

those communities. We need to do the same on a national scale and support our resource partners.

These are commonsense policies that will unlock the growth potential of our Nation's entrepreneurs and help us to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic in a stronger, fairer way.

As we celebrate National Small Business Week, let us also double down on the investments we have made in our entrepreneurs over the past 2 years. Let us once again put partisanship aside and pass thoughtful legislation that addresses the root causes of the issues that our Nation's entrepreneurs face on a daily basis.

We can do this. During this week, let us rededicate ourselves to help America's small businesses, help fairness and opportunity in this country, and help our economy grow even stronger.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, Monday's leak of a draft opinion in the Dobbs Supreme Court case was an unprecedented and deeply disturbing breach of confidentiality that almost always surrounds Supreme Court deliberations. It is difficult to think this was anything but an escalation in the radical left's campaign to bully the Supreme Court into delivering decisions in line with the priorities of the Democratic Party. From Court-packing threats to threats from the Democratic leader himself that were directed to specific Justices, attempting to intimidate the Supreme Court has become par for the course for liberals, but Monday's leak represents a new low.

Almost as disturbing as the leak has been the reaction from my Democratic colleagues. Their hysterical comments have been focused almost entirely on the prospect of their getting an outcome they don't want in the Dobbs case. I have seen almost no concern about how the leak will affect the integrity of the Supreme Court as an institution, and their activist base has gone out of its way to praise the leaker.

More than one Democrat has actually called for undermining the integrity of the Supreme Court by packing the Court with additional Justices. Yes, that is the result of what happened yesterday among Democrats. More than one Democratic Senator believes that the proper response to a Supreme Court decision you don't like is to add additional Justices to the Court until you can be confident that you will get the outcomes you want.

Other Democratic Senators have proposed undermining the integrity of the

U.S. Senate by abolishing the Senate filibuster rule—again, in order to be sure that they can get the legislative outcome they want in response to this possible decision in the Dobbs case.

Mr. President, regardless of what side you are on in this debate, you should be willing to stand up for the rule of law and the integrity of our institutions. That shouldn't be a partisan issue. Our system of government depends upon the rule of law, which is based upon an independent judiciary, free of political pressure or partisan influence.

Do Democrats really want a future in which Supreme Court decisions are made based on political pressure or bullying rather than on the Justices' impartial application of the law and the Constitution to the case before them? Maybe they do. But if they continue to push in that direction, they will end up sacrificing our system of government in the process.

Mr. President, I have strong beliefs in any number of issues, including abortion, but above all, I believe in our system of government and in the rule of law. While I will fight passionately in support of the causes I believe in, I will not sacrifice the integrity of our institutions for what would ultimately be nothing but temporary political gain. It is starting to seem like most of my Democratic colleagues disagree with that position. That may possibly be a recipe for political success, but it is also a recipe for destroying free government.

I am glad that Chief Justice Roberts has taken steps to investigate this unprecedented breach of trust at the Court, and I hope that he will receive the full support of the Department of Justice should this turn out to be a criminal matter. It is difficult to overstate how much this breach could erode trust among Justices and Supreme Court staff, and I hope the damage is minimized by a quick identification of the party responsible. I hope every one of the Justices will continue to feel free to do their jobs and follow the facts, the law, and the Constitution.

At least one Democrat has suggested Republicans are spending more time commenting on the leak than on the content of Justice Alito's draft because we are somehow scared to talk about our pro-life decision. Let me be perfectly clear: We are not. I am proud to defend the right to life, and I know my colleagues are as well.

I think most of us have refrained from commenting because we don't yet truly know the outcome. But I will say this. I hope Justice Alito's opinion ends up being the majority opinion. As I have long believed, *Roe v. Wade* was a terrible decision by an activist Court that reached far beyond the Constitution and the Court's interpretive role to impose a new abortion regime on the entire country. I hope the Supreme Court overturns *Roe* and returns the question of abortion to the American people and their elected representatives, where it belongs.

The fight to defend life is in keeping with our highest ideals, our passion for justice, our dedication to human rights, and our compassion for the innocent and the vulnerable. I am grateful for all the Americans who have fought to make sure the right to life of vulnerable human beings is protected and have spent their time and their resources helping moms in need. I look forward to a day, which I hope is soon approaching, when innocent, unborn Americans will enjoy the full protection of the law.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the need that we have here in this country for more energy—and specifically, more American energy.

On Thursday, Leader SCHUMER and NANCY PELOSI held a press conference, and they announced they had finally come up with an energy plan. After nearly a year—a year of Joe Biden's energy crisis where he killed the Keystone XL Pipeline, struck down leasing—it is good to see they finally have a plan.

It turns out this official Democrat energy plan is not going to create one more drop of American energy. So what will the plan do? Well, if you look at it, you will see it sends bureaucrats—unelected, unaccountable, heavy-handed bureaucrats—to shake down energy companies. Instead of producing more American energy, they want more Federal investigations into American energy.

It won't lower the price of energy—no, not by a single penny. If anything, it might actually increase energy costs across our country. People in Wyoming this past weekend were paying \$4 a gallon for gasoline. It doesn't take a Federal investigation to figure out what is wrong here with energy in America. We know why prices are up: supply and demand. Very simple. Demand for energy is up, and supply is not. Supply is actually down.

Yet, after a year of high prices, Democrats still refuse to admit it, ignoring inflation, not facing the facts that we have the American energy in the ground here and they won't let us get it out.

But now the Democrats are coming up with election-year conspiracy theories. They say high prices aren't happening because of the law of economics. They are saying it is happening because of secret backroom deals. Democrats claim it is an international conspiracy rigged by a global oil market.

Instead of producing American energy, Democrats want to produce excuses, one after another.

At the Democrat press conference, the majority leader said: "The American people didn't send us here to point fingers and blame each other." They ought to point fingers at themselves. That is exactly what the Democrat leader and the President have done for the last 15 months since the day Joe Biden took office. They blamed inflation on coronavirus, then they blamed it on economic growth, then they blamed it on corporations, they blamed it on ports and shipping companies, they blamed it on Vladimir Putin, everyone except themselves who are the cause of the problem.

They will blame anyone, as long as they don't have to change their radical and reckless policies. But they won't deal with the problem. Right now, Democrats basically point to the fact that they are determined to give the American people more of the same, and it is the same things that have brought Joe Biden's approval numbers to an all-time low—on the inflation, on economy, on the cost of energy—alltime historic lows, for a President who should know better but is following the lead of the liberal radical left.

So people are going to be facing more inflation, more high energy costs. And it now costs so much to fill up a tank of gasoline; it is over a hundred dollars to fill up, and I saw that repeatedly across Wyoming last weekend.

This is the same level of anxiety for hard-working families at the end of every month when the paychecks don't keep up. On Sunday, just this past Sunday, the cost of diesel hit an alltime high. Not just a 40-year high like we have for inflation, an alltime high for diesel fuel.

Diesel prices have doubled since Joe Biden took office. Higher diesel prices means it will cost more to transport goods to market. Food prices are up; everything that one buys at the market is up. No matter how bad it gets, Democrats refuse to change course.

Joe Biden continues to attack American energy and American energy workers. Right now, Joe Biden's administration are blocking oil and gas leases at 80 percent of the available Federal lands. There are thousands of drilling requests that are in limbo, which is where Joe Biden has put them.

He has done everything possible, you would think, to undermine investment in American energy. Told the banks, don't lend. Told businesses, don't invest. An attack on direct—on jobs and affordable energy.

If Democrats were really serious about lowering energy prices, they would stop their war on American energy. We need to unleash American energy, not keep it in the ground. Look, Democrats remain the party of higher costs, the party of expensive regulations, the party of high taxes, and the party of greater reliance on foreign countries.

Working families cannot afford the Democratic agenda. People feel stuck or stressed. They are squeezed by inflation. They are squeezed by high energy prices. They have to make decisions about how they drive and how they eat and what they eat and how they live.

The Democratic policies have brought us all of this. We need to replace the Democratic policies; and come November, we are going to replace the Democrats in the House and in the Senate.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

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

UKRAINE

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I rise this morning to express concern for the people of Ukraine and the hundreds of millions who are going to bed hungry across the globe.

Every day since that terrible day, February 24, we have watched in horror as Vladimir Putin and his army, his forces, killed innocent Ukrainians, over and over and over again like nothing—nothing—we have seen since World War II.

Russian forces continue to besiege and shell Ukrainian cities like Mariupol, where over the last two months, civilians have lived in bunkers under perpetual fire. These are civilians in those bunkers.

Only yesterday, 130 civilians managed to escape the battered Azovstal steel plant. Describing the last several months, one evacuee said:

You can't imagine how scary it is when you sit in the shelter, in a wet and damp basement which is bouncing, shaking. We were praying to God that missiles fly over our shelter, because if it hit the shelter, all of us would be done.

Sadly, 200 more Ukrainian civilians have been unable to evacuate, even as Russian forces began storming the steel mill just yesterday. So our prayers are with them and the remaining brave Ukrainian fighters continuing to hold on to this plant.

But atrocities continue across all of Ukraine. In Donetsk yesterday, three civilians were killed on their way to collecting water—collecting water—for their families.

The United States, of course, must continue to help Ukraine fight against Mr. Putin and his forces. Mr. Putin is the incarnation of evil. It is as clear as any debate could be.

The good news is, countries all over the world are unified against him. But we have a long way to go. Now, I and so many others across the House and the Senate strongly supported the appropriation that Congress made back in March—\$13.6 billion in emergency appropriations to support Ukraine, and I stand by President Biden's recent \$33 billion request to help Ukraine defend itself over the long term.

Unfortunately, in that first number, the \$13.6 billion, the good news is we

had support for that in both parties. But I have to say for the record: Not enough support on the Republican side. Here in the Senate, 31 Republicans voted against the \$13.6 billion. And when you add up the Senate Republicans voting against the \$13.6 billion in the spending bill and add them to the House Republicans, which is, obviously, a much bigger number, it is more than 200 Members of the Republican Party in the U.S. Congress voted against every single penny of the \$13.6 billion for Ukraine.

So I hope—I hope—when it comes to the \$33 billion that I hope we will be able to pass—but I am sure it will be a number at least comparable to that. But whatever the number is for the people of Ukraine, I hope that we will get unanimous support in the U.S. Congress.

I hope we won't see more than 200 Members of Republicans in the Congress voting against the people of Ukraine. This is not a difficult choice. You are either on one side or the other.

I said Mr. Putin is the incarnation of evil—he is. The good news is, we have another choice. The other choice is Mr. Zelenskyy, the people of Ukraine, and those brave fighters in Ukraine. They are the personification of all that we claim to stand for when we talk about democracy.

This isn't a moment to theorize or to talk about democracy in glowing terms without taking actions. They are doing the fighting on the battlefield. The least that we can do is vote the right way. That is the power you have as a Member of Congress. House, Senate, Democrat, Republican or Independent, you have the power to vote. And I hope that we will have unanimous support for the \$33 billion that the President has asked for.

Now, what will that funding entail? I won't go through all of it, but this funding will include \$20.4 billion in additional security and military assistance for Ukraine. It is important to put that into context, so it is basically 20 of the 33 will be for security and military assistance. That is on top of what has already been appropriated just since the battle—the war in Ukraine started when Russia invaded.

With President Biden's leadership and with a lot of support in the Congress, we have been able to provide billions of dollars just on the military and security assistance, not to mention the humanitarian support, the sanctions, and the unified approach that so many countries around the world have taken.

But we have a lot more to do, and in my judgment, the \$33 billion won't be enough. We are going to be back at it probably in a few months providing more. But at a minimum, we have got to get this done for the people of Ukraine. Part of that appropriation will be the replenishing of donated NATO weapons and equipment.

This help, in total—all of this security assistance and other humanitarian support—will be critical to Ukraine's