

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 571.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 571, Robert P. Chamberlin, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

John Thune, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Jon A. Husted, Joni Ernst, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Eric Schmitt, Ashley B. Moody, Tom Cotton.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 572.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of William J. Crain, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 572, William J. Crain, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

John Thune, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Jon A. Husted, Joni Ernst, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Eric Schmitt, Ashley B. Moody, Tom Cotton.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 573.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James D. Maxwell II, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 573, James D. Maxwell II, of Mississippi, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Mississippi.

John Thune, Katie Boyd Britt, Tommy Tuberville, Tim Sheehy, Jon A. Husted, Joni Ernst, Shelley Moore Capito, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Jim Justice, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Eric Schmitt, Ashley B. Moody, Tom Cotton.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. RES. 532

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send an executive resolution to the desk for consideration of certain nominations en bloc and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the title of the resolution for the information of the Senate.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

An executive resolution (S. Res. 532) authorizing the en bloc consideration in Executive Session of certain nominations on the Executive Calendar.

Mr. THUNE. In order to place the executive resolution on the calendar, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the executive resolution will lie over 1 day.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, had I been present and voting on rollcall No. 628, motion to invoke cloture on Executive Calendar No. 474, Matthew E. Orso, of North Carolina, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina. I would have voted yea.

S.J. RES. 91 AND H.J. RES. 131

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed

in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter from the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation, dated December 3, 2025, expressing strong support for S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res. 131, joint resolutions providing for congressional disapproval of the Bureau of Land Management's 2024 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program RECORD of Decision under the Congressional Review Act.

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

KAKTOVIK INUPIAT CORPORATION,

December 3, 2025.

Hon. LISA MURKOWSKI,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. DAN SULLIVAN,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. NICHOLAS BEGICH III,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS MURKOWSKI, SULLIVAN, AND REPRESENTATIVE BEGICH: On behalf of the Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation (KIC) and our shareholders, I am writing to express our strong support for S.J. Res. 91, the resolution disapproving the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) 2024 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision under the Congressional Review Act.

KIC is the village corporation for Kaktovik, established under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act of 1971 (ANCSA) to manage surface estate, support economic self-determination, and protect the long-term interests of our Inupiat shareholders. Kaktovik is the only community located within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), and KIC holds significant ANCSA lands within the Coastal Plain lands that Congress specifically conveyed to our people so that local Inupiat not distant federal agencies, would have a central voice in decisions about our homeland.

For decades, KIC has participated constructively in every federal process affecting the 1002 Area. We have consistently supported responsible, science-based resource development because we live here, we understand this place better than anyone, and our community depends both on a healthy environment and a stable local economy.

SUPPORT FOR S.J. RES. 91 AND H.J. RES. 131

S.J. Res. 91, introduced by Senator Murkowski and co-sponsored by Senator Sullivan, and its companion measure in the House, H.J. Res. 131, introduced by Representative Begich, are identical resolutions providing for congressional disapproval of BLM's 2024 Coastal Plain ROD (hereinafter referred to as the 2024 ROD) and subsequent Government Accountability Office (GAO) conclusion that such record of decision is a rule.

These resolutions are necessary because the Biden administration's 2024 ROD undermines responsible resource development required by law, disregards ANCSA, the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980 (ANILCA), and ignores the voices of the only people who live on the Coastal Plain.

BACKGROUND: THE HISTORY OF FEDERAL DIRECTION ON THE COASTAL PLAIN

The Coastal Plain has long been recognized by Congress as an area with substantial energy potential and is an area where development was explicitly authorized for mineral leasing under P.L. 115-97 (Tax Cuts and Jobs Act).

WHY THE 2024 ROD IS HARMFUL TO KAKTOVIK AND ANCSA RIGHTS

2024 ROD:

Ignores the statutory mandate for area-wide leasing.

Disregards congressional limits on habitat closures and surface disturbance.

Undermines ANCSA village lands specifically conveyed to KIC for local benefit.

Removes opportunities that Congress intended to support Inupiat economic self-determination.

Threatens the revenue streams, jobs, and infrastructure our community relies on.

Discounts Kaktovik's longstanding record of supporting environmentally responsible development.

Kaktovik—the only community in the entire Refuge—bears the full weight of the impacts. Yet our voice was minimized while outside interests were elevated over the rights and concerns of the people who live here and are the most impacted by these decisions. The process in the development of the 2024 ROD, disregarded our local indigenous knowledge, our rights to consultation and the Secretary for the Department of the Interior's own orders for meaningful consultation.

The 2020 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program (2020 program) included robust protections for wildlife and sensitive habitats and was supported by the elected leadership from the North Slope and Kaktovik. The development of the 2020 program followed a transparent process that incorporated meaningful consultation with our community, recognizing the connection between economic self-determination, our community and our culture.

Restoring the 2020 program ROD and overturning the 2024 ROD as a rule is consistent with the FY 2025 reconciliation bill, which requires four lease sales over the next decade. Secretary Burgum has already reinstated the 2020 program ROD, and both the Senate and House measures ensure future administrations cannot disregard federal law or sideline our people and communities.

BOTTOM LINE: THE 2024 ROD MUST BE NULLIFIED

The 2024 ROD's restrictive approach is unlawful, unworkable, and deeply harmful to our people whose lands and livelihoods are directly affected.

S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res. 131:

Upholds federal law

Defends Congress's authority

Restores the 2020 program

Strengthens U.S. energy security

Respects Inupiat voices, including Kaktovik

Protects ANCSA rights and village corporation lands

Ensures a fair and functional leasing program going forward

KIC appreciates your leadership in standing with our community and ensuring that the laws governing our homeland are followed. We urge swift passage of S.J. Res. 91 and H.J. Res. 131.

Thank you for your continued support of Kaktovik and the Inupiat people of the North Slope.

Sincerely,

CHARLES LAMPE,

President, Kaktovik Inupiat Corporation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING 80 YEARS OF YOUNG'S GROCERY

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Young's Grocery and the Young family of Earle, AR, whose remarkable commitment to serving their community has endured for more than 80 years.

Since its founding, Young's Grocery has stood as a local cornerstone, serv-

ing as a gathering place and a source of essentials for their neighbors. Generations of the Young family have carried forward this tradition, ensuring that their neighbors could count on their store not only for food, but also for kindness, fellowship and a helping hand.

Today, Charlie and Liz Young continue to uphold this proud legacy. Their dedication to serving others has strengthened the bonds of their community and exemplified what smalltown service looks like at its best. Through their daily interactions with neighbors and their willingness to boost local initiatives, the Young family embodies the spirit of service that underpins communities throughout the Natural State.

I had the privilege of visiting Young's Grocery several years ago and witnessed firsthand the warmth and hospitality that have made this store such a vital part of Earle. That visit reaffirmed what its residents already know: The Young family's work is not simply about running a business but about sustaining a tradition of care and connection.

That proud reputation was rightfully honored last month when mayor Jaylen Smith honored Charlie and Liz Young and their family for their outstanding contributions to the community. This recognition is a fitting tribute that represents countless lives touched while standing as a beacon of continuity and care for more than 80 years.

I am proud to join in celebrating the Young family and Young's Grocery. Their story is a powerful reminder that small, family-owned businesses are vital to the fabric of Arkansas, enriching our communities through service, tradition, and dedication.●

TRIBUTE TO CHAD WOLFE

• Mr. SCHMITT. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Chad Wolfe of Missouri. Over his life, Mr. Wolfe has consistently shown an outstanding commitment to serving his country and fellow Americans in all his endeavors. After enlisting in the U.S. Army in 2012, Mr. Wolfe served two tours in Afghanistan and demonstrated remarkable valor. After his exceptional service, he retired from the armed forces highly decorated, receiving multiple awards including the Army Commendation Medal and no less than six Army Achievement Medals.

After joining the civilian workforce upon his return to the States, Mr. Wolfe has continued his work to serve his fellow veterans with the St. Louis Agency on Training and Employment, SLATE, where he provides crucial employment and support services to veteran households across St. Louis. As SLATE celebrates its 50th anniversary, I am proud to highlight both Mr. Wolfe and the entire SLATE team for their outstanding daily work to help our Republic's brave veterans transition to civilian life.