hope for that victory. We need to allow them to hope that last month's terrible jobs report was just an anomaly. I certainly hope it was.

And most importantly, we need to allow them to remember that a little over a year ago, we didn't have to rely on emergency supplements and direct payments from the government to survive. We had the most robust economy we had in decades and decades. Unemployment numbers were at record lows. Wage gains were at record highs.

So we have been there before. We can and we will recover. But encouraging total reliance on the government is not going to be what gets us there, especially when so many businesses in this country are trying to hire workers, and workers are not taking the jobs.

I yield floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 69, Andrea Joan Palm, of Wisconsin, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Michael F. Bennet, Jack Reed, Jeanne Shaheen, Patrick J. Leahy, Martin Heinrich, Catherine Cortez Masto, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher Murphy, Christopher A. Coons, Tammy Baldwin, Tammy Duckworth, Chris Van Hollen, Tim Kaine, Thomas R. Carper, Amy Klobuchar, Margaret Wood Hassan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Andrea Joan Palm, of Wisconsin, to be Deputy Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Pennslyvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 62, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 179 Ex.]

YEAS—62

Baldwin	Casey	Grassley
Bennet	Collins	Hassan
Blumenthal	Coons	Hickenlooper
Blunt	Cornyn	Hirono
Booker	Cortez Masto	Hyde-Smith
Brown	Crapo	Kaine
Burr	Duckworth	Kelly
Cantwell	Durbin	King
Capito	Feinstein	Klobuchar
Cardin	Gillibrand	Leahy
Carper	Graham	Luján
Manchin	Reed	Stabenow
Markey	Romney	Sullivan
Menendez	Rosen	Tester
Merkley	Rounds	Van Hollen
Murkowski	Sanders	Warner
Murphy	Schatz	Warnock
Ossoff	Schumer	Warren
Padilla	Shaheen	Whitehouse
Peters	Sinema	Wyden
Portman	Smith	

NAYS—35

Barrasso	Hawley	Risch
Blackburn	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Inhofe	Sasse
Braun	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Cruz	Lummis	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young
Hagerty	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Heinrich	Murray	Toomey

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BOOKER). On this vote, the yeas are 62, the nays are 35.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

GREEN JOBS PLAN

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to discuss what I have seen happen now over the last 100 days of the Biden administration, and that is President Biden seems to be doubling down on some of the failures of the Obama administration.

Last week, as the ranking member of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, I released a report, and it is called ''Solyndra Syndrome and the Green Stimulus Delusion.'' Solyndra syndrome.

I tell you, I think it is an important thing to highlight because this 20-page report really is an in-depth look at the failed green energy policies under the Obama administration. Now what we are seeing is President Biden is determined, in my opinion, to repeat them, on a much larger scale.

In 2009, under the direction of President Obama, Democrats passed a partisan stimulus spending bill. The legislation included $90 billion for green job training, for green energy loans, and for high-speed rail. It also included about $3 billion for a program more commonly referred to now as ''Cash for Clunkers.''

The goal was to produce millions of green energy jobs. They wanted to do it by investing taxpayer dollars in emerging green energy companies and also subsidizing new vehicles.

So what did American taxpayers get for all of this money? What did they get as a return on this hefty investment? Well, they didn't get the promised jobs. They got boondoggles. Billions of taxpayer dollars wound up wasted on green tech companies through loans or grants. Several of the companies then failed.

The most famous of these was, of course, Solyndra. This was a solar panel company with many personal ties to the administration. It was located in California and received over $500 million in government-backed loans. Vice President Biden, at the time Vice President, was actually the one who announced that Solyndra would receive hundreds of millions of taxpayer dollars.

Well, not too long after that, headlines across the Nation told the story of what happened next. In September of 2011, the company failed miserably. More than 1,000 workers lost their jobs. Almost all of the 535 million taxpayer dollars were lost.

The leadership of Solyndra lied about the company's value and what they could produce. It also turns out they were big political donors to the Obama-Biden campaign and the Democrats.

While the Obama-Biden donors got millions of grant money, taxpayers back then were left holding the bag. It was a terrible green gamble, and it had gone terribly wrong.

It wasn't the only one of these projects. Other companies like A123 Systems, Beacon Power, Ener1, Fisker Automotive all received big government-backed loans, and they all went bankrupt.

The waste didn't stop at loans for private companies. No, the Obama administration gave a $3.5 billion grant to California for a high-speed rail project. This was California's planned bullet train, and it was supposed to go from Los Angeles to San Francisco.

Let's fast forward 10 years and see where we are with that bullet train. After skyrocketing project costs, the Governor of California has recently thrown in the towel. Only a fraction of the original project is going to be completed, and delays continue to be announced.

So you might ask: Well, why are they completing a small fraction of this railroad, this high-speed bullet train that was supposed to go from Los Angeles to San Francisco? Well, by completing a small part of the original project, California can avoid having to pay back the taxpayers of the Nation—more wasted money.

Americans clearly remember Cash for Clunkers. What a program that was. It gave subsidies to folks for the purchase of a new greener vehicle as a way to stimulate auto sales and auto industry jobs. The big problem was it didn't work. One analysis found that the Cash for Clunkers Program created one job for every $1.4 million spent. That is quite a lot of money for a single job. The program itself was a clunker, and it spent way too much taxpayer cash.

The list goes on and on, as I have outlined in this report. The Obama administration frittered away billions of taxpayer dollars. They chose people close to the administration to receive the money. The economy remained sluggish, and the taxpayers got fleeced.

There actually was one bright economic spot during the great recession, and, of course, I will tell you that was the oil and gas sector in this country.

By the end of 2013, nonfarm employment was an anemic 1.9 percent higher than it had been at the end of the year in 2009. In contrast, the oil and gas sector's employment was 16 percent higher. While the rest of the economy was stuck in the mud, the oil and gas sector was growing and creating American jobs. That robust job growth helped make America energy independent and secure.

You would think that the lessons from the failed 2009 stimulus and the U.S. energy boom would be obvious and would be repeated today, but the Biden administration seems blinded by the Solyndra syndrome. President Biden wants to use the exact same playbook now and this time with a much heftier pricetag.

The President wants to spend trillions of dollars, not just billions. Included in that spending would be hundreds of billions of dollars in green job training programs, green energy financing, increased high-speed rail, new electric vehicles. It is the same plan that failed under President Obama.

At the same time the Biden administration is recycling the farfetched so-called jobs plan, the Biden administration is attacking oil and gas jobs—good jobs that people have today.

On his first day in office, President Biden signed an Executive order to kill the Keystone XL Pipeline. Now, this eliminated the prospect of 11,000 American jobs. Making matters worse, President Biden implemented a ban on new oil and gas production on public lands, a huge impact on my home State of Wyoming. A permanent ban on oil and gas leasing on Federal lands could destroy up to 1 million jobs across America.

My report finds the Biden administration is pushing expensive fantasy jobs and killing real ones at a time that America cannot afford to lose these jobs. It is a recipe for repeated disaster.

We all remember how President Obama promised shovel-ready jobs, and he then later admitted that the jobs weren't coming, as he said, because ''shovel-ready was not as shovel-ready as we expected.''

We know we can expect the same thing this time. The expensive, wasteful job-killing Solyndra syndrome is back. It was a terrible idea in 2009. And here we are a dozen years later, once again, spending a lot more, and doing that on the same bad ideas is now even worse than before.

I yield the floor.

MORNING BUSINESS

REMEMBERING CLAIRE SERDIUK ANDERSON

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last month, we lost a generous and beautiful soul with the passing of Claire Serdiuk Anderson. Claire devoted her life to public service. During her 46 years on this Earth, she changed it for the better. As an Illinois native, she advocated for candidates and causes that pushed our State and country to be more like her: kind, gentle, and accepting.

Claire was driven, in part, by her Catholic faith. She believed in her sacred responsibility to help others, and she encouraged her friends and family to do the same, with a warm smile and a loving heart.

Anyone would have been lucky to sit in the same room as Claire. She would captivate any audience with her gifts as a storyteller and her instincts as a comedian. In addition to graduating summa cum laude from Loyola University, Claire also studied at another venerated Chicago institution: The Second City Comedy Club. She used to say that her background in comedy and improvisation prepared her well for a career in politics. And I can think of more than a few politicians who would be lucky to have half of her charm and charisma.

Claire played key roles in the careers of President Obama and other national leaders. She was the financial director for his first campaign for U.S. Senate. Claire also raised funds for my friend and colleague Senator DUCKWORTH when she first ran for Congress. In both instances, Claire was there from the beginning, investing her time, talent, and passion into two candidates who would go on to make history and inspire a new generation of American leaders.

I came to know Claire during the early 2000s, when she worked in my Chicago office as my State scheduler. As part of my team, she was beloved for her tenacity and her good cheer. In her eternal wisdom, she left my office in 2004 to help a skinny community organizer in the South Side run for Senate but she remained, always, a treasured member of the extended Team Durbin.

In her final act of charity, Claire donated her organs and tissues. I would like to think that, right now, someone may be seeing the world through Claire's wise eyes, perceiving all the possibilities for our future, rather than settling for the ways things are today.

I hope all of us can learn from Claire's example. Loretta and I join her husband Kurt, her son Henry, her parents Yvonne and Matthew, her brother Andrew, and everyone in her extended family, and so many friends, in mourning Claire's loss.

Thank you for your loving service, Claire. We will miss you.

REMEMBERING ERNIE WEST

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the Bluegrass State is home to many heroes. For centuries, brave Kentuckians have proudly worn the uniform to defend our country and our way of life. Earlier this month, we said goodbye to one of these remarkable individuals. Ernie West, of Greenup County, was recognized in 1954 for his courage in the Korean war with our country's top military recognition, the Medal of Honor. He inspired those who knew him and became an example of our Commonwealth's highest ideals. Today, I would like to join Ernie's admirers in paying tribute to his incredible life and offering condolences to his family.

For Ernie, who came from humble beginnings in a children's home, putting his fellow soldiers' safety before his own was practically second nature. During a patrol, his squad was ambushed by North Korean fighters. Ernie sprang into action, braving enemy grenades and intense fire to carry three wounded comrades to safety. As he did, the young private suffered serious wounds, including taking shrapnel that eventually cost him his eye.

After the war, President Dwight D. Eisenhower presented Ernie with the Medal of Honor in recognition of his valor and selfless sacrifice. Ernie never considered himself a hero and almost refused to accept the medal. He believed everyone who served with him was deserving of the same honor. In the years that followed, Ernie became a proud example of service to a cause larger than oneself. Kentucky was grateful to have this hero among us for so many years, and we will all miss him.

Mr. President, the Daily Independent in nearby Ashland paid tribute to Ernie West and his heroism. I ask unanimous consent the article be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From Daily Independent, May 2, 2021]

A HERO'S LEGACY: WEST DIES AT 89

(By Charles Romans)

A young boy came home one day to find his father talking to a man he did not know. His father's companion was rather ordinary, the young boy remembered, and appeared to be just like any of his neighbors he saw on a daily basis. But the father spoke up and said, ''Do you know this man? He's a war hero.'' Those words changed the young boy's opinion of the man, and he became fascinated with learning the man's story. But the man just smiled and quickly changed the subject, asking the young boy instead where he liked to fish.

The young boy was Tom Clay, of Greenup, and the man his father (well-known writer and community activist Soc Clay) introduced him to was Ernest ''Ernie'' West. Clay remembers West as being a plainspeaking and easygoing man, and not at all what one might expect from a war hero. Clay said you'd expect a war hero to be larger than life, big and bold, but West wasn't any of those things.

''He was just a normal guy,'' Clay said. ''One of the neighbors who really liked to fish.'' But even though West was hesitant to speak of it, Clay would later learn that West was not only a hero, but also a hero to whom other heroes looked as the very definition of the word. West died on Saturday at age 89.

The man who talked so readily about fishing at the Clay home was a Greenup County native himself. He was born on Sept. 2, 1931 in Russell and raised in an orphanage at the Methodist Children's Home in Versailles.