

If Mr. Bezos wants to go to the Moon, let him use his own money, not the taxpayers'.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

H.R. 4521

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, for generations, manufacturing was the lifeblood of communities across Ohio and throughout the country. It was heavily unionized, and the jobs paid well. It is not a coincidence that those two things go together. These jobs allowed generations of Americans to build a middle-class life.

I walked the halls at Mansfield Senior High School and Johnny Appleseed Junior High School with the sons and daughters of steelworkers and ironworkers and carpenters and machinists and auto workers and electricians. Workers, the parents of kids in my school—those workers—innovated on the shop floor. They propelled our economy to new heights. They allowed us to lead the world in developing new industries.

But Ohioans know all too well what happened next. Beginning in the 1970s and the 1980s, we stopped making things in our country.

Look at places like my hometown in Mansfield, OH. It is an industrial city of about 50,000 people, halfway between Cleveland and Columbus. Companies like Westinghouse, Tappan Stove, Ohio Brass, and General Motors closed down, one after another, after another.

Go to any town in Ohio, and people can name a similar list. They will measure, oftentimes, their local history in lost plants and lost jobs.

All over America, companies were moving production elsewhere in the name of efficiency. "Efficiency" was business speak for lower wages. Corporate America always wanted cheaper labor wherever they could find it.

First, they went to anti-union, anti-worker, low-wage States, often in the South. Then, when those wages weren't low enough, they moved overseas, first to Mexico and then to China.

When those companies moved out, they weren't replaced by new investment. The market fundamentalists would talk about creative destruction, but it wasn't followed by any construction, creative or otherwise.

That corporate greed was aided by decades of underinvestment, by bad trade policies, which these corporations lobbied this body for—successfully, unfortunately—in NAFTA, PNTR with China, and the Central American Free Trade Agreement. Then it was also followed by even worse tax policy, which these special interests also lobbied this institution for.

It all drove production overseas. It left us relying on other countries, too often our economic competitors. It exposed us to supply shocks. It gutted—ultimately gutted—the middle class in Mansfield, OH, and communities all over this country.

Ohioans and workers in historic industrial towns felt it first. Now, the

whole country feels it in the form of higher prices and empty shelves and months-long waits for products people need.

We need to make more things in America. It is not going to happen on its own, not when the economy of the last four decades was built on corporations hopping the globe in search of workers to exploit, not when countries like China prop up state-owned enterprises and steal our ideas and monetize them and use them to compete and often cheat against American businesses and American workers.

We need a concerted, coordinated effort to invest in our greatest assets: American workers and American innovation. That is what we do with this competition and jobs bill. We need to negotiate a final bill and pass this now. Ohioans needed this a year ago, a decade ago, a generation ago.

Look at what is happening even today in Bucyrus, OH.

There are few innovations more quintessentially American than the light bulb. Every elementary schooler learns that Thomas Edison, from Milan, OH, invented the light bulb at his lab in Menlo Park, NJ, and Ohio became the center of the light bulb industry.

But we have seen plants close across Ohio in Ravenna and Warren. We are told these plants are old and dated. They made the old-fashioned incandescent bulbs. Instead, now, they told us, Americans would make new, next-generation-type technology like LED bulbs. That is not exactly what happened—promises, promises.

We learned that two Ohio factories that were part of the LED light bulb supply chain in Ohio, in Bucyrus and in Logan, OH, were closing their operations.

Get this. They promised LED bulbs would be made in the United States. Today, 99—99, actually more than 99; 99 point something—percent of LED light bulb production is in China.

Think about that: 99 percent of this quintessential American invention is made in China.

When you move the entire production overseas, you move the shop floor innovation right along with it. Think about that. Much of our innovation comes because workers on the shop floor think about—as they are doing their work, they think about—better ways to produce this, and they think about making a better product. But corporate America, of course, underestimated the ingenuity of American workers or they just didn't care. So when plants moved overseas, the innovation of shops or innovation in America simply stopped.

Look at the semiconductor shortage. American research and development created the chips, and American companies did most of the manufacturing. Yet, over time, production, often fueled by incentives from foreign countries and sellout by politicians lobbied by corporate interests, moved those jobs overseas.

During the pandemic, companies across Ohio and the rest of the country shut down production lines and laid off workers because they couldn't get enough semiconductors. Whether you are the Ford Motor Company in Lima, OH; Whirlpool in Clyde, OH; Kenworth in Chillicothe, OH; Navistar in Springfield, OH, you needed those chips. In the semiconductor industry, we see the problem; we see the solution.

In the end of January, Senator PORTMAN and I flew to Columbus to join Intel to announce the largest ever investment in semiconductor manufacturing. It will create 10,000 good-paying jobs. Union tradespeople—5,000 over the next 10 years—will build this entire facility. It is possible because we are on the verge of passing a historic investment in American innovation and manufacturing.

The Senate called it the Innovation and Competition Act. The House calls it the COMPETES Act. Call it for what it is: It is the "Make It in America Act."

The bill includes the CHIPS Act to make investments like Intel in Ohio possible and to position us to lead the world again in this industry. It expands advanced manufacturing hubs and will create more of these hubs around the country, and it is a real coordinated strategy to invest in R&D.

We know our competitors like China spend billions propping up state-owned enterprises and investing in research and development. China has gotten pretty good at taking our ideas, monetizing them, and using them to compete against American businesses while paying their workers less and giving them fewer worker protection rights.

That is why, in the Banking and Housing Committee, we worked to make sure the bill includes powerful new sanctions for Chinese actors who steal trade secrets. It is why Senator PORTMAN and I are working to include our Leveling the Playing Field Act 2.0—to give American businesses updated and effective tools to fight back. We know that when we have a level playing field and when we harness the ingenuity of American workers, we can outcompete anyone.

It is time to make things in America again. Ohio has buried the term "Rust Belt." It is time for our whole country to bury the term "Rust Belt." It is long past time to pass a final "Make It in America" bill and send it to the President's desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 682, the nomination of Ruth Montenegro, under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Montenegro nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Ruth Bermudez Montenegro, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Montenegro nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN), and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN).

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 98 Ex.]

YEAS—55

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| Baldwin | Hickenlooper | Rosen |
| Bennet | Hirono | Rounds |
| Blumenthal | Kaine | Sanders |
| Booker | Kelly | Schatz |
| Brown | King | Schumer |
| Cantwell | Klobuchar | Sinema |
| Cardin | Leahy | Smith |
| Carper | Lujan | Stabenow |
| Collins | Markey | Tester |
| Coons | McConnell | Tillis |
| Cortez Masto | Menendez | Van Hollen |
| Duckworth | Merkley | Warner |
| Durbin | Murkowski | Warnock |
| Feinstein | Murphy | Warren |
| Gillibrand | Murray | Whitehouse |
| Graham | Ossoff | Wyden |
| Grassley | Padilla | Young |
| Hassan | Peters | |
| Heinrich | Reed | |

NAYS—41

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Barrasso | Ernst | Paul |
| Blackburn | Fischer | Portman |
| Blunt | Hagerty | Risch |
| Boozman | Hawley | Romney |
| Braun | Hoehen | Rubio |
| Burr | Hyde-Smith | Sasse |
| Capito | Inhofe | Scott (FL) |
| Cassidy | Johnson | Scott (SC) |
| Cornyn | Kennedy | Shelby |
| Cotton | Lankford | Thune |
| Cramer | Lee | Toomey |
| Crapo | Lummis | Tuberville |
| Cruz | Marshall | Wicker |
| Daines | Moran | |

NOT VOTING—4

| | |
|---------|----------|
| Casey | Shaheen |
| Manchin | Sullivan |

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MURPHY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session. The Senator from Wyoming.

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about

the need for more American energy. When Joe Biden was running for President, he made a lot of promises that seemed to be all to the liberal left. Now, to the hard-working people of my home State of Wyoming, these promises sounded more like direct threats to their lives and their livelihoods.

Joe Biden promised that, if elected, there would be “no more drilling on Federal lands.” “No more drilling,” he said, including offshore. He said “no ability for the oil industry to continue to drill, period.”

Joe Biden is known for his multiple gaffes, but these weren't gaffes. This was intentional. He said it again and again and again on the campaign trail.

Here is another one. He said:

I guarantee you we're going to end fossil fuels.

Joe Biden, on the campaign trail, guaranteeing they are going to end fossil fuels.

During one Democratic debate, Joe Biden was asked a specific question. He was asked if he would sacrifice “hundreds of thousands of blue collar jobs” right here in America to get rid of traditional energy.

Joe Biden said:

The answer is yes.

Yes, happy to sacrifice hundreds of thousands of blue-collar, good hard-working jobs of the American people. And today, the American people are living with the consequences of Joe Biden's decisions.

Joe Biden is already the most anti-American energy President in American history. His policies against American energy have resulted in much higher prices for American families. One in five American families this past year have had to cut their spending to pay their energy bills. They have had to change the way they drive, the way they eat, the way they shop. They have changed, and in many ways had to change, their dreams and their aspirations as their anxieties continued to increase as prices increased but wages didn't keep up.

Yes, prices have gone up in 12 of the 13 months since Joe Biden has taken office. This month, we have seen the highest gas prices ever. The Biden energy crisis is already the worst energy crisis in nearly half a century. So far, Joe Biden hasn't proposed a single solution, too busy blaming everyone other than himself.

Well, the Joe Biden blame game isn't working with the American people. The American people remember Joe Biden's campaign promises, and we have seen him wage war on American energy for 14 consecutive months.

When Joe Biden took office, the price of gas was \$2.38 a gallon. By the time Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, prices had already gone up to \$3.53 a gallon. Today, across the country, the average price is \$4.24.

The increase before Putin's invasion was a lot larger than the increase after Putin's invasion. Month after month after month, prices have gone up, and at the same time, Joe Biden has doubled down.

First, he shut down the Keystone XL Pipeline, shut down oil and gas leases on Federal lands, and he shut down exploration for energy in Alaska. Now his political appointees in the government are making it impossible to build gas pipelines. As a result, we are producing 1.3 million fewer barrels a day, in America, of oil than we were just before the pandemic. Lower supply, higher prices—that is the law of supply and demand.

So why is supply down? Well, the Biden administration hasn't held a single auction for oil and gas leases since Joe Biden has taken office. At this point in the Obama administration, there had been more than 30 of those auctions. After 14 months in office, there should have been more than 50; in Joe Biden's term, zero.

Courts have said that the President's Executive orders on Federal lands, they said, are illegal. That is the Federal courts. The President stubbornly refused to open up our Federal lands—ignoring the courts—failed to open up the lands to American energy production.

In Western States like my home State of Wyoming, this is devastating. Half of Wyoming is Federal land, and Wyoming is sitting on a treasure trove of American energy. We have it all—oil, gas, coal, uranium for nuclear power. We have wind. We have sunny areas as well. We have it all. We need it all. Joe Biden wants us to keep Wyoming energy in the ground.

The White House claims we don't need to drill more, explore more for energy because there are some leases that have not yet been used.

So why aren't they used? I mean, that is a legitimate question to ask. Well, half of them are waiting for Joe Biden's permission to drill. Just because you paid for a lease doesn't mean you have permission yet to explore for energy on that area. You have to ask permission of the Federal Government after you pay the Federal Government for the lease. It is like renting an apartment and saying: Well, they are not going to give you the key to move in yet.

The Biden administration has to know that, but they continue to try to mislead the American people to say they are not being used.

Many of the leases that are still available are tied up in court by environmental activists, and they can't explore for energy using those areas until the court cases are resolved. That is a normal ploy of the environmental extremist groups that are lined up with the Biden administration to try to keep American energy in the ground and keep American workers off the job.

So it seems that the percentage of leases being used that they can use is where you would want it to be, but there are more that need to be used, but Biden is tying them up.