

point for any reason. That disastrous rule would put politics above science when determining, for example, what cancer research grants to fund. I am going to keep working to kill that rule outright as our spending talks continue later this year.

Unfortunately, Republicans would not take action in this bill to protect our constitutional power of the purse and prevent Russ Vought from attempting another illegal pocket rescission, nor would they agree to our efforts to extend critical advanced appropriations for infrastructure, which were provided by the bipartisan infrastructure law. That runs out on October 1. Make no mistake—we will keep fighting to get those priorities done in the negotiations in the fall.

We do have a lot of work ahead, and this CR provides us a reasonable runway to get it done. So I hope this CR sets us up to roll up our sleeves and focus on getting to a bipartisan top line so we can then write good, bipartisan spending bills.

For all of those reasons, I will be voting yes tonight to advance this bipartisan bill.

WASHINGTON WILDFIRES

Madam President, I can't come to the Senate floor without acknowledging the heartbreaking devastation we are seeing in Spokane and across Eastern Washington. My heart is with everyone who is affected by these horrific fires, and please know I will keep doing all I can to make sure the Federal Government steps up.

This short-term funding bill importantly includes flexibility for the Disaster Relief Fund so it can serve our communities in need during the CR.

I am glad FEMA has so far approved the FMAG requests our local officials have made as they are fighting these wildfires. And last night, our Governor made a formal request to the President for an expedited emergency declaration. I am leading our entire congressional delegation, Democrats and Republicans, in urging the President to approve that request immediately.

I do want to say how grateful I am to the fire crews and first responders who are working around the clock to save lives and property and how inspired I am by the way the Spokane community has come together to support those who have lost their homes or are under evacuation orders.

I will have far more to say on this crisis, but let me close with this: As the vice chair of the Appropriations Committee and a voice for Spokane here in the U.S. Senate, I will do everything in my power to make certain Eastern Washington gets every cent they need to fight these horrific fires and to rebuild and recover over the long term.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the cloture motion on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6500.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant executive 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 320, H.R. 6500, a bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, John Cornyn, John Hoeven, Mike Crapo, James Lankford, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Tom Cotton, Roger Marshall, Thom Tillis, John R. Curtis, Jon Husted, Pete Ricketts, Cynthia M. Lummis.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 6500, a bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from South Carolina (Ms. GRAHAM), and the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 89, nays 4, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 218 Ex.]

YEAS—89

Alsobrooks	Banks	Blumenthal
Armstrong	Barrasso	Blunt Rochester
Baldwin	Bennet	Boozman

Britt	Hickenlooper	Peters
Budd	Hirono	Reed
Cantwell	Hoeven	Ricketts
Capito	Husted	Risch
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Collins	Johnson	Rounds
Coons	Justice	Schatz
Cornyn	Kelly	Schiff
Cortez Masto	Kennedy	Schmitt
Cotton	Kim	Schumer
Cramer	King	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Klobuchar	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lankford	Shaheen
Curtis	Lee	Sheehy
Daines	Lujan	Smith
Duckworth	Lummis	Sullivan
Durbin	Marshall	Thune
Ernst	McCormick	Tillis
Fetterman	Merkley	Tuberville
Fischer	Moody	Van Hollen
Gallago	Moran	Warner
Gillibrand	Moreno	Warnock
Grassley	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Hagerty	Murphy	Wicker
Hassan	Murray	Wyden
Hawley	Ossoff	Young
Heinrich	Padilla	

NAYS—4

Kaine	Sanders	Warren
Paul		

NOT VOTING—7

Blackburn	Markey	Welch
Booker	McConnell	
Graham	Slotkin	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 89, the nays are 4.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AGOA EXTENSION ACT—Motion to Proceed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion to proceed.

The clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 320, H.R. 6500, a bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from certain countries in Africa under the African Growth and Opportunity Act, to extend customs user fees, and for other purposes.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate 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.

TRIBUTE TO MARK EISELE

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, at the 114th Wyoming State Fair, Senator LUMMIS and I will have the pleasure of introducing Mark Eisele as a 2026 inductee to the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

Mark Eisele comes from a long line of Wyoming ranchers, dating back generations. However, Mark built his livestock operation on his own from the ground up.

Mark has long been an iconic leader for Wyoming agriculture. His career

led him to the historic King Ranch near Cheyenne. This is where he first worked as an employee before acquiring the historic ranch.

Today, Mark and his wife Trudy, along with their three children, raise Red and Black Angus cow/calf pairs and retained yearlings through branded beef programs. The family also manages a custom haying operation and harvests alfalfa and native grass hay.

Throughout his career, Mark has valued maintaining healthy rangelands. He has long believed that a healthy rangeland is the foundation of a successful cattle operation. Through Mark's leadership, the King Ranch has partnered with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Agricultural Research Service Rangeland Resources and Systems Research Unit for over 20 years.

Mark has led the King Ranch to embrace research and innovation through projects on livestock production, economic efficiency, flexible stocking strategies for erratic and variable precipitation, adaptive grazing management for poisonous plants, targeted grazing for invasive cheatgrass, soil carbon responses to grazing management, and habitat conservation.

The Eisele family's stewardship efforts have earned widespread recognition. They received the Wyoming Stock Growers Association Environmental Stewardship Award and the Leopold Conservation Award in 2015.

More recently, the ranch received the 2023 Kurt Bucholz Conservation Award. This was followed by the 2025 Chuck Jarecki Rancher Land Stewardship Award presented by the International Society for Range Management.

Along with receiving many accolades, Mark has committed his career to serving the agriculture industry as an advocate. Mark has been a longtime member of the Wyoming Stock Growers Association and served as the president from 2011 to 2013. After years of committee work within the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, Mark was elected president for the 2024 to 2025 term. He has become one of the Nation's leading voices for beef producers.

Mark's dedication and service to Wyoming's agriculture industry makes him an outstanding choice for the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. It is a great honor to participate in Mark's induction. I congratulate Mark Eisele as a 2026 inductee into the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO KEN HAMILTON

• Ms. LUMMIS. Mr. President, the summer months—and August in particular—are always my favorite time of year. The Cowboy State shines all year, but August brings outdoor activities, family gatherings, and one of my favorite annual events: the Wyoming State Fair hosted in Douglas.

For more than 120 years, the Wyoming State Fair has drawn together the best of Wyoming's country fairs into one grand celebration. It is where you will find rodeo, good food, carnival games, and the finest of Wyoming agriculture on display. As a lifelong rancher, the State fair has always held a special place in my heart. It is a place to welcome the next generation of ranchers and honor those who have shaped agriculture in our State.

The high point of the fair is the induction ceremony for the Wyoming Agriculture Hall of Fame. Today, I have the distinct honor and privilege of recognizing Ken Hamilton as he joins this prestigious group.

The Hall of Fame is synonymous with excellence—not only in one's profession, but also in their character. Ken personifies that standard, and his induction is richly deserved.

Ken grew up on his family's ranch in the Big Horn Basin, raising sheep and cattle alongside his parents Merle and Eleanor and his brother Keith. He studied animal science at the University of Wyoming, then took his education abroad through the American Farm Bureau Federation's work exchange program, spending a year in Australia as a station hand and assistant overseer.

Ken's passion for agriculture continued to grow. For 41 years, he devoted his life to Wyoming's agricultural industry and its future through his hard work, loyalty, and leadership with the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation. He began his career as a research and field assistant, before serving as director of field services, administrative assistant, and ultimately executive vice President in 2004—a position he held for 20 years until his retirement.

His influence reached far beyond the office. Ken used his knowledge and expertise to guide State and Federal agriculture policies to support local farmers and ranchers. During his time with the Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation, he served on numerous boards and committees. He was general manager of WFB, Inc; secretary for the Mountain West Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company; and a member of the 2006 State of Wyoming Brand Task Force, the Western Region Air Partnership Dust Forum, the Greater Yellowstone Coordinating Committee, the State of Wyoming Coal Bed Methane Working Group, American Farm Bureau Federation's General Counsel Advisory Committee, and the Legal Information and Networking Committee.

Ken has spent his life advocating for Wyoming agriculture, on transportation, water rights, grazing policy, and wildfire response. His steadfast advocacy earned him the trust and respect of people across Wyoming. Just as important, he has mentored the next generation, passing along his knowledge and passion to those who will carry Wyoming agriculture forward.

I could not be more pleased to see Ken inducted into the Wyoming Agri-

culture Hall of Fame this year. He joins a distinguished group of men and women who have made extraordinary contributions to agriculture in our State. The legacy he has built is truly remarkable and serves as an example for others to follow. I tip my hat to him.●

REMEMBERING RICHARD ALLEN "RICK" BALL

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, today we honor the life and legacy of Richard Allen "Rick" Ball of Great Bend, KS. Rick was a respected businessman, dedicated community leader, and devoted family man whose service left a lasting impact on those around him.

For decades, Rick served the Great Bend community as a trusted certified public accountant and partner at Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball. He helped local businesses and organizations succeed through his sound advice and steady guidance. His leadership earned him recognition as the 2012 Great Bend Citizen of the Year and the 2008 U.S. Small Business Administration Financial Services Champion of the Year.

However, Rick's dedication extended well beyond his professional career. He gave generously of his time through the Great Bend Chamber of Commerce, United Way, the Golden Belt Community Foundation, and many other local organizations. He also enjoyed hunting, gardening, and golfing, and he was known for his kindness and willingness to help others.

Though he will be greatly missed, Rick's legacy lives on through his wife Lois, his children and grandchildren, and the many people whose lives he touched. His example will continue to inspire the Great Bend community for years to come.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Richard Allen "Rick" Ball and in offering our prayers and sympathies to his family, friends, and the entire Great Bend community.●

TRIBUTE TO DAVID BEDFORD

• Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, when it comes to the military, there is no such thing as working 9 to 5. You are on call 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. For U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer David Bedford of Wilmer, he still has this mentality about serving others.

A Mobile County native, David learned about military service from his father, who was a World War II veteran and Purple Heart recipient. In 1969, David followed his father's lead and enlisted to train as an Army pilot. After completing his training at Fort Rucker, David deployed to Vietnam in 1971, where he flew Huey helicopters more than 1,500 hours for resupply and transportation missions. He describes his most satisfying missions as those where he brought mail to troops on the frontlines, a small way to help put a