

When I hear the Republican leadership talk about the bills they propose, they never mention the tax cuts to billionaires, which is the crown jewel, in their minds, of what they are doing. But they are afraid to mention it because they know how unpopular it is with the American people.

They know it is going to increase the deficit by up to \$5 trillion. These deficit hawks over on the other side of the aisle and the House are willing to increase the deficit by that much.

So what are they doing about it, knowing how high it would increase the deficit, rising interest rates, rising costs, risk of economic downturn? What do they do? Instead of facing the problem head-on, they are resorting to budget gimmicks to hide the true cost of their billionaire tax cuts.

They want to use something—some of them—called a current policy baseline. In essence, current policy baseline is an attempt to magically turn \$5 trillion of deficit spending into zero dollars on their balance sheets. The deficit would still be there. It would still go up by \$5 trillion in actual terms, but this sleight of hand, this hocus-pocus, says it is not going to appear on a balance sheet because we are calling it current policy baseline.

Congress—Democrat or Republican, liberal or conservative—has never used a “current policy” baseline for reconciliation and for good reason. Any junior high school math student could tell you their current policy baseline gimmickry is utter nonsense. It is an attempt for Senate Republicans to hide the true cost of their billionaire tax cuts from the American people.

At least House Republicans are being honest about the outrageous cost of their tax cuts in terms of the deficit. In fact, the House Freedom Caucus is being far more honest about the deficit than our Senate Republican colleagues. Maybe the Freedom Caucus should send the debt clocks that Representative THOMAS MASSIE wears on his lapel to the Senate Republicans.

What happened in the House last night and what happened last week in the Senate is only the beginning. Democrats are going to fight these billionaire tax cuts tooth and nail. Democrats are glad to have this debate because the American people will be aghast when they learn what is really in the Republican tax bill, and that is tax breaks—huge tax breaks—for their billionaire buddies who are all doing well, God bless them. The last thing America needs is another tax break for them—who are so rich already.

Americans are worried that with these tax breaks, inflation is going to get worse. Americans are worried that Donald Trump will start a trade war with our allies and make trips to the grocery store an utter nightmare.

We learned yesterday, for instance, that consumer confidence saw its biggest drop last month in 4 years—in 4 years. So this idea that the Republicans can hide what they are doing to

the American people is not working, and we Democrats are going to make sure that Americans know exactly what they are doing in terms of their tax breaks for billionaires hurting the average American.

The issues that Americans are actually worried about are costs, are inflation, are getting decent healthcare. But what are the Republicans spending their time on here in Congress? Cutting taxes for billionaires and then hiding the true cost on the deficit with a sleight of hand.

They are also slashing away at Medicaid and SNAP and so many other services that bring down the cost of living. This is absolutely not what the American people signed up for, and Republicans know it because they don't talk about it.

Talk about how close to \$2 trillion in your plan goes to the very wealthiest in America. You can't talk about it. Do you know why you can't talk about it? Because you know how unpopular it is.

Yes, it is true that the small number of very wealthy, greedy people who want their taxes even lower has a disproportionate hold on the Republican Party in the House and Senate. So they are doing it, but they are afraid to talk about it.

And for sure, when it comes to these tax cuts, when it comes to the cuts in Medicaid, and so many other bad things their budget does, Democrats will fight tooth and nail to prevent them.

DEPARTMENT OF GOVERNMENT EFFICIENCY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, DOGE—day by day, Americans are getting more alarmed by the slash-and-burn approach DOGE is taking to basic government programs. Americans certainly want a more efficient government, but what DOGE and Donald Trump are doing is not efficiency. Instead, it is chaos. Americans did not sign up for chaos, that is for sure.

Americans did not sign up for DOGE to take its chain saw, for instance, to aviation safety. There was another near miss, this time in Chicago, in the air. Thank God no one was hurt, but this shows you the immense importance of having a fully staffed FAA.

How on Earth is it efficiency to fire aviation safety assistance or maintenance mechanics or people who help with safety inspections and repairs? But that is just what DOGE did. I can't imagine any American thinks that is efficiency.

The only thing that is going to accomplish, of course, is making flying less safe. It is going to lead to delays and mixups at airports.

And not even the 9/11 families who lost loved ones or were hurt as they rushed to the towers right after 9/11, not even these folks were safe from the DOGE buzz saw.

DOGE tried to ax the workforce for the World Trade Center Health Pro-

gram. I am glad we pushed Donald Trump and DOGE to reverse.

Later today, I will join Senator GILLIBRAND, Representatives GOLDMAN and GARBARINO to reintroduce the bipartisan 9/11 World Trade Center Health Program reintroduction, 2 months after Elon Musk killed this program when he tanked the bipartisan funding bill in December.

Mr. President, 9/11 families deserve to be treated with dignity, with respect, not with the contempt we see from DOGE. And no good business operator would take this slash-and-burn approach DOGE is taking.

People's Social Security benefits are also at risk. Their ability to see a doctor is at stake. Their ability to put kids in daycare is at stake. The longer DOGE is allowed to rain chaos on the American people, the stronger the backlash will become.

And let's not forget, even by their most optimistic projections—and they have had to reduce them—the amount of money that DOGE will cut is far less than the amount of the deficit created by the huge Republican tax cut. So all this talk that they need to do this for deficit reduction is belied by their clinging to a whopping deficit creation by the tax cut.

METHANE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, on the methane CRA, today, Senate Republicans will advance a measure undoing one of the most important tools we have to lower energy prices and hold Big Oil and Gas accountable.

The Republicans, once again, in obedience to the oil and gas industry, are pushing a resolution to reverse the methane emissions charge, which Democrats passed in the Inflation Reduction Act.

It makes big oil companies pay when they leak excessive and harmful levels of methane. Typically, the more methane a company leaks during drilling, the more these companies will have to charge for the methane they do deliver and the more gas prices will go up for families and businesses.

The oil companies, they don't believe in what our economists call externalities. They think they can just throw methane into the air and let everyone else pay the price in terms of climate change, in terms of bad health for people, et cetera.

What they want to do, our Republicans colleagues, will make gas prices go up for families and businesses.

Our law was a reasonable, common-sense, and a carefully tailored safeguard to prevent consumers from footing the bill of Big Oil's methane waste, paired with Federal funding to help big oil companies reduce their waste.

Reducing methane waste in the atmosphere saves consumers money. It protects local communities from pollution; and methane, as you know, is a superpotent greenhouse gas.

Scientists agree that reducing methane is one of the best things we can do

to combat climate change. Its deleterious effects on the atmosphere are many, many times greater even than CO₂ is.

So why do Republicans want to overturn it so badly? Because, as typical, Republicans are putting the needs of big oil and gas companies over the needs of the American people, over the health of the American people, and over the health of our globe.

Americans don't want Big Oil and Big Gas running the show. Americans don't want more pollution in their communities. Americans don't want higher gas prices. But that is what the Republicans are doing with today's CRA vote. Today's vote will show the American people, once again, who is on your side and who is on the side of Big Oil and Gas. I hope everyone watches closely.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, when it comes to American energy, the emergency siren is blaring. After 4 years of reckless regulations and restrictions by the Democrat administration, energy prices have jumped 31 percent. Families are feeling it all across the country. To most Americans, this is the definition of an energy emergency. To Senate Democrats, it is an inconvenient truth.

Today, Democrats are trying to reverse President Trump's national energy emergency. They are bringing it right here to the floor of the U.S. Senate. They are trying to block common-sense measures that are going to address painfully high energy prices under which American families have been suffering. This national energy emergency is part of President Trump's swift actions—actions to unleash American energy. It is part of this broader vision of affordable, reliable, available American energy.

Democrats oppose all of that. They have opposed it for the last 4 years. They still oppose it. They have learned nothing from 4 years of failure. Democrats remain the party of high energy prices. That is what they want. They think it is going to help the climate. Democrats remain the party of painful and punishing regulations. They remain the party of never-ending dependence on foreign dictators for energy that we have right here. Democrats want to continue the war on American energy, and that is why they are going to line up today and oppose what President Trump is trying to do to bring energy prices down.

Republicans know that the best way to lower prices for the American people is to support more American energy production. We have it here; we ought to use it. We have the energy. But not just do we have the energy, we have the workers—excellent, qualified, hard-working Americans—and they know how to produce American energy responsibly.

Last week, Senate Republicans, here in this body, passed a budget to secure the border, to unleash American energy, to rebuild our military, and we are taking further action to address high energy prices and cut redtape.

We are working today on two important resolutions, doing it this entire week, using something called the Congressional Review Act. The first is from Senator JOHN KENNEDY of Louisiana. His resolution rolls back a burdensome Biden midnight regulation on energy production in the Gulf of America. The Senate passed it yesterday.

The second is from Senator JOHN HOEVEN of North Dakota. His resolution cuts about \$7 billion in new natural gas taxes on energy producers—\$7 billion of new taxes. Where did it come from? It came from the Democrats.

This tax on American energy hits American families who use the energy to heat their homes. It was mandated by the Democrats' reckless tax-and-spending bill. The Democrat tax penalizes oil and gas production in America, and in doing so, it punishes American families.

The golden age of American energy is the foundation of our golden age for America. It is linked directly to the prices that we pay, to the technology we use, and to the world we live in. Republicans are not going to allow the sticky thorns of redtape to entangle American energy. Republicans are reversing these punishing political regulations. That is what we are doing today. We are taking the handcuffs off of American energy production. We are paving the way for affordable, reliable American energy production.

Unleashing American energy means lower prices. It means more innovation. It means more safety and stability in our communities and in our economy.

America is an energy superpower. We need to act like it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

S.J. RES. 10

Mr. REED. Mr. President, initially, I want to make a very brief comment on the legislation my colleagues Senator HEINRICH and Senator Kaine are advancing and which will be voted on later this afternoon. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this resolution, which would overturn President Trump's really sham energy emergency.

At a time when the United States is already producing record amounts of oil and gas, the President wants to by-

pass laws and explore eminent domain to fast-track fossil fuel projects—not alternate energy projects, fossil fuel projects—and really not to lower prices or create jobs but to benefit his Big Oil donors, whom President Trump reportedly asked to donate \$1 billion to his campaign. It sounds awfully like quid pro quo, which in the past was frowned upon by Presidents.

The truth is, the President's Executive orders on energy, including his unlawful pause on investments from the Inflation Reduction Act, threaten to raise prices, kill good-paying American jobs, and cede economic opportunities to China.

This is true in my home State of Rhode Island, where offshore wind companies worked hand in hand with the local communities, labor leaders, and local officials to invest in good-paying jobs for Rhode Island. The President's actions threaten that process.

So I look forward to voting in favor of this resolution when it comes up later today.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Mr. REED. Mr. President, my key topic this morning is to speak about the tremendous value that NOAA—the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—provides the American people.

Over the past few weeks, we have heard alarming reports that the Trump administration wants to make good on its Project 2025 promise to “break up and downsize” and privatize portions of NOAA, including the National Weather Service. Destroying NOAA in this way would be an enormous blunder that would hurt our economy, hamper innovation, and increase the risks to American lives and property.

The fact is that NOAA accounts for just one-tenth of 1 percent of the Federal budget. Yet it is delivering information and research that are absolutely vital to our economic prosperity.

The reports we see on the local news, on the Weather Channel, and all our smart phones are built on forecasts and information generated by the National Weather Service and its array of scientists, satellites, and equipment.

NOAA's tornado and hurricane warning systems provide local emergency managers critical information to prepare and respond to storms, often up to a week in advance.

NOAA's aviation forecasts help ensure planes can take off and land at their destinations safely.

NOAA's seasonal forecasts help farmers plant and grow our food.

On the seas, NOAA's nautical charting and mapping services are used by everyone, from recreational boaters to international shipping companies. Its exploration of uncharted portions of the ocean floor give us insight into parts of our planet that are still as mysterious—maybe even more mysterious than outer space.