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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, answer our cry. Enlighten our lawmakers with a shining inward light and remove the shadows from their hearts. Control their thoughts and prepare them to face the inevitable challenges that invade our Nation and world. Give them the peace of knowing that their times are in Your hands and that You are willing to fight the battles of all who trust in the power of Your Name. Fill their hearts with courage, and may they take time throughout the day to remember Your direct involvement in the details of their lives.

Lord, help us all to maintain a pure conscience, a love for truth, and a passion for peace on Earth.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, if Republicans and Democrats keep working in good faith to fund the government, then I hope we are just days away from completing the appropriations process. The job is not done, but we are very close.

A few days ago, Congressional leaders announced an agreement on the last six funding bills. These bills will make significant investments for our national defense, for the well-being of our servicemembers, for keeping the United States competitive against the Chinese Communist Party, and so much more.

Today, appropriators continue working on the legislative text, and, despite the tight deadline, they continue to make very good progress. They are very diligent. They work through the night. And we salute them on both sides of the aisle—my staff, PATTY MURRAY's staff, SUSAN COLLINS' staff, and Leader MCCONNELL's staff—for trying to get this done, as well as all of the other members of the appropriations subcommittees.

We don't yet know precisely when the House will act, but, as soon as they send us the funding package, I will put it on the Senate floor. And from there, as we all know, it will take cooperation to get on the bill and consent from every Senator to keep this process moving quickly.

Even with bipartisanship, it is going to be a tight squeeze to get this funding package passed before the weekend deadline. I ask my colleagues to be flexible, to be prepared to act quickly, and to prioritize working together in good faith so we can finish the appropriations process.

If we proceed like we did 2 weeks ago with the first six funding bills, then the odds are good that we can get this done without excessive delay or headaches.

Again, I want to thank my Senate colleagues, Chair MURRAY, Vice Chair COLLINS, Leader MCCONNELL, the Speaker, and all the appropriators for working in good faith to finish the job.

CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Mr. President, now on something near and dear to my heart, chips—chips in America. Today, President Biden

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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will be in Phoenix, AZ, to roll out a colossal \$8.5 billion grant to Intel to expand its chip production here in America, a historic sum made possible by the Chips and Science Act, something I was proud to author and push.

Today's "Chips" announcement lands like a thunderclap: \$8.5 billion; 10,000 manufacturing jobs; 20,000 construction jobs; thousands upon thousands of indirect jobs; \$100 billion in private investment. And the ripple effects will be felt across a huge swath of the country: from Oregon to Arizona, to New Mexico, to Ohio. These are just some of the places where a golden new age of American chip production will manifest itself.

And today's announcement comes about a month after GlobalFoundries in New York received its own billion-and-a-half-dollar award to expand their legacy chip production and further make New York State a global hub for chip manufacturing. And we expect more soon for companies like Micron in central New York. You will hear good announcements about that, I believe, soon enough.

One announcement at a time, we are keeping our promise of bringing manufacturing back to America and making the United States the leader in microchip production once again.

And let me be clear. This isn't the tech revolution of yesterday. This is something entirely different and entirely new. When people in the future think "tech," it won't be just enough to mention places like Silicon Valley anymore. They will think of the Silicon Heartland.

Because of Chips and Science, the story of American innovation will now happen in places like New Albany, OH, where Intel is building its Ohio One facility. This one facility will create 3,000 new jobs and 7,000 union construction jobs. These jobs will pay exceedingly well, and not all are going to require college degrees.

Along with Senators CANTWELL, KELLY, WARNER, WYDEN, and so many of my Republican colleagues, too, I want to take a moment to applaud Senator BROWN for making Chips and Science happen. Thanks to my good friend SHERROD BROWN, these jobs in New Albany will be good-paying union jobs. Because SHERROD BROWN worked with the administration and worked with Intel, Intel is using a project labor agreement for the deal, which makes sure the workers building this fab are well prepared and well compensated.

It is not just that Intel will directly hire thousands of new workers. The benefits will also extend to universities across the region, especially HBCUs. It will benefit other industries, like the auto industry. This investment will help generate a pipeline of highly skilled tech workers right in the heart of Ohio, as well as Arizona, New Mexico, and Oregon. And the benefits will spread across communities that have long been overlooked and have long

been waiting for a second chance. And this is what so many of us here in the Senate envisioned when we wrote Chips and Science. I thought of this years ago. I worked with Senator YOUNG. It took us a long time to convince people how important this was. But today's announcement by Intel, the one that was announced last month in Upstate New York—and many others to come—our faith in this bill is being vindicated in terms of jobs and in terms of leadership, not only in chip manufacturing but in science.

So many of us envisioned this when we wrote Chips and Science—a cascade of public investment that in turn creates a fountain of private sector activity. Today's announcement is perhaps the clearest signal yet that Chips and Science is delivering. In the long run, these are the investments we need to keep America safe, keep America competitive, keep America a world leader for innovation in manufacturing in the future.

America was the envy of the world for much of the 20th century precisely because of our ambitions in technological innovation and manufacturing.

When I started working on what I then called endless frontiers a few years back—we retitled it "CHIPS and Science" because too many people thought endless frontiers had something to do with covered wagons—I did it because I knew we had to keep America competitive, and it would take an immense investment by the Federal Government. Other countries were investing. If we didn't, we would have fallen way, way behind, much to the detriment of industries across America because so many depend on chips and much to the detriment of our national security because not only does our defense industry depend on chips, but if they are made overseas, foreign countries might have sway over us economically and foreign policy-wise.

It has taken a while to get here, but the results are truly, truly paying off, and I am excited and feel vindicated about all the work we put into this. So I want to thank President Biden for his leadership in making today's announcement possible. President Biden understood the need to do this immediately when we talked to him about it, and his administration—particularly Commerce Secretary Raimondo—has done a great job negotiating with the companies, as today's announcement shows.

Finally, another shout out to SHERROD BROWN, who understood the importance of bringing chip manufacturing to Ohio for its auto industry and for so much else in projecting a future for a strong manufacturing base in Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, now on the supplemental, the longer that the national security supplemental sits on Speaker Johnson's desk, the more desperate the situation in Ukraine becomes. The war in Ukraine is devastating entire cities

and towns and villages, not just reducing their buildings to rubble but also decimating their populations. As a result, Ukraine is beginning to run out of soldiers. One Ukrainian village is even reported to have practically no men left because so many were drafted to fight, and many, sadly, will not return.

A few weeks ago, I visited Ukraine with a group of Senators, and I will never forget the moment when they took us, in Lviv, to a cemetery. It was a parking lot 4 months earlier, but they needed more room to bury their dead. Half the cemetery was already filled with graves, and you saw the pictures on each grave site of the young men and young women whose lives were taken so soon in their lives. But right across the way, there were workers working, as we were looking at those who were already buried, building new graves because they knew there would be so many more dead. This was a sad sight, but it never saps the vitality and strength of President Zelenskyy and of the Ukrainian people, so we need to help them.

What does Ukraine need? Ukraine is running out of munitions. Russia is now making three times—three times—as much artillery and munitions as the United States and Europe, and Ukrainian forces are suffering the consequences on the ground.

The supplemental package will provide Ukraine the resources it lacks: military equipment, munitions, intelligence support, weaponry, more. Making sure Ukraine has the resources it needs is one of the best ways we can help them compensate for being outnumbered on the battlefield.

Speaker JOHNSON knows this as well as I do. If he puts the supplemental on the floor of the House for a vote, it will pass with the same kind of bipartisan support we saw in the Senate. So my question for the Speaker is this: Why delay providing Ukraine the critical aid it needs to defend itself against Vladimir Putin?

The supplemental package is Ukraine's best chance to win this war. The aid being supplied to Ukraine by our European allies—they are generous, but it is not enough. Ukraine needs more help, and our allies around the world are looking at the House of Representatives, are looking at Speaker JOHNSON to step up.

The choice for Speaker JOHNSON is clear: Put the supplemental on the floor of the House for a vote and help deliver Ukraine the aid it desperately needs or kowtow to President Trump and the MAGA hard right who seem to want a victorious Putin.

History will remember what we do here in this time of great consequence for democracy. The Senate answered the call by passing the national security supplemental with a large, bipartisan majority. Now it is time for the House to do the same. The clock is ticking.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.