

starts with empowering committees, which will in turn ensure that individual Members at all levels of seniority have a real voice in the legislation we consider.

As whip, I have consistently advocated for our Members' amendments, resulting in over 100 amendment votes this Congress. In the majority, we can do better, and I will continue my commitment to amendments as leader.

The committee process is key to developing strong legislation, but all Members of the Senate—and not just the Members of a particular committee—should have a voice in final legislation through amendments on the floor. Members should assume that amendment votes will be the norm. That will mean taking tough votes at times, but that is part of our jobs.

Members should also expect a return to regular order in the Senate next year. I will devote serious time in the summer to floor consideration of appropriations bills so that we don't constantly wind up with an end-of-the-year pileup and problematic continuing resolutions.

Needless to say, the floor priority at the start of the year will be confirming President Trump's nominees, and Members should expect an aggressive schedule until those nominees are confirmed.

I know communication has been a concern for Members of our conference. As whip, I have tried to be very accessible, whether that is by phone or in person, and that is something I intend to continue as majority leader. That includes regular, substantive updates for Members and staff. Neither Members nor staff should be left without information, wondering what is coming next.

I plan to have regular meetings with Speaker JOHNSON and with the White House to ensure smooth coordination and a strong working relationship between the House, the Senate, and the administration as we work together to implement President Trump's agenda.

I will have more to say on all of this down the road, but for now, I want to once again thank my colleagues for the trust they have placed in me. I will work every day to honor that trust and to serve our Members and the American people.

I want to also express my gratitude to Leader MCCONNELL for his tireless service to the Republican Party and to the Senate. I am glad that, while he may be stepping down as leader, he will still be serving here in the Senate.

I want to again congratulate President Trump and Vice President-elect VANCE. They ran a tremendous race, and it will be my honor to work with them to advance our Republican agenda.

I want to say a special word of congratulations to Vice President-elect VANCE, who has been our colleague here in the Senate for the past couple of years. He made an impact right out of the gate and has been a stalwart ad-

vocate for his constituents. Now he will be a stalwart advocate for the American people. I look forward to continuing to work with him in his new role as Vice President.

A big thing that drew me into politics was Ronald Reagan. His philosophy of limited government and peace through strength resonated with me. But I was also drawn by his sense of humor, his optimism, and his belief in America. I suspect that a lot of people who voted for President Trump in this election were attracted in part by the fact that President Trump conveys a lot of that optimism and faith in our country.

It has been a tough 4 years for the American people, but, like President Trump and Ronald Reagan, I believe that America's best days lie ahead. I look forward to working with my Republican colleagues here in the U.S. Senate and with President Trump and Vice President VANCE to build a strong and prosperous America and a bright new dawn for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 6651

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I come to the floor today, and I am ultimately going to be offering a unanimous consent for the body, but beforehand, I want to talk a little bit about what happened in North Carolina with the storm of Hurricane Helene. It actually starts a couple of days earlier when a weather system came into Western North Carolina and dumped inches and inches of rain on several—more than a dozen—major river basins and saturated the land.

Now we have Hurricane Helene come in through the Florida Panhandle, through Georgia, through South Carolina, and into North Carolina. It largely maintained the integrity of a category 1 storm, tropical storm, a couple hundred miles inland in a mountain range. It is a first-of-a-kind storm that is the most deadly in North Carolina history—and, folks, we have been hit by Florence, Matthew, Hugo; I can go through a long list—over 102 people dead, some still missing. We have families who are disconnected and will likely not even have electricity.

There is a community called Big Creek. Asheville is without drinkable water today. Businesses are suffering. The Small Business Administration is out of money. They are telling people who have had claims processed that "Your claim has been approved" and that as soon as the Federal Government replenishes the Small Business Administration account, then they will get the money. Think about that. If you are one of thousands of people in Western North Carolina in a land mass the size of the State of Massachusetts—ladies and gentlemen, that is how big the land mass was that had devastating storms. Mr. President, 102 people died, and hundreds of businesses are out of business.

I have a 20-mile segment of I-40 that is impassable. It is not from rockslides; it is because the land underneath the roads no longer exists. There are 5 miles that are going to have to be repaired. Twenty years ago, when we had a three-tenths-of-a-mile segment, it took 7 months to repair it. And that was just removing a landslide; the integrity of the roadbed was there. We don't have that anymore.

We have 80 miles of rail tracks gone. We have hundreds of businesses out of business right now. We have a major water system that hopes to have drinkable water by Christmas. We have people suffering. We have businesses suffering. We have a disaster that we have to respond to, and a lot of work is going to have to be done before the end of this Congress and certainly in the next Congress, when the nearly \$50 billion between State and Federal dollars is going to have to be appropriated just to help North Carolina, not to mention the \$3 billion of agricultural damage in Georgia, and I can go down the list to Florida.

We have a lot of work to do, but, folks, this is a time where you don't question what we are doing. You don't question how you pay for it. You get the money there, and you get these communities back on track.

I am not saying that we shouldn't be paying for this. We absolutely should. And up here in the rarified air of Washington, DC, we could say "Well, let's just, you know, be responsible about this and let these people suffer until we get it," but that is not how it works in Western North Carolina. They need help now, today.

I will talk a little bit more about that before I offer my unanimous consent request, but before I do, if I may, I would like to pass it over to Senator BUDD. I believe Senator BUDD will pass it over to Senator WARNER, and then I would like to reserve recognition at that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I want to thank my friend Senator TILLIS for his partnership not just for today but throughout this whole crisis in our State.

Hurricane Helene represents one of the worst natural disasters ever to happen to our State—in particular, Western North Carolina. More than, as he mentioned, 100 people were killed and hundreds more injured, and some are still missing.

Thousands of North Carolinians lost their homes and their family businesses. Every day that I was present in the region, I was stunned by the enormity of the damage. It is unlike anything I have ever seen.

Now, I went to college at Appalachian State in Boone, and you learn very quickly how tough these mountain folks are. They are proud. They are self-sufficient people. The citizens of Western North Carolina are some of the toughest, most resilient people

around. They don't look for handouts. They don't complain. So when there is a need like this, government needs to be ready, needs to be there to help them.

They have to be able to access the loans from the SBA so they can continue to rebuild and recover their communities. Now, this program provides victims with low-interest loans to replace lost property or to rebuild their businesses or their homes or shops. This is very important because very few Helene victims—they don't have flood insurance, and it covers—you know, anything that covers a disaster of this magnitude.

Now, it is critical that this program be funded and effectively managed to get loan dollars flowing to those in need immediately, but, as my colleague mentioned, the SBA announced on October 15 that it ran out of money.

Now, every day that this fund sits empty, it further slows the process of rebuilding the lives for thousands of North Carolinians, and that is why we are here. We have to replenish it, and we need to do it now.

So I stand ready to work with my Senate colleagues to cut through the delays and provide the folks of Western North Carolina and the whole Appalachia region the resources they need as quickly as possible. So in this spirit, I strongly want to support Senator TILLIS's RELIEF Act to refill the SBA's Disaster Loan Program, and I hope the Senate can pass it today. I also strongly support the quick approval of a supplemental bill to help fund the long-term recovery for the folks in Western North Carolina. Congress should take up this bill without any further delay.

I either yield to Senator TILLIS or to Senator WARNER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my friends from North Carolina, Senator BUDD and Senator TILLIS.

Let me acknowledge in front of you that you guys got hit the hardest, but we got hit as well in southwest Virginia, and we have got communities that without this relief are going to die.

I want to echo what both of my colleagues have said in that this RELIEF Act is bipartisan. It is what we do as a matter of course when an entity like the SBA runs out of money. Since October 15, 34,000 businesses across the country have applied for SBA relief. Many of them have gotten approved, but they get a response that says: We will give you money when Congress does its job. This is done as a matter of course, and, frankly, the SBA screwed up a little bit on not getting better numbers before we broke before the election.

Let me take one moment and tell you about a community in particular in southwest Virginia.

Damascus, VA, was an old town. Basically, its economy had disappeared. It

came back because there is something called the Creeper Trail, with biking and hiking. I bike this trail.

And, Senator TILLIS, parts of that trail are gone now. We have 34 road trestles, and 18 of them are damaged or gone. We have got part of our road that gets to the top of the mountain that is gone as well. I went to Damascus, and I went to 10 jurisdictions in southwest Virginia, but in this little town, every business and home was affected. One guy had three businesses—two restaurants and a bed and breakfast. He paid out of his pocket to try to keep his workers on, even though it will be months before anything happens, even if the money were there.

We owe it to the folks in Damascus, across southwest Virginia, in North Carolina, and across all of the jurisdictions in our country that have been hard hit to do our job. Just like the folks in western North Carolina, the folks in southwest Virginia are proud, and they have an enormous amount of self-help. But this kind of assistance, whether it is FEMA dollars or SBA loans, is not charity; it is their right as Americans. It is what we pay our taxes for. Instead, thousands of Virginians who have asked for that right to apply for this loan have gotten a note, saying: We can't send you the money until Congress does its job.

We have a chance today for unanimous consent to take this bipartisan piece of legislation, to pass it through, and get those businesses the funds they deserve.

I thank my colleague.

I yield back to the senior Senator from North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, there are 233 people dead—102 in North Carolina, 7 still unaccounted for; the total damage estimated to be between \$30 and \$48 billion across seven States; in North Carolina, 1,400 landslides, 6,000 miles of road damage. One million-plus houses and businesses lost utilities. Some municipalities, like Asheville, like I said earlier, may not have drinkable water. This is a major urban center in western North Carolina that may not have drinkable water for tens of thousands of people before the end of August. That includes businesses that are struggling right now—think restaurants.

Struck during the peak of western North Carolina's season, the majority of our revenue occurs in western North Carolina, starting in October and ending in November. We have lost that. They are gone. A lot of these people lost loved ones who have businesses. Now they are just trying to keep their businesses afloat while they are going to funerals. And we tell them: Well, we have just got to wait for Congress before we can send you a check, because for the first time in this body we are going to demand a pay-for disaster recovery.

Down about where the pages are sitting, a few months ago, BRIAN SCHATZ

came to me—he is a Senator from Hawaii—and he said: THOM, I hope you will support me on the supplemental for the fires in Maui.

I said: Count me in, BRIAN, because—do you know what?—I have no doubt—and count me in every time for a disaster supplemental because this is when we cut the crap and do our jobs. So count me in because I am pretty sure, before this season is over, I am going to have to come to you for help in North Carolina.

I had no idea that it was going to be a record-setting deadly storm, but if we want to keep these communities vibrant—Asheville will come back. It has the critical mass. Canton, Clyde, Burnsville—I can list dozens of towns that are hanging in the breach. Let's give them a chance. And if we don't, then businesses are going to make the right business decision. There are two here, OK? We have the small businesses, and, hopefully, they can bridge the gap and recover.

Again, these are also people who have lost loved ones, and many of them lost their own homes. So while they are trying to figure out a place to live, they are all trying to figure out how they can run their businesses and how they can keep people employed.

Now, big businesses are looking at what the business network—or what the ecosystem is going to look like. We have major employers who may make the decision to leave if we don't send a signal that we are going to be there to help them recover.

I could go on ad nauseam, but I am telling you, when I tell you it is a crisis in North Carolina when a major road like I-40 is going to be down for years, I can't tell people, just because I don't like the way it gets appropriated, it sucks for you that you may have to go out of business while I try to fix the dysfunction in Washington. This is a time for us to act and do like we have done every time with a disaster supplemental.

So—oh. And, by the way, in advance, Senator PAUL is going to offer an amendment that I love so much I would like to marry it. I am also going to object to it because it is the right amendment at the wrong time. I am looking forward to having that incorporated in a vehicle that my Democrat colleagues are going to hate that I hope we get passed in the next Congress, but there is no time for that now. I have said that, in spite of the fact that I support it, I want to be the one to object to it because I want mission certainty here. My mission is to get this disaster supplemental for the Small Business Administration passed through like we have on every other disaster supplemental to this day.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 465, H.R. 6651. I further ask that the Tillis-Warner substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the

bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I lived for 4 months in Asheville and worked at the VA hospital, so I have fond feelings for western North Carolina. I have an uncle who lives just up the road from Asheville. I know about the devastation. One of my best friends from my wedding lives in Asheville as well.

But the thing is, the reason why we won't do this in a responsible way is because the Senate voted to send all of your money to Ukraine. The Senate voted to send \$200 billion to Ukraine.

I have been all over the mountains of Appalachia. When I ask people, "Would you rather your Senators take care of you here in Asheville or here in Pikeville or here in Appalachia or would you rather them send your money to Ukraine?"

I don't get anybody wanting to send a penny to Ukraine.

Look, you can have all kinds of sympathy in the world for Ukraine and hostility toward Russia being the aggressor nation, but we don't have the money. We are \$2 trillion in the hole. Interest this year is going to be \$1 trillion.

As far as passing this, I am willing to let it pass today. He is going to object to passing his own bill today simply because it gets paid for. How crazy is that? He will not even let the other side object to it. He is going to object to his own bill. I am willing to let the bill pass, but take some of the fluff and boondoggle subsidies from the Green New Deal and put it into here. The money is sitting here. We put it into here for disasters. We help Asheville today.

"Oh, no. It is not the time or the place to pay for things."

The question before the Senate is whether, on behalf of the American people, we should borrow and spend an additional \$810 million for small business loans.

Do you know who gets small business loans right now? Ukraine. We are funding—"60 Minutes" did a special on this—a purse and dress store in Ukraine. We fund the Ukrainian Government's pensions. Look, half of our State governments are short in pensions. Our U.S. Government is short in pensions, and we are funding them in Ukraine.

So some of the same people who want this immediately—now, now, now, now; we don't want to pay for it—are happy to pay for crap all over Ukraine, including government salaries and pensions and small business loans to Ukraine.

Do you know what? The job of legislators is to make decisions to set priorities. We don't have an infinite amount of money, but we do have enough

money to take care of them in Asheville and in Virginia. Simply pay for it, but realize the people assembled will object to their own bill today. I am offering their bill. All we have got to do is take some money that is laying around in a pot of money—Green New Deal boondoggle money going to big corporations—and put it in for a disaster. We can do that today. If you still want to subsidize green energy, come back and do that next year. Pay for it now.

We don't have to borrow hundreds of millions of dollars to bail this program out, but Congress has a habit of refusing to do what you and I would do if faced with a new and large expense: Congress refuses to cut elsewhere even when saying yes to every new spending proposal and program that has led to record high inflation. Americans have been forced to learn the hard way that they are the ones who have to pay for Congress's addiction to spending.

So I offer a fiscally responsible path to pay for the bill and spare Americans from increasing the hidden tax of inflation.

My amendment would rescind \$810 million from the Department of Energy's boondoggle green new energy deals. It is a \$4.75 billion program that has had repeated bankruptcies in it previously. It is absurd to force taxpayers to subsidize rich companies—with vast resources of their own—to gamble on energy projects that the private sector finds too risky. And, actually, it should be about priorities: the people in Asheville or the Green New Deal. No. This is the best time to put them in contrast, not some other time when people are not hurting, when people can't see the contrast.

Everybody in Asheville should wake up today and find out their Senators are going to reject the disaster money because it is paid for. That is it. They are going to reject taking it from the Green New Deal boondoggle and sending it to Appalachia. It can go today. It can go in 10 minutes. I approve of the money. Just take it from somewhere where it is being wasted. Ideally, I would take it from Ukraine, but that is not available right now, but a lot of the money went to Ukraine also.

A 2015 report from the Government Accountability Office found that when five companies defaulted on these Green New Deal loans, the government—the taxpayers—lost \$800 million. It is not a good program to begin with, but it is an easy place to go looking for something that is more important, like the people of Asheville in North Carolina.

This money would have nearly covered today's disaster loan funding, but it was needlessly squandered previously, but there is still money in the fund today. I offered this identical amendment to pay for another bill a month ago, and every Republican voted for it. So I don't understand why Republicans would rise today and object to a pay-for they all voted for last

month. If the Small Business Administration must have this additional money, the least we can do is respect the taxpayers and act as good stewards for their money.

Therefore, I ask the Senator to modify his request to include my amendment, which is at the desk, as this would allow the bill to pass if my amendment is attached to it; that the amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as further amended, be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I was wondering if the Senator from Kentucky would yield for two questions, and then I would like to speak on the—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Kentucky yield?

Mr. TILLIS. I think I know the answer to this, Senator PAUL, but I just want to confirm it. Do you recall how you voted on the PACT Act?

Mr. PAUL. I don't think we have—we have an objection. You know, I have asked for a unanimous consent. He either objects, or he doesn't object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Kentucky yield?

Mr. PAUL. I don't have the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. I thought he did.

Mr. PAUL. I have made a motion.

Mr. TILLIS. And I reserve the right to object to that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from North Carolina object—

Mr. TILLIS. I have subsequently asked the Chair—

The PRESIDING OFFICER.—to the modification?

Mr. TILLIS. I have subsequently asked the Chair—

Mr. PAUL. You have got to respond to the motion.

Mr. TILLIS.—if the Senator from Kentucky—

Mr. PAUL. I have made a motion to pass the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Order in the Senate. This is not debatable.

The Senator from Kentucky has not agreed to yield.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. In reserving the right to object, the question I would have asked him is how he voted on the PACT Act. I don't know the answer to it. I think he voted against it. I am not sure. The other question I was going to ask him is has he ever voted for a disaster supplemental that wasn't offset. Those were the two questions I was going to ask. I will find it out later on.

Look, our State motto is "Esse Quam Videri." It says, "To be rather than to seem."

This is a disingenuous offer to amend my bill. Let me tell you why. Maybe it will even be in a fundraising campaign later this week: "I am fighting to dismantle the Green New Deal, and Tillis objected to doing that today."

This bill, if it got amended, has no prayer. I came to the Senate to make a difference, not to make a point. I get the point.

There are a lot of things in the Inflation Reduction Act and in the Green New Deal that need to be clawed back, and I look forward to, under President Trump's leadership, having that vote.

I assume that Senator PAUL knows how to count votes. He has to know that he doesn't have the votes to get this bill done if it is amended.

To be rather than to seem. I am focused on getting North Carolina back on track and not playing a game on this Senate floor. I am going to object to this, Mr. President, in a minute because it is a game.

We never fund disaster supplementals because we know that people are hurting.

You take that case to Ukraine, to Asheville. You take it to Burnsville. You take it to Banner Elk. You take it to Cashiers, Senator PAUL, and I will go with you, and I will see if they are as worried about that or if they are just worried about making sure that their families have a place to live and their businesses have a chance to survive.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the modification.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. The insinuation is made that there is a better time—we will vote on this at another time; maybe, you know, young man, it is just not the time. It is not the time nor the place.

Actually, it is the time or the place, and the only vote against the disaster bill today will be the Senator from North Carolina. He will, today, vote to kill the disaster aid. He says: Well, there aren't enough votes.

We won't know because he is objecting. He isn't allowing the Democrats to object because they always object to anything that is pay-for. But, by his objection, he is not allowing the system to play out. If the Democrats want to object, we will find out that they are opposed to pay-fors, and we will further the definition of who is for not for paying for stuff and who is. But to say that we, as Republicans, are never for paying for disaster relief is to say that we are equally—or the Republicans who are for this—are equally complicit in the accumulation of \$35 trillion worth of debt.

So no matter how good the cause is—I don't care whether it is a fire or aid or a flood or rain or all the damage—it all should be paid for. It is the responsible thing to do, no matter how terrible the disaster is.

And it is not like I am saying: Well, let's just wait 2 years until we can earn enough money to pay for Asheville. We have the money. We are a rich country.

It is sitting here. I just simply ask: Take it from something here—that is a wasteful corporate bailout to green energy companies—and put it over here.

But the fact is that the Senator from North Carolina is going to kill his own bill today. He is going to vote not to allow it to be heard. And we have no idea whether there are enough votes or not. He can say there aren't enough votes, but he is now the vote that stops the spending from getting easy passage.

What we are going through is a procedure of easy passage. This is allowing things not to go to committee, not to be deliberated but to easily pass. And I am in favor of doing that because of the emergency, because of the tragedy. We allow this to easily pass by simply taking some money from a pile of money over here. If he weren't to object and the Democrats don't stand up, it passes like this.

But then it is not on me; it is on them. They decide that they don't want to pay for anything. And disasters should never be paid for? Well, that is how we have this disaster of a \$35 trillion debt, because nobody pays for anything. Nobody cares. It is never the right time.

Well, now is the right time. So if you want easy passage, you have to hear what the problems we face are.

So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Ladies and gentlemen, I have prided myself on working on a lot of legislation over the last 10 years, and I am proud of the fact that I figured out how to get votes in this Chamber and get votes in the other Chamber and get bills to the President's desk. Let me explain to you how this process works. We were going to pass a bill out of here. Even if it is not funded, I am pretty sure that the House is going to insist on some sort of a pay-for.

What we are doing here is playing a game of being disingenuous. Folks, I support what Senator PAUL does. By the way, I will be checking the fundraising emails to see if we are fighting to—that TILLIS is against the Green New Deal dismantling. Count me in for that.

What I am not for is putting a poison pill in here that prevents this bill from going to the House. My colleagues in the House intend to get a pay-for. They intend to get a pay-for. I mean, how hard is it? I have got a community college education, and I am smart enough to figure this out. So are a lot of other people from community colleges. But this is a game. It will be paid for in the House, or it won't pass. We have a majority there. So instead of facilitating the process to move it there and thus find a way to offset it, we are trying to kill it here.

I support so many provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan being repealed and

using the money for better purposes, and disaster recovery is one of them. But that is not what we are here to do today in this Congress with that President. That is what we are going to be here to do next year, in the next Congress, with a different President.

So I just want to set the record straight. I don't like games being played. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle know I try to be evenhanded. I told Senator MARK WARNER I was going to object because it was a procedural game. And if it is characterized as anything other than that, let me know who you are because I will educate you. Thank you.

Mr. WARNER. Will the Senator yield for a question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. TILLIS. Yes. I am back to the happy THOM now.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I just want to say, I am prepared to object as well.

And is it not the case, even when it comes to SBA—frankly, if SBA had gotten their act together a little earlier and had a better accounting so we knew how much we needed to refill the pot, we might not have been here.

But this is—if we want to change the law about how the SBA operates and disaster relief, that is a fair debate, and I will take on anyone in this Chamber. In the meantime, whether it is in your community or mine, people are sitting there with a piece of paper that says: You will get your loan, you have been approved, once Congress does its job.

Would not your bill, my bill, our bipartisan bill, if it had been able to go through today, wouldn't those folks in North Carolina, Virginia, and across our country who have been hit be one step closer—those small businesses—to getting the SBA loans that they have earned, deserved, and should be funded?

Mr. TILLIS. Without a doubt, Senator WARNER. And, quite honestly, there are some people today saying: If I have got to wait until next Congress, I have got to fold up. I am trying to find a place to live, and I am also trying to keep my business afloat.

Absolutely, it gives them hope. And our failure to act doesn't.

Mr. WARNER. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON FUNG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fung nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY),