

ever data scientist. In his work, Guy develops technological solutions to organize the Bureau's data and has helped the FBI to track down child predators, identify banks evading sanctions, assist counterterrorism investigations, and guard against internal threats. His innovative strategies are efficient, cost-effective, and have been a crucial part of increasing our national security.

Third, I would like to recognize the work of Matt Nims, the Acting Director of the Office of Food for Peace at USAID. Under Matt's leadership, last year his office distributed emergency food and nutrition assistance to 20 million people facing severe hunger and starvation in Yemen, Somalia, South Sudan, and northeast Nigeria as a result of drought, extreme poverty, and violent armed conflicts.

Matt's team used data from USAID's Famine Early Warning Systems Network to anticipate food shortages before they became full-fledged crises and then developed innovative ways to deliver food, plan managed food distribution, and keep up with the day-to-day challenges of working under difficult and dangerous conditions, saving countless lives.

Next, I would like to recognize Andy Neal. Andy is the Branch Chief for Actuarial and Catastrophic Modeling at FEMA. We have all seen the devastating effects of floods across the country, but what many don't know is that the National Flood Insurance Program provides critical financial help to victims of hurricanes and other storms. By the end of 2016, the program was \$25 billion in debt.

In response, Andy led his team in an unprecedented effort to persuade private reinsurers for the first time to assume some potential flood damage liability. They were extremely successful. The government paid 25 private insurance companies \$150 million in premiums in 2017, and the insurers ended up covering more than \$1 billion of the \$7.6 billion in claims to policyholders in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey, and has secured even more coverage for 2018.

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to recognize David Huizenga, the Principal Assistant Deputy Administrator for Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation at the National Nuclear Security Administration.

In his everyday work, David confronts some of our most pressing international threats, formulating national security policy, monitoring compliance with nuclear agreements, and working with other nations to safeguard nuclear stockpiles and reduce the threat of nuclear terrorism.

In the past 3 years, David has worked to remove nuclear material from Poland, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Japan, and Ghana, relying on relationships with his international counterparts to make the world more secure. Here in the United States, David and his team have also worked to reduce the amount of

radioactive materials used in medical and commercial applications. A Federal employee for 28 years, David's work as a nonproliferation expert is widely respected both in the United States and around the world.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring these outstanding individuals, as well as government employees at all levels around the country, for their excellent work and their commitment to public service.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

GAS PRICES

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, as we head into Memorial Day weekend and the summer driving season, gas prices are up nearly 25 percent since President Trump took office. That means American consumers are paying \$350 more per year to fill up under President Trump, and here is why:

No. 1, President Trump's incoherent foreign policy has been exacerbating the geopolitical risk premium on oil prices and driving them up, and President Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Iran deal is further roiling oil markets. Because of these actions that increase risks around the world, gas prices could keep going up even more this summer. I call this the "Trump oil risk tax," and its impacts are being felt right now.

The oil risk tax completely wipes out any tax savings from the Republican tax scam for the poorest Americans. The lowest 40 percent of earners are projected to get roughly \$200 this year from the GOP tax plan. That is eliminated, obviously, by the \$350 more they are paying now to gas up thanks to Donald Trump's policies.

Donald Trump loves having his name on things—towers, steak, universities. Now his name is associated with higher gas prices for every American family.

Reason No. 2, while consumers are getting tipped upside down at the gasoline pumps, oil companies are benefiting from a \$25 billion tax cut this year alone from the GOP tax scam. That is on top of the \$7 billion to \$8 billion a year they get in permanent tax breaks and also free drilling loopholes. All of that is on top of the \$25 billion of tax breaks this year alone. Is Big Oil using those GOP tax giveaways to help drivers across America? Nope. They are using it to buy back tens of billions of dollars' worth of their own stock. Big oil companies are using this tax windfall to pump up their own profits rather than to help consumers at the pump.

Reason No. 3, the United States is exporting historic amounts of American oil, even while we remain dependent on OPEC and the Middle East. Exporting

U.S. oil is only a further giveaway to Big Oil. We are now exporting more than 2.5 million barrels a day of U.S. crude overseas, even while we are still forced to import that exact same amount—2.5 million barrels a day—from OPEC and the Middle East, and we are sending our oil overseas to benefit foreign nations like China, which is getting one-quarter of U.S. oil exports.

Why would we send our oil overseas instead of keeping it here to help our consumers and our security? Well, because Big Oil stands to see \$500 billion in new revenue over the next 20 years as a result of U.S. oil exports because they can charge more for U.S. oil overseas. They make more money if they sell it to foreigners than if they sell it to U.S. citizens—U.S. consumers. Exporting American crude means our consumers are more vulnerable to supply shops and more closely tied to rising international prices.

Reason No. 4, OPEC and Russia are colluding to manipulate oil markets. In response to the millions of barrels a day of U.S. oil we are exporting, OPEC, Russia, and other nations are working together to simply cut their production by an equal amount. You don't need to be Robert Mueller to know collusion is going on between Russia and OPEC to boost oil prices and hurt American consumers at the pump as they are getting ready for the Memorial Day weekend.

That is why I introduced the OPEC Accountability Act. This legislation would require President Trump to negotiate with OPEC, with Russia, and other nations to put an end to this cartel that is manipulating markets and harming American consumers. This legislation would further direct our Trade Representative to take action against any country in the cartel that refuses to stop conspiring to raise prices.

President Trump is doing nothing to hold OPEC and Russia accountable. It is time for him to immediately begin negotiations with this cartel to put an end to their manipulation of the oil markets of the world but also of the United States of America.

Reason No. 5, the Trump administration is attacking fuel economy standards that help consumers and reduce our reliance on foreign oil.

The historic fuel economy emissions standard of 54.5 miles per gallon by the year 2025 that is currently on the books is projected to save consumers more than \$1 trillion at the pump. They will reduce our consumption of oil by 2.5 million barrels of oil a day by 2030. That is how much oil we import from OPEC every single day. Why would the Trump administration seek to eliminate all of the increases in fuel economy standards for the vehicles we drive if they know that it will back out all of that imported oil from the Middle East? You don't have to be a detective to figure this out. They would do it at the behest of the big oil companies, the big auto companies, and the Trump administration so that they can put these

fuel economy standards in their cross-hairs.

The Trump administration is in the process of making a U-turn and putting us in reverse on these critical fuel economy emissions standards. That will mean that consumers will pay even more at the pump, and it will mean that we will be even more reliant on oil from OPEC and other foreign nations and unstable regions around the world.

President Trump likes to tout American energy dominance, but thanks to his policies, it is high gasoline prices that are dominating American consumers' pocketbooks. President Trump says his agenda is "America First," but the policies he and the Republicans are pursuing are putting Big Oil, OPEC, Russia, and China first and American consumers last. It is time for this to end. It is time for us, in our country, to have a debate about this oil agenda.

The President always says that he wants to have an agenda that is "all of the above"—meaning every energy source—but when you examine it very closely, it just comes down to oil above all. We are seeing that, and the consumers are paying the price at the pump. We need to ensure that everyone in our country understands who is responsible, whose name is on this price increase, and that name is Donald J. Trump. They are his oil policies. It is his foreign policy that is creating this problem for every consumer as we head into the Memorial Day weekend and as we continue throughout the summer and into the rest of this year and next year.

It is a very important issue for every American. They are going to feel it in their pocketbooks because the tax break that the President is touting is going to be completely wiped out by the high energy prices that will go right to the Koch brothers, right to Big Oil, and right to OPEC.

If the President wants to do something about this, he should call up his pals, the Saudi Arabians. He should call up his pals in the United Arab Emirates. He should call up his pals in the big oil companies and bring them in and tell them that he wants this to end, that he wants there to be lower oil prices, that he does not want them to be taking advantage of this tight American marketplace as we export 2.5 million barrels a day.

It is time for us to begin to understand what is happening to our economy. Ultimately, it is not just going to be drivers at the pump. It is going to be businesses. It is going to be large and small who are going to be impacted by this, and it is ultimately going to have a supreme, negative impact on our economy—not for the oil companies but for anyone else who purchases this oil, which is everyone.

Thank you for the time.

I yield back.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KENNEDY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 848, 851, 852, 853, and 854.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of David B. Cornstein, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Hungary; Francis R. Fannon, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Energy Resources); Eliot Pedrosa, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the Inter-American Development Bank; Jonathan R. Cohen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be the Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, and the Deputy Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations; and Jonathan R. Cohen, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Deputy Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cornstein, Fannon, Pedrosa, Cohen, and Cohen nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Sen-

ate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following nominations: Executive Calendar Nos. 898 and 899.

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

The clerk will report the nominations en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nominations of Erica H. MacDonald, of Minnesota, to be United States Attorney for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years; and Scott Patrick Illing, of Louisiana, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc with no intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table en bloc; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; that no further motions be in order; and that any statements relating to the nominations be printed in the RECORD.

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

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the MacDonald and Illing nominations en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of Executive Calendar Nos. 859, 860, 861, 862, and all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Coast Guard; that the nominations be confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

IN THE COAST GUARD

The following named officer for appointment as Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., Section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Michael F. McAllister

The following named officer for appointment as Deputy Commandant for Operations, a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard and to the grade indicated under title 14, U.S.C., Section 50:

To be vice admiral

Rear Adm. Daniel B. Abel

The following named officer for appointment to a position of importance and responsibility in the United States Coast Guard