

this critical legislation across the finish line. And yet we still haven't been able to get a vote here in the Senate.

One thing I want to tell you for sure is I am not going to allow typical Washington gridlock like we have seen here to block this bill that my constituents—our constituents—are relying on for more affordable housing, stronger communities, and for protected lands.

So, today, I am taking matters into my own hands. I stand here, today, asking for my colleagues' cooperation to support the State of Nevada, to support our ability to grow and build our communities, and protect and preserve the beauty in our great State, and support the passage of my Washoe County lands bill by unanimous consent.

Notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 604, S. 3593; that the committee-reported substitute amendment be 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 objection?

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, reserving the right to object, this bill does two things my friend and colleague from Nevada mentioned. It would eliminate multiple-use management from hundreds of thousands of acres of Federal land. It would also grant authority to the Secretary of the Interior to convey thousands of acres of Federal land to local governments in Nevada. Other Western States are trying to do this exact same thing.

Former Majority Leader Harry Reid cut special deals in the past like this for Nevada. I am happy to work with my friend and colleague from Nevada, but Congress should not enact another special deal for Nevada when other Western States are seeking similar legislation.

Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, I look forward to continuing to work with the Senator from Wyoming on approving this bill. But for me, today, it is beyond disappointing that Washington's business-as-usual approach is once again getting in the way of my bill passing.

The legislation would not cost any additional taxpayer money, and it would not directly impact any State other than Nevada. And it would allow Washoe County to be able to serve its business community, Tribal communities, and the people who live there. All it is going to do is protect our outdoor spaces, support local Tribal communities, and expand economic development opportunities, including the much needed affordable housing, desperately needed by so many.

Today's outcome is frustrating. I want to assure the people of Nevada

that my colleagues and I will continue to work on this issue. It is not settled, and the fight to get Nevada lands for us to be able to use in smart ways is not over. I will reintroduce this legislation next Congress, and I will continue fighting until my Washoe County lands bill is passed and Nevadans are better able to responsibly build in and protect our State.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

THE CALENDAR

Mr. WYDEN. Notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of the following bills en bloc: Calendar No. 586, S. 2160 and H.R. 7938, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bills en bloc.

Mr. WYDEN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment, where applicable, be agreed to; that the bills, as amended, if amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The bills passed, en bloc, as follows:

URBAN CANAL MODERNIZATION ACT

A bill (S. 2160) to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern, which had been reported from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Urban Canal Modernization Act".

SEC. 2. EXTRAORDINARY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE WORK PERFORMED BY THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 9601 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 510) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), (7), and (1), respectively;

(2) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), by striking "et seq.," and inserting "et seq.);";

(3) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), by striking "mean" and inserting "means"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(8) URBAN CANAL OF CONCERN.—The term 'urban canal of concern' means a transferred works or segment of a transferred works that is a canal reach—

"(A) the failure of which would result in an estimated at-risk population of more than 100 individuals, as determined by the Secretary, pursuant to the guidelines and criteria developed under section 9602(a); and

"(B) that is determined by the Secretary to be classified as an urban canal reach.".

(b) EXTRAORDINARY OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE WORK ON URBAN CANALS OF CONCERN.—Section 9603 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (43 U.S.C. 510b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "(a)" and all that follows through "The Secretary" and inserting the following:

"(a) AUTHORIZATION.—

"(1) PROJECT FACILITIES.—The Secretary"; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) URBAN CANALS OF CONCERN.—The Secretary or the transferred works operating entity may carry out, in accordance with subsection (b), any extraordinary operation and maintenance work on an urban canal of concern that the Secretary determines to be necessary pursuant to the guidelines and criteria set forth in section 9602(a).";

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) URBAN CANALS OF CONCERN.—Except in the case of emergency extraordinary operation and maintenance work carried out under subsection (c), of the total costs of extraordinary operation and maintenance work on an urban canal of concern conducted under subsection (a)(2)—

"(A) 25 percent shall be provided by the Secretary on a nonreimbursable basis;

"(B) 10 percent shall be provided by the applicable State or political subdivision of the applicable State in which the extraordinary operation and maintenance work is being conducted; and

"(C) the remaining amounts shall be advanced by the Secretary in accordance with paragraph (2), to be repaid by the transferred works operating entity in accordance with that paragraph."; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

"(7) LIMITATION FOR URBAN CANALS OF CONCERN.—Not more than \$300,000,000 shall be made available from the Account to pay the Federal costs of extraordinary operation and maintenance work on urban canals of concern conducted under section (a)(2), unless an appropriations Act provides funds for payment of Federal costs for such purposes in excess of that amount.".

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2160), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

KLAMATH BASIN WATER AGREEMENT SUPPORT ACT OF 2024

A bill (H.R. 7938) to amend the Klamath Basin Water Supply Enhancement Act of 2000 to provide the Secretary of the Interior with certain authorities with respect to projects affecting the Klamath Basin watershed, and for other purposes, was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I am very pleased my legislation has just passed.

I particularly want to express my thanks to my colleague and friend, my neighbor, Senator BARRASSO, and staff John Tanner and others—Jack and Vincent and Kristin and Tori and

Sam—who have been a big help in this effort.

This legislation, by my Republican colleague from eastern Oregon, Congressman BENTZ, is a companion bill to my bill, S.482, which would uphold promises made by the Federal Government to farmers and Tribes in the Klamath Basin. The Klamath Basin is the subject of one of the largest river restoration projects in history.

As a result of this work, new habitats are being opened up to recover culturally important fish and wildlife and provide more flexibility for managing water deliveries to farmers in the Klamath Basin. The promise that was made to agricultural communities and agreed to by stakeholders in the Klamath Basin is that they would receive support for the work that must now be completed to avoid conflict, work like putting fish screens on water diversions.

I commend the House for passing this legislation on suspension, and I am really pleased that my colleagues on both sides of the aisle are going to allow us to make sure that we don't lose this critical and timely opportunity to finally live up to a promise made to these local communities nearly a decade ago.

I will close with this. I promised that I would have an open-to-all townhall meeting in every county in my State. I just cleared townhall meeting No. 1,100. That means that 1,100 times, for 90 minutes, we just said we are going to throw open the doors of government and listen to folks. I am not giving any speeches or using any teleprompters or whatever, just letting people share their views.

And it was there that I heard about this idea, this idea that is being advanced now on a bipartisan basis. Congressman BENTZ, my colleague from eastern Oregon, myself, my home is in southeast Portland, urban and rural, Democrats and Republicans, coming together to do something that makes a lot of sense.

And I want to also, while I am making these remarks, thank my senatorial colleague Senator MERKLEY, who is a senior member of the Appropriations Committee. He has been doing so much good work on the Klamath over the years.

The passage of this legislation tonight is a good win for rural Oregon, long overdue.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 5509

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5509 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; that the bill 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 Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, reserving the right to object. This bill is not the right response to address the permitting challenges at the Department of the Interior. The bill would create a duplicative database, and the database would lack privacy protections for sensitive business information. I am committed to addressing permitting challenges. This bill is not the right answer, and, therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from California.

CONGRATULATING THE LOS ANGELES GALAXY FOR WINNING THE 2024 MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER CUP

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 936, submitted earlier today.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 936) congratulating the Los Angeles Galaxy for winning the 2024 Major League Soccer Cup.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. PADILLA. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 936) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's (legislative day of December 16, 2024) RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

NOMINATION OF SERENA RAQUEL MURILLO

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, as we conclude the final week of the 118th Congress, and we bring to a close the historic—truly historic—Biden-Harris administration, we look back on the biggest accomplishments of this body.

Now, serving on the Senate Judiciary Committee alongside my partners over the years, Senators Dianne Feinstein, Senator Laphonza Butler, and as of last week, Senator ADAM SCHIFF, I am particularly proud to have played a role in the confirmation of a nearly record number of President Biden's Federal judicial nominees.

Today, I want to ask for your support on the final two nominees that are awaiting confirmation by this body.

So first let me introduce to you Judge Serena Murillo, President Biden's nominee to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California, the proud daughter of a

waitress and a Mexican-American farmworker who went back to school to become a teacher.

Judge Murillo was born in Pomona, CA. She earned her undergraduate degree from the University of California-San Diego and earned her law degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. And after a year in private practice, Judge Murillo joined the District Attorney's Office in Los Angeles where she served as a prosecutor for the next 7 years.

In the District Attorney's Office, she served as both a trial and appellate attorney, and throughout her time there, she tried 68 cases to verdict. Now, since 2015, Judge Murillo has served as a judge on the Los Angeles Superior Court and was even appointed justice pro tem on the California Court of Appeals, Second Appellate District, from 2018 to 2019.

Her deep experience across the whole spectrum of criminal and civil law, and her reputation for thoughtfulness, fairness, and hard work on the bench will make her a tremendous district judge if she earns this body's support. On her behalf and on behalf of the people of California, I ask for your "aye" vote for this nomination.

NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN J. CHEEKS

Madam President, now this week, we will also consider the nomination of Judge Benjamin Cheeks to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of California. Judge Cheeks was born in Albany, GA, and raised by a single mother who worked multiple jobs to provide for him and his siblings.

Recognizing that education was the key to a better future, he worked hard and earned a full scholarship to attend the University of Miami, and he went on to earn his law degree from American University, Washington College of Law.

After law school, Judge Cheeks served as an assistant district attorney in Manhattan for 7 years. And then the light went off, and he made his way to California where he served as assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of California.

Three years later, he started his own criminal defense practice serving on a panel to represent defendants who could not afford private attorneys. And earlier this year, Judge Cheeks was unanimously selected by members of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District to serve as a magistrate judge. That says a lot. And it says a lot about the qualifications, the values, the approach, and the great service he will provide as a district judge with your support.

So two more-than-qualified, more-than-ready-to-serve nominees awaiting our confirmation. I ask you, colleagues, for your support.

TRIBUTE TO TONY CÁRDENAS

Madam President and colleagues, I rise today to congratulate and to thank Congressman TONY CÁRDENAS as he prepares to retire after 12 distinguished years of service in the U.S.