

we are already—at step No. 1 in the appropriations process—and the spirit of bipartisanship that is necessary for this work might be melting away.

I just warn my Republican colleagues that this is not a way to produce a budget. This is the same path they tried to go down last year. They shut down the government and then had to walk it back. We all know what a partisan process looks like. President Trump caused the longest government shutdown in American history by demanding funding for a border wall and then by shutting down the government when Congress didn't give it to him. Let's not go down that exact path again 9 months later.

There is still time to get the process back on track. The Republican majority should sit down with the Democrats on the committee and, in good faith, come up with the 302(b) allocations and come up with the order by which we bring bills to the floor. Then we can get this done. We don't have to go back to a CR. Certainly, our side wants to avoid a Republican shutdown, and we hope our Republican colleagues will have the good sense not to let President Trump lead them into that cul-de-sac once again. So let's sit down and make this work. That is what we want to do, not unilaterally declare something and say, "Take it or leave it," but work together so both sides have to give.

#### BACKGROUND CHECKS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, on gun safety, in response to the scenes of senseless violence in America throughout the month of August, Leader MCCONNELL promised that the issue of gun safety would be "front and center" when Congress returned. The Democrats are eager to debate this issue, and we believe we have a great place to start—with the bipartisan, House-passed bill on universal background checks.

Leader MCCONNELL has also suggested that President Trump will determine if and what the Senate will vote on, so we need to know what the President might support. Throughout the month of August, frankly, the President was all over the map, saying he wanted strong background check legislation one day and then saying, the next day, we don't need it at all. It makes no sense. The President doesn't seem to know what he wants.

My Republican colleagues met with the President yesterday and ostensibly discussed the issue of gun safety. I asked them: Where is the President on this issue? Will he support universal background checks?

We are eager to move forward with this debate. We want to vote on the H.R. 8 bill—a simple bill of universal background checks. It does not impede on the rights of any legitimate gun owner. It only gets in the way of felons and spousal abusers and those adjudicated mentally ill from getting guns,

and no one thinks they should get them.

The President needs to make his position clear and soon. If he continues to refuse to state his position or if he keeps flipping around, the Senate should proceed to debate this on its own. In any case, you can be sure the Democrats will not let the issue of gun safety fall by the wayside.

I yield the floor.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

##### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Stephen Akard, of Indiana, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with the rank of Ambassador.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

##### TORNADO IN SIOUX FALLS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, as I begin this morning, I need to mention the tornado that tore through my hometown of Sioux Falls last night. Thankfully, there appear to have been no fatalities, but there has been a lot of structural damage. I am grateful to all of the emergency responders, the electric crews, and all of those who worked through the night to keep the residents safe. My thoughts are with Sioux Falls today and with all of those who are dealing with the tornado's aftermath.

I had the opportunity this morning to speak with Mayor Paul TenHaken, of Sioux Falls, who, as you would expect, was up throughout the night with his team. I just expressed our support to him, to his team, and to our community as they begin the process of the cleanup and recovery from what was a very damaging storm.

I also talked with my wife and older daughter, who lives in Sioux Falls, both of whom were in their basements last night as, I think, most residents were. I am glad to hear that people took the necessary steps to keep themselves and their families safe.

As I have reported, so far—knock on wood—we are not aware of injuries that have been associated with this. Yet I will continue to monitor the situation, and my staff and I are available to help with whatever will be needed as a result of this storm.

##### REMEMBERING SEPTEMBER 11TH

Mr. President, it is difficult to believe it has been 18 years since the September 11 attacks. That bright September morning is seared in our minds as if it were yesterday—the shock, the horror, the sense of unreality in the days that followed, the grief and loss but also the resolve and the unity of purpose.

As always, where there is great evil, good rises up in response—that of the courageous passengers on Flight 93 who laid down their lives to protect their fellow Americans; Vietnam veteran and Morgan Stanley security chief Rick Rescorla, who successfully evacuated more than 2,000 of his firm's employees from the World Trade Center and died returning to help evacuate others; Jason Thomas and Dave Karnes, two former marines who dropped everything and sped to the Towers and saved the lives of the two Port Authority officers they found who had been trapped in the rubble; National Guard pilots Heather Penney and Marc Sasseville, who scrambled their F-16s—weaponless—to meet the threat that was headed toward DC and who were prepared to sacrifice their lives by ramming their aircraft into Flight 93 before it could hit the Capitol or the White House; and the hundreds of first responders who ran toward the Towers, toward the inferno, and headed up the steps while civilians ran down.

Then there were the countless ordinary Americans who were far away from New York and Washington who flooded blood banks and overwhelmed organizations like the Red Cross with their donations; who stormed Heaven with prayers for the missing and the injured and the suffering; and who proudly flew their flags and reached out to their neighbors.

In the weeks and months and years to come, there was a 9/11 generation of soldiers—those who signed up in the wake of September 11 to fight back against the terrorists and those who were already serving. They deployed around the globe to fight terror and to defend freedom, and thousands of them laid down their lives. Eighteen years on, we remember the horror of that September day, but we are also lifted up by the memory of the heroes who came out of it.

For those of us who serve in Congress, the anniversary of September 11 is also a reminder of the obligation we have to provide for our Nation's defense and to ensure that we are prepared to meet and defeat any threat. In the Senate, I am proud that both parties have worked together over the past couple of years to rebuild our Nation's military after years of its being underfunded and the strains of the War on Terror.

September 11 is also a reminder of our obligation to care for those who stand between us and danger—our soldiers, our veterans, our first responders, and our law enforcement officers. They take on a heavy burden so the

rest of us can live in peace and safety. We owe them a debt we can never repay. This year, Congress overwhelmingly passed legislation to make the September 11 Victim Compensation Fund permanent to ensure that first responders whose health has suffered in the wake of their work at Ground Zero, at the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania will have the resources they need.

While we are on the subject of veterans, like all of my colleagues, I am saddened that Senator JOHNNY ISAKSON is retiring at the end of this year.

We were members of the same freshman class in 2004. During his time here, he has been a tireless advocate for veterans, and he will be deeply missed. Yet his hard work in the Senate as the head of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will continue to bear fruit, and we will continue to work to implement the VA reforms he shepherded to ensure our veterans receive the care they have earned.

I was here in Washington, DC, on September 11, and I evacuated the Capitol Complex. One of the things I remember very clearly from that day were the Capitol police officers who directed us out of the buildings. We were running from the danger, and they were not. They were not going anywhere until they were sure every last man and woman had made his way out.

Against that spirit of courage and self-sacrifice, evil will never ultimately triumph. May God bless all of those who stand between us and danger. May He bless the victims of September 11 and their families, and may He continue to bless the United States of America.

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

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

#### NOMINATION OF MICHELLE BOWMAN

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise to speak on the nomination of Governor Michelle Bowman to be a member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo as Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States.

First, I will speak about Governor Bowman. Michelle Bowman currently serves as a Governor on the Federal Reserve Board and was the first person to fill the Federal Reserve's community banking seat, after her confirmation last year by a bipartisan vote of 64 to 34. Her current term expires on January 30, 2020, and President Trump has renominated her to the same position for a full 14-year term.

Prior to serving as Governor, she was the State bank commissioner of Kansas from January 2017 to November 2018.

She also served as vice president of a Kansas-based community bank, Farmers & Drovers Bank, between 2010 and 2017 and served in a number of government roles.

Confirming Governor Bowman to a new 14-year term will provide the needed stability on the Board.

During her current term as Governor, she has played a crucial role at the Federal Reserve by providing the community banking perspective and highlighting their importance to people, households, and small businesses across this Nation, as well as the U.S. economy broadly. She has also contributed meaningfully toward appropriately tailoring regulations in accordance with S. 2155.

If confirmed, I am confident her experience and skill will continue to benefit the Board in promoting the effective operation of the U.S. economy and serving the public interest. I will be voting in support of Governor Bowman and urge my colleagues to vote in support of her nomination, as well, today.

Turning for a moment to another important issue regarding the Federal Reserve, I want to reinforce that maintaining the independence of the Federal Reserve is of the utmost importance in this country.

The recent remarks made by former New York Fed President Dudley urging the Federal Reserve to sway an election by using monetary policy are incredibly troubling. The job of the Federal Reserve is to provide this Nation with a safer, more flexible, and more stable monetary and financial system. I continue to encourage the Federal Reserve to conduct its monetary policy while remaining independent of politics.

#### NOMINATION OF THOMAS PETER FEDDO

Mr. President, now I would like to turn to the nomination of Thomas Peter Feddo for Assistant Secretary of the Treasury for Investment Security in the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, or what we often call CFIUS.

CFIUS plays an important role in today's investment market by reviewing the national security implications of certain transactions involving foreign investment in the United States. Congress recognized and underscored the importance of this national security job when it repurposed the previous Assistant Secretary slot with passage of FIRRMA last July.

Up until that time, the Assistant Secretary split his time between CFIUS and work on international markets, and, today, the Assistant Secretary for Investment Security is dedicated 100 percent to CFIUS responsibilities.

Mr. Feddo's nomination comes at an important time in history, when China's ambitions forced Congress to reevaluate the reliance of U.S.-China commerce and the laws and regulations governing that connectivity.

FIRRMA expanded the jurisdictional reach of CFIUS to better protect U.S.

cutting-edge technology companies from hostile foreign takeover and influence based on a couple of concerns. First, CFIUS did not have visibility into many investments from China that might provide coercive influence over U.S. cutting-edge technology companies. Second, these investments were resulting in technology transfers that could convey capabilities, advancing Chinese economic and security interests while restricting the U.S. military and national security structure from leveraging that technology.

FIRRMA not only increased the bandwidth of CFIUS but also expanded the resources given to it to meet the new level of today's challenges.

The time is now to fill this sensitive vacancy.

Thomas Feddo is the ideal candidate to take up the mantle because he has the keen intellect and natural suspicions of a dedicated financial warrior. He currently leads the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Investment Security in executing Treasury's statutory role as the chair of CFIUS during one of the most trying times that investment markets have seen. For over a year now, he has led the CFIUS team at Treasury, but before that, he put in a 7-year tour at the Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, where he oversaw implementation and enforcement of some 29 U.S. sanctions programs.

As a graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy, with a degree in naval engineering, Mr. Feddo served as a lieutenant in the Navy's nuclear submarine force and as an officer at the Navy Antiterrorist Alert Center. Because of his unique experience and his technical education, once confirmed, Mr. Feddo will hit the ground running, moving CFIUS forward in pursuit of its continuing mission to guard U.S. technological leadership from foreign adversaries.

I look forward to continuing conversations with him on opportunities to improve America's foreign investment review system, which requires constant vigilance. I also look forward to working with him on how we can make CFIUS programs more effective and efficient and be a faithful steward of U.S. taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Feddo enjoys nearly unanimous support from stakeholders, which speaks volumes to his strong track record of experience and expertise. Thomas Feddo's nomination was advanced by voice vote in the Senate Banking Committee on June 18, 2019, with overwhelming bipartisan support. I ask my colleagues once again to vote to confirm him to this critical post.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak as in morning business.

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