

(C) the types of recreational vessels that are restricted on each area of the exclusive economic zone;

(2) describes the geographic boundaries of areas where fishing restrictions occur; and

(3)(A) identifies Federal marine protected areas, including National Marine Sanctuaries, national marine monuments, and other federally protected waters; and

(B) includes information on what fishing, recreational boating, and other related recreational activities are authorized in each such area.

(b) DATA ON NAVIGATION WITHIN EXCLUSIVE ECONOMIC ZONE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall continue to make available digitized geographic information system data that includes, with respect to access to the exclusive economic zone—

(A) navigation information;

(B) bathymetric information;

(C) depth charts; and

(D) other information, consistent with law and policy.

(2) WEBSITE.—The Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, make the data described in paragraph (1) available on the website on which the Secretary makes the data described in subsection (a) available.

(c) DATA ACCESSIBILITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that the website on which the Secretary makes the data described in subsections (a) and (b) available—

(1) organizes that data so that the data is findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable; and

(2) includes a mechanism by which users can be easily updated when new data becomes available.

(d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretary shall develop—

(1) a process to allow members of the public to submit questions or comments regarding the data described in subsections (a) and (b) and the accessibility of that data under subsection (c); and

(2) methods to improve the accessibility of data.

(e) UPDATES.—The Secretary shall update—

(1) the data described in subsections (a)(1) and (b) not less frequently than 2 times each year; and

(2) the data described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (a) in real time.

(f) NONDISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.—The Secretary may not, consistent with applicable law and policy, disclose, in any geographic information system data made publicly available under this section—

(1) information regarding the nature, location, character, or ownership of historic, paleontological, cultural, or archaeological resources; or

(2) commercial fishing information, including proprietary information.

(g) TREATMENT OF TRIBAL WATERS AND FISHING AREAS.—The authorities granted by this section shall not apply with respect to any usual or accustomed fishing areas or Tribal waters.

SEC. 5. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.

(a) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—For purposes of carrying out this Act, the Secretary may—

(1) coordinate and partner with non-Federal entities, including—

(A) States;

(B) Indian Tribes, Native Hawaiian organizations, and Tribal organizations;

(C) interstate commissions (as defined in section 303 of the Interjurisdictional Fisheries Act of 1986 (16 U.S.C. 4102));

(D) Regional Ocean Partnerships (as defined in section 10202 of the James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023 (16 U.S.C. 1468));

(E) experts in data science, analytics, and operations research;

(F) the private sector, including technology or geospatial data industries;

(G) nonprofit organizations; and

(H) institutions of higher education (as defined in section 201 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)); and

(2) enter into agreements with experts within entities described in any of subparagraphs (A) through (H) of paragraph (1) to carry out any of the provisions of this Act.

(b) INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, work with the relevant offices of the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Defense, the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Coast Guard, the Army Corps of Engineers, and the Interagency Working Group on Ocean and Coastal Mapping codified by section 12203 of the Ocean and Coastal Mapping Integration Act (33 U.S.C. 3502), to ensure compatibility and interoperability among applicable Federal databases with respect to the collection and dissemination of geospatial data relating to public outdoor recreational use of the exclusive economic zone.

(c) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL, STATE, AND TRIBAL LAW AND REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, in developing and distributing geospatial data under this Act, shall make clear that the data are subject to applicable laws and regulations of the Federal Government, States, and Indian Tribes.

SEC. 6. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act may be construed—

(1) to modify or alter the definition of the term “navigable waters” under any provision of Federal law;

(2) to affect the jurisdiction or authority of Federal or State agencies to regulate navigable waters;

(3) to increase or diminish the responsibility or authority of Federal or State agencies or Indian Tribes to manage fisheries under existing law;

(4) to satisfy any requirement for government-to-government consultation with Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian organizations; or

(5) to affect or modify any treaty or other right of any Indian Tribe.

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

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

The bill (S. 759), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

COMMEMORATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CONCLUSION OF WORLD WAR II WITH THE SURRENDER OF IMPERIAL JAPAN AND HONORING VETERANS OF BOTH THE PACIFIC AND EUROPEAN THEATERS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 383, which is at the desk.

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

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 383) commemorating the 80th anniversary of the conclusion of

World War II with the surrender of Imperial Japan and honoring veterans of both the Pacific and European theaters.

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

Mr. THUNE. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered 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. 383) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, September 11; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 115, S. 2296, the National Defense Authorization Act.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator MERKLEY.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

JEFFREY EPSTEIN

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, just minutes ago, I was outside and was running up the steps to the Senate Chamber in order to cast a vote on the issue before the Senate, and the issue before the Senate was whether or not we would pass a bill to release the Epstein files.

As you run up those stairs, if you look back over your shoulder, you see there, carved into the facade of the U.S. Supreme Court, the four words: “Equal Justice Under Law.”

Equal justice under law, what does that mean to us who grow up in America? It means that nobody is above the law—not a politician, not a celebrity, not a billionaire, no one.

Now, we certainly know that this vision to which we aspire—equal justice under the law—has not been fully accomplished, but we wrestle to move closer to that vision, to realize that vision. And today we had a chance as the

U.S. Senate to move significant strides in the direction of saying: No one is above the law.

The legislation that was considered was an amendment form of a proposal that I had drafted to say, "Release the Epstein files," and my copilot BEN RAY LUJÁN of New Mexico saying, "Release the Epstein files."

And, indeed, many Members on both sides have believed in this vision of transparency and accountability. Why? Well, because they value those words that are carved above the pillars of the Supreme Court: "Equal Justice Under Law." They cherish that value in their heart that we aspire toward a vision where everyone is accountable.

Plus, in this particular case involving Jeffrey Epstein, every single one of us, all 100 Senators, know that Jeffrey Epstein was a monster, a monster who groomed and abused underage children, a monster who trafficked girls to rich and powerful men, a monster who destroyed the lives of hundreds of young women.

As I speak, the U.S. Department of Justice has files detailing the names of those connected to Mr. Jeffrey Epstein. It has been widely reported that in May our Attorney General Pam Bondi informed President Trump that his name appears in the Epstein files.

But, to be clear, just because a name is listed in the Epstein files doesn't mean that that person was a collaborator in abusing young women. There may be lots of names in that file related to just casual acquaintances or people met on trips. Who knows? But some of those names in that file may well shine light on people who abuse young women. So let's bring it to light.

If we believe in that vision of equal justice under law, if we believe in accountability for all, then release the files. Let the chips fall where they may. It is the right thing to do.

Everyone involved in assisting Jeffrey Epstein in running an international trafficking organization or involved in directly purchasing access to young women through Jeffrey Epstein or directly abusing young women proffered by Jeffrey Epstein—every single person, let the chips fall where they may. No matter how rich the person is, no matter if they held office in the past, no matter if they aspire to office in the future or sit in an office right now, no matter how famous or not famous they might be—let the chips fall where they may. That is the vision of equal justice under the law.

Everyone involved in Mr. Epstein's crimes must be brought to light and must be held accountable.

My colleague from Oregon Senator RON WYDEN and the Senate Finance Committee have been investigating Mr. Epstein's financial network for the last 3 years. The Biden administration fully cooperated with the Senate investigators on that case. The Finance Committee staff went to the Treasury Department to see the Epstein files and suspicious activity reports.

Democrats understood that this was an ongoing investigation. We applauded the Biden administration for cooperating, and that was the right course.

But now we are under a different administration. Instead of cooperating, the Trump administration is obstructing. The Trump administration, Attorney General Bondi are refusing to cooperate, and they are refusing to investigate further. They are simply saying two words: "Case closed."

Case closed? When they have their hands on information potentially regarding dozens or hundreds of individuals who abused young women?

So today we had a chance to vote on whether the case is closed. We have before us an amendment which said: Deliver the files. Create the force of law, deliver the files. And 51 Senators in this body, I am ashamed to say, said: Hell no. We want them kept secret. We want to protect the perpetrators. Why? Because the man in the Oval Office, Mr. Trump, told us he wants us to protect those files, does not want them public.

On July 17, the Wall Street Journal reported on a letter allegedly written by Trump to Epstein as part of a birthday book for his 50th birthday in 2003. The letter is signed at the bottom "Donald." It features a drawing of a woman's body with very suggestive text.

I debated putting that letter up. There is a chart of it in the door behind me. But it has already been made public. The public has seen it. I find it a profoundly offensive letter.

And as I passed by a stack of newspapers today, I saw a series of examples of Donald Trump's signature because Trump has said to the world, "That is not my signature." But, of course, the experts say that is not true.

The birthday book contains another photo of Mr. Epstein holding an oversized novelty check from D.J. Trump for \$22,500. What is that check for? Underneath the photo taken in the 1990s, a handwritten note says:

Jeffrey showing early talents with money and women! Sells "fully depreciated"—

And then there is a name of a woman who has been blocked out.

to Donald Trump for \$22,500.

I don't know if a woman was sold to Donald Trump for \$22,500. I don't know what it means to call a woman "fully depreciated." I don't know if it was just kind of a brazen joke between a couple of very powerful men, but it is certainly not a funny joke. It certainly implies and suggests a camaraderie in the idea that young women are for sale.

On July 15, House Speaker MIKE JOHNSON told CNN:

We should put everything out there and let the people decide it.

Well, actions are more powerful than words. The words were:

We should put everything out there.

The action was he adjourned the House of Representatives early for Au-

gust recess to avoid voting on releasing the files.

Well, the House is back in session now. So I call on Speaker MIKE JOHNSON to stand up for the principle carved above those pillars on the Supreme Court: "Equal Justice Under Law." Hold a vote in the House of Representatives on release of the files.

The leader of the Senate told FOX News:

I'm always a believer in transparency—I think more is always better.

Today we voted on transparency, and the vote from across the aisle was: Case closed. No transparency. No accountability.

I certainly agree with the sentiment it is time to put everything out there. The American people have been clear. They want these files released because they still treasure the idea that possibly powerful people in this Chamber actually believe in the principles that we were raised on here in the United States of America of equal justice under law; that nobody is above the law, still cherish that little seed of hope that maybe when we have a vote in this Chamber, 100 Senators will say: Hell yes. But today they were crushed because the majority said: Hell no. Seal the file. Protect the President. Protect the powerful. To hell with justice for the victims, the young women who were so impacted, devastated, by the activities of Jeffrey Epstein and his associates.

The American people know better. They demand transparency. They demand accountability. They demand justice. The victims demand transparency. The victims demand accountability, and the victims demand justice.

And we had a chance to deliver it today, and we failed them.

My bill, which was introduced as the amendment by Senator SCHUMER, requires the Attorney General to release all materials and records related to Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, including the flight and travel records, the names of individuals, the names of businesses and nonprofits and other organizations, any immunity deals, any nonprosecution agreements, any plea bargains, any settlements, internal Department of Justice communications about decisions to charge or not charge those involved, all communications about attempts to conceal information or documents, and any documentation related to Mr. Epstein's detention or death.

It makes one exception, and that exception is deleting the names of the victims involved. They should only be named if they choose to come forward.

Let me quote from what this bill requires:

No record should be withheld, delayed, or redacted on the basis of any of the following: embarrassment, reputational harm, or political sensitivity, including any government official, public figure, or foreign dignitary.

But it will redact names of the victims and underage witnesses, including

their personally identifiable information, depictions of their abuse, or information that would jeopardize an active Federal investigation or national security.

This was carefully crafted with the insights of law enforcement to hold people accountable and redact only what was necessary to protect either an ongoing investigation or to protect the victims.

We had a chance to do the right thing today and 49 Senators said do the right thing and 51 said no and tabled this bill. I hope my colleagues who voted to table the bill today will search their hearts and come back and say: Bring it up again because I want to be on the right side. I want to be on the right side of the principle. I want to be on the right side of the victims. I want to deliver on that little seed of hope that somehow, when push comes to shove, some powerful men in this Chamber will hold other powerful men accountable.

On behalf of every citizen who shares that vision across our country, who be-

lieves in the words carved above the Supreme Court, I and others will continue to press for accountability, for transparency, for justice. May it be so that we reconsider and 100 Senators team up together to say “hell, yes” on those core principles we cherish as Americans.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:37 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, September 11, 2025, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

JOHN DELEEUEW, OF TEXAS, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2026, VICE ALVIN BROWN.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

JEFFREY KAUFMAN, OF IOWA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION BOARD, FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION, FOR A TERM EXPIRING OCTOBER 13, 2030, VICE JEFFREY S. HALL, TERM EXPIRED.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

RICHARD KLOSTER, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2028, VICE MARTIN J. OBERMAN, TERM EXPIRED.

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

BRYCE MCFERRAN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2029, VICE JUDITH DELZOPPO PRYOR, RESIGNED.

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

MICHELLE A. SCHULTZ, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING NOVEMBER 30, 2030. (REAPPOINTMENT)

WITHDRAWAL

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on September 10, 2025 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nomination:

LONDON HEID, OF MISSOURI, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, VICE THEA D. ROZMAN KENDLER, RESIGNED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 11, 2025.