

subsection (a) shall include the grant programs relating to veterans treatment courts carried out by the Attorney General pursuant to sections 2991 and 3021 of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10651, 10701) or any other provision of law.

(d) REGULATIONS.—The Attorney General shall promulgate regulations to carry out this section.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING  
THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE ENTRY OF ALABAMA INTO  
THE UNION AS THE 22ND STATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 456, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 456) recognizing and celebrating the 200th anniversary of the entry of Alabama into the Union as the 22nd State.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 456) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,  
DECEMBER 18, 2019

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 18; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the McFarland nomination.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator WHITEHOUSE.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Madam President, we are rapidly running out of

time to protect our future and that of our children and grandchildren from worsening climate upheaval. America ought to be taking every measure available to rein in greenhouse gas emissions from legislative action to legal action, to diplomatic action, to regulatory action, which is going to be a theme of this talk tonight. We are not doing those things, and, frankly, it is because of corruption, plain and simple.

Regulatory action, that means enforcing the laws on the books. We have a Clean Air Act that requires the Environmental Protection Agency to stop dangerous pollutants from fouling our air. The EPA has found that greenhouse gases are pollutants under the Clean Air Act, and the Supreme Court has upheld that finding. That means we ought to be regulating methane. Methane is among the most potent of greenhouse gases. When released into the atmosphere, it traps about 30 times more heat than its chemical cousin, carbon dioxide. Oil and gas extraction releases massive methane pollution. In fact, a growing body of research suggests methane pollution from natural gas extraction may completely offset the climate gains of switching from coal to natural gas.

To fulfill its duties under the Clean Air Act, as a matter of law, EPA needs to prevent methane pollution. It is the law; it is not optional. But the corrupt Trump EPA won't fight methane pollution. This corrupt EPA is run by the fossil fuel industry, which could not care less about methane emissions.

Within weeks of Scott Pruitt taking control of the Agency, the corrupted EPA withdrew its request that oil and gas companies even report methane emissions. The industry knew a true report on methane leakage would damage their case for natural gas as a less dangerous air pollutant, so they went to a line of attack, taken directly from the Big Tobacco playbook: Silence the science. The fewer facts the EPA has, the less action it needs to take under law—the corrupt Trump EPA deliberately made itself ignorant and stopped the reporting so it could avoid its duty.

Step 2 came in March 2017 with the corrupt Trump effort to roll back existing greenhouse gas regulations, including methane regulations. Trump's Executive order reads like a fossil fuel lobbyist's dream, probably because fossil fuel lobbyists wrote it. He called on the EPA to "review existing regulations that potentially burden the development or use of domestically produced energy resources and appropriately suspend, revise, or rescind those that unduly burden the development of domestic energy resources."

Regulations to limit methane pollution were among those that Trump's Executive order singled out, saying, "As soon as practical, suspend, revise, or rescind [them]."

Step 3 was to write a do-nothing replacement. After lots of dawdling,

Trump's corrupt EPA decided to draft a fake rule, a rule they could point to if challenged in court for doing nothing, but a rule that would conveniently do nothing to limit methane emissions. The fake rule exempts a huge chunk of oil and gas production from regulation, leaving the industry with an effective blank check to pollute as much methane as it likes.

As I speak, the corrupt Trump EPA is preparing to issue its final rule, and the corrupted fossil fuel industry is poised to grab everything it wanted. The final rule is one that industry stooges could have written themselves because, well, it looks like they did write it themselves. They bought that privilege the old-fashioned way, by buying it.

Even before Trump took office, the fossil fuel industry began showering him with money. Trump raised a record amount for his inauguration—nearly doubling the previous record—and Hess, Chevron, BP, Citgo, ExxonMobil, Consol Energy, Continental Resources, Murray Energy, and Valero all made six- or seven-figure donations. The oil and gas and mining sector was the second largest source of donations, providing more than \$10 million to Trump's inaugural committee. That money still flows as the 2020 election ramps up.

Fossil fuel companies are among the largest donors to the political group supporting Trump's reelection. A pipeline company is the largest single donor to the Trump victory political action committee, more than \$700,000 as of this November. The oil, gas, and mining industries account for more than \$5 million to the Trump Victory PAC.

Fossil fuel executives are some of the largest individual donors to the Trump Victory PAC. One executive alone gave \$360,000. These known donations likely represent the tip of a big dark iceberg. Dark-money political organizations accept unlimited donations and provide no disclosure, and Super PACs accept unlimited donations with little disclosure. So the bottom line is we cannot tell exactly how much fossil fuel money is flowing to groups supporting Trump, but it is a lot. When you consider the \$650 billion annual subsidiary the fossil fuel polluters enjoy, they have every reason to buy control over government from a corrupt Trump administration.

Money isn't the only way the fossil fuel industry exerts control. Oklahoma oil king and Scott Pruitt patron Harold Hamm set up a Trump leadership council to advise Trump. The fossil fuel industry was the heart of the council, with coal giants Alliance Resource Partners and Murray Energy, oil services company Baker Hughes, and natural gas company Devon Energy all active members. Of course, there was the National Association of Manufacturers, a trade association recently identified as America's worst climate obstructer.

With all these obstructers and polluters on board, the fossil fuel friendly