

Restoration Institutes at NAU, Colorado State University, and New Mexico Highlands University, which assist the Forest Service in developing restoration projects across millions of acres of land.

Today, the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior are working to mechanically thin millions of acres of forestlands across the West to make our forests more resilient to fire. It is a slow, expensive, and time-consuming prospect to reverse 50 years of forest mismanagement across a territory as vast as the United States, but the reward is worth it. In doing so, we are saving our forests, our homes, and human lives.

I cannot overstate Dr. Covington's tremendous contribution to the field of forest ecology. Had it not been for Wally's work, his compassion for healing our unhealthy forests, and his drive to educate policymakers on the sound science behind forest restoration, I suspect our forests would be in far worse shape today. I am proud to recognize Dr. Covington, a fellow Arizonan. Our Nation owes Wally a debt of gratitude that we can never repay.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO RYAN MICOZZI

• Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I would like to take the opportunity to express my appreciation to Ryan for his hard work as an intern in the Senate Republican Conference. I recognize his efforts and contributions to my office, as well as to the State of Wyoming.

Ryan is a native of New York. He is a graduate of the University of Buffalo, where he studied political science and business administration: human resources. He has demonstrated a strong work ethic, which has made him an invaluable asset to our office. The quality of his work is reflected in his great efforts over the last several months.

I want to thank Ryan for the dedication he has shown while working for me and my staff. It is a pleasure to have him as part of our team. I know he will have continued success with all of his future endeavors. I wish him all my best on his journey.●

TRIBUTE TO JOHN FERRIOLA

• Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the career and service of John Ferriola, who will retire at the end of this year after serving Nucor Steel for nearly three decades. Mr. Ferriola has served as CEO since 2013, and under his leadership, the company has grown and created thousands of good-paying manufacturing jobs here in the U.S. He worked to upgrade Nucor's facility in Marion, OH, with a new rolling mill that began operating this year.

John has been a passionate advocate for American manufacturing and for a

fairer trade policy that works for American workers and businesses. We worked together to pass the Leveling the Playing Field Act in 2015, the first strengthening of our trade remedy laws in more than two decades. That law has helped us win key trade cases for Ohio steel companies over the past 4 years.

When John started at Nucor in 1991, it was a small steel company with just two mills. Last year, Nucor was the largest steel producer in the United States. John understands that workers in Ohio and around the U.S. are the engine behind that success. I look forward to continuing to our fight together for a fair trade policy that puts American workers first, and I wish John Ferriola all the best in his retirement.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT RELATIVE TO AN ALTERNATIVE PLAN FOR PAY ADJUSTMENTS FOR CIVILIAN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES COVERED BY THE GENERAL SCHEDULE AND CERTAIN OTHER PAY SYSTEMS IN JANUARY 2021—PM 44

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

I am transmitting an alternative plan for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems in January 2021.

Title 5, United States Code, authorizes me to implement alternative plans for pay adjustments for civilian Federal employees covered by the General Schedule and certain other pay systems if, because of "national emergency or serious economic conditions affecting the general welfare," I view the increases that would otherwise take effect as inappropriate.

Under current law, locality pay increases averaging 20.67 percent, costing \$21 billion in the first year alone, would go into effect in January 2021, in addition to a 2.5 percent across-the-board increase for the base General Schedule.

We must maintain efforts to put our Nation on a fiscally sustainable course; Federal agency budgets cannot sustain such increases. Accordingly, I have determined that it is appropriate to exercise my authority to set alternative pay adjustments for 2021 pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5303(b) and 5 U.S.C. 5304a.

Specifically, I have determined that for 2021 the across-the-board base pay increase will be limited to 1.0 percent and locality pay percentages will remain at their 2020 levels. This alternative pay plan decision will not materially affect our ability to attract and retain a well-qualified Federal workforce.

As noted in my Budget for Fiscal Year 2021, our pay system must reform to align with mission-critical recruitment and retention goals, and to reward employees whose performance provides value for the American people.

For this purpose, my Budget further directs agencies to increase awards spending in FY 2021 by an amount equal to no less than 1 percent of total salary spending. My Administration will continue to support reforms that advance these aims.

The adjustment described above shall take effect on the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2021.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 10, 2020.

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021—PM 45

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred jointly, pursuant to the order of January 30, 1975, as modified by the order of April 11, 1986; to the Committees on Appropriations; and the Budget:

To the Congress of the United States:

Over the past 3 years, my Administration has worked tirelessly to restore America's economic strength. We have ended the war on American workers and stopped the assault on American industry, launching an economic boom the likes of which we have never seen before.

While our incredible economic turnaround came as a shock to most career politicians in Washington, it is no surprise to millions of hard-working families across the Nation. Their natural talent, ingenuity, and strength simply needed an opportunity to flourish, free from the massive regulations and taxes heaped upon them by their Government.

As my Administration continues to remove these burdens, our economy continues to surpass expectations. We are growing faster than the experts thought possible. The unemployment rate is at 3.5 percent, the lowest it has been in 50 years. And more Americans are working today than at any point in our history.

Today's tremendous job market is leading employers to realize the vast potential of many individuals they previously overlooked. Over the past 3

years, the employment rate of our prime-age workers has skyrocketed, and wages are growing the fastest for historically disadvantaged workers, reversing trends under the previous administration.

With this 2021 Budget, my Administration is placing a special focus on these forgotten Americans, because every individual deserves to experience the dignity that comes through work. The truth is, jobs do not just provide paychecks: they give people purpose; allow them to engage with their communities; and help them reach their true potential. As we have shown, the right policies offer Americans paths to independence rather than trapping them in reliance on Government programs.

The era of putting American workers second and doubling down on the failed policies of the past is over. While job creation during my Presidency has surpassed expectations, the credit belongs to the job creators and workers who risk everything and devote themselves to building a better future for themselves, their families, and their Nation. The Federal Government does not create jobs; hardworking Americans create jobs. My Administration's role is to follow our foundational policy pillars and allow our job creators and workers to do what they do best.

To ensure this economic strength continues, I have called on the Government to reduce wasteful, unnecessary spending, and to fix mismanagement and redundancy across agencies. This includes prioritizing spending for programs that are a core function of the United States Government.

As we enter the 2020's, our Nation confronts new challenges and opportunities. The 21st century requires us to focus on great power rivals; prioritize artificial intelligence, 5G, and industries of the future; and to protect our research and environment from foreign government influence. To meet these challenges and seize these opportunities, we must shift the Government out of its old and outdated ways. This will require each and every Government agency to do more to prepare for the demands of tomorrow.

The following are key priorities of my Administration:

Better Trade Deals. Renegotiated or new trade deals with Canada and Mexico, China, South Korea, and Japan are modernizing international trade and creating freer, fairer, and more reciprocal trade between the United States and our largest economic partners. These deals will enable our country's manufacturing renaissance to continue. Trade deals are in development with the United Kingdom and the European Union, as well as other countries that desire access to the coveted American market. These deals will expand American markets abroad and keep businesses here in America, which means keeping jobs here at home.

Preserving Peace through Strength. To sustain security at home and pro-

mote American interests abroad, my Administration has rebuilt the military. A strong military, fully equipped and integrated with our allies and all our instruments of power, enables our Nation to deter war, preserve peace, and, if necessary, defeat aggression against the United States and her people. To that end, my Budget requests \$740.5 billion for national defense.

Overcoming the Opioid Crisis. Because of my Administration's aggressive tactics to fight over-prescription of opioids, promote effective treatment for addiction, and secure the border, we are turning the tide of the opioid crisis. Since my term began, we have seen a more than 30 percent decrease in the total amount of opioids prescribed, and deaths from drug overdose fell for the first time in nearly 30 years in 2018.

Failure is not an option when it comes to helping people avoid the pain, suffering, and death caused by addiction. Work must play an integral role in any solution. Research shows that holding a job is a key factor in helping people overcome drug addiction. For the duration of my Presidency, I will continue to promote policies that will beat back this deadly crisis and promote job training and employment opportunities for Americans who are rebuilding their lives after struggling with addiction.

Regulation Relief. Many pundits and Washington insiders laughed when I promised to cut two regulations for every new regulation. They were correct that two-for-one was the wrong goal. Instead, the Federal Government has cut more than seven regulations for every significant new regulation. After only 3 years, my Administration has cut a historic number of regulations, and we have put the brakes on an endless assault of new, costly actions by Federal agencies.

Our commitment to regulatory reform stems from the simple truth that the vast majority of business owners want to do the right thing, comply with the law, and treat their workers fairly. The Federal Government ignored this reality for far too long and abused its authority to go after businesses, especially small businesses and entrepreneurs, in ways that can only be described as arbitrary and abusive.

At the same time, we are maintaining America's world-class standards of environmental protection. Emissions of all criteria pollutants dropped between 2016 and 2018. The United States environmental record is one of the strongest in the world and continues to have some of the cleanest air and water in the world.

American Energy Independence. American energy powers our cities and towns, empowers innovators, drives our economy, and protects our sovereignty. Energy companies across the world are ready to build in our Nation, and permitting reform that cuts red tape shows that we welcome their investments. My Administration continues to support growth in the energy sector

by removing unnecessary regulations and unleashing America's vast natural and human resources. Through these actions, the United States is now on track to be a net exporter of crude oil and natural gas for all of 2020, a major milestone not achieved in nearly 70 years. In addition to being the world's largest natural gas producer, we also became the world's top crude oil producer in 2018.

The records of our energy boom are widespread. Energy production has created jobs in areas of the United States where job opportunities were scarce. It also provides enormous benefits to families across the Nation by lowering energy prices. And it further distances us from geopolitical foes who wish to cause us harm. More jobs, lower costs, and American dominance—these are predictable results of our pro-energy policies.

Today, there is hope throughout America. There is optimism that was not here before 63 million Americans asked me to work for them and drain the swamp. For decades, Washington elites told us that Americans had no choice but to accept stagnation, decay, and decline.

We proved them wrong. Our economy is strong once more, and America's role as leader of the Free World has been restored.

America is the single greatest country in the world. We must never believe for one moment that this great Nation is destined for a diminished future. When we take hold of our freedom, and take our destiny in our hands, we choose to reject a future of American decline. My 2021 Budget sets the course for a future of continued American dominance and prosperity.

DONALD J. TRUMP.

THE WHITE HOUSE, February 10, 2020.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mr. Novotny, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills and joint resolutions, without amendment:

S. 375. An act to improve efforts to identify and reduce Governmentwide improper payments, and for other purposes.

S. 394. An act to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to improve the orderly transfer of the executive power during Presidential transitions.

S.J. Res. 65. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of John Fahey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

S.J. Res. 67. Joint resolution providing for the reappointment of Risa Lavizzo-Mourey as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1132. An act to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to establish a grant program to support the restoration of San Francisco Bay.