

And despite the labor market contraction during the pandemic being the sharpest in modern history, the bounce back marks the second-fastest job market recovery since 1981.

In a little over two years, we've seen job losses that topped 20 million at one point be fully erased.

This recovery stands in stark contrast to the malaise we saw in the labor market following the financial crisis, when it took the better part of a decade for pre-crisis employment levels to be restored.

Inflation is also too high, but its root causes are COVID-19 pandemic-related supply chain disruptions and Vladimir Putin's war on Ukraine. The IRA tackles these disruptions by promoting domestic manufacturing and supply chains and reducing our reliance on foreign energy. On August 2, 2022, over 120 prominent economists wrote a letter to Senate and House leadership stating that the IRA "addresses some of the country's biggest challenges at a significant scale. And because it is deficit-reducing, it does so while putting downward pressure on inflation."

There is much to celebrate in this bill, but there are many priorities that we were not able to add. This "to do" list includes reinstating the expanded child tax credit and making child care accessible and affordable. My priority list includes legislation I have long championed to expand dental coverage to Medicare beneficiaries, as well as to Medicaid beneficiaries, along with expansions to home and community-based and maternal health services. Congress also needs to address housing supply and economic development priorities, including the Neighborhood Homes Investment Act, the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit, the New Markets Tax Credit, and the Historic Tax Credit. While the IRA will help create good-paying union jobs, we need to do more to protect and enhance workers' rights to form and join unions and engage in collective bargaining. And I will continue working to fund water infrastructure programs the IIJA created to address urgent affordability and resilience issues.

While that seems like a long list, we must not let the perfect be the enemy of the good, and the IRA is so much better than good. It is transformational legislation, and I am proud to support it. I want to commend Majority Leader SCHUMER and so many of my colleagues who have worked diligently both in the spotlight and behind the scenes to bring us to this point. I also want to acknowledge committee and personal staff; CBO and JCT staff; Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough and her crew; leadership, floor, and cloakroom staff; the Senate legislative counsels; and others. You toil anonymously, but I hope you know how important you are. The Senate could not function without you. You are among our Nation's finest public servants, and you are making a critical difference in the lives of all Americans.

The American essayist Charles Dudley Warner famously said, "Everybody

complains about the weather, but nobody does anything about it"—a quote commonly misattributed to his friend Mark Twain. Passing a reconciliation bill is like that. We all complain about the process, especially the so-called vote-a-rama, which is grueling and grinding and befuddling to just about everyone, but we don't fix it. In fact, it seems to get worse each time, not better. I know I would prefer not to go through the process again, but the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan before it have been worth it.

Dahlia Rockowitz, Washington director of Dayenu: A Jewish Call to Climate Action, noted that the Senate consideration of the Inflation Reduction Act began on the Shabbat and Tisha B'Av, a Jewish day of collective mourning for historic destructions. But as she pointed out, "... according to Jewish tradition, this day of despair is also the day that new hope and the potential of a rebuilt, reimagined, redeemed world is born. These investments in clean energy and transportation can help us emerge from climate-fueled disasters to a more hopeful, clean energy future for generations to come."

INFLATION REDUCTION ACT OF 2022

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Madam President, I rise to enter into a colloquy with the chairman of the Finance Committee, Senator WYDEN, to discuss sections 13701 and 13702 of the Inflation Reduction Act. These sections establish new sections 45Y and 48D of the Tax Code that provide new tax credits for, respectively, production from and investment in clean electricity resources that are placed in service after December 31, 2024.

Mr. WYDEN. I am pleased to join the senior Senator from Nevada in this colloquy today to discuss sections 13701 and 13702 of the Inflation Reduction Act. These sections of the Inflation Reduction Act reflect the work of a variety of Members, but few Members have been as focused on geothermal energy than the Silver State's senior Senator.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. As the chairman of the Finance Committee knows well, the Inflation Reduction Act includes new and improved clean energy tax credits, and I commend Senator WYDEN for leading the effort to simplify the Tax Code's incentives for clean electricity. These credits will advance our transition to a clean energy future and are a key part of this legislation's goal of reducing carbon emissions from the electricity sector more than 40 percent by 2030.

The 45Y and 48D provisions expressly make geothermal energy eligible for critical tax credits, and I appreciate the chairman's attention to this issue given its importance to Nevada's economy. Nevada is a leader in geothermal energy and the industry provides critical jobs and revenues for my State and

others across the country. Geothermal resources also provide clean power, and they are essential to meet the emissions reduction goals of this legislation. As the current chairman of the Finance Committee and former chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, can Senator WYDEN comment how this legislation intends to spur the deployment of this critical clean energy technology?

Mr. WYDEN. I appreciate the question. For those unfamiliar with geothermal energy, it is generally produced by delivering geothermal brine and steam from underground reservoirs to the surface, where the resource then runs turbines to generate electricity. In some cases, there is a de minimis amount of naturally occurring non-combustion emissions released in the renewable generating process and the electricity produced is considered emissions free.

Thanks in part to the relentless efforts from Senator CORTEZ MASTO, the Inflation Reduction Act provides the same incentives for geothermal energy resources placed in service after December 31, 2024, as it does for electricity produced by solar, wind, and other renewable resources. Indeed, all geothermal energy is included among the resources meeting the definition of "qualified facility" for the purposes of the new sections 45Y and 48D included in the Inflation Reduction Act.

I thank my colleague from Nevada for her dedication to and leadership on geothermal energy incentives. I am pleased to have worked with her on these incentives, and I most certainly agree that electricity produced from geothermal resources property qualifies for the production and investment incentives provided by sections 13701 and 13702 of the Inflation Reduction Act. That has been my intent throughout the course of drafting this legislation. Geothermal resources are critical to our clean energy future, and I thank my colleague for her collaboration in developing these robust new tax credits for clean energy.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I thank the chairman of the Finance Committee and my friend from Oregon for his comprehensive answer, his commitment to solving for climate change, and for joining me today in this colloquy.

TRIBUTE TO KIM BRINKMAN

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Kim Brinkman, who will be retiring on August 11, and to thank her for her 34-plus years of exemplary service to the Senate community. Kim has spent her entire career working in the Senate Disbursing Office. Her colleagues in disbursing will miss her, but so, too, will all Senators and Senate staff and their families. We have all relied on Kim for expert advice and guidance on pay and health and retirement benefits and other issues.

Kim is a constituent, but she originally hails from Nevada, IA. She attended Stephens College in Columbia, MO, for 2 years and then transferred to the University of Iowa, where she graduated with a degree in economics. She is a proud Hawkeye.

In 1985, Kim had a summer internship working at the Federal Aviation Administration and decided she wanted to return to Washington, DC, after she graduated from college. She went to a library in nearby Ames, IA, and checked the "Help Wanted" section of the Washington Post's classifieds. The Senate Disbursing Office had an opening; she applied and returned to Washington to interview for the job; and she got it. She started working in the disbursing office on October 5, 1987.

When Kim started her career, the disbursing office had a staff of 43; just 10 of them were women, including Kim. The Senate had just two female Senators: Senator Nancy Kassebaum of Kansas, and my former colleague, Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland, who had just assumed office a few months before Kim arrived. Fast forward to today, and 45 of the disbursing office's 58 staffers are women. There are 24 female Senators, plus Vice President HARRIS. That has been one of the biggest changes Kim has witnessed over the course of her career. The other is the advent of the internet, email, and other information technology, which has revolutionized the way we all work, including Kim.

Senators LEAHY, GRASSLEY, McCONNELL, and SHELBY are the only Members currently serving who arrived here before Kim, and just one of her colleagues at disbursing has more seniority. Kim began her career as a staff assistant in the front office, moved to the employee benefits section, became the employee benefits manager, and later was promoted to her current position as assistant financial clerk of the Senate.

I have often said that the Senate is a family, and we are so grateful to staff members like Kim who make it function. Certainly, Kim has made the thousands of Senators and staffers she has helped over the years feel like family. She isn't just a subject matter expert when it comes to pay and benefits; she is friendly, cheerful, patient, and kind. Everyone who knows Kim has the highest regard and affection for her.

Kim will travel back to Iowa this month to visit her parents and help celebrate her father's 90th birthday. She will also travel to Kentucky to celebrate her daughter Maya's graduation from the University of Kentucky. While Kim and her sister will continue to look after their parents as needed, I know Kim's legions of friends in the DC metropolitan area are glad that she will be coming back here, where she will step up her gardening and her antique shopping in Rappahannock County. She will have more time for her artwork and playing the piano and clarinet and volunteering at her church,

where she is part of the visiting ministry team.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch, or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." He was describing Kim Brinkman.

On behalf of my colleagues, but especially on behalf of all the Senate staffers and their family members whom she has counseled and assisted over the years, I want to thank Kim for her outstanding service and wish her all the best as she embarks on the next chapter in a life well lived.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL LAURIE RODRIGUEZ

Mr. ROUNDS. Madam President, I rise today to honor an exceptional member of the Air National Guard. I would like to recognize Lt. Col. Laurie Rodriguez's distinguished service and dedication to enhancing the relationship between the National Guard and my office as a legislative liaison.

A native of Brandon, SD, Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez enlisted in the South Dakota Air National Guard and was later commissioned as a force support officer. She has served 25 years in both the South Dakota and Mississippi National Guard in a broad range of drill status and Active-Duty assignments, including a deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Currently, she is excelling in not one, but two, demanding positions as the 186th Force Support Squadron commander and as the joint team lead for the National Guard Bureau Office of Legislative Liaison. Additionally, she has served Active-Duty tours at Headquarters Air Force, the Executive Office of the President's Office of National Drug Control Policy, and several offices within the National Guard Bureau.

Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez has served as a legislative liaison officer since October of 2018. Her attention to detail and responsiveness strengthened the relationship between my office and the National Guard immeasurably. Additionally, she formulated the congressional engagement plan and prepared National Guard leadership for over 71 meetings and hearings, informing congressional members on the National Guard Bureau's legislative priorities. Her efforts played a pivotal role in securing \$129 million in appropriations in support of counter drug operations helping deter the opioid epidemic. Laurie also served as lead action officer on the impacts the creation of the Space Force had on 13 National Guard units with space missions. Finally, she an-

swered hundreds of congressional inquiries, which provided critical information necessary for the consideration of three National Defense Authorization Acts. She did all of this while taking care of the men and women under her command at the 186th Force Support Squadron.

After concluding this challenging assignment in August, Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez will take on another challenging role as a deputy division chief within the National Guard Bureau Operations Directorate. She embodies the qualities that the Nation expects from our officer corps and has a promising career ahead in continued service to our Nation. In closing, I express my gratitude and appreciation to Lieutenant Colonel Rodriguez for her excellent support of my office in furtherance of National Guard missions and my appreciation to her supportive husband, Angello Rodriguez. I wish this National Guard family all the best in their next chapter of service to our Nation.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MILE HIGH EARLY LEARNING

• Mr. BENNET. Madam President, I rise today to recognize Mile High Early Learning for 50 years of service in support of children and families in Colorado.

Mile High Early Learning is Denver's largest and oldest provider of subsidized high quality early care and education and is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2022. Since the organization's founding, Mile High Early Learning has provided high quality early care and education to more than 50,000 children.

Mile High Early Learning had its beginnings when community child care providers created a consortium, incorporated on January 19, 1972, to provide affordable, accessible quality early childhood education and care for children from working families with limited resources. Today, Mile High Early Learning serves more than 1,500 young children every year.

As a Head Start and Early Head Start provider, Mile High Early Learning leverages these Federal resources to partner with numerous local early childhood providers to offer comprehensive health and family support services to families and expand access to high quality early education and care across Colorado.

Mile High Early Learning incorporates cutting-edge knowledge in early childhood, using a Montessori inspired approach that supports a love of learning, social-emotional development, and critical skills that lead to lifelong success.

As a leader in the field of early childhood, Mile High Early Learning has developed continuing education and professional learning programs designed