

with China—but not conflict. And we are in a stronger position to win the competition for the 21st Century against China—or anyone else for that matter.

Here at home—I've signed over 400 bipartisan bills. But there's more to do to pass my Unity Agenda. Strengthen penalties on fentanyl trafficking. Pass bipartisan privacy legislation to protect our children online—harness the promise of A.I. and protect us from its peril—ban A.I. voice impersonation—and more!

And keep our one truly sacred obligation: To train and equip those we send into harm's way and care for them and their families when they come home—and when they don't. That's why I signed the PACT Act—one of the most significant laws ever—helping millions of veterans who were exposed to toxins and who now are battling more than 100 cancers. Many of them didn't come home. We owe them and their families.

And we owe it to ourselves to keep supporting our new health research agency called ARPA-H—and remind us that we can do big things like end cancer as we know it!

Let me close with this. I know I may not look like it—but I've been around a while. And when you get to my age—certain things become clearer than ever before.

I know the American story. Again and again—I've seen the contest between competing forces in the battle for the soul of our Nation. Between those who want to pull America back to the past and those who want to move America into the future.

My lifetime has taught me to embrace freedom and democracy. A future based on the core values that have defined America. Honesty. Decency. Dignity. Equality. To respect everyone. To give everyone a fair shot. To give hate no safe harbor.

Now—some other people my age see a different story. An American story of resentment—revenge—and retribution.

That's not me. I was born amid World War II—when America stood for freedom in the world. I grew up in Scranton, Pennsylvania, and Claymont, Delaware, among working people who built this country.

I watched in horror as two of my heroes—Dr. King and Bobby Kennedy—were assassinated—and their legacies inspired me to pursue a career in service. A public defender—county councilman—elected United States Senator at 29—then Vice President to our first Black President—now President with our first woman Vice President.

In my career—I've been told I'm too young—and I'm too old. Whether young or old—I've always known what endures. Our North Star. The very idea of America—that we are all created equal and deserve to be treated equally throughout our lives.

We've never fully lived up to that idea—but we've never walked away from it either. And I won't walk away from it now.

My fellow Americans—the issue facing our Nation isn't how old we are—it's how old are our ideas? Hate—anger—revenge—retribution—are among the oldest of ideas. But you can't lead America with ancient ideas that only take us back.

To lead America—the land of possibilities—you need a vision for the future of what America can and should be. Tonight—you've heard mine.

I see a future where we defend democracy—not diminish it. I see a future where we restore the right to choose and protect other freedoms—not take them away.

I see a future where the middle class finally has a fair shot—and the wealthy finally have to pay their fair share in taxes.

I see a future where we save the planet from the climate crisis and our country from gun violence.

Above all—I see a future for all Americans! I see a country for all Americans! And I will always be a President for all Americans! Because I believe in America! I believe in you—the American people. You're the reason I've never been more optimistic about our future!

So let's build that future together! Let's remember who we are! We are the United States of America. There is nothing beyond our capacity when we act together!

May God bless you all.

May God protect our troops.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 7, 2024.

#### MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:03 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3821. An act to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 2:47 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

H.R. 7454. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to extend authorizations for the airport improvement program, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the funding and expenditure authority of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 3821. An act to reauthorize the Firefighter Cancer Registry Act of 2018; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-3730. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "EPA Clean School Bus Program: Third Report to Congress, Fiscal Year 2023"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3731. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Director of the Migratory Bird Program, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Permits for Incidental Take of Eagles and Eagle Nests" (RIN1018-BE70) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 28, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-3732. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The CY 2020 Competitive Acquisition Ombudsman Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3733. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act Section 1332 State Innovation Waivers"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3734. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress: Best Practices in the Money Follows the Person Demonstration"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3735. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicaid Program; Disproportionate Share Hospital Third-Party Payer Rule" (RIN0938-AV00) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 22, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3736. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare Prescription Payment Plan: Final Part One Guidance on Select Topics, Implementation of Section 1860D-2 of the Social Security Act for 2025, and Response to Relevant Comments" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3737. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Resources Priorities and Allocations System" (RIN0908-AA00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on February 8, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3738. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Northeastern Arizona and Utah Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas" (RIN3206-AO61) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3739. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Advancing Pay Equity in Governmentwide Pay Systems” (RIN3206-AO39) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3740. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “General Schedule Locality Pay Areas” (RIN3206-AO58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3741. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Prevailing Rate Systems; North American Industry Classification System Based Federal Wage System Wage Surveys” (RIN3206-AO64) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3742. A communication from the Federal Register Liaison, Workforce Policy and Innovation, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Prevailing Rate Systems; Abolishment of Allegheny, Pennsylvania, as a Nonappropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Area” (RIN3206-AO60) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3743. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Legislative Affairs, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “CFPB FY 2023 Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act Report”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3744. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a legislative proposal package to reauthorize four key Department of Homeland Security authorities that have expired or will expire during fiscal year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3745. A communication from the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Annual Sunshine Act Report to Congress for calendar year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3746. A communication from the Director of the Office of Financial Reporting and Policy, Office of the Chief Financial Officer and Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “FY 2023 Agency Financial Report”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3747. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Fiscal Year 2023 Financial Report of the United States Government (Financial Report)”; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3748. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to

law, the Department’s 2023 FAIR Act Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

## PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-100. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Montana expressing support of hydropower and the Federal Columbia River Power System and opposing the breach of the lower Snake River dams; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

### SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 10

Whereas, organizations throughout the Northwest have made proposals to breach the lower Snake River dams; and

Whereas, hydropower is a premier renewable resource that provides reliable, cost-effective, carbon-free electricity; and

Whereas, hydropower plays a critical role as our nation works to maintain an affordable, reliable, and resilient grid, which is an important cornerstone of our domestic energy system; and

Whereas, hydropower has become increasingly important to the grid as policies are adopted to increase electrification of other sectors of the economy, such as transportation and heating; and

Whereas, hydroelectric generation is unique in its ability to instantly increase or decrease generation to balance generation and electric demand; and

Whereas, hydropower provides a foundation for reliability that is necessary with decreasing levels of baseload power and firm dispatchable power and with increasing levels of variable nondispatchable renewable resources, such as wind and solar; and

Whereas, the recently concluded Columbia River System Operation environmental impact statement studied the environmental, biological, power supply, and socioeconomic impacts of the entire Federal Columbia River Power System, which is marketed by the Bonneville Power Administration. This multiyear, \$50.4 million analysis concluded the lower Snake River dams play a critical role in the Northwest power system and economy and their impact on salmon populations has been mitigated successfully through extensive fish and wildlife programs funded by regional ratepayers; and

Whereas, on an annual basis, the dams on the lower Snake River provide an average of 1,000 megawatts of electricity, enough to serve over 800,000 Northwest businesses, industries, and households, including in western Montana; and

Whereas the continued operation of the lower Snake River dams is central to reliably meeting the region’s clean energy goals, providing dispatchable capacity to prevent blackouts, and ramping capability to integrate other renewable resources; and

Whereas the lower Snake River dams can provide over 2,600 megawatts of sustained peaking capacity that represents a quarter of the Federal Columbia River Power System’s reserves holding capacity; and

Whereas, with weather events like ice storms and extreme cold and heat waves, the lower Snake River dams have also proved to be critical to maintaining electric grid reliability and public safety; and

Whereas, breaching the lower Snake River dams and replacing them with other non-emitting resources could raise Bonneville Power Agency’s power supply rates by up to

50%. For most utilities relying on the agency, that translates to a 25% rate increase for their customers; and

Whereas, the lower Snake River dams contribute to the region’s economy by providing irrigation, recreation, employment, and inland waterway transportation; and

Whereas, if successful in breaching the lower Snake River dams, Montana’s federally owned dams and others in the Northwest that produce carbon-free, affordable power could be targeted for breaching; and

Whereas, breaching the lower Snake River dams or Montana’s federally owned hydropower-producing dams, including Hungry Horse Dam, Libby Dam, Yellowtail Dam, Canyon Ferry Dam, and Fort Peck Dam, would greatly increase the risk of blackouts and raise power costs for electric cooperative members in Montana and public power across the Northwest. Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the State of Montana:*

That the Montana Legislature hereby stands opposed to the breaching of any of the federally owned hydropower-producing dams, especially those on the lower Snake River, in the Northwest, and in the State of Montana; and be it further

*Resolved,* That the Secretary of State send copies of this resolution to the governors of all states served by the Bonneville Power Administration, including California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, and to each member of the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. BROWN for the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

\*Ron Borzekowski, of Maryland, to be Director, Office of Financial Research, Department of the Treasury, for a term of six years.

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Amir H. Ali, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Melissa R. DuBose, of Rhode Island, to be United States District Judge for the District of Rhode Island.

Sunil R. Harjani, of Illinois, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois.

Robert J. White, of Michigan, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan.

Jasmine Hyejung Yoon, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia.

Joshua S. Levy, of Massachusetts, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts for the term of four years.

Rebecca C. Lutzko, of Ohio, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio for the term of four years.

Roy W. Minter, Jr., of Georgia, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Georgia for the term of four years.

Almo J. Carter, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the United States Parole Commission for a term of six years.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee’s commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)