

the U.S. Forest Service are developing a drought vulnerability model, a carbon storage map, and an alpine monitoring program to help land managers in southwestern Colorado cope with the effects of a changing climate. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have a Climate-Ready States and Cities Initiative to help local health departments prepare for changes in health risks driven by climate change. EPA partnered with New York City's Department of Environmental Protection to develop a software tool that helps drinking water and wastewater utility operators understand how climate change poses risks to their facilities.

Rhode Island, I am proud to say, is one of many States that have formed a climate change commission. The commission is coordinating with Federal officials to identify specific State and local challenges that are presented by our changing climate. Twenty other States have similar climate action plans developed or underway.

Despite the actions by States, the actions in the private sector, and the warnings in the GAO High Risk List, special interest politics in Congress prevent the Federal Government from using our resources effectively and efficiently against this threat. The politicking special interests have Washington gripped in a barricade of obstruction, and the effect truly is disgraceful.

Consider, for example, NOAA's proposal to create a National Climate Service, akin to its renowned National Weather Service. This was a no-cost restructuring that would have centralized NOAA's work on understanding the climate, including its observations of climate change. The National Climate Service would have helped meet the growing local demand for climate change science information. This proposal was blocked by Republicans over in the House who simply don't want to hear about climate change. That kind of thinking will not get climate change off the High Risk List.

According to GAO, "The Nation's vulnerability can be reduced by limiting the magnitude of climate change through actions to limit greenhouse gas emissions. . . . While implementing adaptive measures may be costly, there is a growing recognition that the cost of inaction could be greater and—given the government's precarious fiscal position—increasingly difficult to manage given expected budget pressures."

Congress has been asleep long enough. We have a tradition in this body of taking the accounting of GAO—our nonpartisan watchdog—seriously and of taking GAO's High Risk List seriously. GAO now joins our defense and intelligence communities, our scientific research communities, our State and local governments, and major sectors of private industry that have all elevated climate change from their to-do list to their must-do list. It is time for Congress to wake up to its duties and to get to work.

I yield the floor, and I note the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S. 16

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Inhofe-Toomey bill at the desk be considered as the bill that qualifies for introduction under the February 14 consent agreement.

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

#### TO PROVIDE FOR A SEQUESTER REPLACEMENT—MOTION TO PROCEED

##### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. I now move to proceed to S. 16, and I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The 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, hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 19, S. 16, an Inhofe/Toomey bill to cancel budgetary resources for fiscal year 2013:

Mitch McConnell, John Cornyn, Patrick J. Toomey, James M. Inhofe, Johnny Isakson, Richard Burr, John Thune, Tom Coburn, Jeff Sessions, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Johanns, Mike Crapo, Pat Roberts, Ron Johnson, James E. Risch, Jerry Moran, John Barrasso.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that tomorrow, February 28, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, after consultation with Senator MCCONNELL, the Senate proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the McConnell motion to proceed to Calendar No. 19, S. 16; that if cloture is not invoked, the motion to proceed be withdrawn and the Senate then proceed to vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Reid motion to proceed to Calendar No. 18, S. 388; further, if cloture is invoked on the McConnell motion to proceed, the motion to proceed be agreed to and the Senate resume consideration of the Reid motion to proceed to S. 388 and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Reid motion; that if cloture is invoked on the Reid motion, the motion to proceed be agreed to; that if the motion to proceed to S. 16 was pre-

viously agreed to, the Senate then resume consideration of the bill and, upon disposition of S. 16, the Senate resume consideration of S. 388 if the motion to proceed was previously agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business with Senators allowed to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### REMEMBERING C. EVERETT KOOP

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise to speak about the passing of an extraordinary American, a man who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom. I think he was one of the true leaders in my lifetime when it came to issues related to health care. Of course, I am referring to former U.S. Surgeon General C. Everett Koop.

It is hard to imagine today, as we reflect on all that has happened in the last several decades, the courage it took for Dr. Koop to step up and honestly describe the HIV/AIDS epidemic to the American people. This socially conservative doctor went so far as to make sure there was a mailing to every household in America that described the threat of this disease. There were many who thought that would never happen because of the political environment of the day. But Dr. Koop rose to the challenge and, in doing that, he saved lives in America. And he informed this country in a way that no other Surgeon General has about this looming danger.

If only that alone were his legacy, it would be more than enough. But I had a special personal friendship with him that related to our mutual efforts against the scourge of tobacco and the deaths related to that product. We have come a long way in America, and Dr. Koop was part of the progress we made. He was resolute in making it clear that tobacco was the No. 1 avoidable cause of death in America at his time, and is still today.

He was helpful in so many ways. When Senator FRANK LAUTENBERG and I, more than 25 years ago, teamed up—I was then in the House; FRANK in the Senate—to ban smoking on airplanes, it was something that neither Senator LAUTENBERG nor I could have predicted would have had the impact it did. It is one of the Malcolm Gladwell tipping points in health history in this country because when we took smoking off airplanes, people started asking the obvious question: If secondhand smoke is not healthy on an airplane, why is it healthy in a train, in a bus, in an office, in a hospital, in a restaurant, in a government building? And all of the dominoes started to fall.