

THE SIXTY-FIFTH DAY

CARSON CITY (Tuesday), April 11, 2023

Senate called to order at 4:46 p.m.

President pro Tempore Spearman presiding.

Roll called.

All present.

Prayer by Senator Scott Hammond.

Heavenly Father, a few of Thy servants are here to do and conduct the work of this State. We are grateful, Father, for the health that we enjoy. We are grateful for the sunshine that has returned. We are grateful, Father, for the abilities that we have and the desires that we keep in our hearts to do that which is right for the people in the State of Nevada. Bless us during this endeavor. We pray for those who are the less fortunate and those that we need to be thinking of often. We ask You to watch over this meeting and the words that will be coming from our United States Senator.

We ask these things in the Name of Jesus Christ.

AMEN.

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

By previous order of the Senate, the reading of the Journal is dispensed with, and the President pro Tempore and Secretary are authorized to make the necessary corrections and additions.

MOTIONS, RESOLUTIONS AND NOTICES

Senator Cannizzaro moved that Senate Bill No. 330 be taken from the Second Reading File and placed on the Secretary's Desk.

Remarks by Senator Cannizzaro.

This is for purposes of an amendment.

Motion carried.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that Senate Bills Nos. 34, 44, 71, 76, 77, 95, 103, 129, 153, 165, 210, 260, 319 and 331 be taken from the Second Reading File and placed on the Second Reading File for the next legislative day.

Motion carried.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that Senate Bills Nos. 8, 16, 18, 19, 25, 26, 29, 39, 67, 80, 110, 131, 177, 181, 182 and 250 be taken from the General File and placed on the General File for the next legislative day.

Motion carried.

The Sergeant at Arms announced that Assemblywoman Torres and Assemblyman McArthur were at the bar of the Senate. Assemblywoman Torres invited the Senate to meet in Joint Session with the Assembly to hear U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto.

Madam President pro Tempore announced that if there were no objections, the Senate would recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Senate in recess at 4:58 p.m.

IN JOINT SESSION

At 5:03 p.m.

Speaker Yeager presiding.

The Secretary of the Senate called the Senate roll.

All present.

The Chief Clerk of the Assembly called the Assembly roll.

All present except Assemblyman Watts, who was excused.

Speaker Yeager appointed a Committee on Escort consisting of Senator Lange and Assemblywoman Jauregui to wait upon the Honorable U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto and escort her to the Assembly Chamber.

U.S. Senator Cortez Masto delivered her message as follows:

MESSAGE TO THE LEGISLATURE OF NEVADA

EIGHTY-SECOND SESSION, 2023

First, it is such a pleasure to be here home with all of you. Thank you for inviting me. Thank you, Governor, I see you. Thank you for being here. To our constitutional officers, thank you as well. To our Majority Leader, thank you for the invitation. And to all our members of the Assembly and Senate, thank you. Thank you for the work that you do and thank you for the opportunity to continue to work with all of you every day.

I will be brief. There are certain things I want to focus on, and I want to touch on one of them today. That is what I am going to talk about. We will have plenty of time later, throughout the year—I know you all have a busy legislative session—we will have plenty of time to talk about many issues we need to address here to make sure we are doing everything we can for our businesses and working families. There is one thing I want to touch on with you.

As I think most of you know, I love everything about this State. I always travel all over the State. I try to get out as much as I possibly can. I have heard from everyone. I am so proud of the work we have done together—not just to bring our economy back from the brink, which we all know we addressed, but to look to the future. In our future, Nevada is at the forefront of leading in the 21st century innovation economy.

I call Nevada the Innovation State, because we have the workforce, we have the companies, we have the universities, the colleges, the institutes—thanks to the Desert Research Institute—and the labs that are incubating ideas and pioneering the technologies and the jobs of the future.

Let me start with the clean energy economy. Ask anyone in the country what they see when they think of Nevada. They will tell you, the sun. That is what we have here. We have certainly capitalized on our solar economy. But what most people do not know is that Nevada is the center of this country's clean energy and critical mineral future. It is the only state in the United States that encompasses nearly every facet of the critical mineral and advanced battery technology. We have from extraction to research and development, to processing, refining and manufacturing, to recycling operations.

Nevada is primed to lead the rest of the country into the clean energy future, and we need to take advantage of this important opportunity to grow our economy, create good-paying, union jobs and support Nevada families. Here in Nevada, we have seen the clean energy revolution coming for a long time. You all know this. So, when I got to the Senate, I saw a unique opportunity to make Nevada the center of our nation's clean energy economy. That is why I launched the Innovation State Initiative to promote everything we can do right here in Nevada.

You all know that Nevada is the perfect state for solar. You have worked hard to promote its economy. You continue to do so, and I thank you for that. That is why I led the fight for a solar tax credit that kept new companies and new jobs coming to Nevada. I got this tax credit extended and signed into law under President Trump and then expanded under President Biden. Businesses are continuing to invest in solar production and jobs, and now we have the number one solar economy in the country, thanks to all of the work we are doing. We know it cuts costs for families and supports our workforce. Just a few months ago, I spent some time with the International

Brotherhood of Electrical Workers at Gemini Solar Project, one of the new solar arrays in Southern Nevada. These are good-paying jobs for our workers.

While our solar industry is booming, Nevada has the critical minerals to power the world. I cannot stress this enough. But for too long, they have been extracted and shipped overseas for processing and manufacturing. We should be developing Nevada's minerals. We should be developing lithium in Nevada, whether it is through extraction or recycling. That is why I ensured the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law included legislation to boost our critical mineral supply chain, while investing, at the same time, in battery manufacturing and recycling projects right here at home.

I have been talking about this so much on the floor of the Senate, they are getting sick and tired of hearing me talk about it, but this is Nevada's future and opportunity. I was one of the first Senators to introduce and pass legislation to boost electric vehicles, develop a national strategy and create a real critical mineral supply chain. That was crucial for all of us in Nevada. It already has delivered millions to companies like Lilac Solutions in Fernley and American Battery Technology's project in Tonopah. Just a few years ago, these jobs did not exist, and now they are supporting thousands of families across our State.

Yesterday, I was in the Tahoe-Reno Industrial Center (TRIC) visiting Aqua Metals, which has pioneered a process to recycle lithium-ion batteries and recover valuable metals and lithium hydroxide, creating a circular supply of critical minerals for domestic battery manufacturing. Why is that important? Because with the lithium hydroxide that they produce, they can support companies like Dragonfly which is right here in Northern Nevada that recycle batteries and manufacture batteries right here in our communities. Aqua Metals is a key piece, but there are so many more that we are benefiting from. And Aqua Metals, by the way, is benefiting from the tax credits we passed in the Inflation Reduction Act, and as they grow, they are looking to hire more workers right here in Northern Nevada. We have it all here, and we have the potential to make the most of it, as long as we are working together.

Last summer, I just saw, a few miles down the road from TRIC, there is a company called Fulcrum BioEnergy. It is literally taking municipal waste out of our landfills and turning it into clean-burning jet fuel. I know Fulcrum because I like to travel around the State and get out to talk to everyone but when I was first touring their facility, they were having challenges at the federal level getting support to move forward with their production. They were having challenges with the Environmental Protection Agency. So, I worked at the federal level and talked with the folks in the administration about the importance of this—this is where we need to go. For me, now, the work I have done working with all of you, allowing these companies to come here, Fulcrum is fully operational. That plant is supporting more than 1,000 connected jobs across Nevada, and it is a perfect example of the innovation economy growing right here in our State.

A key piece of that innovation economy is smarter, more efficient technology that will make a big difference for Nevada families. Thanks to the bipartisan legislation we all passed, we are investing in Nevada's infrastructure, and not just airports, roads and broadband. Let's talk about wildfires. We see them in the north. We see the drought in the south. Every Nevadan is feeling the impact of the climate crisis. That is why I made sure the bipartisan infrastructure package that we passed included legislation that I fought for to support our firefighters and make sure that we have state-of-the-art technology we need to take on the wildfire season. It is why, in the Senate, I worked with Susie Lee in the House to support large-scale water recycling facilities in the infrastructure law, and then I personally negotiated for \$4 billion for drought funding in the Inflation Reduction Act. That is essential for what we need to bring into this State to make sure we are doing everything we can to address these needs and look to our future.

That is why we have to continue to work together—to ensure Nevada leans into this 21st century and takes advantage of the investments coming our way at the federal level. These are once-in-a-lifetime investments. These are not coming around often. And they are going to be there for the next five to ten years. There is so much money coming to the State from the CARES Act to ARPA, but let's just talk about the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the CHIPS & Science Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. Just those three combined will invest more than \$135 billion to build America's electric vehicle future, including critical minerals sourcing and processing and battery manufacturing. If we do not go after this, another State will. That's why we need to be at the forefront of this.

I have spent the last several years in the Senate passing this legislation, working with my colleagues in a bipartisan way and laying the groundwork to support Nevada's innovation economy. You all are my partners in this effort. I cannot do this without all of you. That includes ensuring Nevada is in a position not only to go after these funds but also use them in a timely manner when we receive them, so we do not lose them. This is not a partisan issue. We are all on the same page. I am asking you to join me in supporting Nevada families and businesses by promoting the opportunity that we have and advancing pragmatic, responsible investments in innovation and infrastructure to grow our economy and create good-paying jobs for our families and businesses at the end of the day.

Not only am I asking you to join me, but here is my request. Where do you want Nevada to be in five to ten years? I hope you all are thinking about that. Because I am. I know when we look forward and we lean into this 21st century, what we want to do is lead, pioneer and be on the cutting-edge of this innovation economy that will take our families and our businesses in this State and lead us to a future that is bright for all of us. I know you all feel the same way. I am looking for that opportunity to continue to partner with all of you. I am going to challenge you, like I hope you challenge me, because at the end of the day—and I know the Governor feels this way, we just had this conversation—this is about Nevada, Nevada first and all our families and businesses. Thank you all for the opportunity to talk with you today. I wish you the best in this session.

Senator Neal moved that the Senate and Assembly in Joint Session extend a vote of thanks to U.S. Senator Cortez Masto for her timely, able and constructive message.

Motion carried.

The Committee on Escort escorted U.S. Senator Cortez Masto to the bar of the Assembly.

Assemblywoman Considine moved that the Joint Session be dissolved.

Motion carried.

Joint Session dissolved at 5:22 p.m.

SENATE IN SESSION

At 5:26 p.m.

President pro Tempore Spearman presiding.

Quorum present.

GUESTS EXTENDED PRIVILEGE OF SENATE FLOOR

On request of Senator Cannizzaro, the privilege of the floor of the Senate Chamber for this day was extended to the Nevada Federation of Democratic Women.

Senator Cannizzaro moved that the Senate adjourn until Thursday, April 13, 2023, at 11:00 a.m.

Motion carried.

Senate adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Approved:

PAT SPEARMAN

President pro Tempore of the Senate

Attest: BRENDAN BUCY

Secretary of the Senate