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 moment 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 do-list includes new and improved clean energy tax credits, and I commend Senator Mark Warner famously said, “Everybody serves, and you are making a critical floor, and cloakroom staff; the Senate MacDonough and her crew; leadership, Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth and personal staff; CBO and JCT staff; also want to acknowledge committee my colleagues who have worked diligently on this legislation. Geothermal resources are critical clean energy technology? Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I thank the chairwoman 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 thank my colleague from Nevada for her dedication to and leadership on clean energy incentives. I am pleased to have worked with her on these incentives, and I most certainly agree that electricity produced from geothermal energy resources 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 chairwoman 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.

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 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 chairwoman of the Finance Committee knows well, the Inflation Reduction Act includes new and improved clean energy incentives, and have worked diligently both in the spotlight and behind the scenes to bring us to this point. I also want to acknowledge committee personal staff; CBO and JCT staff; Senate Parliamentarian Elizabeth MacDonough and her crew, leadership, floor, and staff; and counsel; the leadership, and others. You tell 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 service workers, and I appreciate the chairwoman’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 wages 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 chairwoman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, 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 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 of 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 of 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 clean energy incentives. I am pleased to have worked with her on these incentives, and I most certainly agree that electricity produced from geothermal energy resources 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 chairwoman 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.

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 dedication to and leadership on clean energy incentives. I am grateful to Senator Wyden for leading the effort to simplify the Tax Code’s incentives for clean energy. 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 chairwoman’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 wages 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 chairwoman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Senator Wyden, I appreciate the question. For those unfamiliar with geothermal energy, it is 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 of amount of naturally occurring non-combustion emissions released in the renewable generating process and the electricity produced is considered emissions free.

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Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I thank the chairwoman 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.
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 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 25+ women, 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 have members like Kim who make it function. Certainly, Kim has made the thousands of Senators and staff members who have 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 confidence 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 D.C. metropolitan area are glad that she will be coming back here, where she will step up her gardening and her antiques and champagne collecting. 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.” He was describing Kim Brinkman.

On behalf of my colleagues, and 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 non-combat 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 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 passion for strengthening the relationship between my office and the National Guard immeasurably. Additionally, she formulated the congressional engagement plan and prepared National Guard leadership for over 70 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 answered 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, Angelito 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 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 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. Learning for Life 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. Mile High Early Learning embodies the support of the field of early childhood, Mile High Early Learning has developed continuing education and professional learning programs designed...