

speech. Being a libertarian does not mean being an anarchist, and I would suggest there is a role for government rules and regulations that are liberty enhancing and choice enhancing, and that is what this choice is.

The Senator from Kentucky said: Well, consumers could just choose to turn on the AM radio.

Well, no, they can't, if you have eight automakers working in concert to take that choice away from them. This is all about giving them that choice.

Secondly, I would say, the Senator from Kentucky suggested consumers would pay more.

Mr. President, the status quo is AM radio is in the cars and trucks right now, and it is not just electric vehicles the carmakers are pulling it from. It is every vehicle including internal combustion vehicles. This is about stripping consumer choice and killing AM radio.

I hope the majority leader will schedule this bill for a vote because, if he did, it would pass with an overwhelming vote on the floor of the Senate. And I hope the Senator from Kentucky will reconsider because this bill would have passed today, were it not for two words from the Senator of Kentucky: "I object." That is the only reason this bill has not passed today.

I yield to Senator LUJAN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. LUJAN. Mr. President, I want to express thanks for the leadership of my colleagues from Texas and Massachusetts and for the work they have done in this space, bringing more and more attention to something that doesn't impact our daily lives until we need it most, when there is often an emergency, as there was in New Mexico about 2 years ago, when the world's attention was on our beautiful State and we suffered the worst fires in our State's history.

Now, these were forest fires that received so much attention in our State because they were started by the Federal Government. How, you might ask. These were prescribed burns that went out of control.

Now, when cell phones were not working, when other methods of media were not able to connect because powerlines were going down, it was one local radio station, KNMX, an AM station in Las Vegas, NM, that was streaming more and more news to volunteers coming in on their time off, radio personalities ensuring that people would know what was happening because they were being told to evacuate from their homes, folks driving home from work in rural areas. As Senator CRUZ points out, when there is no news connectivity, no other information coming in, we depend on AM radio.

I just don't understand why there is opposition to this. I was hoping Senator CRUZ and Senator MARKEY and I could come to the floor today to celebrate the passing of this important legislation, not to sit and listen to that objection.

Just to point this out, in local news reporting, predominantly through AM radio, and in New Mexico because of the fires, we heard from the FEMA Administrator—from Administrator Criswell—who said "AM radio is one of the most dependable ways that we can reach individuals across this country to get warnings out there."

We saw this play out firsthand in New Mexico, and, as we have been reminded, this is not just a challenge in my State or in Texas or in Massachusetts but in every one of the 50 States across the country. The Federal Government should be doing more to make it easier for Americans to access potentially lifesaving emergency broadcasts—plain and simple.

With natural disasters happening every day in every State, I wanted to clarify a few points, some of which I heard today.

One, I heard a claim that the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act will force manufacturers of electric vehicles to completely redesign the drivetrain. I heard a little bit about that today.

Here are the facts. The fact is that car companies have already solved this engineering challenge. We have already heard of the number of companies that have come forward. With the 20 letters that Senator MARKEY sent out, 10 companies responded—Honda, Hyundai, Land Rover, Kia, Lucid, Mitsubishi, Nissan, Stellantis, Subaru, and Toyota—that they already figured this out. Brilliant engineers at those companies figured this out.

Some of the folks who are objecting to this are flying rocket ships and, I would argue, have some of the most talented engineers in the world working for them. Challenge them to solve this challenge, as the other 10 companies have. Sometimes, it just means insulating some cable a little bit more, not because it impacts the vehicle but because there might be a little bit of static coming in.

I would rather have a little static and receive the lifesaving information than not even have access to it.

I have heard that the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act would increase costs for new vehicles by thousands and thousands of dollars by these vehicles. Well, again, 10 companies have already figured this out, and they are making it happen.

But here is the concern that I have. I see access to AM radio as a lifesaving feature—important information that we all depend on. I had heard that seatbelts would be too costly when that was being put forth as a requirement in vehicles to help save people's lives. When there was a conversation about airbags saving people's lives, I heard and I read that it was too expensive, that that shouldn't happen. We don't need airbags in vehicles.

When we were all debating about the inclusion of backup cameras to prevent the deaths of little kids in cars, there were many who were saying: Oh, it is too expensive. It cannot be done.

I am very concerned that when it comes to moving this technology forward that the same tired excuses are brought forward. This body has a chance to be able to get this done, and I hope that we can see something put on the floor here soon because more and more vehicles getting on the road without AM radio are jeopardizing the lives and safety of our constituents.

The last thing I will say is this—and this is about a conversation with a small radio owner in New Mexico, out of Sante Fe, at KSWV. I was speaking to him before I came down, and he was reminding me about the core physics of electromagnetic spectrum around AM, and the Presiding Officer touched on this. It is everywhere. As a matter of fact, KOB—a station in Albuquerque, NM—touches a little more than half the State with their broadcasts.

It is pretty incredible what this spectrum can deliver in our communities. We should maximize the reach of emergency alerts over AM radio and wireless networks. The physics and the electromagnetics of this are plain and simple, and that is why I certainly hope that we can get this done.

To the Senator from Texas, I have so much more to offer, and I was going to offer it in the RECORD because the argument is strong; it is compelling. We have got to get this done. I certainly hope that we will see some floor time and get this done because it could mean someone's life in our communities after not getting the information they need to get out of their community or out of their home because a tornado or a hurricane or a fire is on them.

No more excuses. Let's get it done.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARKEY). 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 Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 144, Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Debbie Stabenow, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth.

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 Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a

Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 63, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 329 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Romney
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rounds
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Butler	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cantwell	Lujan	Shaheen
Cardin	Manchin	Sinema
Carper	Markey	Smith
Casey	McConnell	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cornyn	Merkley	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Moran	Van Hollen
Crapo	Murkowski	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Graham	Peters	Wicker
Hassan	Reed	Wyden
Heinrich	Risch	Young

NAYS—37

Barrasso	Ernst	Mullin
Blackburn	Fischer	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Rubio
Britt	Hawley	Schmitt
Budd	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Johnson	Sullivan
Collins	Kennedy	Thune
Cotton	Lankford	Tuberville
Cramer	Lee	Vance
Cruz	Lummis	
Daines	Marshall	

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 63, the nays are 37, and the motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 352.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Richard E.N. Federico, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

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. 352, Richard E.N. Federico, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Alex Padilla, Richard Blumenthal, Cory A. Booker, Benjamin L. Cardin, Chris Van Hollen, Tammy Duckworth, Brian Schatz, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Mazie Hirono, Christopher Murphy, Peter Welch, Christopher A. Coons.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call for the cloture motion filed today, December 5, be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session to be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING GARY PETERSEN

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I rise today to pay one final tribute to Gary Petersen, a close friend and devoted public servant who recently passed away. Gary's devotion to the Tri-Cities was unparalleled, with his work covering everything from our national security, to environmental cleanup, to the growing and evolving missions of the Hanford Site and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory—PNNL—in my home State of Washington.

This certainly isn't the first time I have spoken in honor of Gary. He was a Washingtonian through and through, raised in Okanogan County before serving in the military and eventually attending my alma mater, Washington State University. He went on to work for more than five decades in the Tri-Cities before retiring in 2017, and over the years, I had the great pleasure of working with Gary time and time again.

In 1965, Gary landed his first job out of college at Battelle, and he couldn't have had better timing—Battelle had just won a contract to operate a major research and development laboratory at the Hanford Site, which is now

known as PNNL. Gary was truly in on the ground floor, working in communications and handling other tasks including leading tours of the Hanford Site, which eventually became his specialty. Whether he was showing around new employees, elected officials, or foreign dignitaries, Gary gave a tour of the sprawling 580-square-mile site that is still unsurpassed.

Afterward, Gary briefly worked in Nevada for the Department of Energy's—DOE—predecessor—the Atomic Energy Commission—before returning to Washington to work for Westinghouse on the new Fast Flux Test Facility project. Gary further honed his nuclear expertise later working for the Washington Public Power Supply System, which is now Energy Northwest. He went on to rejoin Battelle to work at PNNL, eventually working on key international nuclear safety programs established following the Chernobyl disaster. Eventually, Gary was recruited to volunteer on a part-time basis at the Tri-City Development Council. In true Gary fashion, this quickly became a full-time commitment and he spent the rest of his career advocating on behalf of the Tri-Cities—in Washington, DC, Olympia, and everywhere in between until his retirement in 2017.

One project that Gary spearheaded before his retirement resulted in DOE returning 1,614 acres of unused Hanford land just north of Richland to the Tri-Cities for economic development. His advocacy—whether it was for small local businesses, historical preservation efforts, or Washington State interests in the Columbia River Treaty—was unmatched. And the impact of his work has only become more evident in the last few years: The progress on Hanford cleanup, the preservation of Hanford's B reactor, the expansion of workforce safety programs at the Hanford Site, and the Tri-Cities' growing role in the clean energy future are all tied to Gary's decades of effort.

Gary was always quick with a story and a smile. He loved to share the account of how Hanford came to be, from the beginning with Colonel Franklin Matthias selecting a location north of Richland for the Manhattan Project's plutonium plant, to the site's growth to meet our country's needs during the Cold War, to the Hanford cleanup mission today. He would explain how Hanford's growth transformed Richland and the Tri-Cities, shaping everything from the region's architecture to the day-to-day life of its residents. He loved getting into the nitty-gritty of the Federal budgeting and the appropriations process and thrilled at telling anyone who would listen about the six research alligators that were at one point kept at the Hanford Site and escaped in the middle of a storm—five of them safely returned and one proudly displayed at a sports shop in downtown Richland for years. Through it all, Gary was as committed and passionate as they come. It is no wonder that