

no better time than Hispanic Heritage Month for that to happen.

Texas and our entire Nation are stronger, smarter, and more inclusive because of the contributions of Hispanics over the generations.

I am glad to spend this month reflecting on our complex and ever-evolving American story, and celebrating the contributions of Hispanic Americans who have helped shape our Nation's history.

I hope the Senate will honor Hispanic Heritage Month by passing this important legislation to finally give Latino history a brick-and-mortar home here in Washington, DC.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to complete my remarks prior to the vote.

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

TRIBUTE TO AMY AMRHEIN

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, Senators come to this floor with greatly diverse life experiences and political theories and representing enormously different States. But we all share this in common: a vast appreciation of our team members, our staff, who enable us to do our work as U.S. Senators on behalf of our own States, but also on behalf of the Nation.

These team members are not just staff. They are family. We share in moments of joy—marriage, the birth of a child. We grieve with them in those life moments that are so difficult. And when the team members choose to move on, it is a bittersweet moment.

I come to the floor today to recognize and pay tribute to a beloved member of my team, Amy Amrhein, who in just a few short days will be leaving us to a well-deserved retirement. Even after knowing for months that this day was coming, it is still hard for me not to be saddened by her departure. She has been on my team from the very beginning of my time as a Senator, serving as my field representative in Southern Oregon and staffing our Medford office. That is now a dozen years.

She took on the task of learning complicated natural resource issues and learning them with determination and insight, working to internalize the issues and challenges of every community in the region, from the smallest port to the biggest county.

She mastered the art of putting on a townhall, as I do one in every county every year, and I think at last count that is about 80 townhalls she has conducted over the years.

She has worked to bring the community together to discuss visions for the future. One of those was the potential expansion of the Cascade-Siskiyou Monument. She organized a gathering that gave public testimony, which helped share insights from all the stakeholders. Local leaders and regional Tribes and all members of the public shared their insights and perspectives.

It is no exaggeration to say that there are few people in the world with a better grasp of the complicated water issues in the Klamath Basin. We have a saying in the West that “whiskey, that’s for drinking; water, that’s for fighting” because it is so essential to so many aspects of our economy and our natural system.

For 12 years, Amy engaged in shuttle diplomacy over long-term solutions to water shortages. She found ways to help farmers and ranchers save their livelihoods through shattering droughts, truly making herself an indispensable facilitator to stakeholders across the board and an indispensable facilitator as I tried to work out agreements. That really came in handy with the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement, developing that effort to have the stakeholders share a common vision for the future. It really came in handy when we worked to get funds to address the devastating droughts in 2010 and 2013—funds that would help the farmers who depended on irrigation but had no water to be able to temporarily, for a season, retire their water rights and therefore have some income for their ranch or their farm or be able to have money to pump groundwater to compensate for the lack of irrigation water during those drought years.

One of the issues has been the water quality in the Klamath Basin and the competing environmental rules regarding the river and the lake, and a piece of that is the survival of two endangered species. So she helped to put all the details together to hold the Sucker Science Summit, which brought together again the farmers, ranchers, Tribes, scientists, local government officials, and Federal officials to devise a plan for the long-term survival of the C’waam and Koptu suckerfish in the Klamath Basin.

There is no doubt that Southern Oregon could not have asked for a better advocate over these past 12 years. I have appreciated her diligence, her humor, her positive attitude, and her candor about our smart political tactics or policy tactics and our mistakes. I could share some of those stories, but perhaps they are better shared through the eyes of our fellow team members, so I will read some of their comments.

The first goes as follows:

Amy is the definition of dedication. No one can out work her. She is committed and she will keep asking questions and pushing buttons until she makes progress on an issue. She is fearless. She has been such a great leader and mentor for not only the field team, but the entire state staff. I’m so grateful for the opportunity to learn from her. Oregon is a better place to live because of her service and she will be dearly missed.

A second team member expressed this:

When I think of Amy I think about her fearlessness. A distant field rep’s job is really challenging—[the rep] is the face and the voice of the Senator and you are all alone, far from DC, even far from Portland. Despite all our communications breakthroughs you are still all by yourself, driving remote high-

ways, walking into rooms full of strangers, never knowing what is going to be thrown at you. They want a Senator, and instead they get you. Amy was open about her questions and concerns, but once she was out there and on her own, we always had confidence she would do and say the right thing.

A third team member said this:

No surprise that she is leaving behind big shoes. She makes covering some of the largest counties and most difficult issues in the state look easy. Her knowledge of the issues run deep and her contacts in counties is impressive. When you ask about a county, she’ll give you the breakdown of all her contacts: who would give me straight answers and who has the juicy county political/social gossip. She has also been a great mentor to those in the field. I am pretty sure she has walked every one of us through our first town halls, roundtables and site visits. She was someone you could rely on to give you feedback and let you know if you were on the right path.

The final comment from a team member:

I would just say that every time I have ever come into contact with a community leader or elected official that has worked with Amy, no matter the political party, they absolutely love her. She has done so much for the Southern Oregon communities. Just a beautiful human who has worked incredibly hard over the last decade-plus to help rural Oregonians. She is funny, kind, and blunt—always tells you like it is. I cannot reiterate enough how imperative her mentorship has been. She is a wealth of knowledge and experience that can’t be replaced.

I certainly could not have said it better, so I appreciate the team members who contributed those thoughts.

On behalf of myself and the entire team, thank you, Amy Amrhein, for all you have done for our team, for all you have done for the State, and for all you have done for so many constituents, working on so many complex and difficult issues. You are going to be deeply missed by the entire team but by me most of all. It is the wish of the entire team that you will have a joyous, healthy retirement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Young nomination?

Mr. MERKLEY. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO), the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON), and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted yea.

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

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

The result was announced—yeas 93, nays 2, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 194 Ex.]

YEAS—93

Alexander	Gardner	Peters
Baldwin	Gillibrand	Portman
Barrasso	Graham	Reed
Bennet	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hassan	Roberts
Blunt	Hawley	Romney
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hirono	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Schatz
Cantwell	Jones	Scott (FL)
Cardin	Kaine	Scott (SC)
Carper	Kennedy	Shaheen
Casey	King	Shelby
Cassidy	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Lankford	Smith
Coons	Leahy	Stabenow
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Loeffler	Tester
Cotton	Manchin	Thune
Cramer	Markey	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	McSally	Udall
Daines	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Enzi	Murphy	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murray	Wicker
Feinstein	Paul	Wyden
Fischer	Perdue	Young

NAYS—2

Blumenthal	Schumer
	NOT VOTING—5
Capito	Johnson
Harris	Moran

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2021 AND OTHER EXTENSIONS ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 552, H.R. 8337.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 552, H.R. 8337, a bill making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2021, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

CORONAVIRUS

Ms. COLLINS. Madam President, with the COVID-19 pandemic continuing to devastate our public health and our economy, it is far past time that we reach agreement on another relief package that is so desperately needed. It will require good-faith negotiations on both sides of the aisle, not just saying no and turning the tragedy of 200,000 COVID deaths into a partisan political issue.

For my part, I believe there should be nine elements in the bill. First,

there should be an extension of the Paycheck Protection Program, known as PPP. This is a program that I crafted with Senators MARCO RUBIO, JEANNE SHAHEEN, and BEN CARDIN to provide forgivable loans to our small businesses so that they could pay their employees.

I am pleased to report that, in my State, 28,000 small businesses—that is nearly three out of four of our small businesses—have taken advantage of \$2.3 billion in forgivable loans, sustaining 250,000 jobs. It has truly made a difference. Now we need to do a second round of PPP for the hardest hit businesses, those for whom the first PPP loan was the lifeline but they need additional help.

So we have set a revenue test such that, if your revenue is 35 percent below what it was in an equivalent quarter last year, you would qualify for another PPP loan. In addition, those who have never received a first PPP loan could apply under the initial rules. This would make a difference in keeping our small businesses afloat, particularly those in the tourism industry that have been so hard hit, and ensuring that their employees will still have jobs.

Second, we need to provide aid to our schools. I have talked to superintendents all over the State of Maine, and I have visited schools in Hollis and Houlton. I have seen firsthand the enormous investments they have had to make in order to reopen the schools safely or adapt to a hybrid model, depending on where the location is and the incidence of COVID-19.

In one school that I visited, they have replaced all of the round tables around which the elementary schoolchildren would usually be working with desks lined up. It reminds me of when I went to elementary school because that was the style of teaching back then.

They are sanitizing and deep-cleaning the schools. They are trying to figure out what to do with the little toys that are used to teach children how to count: How do they sanitize them? Or do they get each child his or her own set of toys to place in individual bins?

They are cutting new doors into the nurse's office so that no longer will ill children or staffers have to go through the front office. They are putting up plexiglass shields. They are adding additional bus routes in order to safely separate the children.

These changes cost a lot of money, and it is one reason why, in addition to providing direct aid to our schools, we need to provide assistance to our States, our counties, and our communities.

I have talked to city and town managers all over the State of Maine. They did not receive much from the initial allocation of funding that went to State governments, and they need help now.

Let me give you an example. The city of Auburn has had to freeze six vacant

positions because of expected revenue losses. That is two firefighters, a police officer, and three public works employees. These cuts come as the city of Auburn has spent \$200,000 in new expenses responding to the virus.

I have yet to talk to a city or a town manager who is not experiencing the need due to similar cuts and who experienced delayed or canceled public works projects, like paving local roads. That has a trickle-down effect. It affects the contractor and his or her employees, who will no longer have that work. It affects their suppliers from whom the concrete or the tar is no longer going to be purchased.

This is why I feel strongly that the bipartisan SMART Act, which I worked on with colleagues on both sides of the aisle, led by Senator CASSIDY and Senator MENENDEZ, needs to be passed. We can negotiate exactly how much money and exactly to whom it should go, but it is essential that aid go to the community level.

Fourth, we need to help our airlines. Otherwise, come October 1—just right around the corner—we are going to see massive layoffs. We are talking about between 80,000 and 100,000 layoffs of airline employees and also related jobs in airports, such as concessionaires. It will also lead to canceled service, if there are no longer crews for airplanes and ground crews. We are going to lose airline service to communities all over this country.

We need not to forget the motor coach industry, which few people are talking about. They have been hurt by the cancellation of everything from school sports to tours. We need to help them survive this period of economic struggle. Senator JACK REED and I have introduced a bill with more than 40 co-sponsors on both sides of the aisle that would provide that assistance.

No. 6, we need to continue investing in testing. That is key to reopening our economy and safely housing people in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

I am excited by the new Abbott Labs test, which will cost only \$5 and give a result in 15 minutes. I take particular pride because Abbott Labs has a large facility in my State, and they are expanding from Scarborough to Westbrook in order to produce these tests more rapidly.

No. 7, we need to provide limited but important liability protections to our frontline hospital workers, to our small businesses, and to our schools and colleges.

One restaurant owner put it this way to me. He said: Susan, what if I get sued despite taking every precaution, following the CDC guidelines, but a customer comes in, later develops the coronavirus, and sues me, saying, I think I got it in that restaurant. Well, I am pretty sure that he didn't, but I still have to pay to defend that lawsuit?

Clearly we should not protect anyone who is guilty of gross negligence, but