

rather than the size of your crime, we have not yet achieved equal justice under law. There is more work to be done when young people selling drugs on the corner too often become felons for life, while white-collar criminals face no accountability.

There is more work to be done when regarding the sexual assault of women, the current President has said:

When you're a star, they let you do it. You can do anything.

There is work to be done when the American people know that the rules aren't equally enforced against powerful people. Unless we acknowledge these truths, too many Americans will remain distrustful of our institutions and cynical about our government and our leaders.

This is the point, my colleagues: We now face a choice. Will we insist that we have one system of justice that applies equally to all or will we continue to have two systems of justice in which some are above the law?

Later this week, the Senate will likely begin the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump. This moment in our history will have consequences. The Senate is charged with deciding whether the President of the United States, with all his power and supposed wealth, will be held accountable for his actions and whether we will finally live up to the principle of "Equal Justice Under Law."

This is why I speak to you today, fully aware that I stand on the shoulders of those who come before me in our Nation's ongoing fight for equality. I speak because I was raised by people who spent most of their lives demanding justice in the face of racism, misogyny, bigotry, and inequality. I speak because I have dedicated my entire career to upholding the rule of law and bringing integrity to our system of justice. I speak to ensure that everyone in California and throughout our country can enjoy the rights and freedoms guaranteed to them by the U.S. Constitution.

As a U.S. Senator, I speak fully prepared to uphold my solemn oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and to do impartial justice according to the Constitution and laws, and to affirm that my first obligation is to serve the people of the United States—all the people.

I hope my colleagues can agree that our Nation's Founders had the foresight to create a system of checks and balances and anticipate the need to remove a President who might yield to foreign influence or use the Presidency for personal power and benefit.

Our Founders feared that a day like this might come, and so they empowered the U.S. Congress with the tool of impeachment to hold a lawless President accountable.

This week, after months of investigation, sworn testimony, public hearings and debate, the House of Representatives will likely send to the U.S. Senate two Articles of Impeachment.

These articles charge President Trump with abusing his power for his personal and political gain and with obstructing Congress's effort to investigate his misconduct.

In this trial, the U.S. Senate must not only consider the charges against the President but also conduct itself in a way that demonstrates to the American people that in our system of justice no one is above the law. Each Senator here must exhibit the kind of moral and ethical leadership that this President abandoned when he pressured a foreign nation to interfere in our elections.

There is no question that President Trump's misconduct has left a vacuum of leadership in our country, and the American people are therefore rightly looking to the U.S. Senate to demonstrate that their leaders are worthy of the public's trust.

The American people should expect their Senators to seek the truth, not cover up the facts. So let's honor our oath to defend the Constitution by doing the job the American people have entrusted to us.

Let us ensure that this trial is a search for truth and that we follow the facts where they lead and come to a verdict based on all of the available evidence.

Let us do our jobs and insist that we hear from Mick Mulvaney, John Bolton, and anyone with a firsthand knowledge of the President's misconduct. Let us demand that the White House turn over additional emails and documents that shed light on the President's motives for withholding military aid from Ukraine. And let us be clear that an order from this President to block evidence or witness testimony will itself be further evidence of his efforts to obstruct the U.S. Congress.

The importance of this moment in our history cannot be overstated. What we do in this trial will show the world who we are as a country. Our actions will also send a message to further Presidents and future Presidents of the United States about the kind of conduct that is acceptable from the leader of our Nation.

As the U.S. Senate, we must say that it is unacceptable for a President to shake down a vulnerable foreign nation for personal or political benefit. We must say with one voice that no President can disregard the legitimate oversight authority of the U.S. Congress, and we must say, as leaders of the United States of America, that in our system of justice, everyone—everyone—will be held accountable for their actions, including the President of the United States.

My final point is that, years from now, people are going to judge. They are going to judge whether we rose to the solemn occasion that is the impeachment trial of the President of the United States, and we cannot be passive in this moment. I am mindful of Coretta Scott King's words:

Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it with each generation.

It is incumbent on this generation to fight for a system of justice in which all are treated equally.

In that ongoing fight, we, as the U.S. Senate, must agree that we cannot speak about the ideals of equality and justice and then act in ways that violate those very principles. It is our duty, both as Senators and as proud Americans, to protect the Constitution, to earn the people's trust, and to prove to the American people that it is still within the power of the U.S. Congress to hold the President accountable. History is watching. Our actions here will shape this body's legacy.

I urge my colleagues to have the courage, the foresight, and the patriotism to act in the interest of our Nation and its people. I urge my colleagues to fight for one system of justice in the United States of America and to ensure that no one is above the law. I urge my colleagues to reaffirm the most basic of American principles—that ours is not the government of one man but a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

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

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

NOMINATION OF PETER GAYNOR

Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I rise today asking the Senate to confirm the nomination of Mr. Peter Gaynor to be the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. The FEMA Administrator serves as the principal adviser to the President, the Homeland Security Council, and the Secretary of Homeland Security for all matters related to emergency management.

The Administrator's principal duties include the operation of the National Response Coordination Center and the effective support of all emergency support functions. More broadly, the Administrator coordinates the implementation of a risk-based, all-hazards strategy to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to, and recover from natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other manmade disasters.

The Agency has over 20,000 employees and a surge capacity force of over 9,000 volunteers to respond during local and national emergencies, working around the clock when necessary.

The President's nominee to head FEMA, Mr. Peter Gaynor, has extensive experience at the local, State, and Federal emergency management levels. In 2018, the Senate confirmed Mr. Gaynor as the Deputy Administrator of FEMA, and for most of last year he served as the Acting Administrator.

Prior to Federal service, he was the director of Rhode Island's Emergency Management Agency. For 26 years prior to his service in emergency management positions, Mr. Gaynor served as an enlisted marine and infantry officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Mr. Gaynor's experience will be valuable as FEMA works to implement the Disaster Recovery Reform Act. A primary goal of that legislation is to help ensure that the model for response to and recovery from natural and man-made disasters is one that is locally executed, State managed, and federally supported.

I am pleased to say that Mr. Gaynor's nomination has broad bipartisan support. Our committee approved his nomination by voice vote in November. Among others, he has received endorsements from Rhode Island Governor Gina Raimondo, Senator JACK REED, Big City Emergency Managers, and the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

I am grateful to Mr. Gaynor for his willingness to continue serving his country in this role and to his family for their continued sacrifice. I strongly encourage my colleagues to vote yes on his nomination.

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 legislative 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 Peter Gaynor, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security.

Mitch McConnell, John Thune, Ron Johnson, Mike Rounds, Richard Burr, Kevin Cramer, Pat Roberts, Roger F. Wicker, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Thom Tillis, John Cornyn, Tim Scott, Mike Crapo, Steve Daines, John Boozman, Shelley Moore Capito, James E. Risch.

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 Peter Gaynor, of Rhode Island, to be Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, 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 Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the

Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), 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 76, nays 8, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 11 Ex.]

YEAS—76

Alexander	Fischer	Perdue
Baldwin	Gardner	Peters
Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hassan	Reed
Blumenthal	Hawley	Roberts
Blunt	Heinrich	Romney
Boozman	Hirono	Rosen
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cantwell	Johnson	Sasse
Capito	Jones	Schatz
Cardin	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Lankford	Shelby
Collins	Leahy	Sinema
Coons	Lee	Smith
Cornyn	Loeffler	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tester
Cotton	McConnell	Thune
Crapo	McSally	Tillis
Cruz	Merkley	Whitehouse
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Duckworth	Murkowski	Wyden
Enzi	Murphy	Young
Ernst	Murray	
Feinstein	Paul	

NAYS—8

Brown	Menendez	Udall
Gillibrand	Schumer	Van Hollen
Harris	Stabenow	

NOT VOTING—16

Bennet	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Booker	Kennedy	Toomey
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Warner
Cramer	Markey	Warren
Durbin	Risch	
Graham	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 76, the nays are 8.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to enter into a colloquy with my colleagues from Rhode Island and New Jersey.

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

SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I am sure all of my colleagues are going to want to listen to this speech. I am on the floor with my colleagues Senator WHITEHOUSE and Senator MENENDEZ to talk about some very important legislation for our country, legislation that passed the Senate last week. It is the Save Our Seas 2.0 legislation.

I begin by thanking Senator WHITEHOUSE and Senator MENENDEZ for their leadership on this bill.

We are going to talk a little bit about the importance of it, why it matters to Alaska, to New Jersey, to

Rhode Island, and to the whole country. This is a significant piece of legislation. It is, really, the most comprehensive piece of legislation to pass the Congress—to pass the Senate—that has dealt with ocean debris and ocean pollution—ever. That sounds like a pretty hyperbolic phrase, but it is true. We checked with the CRS. There has been nothing more comprehensive than this piece of legislation that tackles an issue we all care about—clean oceans.

As a matter of fact, on Thursday night, 100 Senators passed this after there having been a lot of work on the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, on the Committee on Environment and Public Works, and on the Committee on Foreign Relations. After about a year of work on this, we finally got it passed. A number of Senators—Democrats and Republicans—were cosponsors. I really want to thank the two Senators who are on the floor right now. In particular, Senator WHITEHOUSE has been a real leader on these issues that deal with oceans. This is an environmental issue that we can solve. Republicans and Democrats in the Congress, the Trump administration in the White House, and environmental and industry groups are all pulling on the same oar, and we had a good start last Thursday on what this does.

I want to turn it over to my colleague from Rhode Island because, in many ways, he has been the real leader, the driver, and is the founder of the Oceans Caucus. Bit by bit, legislation by legislation, he and I cosponsored the first Save Our Seas Act in the last Congress. To much fanfare in the Oval Office, the President signed it, and now you are starting to see people work on this. There is a whole section in the USMCA on cleaning up our oceans. We have gone from Save Our Seas 1.0, which has already passed into law, to Save Our Seas 2.0. I think it is exciting, and I think the American people don't always hear about the bipartisan work that is actually getting done on big issues that matter to our Nation. There is a lot.

Cleaning up our oceans is one that matters to everybody and, certainly, to my State, with its having more coastline than the rest of the lower 48 combined. You don't even have to live in a coastal State to care about this issue. Some of our cosponsors on this bill—on both sides of the aisle—are from States that don't even have any coastline. That is how important it is.

I want to turn it over to Senator WHITEHOUSE. I thank him for his and Senator MENENDEZ' leadership. We will talk a little bit about what is in it and what we are going to do next. This is a good day for the environment in America. It is a good day for the oceans not just in our country, not just in Alaska, not just in Rhode Island but in the world. As a nation, if we are leading on this, which this legislation does, then we are going to be able to help clean up our oceans all over the world. We had a