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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, who formed the mountains and hills, give our Senators strength for this season of challenge. Provide them such wisdom, courage, and integrity that they will cause justice to roll down like waters. Above the noise and din of human voices, may they hear the whisper of Your guidance. Inspire them to do what is right as You reveal the right to them.

Thank You that Your love and mercy are from everlasting to everlasting. And Lord, continue to bless the people of France as they find strength in You. We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MOMENT OF SILENCE FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE PARIS ATTACKS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now observe a moment of silence for the victims of the Paris attacks.

(Moment of silence.)

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ENERGY REGULATIONS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Obama administration is trying to impose deeply regressive energy regulations that would eliminate good-paying jobs, punish the poor, and make it even harder for Kentuckians to put food on the table. Their effect on the global carbon levels? Essentially a rounding error. Their effect on poor and middle-class families? Potentially devastating. Yet the deep-pocketed leftwingers who increasingly call the shots in the Obama White House don't seem to care. Just like with their decision on Keystone last month, the Obama administration is putting facts and compassion to the side in order to advance their ideological agenda.

Higher energy bills and lost jobs may be a mere trifle to some on the left, but it is a different story for millions of middle-class Americans in Kentucky and across the country. Senators from both parties are saying that we should be standing up for the middle class instead. That is why we have joined together to work toward overturning these two-pronged regulations.

I am happy to report that the bipartisan measures we filed last month to overturn these regressive regulations have now been made available for consideration by the full Senate. The first measure pertains to regulations on existing energy sources, while the second pertains to regulations on new sources. Together they represent a comprehensive solution.

Senator CAPITO has been a leader in this effort, and I thank her for her hard work. That hard work will continue as the Senate and House both take up the measures and pass them. That is the right thing to do for middle-class Kentuckians and middle-class Americans

who have suffered enough under this administration already.

BURMA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, on several occasions this year I have come to the floor and noted that this year's Burmese election would represent a crucial test for the country's path to political reform. The lead-up to this November's election was marked by a number of discouraging developments: the disenfranchisement of the Rohingya population and the defeat of commonsense constitutional reform proposals back in the summer. Yet, despite these setbacks, I am pleased to note that last week's election in Burma seems to have been a success.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate my friend Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy party for their overwhelming victory. It was a truly remarkable achievement. At the same time, I would also like to commend Burmese President Thein Sein for his gracious remarks following the NLD victory and for his commitment to abide by the results of the election. The same should be said of Burma's commander in chief. He also appears to have accepted the results of the election and has pledged to support the NLD during the transition.

In many ways, the key test for a young democracy is not the first election but the first election in which there is a transfer of power from the ruling power to the opposition. The transfer of authority in Burma will therefore be pivotal. Accordingly, I would urge both the President and the commander in chief to continue on the positive course they have charted since the election and to meet with Daw Suu in the coming days to map out an appropriate transition plan.

The NLD now has a mandate to govern and has sufficient strength in Parliament to choose a President and one

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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