

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 on-site 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.

Under Sarah's guidance, my office has assisted thousands of Wisconsinites and their families who were confronted with urgent and often very serious challenges.

Sarah joined our Madison area House of Representatives staff as a caseworker. Constituents coming to our office with concerns were met with Sarah's capable and calm approach to problem solving. She was incredibly effective in addressing all manner of issues and quickly became an indispensable part of the team. She traveled throughout our district, meeting constituents where they were—especially our seniors—in places that allowed them to interact directly with the Federal Government. During this time, Sarah and her husband Dave welcomed two children, which spurred our office to embrace family-forward work policies and practices.

When I took my seat in the Senate, I was delighted that Sarah chose to continue with our team. In my Senate office, Sarah became our director of constituent services, working with a team to address Federal issues from constituents around the State. She developed effective processes and guides for our caseworkers, shared her wealth of experience and best practices, and was always ready to step in and help on the trickiest and stickiest of concerns.

She also created one of our favorite reports: a weekly roundup of casework successes, concerns and trends. Each week, the report of Sarah and her team's exceptional work was filled with stories ranging from expeditious replacement of lost passports to saving small businesses that were facing existential challenges with Federal Agencies.

In 2021, Sarah assumed the role of my State director, overseeing and guiding our outstanding team of outreach staff, caseworkers, and other support staff. Her leadership in this new role was pragmatic, focused, and inclusive. She kept our priorities at the forefront and guided staff to make the best decisions.

In her new role, Sarah immediately hit the ground running and refined and established new processes for our outreach team, in-state scheduling and travel, and continued to support our casework team. My staff often reported to me that she managed to do the impossible: make their jobs less stressful. As State director, Sarah set high standards for our staff, inspiring and bringing out the best in each of them. She led by example and demonstrated the importance and value of having women in senior leadership roles.

She traveled the State both with and without me, continually developing and cultivating important relationships with constituents and organizations throughout Wisconsin. She has been a constant presence at events around the State and always actively pursued opportunities to strengthen ties between our office and the communities we serve. My staff and I will miss the kindness, humility, good humor,

and grace that she brings each day to our team.

Outside of the office, Sarah's an avid traveler and explorer, with a wide group of friends and interests. I am sure that her retirement will bring her more opportunities to travel with her husband Dave and their children Henry and Ursula.

Sarah, thank you for your service to the people of Wisconsin and to our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO JENNIFER GARNER

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate and honor the service of Jennifer "Jen" Garner, my northeastern Wisconsin regional representative. Soon, Jen will retire from the U.S. Senate after a lengthy career serving the people of Wisconsin and our Nation.

Jen's well-deserved retirement comes after 46 years of working in the political sphere in some form or another. She graduated from Northern Michigan University with a BS in public administration and hit the ground running. She has worked on political campaigns large and small, for and with local union members and leaders, in community and statewide organizations, local government, and finally on our Senate team. Her more than 40-year commitment to public service is evidenced by her strong connections to labor and manufacturing communities in the region that she serves.

I first met Jen many years ago when I was seeking a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and she was working with AFSCME. She will regularly share that I "knocked her socks off" in our initial meeting. But really, I was the one impressed with Jen's strategic approach and tenacity. And I never forgot that during our many interactions throughout my time in the House. When the opportunity came for her to join our staff, it was an easy decision for both of us.

During her time on our staff, Jen has continually developed and strengthened relationships across her service area. Jen serves the people of Wisconsin in 11 counties—Marinette, Oconto, Waupaca, Outagamie, Winnebago, Calumet, Brown, Sheboygan, Manitowoc, Kewaunee, and Door—on my behalf. When we travel around together, Jen is an instant ambassador and magnet at gatherings large and small. She is recognized and welcomed warmly in every room, and I know the reaction to her work is authentic and appreciated.

My staff fondly refers to Jen as the unofficial "Dean" of our outreach team. Jen knows all the intricacies on how best to interact with various groups, organizations, and stakeholders. She is a wealth of knowledge and is always available to share context, history, and recommendations on the best way to engage. She is always ready for a gut-check or to share an excellent scene-setting story and knows

that details and history matter when it comes to relationship building and serving constituents. She is also game for a challenge, usually brought on by our team's insistence on the adoption of new technologies and systems.

As Jen begins this new chapter of her life, I know she will not stray far from engagement in her local community and causes dear to her heart. I am delighted that she will be able to spend more time with her family and friends, especially her grandchildren, who are the lights of her life. My staff and I will miss Jen's camaraderie, friendship, and leadership through action. We wish her all the best in her retirement, and I am pleased to officially designate her as dean emerita of our outreach team.

Jen, thank you for your service to the people of Wisconsin and our Nation.

TRIBUTE TO CHRISTINE RAHLF

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate and honor the service of Christine "Chris" Rahlf, my veterans services representative. Soon, Chris will retire from the U.S. Senate after a lengthy career serving the people of Wisconsin and our Nation.

Chris began her career as an officer in the Navy Civil Engineer Corps. Equipped with a BS in Civil Engineering from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Chris began her Federal service managing construction projects at the Naval Training Center in Newport, RI. She later moved to California, where she directed the quality assurance program and supervised more than 100 evaluators at Diego Garcia. She finished her Active service in the Navy as the course director for the Naval Facilities Contracts Training Center, improving both course pass rates and test scores, as well as developing models for future course curricula.

Following her time in the Navy, Chris received an MBA at San Diego State University and worked in project management at several large corporations based in California. Upon her return to Wisconsin, she joined Faith Technologies located in Menasha and held a variety of leadership positions during her time on their team. She developed strong relationships in her local community, later running for a seat in the Wisconsin State Assembly to serve Northern Ozaukee County and Washington County.

In early 2019, we were fortunate to have Chris join our staff. Her tireless work ethic and commitment to public service were evident from the moment we met. Chris fully dedicated herself to supporting, uplifting, and communicating with veterans across Wisconsin something you could say she has spent her entire life doing. As the daughter of a 100 percent disabled veteran, wife of a veteran, mother of two servicemembers, and as a veteran herself, Chris brought the perspective and