

credentials for the job and her understanding of the agency's mission and the role of a commissioner.

On May 3, she was favorably reported out of committee. I supported her nomination to be voted out of committee. The Federal Elections Commission plays a vital role for Campaign Finance Committees. As a former Secretary of State, I work with the FTC on a regular basis; and since that time, I have run in many Federal elections. I know how important a fully functioning FEC is to Federal candidates who need to avail themselves of the FEC's guidance and advisory opinions. I also know how important the stability of the agency is to the regulated community.

While the commissioners to the Federal Election Commission are, by design, partisan, it is unlikely that every Senator will agree with the views of all nominees. Ms. Lindenbaum has expressed a willingness to work with the other commissioners and find consensus to do the important work of the agency. I am a Republican and Ms. Lindenbaum is a Democrat. This Commission only works with if there is an equal number of Republicans and Democrats.

Sadly, with the three Republican nominees from the last administration, the vote on the floor was 49 to 43, 49 to 47, 50 to 46. These should not be partisan nominations. They are partisans nominated to a partisan job; and, frankly, we have to do a better job than 49 to 43, or 49 to 47, or 50 to 46, which, again, was the vote on the floor of President Trump's Republican nominees who are currently serving.

Ms. Lindenbaum enjoys the support of a bipartisan group of election law practitioners. Senator KLOBUCHAR and I received a letter from 30 practitioners on both sides of the aisle highlighting Ms. Lindenbaum's decade of relevant experience, especially her experience representing clients on matters of State and Federal campaign finance and election laws.

I look forward to supporting her nomination today. I hope many of my colleagues will join me in supporting her. This a commission, one, that doesn't work without an equal number of Republicans and Democrats, and it doesn't work if the commission doesn't have at least that equal number. Unless there are at least four commissioners, the Commission ceases to function. For too many months of the last dozen years, we had a Commission that wasn't fully functioning, couldn't make final decisions, couldn't issue opinions. I am looking forward to a six-member Commission.

I look forward to voting for Ms. Lindenbaum today when her nomination comes up early this afternoon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Senator from Colorado.

SOLAR ENERGY

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I am here today to spend a few minutes on an issue that is profoundly important to Colorado and, I would say, to the

Presiding Officer's State, as well, without being presumptuous, New Mexico, our neighbor to the south.

In March, the Biden administration launched an investigation into whether China is evading solar tariffs. That may seem fine on its face, but, in reality, it has taken a sledge hammer to the solar industry in Colorado and all across the country.

There are over 330 solar companies in my State. They have created nearly 7,000 jobs and driven close to \$5 billion of investment. Our companies are leading the Nation. Last year, we nearly quadrupled our deployment of solar capacity compared to 2017, and before the Biden administration's investigation, we were projected to double or even triple that capacity.

Washington should be lifting up Colorado's success as exactly the kind of progress we need to achieve net zero emissions by 2050, which we have to do. Instead, the Commerce Department's investigation is driving our solar industry out of business, because it could end with a massive expansion of tariffs that could drive up costs and cripple that sector.

Worse, the administration has said they might even apply these tariffs retroactively. Think about that. If you are a solar company in Colorado, you are already dealing with supply chain delays, you are already dealing with labor issues, and you are already dealing with rising prices and continued uncertainty over the clean energy tax credit, because this place can't get its act together to pass legislation that can give certainty to American business.

And now, on top of all of that, you face the prospect of your own government sending the price of your supplies through the roof when you need that least.

Businesses can't make decisions with that kind of uncertainty. Investors hate that level of uncertainty. And these aren't talking points. This is the reality on the ground.

In Colorado, the price of solar panels is already up 30 to 50 percent, and we know Colorado families are ultimately going to bear that cost, and that it is going to slow our energy transition. Many of our solar companies have begun hiring freezes. Some are considering major layoffs. Construction workers are losing hundreds of thousands of hours. Investors are pulling out of major projects. It has put hundreds of millions of dollars and thousands of jobs at risk, which is why I am here to ring this alarm.

More than 90 percent of solar companies surveyed in Colorado report "severe" or "devastating" harms to their businesses from this investigation by the Commerce Department.

In my State, we have major solar projects that are frozen in place, and if this continues, they may never move forward at all. A lot of these projects are in rural counties that are counting on the projects being built for jobs and

tax revenue. This is the last thing they need from Washington.

A 200-megawatt solar project in Pueblo was just canceled since the developer can't get the components they need. Another 150-megawatt project in northern Colorado has been delayed. A community solar developer told me they have canceled all of their new construction for the rest of the year.

Utilities in my State, like United Power and Tri-State, are ready to support hundreds of megawatts in new projects, but our solar companies can't submit bids because they don't have the certainty to do it.

One 80-megawatt project in Watkins is demobilized as they wait for solar panels. A project at Denver International Airport is indefinitely delayed, and I have heard story after story like this since this Commerce Department decision to have this investigation was made.

If you add it all up, this investigation has put at least 870 megawatts of new solar capacity at risk in Colorado, and it has put more than 50 gigawatts at risk across the entire country. That is enough to power nearly 10 million homes.

I cannot understand why the Biden administration is doing this. You can't say, on the one hand, we want to rapidly deploy clean energy and then use the other hand to stick a dagger in American solar. You can't say we are going to fight climate change and then punch American solar in the gut.

Last year, electricity generation from coal increased—increased—in this country for the first time since 2014. And at the same time that is happening, now what we are going to say is that we are going to cut the deployment of solar panels by a third or by half, as a result of this?

It is crazy. The administration should have viewed that alone—the fact that coal is up for the first time since 2014—they should have viewed that alone as a reason to increase our investments in clean energy, not pursue an investigation that is sabotaging one of the fastest growing sectors in Colorado and across the country.

I also don't understand why the administration would do this at this time when we have to find a way to replace Russian oil because of what Putin has done in Ukraine, and we should be replacing that with our own oil production and with our reserves in this country.

But you would think that supporting American solar would be on the top of the list as one of the best things we can do to diversify our energy and protect our security. Instead, the administration has paralyzed the industry with this investigation. It is a self-inflicted wound on America's clean energy leadership, our energy security, and our economy at the worst possible moment.

I have said this before, and I will say it again. I deeply believe that we need to restore critical supply chains, not

just for solar but for so many areas that are critical to our economy.

I think the era where we told ourselves the story about why we were privileging people who wanted to make stuff as cheaply as possible in China instead of privileging other important things, like protecting our supply chains, like protecting our national security, like having an economy that, when it grows, grows for everybody, not just the people at the very top—we have an incredible opportunity to bring these supply chains home in order to do that.

I think reshoring is an essential part of an economy, as I say, that works for everybody, not just those at the top, but that is going to take time, and we can't drive people out of business today when we don't have that supply chain in place. Until then, until we do have it in place, we can't cripple America's solar industry. That can't be our policy. That can't be the right answer.

I am sure if the Biden administration understood the facts on the ground, it wouldn't be doing what it is doing. The least the administration could do is lift the uncertainty off the solar industry by coming out and saying: We are dropping this investigation. In fact, they should have said: We are going to boost American solar—that is what we should be doing—by extending the clean energy tax credits and giving businesses certainty over the long term. On top of that, what we should be doing is strengthening the credits. And then we are going to do everything we can to take every action that we can to clear the path for American solar deployment—wind and other types of clean energy—to accelerate our transition.

That is what they should say. Unlike this investigation, that would be welcome news in Colorado and, I would say, almost everywhere across the country.

NOMINATION OF CHARLOTTE N. SWEENEY

Mr. President, I wanted to take a few minutes to talk about Charlotte Sweeney, who is President Biden's nominee for the U.S. District Court for the District of Colorado.

For Charlotte, equality under the law isn't an abstraction; it is her life's work.

A native of Littleton, CO, Charlotte grew up hiking and skiing with her family on the Rocky Mountain trails within an hour of their home. Today, she hits the same trails with the two most important people in her life: her teenagers Jordan and Addison.

As much as Charlotte loves our State, she also remembers a time when it wasn't easy for LGBTQ Coloradans like herself to be open about who they were, especially—especially—at work. It was a time when, instead of leading the Nation on equality, as we are today, Colorado actually passed an amendment that blocked laws to protect LGBTQ people from discrimination.

You know, I just want to pause by saying that, you know, sometimes peo-

ple say “Well, you can't make a difference in this country” and “The democracy is broken, and you can't make progress.” But when you see the way Colorado has made extraordinary progress, it reminds me that we should never give up, that change is always possible.

When the Colorado Supreme Court declared that amendment unconstitutional that we had passed, Charlotte saw the power of law to tip the scales for or against—for or against—equality, and she decided to spend the rest of her career on the side of equality.

After graduating *summa cum laude* from the University of Denver School of Law, she joined a small firm that focused on representing plaintiffs. She rose to become a partner in just 2 years, and just 2 years after that, she became a named partner of the firm.

Most people would have been content with that achievement, but Charlotte, being Charlotte, kept on going. In 2008, she started her own firm to represent people in employment law cases. Over the last 20 years, Charlotte has become one of Colorado's top employment attorneys, representing Federal, State, and private sector workers in virtually every aspect of employment law.

In one case, she represented her former law professors at the University of Denver who had been paid less than their male colleagues for decades. She obtained \$2.6 million in relief for her clients on top of their overdue pay raises.

Sadly, that outcome isn't the norm in our country, where our justice system too often sides against workers even when the facts of the case are actually on their side. That is corrosive to the American people's confidence in the rule of law, and it is why we need more judges with Charlotte's perspective.

Charlotte's obvious credentials, her integrity, and her much needed experience more than qualify her for this role, and it is why I strongly support her nomination.

If confirmed, Charlotte would also become the first openly gay woman to serve as a Federal judge west of the Mississippi—a powerful affirmation of America's commitment to opportunity and equality for all and something that is just long overdue.

So I want to thank the Judiciary Committee for sending Charlotte, this exceptional nominee, to the floor, and I urge Members of both parties to give her a strong bipartisan vote of confirmation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

NOMINATION OF STEPHANIE DAWKINS DAVIS

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today in strong support of Judge Stephanie Davis, who is nominated to serve on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Davis has spent her entire career in Michigan, and we are better for it. Judge Davis began work in the U.S.

Attorney's Office in the Eastern District of Michigan in 1997. During her time there, she served in the office's civil and criminal divisions. She prosecuted fraud, bank robbery, embezzlement, violent crime, public corruption, and criminal conspiracies involving drug trafficking, as well as money laundering. She oversaw community and law enforcement initiatives and led the office's diversity efforts.

In 2016, Judge Davis became a magistrate judge for the U.S. District for the Eastern District of Michigan.

In 2019, with the strong support of both Senator PETERS and myself, Judge Davis was nominated by President Trump to serve as U.S. district judge for the Eastern District of Michigan. Her confirmation was bipartisan, and so was her support in committee for this Sixth Circuit nomination.

Judge Davis has done an outstanding job every place she has been serving the people of Michigan, and I have no doubt that she will continue her strong record of public service on the U.S. court of appeals.

I have had the opportunity to get to know Judge Davis, and it has really been a joy. She is not just an extremely accomplished jurist, she is also a wonderful person, and those qualities, no doubt, are needed more than ever these days. So it is with great confidence that I urge my colleagues to support this wonderful nomination.

Mr. President, I would now ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess until 2:15 as is part of the schedule.

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

Ms. STABENOW. I yield the floor.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:26 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. SINEMA).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

DOMESTIC TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2022—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 371, H.R. 350.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.