

Our Border Patrol and our Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers can't do the job we have asked them to do because the Biden administration has undercut them in endless ways. This is hardly a surprise. The administration has constantly treated Immigration and Customs Enforcement like a corrupt, criminal group instead of a vital law enforcement Agency, which is exactly what they are. Vice President HARRIS, the President's own border czar, once compared ICE to the Ku Klux Klan. How outrageous is that from a supposedly responsible public servant, the Vice President of the United States?

This administration has never been serious about the border, and its budget continues to prove that. Instead, the President's budget focuses on managing the crisis—not fixing it, not solving it, but managing it.

Rather than establish deterrence by eliminating catch-and-release and instituting detain-and-deport, the administration is just building up more resources to try to avoid the public relations disaster when we see people sleeping in the streets in places like Del Rio, El Paso, and Laredo, just to name a few places.

The Biden administration has asked for \$4.7 billion for a “contingency fund” that could kick in when conditions warrant extra capacity, but really, despite the efforts to try to gloss over what they are doing, this is really about facilitating the recordbreaking flow of migrants into our country.

Once again, President Biden has proven that he has no desire—zero—to stop the flow of people into the country. Instead, he wants to make that process more efficient, as if 7.2 million aren't enough. But with his poll numbers in the tank, President Biden keeps saying he wants to address the border crisis, but he has no one to blame but himself. Yes, this is a manmade crisis, and that man is Joe Biden.

This is not the plan of someone who is interested in making a real and an honest attempt to solve a problem. This isn't a good-faith attempt to achieve operational control at the border, enforce the law, and deter illegal immigration. Unfortunately, it is just more of the same—more of the same policies that created the mess we are in right now.

President Biden may say he values a secure border, but his budget reveals his true values, and that is that he does not.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, before I address recycling and composting, I just want to say something with respect and affection to my friend from Texas.

About a month ago, Democrats and Republicans joined together here on this floor to pass bipartisan legislation to provide for better—much better—security at the border and to make sure

that folks from other countries who have a desire to work, the ability to work, are not a threat to our safety or security—that they could be provided an opportunity to help make this a better country.

It was a bipartisan vote, Democrats and Republicans. So I just want to commend the Republicans who joined the Democrats in voting for it. The legislation has died in the House, at least for now, and my hope is that the House will see fit to join us in the Senate to pass commonsense, much needed border security legislation.

RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

Mr. President, having said that, I came here today to talk about the passage in the Senate earlier this week of the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act and the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act of 2023—two pieces of bipartisan legislation that, if enacted, will improve our Nation's recycling and our Nation's composting systems.

As a number of our colleagues know, I care a lot about recycling, and I care a lot about composting. I have ever since I was a kid. In fact, I think in our home in Wilmington, DE, we have recycled everything in recent years, from a dehumidifier in our basement to a Ford Explorer out in our driveway. We recycle a whole lot more. We do it every week. I know a lot of other folks in our neighborhood and a lot of other folks in our State do as well. But in our country, we can always do everything better. We can always do things better when we need to.

Through my time in the U.S. Senate, I have looked for and I have found many opportunities for bipartisan support of policies that boost recycling and that boost composting. As my colleagues on this floor have heard me say many, many times, bipartisan solutions are lasting solutions. I believe that with every fiber of my being.

To that end, earlier this Congress, Senator CAPITO, ranking member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, along with Senator JOHN BOOZMAN from Arkansas and I, worked to advance bipartisan legislation through our committee, through the Committee on Environment and Public Works, that would strengthen our Nation's recycling, composting, and sustainability efforts.

Moreover, we know that recycling is a win-win. Why do I say that? It not only benefits our environment, but it also creates economic opportunity. It creates a lot of jobs, a whole lot of jobs, not just in Delaware but in every State across the country.

When enacted, the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act and the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act of 2023 will address several of the challenges that America's recycling efforts currently face, including the lack of good data, including limited access to recycling programs in many parts—too many parts—of our country.

To increase the amount of high-quality data available on recycling efforts across America, Senator BOOZMAN and I developed legislation called the Recycling and Composting Accountability Act. Our bill would improve the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to gather data on this Nation's recycling systems and explore opportunities for implementing a national composting strategy.

Some people might say: What is composting, and why is that important? Well, I am excited about the idea of a national composting strategy because implementing such a strategy will help us reduce food waste, which is responsible for over half—that is right—over half of our planet-warming methane emissions that emanate from landfills.

I will say that again. I am excited about the idea of national composting strategy. Why? Because implementing such a strategy will help us reduce food waste. Food waste is responsible for over half—that is right—over half of our planet-warming methane emissions that emanate from landfills. To increase access to recycling programs, Senator CAPITO, Senator BOOZMAN, and I introduced the Recycling Infrastructure and Accessibility Act of 2023. Why did we do that? To create a pilot program at EPA to help expand recycling services in underserved areas.

Many Americans in rural and underserved communities want to recycle and they want to compost, but they are unable to do so because they live in areas that lack the necessary recycling infrastructure, including curbside pickup or community collection centers.

In comparison to our neighbors, how are we doing? I have a friend, and I asked him how he is doing. He said: Compared to what?

Well, why don't we compare ourselves to Canada and maybe Germany? Well, compared to Canada, we have a lot of work to do. For example, British Columbia, our neighbors to the north, up there, they are currently recycling 86 percent of their residential waste—86 percent. Across the pond over in Germany, they are recycling almost half—48 percent, to be exact—of their waste. Yes, 48 percent. I wish I could say we are doing as well, but unfortunately, today in America, our national recycling rate is not even a third but just under that—32 percent. We can do better than that. We have to do better than that.

These two bills will help us to improve our recycling efforts to meet the goal set by the EPA to increase the U.S. recycling efforts—bring it up to 50 percent by the year 2030.

I think people, given a choice, would like to recycle. They would like to compost. We have to make it easy for them to do so.

Both of the bills that I have mentioned are the result of true collaboration and reflect a bipartisan commitment to exploring and addressing our Nation's recycling and composting challenges and opportunities.

We have a moral duty to leave behind a cleaner, healthier planet for future generations, and that is a belief I know is shared by most Americans.

Now that the Senate has passed both of these bills, I welcome all of our House colleagues to join us in this effort.

I want to say to the Presiding Officer, our colleague from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a member of the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works—I want to thank him for being part of the effort that has enabled us to bring this legislation to the floor, I believe without opposition and with total, bipartisan support of Democrat and Republican Members.

Hopefully, we will be able to convince our friends over in the House that we come up with some pretty good ideas over here in the Senate from time to time, and these are a couple of them.

I yield the floor.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session for 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.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO JON D. LEVY

• Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the outstanding career of Chief Judge Jon D. Levy of Portland, ME, and congratulate him on a well-deserved retirement from the judiciary. Jon is retiring after nearly three decades of service on both Maine's State and Federal courts. I have had the privilege of knowing Jon since my time as Governor and his dedication and outstanding service on the bench has continued to impress me over the years.

Jon was born in New York and attended Syracuse University before pursuing his study of law at West Virginia University College of Law. After earning his JD, Jon worked as a law clerk for the U.S. District Court, Southern District of West Virginia, and as special monitor for the Southern District of Texas. In 1982, Jon and his wife—in search of coastline—came to Maine and ultimately settled in York, where Jon practiced family law until 1995.

In 1995, Jon first came to my attention as an outstanding legal practitioner, and he was one of my first judicial appointments as Governor to the Maine District Court. After only a handful of years, Jon became chief judge of the Maine District Court, an upward trajectory he would repeat

throughout his career. In 2002, I appointed Jon to the Maine Supreme Court as an associate justice, becoming the first in Maine's history to go directly from the district court to the supreme court without prior service on the superior court. A remarkable feat, but one that Jon deserved.

In 2014, President Obama nominated him to the U.S. District Court for the District of Maine, and he was confirmed with over three-quarters of the Senate's support. Jon served with distinction and always with the utmost respect and dedication to the institution. He retires in May as our chief judge.

It has been a privilege to know Jon and call him my friend, and I am sure he will be dearly missed on the bench. I hope that Jon's analytical, decisive intellect and genuine respect for the law will inspire others to follow in his footsteps. I wish Jon all the best in his next chapter of life and give him my sincerest thanks; he truly is a judge's judge, and Maine is lucky to call him one of our own.●

REMEMBERING GEORGE E. "COTTON" FLETCHER

• Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise to honor the life of George E. "Cotton" Fletcher. Cotton Fletcher was born in St. Petersburg, FL, and shortly after moved to Newberry, FL, where he led family enterprises and created jobs for hard-working Floridians, including a 2,000-acre farm, the Newberry Fletcher Farm Equipment dealership, a cattle ranch, and a family-run sawmill in west Gainesville. Later he turned to property development as the president and CEO of the Fletcher Family of Companies.

Mr. Fletcher also dedicated his life to service. He served in the U.S. Navy and the Air Force, retiring as a major from the Air Force Reserves. His service continued beyond the military, serving 53 years on the Alachua General Hospital Board, which later became Santa Fe Healthcare and included the founding of Haven Hospice in Gainesville, FL. He also served on the Florida Lottery Commission, the Gainesville Area Chamber of Commerce, and as a Paul Harris Fellow Rotary Member.

He is survived by his children Cheryl Hartley (Robert), Cindy Thompson, Deborah Diamond, and Blake Fletcher (Ashley); his sister-in-law Mary Fletcher, son-in-law Lester Thompson; 12 grandchildren Matthew, Bryce, Andrew, Ross, Myles, Chelsea, Ryan, Bella, Reagan, Landon, Greyson, Brady; and 6 great-grandchildren Brendan, Parker, Catherine, Emory, Claire, Ellie.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Kelly, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE 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, without amendment:

S. 1278. An act to designate the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Rosa Parks Federal Building", and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 6276. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to identify the utilization rate of certain public buildings and federally-leased space, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7521. An act to protect the national security of the United States from the threat posed by foreign adversary controlled applications, such as TikTok and any successor application or service and any other application or service developed or provided by ByteDance Ltd. or an entity under the control of ByteDance Ltd.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The message further announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 206. An act to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to regularly review and update policies and manuals related to inspections at ports of entry.

S. 1858. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to establish a deadline for applying for disaster unemployment assistance.

The enrolled bills were subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 6276. An act to authorize the Administrator of General Services and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to identify the utilization rate of certain public buildings and federally-leased space, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 7521. An act to protect the national security of the United States from the threat posed by foreign adversary controlled applications, such as TikTok and any successor application or service and any other application or service developed or provided by ByteDance Ltd. or an entity under the control of ByteDance Ltd; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.