

Let's continue the bipartisan momentum as we move into next week, but today I want to thank my colleagues who have worked together to bring this bill to the finish line. I look forward to seeing the anti-Asian hate crimes bill passed by this Chamber today and move one step closer to reaching the President's desk.

WASHINGTON, D.C. ADMISSION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on DC statehood, another matter, today the House of Representatives will pass a bill granting the District of Columbia official statehood. I applaud my House Democratic colleagues for taking this important step toward recognizing the full citizenship of more than 700,000 residents of the District of Columbia.

This is a matter of just representation. Our system of government is designed to give everyone in our country a voice in forging their own destiny. Most citizens do that by voting for Members of Congress and Senators from their States to represent them in this temple of democracy to advocate for their interests and to voice their concerns.

The District of Columbia has more residents than Vermont and Wyoming and nearly the same as Delaware, Alaska, and several other States, and they bear the full responsibilities and duties of citizenship, like residents in all those other States. DC residents can be summoned for jury duty. They have served in every war since the American Revolution. They pay Federal income taxes, just like residents from every other State. You can learn that from any license plate outside this building. Yet they are denied real representation in Congress—in the words DC borrowed from the Founding Fathers, "taxation without representation."

Sadly, the debate over DC statehood has taken a rather dark turn. Some of my colleagues on the other side, rather than fashion any argument on the merits, have taken to denigrating the basic worth of residents of the District of Columbia—a part of our country that is 47 percent African American.

One Member of the minority party went so far as to say lawmakers should "go out to where the real people are across the country and ask them what they think [about DC statehood]." "[Get] out to where the real people are." Bigotry, bigotry, bigotry. I shouldn't have to remind my colleagues that it is shockingly inappropriate to imply that lives and occupations and rights of DC's residents are somehow less than their fellow citizens in other "more real" and almost always more White parts of the country.

We all know that the minority party opposes DC statehood because it fears giving political power and representation to American citizens if they might not vote for Republicans. It smacks of the effort going on right now in Republican legislatures all across the country to pass laws that overwhelmingly

make it harder for minorities, poorer Americans, and younger Americans to vote.

The far right, the hard right—which seems to be so dominant in the party on the other side—is so afraid of losing political power and so unwilling to appeal to anyone who doesn't already agree with them that their strategy has become to restrict voting rights and deny equal representation in Congress to hundreds of thousands of Americans. So DC statehood, unfortunately, is part of a continuing thread of not allowing people their right to vote, to representation, that seems to be growing in the Republican Party, particularly here in the Senate and in legislatures throughout the country, unfortunately.

Self-government, voting rights: These are not Democratic rights. These are not Republican rights. They are American rights. They are issues of fairness and democracy. It is not about right and left; it is about right and wrong.

DC statehood is an idea whose time has come.

CLIMATE LEGISLATION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now on climate, this year's celebration of Earth Day comes with an ambitious new goal from the Biden administration: The United States should aim to cut its greenhouse gas emissions in half by the end of the decade. It is a great goal. I fully support it.

Not only is President Biden finally returning the United States to a position of global leadership in the fight against climate change, but he is showing that America is ready to ramp up our climate ambition beyond—beyond—the Paris Agreement.

Now, it will take extraordinary action to meet the marker that President Biden laid down, but he was exactly right to do it. If we need any reminders about what America can achieve when it puts its mind to something, President Kennedy committed to landing on the Moon over the course of a single decade. If America could reach that lofty goal in the name of ingenuity, in the name of exploration, surely we can achieve this goal in the name of saving the planet on which we live.

Now, I believe the best way to achieve this ambitious goal is through bold action by this Congress through legislation to reduce carbon pollution while creating millions of jobs and economic prosperity in a new clean energy economy. Any legislation without a serious and bold climate component will make it much, much harder to achieve President Biden's goal, and we must work to have a strong green climate component in the American Jobs Plan.

The Democratic majority here in the Senate is eager to get to work. One of the very first things I did when Democrats took the majority was to instruct every committee chair—the new committee chairs—to hold hearings on the

climate crisis to begin preparing for landmark legislation. I repeat once again that any infrastructure bill we consider here in the Senate must include green infrastructure, create green jobs, and make significant progress toward the reduction of greenhouse gases.

Luckily, the Senate will have an opportunity to address another serious climate-related issue next week. The Senate will consider a Congressional Review Act bill before the end of the work period to reimpose critical regulations concerning the release of methane into our atmosphere.

Methane gets less attention than its big bad brother, carbon dioxide, but in truth, methane is like carbon dioxide on steroids. Over 20 years, a ton of methane will warm the atmosphere more than 86 times as much as a ton of carbon dioxide, but because it breaks down much faster than carbon dioxide, the gains we make in the reduction of methane emissions can reduce global warming even faster. Many of the things we need to do to reduce methane emissions are fairly cheap and cost-effective, like plugging leaks in fossil fuel infrastructure. So this made common sense, especially when our globe is at risk.

The Obama administration had instituted these commonsense rules of the road to encourage that sort of activity. It was widely supported, even by industry. The Trump administration, so typically and so unfortunately, reversed those rules in an act of pure idiocy. The Senate Democratic majority will soon put a bill on the floor to revert back to the original policy, which should never have been tampered with in the first place.

Reducing methane emissions will be only the first of many actions this Senate will take to combat climate change.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, one final issue. It has come to my attention that President Biden intends to have the United States formally recognize the Armenian genocide, becoming the first sitting U.S. President to do so. Great news. It is a long time coming and a step that I have called on Presidents of both parties to take.

Each year, I gather with Armenian Americans in Times Square to commemorate the annual anniversary of this atrocity. Every year, my heart breaks for the victims of the genocide and their descendants. There are very few left, but some very elderly people are sitting in the audience each year, reminding us how painful and how real that genocide was. The Turkish Government's idea of saying there was no genocide just defies history. I have seen the victims. I have talked to the victims.

Saturday marks the 106th anniversary of the Armenian genocide. I am so relieved, grateful, and moved that we

can finally commemorate the anniversary with the knowledge that the Government of the United States, led by President Joseph Robinette Biden, has recognized the truth of the Armenian genocide at last.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

CLIMATE LEGISLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday, I mentioned that the DNA of the far-left Green New Deal is all over President Biden's spending bills. That wasn't just my opinion; it was the verdict of our colleague the junior Senator from Massachusetts.

Today, the President is scheduled to meet virtually with a group of the world's leaders on climate policy. His agenda, reportedly, is to encourage them to expand their countries' Paris climate agreement commitments to meet even more ambitious emissions goals. The problem, of course, as our colleagues, no doubt, remember, is that the hollow commitments these countries made back in 2015 carry no serious means for enforcement.

Under the last administration, even from outside this agreement, the U.S. economy proved more than capable of meaningfully reducing CO₂ emissions. But many of the signatories within the supposed deal have largely ignored their stated commitments and continue to emit with reckless abandon.

As the Biden administration climate envoy, John Kerry, once lamented, "[M]ost countries are . . . not getting the job done in living up to Paris." China, for example, has just kept emitting more and done it shamelessly. Their share of greenhouse gas emissions is now nearly double—double—that of the United States.

On a recent trip to Shanghai, Kerry tried to echo President Biden's encouragement on emissions reduction, but the kid-gloves approach didn't seem too successful. China's Vice Minister for Foreign Affairs said: "I'm afraid this is not very realistic." A direct quote from the Chinese Government.

Democrats' zeal for imposing costly environmental agendas on our own country is not something our biggest foreign competitors seem to share. If that is true, our colleagues could inflict as many painful policies on American workers and American industries as they want and still not achieve a

significant change in worldwide emissions or global temperatures.

The cost of these misplaced priorities is already hitting Americans hard. Remember, revoking permitting for the Keystone XL Pipeline and killing thousands of jobs was a day-one priority for this new administration. Now their so-called infrastructure plan would aim at completely decarbonizing our electric grid, which means hurting our coal and natural gas industries and putting good-paying American jobs into the shredder.

Borrowing money in order to kill jobs, now, there is a concept. Meanwhile, a mountain of redtape would keep public works projects smothered, literally smothered in endless environmental reviews, and their plan would thrust the west coast obsession with electric vehicles onto the entire Nation, onto rural school districts, onto industries, whether they like it or not.

Next week, President Biden is set to address a joint session of Congress for the first time. I expect we will hear more claims like the ones that have been debunked by fact checkers that all this Green New Deal DNA would actually create a lot of American jobs. Fact checkers are debunking that claim.

But even the most favorable analyses, even the administration's favorite projections, suggest that the President's plan would be terrible, just terrible at creating jobs. The rosier numbers you could come up with suggest it might cost American taxpayers more than \$800,000 for every job it might create—more than \$800,000 per job.

And Ivy League economists have calculated that the plan's long-term effects on GDP, capital stocks, and hourly wages would all be negative. Let me say that again. These multiple trillions of dollars would buy us less GDP, less investment, and lower wages. It almost takes talent to craft something that completely disastrous.

So this is quite a one-two punch: toothless requests of our foreign adversaries and maximum pain for American citizens.

ELECTIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, now, on another matter, earlier this week, the Democratic leadership of the Judiciary Committee convened a hearing with the embarrassing title of "Jim Crow 2021." It was the latest effort to use shocking rhetoric to distract from the specific details of actual voting laws in States like Georgia.

Amazingly, one of our Democratic colleagues testified before the committee that people actually shouldn't bother combing through the specifics of the law—don't bother reading the actual law. He suggested that "narrow analysis only obscures the larger, unmistakable picture." Put another way, the facts deflate the narrative.

Misrepresentations of Georgia's election law have been debunked by fact

checkers. The real, unmistakable picture is that the bill would expand early voting and make no changes to current election day hours—none. Ironically, Democrats' own star witness at this week's hearing once sponsored and supported an earlier effort that would have cut early voting days in Georgia in half.

The facts puncture the left's big lie. Much of this overheated rhetoric seems like simple projection because there is, indeed, a piece of legislation that would create a stunning one-party takeover of voting laws and elections in our country, and that would be Washington Democrats' darling, H.R. 1. This is the bill that was first introduced back in 2019, with many Democrats still in denial that a Republican had won the White House in 2016.

It was marketed at that time as a wholesale transformation designed to salvage a broken democracy. But now that Democrats got an election outcome they liked better in 2020, what is essentially a xerox copy of the same overhaul is now being marketed, oh, as a modest step, just a modest step to maintain the status quo.

The first sales pitch was actually more honest. This 800-plus-page takeover would give Washington Democrats unprecedented control over 50 States' election laws, over a newly—listen to this—a newly partisan Federal Election Commission, over policing America's political speech. That is what it would do.

Now, Democrats know that the same Senate rules they happily used for the last 6 years will not make it easy to launch this awful proposal, so there is another important piece in their plan. They are aiming the same wild rhetoric at the Senate's own rules—at our rules here in the Senate.

The legislative filibuster which senior Democrats have loudly and proudly defended in the past, which Democrats used repeatedly in recent years, all of a sudden has become an offensive and outdated relic overnight. Isn't it amazing how this new awakening only happened when Democrats felt they had a chance to retake the majority.

Now, the American people can see right through this. Nobody is fooled. Nobody is fooled by their desperation to rewrite 50 States' election laws or the campaign to pack the Supreme Court or the attempt to pack the Senate with new blue States, rewriting the rules of American politics to exclusively benefit one side: their side. That was the Democrats' false charge in Georgia, but it is exactly what they are trying to do in this Capitol on a national scale.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.