

sufficiently support grazing infrastructure, which limits the benefit of participating for some producers.

And the annual payment limit for this program hasn't changed since it was first created in 1985. To address these issues, I introduced the Conservation Reserve Program Improvement Act, which will provide more flexibility for producers and increase the payment cap to account for increased land values. And I will work to ensure that the CRP Improvement Act is included in the final farm bill.

In addition to farmed crops, livestock production is an integral part of South Dakota's agricultural economy. And one of my top priorities for this year's farm bill is addressing some of the challenges facing South Dakota livestock producers in getting their products to Americans' tables.

The last few years have revealed some vulnerabilities in our food supply chain that had an outsized impact on agricultural and livestock producers.

Early pandemic closures, for example, of some meat processing plants led to bottlenecks in processing livestock and delays for a lot of ranchers, and this led to supply shortages and empty cases at the grocery store. Shortages caused by lack of processing capacity, not a lack of livestock. It has become clear that livestock producers need more processing options, and one way we can reduce dependence on the big packers is by expanding smaller meatpackers' capacity.

I have introduced the Strengthening Local Processing Act to help smaller processors invest in the infrastructure they need to expand. My bill would also allow more State-inspected meat products to be sold across State lines, which would open up new markets for small meat processors and the farmers and ranchers who supply them. I have also introduced legislation—the bipartisan American Beef Labeling Act—to require the U.S. Trade representative to develop a World Trade Organization-compliant means of reinstating mandatory country of origin labeling for beef.

Under our current system, beef that is neither born nor raised in the United States but is simply finished here can be labeled “product of the United States,” even if the only American thing about the beef is the plastic that it is wrapped in, if that.

That is unfair to American cattle producers and misleading to consumers, and I am pleased that USDA is working on a proposed rule to close the “product of the U.S.A.” labeling loophole.

And I will continue to work to get my American Beef Labeling Act included in the 2023 farm bill so that consumers can be confident that any beef labeled “product of the U.S.A.” really came from American cattle producers.

New practices and technologies can be game-changers for farmers, and without reliable data, it can be unclear whether these practices and technologies will have positive impact. And

that is why, earlier this year, I introduced the Agriculture Innovation Act, which would make it easier for producers and trusted researchers to use USDA data to assess the impact of various production practices, so that producers can gauge whether these practices are right for their farm or ranch operation.

And, of course, while the macrolevel data USDA collects can provide valuable information, farmers are already beginning to look to the next frontier, collecting realtime, microlevel data from their own fields.

And I have introduced the Promoting Precision Agriculture Act to help advance precision agriculture technology and to allow more farmers to take advantage of this data revolution. And because without a reliable internet connection, precision agriculture technology doesn't get very far, I am also working to ensure that my bill to streamline USDA's broadband authorities and ensure that funding goes to areas where at least 90 percent of households lack broadband access is included in this year's farm bill.

Producing the food that fills Americans' dinner tables is no easy task, and we owe the men and women who do this important work the certainty that the programs they depend on will be there for them. I hope that leaders in both houses of Congress will put passing the 2023 farm bill at the very top of our to-do list.

And I will do everything I can to advance this important legislation. And today and every day, I will continue to make farmers and ranchers my priority.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Senator from Arizona.

CHIPS ACT

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, when Congress passed the Chips and Science Act last summer, we made a promise to America that these historic investments would be felt in communities across the country—more microchip manufacturing facilities, more high-paying jobs that do not require a four-year degree, lower costs, a stronger supply chain, and a stronger economy.

Since the CHIPS Act became law, companies have announced plans to invest hundreds of billions of dollars to bring microchip manufacturing back to America, including in Arizona.

But here is the problem: As currently implemented, when these projects receive incentives through the CHIPS Act, they are subject to a new Federal review under a process called NEPA. This includes projects that have already received the necessary State and Federal environmental permits and are already under construction.

So factories that are being built right now in places like Phoenix could be forced to pause construction and undergo a redundant Federal review. And that just doesn't work.

So, this week, along with my colleagues, Senators YOUNG, BROWN, and

HAGERTY, I introduced the Building Chips in America Act. And this bill would speed up the construction of projects supported by the CHIPS Act by streamlining Federal permitting reviews and keeping in place bedrock environmental protections for clean air and clean water.

To do this, the bill designates the Department of Commerce as the lead agency to carry out NEPA reviews for any CHIPS Act project. It also clarifies that certain projects, certain chips projects like those already under development with necessary permits, are not major Federal actions and, therefore, are not subject to a NEPA review.

These measures would—would—prevent costly delays for projects, and right now, we have an opportunity to maximize the impact of the CHIPS Act for our economy and for our national security. Plans already underway that have received the necessary permits should not have to face extra hurdles.

So let's cut the redtape, and let's start reaping the benefits of our historic CHIPS Act.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VOTE ON KOTAGAL NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kotagal nomination?

Mr. KELLY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) would have voted “nay,” and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) would have voted “nay.”

The result was announced—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 184 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Casey	Heinrich
Bennet	Coons	Hickenlooper
Blumenthal	Cortez Masto	Hirono
Booker	Duckworth	Kaine
Brown	Durbin	Kelly
Cantwell	Feinstein	King
Cardin	Gillibrand	Klobuchar
Carper	Hassan	Luján

Markey	Rosen	Van Hollen
Menendez	Sanders	Warner
Merkley	Schatz	Warnock
Murphy	Schumer	Warren
Murray	Shaheen	Welch
Ossoff	Sinema	Whitehouse
Padilla	Smith	Wyden
Peters	Stabenow	
Reed	Tester	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hoeven	Romney
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Rubio
Cassidy	Kennedy	Schmitt
Collins	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lummis	Sullivan
Cramer	Manchin	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—4

Blackburn	Hawley
Fetterman	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 141, David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Charles E. Schumer, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sherrod Brown, Jack Reed, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeff Merkley, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher Murphy, Patty Murray, Tammy Duckworth, Margaret Wood Hassan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the

Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) would have voted "nay" and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 185 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Markey	Stabenow
Collins	Menendez	Tester
Coons	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Braun	Hoeven	Romney
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Budd	Johnson	Rubio
Capito	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lummis	Sullivan
Crapo	Manchin	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Mullin	Young
Graham	Paul	

NOT VOTING—5

Blackburn	Fetterman	Vance
Cassidy	Hawley	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The yeas are 51, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 119, S. 2226.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 119, S. 2226, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 119, S. 2226, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jack Reed, Patty Murray, Gary C. Peters, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jon Ossoff, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Chris Van Hollen, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Mark Kelly, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz, Mark R. Warner, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, July 13, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

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

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we proceed to the previously scheduled 1:45 p.m. vote now.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the