

drought or other adverse weather conditions.

It includes my CRP Improvement and Flexibility Act, which will make the Conservation Reserve Program a more working lands-oriented option for producers. CRP plays a very significant role in South Dakota's economy by helping to provide habitat for pheasants, but producers in my State have been frustrated for years with how the program is managed—in particular by the fact that its restrictions on land use can be excessive. That is why I introduced the CRP Improvement and Flexibility Act.

My bill allows grazing options, including fencing and water distribution, on all CRP acres. On top of that, it increases the annual CRP payment limits for the first time in the program's 40-year history. This bill will make CRP an attractive option for more producers and open up access for livestock forage in drought conditions.

The farm bill also includes a number of bills I have worked on that make it easier for producers to do business and get their products to market.

It includes a bill that I worked on with Senators GRASSLEY, KLOBUCHAR, and BALDWIN that establishes reporting requirements on fertilizer prices, which will bring more transparency to the fertilizer marketplace by helping producers to make more informed and cost-effective choices for their operations.

Another bill of my mine, the Promoting Precision Agriculture Act, will facilitate the creation of industry-led, voluntary standards for precision ag technology that will help more farmers adopt this promising tool.

My Strengthening Local Processing Act gives smaller processors access to critical information and allows more meat products approved by a State inspector to be sold across State lines.

The farm bill is about more than just what happens on a farm or a ranch; it also supports America's rural communities. That includes water infrastructure, rural development, and healthcare, among other critical services. It also includes our continued effort to provide broadband in unserved communities, and I am pleased that this bill will help ensure that broadband dollars are going to communities that need it in places where 90 percent or more of the residents lack access to basic internet services.

There is a lot more I could talk about with this bill—a lot more. This is a bill that will provide real support and certainty for America's farmers and ranchers. That is good news for all Americans who depend on our hard-working producers for food, fuel, and fiber.

Fuel is the final thing I want to discuss this morning. For decades, the seasonal sale of E15 has been a win-win for America's farmers and for the American people. It has strengthened the agriculture economy while providing the American people with an affordable source of homegrown energy.

For many years, it has been a priority for me and for many of my colleagues here to allow E15 to be sold all year. It has taken a lot of work to get here, but I am very proud that this farm bill delivers permanent—permanent—year-round E15. This is something that is going to further help producers and help bring down fuel costs for all Americans.

I want to thank Chairman BOOZMAN as well as Senators DAINES, CAPITO, and FISCHER for all of their hard work on this issue. I am looking forward to getting it across the finish line.

I spend a lot of time with farmers and ranchers back home in South Dakota, and they have talked to me about the uncertainty and the headwinds they face. I have listened to their priorities and made them my own. As I said, America's farmers and ranchers are a priority for this Senate majority, and with the Working Families Tax Cuts and now this farm bill, we are making real progress on the challenges facing our producers. But, of course, our work is never finished. There will be more to do in the future to support and strengthen American agriculture, and America's producers can be confident that their needs will always be at the top of my list.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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 ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AGOA EXTENSION ACT—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 6500, which the clerk will report.

The legislative 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.

VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the motion to proceed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

AGOA EXTENSION ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6500) 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 6732

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 6732.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] for Ms. COLLINS proposes an amendment numbered 6732.

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of August 4, 2026, under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6736 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6732

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have an amendment at the desk to amendment No. 6732.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 6736 to amendment No. 6732.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end of the following.

"This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment."

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6737 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6736

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 6737 to amendment numbered 6736.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike "1 day" and insert "2 days".

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6738 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6732

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the underlying bill at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 6738 to the language proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 6732.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 3 days after the date of enactment."

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6739 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6738

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk. The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 6739 to amendment No. 6738.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike "3 days" and insert "4 days".

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 6740

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] moves to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations to report back forthwith with instructions with an amendment numbered 6740.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

"This Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of enactment."

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be dispensed with.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to commit with instructions.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6741

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 6741 to the instructions of a motion to commit H.R. 6500.

The amendment is as follows:

(To improve the bill)

Strike "5 days" and insert "6 days".

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 6742 TO AMENDMENT NO. 6741

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 6742 to amendment No. 6741.

The amendment is as follows:

(To improve the bill)

Strike "6 days" and insert "7 days".

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent that the reading be waived.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk with respect to amendment No. 6732.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Collins amendment No. 6732 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, Susan M. Collins, Tim Sheehy, Bill Hagerty, Bernie Moreno, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, Marsha Blackburn, James Lankford, Jim Banks, Jon A. Husted, Tom Cotton, Alan Armstrong, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Barrasso, David McCormick.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk with respect to Calendar No. 320, H.R. 6500.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 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 purpose.

John Thune, Susan M. Collins, Tim Sheehy, Bill Hagerty, Bernie Moreno, Mike Crapo, John Cornyn, Marsha Blackburn, James Lankford, Jim Banks, Jon A. Husted, Tom Cotton, Alan Armstrong, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John Barrasso, David McCormick.

PROTECT COLLEGE SPORTS ACT OF 2026—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 449, S. 4668.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 449, S. 4668, a bill to protect the name, image, and likeness rights of, and provide protections for, student athletes and to promote fair competition among intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 motion to proceed to Calendar No. 449, S. 4668, a bill to protect the name, image, and likeness rights of, and provide protections for, student athletes and to promote fair competition among intercollegiate athletics, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Ted Cruz, Cynthia M. Lummis, Eric Schmitt, Bernie Moreno, James Lankford, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, John Cornyn, John Barrasso, Thom Tillis, Chuck Grassley, Pete Ricketts, Shelley Moore Capito, Bill Hagerty, Todd Young, John R. Curtis.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 914.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.