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No. 87

Senate

The Senate met at 4:07 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, May 19, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the morning hour be deemed expired.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Journal of proceedings be approved to date.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

Ms. STABENOW. I ask unanimous consent that the time for the two lead-

ers be reserved for their use later in the day.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Ms. STABENOW. As if in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that all postcloture time on the Davis nomination be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 24; further, that the cloture motions filed during yesterday's session of the Senate ripen upon disposition of the Davis nomination, and that if any of the nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 811, 888, 889, and 890; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid

upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Rebecca Eliza Gonzales, of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Director of the Office of Foreign Missions, with rank of Ambassador; Flor Romero, of California, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for National and Community Service for a term expiring December 1, 2025; Christine M. Kim, of Colorado, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026; and Karen Ann Stout, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the National Council on the Humanities for a term expiring January 26, 2026, en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR—H.R. 350, S. 4261, H.R. 7688, and H.R. 7790.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I understand that there are four bills at the desk due for a second reading en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will read the bills by title for a second time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 350) to authorize dedicated domestic terrorism offices within the Department of Homeland Security, the Department

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



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of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to analyze and monitor domestic terrorist activity and require the Federal Government to take steps to prevent domestic terrorism.

A bill (S. 4261) to suspend duties and other restrictions on the importation of infant formula to address the shortage of infant formula in the United States, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 7688) to protect consumers from price-gouging of consumer fuels, and for other purposes.

A bill (H.R. 7790) making emergency supplemental appropriations to address the shortage of infant formula in the United States for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Ms. STABENOW. In order to place the bills on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I would object to further proceeding en bloc.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Objection having been heard, the bills will be placed on the calendar.

SIGNING AUTHORITY

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the junior Senator from Washington be authorized to sign duly enrolled bills or joint resolutions from May 19, 2022, through May 23, 2022.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AUTHORIZING TESTIMONY AND REPRESENTATION IN UNITED STATES V. HALE-CUSANELLI

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed the immediate consideration of S. Res. 645 which was submitted earlier today.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 645) to authorize testimony and representation in United States v. Hale-Cusanelli.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the next criminal trial arising out of the events of January 6, 2021, is scheduled to begin on May 23, 2022, in Federal district court in the District of Columbia. The defendant in this case is charged with five counts: obstructing the counting by Congress of the electoral ballots for President and Vice President; entering and remaining in a restricted area within the U.S. Capitol grounds; unlawful parading, demonstrating, and picketing; and two counts of engaging in disorderly and disruptive conduct.

The prosecution has requested trial testimony from Daniel Schwager, formerly counsel to the Secretary of the Senate, related to the obstruction count, including his knowledge and observations of the process and constitutional and legal bases for Congress's certification of the Electoral College

vote. The prosecution is also seeking testimony at trial, if necessary, from Nate Russell and Diego Torres, custodians of records in the Senate Recording Studio, which operates under the authority of the Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate, to authenticate Senate video of the proceeding that day. Senate Secretary Berry and Senate Sergeant at Arms Gibson would like to cooperate with these requests by providing relevant testimony in this proceeding from Messrs. Schwager, Russell, and Torres, respectively.

In keeping with the rules and practices of the Senate, this resolution would authorize the production of relevant testimony from Messrs. Schwager, Russell, and Torres, with representation by the Senate legal counsel.

Ms. STABENOW. I further ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 645) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022, THROUGH TUESDAY, MAY 24, 2022

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for a pro forma session only, with no business being conducted, on the following date and time: Monday, May 23, at 1:45 p.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Monday, May 23, it next convene at 10 a.m., Tuesday, May 24; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Lindenbaum nomination; further, that the Senate recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order following the remarks of Senator SULLIVAN.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

ENERGY

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, to the fans of the Alaskan of the Week series, I regret to say this is not going to be an Alaskan of the Week speech. Stay tuned. We will have more. Sorry to the pages. I know this is their favorite speech of the week.

Actually, unfortunately, regrettably, Mr. President, this is what I am referring to as an anti-Alaskan of the Week speech, and you are going to understand why here in a minute because I want to talk right now in the Senate about what everybody else in America is talking about when you actually leave the bubble of the beltway and you go home.

I was home last weekend. I try to get home almost every weekend. What are people talking about? They are talking about inflation; they are talking about the high cost of everything; they are talking about formula; and, of course, Mr. President, they are really talking about the high cost of energy that is crushing working families in our Nation—certainly in my State but all over the country.

A few stats on that: We have now had 10 days in a row of record high gas prices. In Alaska, we hit \$5 a gallon for the first time ever at the pump. Remember, at the end of the Trump administration, gas was \$2.39 a gallon. During the Biden years—not even a year and a half—it is up 91 percent—91 percent. The price of natural gas in America doubled last year. This is having a devastating impact on Americans across the board but particularly working families, middle-class families, people on fixed incomes.

Now, the President keeps saying that he is doing all he can to address this problem of high energy costs in America. The Secretary of Energy today testified in front of the Armed Services Committee. She said that the administration is doing all it can to increase supplies of oil and gas in America.

Respectfully, to the President, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of the Interior: None of this is true. It is not even close, and I see it on a daily basis back home in Alaska. And here is the thing: The American people know it is not true. The American people know it is not true.

This wasn't last weekend when I was home; this was about 4 weekends ago. I was filling up my truck. Actually, it was three-quarters empty. So my truck was on one-quarter full, an F-150. It cost me almost \$110 to fill that up. Had the truck been empty, it would have been \$142 to fill that up. By the way, now that we have had these increases at the pump since 4 or 5 weeks ago, the estimate—if you own an F-150 and it is 5 bucks a gallon, it is about \$150 to fill up your truck.

Now, Mr. President, this is the meter that I filled my truck up with, and you see this little sticker. That is Joe Biden, and it says, "I did that." I did that, America; I made these prices really high. These stickers are spontaneously showing up everywhere in America. Every State in the country, when you go to gas stations, has that "I did that." For anybody watching on TV, I encourage you to keep doing that because the American people are wise, Mr. President.

The Secretary of Energy, Joe Biden, they keep claiming: We are doing all we can to make sure you don't get crushed by energy increases. And it is not true, and this just shows it. People get it. Joe Biden did that, and we know it. The American people know it. So we all know this.

Day one of the Biden administration, there was a focus on shutting down oil and gas production—certainly in my State but across the country—limiting the ability to actually transport energy—Keystone XL—but oil and gas pipelines; going to financial institutions, strong-arming them not to invest in the American energy sector. All those things happened and have been happening since the beginning of this administration.

So now that you are seeing that the whole country knows that the responsibility of these high energy prices are from this administration and this President—"I did that"; there you go—you might be thinking: All right, people are really hurting. This is driving up inflation. The Biden administration is probably saying: Hey, let's do a course correction. Let's try to really increase the supply of energy, not strong-arm financial institutions to get rid of energy or to make it harder to invest in.

So has there been a course correction? Is the Secretary of Energy, as she testified today—and the President—we are doing all we can to increase production—well, the answer is no. The answer is no.

Let me give you three examples, just in the past few weeks, that demonstrate this 100 percent that their goal continues to be to shut down energy production and still make it hard as heck to produce and build energy infrastructure. Two are very close to home for me, unfortunately.

Last week, the Federal Government, the Biden administration, at the last minute, canceled a lease sale for oil and gas leases in a place we call Cook Inlet in Alaska. I was actually on the Kenai Peninsula, where Cook Inlet is, last weekend.

The people were furious. They were furious. This is a lease sale. We have State leases, Federal leases. And Cook Inlet, this is the original major hydrocarbon basin in Alaska, still producing oil and gas. We had a Federal lease sale canceled. None of this is controversial. We have them all the time. The Biden administration canceled it. So much for wanting to increase production—canceling the lease sales.

Let me give you another one, Mr. President. The National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska, set aside by Congress decades ago, probably the most prolific basin in the world right now for oil and gas—when you explore there, explorers are finding billion-barrel fields. Not controversial—it has been set aside, like I said, for decades for oil and gas production. Three weeks ago, the Biden administration announced in an Executive order they were going to take half of that massive petroleum reserve off the table for any exploration and development—just 3 weeks ago. That is the biggest oil and gas reserve in the country by far, the most prolific producing energy basin, probably in the world, and they took half of it off the table.

And they claim they are trying to increase production, increase supply? Not true.

And the third one, again, just in the last 3 weeks, Mr. President: The Council on Environmental Quality at the White House issued new rules on how to implement NEPA, the permitting that goes into any infrastructure project. By every measure—by every measure, these new rules are meant to delay the building of American infrastructure, especially oil and gas infrastructure.

Mr. President, I have here two editorials from the Wall Street Journal that I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD. One is called "How to Kill American Infrastructure on the Sly: The White House revises NEPA rules that will scuttle new roads, bridges and oil and gas pipelines." And the other is called "A Bipartisan Energy Deal? Overriding Biden's new NEPA rules blockade is essential for fossil fuels and solar and wind power" development.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

HOW TO KILL AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE ON THE SLY

Americans are going to need a split-screen for the Biden Administration's policy contradictions. Even as the President on Tuesday promoted the bipartisan infrastructure bill he signed last November, the White House moved to make it harder to build roads, bridges and, of course, oil and natural-gas pipelines.

The White House Council on Environmental Quality is revising rules under the National Environmental Policy Act for permitting major construction projects. CEQ Chair Brenda Mallory says the changes will "provide regulatory certainty" and "reduce conflict." Instead, they will cause more litigation and delays that raise construction costs, if they don't kill projects outright.

NEPA requires federal agencies to review the environmental impact of major projects that are funded by the feds or require a federal permit. Reviews can take years and run thousands of pages, covering the smallest potential impact on species, air or water quality. Project developers can be forced to mitigate these effects by, say, relocating species.

While the 1970 law was intended to prevent environmental disasters, it has become a weapon to block development. The Trump Administration sought to fast-track projects by limiting NEPA reviews to environmental

effects that are directly foreseeable—e.g., how a pipeline's construction would affect a stream it crosses.

Some liberal judges, however, have interpreted NEPA broadly to require the study of effects that indirectly result from a project such as CO2 emissions. Now the Biden Administration is mandating this. CEQ's new rule will require agencies to calculate the "indirect" and "cumulative impacts" that "can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time." This means death by a thousand regulatory cuts for many projects.

The Transportation Department will likely have to examine how a highway expansion could increase greenhouse-gas emissions in concert with new warehouses. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission might have to calculate how a new pipeline would affect emissions from upstream production and downstream consumption.

Wait—didn't FERC recently walk back its policy to do exactly this? The White House is thumbing its nose at West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin, who blasted FERC's now-suspended policy for shutting "down the infrastructure we desperately need as a country."

The rule's obvious intent is to make it harder to build pipelines, roads and other infrastructure that would enable more U.S. oil and gas production, even as the Administration makes phony gestures to reduce energy prices. Last Friday the Administration announced it would comply with a court order to hold oil and gas lease sales on public land. Those leases won't matter if energy companies can't get federal permits for rights-of-way.

While fossil fuels may be the rule's political target, don't be surprised if green energy is snagged in this trip-wire. Environmental groups have used NEPA to block new mineral mines and transmission lines that connect distant renewable energy sources to population centers. In this Administration, the left hand doesn't seem to know what the far left hand is doing.

A BIPARTISAN ENERGY DEAL?

OVERRIDING BIDEN'S NEPA RULES BLOCKADE IS ESSENTIAL FOR FOSSIL FUELS AND SOLAR AND WIND POWER

West Virginia Democrat Joe Manchin wants to cut a bipartisan compromise on energy. It's not a crazy idea, but the risk is that Democrats will lure Republicans into accepting superficial permitting reforms in return for a gusher of green energy spending.

Any worthwhile deal, at a minimum, should make the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) a less lethal regulatory weapon. While a large pipeline can be built in a year or two, federal permitting can take two to three times as long. If there are lawsuits—and there always are—you're looking at a decade or more. Add that to the cost in present value of any energy or other project.

The bipartisan infrastructure deal included modest NEPA reforms, such as a two-year shot clock for federal agencies to complete environmental impact statements. The law also requires federal agencies to work on a review at the same time rather than wait in turn.

Alas, the Administration's new NEPA regulations, announced last month, will create more red tape that increases costs and expands litigation risk. Federal agencies going forward will have to consider the "cumulative" and "indirect" project impact.

While the rules don't specify every potential tangential impact, they put an emphasis on climate and "environmental justice." Project developers will have to mitigate these effects—say, by installing electric-vehicle chargers in minority communities.

This is a way to get businesses to pay for the Administration's Build Back Better plan that can't pass Congress.

The Administration's inflated "social cost" of carbon—a speculative estimate of the global harm that could result from climate change, including foreign conflict and migration—will jack up costs even more. The White House pegs the social cost of CO₂ at \$51 per ton—about 50 times higher than the Trump Administration's estimate—and is planning to increase it.

A higher cost of carbon means that companies could have to spend more to compensate for their emissions—and regulators are sure to deem some projects too costly to permit. Any energy deal should override the Administration's NEPA anti-reforms and explicitly prohibit federal agencies from considering climate and social factors.

It should also limit executive discretion to wall off federal land from development under the Antiquities Act and Endangered Species Act. And it should limit states' power under the Clean Water Act to veto pipelines and high-voltage transmission lines. This would help green energy too.

How about setting a shot clock on approving drilling permits? Texas requires regulators to process permits in three days. The Biden Administration on average takes six months. Pipelines planned in existing rights-of-way of other pipelines should be approved automatically.

Another idea reportedly under consideration is to deem liquefied natural gas exports to a NATO country to be in the "public interest," thereby short-circuiting Department of Energy review. Even better: Eliminate DOE's reviews. They're redundant since the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission must permit export terminals.

The model for a deal would be the 2015 compromise between Barack Obama and Paul Ryan that lifted the ban on oil exports while extending green energy tax credits. The model should not be the infrastructure deal that Republican Senators agreed to last summer that included mostly liberal priorities—e.g., a public transit blowout—with small permitting reforms sprinkled in.

Republicans will likely gain leverage after the midterms to negotiate reforms, so there's no urgency to strike a deal now. No deal is better than a bad one.

Mr. SULLIVAN. The Laborers' International, led by a great American, Terry O'Sullivan, they came out—these are the largest building trades—the largest construction union in the country. These are the men and women who build things in our country. They came out fully against these new NEPA rules saying directly that they would delay the building of American infrastructure, particularly energy projects: wind, solar, oil, gas.

The Biden administration issued that 3 weeks ago. So those are just three examples, but it is not just they are still very focused on shutting down the production of energy—and the people of our great country know it; they know Joe Biden did that—but they are doing it in a way that is not transparent and, to be perfectly blunt, is dishonest.

Let me give you two examples—again, unfortunately, directly impacting my State, my constituents. When the Biden administration leaked to the press—by Gina McCarthy, by the way, someone who is really hostile to Alaska and really hostile to energy development. When they leaked to the press

last week that they were going to cancel the Cook Inlet lease sale, they scrambled to come up with a reason. Look, the reason is they hate oil and gas development, especially in my State, but they tried to come up with something.

So they later put out and said, well, there was no industry interest in the lease sale. They were actually basing that on interest almost 2 years ago. But I know—Senator MURKOWSKI mentioned it in a hearing today with Deb Haaland—that we know for a fact there was interest in this lease sale; there was industry interest in the Cook Inlet lease sale. So the administration was spinning a falsehood.

Here is the other thing, Mr. President. I used to be the DNR commissioner in Alaska. We did all kinds of oil and gas lease sales on State land. The fact of the matter is, you almost never know who is interested until you actually have the sale. Companies don't say: Oh, yeah, we are coming. They keep that really closely held for competitive reasons. And it wouldn't cost the Federal Government a dime to hold the lease sale. You find out if there is interest by actually holding the lease sale, but the Biden administration was spinning it that there was no interest. That is a falsehood; we know that.

Let me give you another one, Mr. President. When the administration, 3 weeks ago, took half of the National Petroleum Reserve of Alaska off the table—which, by the way, should disturb every American, as that was set aside by Congress for oil and gas development—the Secretary of the Interior was actually in Alaska. She was holding a listening session with the Native leaders in the North Slope Borough where the NPRA actually is.

And every single one of these leaders, with the exception of one, said to Secretary Haaland: Madam Secretary, please, no more restrictions on the development of our natural resources up here. It undermines economic opportunity. It takes away from development that we need in our Native communities—that most Americans take for granted: roads, bridges, schools, clinics, flush toilets. Please, Madam Secretary, no more restrictions.

The Secretary comes back from Alaska, and 72 hours after her visit to the State, she and her Department issue a 100-page record of decision saying, We are going to take half of the NPRA off the table, the very place she was with the Native leaders who said: Don't do it.

And the real audacity is there is a section in the record of decision which was clearly written before her visit to Alaska, her listening session. It wasn't a listening session at all because she had a predetermined outcome that she did not let the people of Alaska know about or the Native leaders of Alaska know about, and there was a section in that record of decision that said: We are doing this in part because the Native people want it to protect subsist-

ence. The Native leaders just told her the opposite. Like I said, dishonest, nontransparent, not truthful.

I will admit there are few places in the world, if you are lucky enough to live there, that the Biden administration actually is doing all it can to increase the production and supply of energy—two places, as far as I can tell. Let me talk about those two places. The first is New Mexico, the State of New Mexico. Close to half the oil and gas permits issued by the Federal Government last year went to one State. Every State in the country like mine is trying to get permits. Guess which State got 2,286 oil and gas permits in 2021. New Mexico. Alaska is being crushed: no lease sales in Cook Inlet, NPRA, half of it off the table, probably about the size of New Mexico, and New Mexico is getting special treatment.

Hmm. Interesting. A couple of reasons why that is interesting. Let's see. Who is from New Mexico? Oh, my goodness, the Secretary of Interior is from New Mexico. Isn't that interesting? I think that is interesting. I wish the media thought that was interesting. Could you imagine if that was a Republican Secretary of the Interior favoring his State over every other State in the country for more oil and gas production? The New York Times and the Washington Post would have a field day. If this was Ryan Zinke, there would be a front-page story once a day but not if it is a Democratic Secretary of the Interior.

Almost half the oil and gas permits in America issued by the Federal Government last year went to one State, New Mexico. Hmm. Who else is from New Mexico? Well, the senior Senator from New Mexico is obviously from New Mexico. In December, I gave a speech about all that he is doing—that I am still very riled up about—to shut down oil and gas production in Alaska. The senior Senator from New Mexico spent a lot of his time writing letters to banks, writing letters to insurance companies, writing letters to his fellow New Mexican, Deb Haaland, on how to shut down oil and gas development in Alaska.

Now, why would he care about Alaska? I don't really know. But in his letters, he said we need to shut down, no investment in Alaska banks, insurance companies to "achieve America's climate goals." That is one Senator trying to crush my State to "achieve America's climate goals." Hmm. I am still not sure why that Senator cares so much about crushing my State. But like his New Mexico colleague, the Secretary of the Interior, they are doing a pretty good job of hurting my State, especially the Native communities.

Today in the ENR Committee, the senior Senator from New Mexico, with Secretary Haaland testifying, had the audacity to brag that New Mexico's oil and gas production is up 400 percent in the last decade.

Now, look, I think this is good for the country. I think it is good for New

Mexico's oil and gas workers—400 percent. He was bragging about that while still writing letters to shut down oil and gas production in Alaska. By the way, that is not how the Senate operates. Could you imagine if we all attacked each other's States? It wouldn't work really well here.

Here is the other thing about this. New Mexico's production has gone up more than Alaska's now, and guess what else has gone up. My goodness, their carbon emissions are through the roof—through the roof. Where is the concern about “achieving America's climate goals” in New Mexico, from New Mexico—from the senior Senator from New Mexico or Secretary Haaland?

Here is the bottom line on that. You want to shut down Alaska to “achieve America's climate goals,” but you are good to go with cranking it up in your State and not mentioning climate change or climate goals at all. In most parts of America, we just call this rank hypocrisy—but I guess not so in New Mexico. And it is wrong. We all know it is wrong. Heck, even the senior Senator from New Mexico knows it is wrong, and it is harmful to my constituents.

New Mexico is the place that the Biden administration and Secretary Haaland are clearly trying to dramatically increase oil production. I guess they are lucky. They are increasing carbon emissions a lot too. They don't talk about that.

What is the other place that the Biden administration is trying to really help in terms of increasing oil and gas production? It is foreign countries controlled by dictators who don't like us. You heard the story several months ago about the Biden administration reaching out to Iran—the biggest state sponsor of terrorism in the world—trying to lift sanctions so they can produce more oil for the world. Let's shut down oil in Alaska, but let's go to

the Iranian terrorists and get them to produce more oil.

Well, this week—this past week—there was another story that happens to be true that the Biden administration is now loosening sanctions on another one of those wonderful leaders, the dictator in Venezuela so they can produce more oil. Let's help the dictators who hate our country produce more, and then we will go shut down Alaska where great Americans are trying to produce energy.

Oh, by the way, Senator BARRASSO did a great job in the ENR hearing today saying guess who has the most dirty, polluting oil in the world in terms of production and carbon footprint, 18 times more dirty and polluting than oil production in America. Guess. Venezuela. So we are going to get terrorists who don't like us, who are the dirtiest polluters of energy when they produce it and get them to produce more, and we are going to shut down oil and gas production in the great State of Alaska that has the highest environmental standards on the planet.

In conclusion, President Biden is not doing nearly enough to address the energy crisis in our country. To the contrary, he is still undertaking policies meant to limit supply, limit infrastructure, and make it harder to build—that transports energy—and shut down production in America.

I just gave three examples. The American people know these prices are this guy's fault. But there is the Biden exception. There is the Biden exception. If you produce in New Mexico—maybe because the Secretary of the Interior is from there, maybe because the senior Senator from New Mexico is from there or you are a dictator who really hates this country and really pollutes a lot when you produce energy—the Biden administration wants you to produce more. This has to change.

The American people know exactly what is going on. They know exactly what is going on, and these policies are hurting working families. They are making it so energy workers in my State get pink slips. They are doing nothing for the environment, and they are empowering dictators. And that is why the American people know the blame is right there. And until there is a course correction, unfortunately, the suffering that we are seeing all across this great Nation, in terms of high energy prices and inflation everywhere, is going to continue.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 1:45 P.M.
MONDAY, MAY 23, 2022

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 1:45 p.m., Monday, May 23, 2022.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:37 p.m., adjourned until Monday, May 23, 2022, at 1:45 p.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate May 19, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REBECCA ELIZA GONZALES, OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF FOREIGN MISSIONS, WITH RANK OF AMBASSADOR.

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

FLOR ROMERO, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 1, 2025.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION ON THE ARTS AND THE HUMANITIES

CHRISTINE M. KIM, OF COLORADO, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2026.

KAREN ANN STOUT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL COUNCIL ON THE HUMANITIES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 26, 2026.