

certified Russian fisheries as sustainable, this is a joke. It is ridiculous. Shame on you, MSC, helping fund the Putin war machine.

Regardless, I am 100-percent certain that any companies in America now laundering Russian product—and you know who you are—companies which, unfortunately, I worry my colleague from Massachusetts is defending—they absolutely have the ability to trace and certify exactly where the products are coming from. That is a fact. So this argument, which was made 16 months ago, still doesn't work.

On the job loss issue, we put into this bill a 90-day provision to prevent the disruption. U.S. harvests of seafood are largely from U.S. citizens, including thousands of independent owners and operators of fishing vessels and small businesses in coastal communities in Alaska, in Massachusetts, and all over this great country. And they are being hurt by this.

There are Massachusetts fishermen right now who want my bill to be passed—100 percent. We know that. Certainly, thousands of Alaskan fishermen. But if you want to compare jobs, let's go. Commercial fishing is the top employer in terms of jobs in my State, and it is a big employer in Massachusetts.

So to my colleague from Massachusetts, what I offered last year I still offer now. Let Alaskan fishermen send their fish to you guys. Or, heck, Massachusetts fishermen, don't rely on Russian fishermen laundered through the communist Chinese economy to go to a few processors in Massachusetts. That is why you are blocking this. No offense, but that is why you are blocking this.

So, look, I know you are vigorously supporting Ukraine and so am I, but this is a chink in the armor here. On this issue, you are not. And we can solve this right now if you change your vote, my colleague, and say: You know what, I am not going to object. Senator SULLIVAN is right. My fishermen need this. Alaskan fishermen need this. Let's clamp down on the Russian war machine.

Sixteen months ago my colleague from Massachusetts made these same arguments—16 months ago. It is outrageous. I will continue to work with him, but the rope-a-dope tap dance isn't convincing. We need to move on this, Mr. President. How you could be down on the floor of the U.S. Senate defending this laundering and undermining of President Biden's Russian sanctions is beyond me. I will keep working it.

Maybe the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, or maybe the White House—Jake Sullivan, you should care about this. But for goodness' sake, let's not come on the Senate floor and make the same arguments that were made 16 months ago that we addressed in the bill that I just brought to the floor.

The only benefit, right now, of this objection—the only benefit—is the

Putin—the Russian war machine, the oligarchs who own the Russian fishing industry, and the Chinese Communist Party leaders who are part of the laundering process in China.

Every American fisherman loses right now. So I am going to keep working this. And I am disappointed in my colleague, who made these same arguments 16 months ago and is still not convinced.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, again, the Senator from Alaska and I are friends. His father is a Sullivan. My mother is a Sullivan. Sullivans are very intelligent people, by the way.

So, last year, Senator SULLIVAN brought a bill out onto the floor. We had concerns coming from the Massachusetts fishing community—New Bedford, Gloucester, famous fishing ports, still today competing with Alaska for the title in the United States for the largest in the country. And there were some concerns. So I objected. We called a time-out on the field, and we worked out all of those issues. That was round 1.

Now, yesterday, the Senator from Alaska has a new bill with new provisions in it. In addition to the provisions from last year that we worked out, there are all new provisions. And it is not a rope-a-dope—though, obviously, anything that uses a Muhammad Ali-created concept is a great honor to have attached to us, but we don't see this as rope-a-dope. This is more just round 2. We finished round 1. Now we are on round 2.

A whole new bill, new language, and, again, the same thing. We are willing to work with you, but we can't solve it in 24 hours. My staff and yours, sitting down with other members of the New England delegation, we can get together and find a commonsense pathway through it. But, right now, Gorton's of Gloucester is very concerned about this bill. One firm has 450 workers, another has 350 workers, and we have dozens of other companies up in Massachusetts with employees that are potentially jeopardized by this bill.

So I am objecting. But I am objecting and inviting the Senator from Alaska to, again, engage once again in a good-faith negotiation, and we are willing to do so. Then, at the completion of that, we can again agree and move forward.

But I am objecting mainly because of this cascade of concerns that are coming from the food processing industry, the seafood processing industry, in Massachusetts, all across New England, led by Gorton's of Gloucester but many, many others who don't have the same kind of national and international reputation but who feel greatly jeopardized by the language in this bill. And that is the reason that I am objecting while simultaneously saying: It is not a rope-a-dope. Let's sit down. Let's try to work out the differences.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I will take my colleague and friend from Massachusetts up on his offer. Round 1; 16 months later, round 2. That is a lot of people hurting, including Massachusetts fishermen, by this unfair trading that we have with Russia—completely unfair. Again, they can import all they want into the United States now through China. We can't import at all there.

So I will work with him. The new provisions, by the way, are meant to enhance the ability to trace the Russian seafood being laundered. So that helps. It still has the 90 days to help Gorton's of Gloucester and others to address this.

But at least my colleague is being honest, right? This is about Gorton's of Gloucester. That is kind of what we knew. By the way, to Gorton's of Gloucester, here is my message to you: Continuing to import Russian seafood is a bad business idea. It is a bad business idea. Funding the Putin war machine is a bad business idea. Most American business companies have realized that.

So, Gorton's of Gloucester, here is my idea for you: Buy more Alaskan seafood. Buy more Massachusetts seafood. Get off your addiction to Russian war-machine seafood that is laundered through China. It is an unsustainable business model, and at some point, even your U.S. Senator is not going to be able to defend you.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, to my friend, again, from Alaska, we are not engaging in a rope-a-dope at all. At the same time, we don't want to be a punching bag. We don't want the Massachusetts fishing industry, through this processing industry, to get sucker-punched with a bill on only 24 hours' notice.

We are more than willing, again, to work with you in order to resolve these issues, and my friend knows that over the years, that is what we have done on issue after issue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

JUNETEENTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, earlier this week, we commemorated the 158th Juneteenth, which celebrates the liberation of the last remaining enslaved Black Americans at the end of the Civil War. On this date in 1865, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Gordon Granger arrived in a Confederate outpost in Galveston, TX, where he delivered the news to 250,000 still-enslaved Texans that all slaves were free.

Though President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, the final emancipation of African-American slaves was not reached until 2 years later, with the end of the Civil War and then ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution.

African-American communities have celebrated Juneteenth as Emancipation Day as far back as 1886 in Texas, but it was not until June 2021 that Congress voted to make Juneteenth a Federal holiday, which President Biden signed into law.

Maryland has had its own complicated history when it comes to the abolition of slavery. Indeed, President Lincoln limited the application of the Emancipation Proclamation only to States that had seceded from the Union during the Civil War. Maryland itself was divided on the issue of slavery in the Civil War.

According to the 1860 census numbers taken before the Civil War, Maryland's population contained almost an equal number of free and enslaved African Americans. Slavery had deep roots in Southern Maryland and Eastern Shore. As described by the University of Maryland historian Ira Berlin, the "Free State" even saw cases of its own households divided, where brothers were fighting in battle on different sides of the Civil War.

Baltimore was growing into a center of trade and industry. It was populated by a mostly free workforce, with one of the largest urban populations of free Blacks in the United States, larger than in Philadelphia or New York, Professor Berlin said. And it was the political epicenter of the Maryland abolition movement, with a leading newspaper, the Baltimore American, instrumental in the push to end slavery.

But outside the city, in the vast agricultural areas of Southern Maryland and the Eastern Shore, slavery was a way of life, much as it was in the rest of the White South, where tobacco was giving way to labor-intensive crops such as cotton, rice, and sugar.

Professor Berlin goes on to say:

Southern Maryland was certainly a southern state; it is agriculture, plantations . . . in some ways it is not much different from Mississippi, both in size and in their lucrative nature. Slaveholders' determination to maintain their human property was a crucial element in the white southern culture.

Let me just go on and point out, other large swaths of Maryland, from Prince George's to Montgomery County, north to Frederick and west, were also pro-slavery, although Frederick itself was a divided community.

After the Civil War broke out, President Lincoln called for soldiers to be raised from the militias of the States in order to put down the insurrection. According to an account from the National Park Service:

These troops were to be transported to Washington, D.C., so that they might protect the Capitol. At this time, the most efficient means to transport such large numbers of men was by rail, and the only routes to Washington passed through Baltimore.

Marylanders were divided in their sympathies. While many disliked the idea of secession, they felt that it was a state's right to secede from the union if it chose to. Many also felt that Maryland should not permit troops to pass through the state to attack a sister state, and others mistrusted the President's intentions, suspecting that the troops

would be used to force Maryland to remain in the Union.

On April 19, 1861, only five days after the surrender of Fort Sumter, the situation in Baltimore exploded into violence. The 6th Massachusetts Infantry arrived at the President Street Station and began the process of changing trains. The cars were disconnected and pulled by horses down Pratt Street to Camden Station. As the process continued, a crowd gathered and with each moment it became more and more unruly. All but two of the cars had been transferred when the crowd blocked the tracks with timbers and anchors.

The two cars returned to the President Street Station and the soldiers disembarked to the howls and jeers of the mob. The troops then marched back down Pratt Street, led by a man carrying a rebel flag, and followed by the mob. At Gay Street some of the mob began tearing up paving stones and throwing them at the soldiers. Other men were seen brandishing pistols and muskets. Someone fired a shot.

The frightened officers ordered the troops to fire into the crowd. This angered the mob further, and they began to attack the soldiers with considerable ferocity. Citizens threw stones and bricks and fired shots at the soldiers. The soldiers returned the fire. Rioters, soldiers, and innocent bystanders fell dead and wounded. The Mayor bravely attempted to stop the battle without success. Then the police arrived.

[Baltimore police intervened and placed policemen] between the two groups and escorted the troops to Camden Station, where they boarded the train and left Baltimore. The Pratt Street Riot was over. The riot resulted in the first casualty list of the war. Eight rioters, one innocent bystander and three soldiers were killed, twenty four soldiers and an unknown number of civilians wounded.

The city of Baltimore was later placed under military rule, with military positions strengthened in Federal Hill and Fort McHenry. As you see, we had divided paths in our State and in Baltimore.

Maryland later very narrowly approved a constitutional amendment in 1864 which abolished slavery, by a vote of over 30,000 to just under 30,000. Soldiers voted both in person and by absentee ballot, but Marylanders supporting or fighting for the Confederacy who would not sign loyalty oaths were not permitted to vote. This amendment took effect in November of 1864, just a few months before Congress proposed the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in January of 1865, which was ratified in December of 1865.

On a holiday that celebrates our fundamental right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for all Americans, it is important to remember that those rights have not and are not always applied equally to every American. Redlining, health disparities, police brutality, and other areas of disenfranchisement are relics of our Nation's original sin and the Jim Crow laws that followed. These inequalities shape the African-American experience today.

Celebrating Juneteenth, or Freedom Day, means not only celebrating the victory but also understanding and reconciling with the hard truths. This Freedom Day comes at a time when

there have been targeted attacks on facts and truth. Censoring textbooks, banning conversations about race and gender, and misrepresenting the truth systematically sanitizes our Nation's history.

As a society, we must stand together to resist hiding from the darkest parts of our past. Confronting a difficult past and having an uncomfortable conversation allows us to better address issues of inequality head-on so we can move forward, creating a culture of inclusion and belonging.

As we join the country in recognizing the importance of this anniversary, we should also celebrate how far we have come. In my home State of Maryland, for the first time ever, the first Black Governor, the first Black attorney general, and the first Black speaker of the house are all serving at the same time. The election of Vice President KAMALA HARRIS and the appointment of Supreme Court Justice Jackson show that this country more broadly wants to see the diversity of America reflected in the highest levels of government.

Embracing diversity is in the best interest of our country. It is how we get landmark legislation like the Civil Rights Act, the Voting Rights Act, and President Biden's historic Executive order to advance effective, accountable policing and strengthen public safety.

My faith teaches me that we have a responsibility to make the world a better place. That can only be done through civility, understanding, and respecting each other. As we come together to participate in a longstanding tradition of celebrating freedom, let us also celebrate knowledge, hope, and continuing to work toward a more perfect Union and a better future for every American as promised by the preamble to our Constitution.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### TAX CONVENTION WITH CHILE

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today, the Senate is considering the Chile tax convention. This treaty has been approved by substantial bipartisan majorities in the Foreign Relations Committee in four separate Congresses and has been pending since 2012. It is past time to approve it and provide needed relief to U.S. investors and businesses in Chile.

Without ratifications, Chilean taxes on U.S. company operations in Chile will rise up to 44 percent in 2027 when the special waiver expires. Meanwhile, our competitors with Chilean operations would only pay a 35-percent rate. That includes companies with headquarters in Japan, Canada, Australia, Britain, and, of course, China.