

Ms. Loyd designed and led programs across the United States in her prior role at the education think tank Jobs for the Future and the Native American educational advocacy group the Cook Inlet Tribal Council.

She had a distinguished academic career, attending community college first in Santa Fe, prior to a doctorate in education leadership from Harvard Graduate School of Education. She is a lifelong professional in the field of career and technical education, and she brings personal life experience in the field, having begun her career at community college. I believe she is an outstanding point person for President Biden when it comes to matters of career and technical education.

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions advanced her nomination by a voice vote, with no recorded opposition. I sit on the HELP Committee. I am the chairman of the bipartisan Senate Career and Technical Education Caucus. I was proud to support her.

Although I do not know Ms. Loyd personally, I do have a personal connection to her nomination. My dad ran a welding and ironworking shop. I grew up working in that shop with my two brothers and my mother. I saw the power of career and technical education and the artistry of the ironworkers who worked in my dad's business.

When I was in the middle of law school, I took a year off to go be a missionary in Honduras, and I ran a school that taught kids to be carpenters and welders, again seeing the power of career and technical education. And I think that there is a bipartisan understanding in this body and the House—really, in society at large—that we may have undervalued career and technical education in recent generations; and as we are contemplating things like an infrastructure bill or other important priorities to grow the economy, we need to put more stress, not less, on the value of career and technical education.

So, as a Senator, I am proud to have made this one of my central policy fields: working on CTE bills with many, many colleagues on both sides of the aisle.

There is a hold on Amy Loyd's nomination, and that is the right of those who would hold her. But I am here specifically because I would like to know why.

I would ask my colleagues under which of the three buckets does Ms. Loyd's nomination fall short? Is there a perception that she is not qualified? Is there a perception that she is not ethical? Is there a perception that her views on career and technical education are outside the mainstream?

You don't have to support President Biden's nominees. If she is confirmed, part of her job will be answering tough questions from colleagues.

But I would ask my colleagues, if you are voting against nominees of any

President from the other party not because of flaws of the kinds that I have described, what does that get us?

The American people put Democrats for a period of time in charge of both the executive and the legislative branches. The American public often vote for divided government. Does that mean that any time the White House and the Senate are controlled by different parties, the parties just won't have anybody in their administration? What does that get our country? I think we know the answer: dysfunction.

Clearly, Madam President, as I conclude, there are nominees who engender significant controversy, either because of the peculiar nature of the post to which they have been nominated or because of aspects of their background or character. I know of no such controversy with this nominee, either about the position or about the individual herself. And I think if we are to succeed in the necessary project of elevating the importance of career and technical education, we need to have Ms. Loyd confirmed in her position.

For that reason, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination; Calendar No. 669, Amy Loyd, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, Department of Education; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Madam President, reserving the right to object.

I do think it is significant that the party that is now in the majority that was previously in the minority took a different position when it was not in the minority—when it was not in the majority and when a President of their political party was not in power. There was elaborate and, I believe, an excessive delay in the confirmation of a lot of nominees, even more so than what we are seeing now.

I do have concerns that are particular as to this particular nominee and not generalized. They are not concerns that could be dismissed simply as a result of basic partisan disagreements, but based on views that are considerably outside the mainstream and that are radical and harmful.

Let me explain. As vice president of the think tank Jobs for the Future, Ms. Loyd was responsible for overseeing that organization's workforce development efforts through the lens of diversity, equity, and inclusion.

It is of great concern to me that this body of work produced reports that promulgated ideas aimed at furthering the divisive agenda of critical race theory and ESG scores. One of the most alarming of these reports is one that

was published on September 8, 2020, which asserted that due to "unconscious or implicit bias toward minorities," managers are limiting the advancement or promotion of minorities in the workforce.

These divisive, inflammatory assumptions are dangerous to the civil fabric of our society. Elevating individuals who espouse this dangerous and divisive ideology to key leadership positions within the Federal Government will only further divide Americans, pitting them one against another.

We should instead seek to elevate into positions of leadership those who aim to unify the American people and emphasize the importance of making sure that people are evaluated on the basis of the character of their heart, not the color of their skin. Her work has done the opposite of that.

In good conscience, I cannot and will not support the nomination of Ms. Loyd; and on that basis, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I come to the floor today to speak about unleashing American energy. Earlier this month, we saw the highest price ever for a gallon of gasoline in the United States. Inflation is over a high of 40 years. Energy costs are driving the cost of everything else, and there appears to be no end in sight. Joe Biden cannot hide from the fact that he is the President of high prices.

Meanwhile, in Europe, Vladimir Putin continues his onslaught. The Russian killing machine continues its assault on innocent people. Thousands of civilians have been killed. This includes hundreds of children.

Vladimir Putin's war crimes are all paid for with Russian energy. Energy accounts for nearly half of Putin's budget. Energy is the only successful industry in the Russian economy. If you want to defund Vladimir Putin, you have to drain his tank. You have to defund him on energy.

So what have we seen from the President of the United States? Well, Joe Biden spent all last year acting like Vladimir Putin was his "Secretary of Energy." Joe Biden played right along. Putin wanted it; Biden did it, followed the "Secretary of Energy."

Biden decided against sanctions on Putin's Nord Stream 2 Pipeline. People in this body, on both sides of the aisle, said: Mr. President, sanction the pipeline; don't allow it.

Putin said: I want it.

Biden gave it.

Actually, Joe Biden actually lobbied this body, the U.S. Senate, to not do what we knew was the right thing to do in terms of sanctioning Vladimir Putin and the pipeline. Biden caved to Putin.

Biden also caved to Putin by extending our nuclear arms reduction treaty without any conditions. He essentially gave Vladimir Putin exactly what he wanted: a permission slip to build up the military. Even after the invasion, 2 weeks in, Joe Biden was still fine with buying Russian oil. It took bipartisan Members of the House and the Senate to stop it.

He didn't ban Russian oil because of the war; it was because of this bipartisan effort in Congress. We finally forced his hand. Democrats in Congress were willing to stand up to the President of the United States and say they were willing to join the Republicans in overriding the President on this very matter. Joe Biden dragged his feet, so a bipartisan group in Congress had to drag Joe Biden.

Every Member of this body should remember what President Zelenskyy had to say to us. He said: If there had been sanctions, meaning in January, there would not have been a war. In January, I came to this floor, and I said history would not be kind to those who ran interference for Vladimir Putin. It is even more true today. History will not be kind to those who stood by as Vladimir Putin planned, prepared, and paid for the invasion.

At every step in this crisis, Congress has had to take the lead, and the President had to be pulled along. Congress had to drag Joe Biden into banning seven Russian banks from the SWIFT payment system. Congress had to drag Joe Biden into revoking Russia's trade status.

Congress had to drag Joe Biden into sending lethal aid to Ukraine. Two-thirds of this aid still hasn't been delivered. Congress signed a check for \$3 billion in weapons. So far, it looks like Joe Biden has provided to Ukraine about \$800 million.

So where are the weapons? Where are the weapons right now? There is no time to waste. Innocent people are being murdered. In so much of this, Joe Biden has been not just a day late but billions of dollars short, and he is leading from far, far behind.

But Joe Biden seems to be proud of himself. He went to Europe last week, bragged about the sanctions on Russia. Well, there is still a lot of work to do.

I am here on the Senate floor to tell you that we have more work to do in terms of dragging Joe Biden along. On Friday, Joe Biden announced an energy agreement with the European Union. The White House listed 14 things that they would do. Well, what was missing from that list? Well, I will tell you: the one thing that would actually work.

Missing from the list of 14 was the thing that would actually work, which is increasing the production of American oil and gas. Under the agreement, Europe will buy an additional 15 billion

cubic meters of natural gas each year. Now, that is about 10 percent of what they currently buy from Russia. So where is it going to come from? It is a legitimate question. They don't know. On Friday, a Biden official said this. He said: We can't speak to exactly where the natural gas is coming from.

The White House also said that the United States will "maintain its regulatory environment." In other words, no change to current policy. The war on American energy will continue.

And if you took a look at the budget that came out yesterday, there are 36 new taxes proposed, 11 of which are going to drive up the cost of American energy. At a time of the highest gas prices ever, 40 percent inflation, the Biden budget says we need to put more tax on the production of energy in this country.

We need to produce more energy. We need it. We will use it. Europe needs it. We have promised it to them. Joe Biden's regulators want to keep it in the ground.

Now, Secretary Granholm waited until last week to approve two pending applications for liquefied natural gas exports. She could have approved them last year; didn't. Waited until 2 weeks after Russia invaded Ukraine to finally approve two of six permits. It took weeks of bloodshed. There are still four more applications waiting on her desk. Oh, they have been sitting there for well over a year.

Time to wake up and approve the applications. Europe has woken up. They are wide awake from their addiction and reliance on their enemies for their energy. Joe Biden is still sleepwalking.

Now, Russia is still exporting energy all around the world. We put sanctions in place, but this is what the Washington Post had to say. They called the energy exports continuing today from Russia "the loophole that's keeping Russia's economy alive."

China is stocking up on Russian oil at a discount. None of Joe Biden's sanctions do a thing to stop China—not a one. China can continue to prop up the Russian war machine.

As Senator TOOMEY has said, we need secondary sanctions to stop the flow of cash to the Kremlin. Joe Biden's banking sanctions explicitly avoid hitting Russian energy. It is the key to this funding: \$5 to \$7 billion a week to the killing machine from exporting Russian energy.

The banking sanctions don't even go into effect until June 24. It is still March. April, May—June 24. The war may be over by then, but in the meantime, thousands of people could die.

Oh, and the President's sanctions do not include Russian uranium. They should, but they don't. As a result, our Nation, America, remains dependent on Vladimir Putin for one of the most important elements on Earth. You want to defund Putin's invasion, it is time to finish the job with banning of imports from Russia to the United States, and we must ban uranium. We need to do it now.

Now, earlier this month, I have introduced legislation to do just that. Now, I am grateful that Senator LUMMIS and Senator MARSHALL and Senator CRAMER have added their strong support. Here in America, we have vast uranium supplies, and it is especially true in my home State of Wyoming. There is no reason at all that America should be buying uranium from Vladimir Putin and Russia.

Now, Joe Biden is also helping sell Russian uranium in other countries because, right now, Joe Biden is pushing our Nation into a deal with Iran that was negotiated by Russia. Yes, you heard me right: negotiated by Russia—not negotiated by the Americans, not negotiated by—no. We let Vladimir Putin negotiate with Iran on a nuclear deal.

A deal with Iran would mean billions of dollars for Russia. You don't believe it? It is true. A Russia state-controlled nuclear energy company would get about \$10 billion out of the deal. More bullets, more bombs, more bloodshed paid for by Joe Biden's uranium deal.

When it comes to Iran and Russia, no deal is a good deal. Whether it is uranium, whether it is natural gas, the solution for Russian energy is American energy. We have it. We have it in abundance. This administration will not let us get it out of the ground.

Today, we are still producing 1.3 million fewer barrels of oil than we were prior to the pandemic. The administration is still sitting on 4,600 drilling permits. Joe Biden still hasn't had a single lease sale on Federal lands for oil and gas.

Just yesterday, Joe Biden proposed a \$43 billion tax increase on American energy. Who pays these taxes? Clearly, the hard-working families of this country in the form of higher prices. This is the last thing the country needs now at a time of 40-year high inflation and the highest gas prices ever.

Energy security is worth a lot more than climate zealotry. Our friends in Europe who are held hostage by Vladimir Putin will tell you that today. We are much better off as a nation selling energy to our friends than being forced to buy it from our enemies.

What President Biden and the Democrats don't seem to understand is this: Energy security is national security. For ourselves, for our allies, we need more American energy, and we need it now.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Iowa.

BIDEN FAMILY

Mr. GRASSLEY. Yesterday, Senator JOHNSON and I discussed a joint investigation into the Biden family's foreign financial entanglements. We reviewed much of our earlier work and provided a brief preview of the new material.

Today, we will give our second speech on our Biden investigation series. Once again, we are going to make public and we are going to describe new financial records relating to Hunter Biden and his connections to the communist Chinese Government. Most of that focus will be on his connections to the CEFC, a company that is effectively an arm of the Chinese Government.

But first we must go back to 2015. At that time, Hunter Biden served on the board of Burisma and was paid tens of thousands of dollars each month. Its owner was a corrupt Russian-aligned Ukrainian oligarch. But that is not all that Hunter Biden was up to.

In that year, CEFC International announced an agreement with Northern International Capital Holdings. Northern International is incorporated in China, and it is very much involved in the energy sector.

One of Ye Jianming's companies was a majority shareholder of CEFC International. Northern International purchased 123 million dollars' worth of CEFC's shares, binding the two companies together.

We must also mention Hudson West III and its financial connection to CEFC. Hunter Biden was an investor and a manager of Hudson West III. He was tasked with advancing its interests. Hudson West III also involved Chinese nationals connected to the communist regime, such as Gongwen Dong, whom I talked about yesterday.

Now let's look at this first poster.

I should note that Senator JOHNSON and I will make these documents public in full. We are providing snapshots for our presentation here on the floor of the U.S. Senate.

Here we have one portion of an LLC agreement from a bank. It shows the companies that have bound themselves together: Hudson West V, Hudson West III, and Owasco. Owasco is Hunter Biden's firm.

Now let's turn to the second poster.

The paragraph at the top shows the purpose for which the LLC agreement exists.

So what this tells us is that Hunter Biden and James Biden linked up with companies connected to the communist regime to assist them with finding projects for global and domestic infrastructure and energy.

As we know from my and Senator JOHNSON's report from last August, some energy project explorations between the Biden family and China were here in the United States. One example is a multimillion-dollar natural gas project in Louisiana.

Now let's move to the next paragraph at the bottom of this same poster, which defines the word "affiliate" in the agreement.

For the avoidance of doubt, CEFC China Energy Company Limited or any of its Affiliates shall be deemed as an Affiliate of Hudson.

Accordingly, this agreement between Hunter Biden's firm and Hudson West III and Hudson West V directly connects Hunter Biden to CEFC.

So was this agreement executed?

Let's look at this third poster, which contains a signature block executing the agreement.

Here we see Hunter Biden's signature with Gongwen Dong. As previously noted, Gongwen was an associate of Ye Jianming. Both men were connected to the communist regime, including its military elements.

Notably, Hunter Biden worked for Ye Jianming to get him involved in the natural gas project in Louisiana. That project eventually fell through.

Now let's bring up a fourth poster labeled a "Joinder Agreement" relating to the LLC agreement.

Again, Hunter Biden is signing with Gongwen Dong with respect to the LLC agreement. Accordingly, we can now conclude the following: Hunter Biden was financially connected to CEFC, a company that was an arm of the communist Chinese regime, for the purpose of advancing its energy interests.

This agreement also shows two additional findings: first, Hunter Biden's responsibility to advance Hudson West III's interests as of August 2, 2017; second, Hunter Biden's close association with Hudson West III, CEFC, and its affiliates as of August 2, 2017. That date is important as I will show you soon.

Let's turn to a fifth poster. On this fifth poster, look at the top.

This is a bank record showing an August 8, 2017, wire transfer from Northern International Capital to Hudson West III for \$5 million. This is \$5 million from a company that is connected to Ye Jianming and CEFC and its affiliates, which are essentially arms of the communist Chinese regime, and that transfer took place after Hunter Biden became closely associated with Hudson West III as the LLC agreement shows.

So what was the money for?

As noted, Hunter Biden was working with Chinese nationals linked to the communist regime to help them explore energy projects.

Now look at the bottom of this poster.

This is a paragraph from the LLC agreement. It shows that Hunter Biden was paid \$100,000 per month; that James Biden was paid \$65,000 per month; and that Hunter Biden will be paid a onetime retainer fee of \$500,000.

Again, this is money connected to Hudson West III, a company connected to CEFC and Gongwen Dong. Both are connected, in turn, to the communist Chinese regime.

We can now conclude this with respect to James Biden: James Biden was financially connected to CEFC, a company that was an arm of the communist Chinese regime, for the purpose of advancing energy interests.

After the LLC agreement was signed, money flowed from CEFC and its shareholders into the bank account of Hudson West III, including the \$5 million from Northern International. This LLC agreement was the trigger point for high-dollar financial transactions involving Hunter and James Biden.

Now let's turn to poster six and view the top.

This is a Hudson West III bank record that shows a wire transfer on August 31, 2017, for \$165,000. Notably, this is the same month as the \$5 million wire from Northern International. It is also the same month that Hunter Biden signed the August 2, 2017, LLC agreement. The wire is to Wells Fargo Clearing Services.

Now look at the bottom of this poster.

Senator JOHNSON and I have acquired more than just the bank statement; we have acquired underlying wire data.

So look at the fourth line at the bottom. It says:

Further credit to Owasco PC.

The underlying wire data shows that it went to Owasco, Hunter Biden's firm.

Senator JOHNSON and I have years of bank records that show multiple \$165,000 wire transfers from Hudson West III to Owasco. There were also wire transfers for other amounts—some for more, some for less. Most likely, some of those payments were for expenses under the LLC agreement.

So you have an August 2, 2017, LLC agreement with Hudson West III and Owasco noting \$100,000 a month to Hunter Biden and \$65,000 to James Biden. Then you have an August 8, 2017, wire transfer of \$5 million from Northern International to Hudson West III. After that August 8 wire, you see years of wire transfers from Hudson West III to Hunter Biden's company. The majority of these is for \$165,000—the exact amount due under the LLC agreement.

Based on the timing of the transactions, Hunter Biden's and James Biden's payments under the LLC agreement came from that \$5 million wire—a wire, mind you, that came from a company connected to Ye Jianming and CEFC, which is an arm of the Chinese Government.

These years of records show that Hunter Biden and James Biden were more connected to the communist regime's elements than had been previously known. These records place them at the center of Hudson West III, Gongwen Dong, and CEFC.

This is a finding that Senator JOHNSON and I made public in our Biden reports last Congress. These are the same reports that Members of the other political party in this body and the liberal press found fault with; that, somehow, it was Russian disinformation.

So I say this to the liberal media and our Democratic colleagues who tried to smear our work all of these years and accuse us of peddling Russian disinformation: You have seen all of