

a bipartisan issue. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act offers a once-in-a-generation vision for America's infrastructure that is long overdue. This bipartisan infrastructure package makes the largest Federal investment in public transit, passenger rail, and bridges in more than 50 years.

Gone are the days when "infrastructure" has meant only bridges, highways, roads, and rail. While we need to invest in all of those areas, States like Vermont have infrastructure needs that also include climate resiliency, broadband, and renewable energy. That is exactly what this sweeping infrastructure package does.

The need for action in Vermont is clear. It is no secret that Vermont's infrastructure is aging. For decades, infrastructure in Vermont has suffered from a systemic lack of investment. Vermont has more than 2,700 bridges, 570 miles of freight railroad, 14,000 miles of public road, and an overall C grade from the American Society of Civil Engineers—ASCE—for the condition of these facilities. There are 66 bridges and over 666 miles of highway in the State that are in poor condition and need of repair. When it comes to stormwater and wastewater infrastructure, Vermont's report card is even more dismal, receiving a D+ grade from ASCE, an unacceptable reality as our communities continue to see the impacts of climate change and extreme weather. With the passage of this indispensable infrastructure package, that will all change. The State of Vermont is expected to receive over \$1.5 billion in formulaic funds to repair highways and bridges and also install a network of electric vehicle charging stations throughout the State.

This desperately needed infrastructure package will help repair Vermont's roads and bridges, while also creating good-paying jobs. It provides significant investments and makes key programmatic changes to competitive discretionary infrastructure programs to make more these Federal revenue streams more accessible to small, rural States like Vermont.

The bill tackles the challenge of bringing broadband to the 19 million Americans, including 60,000 Vermont homes, in rural areas and other parts of the country that still lack access to quality, high-speed internet service. Not only will the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act buildout broadband in unserved areas, it permanently establishes the Emergency Broadband Benefit program created through the passage of the American Rescue Plan Act renaming it the Affordable Connectivity Benefit program. This program will provide a \$30 per month voucher for low-income families to use toward any internet service plan of their choosing. It builds on the EBB program by expanding eligibility to help more low-income households, while also making it more sustainable for taxpayers.

Importantly, this package will also make significant down payments on climate resiliency initiatives to make Vermont more prepared to tackle the climate crisis, which has for too long been overlooked. Later this month will be the 10-year anniversary of Tropical Storm Irene. The devastation that occurred as the storm swept through our State showed that we must build back better to make our communities and critical infrastructure more resilient to extreme climate events like Tropical Storm Irene. And anyone who doubts the obvious link between our infrastructure needs and the climate crisis need only look at what happened to Texas's energy grid during the winter, or the devastating heat wave and drought taking place across the West this summer, where record temperatures have literally melted power lines and buckled roads.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act includes climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience programs that are both pragmatic and forward-thinking. It includes record amounts of funding for weatherization assistance to reduce energy costs for low-income households, makes the largest investment in clean energy transmission and electric vehicle infrastructure in history, funds the electrification of thousands of school and transit buses across the country, and establishes new programs to overhaul our energy grid and rapidly accelerate development and deployment of battery storage technology.

The bill amounts to the single largest investment in clean drinking water in American history, including dedicated funding to replace lead service lines and address the PFAS contamination in our communities, and provides an additional \$40 million for water quality projects in the Lake Champlain Basin. Taken together, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act will leave every community in Vermont better prepared to face the challenges of the 21st century and help restore American leadership in the fight against climate change.

This significant legislative and stimulus package shows what can be done when we all work together in the Senate. This hasn't been easy, but it is important to Vermont and to our country, and thanks to these efforts, we will be able to repair roads and bridges, build electric charging stations, and build out broadband throughout the country. I hope that the Senate will pass this legislation today, and that the House of Representatives will soon consider this legislation, so President Biden can sign this historic infrastructure investment into law.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I am pleased to see language in the State broadband grant program prioritizing employers with "a demonstrated record of and plans to be in compliance with Federal labor and employment laws." It is unfortunately common for employers to violate our Nation's labor

laws, from the National Labor Relations Act to the Occupational Safety and Health Act.

The broadband industry, sadly, is no exception.

In many industries, employers are engaging in rampant subcontracting and outsourcing.

This situation is generally known as a "fissured workplace," a circumstance where a primary employer outsources noncore business functions to subcontracted firms but still maintains tight control over the outcomes of those subcontractors.

These arrangements impede enforcement of our Nation's labor laws.

At times, employers engage in these practices strategically to evade accountability for labor law violations.

I have worked with several Senators on this problem in the past, across the ideological spectrum and including with members who helped craft the bipartisan infrastructure package.

It is my understanding that the language in the State broadband grant program was written chiefly to ensure that American taxpayer dollars prioritize projects with both past records of strict compliance with Federal labor and employment laws and plans to continue compliance with future projects.

American taxpayer dollars should create good-paying American jobs.

With its strong Buy America provisions, the bipartisan infrastructure package works to do that.

We need to ensure that Federal dollars support good jobs and high standards and limits the use of subcontractors.

There are many examples of "high road" employers who go above and beyond the minimum standards we set with our labor laws.

That is the way it should be.

I expect to see this funding prioritize such "high road" employers who use direct employees for projects.

HONORING CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 2 BRYAN J. NICHOLS

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, 10 years ago I attended the memorial service for CW2 Bryan J. Nichols. I vividly remember the outpouring of support from the Hays community as hundreds of people lined the streets with American flags to honor their hometown hero.

On Friday, August 6, 2021, a memorization ceremony was held in New Century, KS, by the Army Reserve Center and Aviation Support Center to once again honor the bravery and sacrifice of Chief Nichols.

I have been told that Bryan knew his life's purpose was to become a soldier, a calling he pursued to defend our freedom.

He took his oath of enlistment in 1996, swearing to protect our country from enemies foreign and domestic. After 9/11, he answered our country's call to defend our homeland, serving on

multiple tours abroad, including in Iraq.

As we approach the 20th anniversary of 9/11, the way Americans like Bryan dedicated themselves to their country following the attacks continues to move and inspire me.

After graduating flight school in 2008, he was assigned as a pilot to the Army Reserve's 7th Battalion of the 158th Aviation Regiment in New Century, KS. He deployed in May 2011 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as a CH-47 Chinook pilot.

On August 6, 2011, he gave his life for his country alongside 29 of his brothers in arms when his helicopter was shot down by enemy fire. It remains the single deadliest loss of U.S. forces during the war in Afghanistan.

The ultimate sacrifice he made a decade ago is a painful reminder that freedom is not free. And that it is the solemn duty of our Nation to make certain his sacrifice—and those of all American heroes—are never forgotten.

On Friday, that duty was fulfilled in a particularly special way with the Memorialization Ceremony remembering Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nichols as a fallen hero and beloved member of this community.

As Kansans so naturally do, we have also seen the Hays community continue to keep his legacy at the forefront of our minds, from creating the annual Memorial Ride in his honor to dedicating the new flag pole outside Thomas More Prep-Marian High School in his name.

Shortly after his passing, I was also pleased to support efforts to designate the junction of I-70 and US 183 as the "CW2 Bryan J. Nichols fallen veterans memorial interchange." This designation serves as a reminder to all those who drive by of the heroes who have safeguarded our opportunity to live in the strongest, freest, and greatest Nation in the world.

While Bryan was an American hero to all of us, he was also a son, brother, husband, and dad to those who loved him most. Military service is family service, and I want to recognize his family's sacrifice to this country as well. Thank you.

Our nation is forever indebted to Bryan for his service.

May God bless our servicemembers and their loved ones.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING TENNESSEE OLYMPIANS

• Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, if the past year has taught us anything, it is that we should cherish the moments of joy and unity many Americans experienced while watching this year's belated Summer Olympics. The athletes who earned a spot on Team U.S.A. have also won a very special place in our history. While many sports fans watch the Games for the

pageantry and spectacle, it is our champions who forge connections with their countrymen and cultivate a sense of pride and patriotism.

It is my honor to recognize the following Tennesseans who did their country proud at the 2021 Tokyo Summer Olympics: Erica Bougard, of Memphis; Wes Kitts, of Knoxville; Tennys Sandgren, of Gallatin; Alex Walsh, of Nashville; and Alex Young, of La Vergne.

On behalf of all Tennesseans, I thank these Olympians for their passion, their perseverance, and their stunning displays of athleticism.●

TRIBUTE TO CLIFF HARRIS

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Cliff Harris, one of the newest inductees into the NFL Hall of Fame for his remarkable football career with the Dallas Cowboys.

Cliff is a proud Arkansan who has spent his life defying odds and demonstrating that hard work and dedication pay off.

Cliff was born in Fayetteville, AR, and grew up in the Hot Springs area where he began his football career as backup quarterback at Hot Springs High School. He earned a scholarship to Ouachita Baptist University—OBU—and followed in his father's footsteps joining the Tiger football team. Cliff was extremely successful on the field where he was an accomplished defensive back and a skilled kick returner. During his time at OBU, he was named to two All-Arkansas Intercollegiate Conference—AIC—teams and, during his freshman year, helped his team win the 1966 AIC Football Championship.

Despite a stellar college football career, Cliff was not selected in the 1970 NFL draft. That didn't prevent him from pursuing his dream. He participated in the Cowboys training camp and signed as a free agent. Cliff's perseverance paid off as he earned the starting free safety position his rookie year.

His NFL career was postponed when he was called to service in the U.S. Army. Following his military service, Cliff jumped right back into the game and helped the Cowboys earn Super Bowl victories in 1972 and 1978.

Nicknamed "Captain Crash" for his ruthless tackles and ferocious pursuit of ball carriers, Cliff dominated the field and, even today, is heralded as one of the best free safeties to ever play the sport. Hall of Fame head coach George Allen described Cliff as a "rolling ball of butcher knives."

In addition to playing in five Super Bowls, Cliff was named to the Pro Bowl six times and was named a first team All-Pro player for four consecutive seasons. He was named to the Dallas Cowboys' Silver Season All-Time Team, was selected by "Sports Illustrated" as the free safety on the magazine's All-Time Dream Team, was given the NFL Alumni Legends Award, and was the free safety of the All-Decade Team for the 1970s. In 2004, Cliff was inducted

into the Dallas Cowboys Ring of Honor. The Cliff Harris Award was named after him and is presented to the top defensive player in small college football each year. Back in Arkansas, Harris's alma mater Ouachita Baptist University honored Cliff by naming its new football stadium the Cliff Harris Stadium.

From backup high school quarterback to two-time Super Bowl champion, Cliff has remained the same hard-working kid from Arkansas. Known for his vast knowledge of the game and strong leadership among the team, Cliff was an extremely well-liked and respected player. As a fellow Arkansan, I looked up to him not only because of his football skills but also his outstanding character both on and off the field.

I applaud Cliff for his outstanding accomplished career that has culminated with a spot in Canton. He deserves this recognition for his perseverance on the field and for the positive example he set for children in Arkansas and all across the country. We honor and salute one of my boyhood heroes who has never let us down.●

REMEMBERING ISIDORE B. TORRES

• Mr. PETERS. Madam President, I rise today to honor the memory and legacy of a trailblazer, the Honorable Isidore B. Torres, one of the first Hispanic judges in the State of Michigan and a prominent figure within the Michigan Latino community, who passed earlier this year.

Born in 1947 in Texas to Chicano migrant workers, Judge Torres began his life traveling between Texas and Michigan, following whatever work was available, until later in his childhood when his parents settled in Bay City, MI, so their children could receive an education. Once settled, Judge Torres and his siblings were still expected to contribute to the family's well-being and would come home from school to help their mother work in sugar beet fields outside of Bay City.

Upon graduation from Bay City Central High School in 1966, a guidance counselor advised Judge Torres not to pursue a legal education and instead suggested other careers, particularly those that were attached to Hispanic stereotypes and influenced by prejudice. Ignoring other's doubts and racial biases, Judge Torres graduated with his bachelor's degree in criminal justice from Michigan State University in 1973 and later earned his law degree from Wayne State University in 1976.

Beginning his career with Neighborhood Legal Services in Detroit, in 1978, Judge Torres was hired by the city of Detroit as senior assistant corporation counsel and later cofounded the law firm of Torres & Horvath. In 1983, he was appointed by Governor Blanchard to the 36th District Court, where he became the first Hispanic magistrate and later judge in the Wayne County court system.