

As I speak right now, the negotiators are in a room down the hall trying to make more progress. I came by a few minutes ago to thank all of them for their hard work and encourage them to continue. The future not only of Ukraine but of our country and the Western World depends on it. Challenging issues remain, but we in this caucus are committed to addressing needs at the southern border and to helping our partners and allies confront and deter serious threats in Israel, Ukraine, and the Indo-Pacific. The Senate will not let these national security challenges go unanswered.

When we return in the new year, we hope to take swift action on the national security supplemental. Passing a national security supplemental is not going to be easy. It is one of the hardest things this Senate has undertaken in a very long time. It will take compromise, good faith, and recognition from both sides that nobody is going to get everything they want.

Democrats will continue to work in good faith with our Republican counterparts to get things done. We will not abandon our principles on border, but we will work to find common ground wherever we can. Let me be clear: It will take cooperation from serious-minded Republicans to get this done. Again, it will take cooperation from serious-minded Republicans to pass a national security supplemental.

I know there are some on the other side who will never vote for it, but there are many who understand the need to both give Ukraine and Israel humanitarian aid for the civilians in Gaza and the Indo-Pacific the help it needs and to help fix our border—doing it in ways that are consistent with our principles.

Democrats will continue to take these negotiations seriously, and we urge the majority of Republicans on the Senate side who understand that this is real and very important to join with us in helping get this done. Doing it together, Leader MCCONNELL and I issued a statement last night that showed we both hope to get this done.

If we fail in this moment, if the United States abandons our friends in Ukraine to Vladimir Putin, history will cast a shameful and permanent shadow upon all of us. It is a matter of the highest urgency that we get this right, and that is precisely what we will work toward in the new year as soon as we return.

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the first year of the 118th Congress has come to a close. It is time to look ahead to the many challenges we face in the year ahead. But never in recent memory has the contrast between the two parties been more obvious than in the past 3 years.

Under Democratic majority leaders, we saw the most productive Congress in modern history, but under a Repub-

lican House majority this year, we saw a year marked by chaos, extremism, and paralysis. There is no question that divided government and MAGA extremism made legislating in 2023 very difficult. For much of the year, it was as if Donald Trump himself were running the show over in the House, making it exceedingly hard to get anything done.

But in a difficult year, Democrats did not abandon our promise to work to make life better for the American people. This year, Democrats protected the historic wins we have gotten done in the 117th Congress: climate change, prescription drug reform, CHIPS and Science, and so much more.

And I would remind the country that all but one of these major bills we passed and led in the Senate was done with bipartisan support. You need bipartisanship to get so much done, but we protected those historic wins.

Second, we worked all year to implement those wins effectively: new infrastructure projects, new factories, new good-paying jobs. Across the country, manufacturing and job creation is surging; communities long overlooked are getting a second chance; seniors will be paying less for healthcare and prescription drugs; rural people will be able to get broadband—internet service—for the first time. After years of high costs, inflation has dramatically slowed down in the year since we passed the Inflation Reduction Act. We have protected; we have implemented; and the third word is “prevented.”

Even with the MAGA Republican rightwing majority running so much of the House, we prevented the worst things from happening. We prevented the country from defaulting, which would have been a disaster. We prevented, in both September and November, the government from shutting down. In each case, the keyword was “bipartisanship.” We can’t do any of these things without both parties cooperating. I urge Speaker JOHNSON to understand that as we approach the January 19 deadline. Without bipartisanship, we will not get anything done, and embracing the hard-right philosophy is a path to nowhere for not only the Republican Party but for the House and the country.

Finally, in a difficult year, Democrats persevered. We protected, we implemented, we prevented, and we persevered. We persevered at every turn to work, to get things done. We began our critical work on artificial intelligence. We pushed to outcompete the Chinese Government even as we added more historic and diverse judges to the Federal bench.

This work will continue next year. There will be no easing into 2024; we will hit the ground running. There is a lot we must do. We must not only pass the supplemental and finish the job of properly funding our Federal Government, but we have made large progress in a bipartisan way on new parts of our agenda: insulin reform, getting every-

body to pay no more than \$35 a month; artificial intelligence, where the bipartisan Gang of 4 held some very, very elucidating insight forums, and now we are ready to start looking at legislation; outcompeting the Chinese Government; passing SAFE Banking and cannabis reform; getting something done on railway safety, on online child privacy, and so much more.

In each of these, we have laid some groundwork with bipartisan support. It won’t be easy, but we want to get these things done in 2024. The only way, though, we will get them done—just like with the supplemental, just like with the government shutdown—is through bipartisan cooperation. It was the very first thing I said at the beginning of this Congress. Bipartisanship is essential in divided government. We saw that play out all year long. Only through bipartisanship were we able to avoid a catastrophic default, avoid a shutdown, and make any progress on appropriations or anything of import.

We also saw what happens when one party—particularly in the House; not so much in the Senate—refuses to embrace bipartisanship. The unproductive and dysfunctional House majority is the most unproductive and dysfunctional in modern history. What happened in the House because of that dysfunctional majority can be boiled down to three words: chaos, extremism, paralysis.

Donald Trump may not be in office, but his influence drove practically every major decision for the House Republicans, at great cost to our country. We saw MAGA extremists take the debt ceiling hostage to push an agenda that would have crashed the economy, raised costs, and killed millions of jobs. We saw MAGA extremists hijack the appropriations process by adding poison pills, restricting a woman’s right to choose, and so much else. We even saw MAGA extremists bring all of Congress to a grinding halt for more than a month by expelling their own Speaker even as crises raged in Europe and Middle East—shameful.

Unfortunately, the dark cloud of Donald Trump hovers, looms over Senate and House Republicans, and it is something I hope they will resist because he is no good for the country, no good for their party.

MAGA Republicans are incapable of governing, plain and simple. Americans will not forget that when they head to the polls next year.

In conclusion, as we look to a new year, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work together. I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to resist MAGA extremism that led their side to so much catastrophe. I urge Speaker JOHNSON not to let the 30 or so hard-right extremists keep running the show in the House, as they did for too much of this year.

It is not going to get any easier. The challenges we face remain great. But it is my hope—my earnest and fervent hope because I love this country; I love

this country—that the experience of this year shows our colleagues on the other side that embracing MAGA is a recipe for failure.

There will be a lot at stake when we return in 2024. If we embrace bipartisanship, I am confident we will succeed.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WELCH). The Republican leader is recognized.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, negotiations on border security continue to make headway. I am grateful to Senator LANKFORD for his uninterrupted focus on the task at hand, which is meaningful policy changes.

Our colleagues at the negotiating table are under no illusions about how difficult it is to fix our Nation's broken asylum and parole system. They are working on what would be the first serious repair in more than 30 years.

But there is no longer any disagreement that the situation at the southern border is unsustainable and requires the Senate to act. This is the core of America's national security. It will be an essential part of supplemental legislation to address pressing security challenges, and negotiations will continue in earnest until we get there.

The Senate cannot afford to get this wrong. From South Texas to Southeast Asia and from the Black Sea to the Red Sea, it is a historically challenging and consequential time to protect America's interests, our allies, and our own people.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the world is witnessing the first land war in Europe since 1945. Ukraine's citizen soldiers are in the trenches right now, resisting Russian aggression with Western assistance.

American leadership has strengthened the NATO alliance, prompted our closest allies and trading partners to share more of the burden of collective defense, and driven historic investments in the military strength and industrial capacity we need here at home to compete with our biggest adversaries. Finishing the job will require more of that leadership.

Meanwhile, Israel is responding to the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust. Our ally needs the time, the space, and the support required to eliminate the terrorist savages responsible for the horrors of October 7, and the entire region needs American leadership to restore deterrence against Iran and its terrorist proxies who attack U.S. personnel with impunity.

From the other side of the world, our friends in the Indo-Pacific are watching closely what goes on in Europe and the Middle East and investing seriously in their own military strength because they know that China is doing the same.

Our single greatest strategic adversary is growing increasingly aggressive, increasingly advanced, and increasingly keen to seize an edge over a global superpower that has failed to act like one.

So the stakes are high this holiday season for our allies and partners on the frontlines of authoritarian aggression. The challenges are real for brave American servicemembers who are spending this time of the year far from home and loved ones to keep us safe.

It is a dangerous world, one that doesn't reward weakness. America needs to show that we haven't forgotten how to lead and that we are committed to restoring the hard power that leadership requires.

So I am encouraged by our colleagues' commitment to keep working toward an agreement on national security, beginning with security here at home. The Senate will not let the challenges we face go unanswered.

RECESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask consent that the Senate recess until 1:45 p.m.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 12:52 p.m., recessed until 1:45 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO).

MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

U.S.-RUSSIAN FEDERATION SEAFOOD RECIPROCITY ACT

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I know this might be one of the last presiding duties of the year, so I appreciate the Presiding Officer taking the time on the floor before she gets to go home.

I want to talk about two issues today here on the Senate floor. One is a really important one. It is a policy issue that we have to solve. What I am trying to do today is just make sure my colleagues—because a lot of them get kind of fed some misinformation on this issue and then the American people writ large—know what is going on so we can fix this issue. I am hoping the White House and the administration and the Treasury Department—that everybody is watching because this is an easy one.

Imagine this, if someone came to you and said, "All right. Let's see. Is there legislation that we could pass that would help end slave labor in China, with the Uighurs; help make sure we

had a really strong environment for our oceans and our fisheries; help make sure we weren't funding the Russian war machine to go kill innocent civilians in Ukraine; help make sure we keep strong American coastal communities; and help promote the great American fishermen, who work so hard all over this great Nation?" We have been doing it way before the founding of the Republic. If there is legislation that could do all of those things, wouldn't you want to support it—oh, by the way—and that could undermine our adversaries, the two big adversaries we have, Russia and China?

Is there legislation pending in the U.S. Senate that could do all of these things? The answer is yes. Hell yes. I just want to make sure all of my colleagues know, because when I bring this to the floor when we come back in the new year, I just want to make sure everybody supports it because it is a no-brainer. It is a no-brainer.

So what am I talking about? Well, it is my U.S.-Russian Federation Seafood Reciprocity Act. It has a bunch of cosponsors, Democrats and Republicans. Senator CANTWELL is a big, big promoter of this, just for one example. But let me just give a little bit of background because people are saying, I am sure: Wait. You have a piece of legislation that can do all of that?

Yes, I sure do. And why anyone would not support it—well, once they get educated, they will support it. So let's talk about it just very briefly.

What is the background here? I am going to go way back, almost 10 years. So the Russians invade Crimea. You have an aggressive dictator, Vladimir Putin, trying to invade everybody, right? We have to make sure he doesn't win in Ukraine. The Obama administration smacks them with sanctions, OK? I wasn't here then, but that is what happened. This was in 2014. But I supported that. Then the Russians retaliated.

Now, one of the things they did when they retaliated was that they said: We are going to ban the importation of all American seafood into Russia. Now, Russia has a big seafood market, OK? So Russia said that no American seafood can come into Russia.

By the way, my State is the superpower of seafood. The great State of Alaska is responsible for the harvesting of over two-thirds of all fish and seafood in America—two-thirds, 66 percent. We are the superpower of seafood. Now, there are a lot of other great States that export seafood. I am not sure the great State of Nevada does, but that is a whole other topic.

So this is really important to my constituents. Tens of thousands of my great constituents are involved with this. So imagine that. Russia is still allowed to import in the United States almost duty-free, and we can't export one fish, OK? That has been the situation since 2014. Right there, that is just unfair, OK?