intensity of a category 2 hurricane, with heavy winds up to 74 miles per hour. It caused widespread power outages and tragically resulted in two fatalities and hundreds of emergency room visits. Local businesses faced prolonged closures due to disruptions to transportation, utilities, and public services across the State.

Following the storm, the State of Rhode Island worked with FEMA to develop a preliminary damage assessment of the storm's impact. The assessment found over $19 million in damages, amounting to more than nine times the threshold required for a major disaster declaration. Under any other administration, this disaster declaration would have been approved on the merits, given its historic nature and FEMA's own damage assessment. However, after months of waiting, on July 2, 2026, President Trump denied the request from Rhode Island with no explanation. On the same day Trump denied Rhode Island's request, he also denied requests from New York, New Jersey, and Massachusetts that all reportedly exceeded FEMA's damage thresholds. Yet, that same week, he approved disaster aid for six Republican-led States.

Disaster aid and helping communities recover from deadly storms should never be political. Yet President Trump's record proves that he cannot be trusted to adjudicate disaster money fairly without invoking his own partisan biases. The *Disaster Relief Fairness Act* would address that problem by granting all disaster declarations requested between January 20, 2025 and January 20, 2029 that meet the Federal requirements and thresholds for assistance. This will help ensure that States and Tribes get the relief they need—regardless of who they voted for—and allow them to fully recover from disasters.

I urge my colleagues to join Senator WHITEHOUSE and me in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 5020. A bill to require a study on manufactured homes in areas at high risk of natural hazards and weather extremes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to speak in support of my legislation to require a study on how to improve the resiliency of manufactured homes in areas that are at high risk of natural hazards and weather extremes, which I introduced today.

More than 22 million Americans, most of whom earn less than the median national income, call manufactured housing home. These homes are significantly less expensive than traditional site-built homes and will play a key part in how we address our country's affordable housing crisis and increase home ownership.

I was proud to work with my colleagues across the aisle to pass the 21st Century ROAD to Housing Act, which includes provisions to increase the supply of America's manufactured housing. Yet manufactured housing is disproportionately located in areas that are the most exposed to climate hazards. As we continue to see a pattern of increased extreme climate events, we need all our housing to be resilient in areas at high risk of natural hazards and weather extremes.

Congress should be aware of what strategies industry leaders are currently employing and understand potential options to increase the performance of manufactured homes in high-risk areas.

I want to thank my colleague Senator CASSIDY for introducing this bill with me. I hope our colleagues will join us in taking a step towards improving the resiliency of our nation's housing stock.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 806—DESIGNATING JULY 2026 AS ''PLASTIC POLLUTION ACTION MONTH''

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WELCH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 806

Whereas plastic pollution represents a global threat that will require individual and collective action, both nationally and internationally, to address;

Whereas approximately 450,000,000 tons of plastic are produced each year, a number that is projected to triple by 2050;

Whereas, in the United States—

(1) the rate of plastic waste recycling is less than 10 percent; and

(2) less than 3 percent of plastic waste is recycled into a similar quality product;

Whereas a study from the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that, in 2022, the United States—

(1) mismanaged 4 percent of plastic waste;

(2) landfilled 73 percent of plastic waste;

(3) incinerated 19 percent of plastic waste; and

(4) recycled 4 percent of plastic waste;

Whereas single-use plastics account for at least 40 percent of the plastic produced every year;

Whereas more than 12,000,000 tons of plastic waste enter the ocean every year from land-based sources alone;

Whereas, if no action is taken, the flow of plastics into the ocean is expected to triple by 2040;

Whereas, as of the date of adoption of this resolution, studies estimate that there are approximately 171,000,000,000,000 pieces of plastic in the oceans of the world;

Whereas, of those 171,000,000,000,000 pieces of plastic in the ocean, 1 percent floats, 5 percent washes up on beaches, and 94 percent sinks to the bottom;

Whereas nearly 1,300 marine species have consumed plastics;

Whereas peer-reviewed modeling has found that ingesting plastic in an amount the size of less than 3 sugar cubes can kill a seabird;

Whereas plastics, and associated chemicals of plastics, are ingested by humans and are associated with well-established human health risks;

Whereas studies have found microplastic particles in human blood, lungs, colons, and placentas;

Whereas studies suggest that humans ingest more than 800 microplastics per day;

Whereas taking action to reduce plastic use, collect and clean up litter, and reuse and recycle more plastics will lead to less plastic pollution;

Whereas, every July, people challenge themselves to reduce their plastic footprint through ''Plastics Free July'';

Whereas, during the 40-year period preceding the date of adoption of this resolution, more than 19,000,000 volunteers have joined the International Coastal Cleanup to collect more than 400,000,000 pounds of plastic and debris while simultaneously recording their findings to inform research and upstream action;

Whereas switching from single-use items to reusable items can prevent waste, save water, and reduce litter; and

Whereas July 2026 is an appropriate month to designate as ''Plastic Pollution Action Month'' to recommit to taking action, individually and as a nation, to reduce plastic pollution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates July 2026 as ''Plastic Pollution Action Month'';

(2) recognizes the dangers to human health and the environment posed by plastic pollution; and

(3) encourages all individuals in the United States to protect, conserve, maintain, and rebuild public health and the environment by responsibly participating in activities to reduce plastic pollution in July 2026 and year round.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 6701. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 6702. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 6701. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 111 the following:

SEC. 111A. PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF MINERALS FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION; SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO MINING INDUSTRY.

(a) PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, no mineral specified in paragraph (2) may be imported into the United States if the mineral is—

(A) produced in the Russian Federation or by a Russian entity; or

(B) determined to have been exchanged with, swapped for, or otherwise obtained in lieu of a mineral described in subparagraph (A) in a manner designed to evade or circumvent the application of this subsection.

(2) MINERALS SPECIFIED.—The minerals specified in this paragraph are the following:

(A) Platinum, unwrought or in semimanufactured forms, classified under heading 7110 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (in this subsection referred to as the ''HTS''), including—

(i) palladium;

(ii) braggite;

(iii) rhodium; and

(iv) ruthenium.

(B) Nickel classified under heading 2604 of the HTS.

(C) Copper, ores and concentrates, classified under heading 2603 of the HTS, including zinc.

(3) TERMINATION.—The prohibition under paragraph (1) shall terminate on the date that is one year after the President certifies to Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has ended all hostilities against Ukraine.

(4) RUSSIAN ENTITY DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''Russian entity'' means an entity organized under the laws of the Russian Federation or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the Russian Federation.

(b) SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO MINING INDUSTRY.—

(1) NORNICKEL.—Not later than 15 days after making a determination under subsection (c), and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (d) with respect to—

(A) any directors of, officers of, and shareholders with an interest in, Nornickel or any subsidiary or successor entity of Nornickel; and

(B) any foreign government or foreign person that has knowingly sold, supplied, transferred, or purchased nickel originally sourced from the Russian Federation, Nornickel, or any subsidiary or successor entity of Nornickel.

(2) MINING ENTITIES OWNED BY SANCTIONED PERSONS.—Not later than 15 days after making a determination under subsection (c), and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall—

(A) impose the sanctions described in subsection (d) with respect to any entity in the mining industry a majority of the ownership interest in which is held by a person, or a group of persons, subject to sanctions under this Act or other sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to the Russian Federation on or before the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(B) prohibit any United States person from engaging in any transaction with an entity described in subparagraph (A).

(c) DETERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter, the President shall determine if any of the following actors has engaged, is engaging, or is planning to engage in an act described in paragraph (2):

(A) The Government of the Russian Federation.

(B) Any proxy of the Government of the Russian Federation.

(C) Any individual or entity controlled by or acting at the direction of the Government of the Russian Federation.

(D) Any person described in paragraph (3).

(2) ACTS DESCRIBED.—An act described in this paragraph is any of the following:

(A) Refusing to negotiate a peace agreement with Ukraine.

(B) Violating any negotiated peace agreement.

(C) Initiating another military invasion of Ukraine.

(D) Overthrowing, dismantling, or seeking to subvert the Government of Ukraine.

(3) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—The persons described in this subsection are the following:

(A) The following officials of the Government of the Russian Federation:

(i) The President of the Russian Federation.

(ii) The Prime Minister of the Russian Federation.

(iii) The Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation.

(iv) The Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

(v) The Deputy Ministers of Defense of the Russian Federation.

(vi) The Commander-in-Chief of the Land Forces of the Russian Federation.

(vii) The Commander-in-Chief of the Aerospace Forces of the Russian Federation.

(viii) The Commander of the Airborne Forces of the Russian Federation.

(ix) The Commander-in-Chief of the Navy of the Russian Federation.

(x) The Commander of the Strategic Rocket Forces of the Russian Federation.

(xi) The Commander of the Special Operations Forces of the Russian Federation.

(xii) The Commander of Logistical Support of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

(xiii) The commanders of the Russian Federation military districts.

(xiv) The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

(xv) The Minister of Transport of the Russian Federation.

(xvi) The Minister of Finance of the Russian Federation.

(xvii) The Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation.

(xviii) The Minister of Energy of the Russian Federation.

(xix) The Minister of Agriculture of the Russian Federation.

(xx) The Director of the Foreign Intelligence Service of the Russian Federation.

(xxi) The Director of the Federal Security Service of the Russian Federation.

(xxii) The Director of the Main Directorate of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation.

(xxiii) The Director of the National Guard of the Russian Federation.

(xxiv) The Federal Guard Service of the Russian Federation.

(B) Any foreign person that—

(i) knowingly sells, supplies, transfers, markets, or provides defense articles, equipment, goods, services, technology, or materials to the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation;

(ii) knowingly conducts a transaction with the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation;

(iii) has engaged in or attempted to engage in activities that—

(I) materially undermine the military readiness of Ukraine;

(II) seek to overthrow, dismantle, or subvert the Government of Ukraine;

(III) debilitate the critical infrastructure of Ukraine;

(IV) debilitate cybersecurity systems through malicious electronic attacks or cyberattacks on Ukraine;

(V) undermine the democratic processes of Ukraine; or

(VI) involve committing serious human rights abuses against citizens of Ukraine, including forceful transfers, enforced disappearances, unjust detainment, or torture;

(iv) operates or has operated in the energy, commodities, telecommunications, banking, industrial, transportation, or manufacturing sectors of the economy of the Russian Federation;

(v) is an oligarch (as defined and identified by the President);

(vi) is responsible for or complicit in, or has directly or indirectly engaged or attempted to engage in, for or on behalf of, or for the benefit of, directly or indirectly, the Government of the Russian Federation—

(I) transnational corruption, bribery, extortion, or money laundering;

(II) assassination, murder, or other unlawful killing of, or infliction of other bodily harm against, a United States person or a citizen or national of an ally or partner of the United States;

(III) activities that undermine the peace, security, political stability, or territorial integrity of the United States or an ally or partner of the United States; or

(IV) deceptive or structured transactions or dealings to circumvent the application of any sanctions imposed by the United States, including through the use of digital currencies or assets or the use of physical assets.

(C) Any person or agent of any person described in subparagraph (A) or (B) if the sanctioned person transferred property or an interest in property to the person—

(i) after the date on which the President imposed sanctions with respect to the sanctioned person; or

(ii) before that date, if the sanctioned person did so in an attempt to evade the imposition of sanctions.

(D) The following financial institutions:

(i) The Central Bank of the Russian Federation (Bank of Russia).

(ii) Sberbank.

(iii) VTB Bank.

(iv) Gazprombank.

(v) Any other financial institution organized under the laws of the Russian Federation and owned in whole or part by the Government of the Russian Federation.

(vi) Any subsidiary of, or successor entity to, any of the financial institutions described in clauses (i) through (v).

(vii) Any financial institution that engages in transactions with any of the financial institutions described in clauses (i) through (vi).

(E) Any director of, officer of, official of, or shareholder with an interest in, a financial institution described in subparagraph (D).

(d) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection to be imposed with respect to a person described in subsection (b) are the following:

(1) BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall exercise all of the powers granted by the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property of the person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(B) INAPPLICABILITY OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.—The requirements of section 202 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701) shall not apply for purposes of this section.

(2) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—

(A) VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.—An alien described in subsection (b) shall be—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—The visa or other entry documentation of an alien described in subsection (b) shall be revoked, regardless of when such visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect immediately; and

(II) automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the possession of the alien.

SA 6702. Mr. DAINES submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 4784, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2027 for military activities of the Department of Defense, for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Insert after section 111 the following:

SEC. 111A. PROHIBITION ON IMPORTATION OF MINERALS FROM THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date that is 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, no mineral specified in subsection (b) may be imported into the United States if the mineral is—

(1) produced in the Russian Federation or by a Russian entity; or

(2) determined to have been exchanged with, swapped for, or otherwise obtained in lieu of a mineral described in paragraph (1) in a manner designed to evade or circumvent the application of this section.

(b) MINERALS SPECIFIED.—The minerals specified in this subsection are the following:

(1) Platinum, unwrought or in semimanufactured forms, classified under heading 7110 of the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States (in this subsection referred to as the ''HTS''), including—

(A) palladium;

(B) braggite;

(C) rhodium; and

(D) ruthenium.

(2) Nickel classified under heading 2604 of the HTS.

(3) Copper, ores and concentrates, classified under heading 2603 of the HTS, including zinc.

(c) TERMINATION.—The prohibition under subsection (a) shall terminate on the date that is one year after the President certifies to Congress that the Government of the Russian Federation has ended all hostilities against Ukraine.

(d) RUSSIAN ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Russian entity'' means an entity organized under the laws of the Russian Federation or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the Government of the Russian Federation.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 11 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, July 16, 2026, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the following members of my team be granted floor privileges for the remainder of the Congress: Ava Wyden, Kira Posner, Julia Long, Collin Park, Olivia Hicks, Daniel Reichert, and Mahima Yogesh.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previous order with respect to the Westercamp nomination be modified so that the confirmation vote may occur notwithstanding rule XXII and with all other provisions remaining in effect.

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

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 2913

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2913) to authorize support for Ukraine, and for other purposes.

Mr. THUNE. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, July 20; 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, and the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each; further, that at 5:30 p.m. the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Flowers nomination and the cloture motion filed today ripen at that time.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 3 P.M. MONDAY, JULY 20, 2026

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:51 p.m., adjourned until Monday, July 20, 2026, at 3 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 16, 2026:

IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

LT. GEN. CALVERT L. WORTH, JR.

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. JASON B. NICHOLSON

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be brigadier general

COL. SCOTT C. MILLS

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY TO THE GRADE INDICATED UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be major general

BRIG. GEN. MARK W. SIEKMAN

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. PAUL D. MOGA