

offices, and treaties that have had bipartisan support in Congress for decades. As far as I am aware, neither the White House nor the State Department consulted Congress about this extremist and, frankly, self-defeating decision.

We all want to see the United Nations become more efficient and eliminate unnecessary duplication and waste. This may, indeed, be a time to reassess our participation in some of these organizations, something we should do every 5 to 10 years. The world is constantly changing, and our priorities and funding decisions need to adapt. But for an administration to take such a drastic, unilateral step is unprecedented, short-sighted, and certain to weaken U.S. global leadership and U.S. national security.

Among the organizations and programs the President plans to withdraw from include the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the United Nations Population Fund, the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the UN Register of Conventional Arms, the International Tropical Timber Organization, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

I seriously doubt that President Trump is familiar with the work that any of these organizations do or why the United States during Republican and Democratic administrations has been a leading member and supporter. While I will not recount each of their mandates and activities, I encourage my colleagues to do so. It would become readily apparent that their work is squarely in sync with U.S. national interests.

Of course, if one believes, as the President and some of his closest advisers believe, that climate change is a hoax and that any program or organizations with the words "climate" or "nature" in its title should be eliminated, then it is not surprising that they would want to withdraw from the IUCN, the IPCC, and the UNFCCC, which play key and complementary roles in monitoring and reporting on the health and environmental impacts of carbon emissions and the destruction of the Earth's biodiversity.

If you believe, as perhaps some in the administration believe, that preventing sexual violence in conflict is not something that requires international cooperation, then there would be no need for the Office of the Special Representative. But Members of Congress and their staff who have met with the extraordinarily knowledgeable and dedicated occupants of that position over the years would strongly disagree.

If you believe that the alarming proliferation of conventional weapons, including small arms like machine guns and shoulder-fired missiles that are susceptible to ending up in the hands of terrorists and narcotics traffickers halfway around the world is not a prob-

lem, then it is understandable why some would favor withdrawing from the UN Register of Conventional Arms, which provides transparency on arms transfers and helps to deter the traffic in illicit weapons. But it is as illogical as it is dangerous.

And if you believe that it is wrong to support an organization that provides lifesaving, voluntary family planning information and services in countries where impoverished women and girls lack access to modern contraceptives, then it is hypocritical but not surprising that some, for purely political and ideological reasons, would want to withdraw from the UN Population Fund, even though it is prohibited by its own bylaws from supporting abortion.

The key point I want to make is that applying an ideological litmus test to these organizations and withdrawing from them without any consultation or debate will further isolate the United States. Our adversaries will fill the vacuum. There are many problems that cannot be solved by the United States or any other country alone: global warming, the destruction of tropical forests, acidification of the oceans, rape as a weapon of war, illicit arms sales, and unsustainable population growth in countries that cannot feed their own people today. These daunting challenges require regional and global cooperation and the active involvement of these UN organizations that provide the necessary expertise, data, strategies, and guidance. Their effectiveness is a function of the quality and active participation of their members, and without the United States, their ability to carry out their mandates will suffer.

Congress understands this. In their bipartisan fiscal year 2026 conference agreement for National Security, the Department of State, and Related Programs that was published earlier this week, House and Senate appropriators recommend continued funding for most UN organizations and programs, as in past years.

According to their bylaws, no UN member state, including the United States, can withdraw from some, if not many, of these organizations and treaties by simply declaring an intent to withdraw. There is an interim period of months before a withdrawal takes effect. Withdrawing from treaties may require an act of Congress. It would be a serious mistake for the White House to go down that road, absent a thorough assessment by the relevant executive Agencies and congressional committees of jurisdiction of the pros and cons of doing so. Otherwise, it will be just a matter of time before China or some other country occupies the dominant positions in not only these organizations but the UN Secretariat itself. By then, Donald Trump will be gone, but it will be too late to reverse course, and future generations of Americans will pay the price.

TRIBUTE TO PETER FEIGIN

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Peter Feigin, president of the Milwaukee Bucks and Fiserv Forum, for his 12 years of leadership of Milwaukee's professional basketball organization during a pivotal time of growth and success.

Since 1968, the Milwaukee Bucks, a team loved by former Senator and my mentor Herb Kohl have represented the State of Wisconsin in the National Basketball Association, NBA. While Milwaukee's market for a professional basketball team may be considered small, its strong fan base has been anything but. At the team's conception in 1968, more than 40,000 fans participated in a contest to help name the team's mascot. The team would be known as the "Bucks," a nod to one of Wisconsin's State animals, the white-tailed deer. This Bucks mascot would become the proud identity of a loyal fan base.

In the team's more than 50-year history, they have won 19 division titles, three conference titles, and two national championships. An organization with this level of success requires a leader with integrity, expertise, and a love for the game of basketball. Peter Feigin has brought those skills and so many more to the Milwaukee Bucks throughout his time with the organization.

Mr. Feigin earned a bachelor's degree from Franklin & Marshall College, where he would also later earn an honorary doctorate. In his early career, Mr. Feigin worked in sales and marketing for Six Flags Theme Parks, and in 1998, Mr. Feigin joined the New York Knicks organization where he served in a variety of positions before eventually taking on the role of vice president of marketing.

From there, Mr. Feigin moved into a variety of corporate business and entertainment positions. He served as the chief marketing and revenue officer of Deluxe Entertainment Services Group, a global entertainment company. As president and chief operating officer of Marquis Jet Partners, Inc., Mr. Feigin navigated the company through their merger with NetJets. In 2014, with more than two decades of proven leadership across the sports, business, and entertainment sectors, Mr. Feigin joined the Milwaukee Bucks as president.

Mr. Feigin has been integral to the success and development of the Milwaukee Bucks organization and the Milwaukee community over the past 12 years. He has elevated the organization by reimagining the possibilities of the team's business development and achieving substantial success across organizational departments.

At the start of Mr. Feigin's tenure with the Milwaukee Bucks, the team faced an impasse, either needing to build a larger arena or fear the team leaving Milwaukee. The Bucks home at that time, the BMO Harris Bradley Center, was one of the oldest NBA arenas in the league and no longer met the

NBA's standards. Mr. Feigin was integral in the planning and development of both a new arena and the expansion of the surrounding urban district. In 2018, the Fiserv Forum, a 17,341-seat arena, opened and welcomed home Bucks basketball.

Alongside the Fiserv Forum, the Deer District is a 30-acre urban community that features restaurants, bars, lodging, and attractions. Through Mr. Feigin's determination and leadership, the Deer District has flourished as a vibrant part of Milwaukee's economy, community, and identity. He has remained committed to ensuring that the progress made in the Deer District continues to better the city of Milwaukee and the State of Wisconsin.

Mr. Feigin has built a culture of success across the Milwaukee Bucks organization, both on the court and across the business. The Milwaukee Bucks were named one of Milwaukee's best places to work 5 years in a row. And success in the front office was reflected on the court. During Mr. Feigin's tenure, the Bucks won six division titles, an NBA Cup tournament, a conference title, and the 2021 NBA national championship.

With the launch of the Milwaukee Bucks Foundation in 2016, Mr. Feigin created an additional bridge to the city and surrounding communities. He has served on the boards of the Milwaukee Public Schools Foundation, City Year Milwaukee, the Milwaukee Public Museum and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Milwaukee. Mr. Feigin served as chairman of the American Heart and Stroke Association's 2017 annual campaign. He was a member of the board of CEO's Against Cancer's Wisconsin chapter. Mr. Feigin's passion for service and people is evident and his work has and will continue to have a positive impact on Wisconsinites for years to come.

There is no doubt that Mr. Feigin ushered in a new era of success for the Milwaukee Bucks. As Mr. Feigin transitions from the organization, I am proud to honor his contributions to the Milwaukee Bucks, Fiserv Forum, the city of Milwaukee, and the State of Wisconsin.

TRIBUTE TO RAYMOND NEIRINCKX

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Raymond Neirinckx after an incredible 43-year career, including the past 26 years as coordinator of the Rhode Island Housing Resource Commission.

I first met and began working with Ray when I was serving in the Rhode Island State Senate, and I was immediately struck by his compassion and intelligence. Indeed, for nearly five decades, Ray used his considerable talents not for personal gain, but to help others in great need.

Throughout his housing advocacy career, he counseled over 1,000 Rhode Islanders facing mortgage foreclosure. He helped these families navigate com-

plex financial documents and often communicated with lenders on their behalf. Ray's painstaking work combing through legal documents and financial regulations helped many, many Rhode Islanders keep their homes despite dire circumstances. He would often go above and beyond what was required under his role, helping Rhode Islanders who could not avoid foreclosure get back on their feet. When I connected struggling Rhode Islanders with Ray, I knew they were in the best hands possible.

Just as my constituents have relied on Ray's advice, I have often depended on Ray's expertise here in Congress. As I have drafted, considered, and voted on complex housing finance legislation, I have always turned to Ray for an analysis of how these proposals would operate in the real world and to understand what their real impact would be on Rhode Islanders. His insights were invaluable.

While I will miss Ray at the Rhode Island Housing Resource Commission, I know that he is still just a phone call away. And luckily for Rhode Island, retirement is not the end of Ray's public service story. He is leading the first community development course within the Rhode Island Department of Corrections, work that will help people trying to turn their lives around.

Ray, thank you for decades of extraordinary work, for dedicating your career to caring for and supporting your fellow Rhode Islanders, and for being a trusted partner. I wish you luck as you begin this new chapter.

TOWN OF SEBAGO 200TH ANNIVERSARY

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, in 1826, a small town on the western shore of Sebago Lake was incorporated and took the name that has roots in the Abenaki phrase sobagoo, or "it is the sea." Today, it is an honor to join the people of Sebago, ME, in celebrating the 200th anniversary of a community that is a great place to live, work, and raise families.

Initially, Sebago was known as Flintstown, as a result of the Massachusetts General Court granting settlement in the area to the survivors of Captain John Flint's brigade of American Revolution soldiers. Shortly thereafter, the town was named Baldwin and saw an influx of lumberjacks and woodsmen drawn by the abundant forests. Despite difficult growing conditions, residents were successful in farming, and in establishing factories to produce lumber, boots, shoes, and barrel staves.

As the town grew, so did trade and tourism. The Cumberland and Oxford Canal opened in 1832, tying together the Sebago Lake and Portland economies. Later, in the 1870s, the Portland and Ogdensburg Railroad expanded the town's hospitality industry and encouraged steamboats to bring visitors to Sebago. What were once seasonal

homes and inns evolved into year-round abodes that contribute to Sebago's image as a well-known resort area in southwestern Maine.

Sebago is home to many examples of charming New England architecture on the National Register of Places. One of the most fascinating is the Dyke Mountain Annex. It was built between 1906 and 1908 and originally was part of the Dyke Mountain Hotel. While the rest of the resort would later be destroyed by fire, the annex functioned as a summer hostel and continues to be used as such by the present owners.

Another example of Sebago's small-town beauty is Fitch's General Store and House. Built in 1870, it combined Italianate and Greek Revival architecture. In 1920, it opened as a general store, offering goods from groceries to hardware to gardening supplies. Although the building has been restored as a private residence, its legacy remains a pivotal part of the town's history.

The rich history of Sebago resides not only in beautiful architecture, but also in honoring the tireless service of their veterans. Words chiseled in stone at the Sebago Veterans Memorial read, "Sebago Honors Her Men and Women Who Served in the Wars of Their Country." From the valiant service of Captain Flint and his troops in securing American's independence to the patriots of today, Sebago honors her people's history.

The celebration of Sebago's 200th anniversary is not merely about the passage of time. It is about human accomplishment in the face of adversity. We celebrate the people of Sebago who stand together, work together, and have created community together for 200 years. Thank you to those who came before. Sebago, ME, could not continue to thrive without your sacrifice. Thank you to those there today. Your effort and dedication ensure Sebago has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING STEVE SHEETZ

• Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Steve Sheetz, a proud Pennsylvanian, visionary leader, and devoted family man, who passed away on January 4, 2026. Mr. Sheetz leaves behind an enduring legacy of entrepreneurship, community service, and unwavering commitment to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Sheetz was a central figure in the growth and success of Sheetz, the family-founded business that began as a single dairy store in Altoona and grew into a nationally recognized brand employing thousands of people across multiple States.

Beyond his business accomplishments, Mr. Sheetz was deeply committed to giving back. He believed strongly in supporting local communities, investing in employees, and ensuring that success was shared with