

are operating and providing us with affordable, reliable energy. But the best kept secret of all is that FERC is absolutely key to achieving our clean energy goals and a zero carbon economy.

For the last few decades, FERC's biggest push has been to encourage competition in the power sector. FERC Order 888, which just celebrated its 25th birthday a few months ago, may not have cracked the Billboard Top 100, but it has been almost singularly responsible for decarbonizing our electric sector. The order, like most things FERC-related, was, frankly, pretty wonky. But by incentivizing lower-cost gas, nuclear, and renewable energy, it drove the private sector to drastically lower their greenhouse gas emissions and slash electricity costs.

From the perspective of anyone who pays for electricity, that is fantastic news. You pay less for cleaner power.

From the perspective of someone who cares about climate change, it is also amazing because once a clean energy plant is built, you don't need to pay the wind to blow or the Sun to shine. Clean energy is the cheapest source of energy out there, and those old, dirty plants just can't compete.

In my home State of Illinois, a recent study found that it would be cheaper to sell a coal plant that was just built a decade ago for scrap and procure cleaner replacement power through those FERC-organized markets. Thank you, FERC.

To kick off "Hot FERC Summer," I have introduced bills that will help FERC build on this success. The first of these was the Interregional Transmission Planning Improvement Act, which I introduced with Senator HEINRICH, that will ensure that our grid operators are thinking properly about the benefits of building transmission wires across the country.

The second, the Energy PRICE Act, which I introduced just today with Representatives LEVIN, HUFFMAN, and BONAMICI, would help ensure that FERC lives up to its legal responsibility to protect the public welfare by not approving electricity rates that don't account for the cost of greenhouse gas emissions.

I will be dropping a third "Hot FERC Summer" bill—I am sorry, a third hot jam next week.

But right now, FERC is at a crossroads. For the first time in years, President Biden has an opportunity to create a Democratic majority at FERC; a majority that will ensure that these incentives are in place to build an electric grid for our 21st century economy; a majority that will ensure that State renewable energy rules are respected and integrated into regional markets, a majority that will ensure that uneconomic fossil fuel plants are subjected to the competitive pressures of a free market that have given us an explosion in solar and wind energy over the past decade; a majority that will ensure that we make further progress in our clean energy goals rather than trying to fight against it.

But in order to do any of that in time to prevent more climate devastation, the President must nominate a Commissioner to FERC, and the Senate must confirm that individual. I urge both to do so as soon as possible to ensure that FERC stays at its full power and that it will be able to continue to be the most important clean energy agency that most of us have never heard of.

As you, of course know, Madam Speaker, "Hot Girl Summer" ain't about degrees, but "Hot FERC Summer" most definitely is. The record temperatures from Portland to Death Valley, the wildfires, and the coming hurricane season are all the direct result of our failure to decarbonize as quickly as we must.

While this summer is the hottest FERC summer yet, it is coming on the heels of 2020, which was the hottest summer North America has ever seen for as long as we have records. In point of fact, the 10 warmest summers on record have occurred since 1998. If we fail to act, they will be nothing compared to the summers we will experience over the coming decades because while the best chance to take action on climate was 30 years ago, the last chance is now.

EMPOWERING THE FREE MARKET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NEHLS. Madam Speaker, the Consumer Price Index rose 5.4 percent in the last year, the highest inflation in 13 years.

Americans are paying more for nearly everything. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the price of milk is up 5.6 percent; the price of fruit is up 7.3 percent; and the price of gas is up a whopping 45 percent.

Americans are paying more for goods and services because of the Democrats' out-of-control spending. Despite the dire economic state Democrats' reckless spending has put us in, they are now trying to ram through a partisan \$3.5 trillion package that will raise taxes on the middle class and job creators.

What are Democrats telling American businesses to do when they are going to raise taxes and impose regulations on them as they try to rebuild in the aftermath of a pandemic? They are telling them to take their business overseas.

To bounce back from the Biden administration's dismal job reports in consecutive months, we need to be stimulating economic opportunity and growth with less taxes and less regulation. Doing so will help spur the creation of good-paying jobs that encourage people to get back in the workforce.

What won't fix it is continuing to throw money at the economy, which seems to be all the Washington swamp knows how to do. The Democrats' lib-

eral tax-and-spend model is failing our economy and failing the American people.

We are not going to spend our way out of this mess with trillion-dollar programs that do nothing but serve liberal special interests. We do it by letting the free market flourish through lower taxes, lower regulation, and more economic freedom.

It worked under President Trump when he set records in unemployment, and it will work again if only the Federal Government would get out of the way and empower the people and the free market.

GETTING VACCINATED TO PROTECT OUR FAMILIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, I rise today as COVID cases surge in my home State of Nevada and across this country.

In fact, in the past 3 days, Nevada has added over 2,000 new cases, and our 2-week positivity rate has rapidly grown to more than 12 percent. Hospitalizations are up, too, with the vast majority being among, you guessed it, the unvaccinated.

Unfortunately, just over half of Nevadans are fully or partially vaccinated. We must all do our part to end this pandemic. The best thing you can do to protect yourself, your family, the ones you care about most is to get vaccinated.

Getting your vaccine is safe and, now, easier than ever. Believe it or not, back home in Nevada, it comes with the chance to win more than \$5 million in prizes. That is how desperate we are to make sure that everyone is motivated to go get a vaccine.

Please, go to vaccines.gov to find a clinic. For those who are already vaccinated, please take the time this week to reach out and encourage your peers to do their part, too.

Together, we can stop the spread and get our lives back to normal.

REPORTING ON MISSING BLACK CHILDREN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, this first speech that I am going to give today is, as we used to say in church, something that the Lord spoke on my heart. He speaks to me, just not in an audible voice. This is something that has kind of been a burden with me for quite some time.

Madam Speaker, today, I rise to express my great concern for the disproportionate number of missing Black children in our country and the way they are treated by our national media.

Every child is precious, Madam Speaker, and it is a tragedy whenever a

child goes missing. The sad truth is that it happens to Black kids far more often. Missing Black children made up over one-third of the missing child cases in 2019—over one-third. Yet, it has also been shown these children receive much less media coverage than their counterparts from other demographics.

The media dedicates an enormous amount of time to discuss racism in Congress, schools, police departments, and various other American institutions, so why is it acceptable for the media to dedicate less attention to missing Black kids?

We all know this is not okay, Madam Speaker, but the American public doesn't know this is happening because our media is failing to cover this story.

Every child is made in the image of God and legally equal under the U.S. Constitution. We need to dedicate all the time and resources we can to recover missing kids, regardless of the color of their skin.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT DURWARD B. SWANSON

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Technical Sergeant Durward B. Swanson, a World War II veteran and survivor of the Pearl Harbor attacks, as the Tennessee Second District's Veteran of the Month.

Swanson joined the Army Air Corps in 1939 and was sent to Hickam Field, adjacent to the Pearl Harbor Naval Base. He originally signed up to do bomber maintenance, but a sergeant noticed he had skills on a Harley-Davidson and asked if he would head the air police motorcycle unit instead. He accepted that position, Madam Speaker.

On December 7, 1941, when Japanese bombers attacked the airbase, Swanson jumped onto his motorcycle to search for his best friend, Albert Jackson "Stud" Lloyd, who was standing in the middle of a ballfield shooting at the planes and cussing up a storm. Swanson drove onto the field and brought his friend back to safety.

After the attack, Swanson and Lloyd removed the damaged flag from the Hickam Field flagpole and folded it to prevent it from being flown overnight.

Following his service, Swanson played guitar for country music legend Hank Williams before deciding the music business wasn't for him. That would be Hank Williams, Sr., if anyone is wondering.

He went on to speak to schools across the United States and travel with groups to Pearl Harbor and the World War II Memorial in Washington.

In June, he celebrated his 100th birthday at the Ben Atchley veterans' home.

There are true heroes in our country, and they aren't famous athletes or movie stars. They are the brave men and women of our Armed Forces, like Durward Swanson.

Madam Speaker, I thank Durward for his service.

BUILD BACK BETTER THROUGH COMMUNITY PROJECT FUNDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to share with you some of the important projects we have nominated as part of the community project funding process, 10 projects that will bring more than \$8.4 million in critical funding to my district and which have now been included in the House Appropriations Committee's fiscal year 2022 funding bill.

It is my honor to represent the residents of PA-05 in Congress, and I am thrilled to have secured funding for these projects that were submitted by nonprofit and government agencies in our region and that met the rigorous funding criteria laid out by Congress.

The projects our office nominated for inclusion address some of the most pressing needs in our region: economic development, climate resilience, treatment for opioid use disorder, and expanding mental health resources.

Each of these projects will also help deliver on House Democrats' and President Biden's promise to build back better, to set the table for success for the American people, now and in the future.

Today, I would like to shine the spotlight on two projects I am particularly proud of.

The Delaware County Mobile Crisis teams project will provide an alternative response for emergency calls involving people suffering from mental illness. For too long, our mental health system has been woefully underfunded. As a result, all too frequently, people living with mental illness or cognitive disabilities have ended up in our criminal justice system, often with fatal consequences. We can do better.

Around the country, communities have begun to address this dearth of mental health resources and overreliance on the criminal justice system by developing programs to provide alternatives to and diversion from arrest, abuse, and incarceration.

At the Federal level, I am proud to have introduced the Mental Health Justice Act, which would make it easier for State and local governments to develop these programs and send trained mental health professionals instead of police when someone calls 911 because an individual is experiencing a mental health crisis.

At the local level, I am proud to support Delaware County's application to fund just such a project in this year's appropriations bill, a project to address the mental and behavioral health challenges of residents who might otherwise find themselves in the criminal justice system.

□ 1045

The county proposal will create mobile crisis teams stationed with the county's Emergency Services Depart-

ment. These teams will be dispatched in conjunction with law enforcement in response to requests for help for persons known or suspected to be suffering from mental illness with the goal of diverting them from the criminal justice system into treatment with access to prioritized admission and to properly address their underlying needs.

This program is a collaboration among Delaware County's human services, health adviser, district attorney, and public defender. I commend these county leaders for looking forward, and I look forward to seeing the positive impact mobile crisis teams can have on our community.

Another project that I was proud to secure funding for in the fiscal year '22 appropriations bill is for the restoration and reopening of the historic Lansdowne Theater.

The 1927 Lansdowne Theater is an Art Deco gem that will be rehabilitated into a regional concert hall and spur investment in the surrounding community. The \$1.5 million in Federal funding we have secured in the appropriations bill will be the final dollars for this \$15 million project so that it can immediately start the restoration needed to bring this community treasure back to life.

We anticipate the project will create 51 jobs to operate the theater and 100 permanent jobs in businesses nearby, in addition to over 100 jobs for the trades during construction. Once completed, the theater will breathe new economic life into the community and attract more arts and culture to PA-5.

It will create opportunities for enhanced educational programs for area students through internships and access to different genres of music.

This transformational investment is integral to a broader plan to create an anchor in the community to restore, enhance, and spur economic activity in this part of the Baltimore Pike commercial district.

The community project funding program is a win for the American people. It gives our communities the opportunity to make their case directly to Congress for funding to make bold, progressive investments that are exactly what our community and communities across the country need to recover and rebuild.

This is what keeping a promise looks like. I look forward to continuing to fight for the people with these new investments.

FREE CUBA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CRENSHAW) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CRENSHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support and encourage the brave men and women of Cuba.

Last week we saw unprecedented images and videos from across Cuba. Tens of thousands of Cubans took to the street. They took to the street not because of COVID or vaccines or the embargo but because they demand their