

service contracts, at a total value of over \$3 million to the private sector, to treat weed infestation, reduce fuels, complete road repairs, and support project planning and monitoring. Other collaborative efforts have laid strong groundwork or follow in the footsteps of collaborative work such as this.

In Idaho we have succeeded with public lands projects such as the Owyhee Initiative and are at hard at work in others, such as the Kootenai Valley Resource Initiative, the Payette Forest Coalition, the Boise Forest Coalition, and others, including our Governor's Shared Stewardship Task Force. I also look forward to the soon-to-be completed recommendations of the Governor's Salmon Workgroup.

Federal policy must empower collaboration and forest health. As Senators and shared stewards of these natural resources, we must continuously work to ensure Federal statute and policy empower collaborative efforts and forest health projects. In 2003, I was proud to work with my congressional colleagues, including Senator RON WYDEN of Oregon and many others, to enact the Healthy Forests Restoration Act, or HFRA, to help provide the U.S. Forest Service with the tools needed to do the necessary work on the ground to restore our forests and help reduce the threat of a catastrophic wildfire to our communities and ecosystems. The HFRA was designed to encourage fuel reduction efforts, protect old-growth forests, enhance water quality, promote community-based land management and public involvement in forest management, and address insect and disease problems. The HFRA has promoted stewardship contracting projects which incorporate public-private partnerships, emphasizing more localized forest management.

In the years since the enactment of the HFRA, Congress has enacted additional legislation to advance forest health. For example, in the 2014 farm bill we included permanent authority for stewardship contracting and the authorization of Good Neighbor Authority. Good Neighbor Authority expanded the Federal Government's ability to partner with State foresters on restoration projects, including bark beetle treatments across State and Federal boundaries. Subsequently, the 2018 farm bill included an expansion of Good Neighbor Authority, credited with increasing the pace and scale of forest restoration projects across Idaho. The 2018 farm bill also, importantly, included a 10-year reauthorization of the Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program, which has enabled the expansion of active collaborative land-use groups in Idaho. The program encourages large-scale—that is 50,000-plus acres—collaborative, science-based forest restoration projects in a way that encourages environmental and economic sustainability.

The U.S. Forest Service reported that in the first 10 years of the pro-

gram, the CFLRP opportunities brought together more than 420 organizations to engage in local collaboratives, and CFLRP projects treated 3.8 million acres to reduce wildfire risk.

The CFLRP has supported collaborative work of the Clearwater Basin Collaborative and the Nez Perce-Clearwater Forests to restore conditions within the 1.4 million-acre Selway-Middle Fork ecosystem through stream improvements, the replacement of culverts preventing fish passage, road and trail maintenance, and the reduction of wildfire fuel loads.

Also, the reauthorized Collaborative Forest Landscape Restoration Program has two newly approved projects in Idaho, with one in each region. Region 1 encompasses the Panhandle National Forest, and in Region 4, it encompasses the Payette and Boise National Forests.

We cannot let up in making progress on wildfires. The severely smoke-clogged skies this fire season made the impacts of the fires that have decimated wildlands and communities for years nearly unescapable.

As we think about the lives and livelihoods lost to wildfires, we must continue to work to enact bipartisan forest management reform to build on the progress made in recent years to ensure Federal land agencies have the tools they need to protect communities from deadly wildfires by improving the health of our forests.

Bipartisan legislation pending in this Senate would increase the active management of Federal forests, cut red-tape, reduce frivolous litigation, and advance fire risk reduction. Senators STEVE DAINES, of Montana, and DIANNE FEINSTEIN, of California, worked across party lines for months to negotiate the details of the bipartisan Emergency Wildfire and Public Safety Act.

Enactment of sensible, bipartisan legislation such as this, which is also cosponsored by myself and my fellow colleague from Idaho, Senator JIM RISCH, can better enable land managers to reduce wildfire risk and respond effectively to an increasingly virulent wildfire reality. This will build on the successful enactment of bipartisan legislation to enable Federal agencies to respond to wildfires as they would to other natural disasters and end the practice of fire borrowing.

Forests make up 39 percent of the land in my home State of Idaho. They are key to air and water quality and sustain wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities. They support communities through wood and paper product jobs and recreation dollars. They are the backdrop and the means for an unparalleled quality of life. Their vitality hinges on their effective management.

I am encouraged by the achievements on the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forests, and I urge continued collaborative efforts to address often contentious but necessary natural resource

challenges and the enactment of Federal law that bolsters these collaborative efforts for the betterment of all our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

CHINA

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, over the past few months, there have been many of us in this Chamber who have taken Big Tech to task over their shady and biased business practices. In more than one hearing, we have grilled them on the privacy, censorship, and antitrust concerns that have allowed us to keep these CEOs in the hot seat, and that grilling has taken place by those of us on either side of the aisle.

These are big, big problems, and they are not going to disappear at the end of this Congress. These are problems that are going to be around.

But one of the advantages of having these companies, like Facebook and Twitter and Google, living in our phones and in our homes is that it is much harder for oppressive governments and global bad actors to hide their crimes from the rest of the world.

Just last year, about this time, the freedom fighters in Hong Kong—and this is a poster that I used on the floor just about this time, December 9, 2019, and it shows the freedom fighters in Hong Kong. It shows how they were making their case: “We do not want to become like China.”

These freedom fighters in Hong Kong captured our attention when they filled the streets and demanded an end to the Chinese Communist Party's terrible crackdowns on free speech and expression. While the coverage in the 24-hour news cycle definitely made an impact, it was the millions of tweets and Facebook posts and videos and blog posts that turned their movement into a collective global outcry for an end to violence and terror in Hong Kong.

You see, people saw what was happening there. They saw it in realtime. Even if they didn't fully understand the politics behind these protests, they knew that the disproportionate response by the Chinese Government to stamp out these protests was wrong. As those posts flowed out of Hong Kong, support flowed right back in, and having spoken with many of these brave activists, it really meant the world to them that they were hearing from us.

While all of this was happening, something else—some countermeasures, if you will—was flowing from Beijing. It was a message of total capitulation sent by corporations, sports organizations, the mainstream media, and even powerful national and world leaders. They were all trying to keep the peace on behalf of their own self-interests, but as the days and weeks passed by, their blinders became more and more obvious.

By that time, the online activist community had put the Chinese Communist Party's crimes on full display.

What started as a debate on free speech and political autonomy morphed into a full indictment of the Chinese Communist Party's crimes against humanity, against the Uighurs in Xinjiang, in Tibet, and Inner Mongolia, and all across Mainland China.

Thanks to internet freedom efforts made possible by the Open Technology Fund, tweets and videos describing the Chinese Communist Party's intolerance of dissent escaped the Great Firewall and made its way into Western news feeds.

The spread of the coronavirus tore away the veil covering Beijing's corrupt relationship with the World Health Organization and other international organizations and revealed their scandalous coverup of the virus's origins—all that truth right on our phones, right on our iPads and computer screens and on every screen in the house.

Unfortunately, for the millions suffering under the horrors of communism, truth didn't win the day. The people with the most responsibility to speak up stayed silent because they were fearful of retaliation. It was too politically charged, too economically risky. Someone might take their criticisms the wrong way, and, well, we can't have that now, can we?

I know from personal experience what it is like to have the Chinese Communist Party and their allies retaliate against you. Once you speak up, you are going to get it from all sides.

Just last week, a member of the Chinese state media—for all intents and purposes, I would suggest this is a propaganda minister for the Chinese Communist Party. Well, he decided that he had had enough of what we are doing here in Washington to expose Chinese aggression and fired off a series of vile, sexist tweets while conspicuously avoiding the issue at hand. It sounds fairly familiar: Attack the person; attack the messenger.

The thing is, he was just mirroring the tactics used by his government. Beijing is all too happy to prey upon the ignorance of their massive online audience and encourage accusations of racism or xenophobia as the only acceptable responses to evidence documenting their own racist, repressive politics. That, right there, is how you end up with repressive regimes like the one in China gaining so much power on the global stage when those who should know better allow their adversaries to cow them into silence.

I appreciate the importance of diplomacy, but diplomacy is meaningless without consequences. Activists, by their very nature, rise and fall based on their willingness to speak truth to power when the most influential among us allow evil regimes to escape those consequences.

Today, I call on my colleagues to follow their example and use their work in this Chamber to speak truth to power about the crimes of the Chinese Communist Party. We no longer have

any excuse not to. If you want proof, pull out your phones and listen to what activists in Hong Kong, in Taiwan, and in Mainland China are telling you—or better yet, listen to what some of your colleagues are telling you.

Hong Kong activist Joshua Wong currently sits in jail for the crime of criticizing his government. I repeat this: Hong Kong activist, a young freedom fighter, Joshua Wong, is in jail because he criticized the Chinese Communist party. He criticized his government. His sentencing barely managed a blip on the radar here.

Another Hong Kong activist, Jimmy Lai, was denied bail during his own prosecution specifically because his online newspaper revealed the truths of the Chinese Communist Party's chokehold on their own people. The CCP cut off access to his corporate accounts and those of his employees. So much for Hong Kong's free press. Jimmy Lai and Joshua Wong live in Hong Kong.

In June, the Senate passed a resolution condemning the CCP's repression of speech and expression in Hong Kong. These protests are still happening. Authoritarian crackdowns are still happening. We must keep speaking about this.

In Xinjiang, CCP forces are systematically targeting and eliminating the Uighur Muslim population through mass surveillance, population control, and incarceration in internment camps. Yes, you heard me—internment camps. It should make your skin crawl to hear that today, in 2020, this is happening.

Last month, I joined my colleagues Senator CORNYN and Senator MENENDEZ in supporting a bipartisan resolution to finally recognize that what the Chinese Government is doing in Xinjiang constitutes a genocide.

If you are looking for a reason to start speaking out, I can't think of a better way to get started. Speak up on that. Support this resolution, which would not only urge the White House to take action against Beijing but also urge national governments and organizations to get their heads out of the sand and tear away, piece by piece, China's disastrous influence over the global political economy, which is highlighted by the success of the Communist Party's Belt and Road Initiative.

I will add that I was thrilled today with Secretary Pompeo's tweet regarding his once again reupping the countries of concern under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998. China is on this list, as well they should be, as they continue to infringe on religious liberty, and they do engage in systematic, ongoing, egregious religious freedom violations. They are doing it every day, and the world is watching.

I tell you, I could monopolize this floor for the next week and lay out every opportunity we have to stand up for the cause of freedom and speak

truth to power about the crimes of the Chinese Communist Party.

Here is a white paper that I unveiled earlier this year. There are over 100 specific paths toward how we as a nation unraveled the relationship that we have right now with China. The paper is only 52 pages long. It is a short version. I encourage one and all to take a look at it and to think about how it is that we got to this point where an influential government, active in many major international bodies, including, as of next year, China being in the U.N. Human Rights Council—how can this government perpetrate a genocide against minorities and get away with it because of the appalling cowardice of those who bear witness and choose to do nothing.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. 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.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum also be waived.

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

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent to start the vote now.

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

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 Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years.

Mitch McConnell, Joni Ernst, John Boozman, James E. Risch, Mike Rounds, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Crapo, Mitt Romney, John Barrasso, Shelley Moore Capito, Pat Roberts, Thom Tillis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, David Perdue, Lindsey Graham, Kevin Cramer, Tim Scott.

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 Stephen Sidney Schwartz, of Virginia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a term of fifteen years, 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