

But that is for another day. Right now, there is a lot President-Elect Biden can do to break the political logjam fossil fuel money has built: Investigate it, expose it, and then overwhelm it. Recruit allies to help push back hard. Give no audience or corner to corporations funding climate obstruction. Make lobbying groups disclose who their big donors are so the American citizen isn't played for a chump—the mark in a giant con game.

If you don't think big American industries are capable of committing massive fraud, read the decision of the Federal judge in the fraud case the United States won against Big Tobacco for that scheme of lies or read the decision of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upholding her verdict. It took investigation to get to the truth, not politics. Indeed, investigation had to pierce through a fog of industry politics and lies. But at the end of the day and, more specifically, at the end of the investigation, the truth was out, and the truth was massive industry fraud.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be recognized as if in morning business for such time as I shall consume.

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

WESTERN SAHARA

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, last week, while most of the world was focused on our elections—myself included—and the pending results, a very significant action was taking place halfway around the world in Western Sahara. Simply put, Morocco chose that time—likely purposely, when everyone was occupied doing other things—to threaten to push back on protests by Western Saharans on their own land.

There they are. These are the protesters. These are people who owned the land, have been there for generations, and are protesting the problems they have with Morocco trying to eject them from their land.

It seems simple, but you have to remember how we got here. While the status of the Sahrawi people is still in question, what we need to do to is create a lasting solution. How we got here, as West Africa was being decolonized, Western Sahara was clear and declared itself an independent nation a long time ago. That was despite Morocco's attempt to claim it as a territory.

In 1966, the United Nations General Assembly resolution agreed that a referendum

of self-determination should be held. That is a referendum of self-determination of the people of Western Sahara. Everyone agreed and planned to hold that in 1975.

Self-determination—merely letting the Sahrawi people decide for themselves the imperative principle of action—the right to judge for themselves to be independent or to be a part of Morocco.

This was just the first promise of a referendum. That was 1975. To date, none have been kept. An International Court of Justice opinion from 1975 also agreed that Morocco did not have sovereignty over the land and that a referendum of self-determination should be held. Everyone agreed. That was the second promise.

Morocco maintained its unlawful claim to their land and after decolonization, attempted to annex the territory with force. That was actually in 1975.

Western Sahara—officially called the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, through the Polisario, defended their rights to land.

We are talking about this area right here. Morocco is up to the north, in Western Sahara. The independent Western Sahara land that Morocco is trying to claim as their own is to the south of that.

After a decade of violence from Morocco, the United Nations finally came in, in 1991, and both sides agreed to a cease-fire and a path forward. Everyone agreed. It was called the Settlement Plan. It solidified that Morocco and Western Sahara agreed to hold a referendum and created the United Nations Mission for the referendum in Western Sahara. That is called MINURSO.

For those keeping track, that was the third promise. It is worth noting that the United Nations regularly reaffirms the 1991 commitment to a referendum for self-determination. This is something that happens on a regular basis.

The planned referendum in 1992 never took place, and the process stalled through a cease-fire that was held. Morocco just wouldn't hold up its end of the bargain.

Former Secretary of State James Baker—it is kind of interesting because back in 1997, he tried to do this again. I can remember talking to him—this was several years ago now, about 15 years ago—saying that sometime we have to get this problem resolved. It has been hanging out there for generations and decades. He said: Well, good luck. We have tried to do everything we could do. Back at that time, he was Secretary of State under President Bush.

He named a special envoy to Western Sahara. Baker worked the multiple plans with Morocco and Western Sahara. He thought he could get it done. He was a special envoy way back in 1992.

The former Secretary of State tried again in 1997. He named a special envoy

to Western Sahara. Baker worked multiple plans with Morocco and Western Sahara again.

The most notable—the Houston Agreement—was signed by Morocco and Western Sahara and recommitted to the referendum of self-determination, planned for 1998. To keep track, that is the fourth time that was promised. That was promised also by Morocco.

Morocco, recognizing they would likely lose the vote, quickly tanked all negotiations the next year by declaring they would never accept a referendum that included independence as an outcome, despite years of promises.

It has been called a frozen conflict—where no outcome exists. Yet there is no perceived active conflict. It makes it easy for the rest of the world to forget about it. But to call this a frozen conflict makes it seem harmless, when in reality it is anything but that.

Tens of thousands of Sahrawi people live in refugee camps, primarily in Tindouf, Algeria. They have been forced from their homes, waiting for a resolution for decades. Allowing this process to stall has cost them a generation of freedom. I have been to those camps many times. I have been there. I have seen it. I have talked to the people.

We are talking about these people here—the ones who are protesting. That is where we have been and talked to the individuals. And they don't give up. They continue generation after generation with the hope that they would get their land back.

Beyond denying the Sahrawi people the right to freedom and self-determination, the Government of Morocco is trying to steal and pillage as much as possible from the land they have unlawfully claimed. They are stealing their natural resources, unlawfully mining and selling valuable, critical minerals—specifically phosphate. They are illegally fishing in the Western Sahara's waters.

And what does Morocco do with these riches? They pay millions of dollars each year to lobbyists in Washington. Their goal? To convince the world they are innocent and demonize the Sahrawi people.

The Moroccans believe that they can wait out the rest of the world. They want us to forget about the human rights of these people, in this picture, who are peacefully protesting today—right now—as we are speaking on the floor.

They know a frozen conflict benefits them and hurts the cause of independence. They know that they can push the boundaries of what is acceptable. That is how we got to this point. That is why we are here at this point now—where just a few weeks ago, while the people of Western Sahara were peacefully protesting in Guerguerat—that is the region. The Guerguerat region is down there. It is not even close to Morocco. It is down to the south end of Western Sahara. It actually comes into Mauritania down there.

That is the area that has the red square around it. That is what we are talking about. That is where they are now. That is where these people are right now.

Morocco has repeatedly attempted to use a road in this region to transport the goods in violation of the U.N. cease-fire agreement. Let's keep in mind, it is the U.N. cease-fire agreement. They are the ones who are supposed to be promoting—not just protecting a cease-fire on both sides but promoting a referendum. It was this illegal use of the territory that Western Saharans were peacefully protesting.

Rather than recognizing their rights to protest, Morocco has once again raised a call to arms and is threatening to crush these legitimate protesters.

In fact, I heard just the other day—3 days ago—that they have some 200 trucks coming down from Morocco down to Guerguerat—that area down there where the peaceful protests are taking place.

Rather than recognize their right to protest, Morocco has once again raised a call to arms and is threatening to crush these protests that are going on.

King Mohammed of Morocco this past weekend said: “Morocco will not waiver in its position.” That is in spite of what the—all the agreements that have taken place, including the United Nations.

We are also hearing concerned reports that he is sending military forces to the region as well as in a clear escalation. This isn't a new problem. Morocco has been trying to illegally use the Guerguerat issue for a long period of time.

That is the bridge that goes across from Western Sahara to Mauritania. The problem has been there for a long period of time. It is a concern for a couple of reasons. The first is simple. Morocco is escalating this situation again to claim more and more land, resources, and rights that they have no law behind them to claim. And they know it. They are fully aware of this.

In 2017, the United States was encouraging the United Nations to send a technical team to Guerguerat. Western Sahara welcomed this. Morocco blocked it because they didn't want to be exposed.

The second is that no one else—no one around the world—is raising the cause for alarm. Where is the United Nations now? They are charged with enforcing the 1991 cease-fire agreement. Yet they are nowhere to be found. They have been very silent, tolerating Morocco's abuse for years and Morocco's violations of the U.N. orders.

That is why the time is now to move from this frozen conflict and force Morocco to live up to their agreement of nearly 30 years and hold a referendum, not in a year and not in 3 years—they are always talking about what they are going to do out in the future—but now. Now is the time that we can do that. We need to take steps to hold the referendum for self-determination now.

Morocco is escalating and, left unchecked, they are going to keep their escalation going. The result would be inevitable. We would risk turning back to the times of open conflict. The U.N. needs to step up now and enforce their agreement, and the world needs to prove we all stand for our values of freedom and democracy by extending those values to the Sahrawis. They have waited too long.

Everyone is for this agreement—everyone is. I mean, we have the African Union, which is comprised of some 55 member states, and they are strongly in support of this independence for the Sahrawis. We have most of the European Community that supports the U.N. efforts. The European Court of Justice also ruled that Western Sahara is not a part of Morocco and that no EU economic agreements can cover Western Sahara.

In 2004, the United States and Morocco had a free-trade agreement where they did reaffirm—and that is the United States reaffirming—the independence of Western Sahara.

That is what is happening right now. The rest of the world is on our side on this issue. Who does Morocco have? They have paid lobbyists. Some of the lobbyists Morocco has employed: JPC Strategies, Third Circle, Neale Creek—averaging over \$1 million each year. In total, they have had some 10 lobbyists since 2016. And they have actually put in \$11 million—\$11 million in the Sahara. In Western Sahara, they have nothing. They have no resources. They are the giant with all of their lobbyists.

I made it clear earlier when I testified—and by the way, I did something I don't think has been done before since then: As a Member of the U.S. Senate, I testified at a House hearing that they had on this issue way back 15 years ago. This has stalled because there is just no money on our side. Morocco has it all.

Here is what we need to do. The time is right, and we have waited long enough. While we were to schedule a referendum, we need the United Nations to send a team to the Guerguerat area and confirm that Morocco is in violation of the agreement. Everyone knows they are in violation of the agreement. The agreement is very specific. It says that they are there to enforce this—the United Nations. This is the key part. They need to enforce the 1991 cease-fire agreement. This will restore faith with all parties and make real progress in reaching a referendum.

The reason we are concerned today is that we know Morocco, right now, is sending military equipment down to the area—some 200 trucks full of equipment. That is why this time is right, and it is going to have to happen.

Here they are. These are the people we are talking about. These are the people who are peacefully protesting to keep and use the land that is theirs and that has been theirs and that the whole world knows is theirs. They are the

victims. They deserve a referendum for separate termination, and the U.N. is going to have to make this happen. I don't know any other way this can happen.

First of all, they have agreed to it, and the U.N. is a party that can put that together. We are calling on them now to go ahead and do what they have agreed to do and end this conflict that has endured generation after generation.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CASSIDY). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

2020 ELECTIONS

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I had to look at my watch today to remind myself it has been a week since the November 3 general election. I must say, it seems it has been much longer than that.

Just as we have every 4 years throughout our Nation's history, the American people voted for our next Commander in Chief. In the months leading up to election day, we know the atmosphere was tense. The days of counting that followed it have been, as well, but I have full faith that our constitutional Republic is working just exactly the way it should.

A record-setting 150 million people and counting cast a ballot this election. In my State, there were 10.9 million voters—almost 11 million. The last time I was on the ballot, there were 4.7 million. So we have seen a huge influx of people and increased participation in the electoral process, and I think both of those are good things.

The reason people come to Texas is that we are still a land of opportunity, where people can come and work hard, start out with little, build something for themselves and their families, provide value to others so they can come find a job and provide for their families, which is, to me, the definition of the American dream.

We know that election workers and poll workers have worked across our country to ensure that every legal vote—whether it was in person or by mail—will be counted, and that is as it should be. I know major media outlets have projected that former Vice President Biden has secured enough electoral votes to be our next President, but there are still votes to be counted. As my friend the majority leader noted yesterday, the Constitution gives no role in this process to wealthy media companies.

Between recounts and legal challenges, it is tough to say exactly when the election will be certified. But if there are irregularities, if there are