

SUPPORTING AMERICA'S
CHILDREN AND FAMILIES ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 9076 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 9076) to reauthorize child welfare programs under part B of title IV of the Social Security Act and strengthen the State and tribal child support enforcement program under part D of such title, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 9076) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

FISHERY IMPROVEMENT TO
STREAMLINE UNTIMELY REGULATORY HURDLES POST EMERGENCY SITUATION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 5103 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 5103) to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to approve or deny spend plans within a certain amount of time, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 5103) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

MORNING BUSINESS

REGULATIONS FOR RECORDINGS OF SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD updated "Regulations for Recordings of Senate Floor Proceedings."

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

REGULATIONS FOR RECORDINGS OF SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS ADOPTED BY THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON RULES AND ADMINISTRATION ON DECEMBER 20, 2024

1.0 Scope—S. Res. 28 (99th Congress) authorized broadcast coverage and recordings of proceedings in the Senate Chamber. These regulations describe the procedures for preparation, transfer, and distribution of such recordings.

2.0 Definitions—For purposes of these regulations, the following terms shall have the meaning specified.

2.1 *Depository* means the Library of Congress or the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

2.2 *Recording* means an audio and color video recording of proceedings in the Senate Chamber.

2.3 *Recording Studio* means the Senate Recording Studio operated by the Senate Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate.

2.4 *Rules Committee* means the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

2.5 *Secretary* means the Secretary of the Senate.

3.0 Preparation of Recordings—

3.1 The Recording Studio shall make at least two archival-quality audio and color video recordings of proceedings in the Senate Chamber.

3.2 The Recording Studio may, upon request, make additional recordings for Members. Members who receive recordings shall pay the fee set by Rules and accept the recordings on the condition that the recordings will not be used for political campaign purposes.

4.0 Transfer of Recordings—

4.1 As soon as possible, the Recording Studio shall transfer the two archival-quality recordings to the Secretary of the Senate, who shall transfer one to the Library of Congress and one to the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration.

4.2 Recordings may be made by depositories and distributed to any person or organization upon payment of such fee as the depository may set to recover the cost of copying, subject to the following conditions:

4.2.1 Any person or representative of any organization who receives a recording may not use the recording, or permit the recording to be used by any other party, for political campaign purposes.

4.2.2 Any person requesting a recording who is not representing a public or commercial news organization must agree in writing, as a condition of receiving a recording, that the recording will not be used for political campaign purposes. Each depository is responsible for securing such a written agreement for all recordings distributed by it. Signed agreements shall be retained for a period of at least two years and, upon request, copies of the agreements shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Senate or to the Rules Committee. A suggested form of agreement is attached.

5.0 Property Rights and Agreements with Depositories—The Senate retains all property rights to the recordings of proceedings in the Senate Chamber transferred to the Library of Congress and the U.S. National Archives and Records Administration and those depositories shall hold such recordings in accordance with the terms of an agreement to be entered into with the Secretary of the Senate, subject to the approval of the Rules Committee.

Pursuant to S. Res. 28 (99th Congress):

"Sec. 5. (a) The use of any recording of Senate proceedings for political campaign purposes is strictly prohibited.

(b)(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2), any recording of Senate proceedings furnished to any person or organization shall be

made on the condition, agreed to in writing, that the recording shall not be used for political campaign purposes.

(2) Any public or commercial news organization furnished a recording described in paragraph (1) shall be subject to the provisions of paragraph (1) but shall not be required to enter into a written agreement."

I have been advised of the condition set forth in the above resolution and agree that I, and the organization I represent, will not use, nor permit any other person to use, the recording received by me for political campaign purposes.

Furthermore, in signing below, I do so with the understanding that copies of this agreement are available to the Secretary of the Senate and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration upon request, pursuant to regulations and procedures issued by the Committee on Rules and Administration.

Date:

Signature:

Name:

Address:

Organization:

THOMAS R. CARPER WATER
RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, this week, the Senate passed important legislation to Oregon's ports and waterways, the backbone of our regional economy. This legislation includes key provisions that I fought for to ensure the safe navigation of the Lower Columbia River's deep draft channel, which connects the Pacific Northwest and much of the country to the world.

According to the Pacific Northwest Waterways Association, the channel supports more than 49 million metric tons of international trade cargo, accounting for over \$31 billion in value and supporting at least 40,000 local jobs. The benefits of ensuring clear passage along the channel reach well beyond the region. The channel is the country's top wheat export gateway, the second largest U.S. soy export gateway, and the third largest grain export gateway in the world, as well as the top West Coast exporter for cars.

Since 1891, through authorizations in a patchwork of Federal laws and agreements, the Port of Portland—and later along with the Ports of Vancouver, Woodland, Kalama, and Longview, WA—has assisted in dredging and maintaining the channel. For the last 60 years, this work has been done by the Dredge *Oregon*, on behalf of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, a dredge owned by the Port of Portland and used exclusively for Columbia River channel maintenance. While the dredge has performed extremely well on demand and often under difficult circumstances, the vessel is now nearly 60 years old and in desperate need of replacement.

I am pleased that section 1325 of this year's Water Resources Development Act will clearly authorize the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to replace Dredge *Oregon* with a more modern vessel. This language makes it clear that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can reimburse the Port of Portland for financial costs incurred to replace Dredge *Oregon*, which exclusively

works to fulfil the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers responsibilities in the Lower Columbia Channel.

This authorization is critical toward ensuring that the Lower Columbia River will continue to be dredged and maintained with the same reliability as it has been for decades. I once again thank my colleagues and staff for their hard work on this legislation.

MCALESTER ARMY AMMUNITION PLANT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I rise today to express my gratitude to the Armed Services Committee and Energy and Natural Resources Committee for working to include an important provision that passed as part of the fiscal year 2025 National Defense Authorization Act (FY25 NDAA). The provision is in section 1706, titled "Use of royalty gas at McAlester Army Ammunition Plant."

The Department of Defense has issued a charge to ensure that all U.S. military installations are energy resilient by 2035. Under 10 U.S.C. §2911, the Secretary of Defense is responsible for "ensur[ing] the readiness of the armed forces for their military missions by pursuing energy security and energy resilience." In implementing this section of the U.S. Code, the Department of Defense has pursued a plan to establish microgrids at all military installations, utilizing a diverse array of energy sources to be energy resilient. In FY 2022, the Department of Defense consumed \$4.2 billion in fuel for installation energy. Further, natural gas was the largest nonelectric fuel source, used in almost 75 percent of installation energy consumption. As my colleagues know, the purpose of energy resilience is to ensure our military installations are able to continue operations in the event of a local, gridwide, or national energy supply disruption.

In 2021, Senate Report 117-39, which accompanied the National Defense Authorization Act of 2016, requested that the Department of Defense review a 2016 analysis of installations with likely gas and oil reserves to provide a recommendation for a pilot site to initiate use of on-site mineral reserves for energy resilience and security purposes. The program aimed to provide the installation with onsite energy production, light refining, storage, and onsite generation to maintain critical operations during grid outages. The report stated that the Department of Defense had an absence of general statutory authority for the Department of Defense to extract and use minerals at installations. The report also includes a list of nearly 150 military installations that are located within 25 miles of the top 100 most productive natural gas and oil reserves in the United States, of which McAlester is one.

In order to clarify the authorities necessary for the deployment of natural gas resources for the use of military energy resilience and security, I

worked with the Senate Armed Services Committee and Energy and Natural Resources Committee to include section 1706 of the FY25 NDAA. This provision would provide the appropriate authorities for McAlester Army Ammunition Plant in McAlester, OK, to develop natural gas on the installation for energy resilience purposes. This language would require coordination between the Department of Defense and Department of the Interior to allow McAlester Army Ammunition Plant to produce, treat, manage, and use national gas by contracting with appropriate entities to meet directives from the Department of Defense for energy resiliency.

This authority has been years in the making starting from efforts led by Oklahoma's former senior Senator and my friend, the late Jim Inhofe. The language also includes feedback and technical assistance from the Department of Defense, the Bureau of Land Management, multiple committees in the House and Senate, and Senate leadership. There is already precedent for the production and use of natural gas on military installations, as is the case with Fort Knox in Kentucky. The strategic use of energy such as natural gas promotes the readiness of the Armed Forces for their military mission. I urge the Department of Defense to swiftly implement this authority, and I congratulate McAlester on the opportunity to reach energy resiliency and continue the great work they do for our national security.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted "no" on the en bloc confirmation of Executive Calendar Nos. 851, 853, 854, and 857.

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY STUDY INSTITUTE

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I rise today to congratulate the Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) on its 40th anniversary.

Since its founding four decades ago by members of Congress from both sides of the aisle, EESI has steadfastly pursued its vision of a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world—a vision I share. EESI's work is a reminder that there is considerable common ground if we work together to find it. For the sake of our planet, our economy, our health, and our children's future, I hope we have the strength to do just that.

EESI plays a key role as it informs Congress of developments in the energy, environmental, and climate space. Every year, EESI convenes dozens of congressional briefings, publishes white papers, releases newsletters, and hosts a podcast. All of this science-based, nonpartisan information—clearly explained and synthesized—helps us develop good policy.

EESI has also been one of the driving forces behind the annual Congressional Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency EXPO and Policy Forum. I have the privilege of serving as a deputy co-chair of the Senate Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Caucus, which showcases, on a bipartisan basis, the many benefits of clean energy and helps cohost the EXPO. I am very proud to have participated in almost every EXPO since 2003. At these EXPOs, clean energy leaders convene and share what their organizations are doing to advance renewable energy and energy efficiency. They describe how clean energy and energy efficiency are creating good-paying jobs in their communities, expanding economic development in rural areas, helping families and businesses become more resilient to extreme weather and climate impacts, contributing to national security, and ensuring that all communities have access to clean air and water.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the many accomplishments of former Representative Richard L. "Dick" Ottinger. He co-founded the Environmental and Energy Study Conference when he represented New York in Congress in the 1970s. Under Mr. Ottinger's leadership, the conference later evolved into the independent nonprofit we are celebrating today, EESI.

We are in the middle of a decisive decade for climate action. What we choose to do now—or fatefully, choose not to do—will affect future generations in profound ways. As we seek bipartisan agreement to achieve our climate goals, I know we can count on EESI and its remarkable resources to help guide the way.

Congratulations again to EESI and its 40 years of advancing climate solutions on Capitol Hill. I look forward to working with EESI for many years to come as we strive together to achieve a sustainable, resilient, and equitable world.

TRIBUTE TO SARAH BENEDICT ANSTAETT

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate and honor the service of Sarah Benedict Anstaett, my State director. Soon, Sarah will retire from the U.S. Senate after a lengthy career serving the people of Wisconsin and our Nation.

Sarah's steadfast dedication to constituent services has set a high standard for our office that will have a lasting impact. With over 25 years of Federal experience, Sarah's mentorship and willingness to pass on her wealth of knowledge to junior staffers is not only a testament to her rare style of leadership, but to her belief in the importance of quality public service. Sarah holds a BA in psychology and a masters in social work from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, making her exceptionally well qualified to handle any constituent service concern.