

are biosimilars that are out there that will bring down the price if they are allowed to get to market. So let's make sure they can actually get to market and get down the price.

Let's protect the ability for rural, independent pharmacies to still take care of their patients. Those are their neighbors. They care about them, and they want to make sure they can still be there to be able to care for those folks.

We have work to do. I am glad the Senate is finally taking this up. I have been working on this for years. This is an area we need to address.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

REMEMBERING STUART EPPERSON, SR.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I would like to take a few moments to remember the life and the legacy of Stuart Epperson, Sr., who passed away this week.

Stu was a native of Winston-Salem, NC, and he was a giant in the world of Christian broadcasting.

In 1972, he cofounded Salem Communications and then expanded it to include Christian radio stations across the country. He served on the board of directors of the National Religious Broadcasters Association, and he was named one of the 25 most influential evangelicals in America by Time magazine in 2005.

He dedicated his life to sharing the good news of Jesus Christ to as many people as possible, whether it be through the mediums of mass communication or in person or as a father to the fatherless in tough neighborhoods. He was a pioneer, an innovator.

He was a dear friend to our family. We share our deepest condolences with his wife Nancy, his family, and his friends. He will be dearly missed. But because of his family's faithful Christian witness to our family, I personally look forward to seeing Big Stu again in Heaven.

CAMP LEJEUNE JUSTICE ACT

Mr. President, as my colleagues know so well, as Federal officials, one of the primary duties of our offices is to serve millions of constituents when they interface with the Federal Government.

As for North Carolina, my constituents include one of our country's largest population of Active-Duty military members and veterans, including those who serve at Camp Lejeune.

As we know, between 1953 and 1987, veterans who served at Camp Lejeune were exposed to toxic water. These men and women are now experiencing various health challenges, ranging from deadly cancers to Parkinson's disease.

In order to help, I was proud to support the PACT Act, which included the Camp Lejeune Justice Act. The bill was signed into law last year and allows veterans who are suffering to receive damages and to become eligible for VA care. However, after nearly a year, not a single claim has been processed.

On May 3, one struggling veteran wrote me this handwritten letter. In it, he describes the toll that these delays are taking on older veterans who are nearing the end of their lives.

He writes:

I'm certain obituaries posted in local newspapers across the country [now include] marines or family members who lived on Camp Lejeune, drank its water, bathed and cooked using it, who have died from its use.

This man is one of the over 70,000 veterans in North Carolina and across the country who are waiting for action.

It is unacceptable that the Navy and the DOJ have failed to process any of these claims and have failed to deliver a plan or a strategy for doing so. That is why several of my Senate and House colleagues and I demanded an explanation from the Secretary of the Navy and the Department of Justice. The Navy's response to our letter was wholly inadequate. It failed to answer critical questions and also failed to provide a timeline for responding to these veterans' claims.

Each and every one of our veterans deserves to be treated with the dignity and respect befitting their service to this Nation. When they face health challenges related to their service at facilities like Camp Lejeune, their claims must be dealt with properly and completely.

The Navy and the DOJ have a responsibility to act, and I am calling on these Departments to do so now.

I will continue to advocate for those who served at Camp Lejeune until they receive the care and the respect they deserve.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, before we begin, I would like to thank Paige Rodrigues, who first came to my office 5 years ago and has been working tirelessly over all of that time, working to protect the people of Massachusetts and the people of our country and our entire planet from the effects of climate change and environmental threats to our country and to our planet.

She is heading off to law school, and we will miss her. We will miss her brilliant work and her continual devotion to building a better world for everyone, because this world is under immediate threat.

Earlier this month, we experienced what might have been Earth's hottest day in 125,000 years. You heard that right: the hottest day in 125,000 years. And we are living through it right now. In Phoenix, AZ, the temperature has been 110 degrees or higher for nearly 3 weeks in a row.

The water off of the coast of Florida is now nearing 100 degrees. The water is boiling in our oceans off of our coastlines.

On July 15, nearly one in three Americans was living under an extreme heat alert. We are living under a heat dome right now in our Nation.

The forest fires in Canada are sending fumes down across our country. It is like an exhaust pipe from an automobile just sending these toxic fumes down across our country day after day, week after week, from Canada, from their forest fires right above us.

This year, we have experienced 17 of the hottest days ever recorded. This is nothing short of a public health crisis in our country. Extreme heat causes heat stroke, pregnancy risk, and thousands of hospitalizations and deaths every year in our country. And this extreme heat isn't a coincidence; it is the climate crisis announcing its arrival.

We did this. We did this to ourselves. Humankind's greed and negligence—America's greed and negligence—is creating a literal hell on Earth, right now. We are living through it. We took a first step last year to pass climate and clean energy legislation that will inch us closer to salvation, but it will not save us. We must take bolder action to stop the climate crisis and secure a livable future, and we also need to act with urgency to protect the people who, right now, face extreme heat risk as a result of extreme heat in our country.

We have a moral and a planetary obligation to the American people to deliver the resources communities need to combat extreme heat, especially the frontline communities where the effects of heat are worsened by unjust racial and economic divides.

We have to listen to the young people in our country. They are warning us. They are saying that they have been let down, that their generation has been left with this crisis, that not enough has been done, and that the preceding generation just enjoyed all the benefits of industrialization. And now this generation of young people who are organizing, who are lifting their voices, who are demanding a change, they understand this issue. They understand this issue better than preceding generations because they are living with the consequences of not dealing with this issue.

This generation—this young generation—are the issues-oriented generation. They are the ones who understand this issue. They are the ones who understand the problem and want even greater solutions to be put in place.

I am working with my colleagues to reintroduce my legislation, the Preventing HEAT Illness and Deaths Act, which will do just that, while giving our Federal Government the resources and the authority to track and to study and to alert Americans of all the threats posed by extreme heat.

We must meet this public health crisis with the urgency that it requires. Workers are collapsing. Wildfires are raging. And this heat isn't going anywhere. The summers are getting hotter. The storms are getting stronger. The seas are rising higher due to human-caused climate change.

In Arizona, Texas, California, Nevada, and all around the country, people are dying every single day because

of this heat, and the risks of extreme heat having fallen more heavily on low-income communities and communities of color, as well as on our seniors and children in our Nation.

While most heat-related deaths and illnesses are preventable through outreach and intervention, extreme heat events have been the leading cause of weather-related deaths in the United States over the past 30 years. And our historic addiction to fossil fuels is what is driving all of this devastation.

So let's think about this, like a doctor would. We can name the source of this public health catastrophe: extreme heat. We know what drives the extreme heat: fossil fuels. And we know how to cure it: climate action now.

Our planet is sick. Our country is sick. Our country is running a fever right now. And there are no emergency rooms for countries. We have to engage in preventive care. We know how to cure this. It is climate action now. And if we don't, because our country is sick, because our planet is sick, it is killing us along with that planet being slowly but surely burnt to a crisp.

This is why, earlier this year, I introduced the Green New Deal for Health, a national treatment plan to build a healthcare system that delivers the care people need in a dangerous world.

The Green New Deal for Health brings together the principles of the Green New Deal—good-paying jobs, justice for all, and a livable future—to create a healthcare system where everyone doesn't just survive; they thrive.

The sirens are sounding. We are in a climate emergency, and Congress should be the first responders, not holding the matches that continue to exacerbate this crisis. A whole-of-government response is the only way to fight this whole-of-planet threat: climate action that breaks our fossil fuel addiction, a stronger healthcare system that works for workers and patients, and a commitment to a livable future.

That is where we are. This is an emergency. This heat is a warning. But it is no longer a warning of the future. It is a warning that right now we are living with the consequences of the future. It is a warning that right now we are living with the consequences of our inaction.

So my hope is that this institution can respond. Young people are demanding that we respond. We should listen to the young people of our country and the planet. We have to do more.

I see my good friend and the leader of the Environment Committee, TOM CARPER, who did just so much last year to pass historic legislation to deal with methane and its impact and to deal with the need for us to move to wind and solar and all-electric vehicles and battery technologies. I can't thank Chairman CARPER enough for all of his incredible leadership to make sure that we took that first huge step. But so much more needs to be done.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

NOMINATION OF DAVID M. UHLMANN

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, while the Senator from Massachusetts is still on the floor, he and I have been friends for, gosh, 35 years. We served together in the House. We used to travel all over Latin America and South America during the contra war. We are still friends and compadres today in a different war—a war to save our planet and to make sure that we do that and that we provide a lot of jobs and economic opportunity.

I am here to talk about the nomination of David Uhlmann to serve as Assistant Administrator. But before I do that, let me say that, among the most important things that we are working on—it is not legislation, but it is legislation that we have already passed. And it is the climate provisions that are part of the bipartisan infrastructure bill that we adopted and the President signed a year ago. And there are climate provisions there that are enormously important, and we want to make sure that that legislation is fully enacted. Part of that is the responsibility of the administration, but it is the chair's responsibility. So that is hugely important.

The other thing that is hugely important is the implementation of the Inflation Reduction Act, which has extraordinary provisions that deal with climate change, sea level, and all.

So it is not enough just to introduce legislation. It is not enough to enact legislation. We have to make sure it is implemented, and that is what our responsibilities and our oversight responsibilities include.

Having said that, I want to rise today in support of the nomination of David Uhlmann to serve as Assistant Administrator for the EPA's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance.

Over the last 6 years, some of our greatest achievements—some of Congress's greatest achievements—have been passed in a series of bedrock environmental laws. I just mentioned a couple of them a minute ago. They are laws that have revolutionized how to protect our natural environment and our people—people who live in this country and around the world—from the dangers of pollution.

These laws, such as the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act—also known as CERCLA—have made the air that we breathe cleaner, the water that we drink safer, and the lands that we live on healthier. And in the process, we have revolutionized ecosystems, we have improved the living conditions of entire communities throughout this country, and we have saved countless of lives.

However, these indispensable life-saving environmental laws are only as effective, as I have mentioned, as our ability to enforce them and to make

sure that they are complied with. And in the years immediately before President Biden took office, enforcement of our environmental laws had been dramatically undermined.

According to the data from EPA, between 2018 and, I think, 2021, environmental enforcement and compliance actions had fallen to half of what they had been during the Bush and the Obama administrations. This lack of enforcement presented a threat to public health and a threat to the well-being of our environment, potentially letting many big polluters off the hook after violating some of the fundamental bedrock and environmental laws.

That is why I am so pleased the Senate is again taking up the nomination of David Uhlmann to serve as the EPA's top enforcement officer, leading the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance. There has not been a Senate-confirmed official leading the EPA's enforcement efforts for far too long.

As I said before, Mr. Uhlmann is exceptionally qualified to do this job. He brings to this position a long career that includes 17 years with the Department of Justice, serving in both Democratic and Republican administrations.

Let me say that again: a 17-year career with the Department of Justice, serving in both Democrat and Republican administrations.

During seven of those years served, Mr. Uhlmann served as the Chief of the Department of Justice's Environmental Crimes Section. In addition, Mr. Uhlmann's nomination is supported by five former EPA Administrators, including three who served under Republican administrations.

I am going to say that again. Mr. Uhlmann's nomination has earned the support of five former EPA Administrators, including three who served under Republican administrations: William Reilly, Lee Thomas, and Christine Todd Whitman.

His nomination also earned the support of dozens of other former senior EPA and DOJ officials—some from Democratic administrations, others from Republican administrations, and some from career officials.

In the words of former Deputy Attorney General for President George W. Bush, Larry Thomson, this what he had to say about David Uhlmann:

David is a top-notch environmental lawyer and an outstanding leader with unsurpassed integrity, compassion, and commitment to fairness.

I wish that we could say that about all of us. Those are high words of praise. In fact, Mr. Uhlmann received bipartisan support from the majority of this body nearly 1 year ago when we voted to discharge his nomination from the Environment and Public Works Committee.

Let me close by saying that I am confident that David Uhlmann will make an outstanding—an outstanding—Assistant Administrator for