

Across the Northeast, schools canceled outdoor activities and after-school programs. The Yankees, the Phillies, and the New York Liberty all postponed their games. People as far west as Indianapolis and as far south as South Carolina have been impacted.

I urge all people here in Washington and across the United States to listen to local health officials and take every precaution to stay safe.

The climate crisis is real, and it is here to stay. We must take action against the climate crisis, both short term and long term.

In the short term, this morning, I am calling on Secretary Tom Vilsack to double the number of Forest Service personnel deployed to fight these fires in Canada. I am calling on the Secretary of Agriculture to double the number of personnel to mitigate the risk in the air for millions of Americans. I am sending a letter to him, asking him to double the Forest Service personnel.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEAR SECRETARY VILSACK: I am writing to express my concern for the health and safety of New Yorkers, and all Americans, affected by the smoke resulting from the wildfires currently raging in Quebec, Canada. I urge the U.S. Forest Service (FS) to double the personnel preparing to deploy to help Canada fight these forest fires and protect the lives and health of all those impacted.

As you know, the Quebec wildfires of recent days have caused terrible air quality impacts across much of the northeastern United States, including New York. Today, the United States had the worst air quality in the world with New York City measuring particulate matter 14.5 times greater than the World Health Organization's annual air quality guideline value. Over the past two days, much of New York State has faced Hazardous air quality index (AQI) ratings of over 300, levels at which all people are likely to be affected, no matter their health. This poor air quality has caused flight cancellations, restaurant closures, and Broadway show cancellations, grinding New York City, and the rest of the state, to a halt. Rapidly returning our air quality to normal, healthy levels is of the utmost importance.

Containing these fires is the best way to prevent more smoke from drifting into the U.S. and returning air quality in New York and elsewhere to healthy levels. To assist their Canadian counterparts in their fire-fighting efforts, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) has already deployed one Forest Ranger to assist with efforts to contain the raging fires. The Northeastern Forest Fire Protection Compact (P.L. 81-129) grants the U.S. Forest Service authority to provide necessary cross-border assistance to cope with fires beyond a sole entity's capabilities. I ask that FS prepare to send additional personnel to provide the Canadian Forest Service with whatever necessary expertise and service they require to contain and end these fires as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your attention to this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. SCHUMER,  
U.S. Senator.

Mr. SCHUMER. These unprecedented wildfires are a crisis for both Canada and the United States, so both nations must respond speedily and forcefully to contain the blazes. The best way to ensure the United States does not suffer another wave of wildfire air pollution is to contain these fires up in Canada as soon as possible. That is getting at the source, and that is what we need to do. It won't be easy, but the Federal Government—our Federal Government—must explore all options on the table to keep Americans safe.

We must send personnel. We must send equipment. We must offer any assistance that our friends north of the border need. Over the last 2 years, the Senate passed billions in funding to mitigate and respond to wildfires. We did it when we passed the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act. The American Rescue Plan also provided huge sums to help schools improve their air filtration systems. Today, these investments are paying off. Many schools are safer and cleaner because of the legislation we passed, but there is much more to do.

In the long term, there is little doubt that climate change has exacerbated both the depth and breadth of these fires in Canada. We cannot fully account for these fires without recognizing that climate change is making disasters like this far more common and far more destructive. Temperatures in May reached record levels in Canada, and warmer temperatures mean that forest fires often burn faster, burn hotter, burn bigger. We are seeing this play out in realtime. Canadian officials say their country is now on track for their worst season of wildfire destruction on record.

What we consider freak accidents today could become the norm tomorrow, and the more we ignore our obligation to lower carbon emissions, the greater the risks of these disasters. That is why Democrats passed the largest package of clean energy investments in American history last year through the Inflation Reduction Act, but both parties have an obligation to do more, both to reduce our carbon emissions and make sure we all have the resources necessary to respond to natural disasters—so many of them caused or exacerbated by climate change.

In the coming days, I will continue to reach out to the administration to ensure that we are doing everything we can to help contain the fires up north. That is the best thing we can do to keep American citizens across the country safe and healthy.

#### NOMINATION OF DILAWAR SYED

Now, on nominations, Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Dilawar Syed to serve as the No. 2 person at the Small Business Administration.

Mr. Syed's confirmation is great news for small businesses across the country because there is no better person to serve the interests of small busi-

ness than someone who is a successful business owner himself.

The SBA has not had a Senate-confirmed Deputy for more than 5 years, and Mr. Syed is exactly the right person for the job. His nomination is backed by more than 200 civic, government, higher education, and business groups and leaders, including the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Small Business Roundtable.

Mr. Syed is an American success story. He came to this country from Pakistan and amassed a remarkably successful career as an executive at Yahoo!, as the president of a software company, and most recently as the CEO of a healthcare AI company. So Mr. Syed is more than qualified to assume the post of Deputy SBA Administrator, where his job will be in helping millions of small businesses get the resources they need to start, to grow, to expand.

And, once confirmed, Mr. Syed will add to the dynamism and diversity of the Biden administration as the highest ranking Muslim official in the executive branch.

This is a very good day for small business because, after today, the SBA will have an exceedingly capable, experienced, and accomplished small business champion in Dilawar Syed. So I will vote yes on his nomination, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

#### LGBTQI+ COMMUNITIES

Finally, Mr. President, this morning, as the Nation celebrates Pride Month, the Biden administration has announced a series of new Federal actions to protect our LGBTQI+ communities from threats to their rights and their safety.

As over a dozen States escalate their attacks against these communities, the administration has responded. Today's announcement includes new community safety partnerships, initiatives to support the LGBTQI+ children and their mental health, and a dedicated response to the truly Orwellian trend of banning books across the country.

So I commend the Biden administration for taking these actions to protect the communities and affirming that all Americans deserve equal protection under the law and in this country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### FARM BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, as I outlined earlier this week, the Senate has a great deal of work to do to fulfill

our most basic responsibilities: keeping America safe, keeping America fed, and keeping the lights on.

Our colleagues on the Appropriations Committee intend to fund the Federal Government through regular order. The Armed Services Committee has an urgent responsibility to set the Senate's national security priorities so we can face growing threats and fund our Armed Forces accordingly.

And also this year, the Agriculture Committee has to pass the farm bill. This legislation is the cornerstone of the government's approach to helping growers feed America. It includes essential provisions that support farmers, create good-paying jobs, and strengthen rural communities.

In my home State of Kentucky, nearly 75,000 farms help keep dinner plates full and grocery stores stocked throughout the entire country. But thanks to endless redtape from unelected bureaucrats and partisan foot-dragging here in Washington, it is more difficult than ever to be a farmer in Kentucky.

Washington Democrats' runaway inflation has bogged down small family farms. With production costs on the rise, the Department of Agriculture projects that net farm income will decline by—listen to this—20 percent in 2023.

Naturally, farm families are looking to Congress to deliver much needed help and stability. In Kentucky, farmers are stalling investments and taking on unforeseen risks as they wait for Washington to make up its mind. Farmers in Kentucky and across the country deserve certainty from Congress so they can plan for the future.

With less than 4 months to go until many current farm bill provisions expire, time is running out. That is why Congress needs to do its job and get this legislation across the finish line swiftly.

Last week, negotiations between a Democratic President and a Republican Speaker allowed the Senate to take an important step toward fiscal sanity and avert economic catastrophe. In the coming months, we will need further collaboration to produce legislation that puts farmers first and secures our food supply. Senate Republicans stand ready to do our part.

#### TRIBUTE TO ANDY QUINN

Now, Mr. President, on an entirely different matter, I am very sorry to have to conclude my remarks today by bidding farewell to an integral member of my staff, my chief speechwriter and strategic communications director, Andy Quinn.

Five and a half years ago, Andy arrived in my office with one of the sharpest minds and sharpest pens in town. It has been my great good fortune to have him on my team longer than anyone might reasonably hope to keep such a talent tied down.

Andy's background made him a unique candidate for the job, to say the least. He was the exceedingly rare

breed who had come out of 4 years at an elite New England liberal arts college with his conservative principles even stronger. He had experience on the campaign trail and in the cloisters of professional scholarship, but he hadn't spent a day working on Capitol Hill.

I had a hunch that Andy's evident hunger, enthusiasm, and sheer brain power would have him adapt to life in the Senate in no time. And, boy, was I right. It would be no exaggeration to say that he will depart more fluent in the workings of this institution than folks who have been around here twice as long.

Andy has proven his impressive ability to wear multiple hats. He has lent both a finely tuned instinct for political strategy and a bottomless—bottomless—appetite for nuanced policy. And, in the process, he has become a plumb line for my entire team on both long-range, big-picture ideas and pressing day-to-day decisions. This young man has an incredible ability to cut straight to the essence of the topic at hand and ask the sort of questions that help all of us approach big issues with clarity and with confidence.

When Andy is at the table, we know we will get clear, honest, unvarnished counsel. These strengths have been extraordinarily valuable over an eventful past 5 years: three Supreme Court confirmations, two Presidential impeachments, and a once-in-a-century pandemic.

During the first weeks of 2021, in particular, some of the most important conversations I had were with Andy, as I planned my response to the rioters who tried and failed to interrupt the certification of an election, and as I prepared to cast my vote as an impeachment juror. Through it all, Andy's zeal for worthy fights has helped me, his colleagues, and our entire conference meet career-defining moments with strength and grace.

He has taken 5½ years of incredibly varied, sensitive, and high-profile responsibilities in stride. He has demonstrated pitch-perfect instincts and wisdom beyond his years. And, somehow, alongside Andy's book smarts is room for a razor-sharp sense of humor and plenty of opinions on the prospects of his Chicago Cubs.

But just as noticeable as Andy's intellect is his humility. He took every step to the front office coffee pot as an opportunity to get to know his youngest colleagues and learn about their interests. For that matter, one of the only outward signs of the enormous workload Andy has shouldered has been the coffee cup he has carried, which his colleagues say has grown larger over the years.

Of course, that could just as likely be a symptom of the fact that Andy has become a proud father not once, not twice, but three times during his Senate tenure.

For all of his work as a fellow steward of this institution and a passionate

defender of right-of-center principles, we know that Andy's truest devotions are to his beloved wife Amy, to the deep faith they share, and to the wonderful family they are raising together.

It is no secret that the demands of the Senate schedule are borne not only by Senators and our staff but, in a unique way, by their families as well. As Andy prepares to write an exciting new chapter professionally, I understand that the oldest of his three sons, at the ripe old age of 4½, has expressed particular excitement at getting to see his dad a little more often. Even the world's greatest deliberative body can't compete with all that.

So I would like to leave Andy with my sincere thanks for pouring his immense talents into our shared mission for these past 5½ years and my congratulations on a job very well done.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

#### REMEMBERING EDWARD WRZESINSKI

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today, I want to honor the life and service of a distinguished Montanan and Vietnam war veteran who recently passed, Edward Merle Wrzesinski.

Ed was a native son of Montana. He was born on the October 27, 1945, in Roundup. He was raised on the Wrzesinski family homestead in the Snowy Mountains, where he spent his time breaking horses, reading books, and doodling the beautiful Eastern Montana landscape around him—a landscape that would continue to shape his life forever.

Never one to shy away from service or sacrifice, Ed left Montana to serve his country in the Navy during the Vietnam war. During the war, he served on the USS *Ranger* aircraft carrier from 1963 to 1966, where he worked in the print shop.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Ed moved to Seattle and entered the print business. Eventually, he took his printing career to San Francisco, where he opened up his own printing company, called Barbary Coast Press, and he met his wife Debra.

After a stint in Hawaii, Ed and Debra moved back to Montana, settling in Twin Bridges, where they started their family. Here they raised their daughters Tess and Beth and founded Tobacco Root Graphics, an iconic line of western watercolor greeting cards inspired by Ed's childhood in the Snowy Mountains in Eastern Montana.

Ed also went on to drive buses for the Twin Bridges school district and later for Bozeman's Streamline city bus services after they made their move to Bozeman.

Ed loved his family. He especially liked spending time with his daughters. Together, they would work on art projects, attend sporting events, and watch movies.

Ed also loved reading good books. He liked golf. And, as all good Montanans, he liked to trout fish. On a beautiful Montana summer evening, you could find him at the river with a fishing pole and a box of fried chicken.