

First, I want to recognize Timothy Gribben. Tim is the Director of Performance Management at the Small Business Administration, and in this role he developed SBA's quarterly performance review process that is now considered a best practice among other agencies. Because of Tim's commitment to transparent and accessible performance metrics—I know that doesn't get everybody's eyes shiny, but performance metrics is something I am pretty interested in—the American public can now more clearly track the support provided to small businesses from SBA to see where our tax dollars are headed.

Tim has been recognized by the White House's Performance Improvement Council and the American Association of Government Accountants for his leadership.

Next, I want to recognize Christine Heflin. Christine is the Director of Performance Excellence at the Department of Commerce and has established the Performance Excellence Council to bring together performance leaders from across the Department to exchange best practices. Because of Christine's expertise, she is sought by other agencies for advice, and she leads performance management 101 training across the Department to educate staff on the benefits of data-driven decision-making, the use of analytics, and performance improvement techniques.

Finally, I would like to recognize Michelle Silver. Michelle served as the program manager for the Bank Act IT Modernization Program. Under her leadership, the program was able to successfully modernize the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network's IT infrastructure. This significantly improved the ability of law enforcement, regulatory, and intelligence agencies to access and analyze financial data to detect and prevent financial crimes. It is important to note that Michelle's management ensured the modernization program was delivered on time and within budget. Because of people like Michelle and many other hard-working Federal employees at the Department of Treasury, our country's financial system is at least safer now than it was before from emerging threats.

I know performance metrics, data analysis, and IT improvements aren't necessarily the subject of debates every day on the floor of the Senate, but regardless of how we get our country's balance sheet back in order, I believe that will require both additional revenue and entitlement reforms so we don't keep coming back to the small portion of our budget which is discretionary programs. Even with all of that, we still need to make sure we use those dollars in the most effective and efficient process possible.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Mr. Gribben, Ms. Heflin, and Ms. Silver, as well as all government employees at all levels around the country for their commitment to pub-

lic service. Again, I remind all of my colleagues that as we debate budgets and we debate the future of our country, there are literally millions of folks at all levels of public service who go to work every day to make our country safer, to make our country more efficient, and to provide services for those who are in need.

A few minutes earlier today I was with seven DEA agents who had just received the Congressional Badge of Bravery. They had been recently deployed to Afghanistan. These are all people who represent the commitments we fight for on the floor of the Senate.

With that, Madam President, I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 8, the Senate resume consideration of S. 601 and the following amendments be the first amendments in order to the pending Boxer-Vitter substitute amendment No. 799: Coburn amendment No. 804 on ammunition; Coburn amendment No. 805 on Army Corps lands and guns; and Whitehouse amendment No. 803 on oceans; that there be no second-degree amendments in order to any of these amendments prior to votes in relation to the amendments; that the Coburn and Whitehouse amendments be subject to a 60-vote affirmative vote threshold; and that the time until 2 p.m. be equally divided between the two leaders or their designees for debate on their amendments; that Senator COBURN control 40 minutes of the Republican time; that at 2 p.m. the Senate proceed to votes in relation to the Coburn and Whitehouse amendments in the order listed; that there be 2 minutes equally divided in between the votes and all after the first vote be 10-minute votes; further, that upon disposition of the Coburn and Whitehouse amendments, the substitute amendment, as amended, if amended, be agreed to and be considered original text for the purposes of further amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to 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.

WRDA

Mrs. BOXER. Madam President, I wish to take about 2 minutes—and I know Senator BROWN is here to speak—to explain what just happened because a normal person would never follow this, in my opinion. That is just me speaking.

Let me tell my colleagues what we did. Happily, we are moving forward with the first votes on amendments to the WRDA bill—the water resources bill—tomorrow. I have to thank so much Majority Leader REID because he worked very hard on making sure we could figure out a way to move these votes forward. Senator VITTER and I both wanted to see this happen, and we are very pleased.

So what will happen is we will first have a vote on an amendment by Senator COBURN dealing with a study about ammunition. Upon disposition of that amendment, we will move to another Coburn amendment that deals with people being able to carry guns on Corps of Engineers land that has levees and dams on it and so on. We will have debate and a vote on that. Finally, we will have a vote on the Whitehouse amendment which deals with an oceans trust fund. So those three votes will be in order, and following that we believe the Boxer-Vitter amendment will be pending.

I wish to thank everybody for their cooperation in moving forward. I don't understand why and how we would have gun amendments on a water infrastructure bill, but that is just me. This is about water infrastructure. It is about flood control. It is about making sure our ports are deepened so that commerce can flow in and out. It is about water conservation. It is about wetlands conservation and restoration. So I don't quite get why we are voting on guns, but it is the Republicans' desire that the first two votes be on guns, so that is what we are going to do. We will dispose of those.

I can only say to my colleagues, my friends, on both sides of the aisle, could we keep the amendments to the subject at hand? If we could keep the amendments to the subject at hand—I know there is a desire to have votes on lots of issues, but I think we all agree that for the economic well-being of our country, we need an infrastructure that is top-notch. I hate to say it but our infrastructure has been rated as a D-plus. That means our ports are not functioning as they should and our flood control projects are not handling the extreme weather we are facing. We need to get back to work here in regular order.

I know there are people here who think more gun votes is the way to go. That is a very controversial subject. It tears at the heart of the American people in many ways. But so be it. Let the country see what we are dealing with. The first two votes by the Republicans on a water infrastructure bill are about guns. Let the people decide if they think it is appropriate on a water infrastructure bill that deals with flood