Collins
Coons
Cornyn
Donnelly
Durbin
Feinstein
Franken
Gillibrand
Graham
Hatch
Heinrich
Heitkamp
Hirono
Kaine
King
Kirk
Klobuchar
Leahy
Manchin
Markey
McCain
McCaskill
McConnell
Menendez
Merkley
Mikulski
Murkowski
Murphy
Murray
Nelson
Peters
Reed
Reid
Roberts
Rounds
Sanders
Schatz
Schumer
Shaheen
Stabenow
Tester
Thune
Tillis
Udall
Warner
Warren
Whitehouse
Wicker
Wyden

NAYS—35

Blunt
Boozman
Burr
Cassidy
Coats
Corker
Cotton
Crapo
Cruz
Daines
Enzi
Ernst
Fischer
Flake
Gardner
Grassley
Heller
Hoeven
Inhofe
Isakson
Johnson
Lankford
Lee
Moran
Paul
Perdue
Portman
Risch
Rubio
Sasse
Scott
Sessions
Shelby
Sullivan
Toomey

NOT VOTING—1

Vitter

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

FEDERAL WATER QUALITY PROTECTION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 153, S. 1140.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 153, S. 1140, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term ''waters of the United States,'' and for other purposes.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, 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 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. 153, S. 1140, a bill to require the Secretary of the Army and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to propose a regulation revising the definition of the term ''waters of the United States,'' and for other purposes.

Mitch McConnell, Dean Heller, Jeff Flake, Steve Daines, Johnny Isakson, Mike Rounds, Ben Sasse, Roy Blunt, Daniel Coats, John Cornyn, John Boozman, Richard Burr, Cory Gardner, Shelley Moore Capito, Richard C. Shelby, David Perdue, John Barrasso.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam 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.

DISCHARGE PETITION—S.J. RES. 22

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 22, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of ''waters of the United States'' under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and further, that the resolution be placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Joni Ernst, James Inhofe, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, John Cornyn, Lamar Alexander, Rand Paul, Patrick Toomey, Pat Roberts, John Barrasso, Mike Lee, Thad Cochran, Orrin Hatch, Mike Crapo, Bill Cassidy, Shelley Moore Capito, Jeff Flake, Deb Fischer, Richard Burr, John McCain, David Perdue, Michael B. Enzi, Richard Shelby, John Hoeven, Ben Sasse, Tim Scott, Thom Tillis, James Lankford, Dan Sullivan, Bob Corker, Johnny Isakson, David Vitter, Mitch McConnell, Ted Cruz, Jerry Moran, Rob Portman, Ron Johnson, Dan Coats, Marco Rubio.

MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 22. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Corps of Engineers and the Environmental Protection Agency relating to the definition of ''waters of the United States'' under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2225. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish an H–2B temporary non-agricultural work visa program and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. Res. 301. A resolution calling on the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation to modify the accreditation standards of the Council to prevent the standards from negatively impacting Alaska Native and Native American teacher candidates; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 301—CALLING ON THE COUNCIL FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF EDUCATOR PREPARATION TO MODIFY THE ACCREDITATION STANDARDS OF THE COUNCIL TO PREVENT THE STANDARDS FROM NEGATIVELY IMPACTING ALASKA NATIVE AND NATIVE AMERICAN TEACHER CANDIDATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. SCHATZ) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 301

Whereas Alaska Natives and Native Americans are underrepresented in the profession of teaching;

Whereas Alaska Native and Native American students benefit academically from the cultural perspectives of Alaska Native and Native American teachers;

Whereas Alaska Native and Native American teachers often serve as positive role models for Alaska Native and Native American students;

Whereas increasing the number of Alaska Native and Native American teachers working in native communities empowers tribes, benefits native youth, and strengthens tribal self-sufficiency;

Whereas the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (referred to in this preamble as the ''Council'') is the sole accrediting body for educator preparation programs at institutions of higher education in the United States;

Whereas the Council approved new accreditation standards in 2013 and plans for the standards to be fully implemented by 2020;

Whereas the 2013 accreditation standards of the Council require that institutions of higher education, when accepting candidates to their schools of education, ensure that the group average performance on assessments such as the ACT and SAT is—

(1) in the top 50 percent from 2016–2017;

(2) in the top 40 percent of the distribution from 2018–2019; and

(3) in the top 33 percent of the distribution by 2020;

Whereas because of social, academic, and economic barriers, the average ACT and SAT scores of Alaska Natives and Native Americans are disproportionately lower than other categories of students;

Whereas Alaska Native and Native American students have disproportionately inadequate access to exam preparation opportunities and 21st century technology and are less likely to take the ACT or SAT than other categories of students;

Whereas no definitive research or data has shown that performance on the ACT or SAT is an effective indicator of the likelihood of success of a prospective student in an educator preparation program or as a teacher;

Whereas the 2013 accreditation standards of the Council—

(1) will force institutions of higher education to accept fewer Alaska Native and Native American students into teacher preparation programs in order to retain accreditation;

(2) will result in fewer Alaska Natives and Native Americans gaining acceptance into those programs; and

(3) will exacerbate the already low representation of Alaska Natives and Native Americans in the teaching community;

Whereas the Federal Government has a trust responsibility to support the education of Alaska Natives and Native Americans; and

Whereas the Council should recognize the negative impact of the standards of the Council on Alaska Native and Native American teacher candidates: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate calls on the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation—

(1) to consult with tribes and native organizations;

(2) to jointly develop changes to the accreditation standards of the Council to ensure that Alaska Native and Native American teacher candidates will not be negatively impacted by the standards; and

(3) to adopt changes to the accreditation standards of the Council expeditiously.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, today I am submitting a resolution, with Senators SULLIVAN and SCHATZ, calling on the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, CAEP, to modify one of their accreditation standards that applies to the qualifications for enrollment of teacher candidates.

The goal of accreditation agencies is to ensure that the education provided by our Nation's institutions of higher education and their various programs meet appropriate levels of quality.

In 2013, CAEP—the only accreditor of teacher preparation programs in the country—revised its accreditation standards. Problematic, however, is Standard 3.2 that would require teacher preparation programs to ensure that each cohort of students enrolled in the program has an average SAT/ACT/GRE score in the top 50 percent from 2016–2017; the top 40 percent from 2018–2019; and the top 33 percent by 2020.

I am all for making sure that our Nation's youngsters have the best possible teachers. We need well-trained, culturally competent, intelligent, effective teachers in every classroom in America.

But there is no definitive research or data that shows that performance on the SAT, the ACT, or the GRE is an effective indicator that someone will become an excellent teacher. Worse, basing acceptance into a teacher preparation programs on these tests will have a negative impact on young Native Americans and Alaska natives who want to become teachers in their own communities—where they are so desperately needed.

Compounding this inappropriate use of these tests is the fact that Native American and Alaska native students experience academic, economic, and social barriers that result in their SAT, ACT, and GRE scores being disproportionately lower than their peers of other races. Native students also have disproportionately inadequate access to exam preparation and are less likely to take the ACT or SAT than their peers.

This new CAEP Standard 3.2 will, therefore, effectively block decades-long efforts to train more Native American and Alaska native teachers, when we know that Native American and Alaska native students benefit from having teachers who understand their culture, their history, and their learning styles.

My resolution calls on the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation to do three things: to consult with tribes and native organizations; to jointly develop changes to these standards to ensure that Native Americans and Alaska natives will not be negatively impacted by these standards; and to adopt changes to the standards expeditiously.

I hope that my colleagues will pay close attention to this issue, reach out to the teacher preparation programs in their states, and join my colleagues, Senators SULLIVAN and SCHATZ in cosponsoring this resolution, as the Council's standards will impact not only our Native American and Alaska native communities. This standard will also very likely impact young African Americans and Hispanic Americans who hope one day to become teachers but who experience similar barriers to producing high scores on standardized tests.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that during the upcoming adjournment of the Senate, the majority leader and the senior Senator from Mississippi be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions.

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, November 3; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, and the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day; further, that following leader remarks, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 1140, with the time until 12:30 p.m. equally divided between the two leaders or their designees; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly conference meetings; finally, that notwithstanding the provisions of rule XXII, the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to S. 1140 occur at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, with the time from 2:15 p.m. until 2:30 p.m. equally divided in the usual form.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2015, AT 10 A.M.

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

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:14 a.m., adjourned until Tuesday, November 3, 2015, at 10 a.m.