

**Remarks at an Executive Order Signing Ceremony and an Exchange With Reporters**

*May 23, 2025*

*The President.* Well, thank you very much. We have a very big announcement today and it has to do with nuclear energy and other things. And this is all nuclear. It's a hot industry. It's a brilliant industry. You have to do it right. It's become very safe and environmental, yes, a hundred percent.

So I'm going to ask Doug Burgum to talk about it a little bit to start. And maybe, Will, you'll follow him up.

*White House Staff Secretary William O. Scharf.* Yes, sir.

*The President.* And we're going to have Pete Hegseth speak from a military standpoint. But this is very all-inclusive. We're signing tremendous Executive orders today that really will make us the real power in this industry, which is a big industry.

Doug—why don't you go ahead, Doug?

*Secretary of the Interior Douglas J. Burgum.* Well, thank you, President Trump. This is a huge day for the nuclear industry. Mark this day on your calendar. This is going to turn the clock back on over 50 years of overregulation of an industry.

America has always—American greatness has always come from innovation, and we were very innovative. We led post-World War II in all things nuclear. But then we've been stagnated. We've choked it with overregulation.

Today Will is going to walk us through a series of four Executive orders. Each of these help attack separate issues that have held back this industry.

*[At this point, Secretary Burgum continued his remarks, concluding as follows.]*

Pete Hegseth and Department of Defense has been a key part of this, and this is going to help us make sure that we're providing the defense we need, where we need that AI, need the electricity, but also to secure our bases here at home and around the world.

Secretary.

*Secretary of Defense Peter B. Hegseth.* Sure. I'll just add to that before going to Will. Energy security is national security. If we don't have reliable energy for our basing, for our troops, whether forward deployed or domestically, we're vulnerable.

So, by having small modular nuclear capabilities—which are rapidly being fielded, that we can use on our bases here and around the world—we're creating an environment where, if things happen elsewhere, the military can be reliable.

Also, we need—we're putting—we're including artificial intelligence in everything we do. If we don't, we're not fast enough. We're not keeping up with adversaries. You need the energy to fuel it. Nuclear is a huge part of that—modular or otherwise.

So we're going to have the lights on and AI operating when others do not, faster than everybody else because of nuclear capability. So this is a big game changer for us as well.

*The President.* And we're also talking about the big plants. The very, very big—the biggest. We're going to be doing them also. But we're going to start off a little bit—I think our focus today

is the smaller module. But included in this group, we're also doing big plants where needed. They won't be needed too much, but they'll literally be able to do an entire State.

And you've read a lot about cost overruns in a couple of States that were pretty significant, but we're not going to have cost overruns. And the technology has come a long way, both in safety and cost and everything else.

Would a couple of you guys like to talk about your companies? And—you want to say anything?

*Constellation Energy President and Chief Executive Officer Joe Dominguez.* Sure. I'd love to.

*Secretary Burgum.* Joe, why don't you kick it off.

*The President.* Please.

*Mr. Dominguez.* Sure. My name is Joe Dominguez. I run Constellation Energy. We have about 25 percent of the nation's fleet. We're the largest publicly traded nuclear company in the world. We're in the middle of a merger with Calpine, and once completed, we will be the largest electric-producing company in the world——

*The President.* That's pretty——

*Mr. Dominguez.* ——about enough power to produce——

*The President.* That's pretty impressive, huh?

*Mr. Dominguez.* ——to—to cover all of Mexico——

*The President.* That's very impressive.

*Mr. Dominguez.* ——actually.

*The President.* I didn't know that. When we talked, you were so modest. *[Laughter]* I can't believe it.

*Mr. Dominguez.* That's normally not said about me, Mr. President. *[Laughter]*

*The President.* That's great. I'm very impressed.

Go ahead.

So you think it's got a great future, the nuclear?

*Mr. Dominguez.* Yes. Well, absolutely, we do. And the big change here is not only the technology has come around, but we have some of the largest companies in the world, the hyperscalers, who need this energy for AI, who are now working with us to fund the development and construction of the next-generation nuclear.

*[Mr. Dominguez continued his remarks, concluding as follows.]*

I'd rather spend that \$35 million three times—\$105 million—perfecting a design, start building the foundation, and getting going. We need to do this for America.

*The President.* Are we doing something about the regulatory in here?

*Mr. Dominguez.* Oh, yes, sir.

*Nuclear Energy Institute President and Chief Executive Officer Maria G. Korsnick.* Yes, you are.

*Secretary Burgum.* You are, sir.

*The President.* Because that's going to be a big factor.

*Secretary Burgum.* Today, with a signature.

*Ms. Korsnick.* Absolutely.

*Mr. Dominguez.* Yes, sir. That issue I just described will be addressed in this EO—and many other issues that we don't have time with the president to cover today.

*The President.* But you'd say it's very—we've contemplated just about everything, right?

*Mr. Dominguez.* Well, this—Mr. President, this Energy Dominance Council that you have created is something I haven't seen in 30 years. It brings together all the pieces of Government in one place to expedite the process. Under Secretary Burgum's leadership, this has been an amazing, amazing thing.

It used to be the case that I'd have to run to about five different places in Washington to get one answer.

*The President.* That's great.

*Mr. Dominguez.* And now it's all together in one place. So, all I know about Secretary Burgum and Secretary Wright is, if we haven't gotten it right, we'll get it right shortly—

*The President.* Good.

*Mr. Dominguez.* —and there'll be another order for you to sign.

*The President.* That's good. I'm glad they're addressing it.

*Mr. Dominguez.* Thank you so much for your leadership.

*The President.* I'm glad they're addressing.

You want to say something? Go ahead.

*Ms. Korsnick.* Well, I was just going to say commercial nuclear, a bit of an unsung hero. And I just want to thank you, Mr. President, Secretary Burgum, Secretary Wright, for bringing this attention to commercial nuclear.

We have the largest and most safe fleet right here in the United States. And upon that, we have fantastic innovation that's being brought forward, and it's going to come in all shapes and sizes, and it's going to actually be coming through some of these companies that you see represented here.

We're going to have great jobs, we're going to have wonderful energy, and we're going to be ready. So thank you, Mr. President——

*The President.* Thank you.

*Ms. Korsnick.* —for leaning in.

*The President.* Very good. Appreciate it. Great job you've done too.

*Secretary Burgum.* Jake.

*The President.* How about talking about your company and——

*Oklo Inc. Cofounder and Chief Executive Officer Jacob DeWitte.* Yes.

*The President.* —the job you're going to do.

*Mr. DeWitte.* Yes. Thank you, Mr. President.

Well, first of all, a little MIT nuclear connection that goes back. I know familial for you. So, yeah, we're working on small reactors.

I'm Jacob DeWitte, CEO, cofounder at Oklo. Working on small, next-generation reactors that take technology America invented, developed, and pioneered, and bringing it to the market after it sat on the shelves of history for about 40 years. And it's because of the actions that you're doing today that are going to help unleash that.

*[Mr. DeWitte continued his remarks, concluding as follows.]*

Just like you mentioned, Mr. President, about the importance of doing that right, the physics are on our side, and these things help unleash this innovation to actually realize that. So——

*The President.* That's great.

*Ms. DeWitte.* ——it's never been more exciting.

*The President.* Very exciting indeed.

Go ahead, please.

*General Matter Chief Executive Officer Scott Nolan.* And I'm Scott Nolan, CEO of General Matter. We're an American enrichment company trying to bring back the U.S.'s lead in producing nuclear fuel. So, just like car engines need fuel, nuclear reactors need fuel.

Right now the U.S. is completely dependent on other countries to make the key step of enrichment in this field. And these executive orders are going to pave the way for the U.S. to regain its lead. So we really appreciate it.

*The President.* Will you be doing the AI plants? Because we have a lot of them going up now and—or soon going up, and they need tremendous electricity. Are you going to be involved in many of those plants?

*Ms. Nolan.* We will be, yes.

*The President.* Will a lot of them be using nuclear, or some are using oil and gas? Some are using different things, but——

*Ms. Nolan.* Many of them will be. I think you're in conversations as well.

*The President.* It just makes a lot of sense.

*Ms. DeWitte.* Nuclear is a perfect solution, and that's where most of them are interested.

*The President.* Good luck.

*Ms. Nolan.* Thank you.

*Ms. DeWitte.* Thank you.

*The President.* That will be great.

*Ms. DeWitte.* It's going to be. Yes.

*The President.* Okay. Will, please.

*Staff Secretary Scharf.* Yes, sir. The first Executive order we have for you relates to the issue that Secretary Hegseth was speaking to, which is the need for incredible amounts of power at defense installations and also at—in AI-focused installations.

What this Executive order will do is speed up the approval and adoption process for specialized nuclear reactors at these sorts of sites. It also involves the Department of Energy making available the necessary fuel stock.

*[The President signed an Executive order titled, "Deploying Advanced Nuclear Reactor Technologies for National Security."]*

It also creates a Special Envoy position and a strategy around nuclear technology export, the idea being that we can grow American industry on the back of foreign purchasers who are interested in this sort of technology as well.

*The President.* I'm just thinking—as you're saying that, I just signed—what about autopens? Could I use an autopen? *[Laughter]* What did Biden do? Did he have an autopen at the desk?

*Staff Secretary Scharf.* Nuclear-powered autopen. *[Laughter]*

*The President.* No, he didn't do events like—yes, he used nuclear power. You know, he didn't do events like this, I guess. *[Inaudible]* Otherwise, you know, you walk it to the other side of the room, have an autopen sign it, right? *[Laughter]*

Here it is. It's phase one, a very big phase, very important phase.

Go on. Hold that, fellas. You can hold it.

*Staff Secretary Scharf.* Sir, this next Executive order is intended to reform the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. You heard a few of the people here speak about the complex regulatory processes that have really held the nuclear industry back.

*[The President signed an Executive order titled, "Ordering the Reform of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission."]*

Before 1978, there were 133 reactors built in the United States. Since 1978, only two new commercial reactors have come online. That's because of overregulation. And the goal of this Executive order is bringing that regulatory process into line with the actual needs of the industry and public safety, with an end goal of quadrupling the amount of nuclear power production in the next two and a half decades.

*The President.* That's fantastic. It's exciting, right?

Okay. Here you go.

*Staff Secretary Scharf.* This next Executive order relates to nuclear reactor testing, sir. The degree of overregulation and governmental inaction in this space, in particular, has had the effect of throttling development of new, highly modernized nuclear reactors that could really revolutionize the field of nuclear power generation.

*[The President signed an Executive order titled, "Reforming Nuclear Reactor Testing at the Department of Energy."]*

So this Executive order, it orders a revised regulatory process to speed this whole process while preserving, obviously, core safety concerns. It also creates a new pilot program with an expectation that we will have three new experimental reactors online by July 4 next year.

*The President.* That's amazing. That's exciting.

Okay. Come on.

*Staff Secretary Scharf.* Lastly, sir, we have an Executive order on reinvigorating the nuclear industrial base. There are a number of core issues here, including the issue with fuel feedstock that one of the speakers mentioned before.

*[The President signed an Executive order titled, "Reinvigorating the Nuclear Industrial Base."]*

This Executive order, among other actions, includes an invocation of the Defense Production Act in order to spur a closer collaboration with private industry to ensure that we have the fuel supplies we need for a modernized nuclear energy sector. In addition to that, it includes crucial provisions relating to the development of a nuclear energy sector workforce and a number of other key building blocks to the overall nuclear industry that we're trying to spur here.

*The President.* Great. Thank you.

*Staff Secretary Scharf.* And we have one more for you here, sir. This doesn't directly relate to nuclear energy, but it's on a similar subject.

This Executive order is entitled Restoring Gold Standard Science. One of the issues that we've had in recent decades is that Government policy has been made on the back of junk science, scientific studies and findings that have included conflicts of interest or scientific misconduct.

The purpose of this Executive order is to recenter policymaking around gold standard science—scientific efforts that have followed appropriate scientific methods that don't include those sorts of conflicts of interest—and to ensure that when departments and agencies are relying on scientific studies to promulgate rules, to promulgate regulations, that the science that they're relying on is highly reliable and available to the public.

*The President.* He did a very good job, didn't he? [*Laughter*] How many people here could have done that? I don't know. I think a lot.

[*The President signed an Executive order titled, "Restoring Gold Standard Science."*]

Thanks. Good job, Will.

*Staff Secretary Scharf.* Thank you, Mr. President.

*The President.* Is that it?

*Staff Secretary Scharf.* That's all we have for you now, sir.

*The President.* So do you have any questions for these brilliant people? They are brilliant people, actually.

### *Nuclear Energy Expansion Efforts*

*Q.* Mr. President, on nuclear, sir. Mr. President, on nuclear, sir. A lot of the concern over the years that's held the nuclear industry back has been about safety. Are you satisfied that those safety concerns have been met?

*The President.* Yes, we are. It's become a very safe—actually, it's become very safe. And tremendous work has been done on that, more than anything else. And it's really—the automatic shutoffs. There's so many different things that they have now that they would have never had.

You know, my uncle was a great nuclear person years ago, and that was a different—if you would have asked that question, probably, it would have been a much different answer.

But they have tremendous shutoff power and other powers that—and very redundant, as I understand, like at a level that nobody's ever seen before. So it's safe.

And we're going to do a lot of the small ones, and we're going to do some of the big ones. But yes, very safe. Safe and clean.

[*Several reporters began asking questions at once.*]

*Q.* And on your social media post on Apple today, sir.

*The President.* Let's keep it on this for a little while.

*Q.* On nuclear, Mr. President.

*The President.* Let's keep it on the nuclear, and then, if you want to ask something else, which you might, we'll do that.

*Q.* On nuclear, Mr. President.

*The President.* Yes, please.

### *Nuclear Energy Permitting Improvements*

*Q.* What do you say to folks who are concerned that speeding up licensing or even doing fuel reprocessing raises safety and proliferation risks?

*The President.* Well, we're going to get it very fast, and we're going to get it very safe, and we're going to get the people in and out. And they're going to do plants. In many cases, they'll do three or four smaller ones and put them together.

That's what France has done. France has done a good job with this for years. And they—as I understand it, they had basically one plant, and if they needed more, they'd do three or four or five of them.

I don't know we have to go that far, but, you know, there's something about building one big one. But we'll build the big ones too. We're going to have—I think we'll be—I would say we'll be second to none, because we're starting very strong.

But we—it's time. It's time for nuclear, and we're going to do it very big.

Yes, please.

### *European Union/Trade Negotiations*

*Q.* Mr. President, what about the European Union? You said the negotiations are going nowhere. What—where are the kind of points where they're——

*The President.* No, they're just very slow-moving. They—I've been saying to everybody, they've treated us very badly over the years. It was formed in order to hurt the United States, in order to take advantage of the United States, and they've done that.

We have a big deficit with them. They sell millions and millions of cars, as you know—Mercedes and BMW and Volkswagen and others—many others. And we were restricted from—essentially restricted from selling cars into the European Union, which is not nice.

And I just said it's time that we play the game the way I know how to play the game. You know, nobody—they've taken advantage of other people representing this country, and they're not going to do that any longer.

Yes.

### *Tariffs/Trade Negotiations*

*Q.* Mr. President, you are a dealmaker, dealbreaker. What are you hoping to achieve with a 50-percent tariffs on the EU?

*The President.* Well, I think this——

*Q.* Is nine days going to be enough——

*The President.* There's no——

*Q.* ——to cut a deal?

*The President.* There is no tariff, because what they'll do is they'll send their companies into the U.S. and build their plant. You know, we have, I guess, over \$12 trillion, practically, committed.

You look at other Presidents, they haven't had a trillion dollars for a year, for 2 years, for three years. We have numbers—nobody has ever seen numbers like we have. And if they build their plant here, then they have no tariff at all.

*Q.* Are you looking for a deal in 9 days? Will you be able to do that, sir?

*The President.* I'm not looking for a deal. I mean, we've set the deal. It's at 50 percent.

But, again, there is no tariff if they build their plant here. Now, if somebody comes in and wants to build a plant here, I can talk to them about a little bit of a delay, but—you know, while they're building their plant, which is something I think that would be appropriate, maybe. We'll determine that.

#### *European Union/United Kingdom/China*

*Q.* Is there anything they can do, sir? Is there anything the EU can do?

*The President.* I don't know. We're going to see what happens. But right now, it's going on on June 1, and that's the way it is.

No, they haven't treated us properly. They haven't treated our country properly. They banded together to take advantage of us, and the people behind me know, because they had some of that with their industry.

But generally, you know, we signed a great deal with United Kingdom. We have numerous other deals that are ready to be signed. We have—we've signed a deal with China. We have some really amazing deals.

But the European Union—I mean, the sole purpose was really to—not to hurt us but to take advantage of us, and we're not going to be taken advantage of.

*[Several reporters spoke at once.]*

#### *Smartphones and Small Personal Electronics*

*Q.* Mr. President—Mr. President, on Apple. On Apple. You said this morning that if they don't make their iPhones in the U.S., you're going to hit them with a 25-percent tariff.

*The President.* Right.

*Q.* Do you have the power to tariff one single company? And why would you want to hurt—

*The President.* No, it will be more——

*Q.* ——an American company in that way?

*The President.* It would be more. It would be also Samsung and anybody that makes that product. Otherwise, it wouldn't be fair. So anybody that makes that product. And that will start on—I guess, the end of June, it will come out. I think we have that appropriately done by the end of June. So if they make that product—now, again, when they build their plant here, there's no tariff. So, they're going to be building plants here.

But I had an understanding with Tim that he wouldn't be doing this. He said he's going to India to build plants. I said, "That's okay to go to India, but you're not going to sell into here without tariffs." And that's the way it is.



Yes.

*Q.* Well, why would you hurt an American company, though?

*Apple Inc./Domestic Manufacturing Investment*

*Q.* What makes you confident, sir, that—what makes you confident, sir, that Apple can build in the United States at a price that American consumers will be willing to pay?

*The President.* Oh, they can. No, they can.

*Q.* That's the big issue——

*The President.* And a lot of it——

*Q.* ——the economics.

*The President.* A lot of it so computerized now. These plants are amazing, if you look at them. But they can do that.

And actually—you know, actually, as you know, Apple is coming in with \$500 billion. So are the chip companies. We have all of the chip companies coming in—the biggest—\$500 billion, \$200 billion, \$250 billion, they're spending.

But we're talking about the iPhone now. And, you know, the iPhone—if they're going to sell it in America, I want it to be built in the United States.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

They're able to do that.

*Q.* But analysts say that will drive the price much higher.

*Walmart/Tariffs*

*Q.* When you say—when you say that Walmart should eat the cost of the tariffs, is that an acknowledgement that it is U.S. companies——

*The President.* No.

*Q.* ——that bear the brunt of tariffs——

*The President.* No. No.

*Q.* ——not foreign countries?

*The President.* Sometimes the country will eat it, sometimes Walmart will eat it, and sometimes it'll be something to pay, something extra. I've always been a fan, and I've always believed, and if you look—take a look at what I did 4 years ago. We had the greatest economy, and we had no inflation. Remember that. We had no inflation, and yet we had hundreds of billions of dollars of tariffs that I put on China. Yet we had no inflation. We had no big cost differential.

Oftentimes—and I've seen—I don't like it when a department store—because they'll do a lot of business, but, you know, they announce record profits and everything else. They have to take out some of their profits. They'll make a little bit less money. But I don't want——

*Q.* But you said these tariffs——

*The President.* I don't want the consumer——

*Q.* ——were designed to help American business.

*The President.* I don't want the consumer to pay.

### *Tariffs/Domestic Business Investment*

*Q.* But why impose tariffs that you know are hurting American businesses?

*The President.* They're not hurting. They're helping, because they're creating jobs in America. We're creating tremendous amounts of jobs in America like you've never seen. We're having investment in America. We're not getting ripped off by every country in the world.

We've been ripped off by every country in the world. They're making their product. They sell it. They don't give our people the jobs. They make them with other countries' jobs.

And we will have something that nobody will ever see again, I think. I think we have a potential to do numbers that we never envisioned in the wild. As you look at—look at what's happening: \$10- to \$12 trillion dollars in literally a couple of months. It's not—nothing like that's ever happened. It's a very special—we're doing a very special thing.

We want, if they're going to sell it here, generally speaking—not for all products. There's some products we don't want to make, and frankly, we're much better off getting them—getting them elsewhere. But for certain products, we want—cars. We want to make cars. We don't want to have—and I like Canada very much, but we don't want to have Canada making our cars. We want to make our cars.

[*The President's cellular phone rang.*]

Oh, it's a phone call. Do you mind? Hello? [*Laughter*] Okay. It's only a Congressman.  
[*Inaudible*]

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

*Q.* Who was it, Mr. President? Who was it?

*Q.* Which Congressman?

*The President.* I'd let you know, actually, but——

[*Several reporters spoke at once.*]

Yes.

*Q.* Mr. President, are you considering stopping other universities from taking foreign students, similar to—[*inaudible*]?

[*The President's phone rang.*]

*The President.* No, let——

*Q.* They're very insistent.

*Q.* You might want to get it.

*The President.* It's a different Congressman. They're all congratulating us.

### *The President's iPhone*

*Q.* Is that an iPhone, sir?

*The President.* Yes. It's lucky it is, right?

Okay. Let's go.

### *Harvard University*

*Q.* Are you considering stopping other universities, besides Harvard, from accepting foreign students?

*The President.* Well, we're taking a look at a lot of things. And as you know, billions of dollars has been paid to Harvard. How ridiculous is that? Billions. And they have \$52 billion as an endowment. They have \$52 billion, and this country is paying billions and billions of dollars, and then give student loans, and they have to pay back their loans.

So Harvard is going to have to change its ways.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

And so are some others.

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

#### *Domestic Business Investment/Special Immigration Programs*

*Q.* Mr. President, on that note—on that note, a lot of CEOs in the United States, big companies, are foreign. What is that going to do to——

*The President.* I'm fine with that. No.

*Q.* Competitively——

*The President.* I'm fine with it, no.

*Q.* Competitively, how——

*The President.* We want to—we want to do that. We're actually going to be——

*Q.* But—but what——

*The President.* ——doing something in the near future that's going to make it possible for people to come into this country and come in and, you know, have a road toward citizenship. And I think it will be very exciting, but it's too soon to speak about.

#### *Harvard University*

*Q.* But why would you not want—why would you not want the best and brightest from around the world to come——

*The President.* I do.

*Q.* ——to come to Harvard?

*The President.* I do. But a lot of the people need remedial math. Did you see that? Where these students can't add two and two, and they go to Harvard. They want remedial math, and they're going to teach remedial math at Harvard.

Now, wait a minute. So, why would they get in? How can somebody they can't add or—or has very basic skills—how do they get into Harvard? Why are they there? And then you see those same people picketing and screaming at the United States and screaming at—you know, they're anti-Semitic or they're something. We don't want troublemakers here.

But how do people that can't—when Harvard comes out with a statement that they're going to teach some of their students remedial math—that's basic math—that's not the deal.

Okay. Any more questions?

[Several reporters spoke at once.]

In the back.

#### *European Union/Nonmonetary Trade Barriers*

*Q.* Are there other countries you're considering shortening the 90-day pause on tariffs for? And then are there specific steps you're looking for the EU to take in order——

*The President.* We're doing—well, we have a lot of requests. And you know, you don't have the people to handle it, frankly. Everybody wants to make a deal.

I'm sure, now, the European Union wants to make a deal very badly, but they just—they don't—they don't do it right. They don't go about it right.

The other thing they do is, they sue our companies all the time. You know, they have suits where their judges—I don't know if they're appointed by them, but they're definitely Europe-centric, and we're not going to stand for it.

They won a \$17 billion lawsuit for Apple, and I read that case, and that's not a case that should have been won. They're suing other of our companies—they use this as a weapon, but they use it, really, to raise funds for what they do. It's almost like a fundraising mechanism.

So we add that to the fact that they do the nonmonetary tariffs and lots of other trading—you would call them trading barriers. They don't take our cars. They don't take our agriculture. They don't take anything. But we take their cars by the millions.

And therefore, they have the jobs, they get the money, and we get closed plants. Not going to happen that way anymore.

*[Several reporters spoke at once.]*

Thank you very much, everybody. Thank you. Thank you very much.

*[Several reporters spoke at once.]*

Thank you.

*[Several reporters spoke at once.]*

*Q.* Thank you, sir.

*The President.* Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 2:01 p.m. in the Oval Office at the White House. In his remarks, he referred to former President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.; and Timothy P. Cook, chief executive officer, Apple Inc. The transcript was released by the Office of Communications on May 27.

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