, let me be clear: The United States is not responsible for Iran's reckless activity and its violent ways. It is time once again to thrust Iran's long, shameful record of malign behavior back into the spotlight.

For the past 40 years, Iran has refused to behave as a responsible member of the international community. Indeed, the magnitude of the Iranian regime's caustic behavior both at home and abroad is overwhelming. Responsible nations do not threaten the sovereignty of their neighbors by funding terrorists. Responsible nations do not catalyze sectarian identities and provoke violence in the region. Responsible nations do not prop up the murderous regime of Bashar al-Assad in Syria. Responsible nations do not carelessly spread dangerous missile technology to violent extremist groups that threaten the lives of civilians. Responsible nations do not attack embassies and hold hostages. Yet the Iranian regime has done all of these things and persists.

Make no mistake. The Iranian regime has American blood on its hands. We all recall the dark days in Iraq and the Iranian roadside bombs that took the lives and maimed our servicemen and women.

Today, America's sons and daughters deployed abroad are again at risk. The amendment in front of this body will tie the hands of our commanders and prevent our troops from even acting in self-defense. Additionally, this amendment unnecessarily takes options off

the table, telegraphs our foreign policy to our adversaries, and emboldens those who wish us harm.

No one seeks a conflict with Iran—not the President of the United States, not this body, and not the American people. The U.S. Government has made clear our willingness to negotiate with Iran.

The Iranian people are a proud people. They have a proud history. They are the descendants of the Persian culture, one of the greatest cultures on the face of the earth. The Iranian people deserve better than what they are getting from the regime in power now in Iran.

The fact remains that the Iranian regime is faced with a sharp choice. The regime must choose between continued terrorist activity and behaving as a responsible member of the international community. The Iranian regime should sit down and think about the road that they are pursuing.

Like all countries, they want national security for their people. Is the road to national security trying to develop a nuclear weapon that the world has told them they can't develop? Is it continuing funding terrorists? Is it continuing the malign activities that it continues within Syria? None of these things gives them the national security they want.

They should take a lesson from North Korea. North Korea pursued this for generations. But in the last 18 months, North Korea sat down and said: Do you know what? Our national security is better served by picking door No. 2 instead of door No. 1. As a result of that, the threat that North Korea has been under has been greatly lifted.

This particular amendment is an amendment that has a place in the debate, but it has no place in this particular bill. First of all, it is not within the jurisdiction of the committee that has this bill in front of them. It is within the jurisdiction of our committee, the Foreign Relations Committee. These issues on war powers and the President's ability to use military force deserve thoughtful and reasoned debate. It is not a cavalier amendment like this that takes away the ability of our men and women to actually defend themselves.

I urge my colleagues to cast a “no” vote on this amendment and get on with the serious business and the important business of passing the National Defense Authorization Act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

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#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that a letter from the chairman and the vice chairman of the Intelligence Committee regarding the referral of S. 1879 be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,  
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,  
Washington, DC, June 25, 2019.  
Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR MCCONNELL: Pursuant to section 3(b) of S. Res. 400 of the 94th Congress, as amended by S. Res. 445 of the 108th Congress, we request that S. 1879, the Protect our Universities Act of 2019, be sequentially referred to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence for a period not to exceed ten days.

Sincerely,

RICHARD BURR,  
Chairman.  
MARK R. WARNER,  
Vice Chairman.

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#### MINIMUM WAGE

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, this month, we surpassed the record for the longest period in American history without an increase in the minimum wage. It has been nearly a decade since minimum wage workers last got a raise—literally a decade. Because of inflation, the salary of a minimum wage worker today is worth \$3,000 less than it was in 2009. Think about that. It is not like minimum wage workers are making a lot of money. A minimum wage worker's salary today is equivalent to \$3,000 less than it was a decade ago because of inflation.

President Trump and Republicans in Congress don't have a plan and don't even propose to have a plan. In fact, they block any plans the rest of us have. They don't have a plan to give millions of workers a raise. Why? Because the corporate lobbyists going in and out of the office of the Senate majority leader don't want them to.

We know it is not just minimum wage workers who are losing out on money in their pockets because the President and the Members of this body always stand on the side of corporate interests, always put their thumb on the scale supporting corporations over workers. Look at the priorities Democrats fight for every day in this body, and then look at what this administration does. It is pretty clear who is on the side of American workers.

Democrats have plans to raise the minimum wage to \$15 an hour. President Trump is against it. He wants to do nothing to raise wages.

Democrats have a plan to strengthen collective bargaining rights to give workers more power in the workplace—the PRO Act. President Trump nominates judge after judge who puts their thumb on the scale for Wall Street over consumers and workers.

Democrats have a plan to put more money back in the pockets of 114 million American workers—the Working Families Tax Relief Act. It means if you are making \$25,000 or \$30,000 and if you have children or if you don't have children, through the earned-income

tax credit, you get more money in your pocket. Again, President Trump and the special interest Republicans in this town show their hostility to workers by opposing it.

President Trump, though, did sign a tax cut for corporations that led to record stock buybacks. The tax cut that President Trump pushed through this Senate, with the majority leader doing his groundwork for him—the bill he pushed, the tax cut he pushed through the Senate, over time, more than 75 percent of that tax cut will go to the richest 1 percent of the people. Think about that. There was \$1½ trillion in tax cuts. Who benefits? Seventy-five percent of the benefits go to the richest 1 percent of the people in this country.

Democrats also have a plan to give American workers more control over their lives and their schedules—the Schedules that Work Act, which we will be introducing soon.

We have a plan to protect workers from companies that steal their hard-earned money by refusing to pay them for the hours they have worked—the Wage Theft Protection Act. Think about how that works. You work at a salary. Say you are making \$35,000 a year. You are a night manager at a fast-food restaurant. The company decides to list you as a manager, so you are making a \$35,000-a-year salary. The company can work you 42, 45, 50 hours a week and pay you not a cent for the hours above 40 because you earn that salary and because the company declared you manager. I call it wage theft.

We used to have laws in this country that we enacted many years ago, updated with President Ford, President Nixon, and then President Obama, but President Trump has said no and scaled that back. His administration rolled back rule after rule that protects workers from companies that cheat them out of the wages they have earned.

Again, whose side are you on when you have a President who is hostile to workers and who betrays workers while talking a good game but is clearly on the side of corporate interests every single time?

Democrats are united in demanding that any new North America Free Trade Agreement—any new NAFTA have strong labor standards so we don't end up with another race to the bottom on workers' rights and benefits. So far, President Trump hasn't produced a deal that protects workers from corporations that want to move to Mexico so they can pay the workers less. In fact, the Trump tax cut bill that Senator MCCONNELL—down the hall—fought for and rammed through this Senate by only a couple of votes gave corporations a 21-percent tax rate.

You shut down the Lordstown GM plant in Youngstown, OH. You are paying a 21-percent tax rate. When you move to Mexico, you pay half that tax rate. You pay 10.5 percent. That is