What they are doing to the Uighurs, to the Hong Kong people, and even to their own supposedly loyal comrades, they intend to do to you. The Chinese surveillance state is an essential means to their end game of absolute control of the thought, movement, and relationships with other global powers.

How far must China go before we reject the notion that their influence will stop at our border? I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to consider their answer carefully, as questions will inevitably rise about the relevance of free speech and the Constitution or the importance of a strong national defense.

We are in the midst of great power competition, and we do not have a National Defense Authorization Act. It would be the first time in 58 years. I encourage my colleagues to work with us. Let's get this complete because the threats are real, and the more we compromise our own values, the easier it will become for foreign influence to take hold in our society.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

## CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, atmospheric carbon dioxide just hit new records in our atmosphere, the highest in the history of humankind, and I rise for the 260th time to call this Chamber to wake up.

As we venture further into uncharted dangerous climate change, the National Council for Science and the Environment issued this report, ''Climate Science Research in the United States and U.S. Territories.'' This report surveys climate research papers from public universities across all of our 50 States—every single one of them—to highlight the breadth and the depth of climate science coming out of our State universities and to showcase the climate science centers and institutes that they host.

Some colleagues pay no attention to the threat of climate change, but their home State universities sure do. Ten thousand peer-reviewed research papers published out of 80 universities from 2014 through 2018, that is, on average, 185 peer-reviewed articles published on climate change in each State.

The report says this: ''In every State, public universities invest in scholarship and education to advance fields such as climate modeling, climate impacts, adaptation, and more. Increasingly, they go on, climate science has been integrated into course work on sustainability, energy, engineering, architecture, business, and even political science.'' One wonders what is the hold the fossil fuel industry has over the Republican Party that causes colleagues to ignore the research from their own home state universities?

The report continues: ''Climate scientists are studying a wide diversity of topics. They measure carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. They are studying carbon and the impacts of a changing carbon cycle. They are studying impacts of climate change on the Nation's food security, crop yields, heat-stress, health impacts, soil erosion; on water resources, including water quality, balance, river basins, drought, precipitation, mountain snowpack; on impacts to critical infrastructure, such as sea level rise on coasts and on subtropical islands, to the impact of permafrost thaw on sub-Arctic rivers.''

''Finally, researchers are also studying the social science of climate change, including changing attitudes, polarization, opinions, beliefs, and their impacts on framing in the media and on decision-making.''

Region by region in every State, the report shows our State universities tracking climate change's consequences in fine detail. Quoting from the report, in the Midwest, ''Agriculture is a major focal area for climate-related research . . . [with] more occurrences of the word 'agriculture' in climate-related papers from the Midwest between the 2014 and 2018 than in any other region.''

In the Southwest, ''A key focus of scientific research in the Southwest region is on the impact to people and ecosystems from heat, drought, wildfires, and flooding.''

In the Southeast, ''The impacts of climate change in the Southeast are becoming most visible through the increase of flooding, temporal and geographic shifts that affect human health, and growing risks of wildfires.''

In the Southern Great Plains States, ''Scientists in the Southern Great Plains are studying climate impact on food systems, sea level rise, as well as impacts to unique ecosystems in this region, such as a tall grass prairie in Oklahoma.''

Across all of these regions, red and purple State universities are churning out climate research. In fact, conservative States' universities are home to some of the most prolific climate science departments and institutions. I wish they were listened to by our Members here.

Texas A&M University, the alma mater of climate-change-denying former Energy Secretary Rick Perry, produced 256 papers—256 papers—covering topics like shifting summer monsoons in the Lone Star State, local surface temperature increases, atmospheric changes, and climate adaptation strategies.

North Carolina State University produced 223 climate papers examining climate change and atmospheric chemistry, surface ozone, regional water research and precipitation, and it is home to the Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center, which helps coastal North Carolina grapple with rising sea levels, erosion, and flooding.

Go to Idaho. Researchers from Boise State and the University of Idaho issued 164 climate science papers covering threats like wildfires, bark beetles, shifting precipitation, rising temperatures, and disruption to ecosystems in National Parks like Yellowstone. Idaho also has two academic centers focused on climate change, the Hazard and Climate Resiliency Consortium and the Center for Resilient Communities. For the staff at these two centers, it is all climate, all the time. For the Idaho delegation, it is never climate, ever.

Let's look at what is happening in the home State universities of Republican Senators on our Environment and Public Works Committee. Here is what they will find in their university backyards. The University of Wyoming produced 124 climate change papers on wildfires, endangered species, Yellowstone National Park, and other climate topics—124. The university is home to both the State climatology office and an atmospheric science department, which does modeling and empirical climate research. Its faculty are working on subjects like—quoting here the report here—''the role of climate and variability on vegetation and fire. Using moderate climate analogs to understand past environmental disturbances. Developing Web-based animated maps of climate, and development of 3D climate visualization tools to enhance learning approaches in the classroom.'' I wonder if our Wyoming delegation has visualized that.

The University of Oklahoma and Oklahoma State University published 183 climate change papers on things like Southern Plains grasslands, rising temperatures, soil respiration, and much more. OU is home to the Oklahoma University Climate Science Center and the Department of the Interior's South Central Adaptation Science Center.

Here is what the dean of the University of Oklahoma College of Atmospheric and Geographic Sciences said: ''On the increasing strength of Earth sciences we can now state that global warming is 'unequivocal.''' He said: ''The fact that the planet's warming, and the fact that $CO_2$'s a greenhouse gas, and the fact that it's increasing in the atmosphere, and that it increases in the atmosphere due to humans—about those things, there's no debate.''

I am not sure the Oklahoma delegation here has taken that in yet.

West Virginia and Marshall Universities have turned out dozens of climate change papers on precipitation, drought, tree growth, and much more. The West Virginia Mountaineers have a Mountain Hydrology Laboratory, which reports on climate change's ''important implications for management of fresh water resources,'' which include that ''the highlands region in the central Appalachian Mountains is expected to wet up'' as warmer air carrying more moisture leads to what they call ''intensification of the water cycle''—what you and I would call worse flooding. The laboratory warns that ''the implications of this intensification are immense.''

The University of Arkansas contributed 51 papers and hosts the University of Arkansas Resiliency Center. Arkansas researchers warned of the need to reduce greenhouse gases, particularly including carbon dioxide and methane because these gases' ''absorption of solar radiation is responsible for the greenhouse effect.'' The university describes the greenhouse effect thus: ''These gases are trapped and held in the Earth's atmosphere, gradually increasing the temperature of the Earth's surface and air in the lower atmosphere.''

A University of Arkansas scientist predicts ''that the spread of plant species in nearly half of the world's land areas could be affected by global warming by the end of the century.'' Yet what do we hear from Arkansas about climate change?

Alaska actually gets its own regional chapter in this report. In Alaska, ''Researchers at public institutions . . . are studying changes in the marine environment and the impacts to the valuable marine resources Alaskan communities depend on.''

There are papers on thawing permafrost and its effects on water quality, infrastructure, and habitat for fish and wildlife. There is research on what rapid ocean acidification, rising sea levels, and shifting fish stocks mean for Alaska's coastal communities. And there is research into challenges facing Alaska's indigenous people fighting to protect their ancient way of life in a rapidly changing landscape.

Alaska is home to not one, not two, but three climate institutes: the Alaska Climate Research Center, the Alaska Climate Adaptation/Resource Center, and the Ocean Acidification Research Center. Alaskan researchers have written papers titled ''Permafrost is warming at a global scale'' and ''Climate Change and Future Wildfire in the Western United States.'' The Alaska researchers don't mince words. I quote: ''Projections of warming suggest that considerable change will occur to key snow parameters, possibly contributing to extensive infrastructure damage from thawing permafrost, an increased frequency of rain-on-snow events and reduced soil recharge in the spring due to shallow end-of-winter snowpack.'' It is not hard to understand, but where is the action?

In the Dakotas, North Dakota State and the University of North Dakota are studying the effects of climate change on the Great Plains, the Mississippi River, land use and adaptation, and public policy. They are also home to North Dakota Agricultural Experiment Center, the Global Institute of Food Security and International Agriculture, and the Center for Regional Climate Studies. South Dakota State has issued dozens of studies on climate change, including what it will mean for the State's groundwater supply, maize and wheat crops, and precipitation levels.

Heading south, the University of Mississippi and Mississippi State are studying what climate change will mean for sediment flows, droughts, watersheds, and water quality. They are looking at what climate change will mean for Mississippi's vitally important rice crop—a crop that supports hundreds of rice farms in the State. And they do good coastal climate work with the Sea Grant Program.

Auburn, the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa, and the University of Alabama-Huntsville produced 140 climate papers that are in the council's study here. You would never know that from the Alabama delegation. Auburn has an International Center for Climate and Global Change Research, and the University of Alabama does climate change research at its Earth System Science Center.

All by itself, Iowa State is responsible for 117 papers on climate change: on agriculture—corn, grazing lands, yields; on weather—precipitation, droughts, temperature; and even on beliefs and behavior related to climate change.

Last but certainly not least among EPW Republican States is Indiana, home to two world-class universities that are doing extremely impressive work on climate change. Indiana University and Purdue combine for 289 papers. They are also home to the Center for the Study of Global Change at Indiana University and Purdue's Climate Change Research Center.

I hope it goes without saying that universities that study climate change and publish scientific papers on climate change also teach climate change in their coursework. Maybe we should spend a week here in the Senate getting a refresher on the home State climate change science. It might do us some good. But we don't. We waste week after week here as the danger looms, the warnings pile up, and the research keeps coming about climate change in our home States. We will be the most clearly warned body in history of disaster ahead. Yet we still sit here doing nothing. Never has a political body been more clearly warned of a more present looming disaster than this one—yet still nothing.

The council's report on State university climate research has these web diagrams, which show how climate change research focuses more on climate effects as they begin to manifest themselves in the States and not just predictions and science any longer. Now it is measurement of actual events. But the diagrams also show the various areas of research about which these research papers are being published.

Here is the web diagram for the topics that are addressed in climate science research in the southwestern universities. The 12 universities in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah in the study show real-time effects of climate change, like drought and wildfire, and point to direct links between tree mortality, drought, and climate. We in this country depend on the Southwest for more than half of our specialty crops—vegetables, fruits, and nuts—so we have to pay attention when drought threatens all of those.

Here is another topic web for the Southeast highlighting what the universities' research has been on sea level rise, ocean acidification, adaptation, and management.

Here is a slightly different web. This web is not a web of science and inquiry. No, this is the web of front groups and dark money organizations that the fossil fuel industry has supported, created, and used for decades to sow false doubt about all of this science—all of this science from all of our 50 States. Their job is to lie about this science, and they have done it well. They have used this same web to deploy political muscle and propaganda to block action here in Congress. That is why, with all of this research being done in all of these States, nothing is happening on this floor. Nothing has happened since Citizens United gave the fossil fuel industry the equivalent of howitzers, whereas before then, they just had muskets.

I say to the Presiding Officer, I remember how bipartisan it was here. You weren't here then. Between 2007, when I was sworn in—all of 2007, 2008, and 2009, we had five different bipartisan climate bills popping up around on the Senate floor. There were five of them, all strong, serious bills—not little nibbly things to make people feel better; real bills.

In January 2010 comes Citizens United, and the fossil fuel industry gets its brandnew hardware, its political howitzers, and they go straight to the other side of the aisle and say: Anybody who crosses us is dead. Bipartisanship died that year on climate change, and it is only beginning—only beginning—to resurge now. But the decade we lost will cost us a lot, and it makes the urgency of what we have to do now all the more important. This web of denial, paid for by the fossil fuel industry, has stymied Congress for a decade.

I hope I don't need to remind anyone here that the fossil fuel industry has a conflict of interest as to this question. Indeed, the International Monetary Fund has quantified it as a $650 billion-a-year conflict of interest. For $650 billion in conflict of interest, you can pay for a lot of nonsense organizations that are phony front groups to put out your poison and your political propaganda and your political pressure.

It is time, at last, for Senators to pay attention to the trusted science actually happening in their own home State universities and not to this corrupt web of denial that has been propped up by the conflicted fossil fuel industry. This web of denial has done nothing but lied over and over again. They are provably wrong over and over again. The things they say are false over and over again. Yet the industry behind them still controls the U.S.

Senate, and we can't budge, despite the rest of the world moving on dealing with this issue.

Let me close with an anniversary that we marked this week. Ten years ago this Friday, a full-page ad ran in the New York Times—a full-page ad pointing out that the science of climate change was already by then—10 years ago—to use the words in the advertisement, ''irrefutable,'' ''scientifically irrefutable.'' The science is scientifically irrefutable. And it goes on to say that the consequences of climate change would be ''catastrophic and irreversible.'' Wow. The science is irrefutable; the consequences, catastrophic and irreversible? Who could have signed this ad? I will tell you who signed this ad. Donald J. Trump and his children, Donald Trump, Jr., Eric Trump, Ivanka Trump—oh, and the Trump Organization, right there. This is what the Trumps had to say about this 10 years ago, Friday.

I conclude by saying to my colleagues, the science is there for you to see. You don't have to go far. Just go to your home State university. It is right there waiting for you. For the truth of climate change, just turn to the researchers teaching your students in your State's own universities. They can tell you, just as Donald Trump and his family did 10 years ago, that what we face is irrefutable and that its consequences will be catastrophic and irreversible if we keep monkeying around and failing to act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Ohio.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## REMEMBERING HARRISON DILLARD

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a Cleveland native, a Buffalo soldier, and an Olympic legend—Harrison Dillard. Mr. Dillard died last month at the age of 96. His life included service to our country in World War II, four Olympic gold medals, and world records.

He grew up racing up and down the streets of our shared hometown of Cleveland with friends. When Mr. Dillard was 13, he saw his hometown hero, a gentleman named Jesse Owens, in a parade. He ran home and told his mother: ''I just saw Jesse Owens, [Mom], and I'm going to be just like him.''

She humored her son. Think about how many people say that to mothers in Cleveland and other places. She humored her son like all mothers do, but Harrison Dillard was serious. He and his friends would take old cars seats and put them in the street and jump over them for practice.

When he enrolled at Jesse Owens' alma mater, Cleveland's East Technical High School on the east side of our city, Owens himself gave Harrison a new pair of running shoes. Jesse Owens was one of the most famous athletes in the country. He won world records, one gold medal, and stood up to Adolph Hitler. Jessie Owens gave Harrison Dillard a new pair of running shoes.

Mr. Dillard joined the Army after high school. He served in a segregated unit. Just for younger people who don't know this history, we segregated our Armed Forces in this country, even in World War II. Just to add a little more to that history with those soldiers who came back from serving their country, they came back to a segregated country. They had fought for human rights. They came back, and they didn't have those human rights. Think about that.

After the war, General Patton saw Harrison Dillard in an Army track meet, and Patton said—pardon my language on the Senate floor: ''[That man] is the best Goddamn athlete I've ever seen.''

Harrison Dillard proved him right. He represented our country at the Olympics in London. He brought home two gold medals in the 100-meter race. He achieved his childhood dream. He matched Jesse Owens' Olympic record time of 10.3 seconds. That was in 1948. He would later write in his autobiography: ''I could finally say that I was just like [Jesse Owens].''

Plenty of people tried to hold Harrison Dillard back because of the color of his skin. He recalled how, after his military discharge, he was refused food at a restaurant. Again, he served his country, he came back to his country, and he was refused food in a restaurant because of the color of his skin. It is shameful how we treated veterans and fellow citizens in this country. It is a testament to Mr. Dillard's tenacity and talent that he achieved so much in the face of a society that was so often set up to hold him back. He ended his career by serving the city that raised him. He worked for the Cleveland public school system.

Now, I met Harrison Dillard once. Actually, I met him later as an adult. I saw him not that many years ago. I met him when I was in Boy Scouts at Camp Avery Hand in Mansfield, OH. Harrison Dillard came out and spoke to our Scout troop and other troops who were sitting there congregated to listen to this world class famous athlete talk to us about service. I remember I didn't know a lot about him because I was not even born when he won the Olympics, but I knew he was an Olympian. He was introduced as that. We got to listen to him, and he inspired us.

His legacy lives on in Northeast Ohio. He lives on around the country not only in our record books but also through the young people he inspired. I ask all my colleagues to join me in honoring Harrison Dillard—Olympic gold medal winner, U.S. Army veteran, and citizen of the great city of Cleveland.

I yield the floor.

## EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Executive Calendar No. 499.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Hugh Nathanial Halpern, of Virginia, to be Director of the Government Publishing Office.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent on the Halpern nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

## LEGISLATIVE SESSION

### MORNING BUSINESS

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(At the request of Mr. SCHUMER, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

## VOTE EXPLANATION

● Ms. HARRIS. Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present, I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 369 the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 347, Eric Ross Komitee to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 370 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 353, John L. Sinatra, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of New York.

Mr. President, I was absent but had I been present I would have voted no on rollcall vote No. 371 the motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 478, Sarah E. Pitlyk to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri.