

send a much more serious signal, as should all future EPA rulemakings on powerplants, vehicles, and other large sources of carbon pollution.

We are at a tipping point right now. When you get down to 1,200 different scenarios where only 11 remaining ones still get you near a climate safety pathway, you have to cut the loaf mighty thin. Making sure that we get this right, that we get onto one of those pathways, is going to require a carbon fee. It just is.

By the way, that is what conservative economics tells you should be done. You can go to Milton Friedman, the high priest of free market economics, and he will say that if you are involved in making a product that involves polluting or some other what they call negative externality in economics-ese, you have to bake that pollution cost, bake that negative externality into the price of your product. If you haven't done that, you are being subsidized. If you are being subsidized, that ain't market economics.

So the principle is right for this. Fairness is right because you should not be able to pollute for free, particularly like the fossil fuel industry does, particularly creating the kind of harm they are creating. And, of course, there is this other question of making sure that our planet remains habitable in the manner that we are used to for our children and our grandchildren.

Again, all of that is doable. All of that is doable with a price on carbon emissions. And there are not scenarios to take us down that pathway to climate safety without that carbon price.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Rhode Island.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE DIKE-NEW HARTFORD WOLVERINES

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, it is no secret this U.S. Senator for Iowa loves history. And I love rooting for our Iowa student-athletes who put in the work at practices and in the off-season to play hard and walk off the court as champions, whether or not they win or lose the game that day.

Today, I would like to toot the horn for my hometown team and its victorious, history-making season. The Dike-New Hartford Wolverines won the 2A State basketball title at the Iowa Girls State High School Basketball

Tournament in Des Moines on Saturday, March 2, 2024. Getting to play in the historic and storied annual Iowa Girls State High School Basketball tournament is a privilege sought by 7,500 basketball players across Iowa every year. This was the team's fourth consecutive State basketball title, and with it, the Dike-New Hartford Wolverines became the second program in State five-on-five history to take that crown four times in a row, 2021–2024. The Dike-New Hartford Wolverines now tie with the Ankeny Hawks who won four State titles from 2002–2005. A century earlier, Audubon took home the title 4 years in a row at the six-on-six tournament, 1921–1924.

In an interview after the Wolverine's four-peat State title, the leading scorer in the championship game, Payton Petersen summed up the victory with a hot tip to her teammates and community. "We worked so hard to get where we are. Sometimes you take things for granted, but just knowing you put blood, sweat, and tears into this, we're working hard every day in practice and every summer. That's a testament to what our team is, how our coaches coach and our community."

March is Iowa History Month and National Women's Month, both fitting themes to honor the accomplishments of the Dike-New Hartford Wolverines. Over their career, Barbara and I had the chance to see the team play and enjoyed every minute of it. We congratulate the players, managers, trainers, coaches, cheerleaders, fans, and family members for their history-making season. It is a thrilling achievement that will bring these young student-athletes a lifetime of memories and lessons for years to come, from the pageantry of the tournament to the teamwork it takes to overcome obstacles, build confidence, and lead to succeed.

From the varsity starters to the bench players and fans in the stands, this was a team effort the entire community can take pride in celebrating. Congratulations to the coaches who devoted countless hours of time and preparation, led by head coach Bruce Dall and assistant coaches Matt Dove, Ashley Beninga, Craig Chapman, and Mandy Danner. Notably, Coach Dall has been named a finalist for the 2024 National High School Athletic Coaches Association Coach of the Year. To all the athletes on the roster, keep up the good work. #RollBlue:

PLAYERS

Abby Jensen, Addy Joslin, Autumn Meester, Izzy Norton, Jady Petersen, Josey Syhlman, Joy Eilderts, Kailyn Meester, Keely Kauten, Kennedy Syhlman, Madde Buskohl, Mallory Petersen, Mariah Asche, Maryn Bixby, Miranda Tyler, Payton Foster, Payton Petersen, Rylee Reicks, Sophia Bennett, Seeri Smith, Silvey Fuller, Sydney Anema.

COACHES

Bruce Dall, Matt Dove, Ashley Beninga, Craig Chapman, Mady Danner.

MANAGERS

Will Huck, Reedlynn Kannegieter, Zari Jones, Ashton Schmitz.

MALPHINE FOGEL AND MARC FOGEL

Mr. CASEY. Madam President, I would like to talk about two Pennsylvanians, Malphine Fogel and Marc Fogel. Today, Malphine turned 95 in her Butler, PA, home. She has lived a long and fulfilling life, with a successful career and a loving family. But today, one key part of her life is missing: her son Marc. Vladimir Putin has held Marc as a political pawn for more than 30 months on extreme charges for bringing into Russia less than an ounce of doctor-prescribed medical marijuana to treat his chronic pain. Instead of a nice dinner with Marc and his wife Jane at Malphine's house and the knowledge that they drove safely down Route 8 and the Turnpike back to their Oakmont home, Malphine will be lucky to get a timed call from Marc. Instead of the joy of celebrating her 95th birthday, Malphine woke up and spent her day with the stress of not knowing if she will ever be with her son again.

As Marc Fogel sits in prison after conviction by a kangaroo court, it is critical to highlight not only his plight and treatment by the Russians, but also those affected by it, like his 95-year-old mother. Malphine was born to Italian immigrants Guillianio and Celeste Andreassi on March 11, 1929, in Brady's Bend, PA, just west of Butler. Malphine was always a hard worker and earned valedictorian honors of the 1947 class at East Brady High School. She then worked for many years as a proofreader at the local paper, the Butler Eagle. In 1957, Malphine married Maurice "Cubby" Fogel. Seven years later, they had three thriving children—Mary Elise "Lisa," Marc, and Anne—and Malphine had a bachelor's in economics from Grove City College. While raising her kids, Malphine continued to work periodically at the Butler Eagle and the local elementary school, later joining Nationwide Insurance Company.

All the while, Malphine devoted herself to her family and her community. Every Sunday for over 60 years, she has driven the half hour to Brady's Bend to visit the rest of her family; now, her sisters Lydia, Josephine, and Helen and her brother Silvio. In the midst of raising the family and still today, Malphine has tirelessly volunteered at her church to serve the needs of her local community. Malphine and her husband Cubby's marriage lasted a happy 57 years, until 2014, when Cubby passed away from cancer related to his asbestos exposure while serving in the Navy during the Korean war. Malphine and Cubby's three children all grew up to have successful and engaging careers and families. From meeting her and feeling the warmth of her home, I know why. At 95, Malphine is the proud grandmother of 9 grandchildren and 8 great-grandchildren and an aunt to 51 nieces and nephews. We can all learn a lot from Malphine about living a good life. I am thankful to her example for the 13 million Pennsylvanians across

the Commonwealth, even as she deals with unimaginable adversity. Given her absolute devotion to her family, it can be no surprise what anguish she must feel now knowing that her own son faces an uncertain, and possibly deadly, future in a Russian penal colony.

As public servants, we have a solemn duty to address the root cause of Malphine's adversity, to advocate for the release of Malphine's son Marc. We must approach the task of bringing Marc safely home with the same commitment, consistency, and patience that Malphine has lived the last 95 years—for Marc does not deserve the 14 years at a remote Russian penal colony which the Russian court leveled on him.

In August 2021, Marc chose to return for a final year of teaching at the Anglo-American School in Moscow, after 9 years at that school and a 35-year career as an international educator. Yes, Marc made a mistake. Russia has not come to accept marijuana as a medical treatment as in the United States. And yes, according to the Russian penal code, Marc's possession of less than an ounce of marijuana warrants a short prison sentence, the same sentence leveled on Russian citizens who have committed similar offenses. But no, justice does not allow, much less require, Marc to spend his sixties and almost half of his seventies in a remote Russian penal colony. Clearly, Marc's 14-year sentence is a bargaining chip for Putin against the United States.

No family deserves to be torn apart, much less Malphine's family. That is why I call on the President to continue to do everything in his power to give Malphine the chance to see her son again. Today, we honor and celebrate Malphine, but we also must recommit to bringing Marc home.

RUSSIA

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, an article in the February 29 New York Times, entitled "5 Convicts Familiar With Navalny's Prison Confirm Hellish Conditions," describes the horrifyingly cruel treatment of political prisoners in Russia. Anyone who reads the article could easily mistakenly assume that they were reading about the shocking ways that prisoners were dehumanized, brutalized, starved, and murdered in the Middle Ages, except this is 2024.

What the article describes is not new, but it has received renewed attention since the murder, on February 16, of Aleksei Navalny, who bravely challenged Putin's corrupt and ruthless crusade to destroy any semblance of democracy and freedom in Russia today.

I want to quote a few passages from the article for the benefit of those who have not read it:

Locked in an Arctic prison, Aleksei A. Navalny is likely to have spent his final days

in some of the most inhumane conditions within Russia's extensive penitentiary system, according to five men who have served sentences in the same penal colony as the Russian opposition leader.

The men described in phone interviews unbearable cold, repulsive food, unsanitary conditions, and beatings in Penal Colony No. 3 of the remote Yamalo-Nenets region, where Mr. Navalny arrived in December to serve out the remainder of his 19-year prison sentence. The former inmates said the conditions were especially brutal in the solitary cells where Mr. Navalny is believed to have been confined on the day he was pronounced dead.

But what made the prison, known as IK-3 or the Troika, dreaded even by Russia's hardened inmates was the exceptional psychological pressure and loneliness, they said. It was a system devised to break the human spirit, by making survival depend on total and unconditional obedience to the will of guards.

"It was complete and utter annihilation," said a former inmate named Konstantin, who spent time in the prison's solitary confinement cells. "When I think about it, I still break into cold sweat," he said, adding that he has struggled with mental illness since his release.

Set in the tundra, the Troika is built to hold about 1,000 prisoners in some of the most remote, strict and harsh conditions in Russia, which former convicts say can cross into torture.

"You had to make peace with the fact that no one will help you, that you're on your own," Aleksandr added.

The article includes a photograph of a sign at the entrance to the penal colony, reminiscent of Auschwitz, with the words "Happiness not far off."

According to a former inmate, "You could spend 10 years there, and not see and not know anything about anyone else."

When asked about the convicts' reaction to Mr. Navalny's death, he said: "No one gives a damn about anyone else there, because everyone only thinks about themselves and when they can get the hell out of there."

Still, he noted that any disruption of routine, such as the arrival of federal officials to the prison following an inmate death, would be welcome as a small respite. He recalled a time in 2022 when another inmate had died. "It may sound callous, you know, but his death stopped the beatings and somewhat lightened the daily routine," the person said.

Vladimir Putin, who Donald Trump has praised for being a strong leader, is today's version of Joseph Stalin, who killed millions of his own citizens and destroyed any vestige of freedom or prosperity in Russia. Aleksei Navalny was Putin's latest victim. Navalny possessed all the attributes that Putin lacks: honesty, charisma, an inspiring vision for Russia's future, and of course, the admiration, love, and gratitude of millions of Russian citizens.

Countless other Russian prisoners who have dared to stand up for democracy and human rights, like Vladimir Kara-Murza, are at risk of the same fate as Navalny, at any time.

In many respects, the people of Ukraine are no better off. Every day, if they survive the night, they wake up not knowing if it will be their last, the latest casualties of Putin's relentless attacks against civilian targets.

Vladimir Putin reminds us of the massive death and destruction that a

single cruel individual, devoid of morality and motivated by ideology, greed, and a lust for power, can inflict on millions of innocent people. That is not a sign of strength. It is the worst form of criminality. It is what Putin will be remembered for. It will be his legacy.

VENEZUELA

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, indigenous people in Latin America and around the world are facing unprecedented threats to their communities and cultural survival. Faced with increasing intrusions of settlers, illegal miners, loggers, ranchers, wildlife traffickers, narcotics traffickers, and explorers for oil and gas, coupled with woefully inadequate police protection, they are among the world's most vulnerable people.

This crisis is illustrated by the alarming situation facing the Yanomami people in the Upper Orinoco region of Venezuela, an area that is being destroyed by illegal gold miners. It is reminiscent of the decimation of Native American Tribes in past centuries in our own country, when millions were forced off their land, murdered, or infected with smallpox, measles, and other fatal diseases brought by White settlers.

The Venezuelan Government has an obligation to guarantee the right to health, as part of the right to life, enshrined in the country's Constitution. In the case of indigenous people like the Yanomami, this includes the adaptation of health services and programs to their unique circumstances and needs.

After the "Haximu Massacre of the Yanomami" in 1993, when 16 Yanomami were killed by a group of illegal miners, was brought before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Venezuelan Government signed a settlement agreement that established commitments regarding surveillance and control of illegal mining and healthcare for the Yanomami people. Although the Yanomami Health Plan yielded positive results between 2005 and 2010, it began to decline due to lack of resources and is now almost completely defunct. Currently, there is no healthcare available in the Yanomami territory in the Upper Orinoco region.

This crisis has resulted in a sharp increase in the prevalence of and death from preventable and curable diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis, among others. Malnutrition is also a pervasive problem, especially among children. Patients who require emergency treatment must be flown to Puerto Ayacucho, the state capital. The Yanomami in the border zone of Sierra Parima must go to Brazil to obtain health care.

The Government of Venezuela has repeatedly failed to protect the Yanomami people from violence, child