

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

Enforcement and Compliance Assurance at EPA. I am eager to see him confirmed. I encourage my colleagues to join us in supporting his nomination.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON UHLMANN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Uhlmann nomination?

Mr. CARDIN. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO.)

The result was announced — yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 193 Ex.]

YEAS—53

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

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—1

Barrasso

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024—RESUMED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session for the consideration of S. 2226, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2226) 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.

Pending:

Schumer (for Reed/Wicker) Amendment No. 935, in the nature of a substitute.

Schumer Amendment No. 936 (to Amendment No. 935), to add an effective date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for up to 6 minutes of debate prior to the rollcall vote.

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

AMENDMENT NO. 926

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 926 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Texas [Mr. CRUZ], for himself and others, proposes an amendment numbered 926.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To prohibit the export or sale of petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to certain entities)

At the appropriate place in subtitle D of title XXXI, insert the following:

SEC. 31. PROHIBITION ON SALES OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE TO CERTAIN COUNTRIES.

(a) PROHIBITIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, unless a waiver has been issued under subsection (b), the Secretary of Energy shall not draw down and sell petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve—

(1) to any entity that is under the ownership or control of the Chinese Communist Party, the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or the Islamic Republic of Iran; or

(2) except on the condition that such petroleum products will not be exported to the People's Republic of China, the Russian Federation, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or the Islamic Republic of Iran.

(b) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On application by a bidder, the Secretary of Energy may waive, prior to the date of the applicable auction, the prohibitions described in subsection (a) with respect to the sale of crude oil to that bidder at that auction.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary of Energy may issue a waiver under this subsection only if the Secretary determines that the waiver is in the interest of the national security of the United States.

(3) APPLICATIONS.—A bidder seeking a waiver under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary of Energy an application by such date, in such form, and containing such information as the Secretary of Energy may require.

(4) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 15 days after issuing a waiver under this subsection, the Secretary of Energy shall provide a copy of the waiver to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I want to say a few words in support of this bipartisan bill. This is a Cruz-Manchin-Ernst-Fetterman bill, which demonstrates the breadth of agreement we can have in this body.

This amendment would prevent the sale of our Nation's emergency crude oil stockpile, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, to four countries that are unequivocally U.S. adversaries.

We know that China has been amassing the largest stockpile of crude in the world. At the same time, our own reserves have fallen to only 347 million barrels—the lowest since 1983.

Last year, the United States sold off part of our reserves to China. One would think that existing law would prevent this, but that isn't yet the case.

For some time now, Senator MANCHIN and I have been working together to try to fix this issue. Our amendment prevents the Federal Government from selling oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to China, to Russia, to Iran, or to North Korea and their related entities, while giving the Department of Energy flexibility to waive these restrictions in the event doing so serves our national security interests.

I want to thank Senator MANCHIN for working closely with me on this amendment and also Senators ERNST and FETTERMAN.

I also want to note briefly—I know there are some Members of this body who believe we should ban all oil sales overseas. I would note that doing so would be spectacularly harmful not only to U.S. interests, but it would also hurt our friends and allies. It would hurt Ukraine, it would hurt Europe, and it would benefit our enemies, including Russia, to force our friends to have to purchase oil from Russia.

I urge adoption of the amendment.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I rise to oppose this amendment, and I want to tell my colleagues why.

This amendment creates the illusion of solving our problem, while having very little political impact and likely doing more harm than good.

It is a legitimate worry to consider the amount of U.S. oil under our lands that goes and is shipped to China because in 2022, the United States did export over 83 million barrels of oil to China. That was a new record. It was a new record in part because 10 years ago, we didn't ship any oil overseas because we had a national security policy to keep U.S. oil here. But lobbying by the oil industry changed that policy, and so today, we are sending 83 million barrels of oil a year to China.

This amendment doesn't really change that because—do you want to know how much of that comes from the SPR? Less than 2 million barrels, 1 to 2 percent. So you are still going to have 80 million-plus barrels of oil from the private sector being sent to China every year.