

NAYS—41

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

NOT VOTING—6

Alexander	Roberts	Sinema
Harris	Sanders	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 41. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Dale Cabaniss, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management for a term of four years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Georgia.

NOMINATION OF JAMES BYRNE

Mr. ISAKSON. Madam President, we have a second to certify our growth in the VA by nominating James Byrne and approving his appointment. We have all worked hard to see that the VA is responsive. We get good news in the papers, not bad news. We are helping our veterans get back to work. The VA is working. We have some problems, but we have a lot fewer than we used to have. A lot of that is because of James Byrne. He has been working already, and we need to make him permanent. Please help us to confirm James Byrne.

I yield to the Senator from Montana, Mr. TESTER.

Mr. TESTER. Madam President, I thank the chairman of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs for his good work.

Jim Byrne is the right man for the job. We passed the VA MISSION Act that needs to be implemented. I know Mr. Byrne has ruffled feathers among some here. In the end, I think he will do the right thing and that we can hold him accountable. It is critically important we get these folks confirmed so we can hold them accountable and get them in front of our committee. I would urge a "yea" vote on Jim Byrne.

Mr. ISAKSON. I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Mitch McConnell, James E. Risch, John Boozman, John Cornyn, Pat Roberts, Richard Burr, Lindsey Graham, John Kennedy, Mike Crapo, David Perdue, Mike Rounds, Roy Blunt, Roger F. Wicker, Todd Young, Thom Tillis, Ron Johnson, Rick Scott.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. ROBERTS).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Ms. HARRIS), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 81, nays 13, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 269 Ex.]

YEAS—81

Baldwin	Feinstein	Paul
Barrasso	Fischer	Perdue
Bennet	Gardner	Peters
Blackburn	Graham	Portman
Blumenthal	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rosen
Braun	Heinrich	Rounds
Burr	Hoeven	Rubio
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Cardin	Inhofe	Schatz
Carper	Isakson	Scott (FL)
Casey	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Jones	Shaheen
Collins	Kaine	Shelby
Coons	Kennedy	Smith
Cornyn	King	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Tester
Cotton	Leahy	Thune
Cramer	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Manchin	Toomey
Cruz	McConnell	Udall
Daines	McSally	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Moran	Whitehouse
Enzi	Murkowski	Wicker
Ernst	Murphy	Young

NAYS—13

Booker	Klobuchar	Schumer
Brown	Markley	Stabenow
Cantwell	Merkley	Wyden
Gillibrand	Murray	
Hirono	Reed	

NOT VOTING—6

Alexander	Roberts	Sinema
Harris	Sanders	Warren

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 81, the nays are 13.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of James Byrne, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

S. 1689

Mr. BOOKER. Madam President, I rise to speak today on S. 1689, which passed last night.

Yesterday, this body unanimously voted to pass my legislation that could give States greater flexibility in how they use Federal funding for water projects. This bill is a tool to help communities in New Jersey and other States remove lead from their drinking water.

We have a national crisis. It is a crisis we are seeing all over the country.

I first wrote this legislation after a study was released last year that found lead leaching into the drinking water of my home city, Newark, NJ. Since then, I have been trying to get our State the Federal resources it needs to upgrade our aging water infrastructure.

After it wasn't included in last year's end-of-the-year spending bill, I introduced it as a stand-alone bill and pushed its passage through the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, with bipartisan support, earlier this summer.

While the bill has been waiting to pass here in the Senate, the residents of my city, my neighbors, my family, and others have had to deal with additional concerns of exposure to lead in our drinking water.

Local, State, and Federal officials have been working almost literally around the clock to bring residents answers they deserve, answers they demand. I have repeatedly pushed the Federal Government, and the EPA in particular, to provide more resources to Newark in every way I can. I have been making calls and writing letters, hosting meetings. When I spoke with Administrator Wheeler and then personally met with EPA in Newark, I reminded them of our shared responsibility in bringing safe, clean drinking water to residents. This is not just a national emergency; this is an urgency.

We are waiting for more sampling results right now to better understand how to address the situation in Newark as quickly as possible. This legislation will allow Newark, NJ, and all of New Jersey to have access to upward of \$100 million in Federal funds for pressing drinking water projects.

For the last month, thousands of residents haven't been able to drink the city's water. As I was handing out bottled water to my neighbors, I heard how significantly this was affecting the daily routines of my neighbors and friends and undermining the well-being of my community, of my city.

Again, I say this is a national urgency, a national emergency, because the residents of my city are not alone. This crisis is affecting communities all over the country. In fact, as Reuters

reported, there are over 3,000 jurisdictions where children in America have more than twice the blood lead levels of Flint, MI.

These results across our country demonstrate yet again how we have failed to adequately invest in our Nation's aging infrastructure. In a Nation as wealthy as ours, clean drinking water should be a basic human right, and we must act to make that our reality.

The majority of those impacted are low-income, economically vulnerable people. They are like the neighbors in my community. They cannot face this health crisis alone. The Federal Government must act.

I am so grateful for the success we have had to help Newark and the bill we passed together last night, but clearly our work is not done, and I will not stop until every American has access to clean drinking water. Clean water and clean air must be an American right.

I want to thank my partner on this legislation, Senator BOB MENENDEZ. I also want to thank my Senate colleagues, especially Leader SCHUMER, Ranking Member CARPER, and the chairman of EPW, Chairman BARASSO. I also want to thank others who are advocating for this critical legislation and urge the House to take it up immediately—not only to help New Jersey but communities nationwide.

I am happy that finally the legislation I wrote has now passed this body, and I am grateful it was done with 100 Senators in accord. We still have work to do, but this, for me, was affirmation that now people in the State of New Jersey will have more of the Federal resources they need to address the crisis. I am encouraged that this bill was able to be passed and that there is more hope on the horizon for my city and others like it in New Jersey.

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE EASTBANK LITTLE LEAGUE TEAM

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the Eastbank Little League team from River Ridge, LA, for winning the 2019 Little League World Series.

Everybody is glad when kids do well, but you are particularly glad when they are your kids, and these are Louisiana's kids. It is the first time in history a Louisiana team has won the Little League tournament, and we are still celebrating.

Egan, Reece, Marshall, William, Gavin, Jeffrey, Ryan, Derek, Connor, Ryder, Alton, Peyton, Stan, and coaches Scott Frazier, Kevin Johnson, and

Donald Abadie, you have made us proud.

The real story may not be the championship itself but how they won. After losing their first game to Hawaii, the defending world champions, the Louisiana team went on to outscore opponents 44 to 8. They averaged almost as many runs per game as their opponents scored in total during this streak, and that is amazing.

One of those wins included fending off a comeback in a rematch against Hawaii for the American championship. I commend the Hawaii team for their impressive season, which is after an impressive season last year, but this year it was the Louisiana team's moment.

After the Hawaii victory, they then went on to shut out the Caribbean team 8 to 0 to bring the world championship home to Louisiana and to the United States.

Louisianans are known for resiliency. That inborn never-give-up attitude is why these kids are champions.

These young folks from River Ridge faced adversity they conquered. They demonstrated character and sportsmanship throughout the ups and downs. Their wins should make all Americans proud. They certainly make all of Louisiana proud.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business for up to 25 minutes.

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

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, as the Presiding Officer knows, I have often spoken about how climate change is affecting Rhode Island. Rising sea levels will remake my State's map. Warming seas are shifting our traditional fisheries away from Rhode Island. A hotter climate creates public health risks for Rhode Islanders. And the list goes on.

In the Senate, I have also tried to learn how climate change is affecting other States. The Presiding Officer was courteous about joining me in Louisiana when I made a trip to his State. I have been doing a fair amount of traveling, and last month I visited Wyoming to hear about climate change in the Cowboy State. That was the 17th State I visited on these climate trips.

Here is a little background on Wyoming. It is big. It is a lot bigger than Rhode Island. It is almost 400 miles wide by almost 300 miles north to south. Although it has some lovely lakes, Wyoming ain't coastal. Its low-

est point is more than 3,000 feet above sea level—three times higher than Rhode Island's highest point, Jerimoth Hill—and its highest point, Gannett Peak, is almost 14,000 feet.

Wyomingites have a reputation for being conservative skeptics about climate change, but polling data shows that even in Wyoming, 60 percent of people think climate change is happening, 43 percent think humans are driving it, 69 percent say they support regulating carbon dioxide as a pollutant, and 68 percent think their schools should teach about global warming.

My trip began in Teton County, which I was repeatedly told is the liberal part of the State. Teton County is home to Jackson Hole and Grand Teton National Park, as well as a large chunk of America's legendary Yellowstone National Park. From Jackson, I went up to visit Yellowstone and then came back down over Togwotee Pass and down here to Dubois and then around on to Lake of the Woods, to the Wind River Indian Reservation, to Lander, to Pinedale, and back to Jackson.

In Teton County, I met with local elected officials from Jackson, from the Teton County council, and from the Wyoming Legislature. I learned that roughly two-thirds of Wyoming's revenues come from mineral extraction—mostly coal, oil, and natural gas. With all this fossil fuel money pouring into its coffers, Wyoming has no State income tax, sales tax of 4 percent, and one of the lowest effective property tax rates in the Nation. Indeed, I was told that Wyomingites get around \$9 in services for every \$1 they pay in taxes. It is a sweet deal. And fossil fuel picks up the rest of the tab.

There are problems with this political-economic model, however—problems that folks in Wyoming repeatedly pointed out to me. First, it exposes Wyoming heavily to boom/bust cycles. Three coal companies have gone bankrupt just this year. It will also expose Wyoming to the devastating bust coming if, as predicted, fossil fuel assets crash. Almost all of Wyoming's eggs are in one fossil fuel basket.

Moreover, a political-economic model based on fossil fuel harms Wyoming's other economic driver: outdoor recreation—skiing and snowboarding, river rafting, backpacking, hiking, rock climbing, and fly fishing. Wyoming has abundant outdoor recreation.

During my trip, I heard how lucky I was to enjoy clear and smokeless skies in August and that this August was like August of times gone by. The new normal across the West is hotter, dryer summers driven by climate change, and that makes massive forest fires, filling the skies with smoke for weeks and months on end. We enjoyed clear skies.

In addition to the threat to life and property, wildfires harm Wyoming's tourism and outdoor recreation economies. Obviously, fewer people visit when iconic landscapes are obscured or when places they want to explore are at risk of fire. A representative from