

team accountable, and the results were incredible.

His signature CitiStat and StateStat initiatives are widely cited as a model for data-driven government efficiency and effectiveness and won Baltimore the Innovations in Government Award from the Harvard Kennedy School in 2004.

Former Maryland Senator Mikulski said at his confirmation hearing this fall:

The hard-working men and women of the Social Security Administration need a strong, confirmed operational leader and the American people need a Social Security Administrator that works for them. . . . Martin O'Malley would provide the leadership and the management skills to do that. . . . He has a knack for organization, understanding the new technology and how to use technology to be data driven. . . . Governor O'Malley is not a big government guy. He's a smart government guy. He believes you use modern management tools to organize a workforce around a mission, measurable objectives, and also stay within the budget.

For the nearly 60,000 employees of the Social Security Administration nationwide, including about 12,000 in Maryland at the Woodlawn headquarters in Baltimore, I am confident that Martin O'Malley will honor their service to the American people and that he will lead the SSA with respect and support for a strong union workforce.

The Governor said at his confirmation hearing:

As mayor, I learned there is no Democratic or Republican way to fill a pothole. And as a governor, I learned that the biggest and toughest challenges can only be tackled with some degree of bipartisan consensus and cooperation. But as both a mayor and a governor, I developed a discipline . . . for harnessing data and information technologies in ways that got the best out of large, siloed organizations of people that many inside and outside of government thought were too unwieldy, too slow, or too steeped in excuses to change.

Governor O'Malley continued:

There are two people that are going to be forefront in my mind. . . . How is the customer being served? And directly related to that, what is the experience of the front-line worker? . . . We need to understand what's happening where, whether we're on track or not, who's doing it well, and who's not doing it well. When people are actually listened to, when their word is respected, when their experiences [are] respected, and we create a winnable game, it has been my experience, as it was in Baltimore, that people rise to the occasion. . . . Small things done well make bigger things possible.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote in favor of Martin O'Malley to be our next Social Security Administrator.

COP28

Madam President, last week, I had the opportunity to lead a congressional delegation, a bipartisan Senate delegation, to the COP28 climate meetings in Dubai, UAE. It was my fifth COP delegation of Senators that I have led at the annual meetings. I was joined by Senator CARPER, Senator WHITEHOUSE, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator COONS, Senator MARKEY, and Senator SCHATZ.

This was special. Over 2½ days, we participated in over 50 meetings, engaging our colleagues from around the globe, showing U.S. leadership, and keeping us on track to accomplish what we set out to do at the beginning of this meeting.

The first point I think we all urged was that there is the urgency of the moment. We are beyond the crisis. Predictions that were made 30 years ago have now come true about severe weather events. We talked about category 5 tropical storms 30 years ago coming at regular frequency. That is now a reality as a result of climate change. We talked about wildfires, and we saw wildfires in Canada darken the skies from Boston to Baltimore. We talked about floods and droughts and the effect they would have on our food security. That is now a reality as a result of climate change and our inability to do what we should have done decades ago.

It is not too late to save the world, and COP28 was a real opportunity for us to reflect on where we have been and what we have to do.

I underscored, as my colleagues did, the U.S. leadership in this global challenge. We are proud of what we have done in the United States, and we are so proud of the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act. That was the largest single contribution in America's history—I would say in global history—to deal with the global crisis.

The impact was dramatic in energizing not just the governmental sector but the private sector to transition to a new type of an economy that recognizes that we have to reduce and eliminate carbon emissions, that we have to adapt to the reality of what we have let happen. But, importantly, we need to reverse what is happening and make sure we stay on target.

A lot is mentioned about what type of financial assistance we have given to the global effort. After all, we are a developed nation. We have used our resources historically maybe not in the best way for our environment in dealing with carbon emissions. We are asking the developing world to do things differently than we did, which could be interpreted as affecting their economic opportunity. Quite frankly, by investing in renewable energy sources, investing in clean energy, and investing in adaptation, the developing world will actually have a stronger economy and a stronger economic future, but they need our help.

So, yes, there is a lot of attention to the Green Climate Fund and to the new loss and damage funds that are being created, but our delegation stressed in Dubai what America and this Congress have already done—the assistance we have given under USAID, the assistance we have given under our Development Finance Corporation, the assistance we have given under the Millennium Challenge Corporation. You add all those up for the past 2 years alone, and we have exceeded \$8½ billion—that

is with a “b”—in assistance, mainly to the Global South but to the developing world, in order to invest in renewable energy sources, in order to be able to transition to a greener economy.

The best thing about the way the United States does its development assistance, we do it in a way that does not hold countries hostage to debt and gives them the types of economic partnerships that are necessary for their economic future. But we need to do more.

The message in Dubai is that in Paris in 2015, we committed to hold the warming of our climate to no greater than 1.5 degrees. We have to do that. Are we on target to reach that 1.5? The answer is no. We have to do more so that we can reach the 1.5 target.

Yes, I am optimistic by the results of our COP28 meetings that we are moving in the right direction. The first thing we did was an assessment—an honest assessment—as to whether we are on track for 1.5, and the answer was no and that every country needs to do more. We need to redouble our efforts. We need to fill the gaps. We need to transition off of fossil fuels. I was pleased that at the end, we were able to get language included that made it clear we are transitioning off of fossil fuels for our energy needs because that is going to be absolutely essential for us to meet the 1.5 goal.

I want to compliment Secretary Kerry, the head of our U.S. delegation, for the work he did on behalf of our Nation.

Let me just tell you some of the specifics we were able to get done in Dubai. Madam President, 49 oil and gas companies agreed to slash methane emissions by 2030, 124 countries signed a declaration on the connection between health and climate change, and 134 countries representing 75 percent of all food-based greenhouse gas emissions will now include food in their climate targets. The United States, along with 130 countries, agreed to triple renewable energy capacity and double energy efficiency by 2030. If that wasn't impressive enough, the United States and 20 other nations pledged to triple nuclear energy production by 2050.

These are the kinds of advances that seemed out of reach just a few years ago, and they come on the heels of progress we have made here at home. In recent years, the United States has enacted not only clean energy investment to reduce emission, we ratified the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocols to reduce harmful chemicals in the atmosphere. The list goes on and on and on.

Let me make it clear. We have to do more. We are in crisis. But I was encouraged, as the global community gathered in Dubai, with U.S. leadership. There was a renewed commitment that we all need to work together to save our planet for future generations.

One of those key players in our delegation, who has led the fight in regard to the need for us to recognize that we

have to get off of a carbon economy and who has proposed legislation here and has worked with the international community to do that, is Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE. He has been a real champion on all those issues. He was a key member of our delegation in Dubai. I am pleased to see that he is on the floor.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, well, first of all, congratulations to Chairman CARDIN for his fifth COP delegation that he led. I have been on all five of them, and I am really grateful that he has organized them and organized them well.

A couple of topics on this one: Going in, we had acquired from the UNFCCC the requirement that people showing up would have to disclose their fossil fuel affiliations—like who are you really working for, if you have come to the COP—and we have worked since then with the environmental community to put some real teeth into that disclosure so that you actually know what the questions are and you have to answer them, and you can't just send it to the PR department and get a bit of fluff to file. We have sent that in to Professor RASKIN, who is the intermediary on the subject of transparency with the UNFCCC.

So we didn't get it done for this one, and this one was swarming with lobbyists and undisclosed mischief makers. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, for instance, was present. We know, particularly in this building, that they are constantly up to no good. But we are hoping that, by the next COP, there will be far better transparency and people who are actively working to defeat climate legislation, to defeat climate progress have to disclose that they are up to that. They can still come, but everybody needs to know what jersey they are wearing.

The other thing that happened was that the nations of the world agreed that we are going to transition away from fossil fuels. For many of us, that seemed pretty obvious going in. So I am not too excited about that. But what is good about it is that every country signed off on it, like Saudi Arabia. Countries that have long been part of the fossil fuel kleptocracy apparatus had to go along with this.

So while the standard may not be all that exciting—everybody knew going in we are transitioning away from fossil fuel, for Pete's sake—the unanimity is new, and I give John Kerry a lot of credit for being extremely patient and determined to hold through all that and at least move the worst performers, the worst nations, to catch up with everybody else who already knew that transitioning away from fossil fuels is necessary.

There was some good work done on methane. There were international efforts to focus on methane and, particularly, methane leaks, and that is going

to be good because working with what we are doing in the United States on methane—the methane regulation that just passed out of EPA; the methane fee that was brought into the IRA with the good work of Chairman CARPER; the methane task force that the Biden administration has stood up to spot methane leaks from satellites and go right at them the way a fire department would and make sure they are put out, they are snuffed out, they are stopped, and moved quickly—you put that together with an international package, and you can begin to make a real dent in methane emissions.

And methane emissions are less dangerous than carbon dioxide because they don't last as long, but they are immensely powerful while they are in the atmosphere. So they are really dangerous in the short run, and knocking them out in the short run will be a good outcome.

The last thing I will say is that we talked a lot about the CBAM, or the carbon border adjustment mechanism, while we were there. The European Union has passed a CBAM that will tariff goods that are imported into the EU from more carbon-intensive countries, including us and including China and including Russia and including everybody in the world.

And, to my mind, that EU CBAM is the most promising emissions reduction strategy anywhere—arguably, even more than these COPs. It is a big, big deal. And one of the things we heard from our EU folks is that they are not budging. No matter what pressure is put on them, they are not budging. They are not going to give exceptions. They are not going to give waivers. They are not going to let people weasel out. They are going to stick to their guns and make sure that their proposal goes forward. And I encourage that because I think, as soon as they are really locked down and everybody knows it, others will begin to join.

And guess what today's news is? The UK is officially joining the EU CBAM. Now, those two big economies are joined, and they will not have to pay internal tariffs to each other. And, as my friend Philip Dunne, the conservative MP who leads the Environmental Audit Committee of Parliament, said, their version of the UK CBAM will “keep the U.K. at the forefront of the group of leading economies . . . introducing comprehensive and effective measures to tackle global emissions while promoting growth.”

The EU is in, rock solid, not budging. The UK is joining. Now it is time for the United States to step up and join the carbon border tariff policies that are probably our very best step to avert the horrors of uncontrolled climate chaos.

With that, let me yield the floor back and, again, thank Chairman CARDIN for his leadership of this very busy and hard-working delegation.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, let me just underscore Senator WHITEHOUSE's role in the CBAM that he has talked about, because that sets up a level playing field on carbon—the real price of carbon—so we are not at a competitive disadvantage. We have got to catch up to what Europe is doing. We have got to join the group. And Senator WHITEHOUSE has been the champion of pointing out that there is a price that we all pay because of carbon emissions, and we asked our companies to do it in a friendlier way. They need to be on a level playing field with their competitors—of course, China being of principal concern. These CBAM proposals will establish that level playing field and put American producers on a level playing field if we join with these efforts.

Senator CARPER, who chairs the Environment and Public Works Committee, has been the key leader in the U.S. engagement on the climate agenda. Through his leadership, we were able to pass the Inflation Reduction Act, which has been the envy of the world, for a commitment on the energy agenda.

But he also was responsible for the bipartisan infrastructure bill, and it had a heavy diet of greener transportation programs, establishing a way that we can electrify our transportation fleet with charging stations. All that came under Senator CARPER's leadership.

And then there is the Kigali protocol. So we were able to ratify that through our committee, through his leadership. So he has been the real champion and leader for the U.S. Senate on these aggressive policies to be a leader in the world on climate issues, and I am proud to serve on this committee, along with the Presiding Officer. We have a real champion and leader in Senator CARPER.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, one of the joys for me of serving here is serving as the chair of the Environment and Public Works Committee, right next to BEN CARDIN and about two seats away from SHELDON WHITEHOUSE. And we appreciate your participation and leadership and membership on our committee as well, Madam President.

We have a bunch of pages down here in the well—one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight. They are high school juniors or seniors, and they are probably like 16, 17, or maybe 18 years old. Pretty soon, they are going to head out into the world and, hopefully, go on and do bigger and better things than we have and than their parents and grandparents have done. I want to make sure, and I think my colleagues want to make sure, that they actually have a planet to grow up on and a planet to grow old on.

When I was about their age, I became a Navy midshipman and raised my right hand to defend the country and

the Constitution, in those days. I learned a little bit about leadership when I was not much older than these guys. One of the things I learned about leadership is the importance that leadership by example is not “do what I say” but, rather, “do what I do.”

One of the great things about going to the COP, with the leadership of Senator CARDIN and with our colleagues, was that we didn’t just go and sit and tell the rest of the world: Do x, y, or z.

We went and said: This is what we are doing, and this is why it is important. We want you to join us in this.

And, more and more, folks around the country—around the world, rather—are doing that. Today, I think the majority of Americans agree that climate change actually is a major threat—maybe the major threat facing our planet and the people who inhabit it. Every day, Americans see the impacts of climate crises, particularly in the form of more frequent and destructive storms throughout the—really, throughout the planet.

A decade ago, the United States experienced, I am told, 10 weather disasters—10—that cost at least a billion dollars each—10 that cost at least a billion dollars each. This year, there have been 25—25—of these billion-dollar events. That includes this summer’s wildfire on the Hawaiian island of Maui, which, tragically, took some 100 lives—our Nation’s deadliest wildfire in a century.

We also know that 2023 was not one of the hottest years on this planet; it was the hottest year on our planet, without question. Scientists tell us that global temperatures are going to keep rising if we don’t do more to transition away from fossil fuels.

So, Madam President, the question that I am asking myself and I think we need to ask ourselves is, What are we going to do about it? And as Senator CARDIN and Senator WHITEHOUSE have laid out, we are doing a lot. Can we do more? Yes, we can do more. Are we going to do more? Yes, we are going to do more.

We will hear from the chairman of the Finance Committee here in a little bit, and he will talk a bit about the great work that has been done under his leadership in the Finance Committee to make sure that we follow through and build on what we have already done.

But the United States, while I think we are getting our act together on this front, for a long time, we were the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases on the planet—far and away the biggest—and I think we have a moral obligation. Having put so much greenhouse gases up into the air, I think we have a moral obligation to actually lead in the reduction of emissions and make sure that these young people up here and my grandchildren and your grandchildren and all have a planet to grow up on.

I want to just commend Senator CARDIN. I think he did a great job lead-

ing our codel. It was an honor to be a part of that codel. I want to say how much I enjoyed it. It was bipartisan. We ran into a bunch of folks from the House of Representatives over there, Democrats and Republicans. So it had a good bipartisan, bicameral feel, and we came away and felt good about it—really good about it.

As for COP28, Senator CARDIN has already mentioned this, but our message to the rest of the world was that the United States is—I am tempted to say “once again,” but I will just say is again—leading the global effort to tackle the climate crisis, and my colleagues have already mentioned a couple of ways that we are doing that.

It has been mentioned—Kigali. There may be good people at home watching this saying: What in the world is Kigali? Well, it refers to a treaty, a treaty that actually reduces the emission of something called HFCs.

What are HFCs? My wife told me about a year or 2 ago: Stop talking about HFCs. Nobody really cares about HFCs.

Well, here is why they do. They are refrigerants. We all have refrigerators. We have air-conditioners. We have freezers and chillers and coolers. And the ingredient that helps make all of those work is HFCs, or hydrofluorocarbons. That is the good news: they work. It cools things off. But the bad news is it is bad when those HFCs leak into the atmosphere. They are 1,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas. I will say that again: 1,000 times more potent than carbon dioxide as a greenhouse gas.

So the idea of reducing those and phasing out those HFCs is a big deal. That is what we are doing. We are doing that. That one thing alone is worth about half a degree centigrade toward meeting our goals coming out of the Paris accords a year or 2 years ago. The agreement out of Paris was 1½ degrees Celsius reduction, and from this one thing alone with the HFCs, we are going to get a third of that.

Following that COP26, we put our heads down, and we got to work. After months of intense negotiations, we passed the Inflation Reduction Act. Big provisions in the legislation came out of our committee, Mr. Chairman, which included almost \$370 billion in incentives for clean energy and climate change—the largest ever investment in climate action and environmental justice. Where I come from, that is real money, and, hopefully, we will do even more on that.

But soon after we had done that, the Senate came together on a bipartisan basis to ratify the Kigali Amendment that I talked about. That is a big deal, and we have to make sure that we actually implement it as intended.

But, if taken together, these historic wins are advancing our Nation’s climate goals, and, importantly, they are also helping to create hundreds of thousands—hundreds of thousands—of

good-paying clean-energy jobs in our country and many more around the world.

We have heard for years: We can’t address climate change; we can’t address the warming of our planet and create jobs and economic opportunity. Hogwash. We can do both. And if you look at the inflation numbers, inflation is down. If you look at employment numbers, employment numbers are up. And the work that we are doing on the greenhouse gas side is going forward. So we are doing it all. We are doing it all. But still, we are clear-eyed that there is more work to be done. COP28 resulted in—Senator CARDIN had mentioned that—a historic global agreement that called for transitioning away from fossil fuels which are causing global warming. And our success in achieving our shared climate goals will depend on the actions we take in the decade to come.

With that in mind, as chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee, I remain focused on overseeing the implementation of our recent climate wins.

And over the next year, I hope we are going to build on our Nation’s climate goals, including advancing bipartisan legislation to strengthen our Nation’s nuclear industry—I think Senator CARDIN may have referred to that—and helping confirm President Biden’s nominees for key leadership posts.

I believe the last time I checked, nuclear energy is providing, I don’t know, a half or more than half of our carbon-free electricity in this country. We have the potential to build on that, and we need to do that. Hopefully, we will.

I want to close by words spoken down at the other Chamber. A couple of years ago, French President Macron came and spoke to a bipartisan House-Senate gathering. In talking to us about climate change and global warming, he said: “There is no planet B.” That is what he said: “There is no planet B.”

This is the only planet we are going to have—no planet B. We have to make every day count. And I think what we heard coming out of the COP28, we have every intention of helping lead this planet to that direction.

And with that, I yield the floor. I want to again thank Senator CARDIN and yield back to him, thanking him for terrific leadership in the COP and so many other forums.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, let me again thank Senator CARPER for his leadership on these issues.

We are joined by Senator MARKEY.

If we would have passed Senator MARKEY’s bill in the Senate that passed the House, we would not be in this position today. He has been a leader on climate issues for several decades now and has really been the champion on raising the consciousness that we all have responsibilities for this one globe.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you, Senator CARDIN. Thank you for your leadership in bringing our delegation to COP28. And what a delegation with you as the chairman of Senate Foreign Relations; Senator CARPER, the chairman of Environment and Public Works; and Senator WHITEHOUSE, a historic leader on these issues—and even sitting out here on the floor right now, Senator WYDEN, who was so instrumental in ensuring that the IRA passed and that it had the incentives to unleash a clean energy revolution that had been long overdue in terms of having a response. So we thank you.

And we thank the young people—the pages—who are here today because they are the true leaders of this movement.

Coming off the heels of this year's climate talks, it was clear that COP28—the international climate conference—was an opportunity to lift our gaze, to lift the planet's gaze to the constellation of possibilities for our ability to be able to respond to this crisis that is affecting our planet and to readjust the gravitational force of fossil-fueled interests that pull our countries away from climate action.

I have been to many international climate conferences over the years. I know how much it matters to give countries a space to convene, to give advocates a chance to hold governments accountable, and to give the public a direction for a livable future. COPs give us a chance to organize and not just agonize about the climate crisis.

I was encouraged to see the final COP28 deal include a call to transition away from fossil fuels, as well as an agreement on the fund for losses and damages due to climate change.

We have never had such a strong signal that it is time to close the chapter on the heyday of fossil fuels. But the science is clear: Weak agreement language will not keep our planet strong. We can't just agree to consider lifesaving actions; we must commit to those lifesaving actions.

COP28 came to a loophole-filled end, less an embrace of a fossil-free future and more a step in the right direction when we needed to be sprinting toward a fossil-fuel phaseout on the planet.

The climate crisis disproportionately impacts people who are least responsible, most affected, and, most often, left behind: poor, marginalized, and indigenous communities.

We can't build walls around the climate crisis so we have to build bridges. To be a leader, the United States must commit to phasing out fossil fuels and to putting our money where our mouth is. We have done it at home with the Inflation Reduction Act, which is already unleashing commitments of nearly \$300 billion in private funding for clean energy in just the first year since it passed. And it has the potential of ultimately unleashing trillions of dollars of private sector investment

over the next decade. And I think it will do that.

But now we need to do it internationally as well. We have to provide direct finance for clean energy and climate resilience. We must push the World Bank and we must push the International Monetary Fund to do more and to do better, and we must stop subsidizing, financing, and approving new fossil fuel plants around the world.

We cannot preach temperance from a barstool. And the United States right now is drunk on oil and natural gas production and exports from our country around the world. Plus, we continue to foot the bill for other countries' fossil-fueled binges.

In the face of these challenges, the answer is not to reverse course on our climate and clean energy commitments. It is to double down. It is to do more. It is to respond to this moral challenge to our country and to our planet, to the challenge which young people are given, to this body, and to the world to respond to a crisis that was not dealt with by preceding generations.

Trying to solve climate change without a phaseout of fossil fuels is like trying to end lung cancer without getting off cigarettes. Our prescription here is clear: Phase out fossil fuels and build clean economies here at home and abroad at the same time.

And I look forward to continuing to partner with my colleagues in Congress, members of Parliament around the world pushing for a fossil-free future, environmental and climate justice organizations led by young people, and all those who are working for a global Green New Deal. Young people are leading us, and we must respond to them.

They are right and the fossil fuel industry is wrong on every one of these issues, and we have to continue to respond to this challenge politically. We have taken important steps, and the Senators who are here today led that effort but without a single Republican vote. We cannot sprint toward the solutions if we do not have more support from the Republican Party. We will not have credibility with the rest of the world if we continue to build LNG export facilities to send natural gas around the world, to addict countries to natural gas while we should be helping them to deploy wind, solar, all-electric vehicles, battery storage technologies, and other clean energy technologies.

That is what we should be doing. We have to end this era where we are about to try to build dozens of LNG—liquefied natural gas—plants to addict the rest of the world.

Fossil fuel climate change is a threat to each and every one of us. So each and every one of us has a role to play in heeding the COP's call to action.

I thank you, Mr. Chairman. I thank you for your leadership. Thank you for convening us here today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, let me thank Senator MARKEY again for his extraordinary leadership.

I want to also acknowledge Josh Klein for the work that he did as our staff person for COP28.

Madam President, Senator WYDEN is on the floor. I know he is planning to speak on Martin O'Malley to be the next Administrator of the Social Security Administration, but I want to take this time to thank Senator WYDEN for his leadership on the climate agenda.

We marked up in the Senate Finance Committee the energy provisions that ended up in the Inflation Reduction Act well before the Inflation Reduction Act was put together as a package. And it was the work that Senator WYDEN led in the Finance Committee that provides the predictability to the future of our Tax Code to reward renewable energies.

We were asked in the COP meetings: What happens if there are changes in elections, will America still be strong on the climate? And we pointed out our Tax Code, which we have been able to continue tax provisions. And Senator WYDEN has led the effort to make sure we have a strong tax base to reward renewable energy sources so that we can do exactly what Senator MARKEY said: transition off of fossil fuels to renewables.

I just really want to acknowledge the work that Senator WYDEN has done on the climate agenda. And he was a very popular person in Dubai, even though he was not there.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I don't want to make this a bouquet-tossing contest. The fact is, the four Senators on the floor have together put in decades and decades and decades prosecuting the cause of clean energy. And the fact of the matter is, we had tried a lot of things over the years. We tried cap and trade.

I was a strong supporter of Senator MARKEY's efforts. We tried carbon taxes. We tried border adjustment. And particularly three of the four Members over here are from the Finance Committee—they were willing to take the risk of saying we ought to basically, if not throw the Tax Code in the garbage can as it relates to energy, get pretty darned close in terms of creating a whole new set of incentives.

I am going to speak about Martin O'Malley's candidacy here for a few minutes. But I just wanted to say to these four, we would not have even gotten a major climate bill out of the Senate Finance Committee to break 50 years of gridlock. That is how the New York Times described it: 50 years of trying. And the Finance Committee broke that gridlock. It wouldn't have happened without these four Senators. I want them to know that.

NOMINATION OF MARTIN O'MALLEY

Madam President, in a few minutes, the Senate is going to vote on the nomination of Martin O'Malley to be the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration.