

pledging loyalty to the divisive platform that has been built by the Republican people running for President, led by, at this stage, Donald Trump.

We believe we must destroy ISIS. Everyone on this side of the aisle believes we should destroy ISIS and defend our Nation, but we believe we can accomplish this goal without compromising Americans' core principles. Sadly, many leading Republicans have proposed policies that compromise our fundamental values and threaten the identity of our great Nation. Democrats are committed to opposing the violent views of Donald Trump and providing the American people with solutions that make our Nation safer. We think it is way past time for the Senate to vote on these policies.

My friend, the Republican leader, has pledged over and over again that when the Republicans lead the Senate, they will thrive under an open amendment process. For example, he said the following: "I said at the beginning of my time as majority leader that the open amendment process was going to be the rule rather than the exception."

My friend continued to say that tough votes should be expected, and I quote: "We'll just take our chances. You know, we're big men and women. We're prepared to vote on proposals that are offered from both sides."

If Senate Republicans are prepared to abide by this, Senate Democrats will seek to advance a limited number of amendments on this bill that is before this body. I am not talking about tons of amendments or scores of amendments, but four or five amendments. For example, we could have one that dramatically increases the funding for local police anti-terrorist efforts and airport security. That is one that we want. They are overworked and underresourced. We could close the terror gun loophole to prevent those on the no-fly list from being able to buy firearms, explosives, or radiological materials, as has been attempted. We would offer an amendment to denounce Donald Trump's reprehensible proposal to impose a religious test on admission to the United States.

The Democratic ISIS security bill has been filed. It is a very important piece of legislation. It includes keeping guns out of the hands of terrorists and stopping radicalization here in the United States. It includes active shooter training. As I have already indicated, we are going to move our airport security substitute forward so we can prevent dirty bombs and work abroad to take care of refugees who are over there.

These are the amendments we feel confident about, based on the statements my friend has made. We are not asking for unlimited amendments. I have listed four amendments here.

The Republican leader here in the Senate and the Republican Speaker have pledged their loyalty to Donald Trump and his disgraced policies. They have said that if he is the nominee, they will, of course, support him.

As a frontrunner for the Republican nomination, Donald Trump and his proposals are leading the public debate in our country. Republicans who support these illogical plans should be prepared for the next logical step: voting on his vision of America.

Over here, we believe that all of these measures are deserving of a vote. I talked about four of them. We are ready to vote on the proposals now—this week. If for any reason the Republican leader needs more time to discuss the proposals with his caucus, we are happy to reschedule the vote.

Now, I know it is a big day in the Senate because during my news briefing on the way to work, I heard that the junior Senator from Florida is going to be here to vote—and the junior Senator from Texas. They will actually be in the Senate to vote. It is a big day. I know we have a tight schedule because they are going to be here for only an hour or two, but perhaps we could have a debate on the amendments we have suggested. I am sure that if we offer these amendments, the Republicans will offer amendments, and we could have some time here to deal with these amendments. But we will not allow Republicans to hijack the Senate floor to play politics with our Nation's security. The American people deserve better. I look forward to offering these amendments.

I publicly want everyone to know that I did not try to jump ahead of my friend the Republican leader. I was told by staff that I should go first. If I had known the Senator was going to be here so quickly, I would have waited, so I am sorry about that.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Chair lays before the Senate the President's veto message on S.J. Res. 22, which the clerk will read and which will be spread in full upon the Journal.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Veto message to accompany 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.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the veto message on S.J. Res. 22 be considered as having been read; that it be printed in the RECORD, and spread in full upon the Journal.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The veto message ordered to be printed in the RECORD is as follows:

*To the Senate of the United States:*

I am returning herewith without my approval S.J. Res. 22, a resolution that would nullify a rule issued by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Army to clarify the jurisdictional boundaries of the Clean Water Act. The rule, which is a product of extensive public involvement and years of work, is critical to our efforts to protect the Nation's waters and keep them clean; is responsive to calls for rulemaking from the Congress, industry, and community stakeholders; and is consistent with decisions of the United States Supreme Court.

We must protect the waters that are vital for the health of our communities and the success of our businesses, agriculture, and energy development. As I have noted before, too many of our waters have been left vulnerable. Pollution from upstream sources ends up in the rivers, lakes, reservoirs, and coastal waters near which most Americans live and on which they depend for their drinking water, recreation, and economic development. Clarifying the scope of the Clean Water Act helps to protect these resources and safeguard public health. Because this resolution seeks to block the progress represented by this rule and deny businesses and communities the regulatory certainty and clarity needed to invest in projects that rely on clean water, I cannot support it. I am therefore vetoing this resolution.

BARACK OBAMA,  
THE WHITE HOUSE, January 19, 2016.

**MORNING BUSINESS**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business until 12:30 p.m., with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

**RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER**

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

**AMERICAN SAFE ACT**

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, our country has a proud record of admitting the oppressed as refugees to our shores, yet the debate about how to safely admit refugees from Syria and Iraq is a serious conversation that deserves a serious response from Washington. It is difficult to effectively vet immigrants from a war-torn country where records may sometimes no longer exist at all. Senior law enforcement and intelligence officials have expressed concerns and DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson has said organizations such as ISIL may like to try to exploit