

voted to support this bill just yesterday. We will vote on final passage later today. And because this measure cannot be filibustered, we expect it to pass.

I ask my colleagues who voted against bipartisan commonsense clean water legislation yesterday to think differently today. Work with us to protect the middle class instead of defending “inexplicable, arbitrary” regulation that is probably illegal and almost certainly violates the Clean Water Act.

SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS

Mr. McCONNELL. Now, on another matter, Mr. President, we live in a time of diverse and challenging global threats. It is a time when we see ISIL consolidating its gains in both Iraq and Syria. It is a time when we see the forces of Assad marching alongside Iranian soldiers and Hezbollah militias. It is a time when we see Russian aircraft flying above them in support, and it is a time when commanders tell us that additional resources are required to ensure the safety and preparedness of our troops. I think it is time to finally support the men and women who volunteer to protect us. The last excuse not to do so—the setting of a top-line budget number—has been cleared away. We fixed that. There is no reason that our colleagues shouldn't join us in moving forward now.

These brave men and women aren't poker chips in some Washington political game. They are the sisters, fathers, daughters, and neighbors who voluntarily and selflessly put themselves in harm's way so that we might live free. These are the men and women we will salute this month on Veterans Day. It is not enough just to support those who defend us then; we need to support them right now.

MEASURE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—S. 2232

Mr. McCONNELL. Finally, Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk due for a second reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the second time.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2232) to require a full audit of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal reserve banks by the Comptroller General of the United States, and for other purposes.

Mr. McCONNELL. In order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to further proceedings.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be placed on the calendar.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

CLEAN WATER REGULATION

Mr. REID. Mr. President, here is just a brief word on the Republican attack on the Clean Water Act. The bottom line is that the administration's clean water regulation will protect 117 million people. The cries about this legislation fly in the face of facts. As I said, 117 million Americans are being protected.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS BILL

Mr. REID. Mr. President, yesterday the Republican leader once again filed a motion to invoke cloture on the Department of Defense appropriations bill. This is another example of the Republican leader wasting the Senate's time on repeated cloture votes that he knows will fail. Republicans have tried this piecemeal approach already, and it didn't work. We came within hours of defaulting and not extending the full faith and credit of the United States and came within days of shutting down the government.

Even though two-thirds of Republicans in the House and Senate voted to close the government and default on our debt, we were able to craft a budget agreement that funds both the middle class and the Pentagon. Now it is time to move on and pass an omnibus appropriations bill that addresses both defense and the needs of the middle class in keeping with the budget agreement that passed last week.

There is no reason we can't get an omnibus bill to fund all the government by December 11, which is the deadline. If the Republicans balk, the government will close. Again, remember, two-thirds of the Republicans in Congress already voted no. They voted to default on the debt of this country and to close the government. That should give everyone pause.

THE KOCH BROTHERS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, over the last several months, the Koch brothers have been on a public relations campaign. This Koch propaganda campaign has accelerated over the past few weeks. Charles and David Koch have been going to great lengths to convince the American people that they are not just a couple of billionaires who are trying to dismantle Social Security and who closed the Export-Import Bank, putting 165,000 Americans out of work and costing the government billions of dollars. These two men fought a zoo in Ohio, and they fought a Republican mayor of Colorado Springs, CO, as he tried to fix the city's potholes. They stopped both from happening.

The Kochs want everyone to believe they are not the ones rigging the system to benefit themselves and their wealthy friends. The Koch brothers are spending their vast wealth holding newspaper and television interviews on their propaganda campaign. In spite of

all their efforts, this Koch media tour has failed to bury the one simple truth: The Koch brothers are trying to buy America.

During an interview yesterday, the scales fell away once again and revealed the Koch brothers' true intentions. In justifying his and his brother's efforts to inject hundreds of millions of dollars into conservative political campaigns, Charles Koch said: “I expect something in return.”

The Koch brothers are getting plenty in return. So far they have bought a Republican House, a Republican Senate, a government shutdown, an ousted Speaker of the House, a shuttered Export-Import Bank, and a Republican Presidential field where nearly every candidate kowtows to these billionaires. But that is not all. The Kochs have procured a media that is intimidated by their billions—too intimidated to hold them accountable.

Consider yesterday's interview on MSNBC's “Morning Joe” show. This is classic. Here are some of the questions that Joe and Mika asked the Koch brothers.

Joe Scarborough asked: “It's hard to find people in New York, liberals, we were talking about this before, liberals or conservative alike, who haven't been touched by your graciousness, whether it is towards the arts or cancer research. Do you think you got that instinct from your mom?”

Mika asked: “Sitting here in your childhood home”—they were doing this interview in Topeka, KS—“we have the Koch brothers. Which was the good brother?” That was another tough question.

Joe then asked: “You guys both play rugby together, right?”

Sometimes—most of the time—they weren't even questions; they were just compliments.

At one point, here is what he said: “You sound like my dad. That's very diplomatic. That's very good.”

Wow. Those were some really tough questions asked by the host of “Morning Joe.” That is tough journalism.

Those questions are so easy; they may even qualify them to moderate the next Republican Presidential debate.

It seems that some journalists are determined not to get on the wrong side of the Koch brothers and their billions. After all, we have seen how the Koch empire targets people, cities, and States that do anything that conflicts with the Koch brothers' radical agenda. When the media rolls over for these modern-day robber barons, as it is doing now, our country is in trouble.

As Charles Koch himself said, he and his brother are not spending this money for altruistic reasons; they are doing it for one reason and one reason only—for the profits of themselves and fellow billionaires who have rigged the system against the middle class. They said it themselves. They want something in return, and what they want is profit for their corporations. Their own publicist once explained why the Koch

brothers are trying to buy a new government: "It's because we can make more profit, OK?"

That is what this is all about for Charles and David Koch: bigger profits, more money because \$100 billion or more isn't enough for them.

By their own admission, the Kochs will spend and spend and spend until they get the government they want—a government that lets Koch Industries do what it wants, a government whose sole goal is to make these billionaires even richer.

Unfortunately for the United States, the Supreme Court has constructed a political system that allows them to do just that. The Citizens United case, decided in January 2010, has effectively put the U.S. Government up for sale to the highest bidder, and right now the Koch brothers are the highest bidder. Right now our country has no real restrictions on how much money a billionaire or a millionaire can spend to buy the government they want. All the power is with the wealthy, and that puts middle-class Americans at a significant disadvantage.

So we can't stand idly by while the government sits on an auction block and neither should any American sit idly by. Instead, we should be working to rid the system of the Koch brothers' dark money, but this cannot and will not happen if reporters and journalists refuse to ask Charles and David Koch questions—maybe even probing questions. Otherwise no one is holding these two oil barons accountable for their nefarious actions.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF A RULE SUBMITTED BY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS AND THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S.J. Res. 22, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 22) 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.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 12 noon will be equally divided in the usual form.

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I thank the Chair.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. HELLER. I will yield.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at the conclusion of the remarks of the Senator from Nevada I be recognized, unless an intervening minority Member should come in, in which case that I be recognized after that minority Member.

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

The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. HELLER. Mr. President, I rise to speak on an issue that will impact every single one of my constituents and probably all of the constituents of my colleagues in this body; namely, the Environmental Protection Agency's and the Army Corps of Engineers' new definition for "navigable waters."

Also known as waters of the United States, this overreaching and burdensome regulation is bad for Nevada and frankly it is bad for the Nation. My home State of Nevada is one of the driest in the Nation, and the water of course is a very precious resource. The only thing more scarce than water in the Silver State is probably private property, and the implementation of this waters of the United States rule will only do more harm for both of these.

Since coming to Congress, one of my primary goals has been to promote job-creating policies that grow Nevada's economy, and the key to promoting these types of policies is to cut redtape regulations handed down by Washington bureaucrats. Unfortunately, time and time again, this administration is bound and determined to issue overly burdensome regulations that damage the economy and stifle job creation. The latest edict from Washington bureaucrats is no different.

After years of failed legislative attempts to change the scope of regulatory authority over water, this administration has overturned both congressional intent and multiple Supreme Court decisions to further overregulate hard-working Nevadans. I have long been an outspoken advocate and a cosponsor of Senator BARRASSO's legislation, the Federal Water Quality Protection Act, that would make the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers redo this rule and consider stakeholder input—something they completely ignored the last time around. Considering that nearly 87 percent of my home State is managed by the Federal Government—which I often refer to as our Federal landlords—it is easy to see why this rule is thought of by many back home as yet another Federal land grab.

I have heard from many of my constituents who have shared with me their staunch opposition to this rule, like Marlow from Ruby Valley and Darryl from Yerington. They write about the rule that it "creates confusion and risk by providing the Agencies with almost unlimited authority to regulate, at their discretion, any low spot where rainwater collects, including farm ditches, ephemeral drainages, agricultural ponds and isolated wet-

lands found in and near farms and ranching."

The EPA may tell us that farmers and ranchers are protected from this regulation by exemptions under the Clean Water Act. The problem with this so-called exemption is that if a landowner made any changes on their farmland or their ranch since 1977 that impacts any land or any water on their property, they do not qualify for an exemption. Think about it again. Since 1977, if a landowner made any changes on their ranch land or on their farm that impacts water or land, they don't qualify for this exemption. So under this new rule, almost everyone would be regulated.

Ranching is the backbone of Nevada's rural economy. Implementation of this rule will devastate Nevada's landowners and businesses. Like Marlow and Darryl, I believe this rule needs to be redone with significant input from local stakeholders and in a way that will not impact the ability of Nevada ranchers to provide food for Americans.

Unfortunately, the Senate was not even able to proceed to this measure and debate legislation to exert some much needed oversight over the EPA due to the left's circle-the-wagon mentality of the Obama agenda. Although I was sad to see this vote fail, today I am proud to stand in support of Senator ERNST's resolution of disapproval, which will send this regulation back to the administration and send a clear message that Congress doesn't accept overreaching regulations created by Washington bureaucrats.

The fact is, the implementation of this rule has already been halted by the Federal courts. I strongly believe that at the end of the day, the courts will decide to overturn this onerous regulation. That is why I stand here today to urge my colleagues to support this resolution of disapproval. Instead of waiting years for the courts to decide, Congress needs to take immediate action to show this administration that we will not stand for any more regulations that kill jobs and stifle economic growth.

Good stewardship of our natural resources is part of Nevada's character that makes it so unique. This is not about dirty water or a rollback of the Clean Water Act. This is about Federal regulations that severely limit land use, infringe on property rights, and diminish economic activity in Nevada and nationwide. This is about Federal regulatory overreach by an agency that is using the Clean Water Act as a means to greatly increase its authority. At a time when the American public is still waiting for answers on the Animas River spill in Colorado, I find it greatly disturbing that this Agency is using clean drinking water as an excuse to gain authority over all waters of the United States. Enough is enough with these power trips.

Should we really trust the "Environmental Protection Agency" with this?

As a sportsman, I grew up understanding the importance of being a