

Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cotton	Inhofe	Sasse
Cramer	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lankford	Shelby
Daines	Lee	Sullivan
Ernst	Lummis	Thune
Fischer	McConnell	Tuberville
Grassley	Moran	Wicker
Hagerty	Paul	Young
Hawley	Risch	

NOT VOTING—5

Hoeven	Marshall	Van Hollen
Lujan	Romney	

(Mr. WHITEHOUSE assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). On this vote, the yeas are 57, the nays are 38.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Donald Walker Tunnage, of the District of Columbia, to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for a term of fifteen years.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to confirm several highly qualified nominees to serve on the local District of Columbia courts—the DC Superior Court, which functions as the State-level trial court, and the DC Court of Appeals, which serves as the State-level appellate court right here in our Nation's Capital.

Both courts are currently suffering from a vacancy crisis. There are 16 of the 62 DC Superior Court seats that are currently empty, and 3 of the 9 seats on the DC Court of Appeals are also vacant, slowing justice and impeding public safety for all District residents.

Last year, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs reported seven nominees to serve on the DC courts by a bipartisan voice vote. These include five nominees to serve on the DC Superior Court—Rupa Ranga Puttagunta, Kenia Seoane Lopez, Sean Staples, Ebony Scott, and Donald Tunnage—and two nominees to serve on the DC Court of Appeals—John Howard III and Loren AliKhan.

Judge Puttagunta currently serves as an administrative judge for the DC Rental Housing Commission. She began her legal career as a law clerk in the DC Superior Court and the DC Court of Appeals and practiced for several years in the District of Columbia, focusing on family and criminal law. I am certainly pleased that my colleagues confirmed her earlier today.

Judge Seoane Lopez currently serves as a magistrate judge on the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, a position that she has held for 9 years. She previously served as a bilingual attorney negotiator in the court's domestic violence division and as an assistant

attorney general for the Office of the Attorney General of the District of Columbia.

Judge Staples also currently serves as a magistrate judge for the District of Columbia Superior Court, a position he was appointed to in 2013. Early in his career, he served as a law clerk on the superior court and then worked as a solo practitioner and an assistant public defender. He went on to work as a clinical professor for several years, supervising law students representing criminal defendants in DC Superior Court.

Judge Scott has served as a magistrate judge on DC Superior Court since 2020. She previously served as a deputy director in the DC Mayor's Office of Legal Counsel as general counsel for the District of Columbia Office of Human Rights and the assistant attorney general for the DC Office of the Attorney General's housing and community justice section.

Mr. Tunnage has served as a criminal trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice since 2009 and previously served as an assistant public defender in Miami, FL.

Loren AliKhan has served as the solicitor general for the District of Columbia since 2018. She previously served as deputy solicitor general and spent time in the U.S. Department of Justice and in the appellate practice division of a DC law firm.

John Howard III currently serves as an administrative law judge with the District of Columbia Office of Administrative Hearings. He previously worked in private practice and served as an administrative law judge with the District of Columbia Commission on Human Rights.

All of these nominees are experienced lawyers and adjudicators, and all of them are dedicated to serving the people of the District of Columbia.

These are not controversial nominations. Unlike Federal judicial nominees, these individuals are extensively vetted by an independent, seven-member local commission, which recommends candidates for the President to nominate.

During the last administration, the Senate confirmed 10 local DC judicial nominees, all by voice vote.

I urge my colleagues to join me in confirming these nominees, each of whom has broad and strong bipartisan support.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

ISSUES FACING AMERICA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, during the last break in our voting schedule here in Washington, DC, I was grateful to have the time back home talking with my constituents about the challenges they are facing on a day-to-day basis and, like we all, I think, try to do, figuring out how we can be helpful to them here in the Senate.

I must note that there is usually a huge disconnect between what seems to

obsess the news media and folks living in the bubble of Washington, DC, and what I hear from my constituents back home, and this time wasn't much different.

When I was back in Austin, I received a briefing on the ongoing pandemic response efforts. Like the rest of the country and the rest of the world, COVID-19 hasn't gone away, and we are trying to slowly but surely both adapt and deal with the pandemic.

Thanks to an overwhelming response by the Federal Government initially back during the Trump administration, during Operation Warp Speed, we have access to vaccines on the fastest timeline that we have ever seen. Medical science and pharmaceutical companies and the government came together to produce effective and safe vaccines at a historic rate of speed. But even as the virus itself has morphed, as viruses, I understand, will likely do, we still continue to need things like personal protective equipment and additional tests and antibiotics treatments for people in my State.

Ironically, President Biden ran in large part in 2020 based on the COVID response of the Trump administration and, as we all recall, was pretty harshly critical. But now he seems to have changed his tune. When asked about things like access to testing, he says: Well, those are really State responsibilities.

Well, passing the buck is a familiar pastime here in Washington, DC, but I don't think anybody is fooled that this is an area where the Federal Government continues to play an essential role. Yes, our State leaders have done by and large, I think, a good job in their respective jurisdictions. The fact of the matter is, we still need a plan to deal with the testing and the ongoing effects of COVID-19.

Interestingly, people who wanted to get access to things like therapeutics, anti-viral drugs, and monoclonal antibiotics were told that the Federal Government would not allow the States to use those particular modalities anymore because the Federal Government had made a decision that this was not effective against the current strain. But, as we know, this virus continues to mutate. We are hoping that we don't go all the way through the Greek alphabet in various forms of this virus, but the fact of the matter is, I think we have all now gotten a little glimpse out of what Washington-run healthcare would look like, starting with rationing based on decisions being made in Washington, DC, about what should be available to people when they get sick or when they see their doctor.

I believe that those decisions are best left to individuals, in consultation with their healthcare provider to make those decisions. But we have gotten a little bit of a glimpse when Washington says no monoclonal antibiotics anymore, no therapeutic anti-virals because they don't work against the current strain of COVID-19, the Omicron.

As I said, the virus is probably not going to stop mutating, and unfortunately, I think the Federal response—rationing access to these therapies and treatment—could well backlash on the government.

I am appreciative of the dedicated work of all of our frontline healthcare workers. As we all know, they have been pushed to the limit, dealing with COVID-19. They are exhausted and, in many instances, burned out.

There are not enough frontline healthcare workers currently. What that means is that many hospitals and healthcare providers have to contract with nursing services, which really are national organizations that hire nurses and then contract out as needed to local hospitals. What that usually means is, because there are not enough local nurses available at the going rate, they have to contract for prices for those nursing services that are many multiples of what ordinarily they would have to do, causing a lot of pain and strain on healthcare providers across Texas and across the Nation.

On my travels, I went to Fort Worth, where I visited with the University of North Texas Health Science Center to discuss legislation that I have introduced, along with Senator LEAHY, a senior member of the Judiciary Committee, called the Justice for All Reauthorization Act. As the name suggests, this is a reauthorization of very important tools that are needed at the local level to support victims and deliver justice and avoid wrongful convictions.

This really focuses on the use of forensic techniques to test DNA and other samples—for example, in a rape kit, which is collected following a sexual assault, by a forensic nurse examiner who can collect a rape kit. Assuming it is done properly and it is provided to a lab that performs the appropriate test, you can identify with almost 100 percent certainty who the assailant is or was. So it is really important for us to make sure those tools remain available, including eliminating further that rape kit backlog.

It used to be that the rape kits were not tested when the identity of the assailant was not in question, because, in fact, many times the identity of the assailant is known to the victim of that assault. But, as we found out, the power of these forensic tests is immense. And we can rule out somebody based on the DNA test. We can identify people who have perpetrated multiple sexual assaults because many of these sexual assault predators are serial offenders. And what we found out is even when the statute of limitations has run, let's say, against a particular sexual assault, many times you will be able to identify with virtual certainty the individual who committed a subsequent sexual assault for which the statute of limitations has not run. So that remains very, very important.

In Houston, which is, we like to say, the energy capital of the world, I sat down with leaders to discuss legisla-

tion that I have introduced with Senator COONS, the Senator from Delaware, to expand the use of hydrogen technologies in energy-intensive sectors. Hydrogen is a unique energy source. As a matter of fact, Toyota, I believe, has developed a fuel cell technology where, if you use hydrogen in the fuel cell, you will not only get propulsion of a vehicle, you will actually get water out the tailpipe. So it is very clean, and it is very safe.

But the problem is, of course, the expense of this new technology and trying to get it used in places where it makes the most sense because the infrastructure is critical both for the storage and the delivery of the hydrogen for use in these energy-intensive sectors.

Texas is already the epicenter of energy production. We believe in all of the above when it comes to energy, and these investments in new clean energy like hydrogen can help us grow and diversify our State's energy portfolio even further while continuing to reduce emissions in many sectors that are currently big emitters of carbon and other emissions.

So it was great to be back home, as I know we all feel when we get back home, and to listen and to learn from your constituents—not just the official talking points and the subjects that are always on cable news or social media but about the challenges and the needs and the hopes and the dreams of the people we represent, real people, the 29 million people I am privileged to represent in the Senate from Texas.

We also hear about some of their problems that they are dealing with like inflation, and we are hearing more about rising crime. And my constituents are looking to Congress for some leadership and some action. They want to see clear and decisive steps made to address the problems that Texas families confront on a regular basis. But, as I said, there isn't a whole lot of overlap, it seems, with the agenda here in Washington by the current majority in the House and the Senate and the priorities of my constituents back home.

So the debates in Congress have largely been detached from their reality. It is like living in an alternate universe, where we spend more time talking about manufactured crises or political agendas than solving real problems.

This year, it began with the \$2 trillion partisan spending bill. Our colleagues abused the rules of the Senate to pass this legislation without a single Republican vote, and clearly they were hooked because partisan legislating became the rule and not the exception last year. Our colleagues scheduled votes on legislation that would exploit the cause of pay fairness in order to help trial lawyers, even though wage discrimination based on sex has been illegal for nearly 60 years.

They scheduled a number of votes on varying versions of legislation to hijack America's elections because of an

alleged voting rights crisis, even though last November 2020 94 percent of respondents to a Pew poll said it was either easy or very easy to cast a ballot in the 2020 election.

Now, I had an interesting exchange with the majority leader on this. I actually had a chart that talked about that Pew poll. And he said: Well, yeah, we agree everything was hunky-dory in November 2020, but then it all went down the tubes when States began passing new election laws.

But I pointed out to him—or I asked him: Well, what is your primary concern?

He said: Well, ballot harvesting.

He thought that there ought to be more permissive ballot harvesting than is allowed in some States. But he didn't talk about the things like eliminating voter ID or making it harder to protect the integrity of the ballot by making sure that the person, whether they were mailing in their ballot or whether they were voting in person, was who they say they were and legally entitled to vote. But, again, we spend a lot of time on those multiple attempts to pass that takeover of State-run and local-run elections.

And then there was the so-called Build Back Better bill. I am sure that was focus group-tested so that it would be appealing to people who maybe didn't know exactly what was in it, but then we found out that it was massive tax increases and massive spending at a time when inflation was as bad as it has been in my lifetime and where the dollar earned by working families goes less and less far and, in fact, diminishes their standard of living because of the effect of inflation.

So the BBB bill—some have called it Build Back Better; I prefer “Build Back Broke” or “Build Back Bankrupt”—which clearly would have thrown gasoline on the problem of inflation, along with raising taxes and depress our economy and job creation, it was so expensive and unnecessary that our colleagues couldn't get all 50 Members of their own conference on board.

And that is what happens when you have a 50-50 Senate with the Vice President breaking a tie. This isn't exactly like FDR's New Deal, where he had huge majorities and could basically move the country in any direction he wanted. What you would ordinarily think with a 50-50 Senate is that requires bipartisan consensus building, not trying to go it alone in a purely partisan manner. And it is no surprise that it wasn't successful.

Well, obviously, economists have something called opportunity cost, and what that means, as I understand it, is that if you are choosing to do one thing, that means there are other things that you necessarily cannot do, and that is an opportunity cost.

And one of the obvious costs to the American people is the border crisis

that has seen more than 2 million individuals encountered at the southwestern border. It is no secret to anybody that the drugs—including fentanyl, methamphetamine, and cocaine, just to mention a few of the drugs—that took the lives of 100,000 Americans last year through drug overdoses, virtually all of those come across the southwestern border.

And the cartels are not dumb. They are actually pretty shrewd. And they figured out that if you flood the zone, you flood the border with massive numbers of unaccompanied children and other vulnerable people, that the Border Patrol will have to leave their station on the border keeping the drugs and the cartels at bay, and that opens up huge avenues of opportunity to smuggling drugs illegally into the United States, in addition to the billions of dollars that they earn bringing people into the United States from more than 150 different countries.

I know most people who don't live in a border State or who haven't been to the border, they think, well, these are economic migrants from Central America. That seems to be what the Vice President, who has been designated as the "immigration czar," so to speak, by President Biden, what she seems to think. And, frankly, from the comments of the President himself, he doesn't understand the dynamic at the border.

But, in reality, what Secretary Mayorkas, at the Department of Homeland Security, and the Biden administration have done is to lay out the red carpet for human smugglers and drug smugglers and migrants coming from around the world. Early on in the Biden administration, I went to the Del Rio Sector of the Border Patrol, and they told us that people who they detained had come from more than 150 different countries.

So this is really a global phenomenon based on how much money you have and how much you are willing to spend—to the smugglers—to get into the United States. And, again, for everybody whom we have no record on, we don't know whether they have been sex offenders; we don't know whether they have been murderers or committed other crimes back in their home country. And we also know that, occasionally, we do catch people who have been deported from the United States because of criminal offenses who then come back into the United States because of the opportunities provided by the lack of border controls.

This doesn't take into account all of the people whom the Border Patrol calls the "get-aways." In other words, we know how many people turn themselves in and try to take advantage of the asylum system by flooding our immigration courts and creating a huge backlog and then melting into the great American landscape, but there are people who do penetrate our borders that the Border Patrol never encounters, and so it is really hard to

know precisely what they are up to. But I can assure you, based on my observation and experience, they are up to no good if they are avoiding the Border Patrol.

Well, in trying to be constructive, which I believe in trying to do—Washington, DC, can be a pretty tough place, and for sure there are going to be things we disagree on, but there are also opportunities to do things on a bipartisan basis. So seeing what was happening at the border, I reached out to another border State Senator, Senator SINEMA from Arizona; and she and I both reached out to a Congressman from Laredo, TX, Congressman CUELLAR, and Congressman TONY GONZALES—CUELLAR, a Democrat, and GONZALES, a Republican.

So we had, literally, a bicameral, bipartisan effort to come up with a piece of legislation that we thought that, assuming the administration wanted some help, this might be a good place to start. It is called the Bipartisan Border Solutions Act. But I am sorry to report that the administration—indeed, the Democratic leadership, particularly on the Judiciary Committee that has jurisdiction over immigration matters—has shown absolutely zero interest in any kind of measures to stop or to reduce the flow of migrants into the United States and solve this problem.

Well, obviously, crime is still a big problem in America, and the border is part of the problem because of the unrestricted flow of people coming across the border. But we know last year, in 2020, murders—that is 2 years ago now, 2 calendar years ago now—murders rose by nearly 30 percent from the year prior, the largest single-year increase on record. So crime has definitely spiked, for whatever reason, and requires a forceful and effective response. We are still waiting on data from 2021, but so far the picture doesn't appear to be much brighter. A number of major cities have experienced their deadliest years on record.

And Americans are taking notice. A poll in November found that more than half of those surveyed believe local crime has gotten worse—a 13-point jump from the previous year. Concerns about national crime rates are even higher. Nearly three-quarters of Americans who were polled believe that crime is up nationally, and they are not wrong.

This, of course, is bad news for our families, our communities, our businesses, and especially for our dedicated law enforcement officials. Within a 5-day span just last week, five Harris County police officers—that is Houston, TX—as well as a police canine officer were killed or injured. During a 5-day span, five were killed.

An officer was shot and killed during a traffic stop. One was killed during a hit-and-run while off duty. Three officers were wounded in a shootout, and a police canine was stabbed with a butcher knife.

Amid this surge of crime and concerning acts of violence against law enforcement and civilians, there is a clear need for Congress to step up and act. We need to pass legislation to ensure that our police forces are well funded, transparent, and held accountable. Unfortunately, this is not a priority for the majority party. The radical left and their base want to defund the police, and most Democrats seem to be intimidated about speaking up and speaking for their constituents when it comes to stopping or abating these crimes.

As I mentioned, families are also being pummeled by the highest inflation in 40 years, and we have all seen prices going up everywhere, from the gas pump to groceries, to cars, to clothes.

Business owners, of course, have been hit with a double whammy, as supply chain issues have made it even more difficult and costly to produce and sell and ship their products.

As I mentioned, gas prices are perhaps the most easily identified area where inflation is eating away at people's paychecks. Drivers are now spending 50 percent more today than they were a year ago on a gallon of gas.

That is not just the big, headline-grabbing crises the Biden administration has failed to address.

The national defense authorization bill is one of the best examples of what we should do here in the Senate—an example of bipartisanship. A version of this bill has passed every year for 61 years, and, last summer, things appeared to be on track, even ahead of schedule. The Armed Services Committee passed a national defense authorization bill by a vote of 23 to 3. You don't get more bipartisan than that.

Unfortunately, for some reason, the majority leader refused to bring the defense authorization bill to the floor and left the bill to collect dust on the Senate calendar before moving it. When he finally allowed it to come to the floor in late November, he tried to limit the normal amendment process by blaming the calendar. But to no one's surprise, that created a lot of issues and a lot of consternation. You simply can't sit on a bipartisan bill for months and then claim there is no time for a robust amendment process.

But eventually the Senate did pass the Defense authorization bill before the end of the year. But we can't get in the habit of delaying bipartisan bills in order to meet a partisan agenda.

Then there is government funding. We are more than a year into the Democratic-controlled majority controlling the government and not a single regular appropriations bill has passed. Our colleagues have kicked the can down the road.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, will the Senator yield for a question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator yield for a question?

Mr. CORNYN. As soon as I am through with my remarks, I will be glad to yield.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. That was the question—how soon that might be, given that we have a 2:15 vote coming up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas is recognized.

Mr. CORNYN. So our colleagues kicked the can down the road when it came to keeping the lights on in the appropriations process in September and December, and now it looks like they are poised to do it again and will not meet the February 18 deadline.

So with the focus on partisan politics rather than bipartisan opportunities, our colleagues in the majority have simply ignored the basic responsibilities of governing. They put the demands of partisanship ahead of the needs of the American people. Rather than reevaluate the strategy and perhaps make a course correction, our colleagues have doubled down. They scheduled another vote on their partisan election takeover bill. And when it failed, they attempted to blow up the rules of the Senate to create an easier pathway to purely partisan legislation.

So there is a massive disconnect between what Democrats in the majority have been trying to accomplish here in Washington, DC, and what the American people are telling me—particularly my constituents—that they actually need.

Families in Texas are struggling to pay their gas and grocery bills, and they are worried about the increase in violent crime. But our colleagues are trying to convince them that they are wrong and that what is important is a Federal takeover of State-run elections and to provide additional tax breaks to millionaires and billionaires from blue States by lifting or eliminating the cap on deductibility of State and local taxes, as they attempted to do.

So a lot of the time we have had this last year—the opportunity to pass good and meaningful legislation—has been lost, and thus the opportunity cost of this partisanship is things that really would make a difference and improve the lives of ordinary Americans.

The American people are not asking for a radical transformation of the country. That was pretty clear by the 50-50 Senate that they elected in 2020, as well as a bare Democratic majority in the House. They want safe communities. They want an affordable standard of living. They want secure borders. They want the right to decide what is best for themselves and their families and not be dictated to or mandated by the Federal Government.

So I continue to hope that our Democratic colleagues will abandon partisanship and use the remainder of this year to support what the American people actually want and need.

Mr. President, I would be glad to yield for a question.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. No. My question was, simply, how long the Senator was going to proceed, given that the schedule for my remarks was at 1:35. So no further questions. I apologize for inter-

rupting. I was just trying to sort out the timing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I am not very happy to be back with my trusty and somewhat battered “Time to Wake Up” poster. Almost exactly a year ago, I delivered what I hoped would be my last “Time to Wake Up” speech and took the poster off the floor.

Things looked good then. The conditions for climate progress were in place. Voters had elected a Democratic President and Democratic majorities in both Houses of Congress. So the malicious grip of the fossil fuel industry on the Republican Party was no longer a stopper.

President Biden ran on a fact-based, uncorrupted climate agenda, and many in our congressional majorities campaigned on climate action. We had reconciliation to work with, and work began on a serious climate bill.

Actually, after I stopped these speeches, the Smithsonian asked me if they could have this old poster. It is the most used poster in Senate history, it turns out. And I came pretty close to turning it over to them, but something made me hesitate. And, well, here it is back again.

We just aren’t making progress, not by the only measurement that matters: greenhouse gas emissions. We are 1 year in—with no bill, no carbon regulation, and no litigation—and look at the climate havoc.

Scientists reported that global temperatures registered between 1.1 and 1.2 Celsius above average in 2021. That is among the hottest years ever observed by human beings, and it is dangerously close to our safety ceiling of 1.5 degrees Celsius. And we are here despite 2021 being a La Nina year, when cold Pacific water usually cools global temperatures. The last 7 years are the 7 hottest years in recorded history.

Republicans may mock and disparage this, but they are paid agents of the polluters causing this. And they are wrong.

In past speeches, I have described how our oceans absorb a massive amount of the heat that is trapped by greenhouse gas pollution. It is the heat equivalent of multiple Hiroshima-sized nuclear bombs being set off in the ocean every second—multiple Hiroshima-sized nuclear devices’ worth of heat per second that we are adding to the ocean.

In the last three decades, our oceans warmed eight times faster than preceding decades. And it is so massive that it has its own measurement term: the zettajoule. The top 2,000 feet of ocean absorbed a record 227 excess zettajoules of energy in 2021.

So what is a zettajoule? Well, a half zettajoule—a half zettajoule—is the total annual energy consumption of the planet. That little line right down there represents a half zettajoule—the

total energy consumption of planet Earth, all humans. And here is the heat that that loaded into the oceans because of the amplification of greenhouse gases—227, one-half—so about 500 times as much heat going into the oceans as our entire energy heat spend as a species.

And ocean temperatures are, of course, now the hottest ever recorded. The excess heat means dying coral reefs and lost fisheries with acidified seas. It means higher sea levels, as heated water expands; and more severe storms, as heated waters supercharge storm systems, including the sort of thunderstorm complexes that spawned Midwestern tornadoes in December.

Republicans may mock and disparage this, but remember: They are paid agents of the polluters causing this. And they are wrong.

This costs lives and dollars. The United States suffered 20 separate billion-dollar weather disasters in 2021—almost 700 deaths and \$100 billion of damage. The year before, we had hit \$22 billion disasters: tropical cyclones, coastal floods, western wildfires. The most spectacular fire didn’t actually even make it on to this list because it ripped through more than a thousand homes and businesses in suburban Denver in December. That fire didn’t even make it onto this top disasters list.

The Pacific Northwest heat wave of June 2021 smashed all records. A town in normally temperate British Columbia saw 116-degree temperatures, beating the previous Canadian national record by 3 degrees. The next day, the thermometer hit 118 degrees; the day after that, 121 degrees. And the day after that, a wildfire burned the town to the ground.

In Washington and Oregon, temperatures shot off the charts. These graphs show maximum daily temperatures in Seattle and Portland. The dots on these charts that form this gray band represent every daily maximum temperature reading over the last 42 years—over 15,000 data points. The red dots here and here reflect for Seattle and for Portland those days—way beyond the norms.

These temperatures aren’t just uncomfortable. They are lethal. Research shows more than 600 excess deaths during the June heat wave in Washington and Oregon. Those 600 people aren’t even counted in that storm death toll I mentioned before.

So why aren’t we doing anything about it? Two primary reasons: fossil fuel obstruction and corporate indifference. To be blunt, the fossil fuel industry controls the Republican Party the way a ventriloquist controls a painted wooden dummy, and the rest of corporate America lets them get away with it.

The fossil fuel obstruction isn’t new. They have been at it for decades. Dozens of colleagues have joined me here on the Senate floor, exposing the web of climate denial the industry wove to perpetrate their obstruction.