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## House of Representatives

The House was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Friday, August 6, 2021, at 12 p.m.

## Senate

THURSDAY, AUGUST 5, 2021

The Senate met at 10:30 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, our counselor and guide, give our lawmakers the faith to believe in the ultimate triumph of truth and righteousness.

Lord, teach them to do things Your way, embracing Your precepts, and walking in Your path. Provide them the wisdom to not become careless about their spiritual and moral growth, as You provide them courage and grace to do Your will. Inspire them to expect to live satisfying lives as You enable them to replace their fears with faith, their confusion with clarity, and their discouragement with optimism.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, August 5, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JACKY ROSEN, a Senator from the State of Nevada, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. ROSEN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before my remarks, I ask unanimous consent that the cloture vote on the Lee nomination occur at a time to be determined today by the majority leader following consultation with the Republican leader.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

### BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, all week, as we all know, Senators have worked together to move forward on the bipartisan infrastructure bill. Since the text of the bipartisan proposal was finalized on Sunday, both sides have had extensive opportunities to offer amendments. Senators have certainly taken advantage.

So far, the Senate has considered 22 amendments on this bipartisan piece of legislation. We considered 14 amendments yesterday alone. Of the 22 total amendments, more than half have been offered by our Republican colleagues. Clearly, the Democratic majority has given Members who were not part of the bipartisan group a chance to make their mark on this important bill.

Taking a step back, this Senate has operated much differently under Democratic leadership this year than it did under Republican leadership over the past 6. We have had bipartisan bills on the floor, open for amendment, and all 100 Senators are participating in the legislative process. The anti-Asian hate crimes bill and the USICA bill were both major bills that worked in a bipartisan way with amendments, as is this bill.

We have taken more amendment votes this year than nearly any year in recent memory. In fact, we have had more rollcall votes on amendments this year, only halfway through, than during the past 2 years, where the Republicans were in charge, combined. In other words, in one-half of the year in 2021, where Democrats got in charge, we have had more amendments than in all of 2019 and 2020. So any talk that we

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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are not working the Senate, whenever we can, in a fair, bipartisan way is just wrong—just wrong.

Consider this: At this point in the calendar year in 2017, the first year of a Republican President and a Republican Senate majority—a one-to-one comparison to our current political configuration—the Senate held rollcall votes on 10 amendments—10—at this point in the first year of the Trump Presidency. On this bipartisan infrastructure bill alone, the Senate has held rollcall votes on 17 amendments. In 7 months, the 2017 Republican majority allowed rollcall votes on only 10 amendments, and we have done almost double that number in the past 7 days alone.

This is how I promised the Chamber would function under a Democratic majority. I promised it while we were fighting to get that majority, and we are fulfilling that promise now that we have it. Legislators should actually have a chance to legislate. No one can deny that we kept our word here in the Democratic majority.

Today, we will consider even more amendments, and then, hopefully, we can bring this bill to a close very shortly. Our goal is to pass both a bipartisan infrastructure bill and a budget resolution during this work period, and we will stay here to get both done.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. SCHUMER. On another matter, climate. President Biden announced this morning that he will sign an Executive order to significantly escalate our country's fight against climate change.

Specifically, President Biden's Executive order will set an ambitious goal to make half of all new cars sold in America zero emissions by the end of the decade. He will announce further steps to address several of the worst climate-warming rules that were put in place under the Trump administration.

I applaud President Biden for taking necessary steps to put our country on a path to substantially reduce our carbon pollution. Climate change is the defining challenge of our times. We have no choice but to reduce our country's greenhouse gas emissions very quickly to reach the targets that will spare our country and our planet the worst effects of climate change, and we cannot do it without dealing with carbon pollution from cars we drive. Transportation is the biggest source of carbon pollution, accounting for roughly one-third of America's carbon output.

President Biden's Executive order is an important step in the right direction, and I am happy and proud to say it dovetails with an effort I have long advocated here in the Congress, even before the Biden Presidency. It is called Clean Cars for America. In fact, President Biden generously adopted our Clean Cars for America plan and placed it in his Build Back Better.

My Clean Cars for America proposal—and I have worked closely with Senator STABENOW, Senator PETERS, and others on this proposal—would help our country make the transition that President Biden is talking about today by making electric cars more affordable, expanding our charging infrastructure, and creating incentives to manufacture batteries and electric vehicles here in America. It is good for climate. It good for jobs. And it is good for America to become the center of electric car manufacturing in the world, as we have been with the traditional type of automobile.

The proposal—I am proud to say we worked hard to make this happen. Clean Cars for America is now, as I said, largely adopted in the Build Back Better plan and is supported not only by the environmental community, but by the major labor unions and several of the major car manufacturers as well. It is the first time on a major piece of climate legislation we have gotten such broad support.

The transition to electric vehicles, of course, is already underway, but it is not happening fast enough to reach the targets that President Biden announced today. Clean Cars for America is the way to supercharge the transition to electric vehicles, and large parts of it will be—some of it was put in the bipartisan infrastructure bill, but large parts of it we hope to add in the reconciliation process.

Put another way: If President Biden's Executive order represents the destination we need to reach on the horizon, our Clean Cars for America is the road to get there.

President Biden's announcement, combined with our Clean Cars proposal, represents the bold level of action we need to tackling carbon pollution from cars.

When Democrats assumed the majority, I instructed my committee chairs to find climate-reducing policies to incorporate into the legislation we work on. Earlier this year, the Senate passed the first major climate legislation in years when we reversed the Trump administration's methane emissions rule. And as we continue working on a bipartisan infrastructure bill and a budget resolution, I have committed that we will make historic investments in reversing climate change. I am proud to say our Clean Cars for America is going to be a very big part of that.

Democrats promised action on climate, and we are going to make it a vital part of the legislation we work on in the weeks to come. It is a big challenge, but one we must meet. It is so important for the future of our planet, for our children, and our grandchildren even more than for us.

#### EVICTION MORATORIUM

Mr. SCHUMER. One final matter, evictions. Earlier this week, the Biden administration announced that the CDC will adopt an eviction moratorium

to provide critical protections for another 60 days as our country continues its path towards full recovery.

I applaud everyone who made it happen, from the President to the CDC, to Speaker PELOSI, to Senator BROWN, as well as several of my Democratic colleagues in the House, including a brave band of New Yorkers, including Congressman OCASIO-CORTEZ and Congressman JONES. Above all, Representative CORI BUSH gets huge credit—one person who changed things for tens of thousands, maybe hundreds of thousands of people, and everyone who stood with her as well.

As I explained yesterday, while this moratorium is an important safeguard to protect millions of American families in danger of evictions, it is not the only piece of the puzzle. Once the moratorium comes to an end—whenever that is—there is still a fundamental challenge of making up for a year of lost rent and lost mortgage payments.

Congress considered this problem very early this year. I pushed for, and we passed, along with Senator BROWN and so many others, substantial rental and mortgage assistance in the American Rescue Plan.

Unfortunately, State governments have been really uneven about distributing that crucial assistance. A few States—the State of Illinois, the State of Texas—have done a pretty good job, but many have not. Unfortunately, one of those that has done a very poor job distributing this money is my home State of New York.

Simply put: State governments, especially New York, must do a better job of distributing the \$47 billion Congress appropriated for emergency rental assistance. The money is there, but far too little has gone out the door.

In New York specifically, Congress sent more than \$2 billion to help renters in New York; and, inexplicably, some reports indicate less than 0.5 percent of New York's allocation had been received by tenants and landlords as of a week ago.

Today, I am sending a letter with colleagues in the New York delegation to the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, calling on that office to hurry up to fix the inexcusable delays in rental assistance and immediately begin disbursing these funds.

We need to understand why New Yorkers are having such trouble navigating the process to get the money they need. There have been reports of frustrating crashes and glitches on the online application process, confusing instructions, and very little support to help the applicants, even though the money has been there for several months.

The clock is ticking to fix this mess. The State moratorium expires in less than a month, and the CDC's moratorium will give only one more month of protection after that. New York State needs to act quickly, and we expect a response by August 9 as to how we can