

You are abandoning the people. You have abandoned them, and that is why so few people think the country is heading in the right direction, and so many people are looking for a change. Democrats don't seem to care. They know they are about to face the voters in November and can see the hand-writing on the wall, and they can hear the clock ticking.

The reason why inflation is out of control, at 40-year record highs, is because of the massive spending combined with the attacks by this administration and the Democrats in this body on American energy. That is what is causing the price of everything from gas to groceries to hit one record high after another.

The Democrats have spent us into record-high inflation. Now it seems that they want to tax us into a recession. The last thing the American people now need is more spending, more taxes, more debt. What we need is more American energy.

The way to get out of this crisis is to stop the reckless spending and increase the supply of American energy. We don't need to look halfway around the world for energy; we have it right here in this country. It is time for the President of the United States to stop begging, and it is time to start exploring for the energy right here in America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I have had the privilege of serving with Senator BARRASSO. For any number of years, we were the coleads on the Environment and Public Works Committee. We actually found common ground on a whole lot of issues and disagreed on a number of them as well. But on a personal level, we have, I think, a very good friendship and have had for a number of years good collaboration on Environment and Public Works.

I disagree with almost everything he said—almost everything he said—and I am not a disagreeable person, but I always look for common ground, and I am sorry to say I didn't hear a whole lot from him today to do that.

The suggestion that somehow we shouldn't be concerned about climate change, the climate crisis that has visited our planet—a couple of points I just want to share. This is off the news yesterday, the day before, Monday, Tuesday of this week.

The United Kingdom broke its record for the highest recorded temperature multiple times on Monday, reaching 104.4 degrees Fahrenheit. In Great Britain, for the most part, they don't have air-conditioning. Record temperature—104.4 degrees just on Monday alone. There are airport runways in Great Britain that are melting—that is right, melting—because it is so hot.

The railways in the United States are buckling from the heat, with riders warned to stay home—to stay home.

Over 1,100 people have died in Spain and Portugal just in the last week from heat-related causes.

Wildfires in France have forced 30,000 people—that is about as many people as we have in Dover, DE, our State capital—30,000 people to evacuate. Organizers plan to pour tens of thousands of liters of water onto the Tour de France route—it is a huge, international bicycle competition—to prevent the road from melting in the heat.

More than 40 million people in the United States are under extreme heat warnings across the Great Plains and California. Around 60 million Americans will likely see temperatures at or above 100 degrees—not this year, not this month, this week. Nearly 60 percent of California is dealing with excessive drought, while 20 percent of Texas—it is 5 percent worse than last week—experiences exceptional drought, the most extreme level on the drought scale. Firefighters this week are currently battling 89—that is right, 89—large fires in 12 States in the United States.

That is just off the news pages of 2 days ago.

Amid calls to lower the price of gasoline, I rise to speak on the news this week regarding climate change.

There is no doubt that we are living in unprecedented times as a nation and as a planet. After an unprecedented pandemic ground our global economy to a halt, Americans have been struggling to return to “normal.”

As we saw in the news earlier this year, unprecedented supply chain issues from the pandemic, along with Vladimir Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, have caused gas prices to rise until this month—until this month. We know that this in turn has fueled inflation and put economic strain on families and small businesses across our country.

President Biden has responded to this challenge with unprecedented action, rallying our global partners and releasing record amounts of oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The result has garnered less attention from the media. Over the past 34 days, gasoline prices have declined by more than half a dollar per gallon. I will say that again. Over the past 34 days, gasoline prices have declined by more than 50 cents per gallon—the fastest decline in over a decade. More than 20,000 gas stations across our country are now offering gas for under \$4 per gallon. Leading economists expect this decline in gas prices to continue, maybe even to accelerate.

In addition, our Nation is on track to surpass our historic, prepandemic levels of oil production by 2023. I want to say that again. In addition, our Nation is on track to surpass our historic, prepandemic levels of oil production by 2023—next year.

Still, these are short-term solutions that leave Americans susceptible to higher gas prices. Why? It is the global market that largely determines gaso-

line prices. That means that as long as our economy runs mostly on fossil fuels, energy prices will continue to be volatile to the forces outside our Nation. We cannot drill our way out of this problem.

In the long run, the best way to ensure that American families have access to lower prices at the pump is by reducing our dependence on foreign oil and on fossil fuels. I want to say that again. In the long run, the best way we can ensure that American families have access to lower prices at the pump is by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. Doing so isn't just critical for protecting Americans from high energy costs; it is necessary for addressing the existential threat of climate change.

Make no mistake, the climate crisis is here. It is here. It is in Europe. It is in Asia. It is in South America. It is in Africa. It is all over the world.

We see it in the form of unprecedented heat waves currently impacting millions of people across Europe, as I suggested, and our country too.

We see climate change in the form of unprecedented drought, driving wildfires across the Western United States that are bigger than my State. Currently, firefighters are battling, as I said, 89 large fires in 12 States, and it is only expected to get worse. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—we call them NOAA—the decades-long megadrought in the American West is not just persisting, it is intensifying and expanding east, worsening the threat of additional wildfires.

We see climate change in the form of rising sea levels that produce waves able to wipe out weddings in Hawaii just last weekend.

This event is a real-life consequence of what experts have already told us: Sea levels are rising faster than they have in more than 3,000 years and are expected to rise by an additional foot by 2050.

We know this firsthand in Delaware. Delaware is the first State. The lowest lying State in America is Delaware. Our State is sinking. The seas around us are rising.

Down in Louisiana, a big State in another part of the country, they are experiencing sea level rise as well. In the State of Louisiana, you know what, every 100 minutes—every 100 minutes—they lose a piece of land to the sea the size of a football field in Louisiana. I will say that again. Every 100 minutes in Louisiana, they lose a piece of land the size of a football field—every 100 minutes.

We see climate change in the form of sea levels rising all up and down the east coast, down to Florida, gulf coast, east coast, west coast, everywhere.

The extreme weather is costing us. According to an analysis of data from NOAA and the global reinsurance company Munich Re, severe weather caused more than \$121 billion—billion with a “b”—in property damage in the United States between 2017 and 2021—\$121 billion. That is an average of about \$940

per household and business and didn't take into account the property losses from the historic wildfires I have just been talking about.

We continue to see the destruction that accompanies climate change happen on a global scale as well, threatening the critical infrastructure we rely on for international trade. This week, I mentioned the recordbreaking temperatures they are seeing in England and in Europe and in Germany and other places.

Most tragic of all, these climate-induced events are putting people's lives at risk. Extreme heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in our country. According to NOAA, the 12 most costly extreme weather events in 2021 alone resulted in the deaths of nearly 700 people.

Addressing this crisis is the challenge of our time. It is directly tied to the prices we pay at the pump and in nearly every facet of our lives.

Instead of doubling down on policies that continue to fail American consumers and the planet, as some of our colleagues have been advocating for today, we should focus our attention on passing legislation that accelerates our transition to a clean energy future and leaves no community behind in the process. It is our ticket to a brighter future and one without recordbreaking heat waves, high gas prices, and unprecedented devastation.

Let me close with apologies to Stephen Stills. Stephen Stills is a great songwriter and singer with Buffalo Springfield, an iconic group. Long ago, he wrote a song that has these words. We have heard them a million times. It starts something like this:

There is something happening here, [just] what it is ain't exactly clear.

Those are his words, the opening line from one of the great songs of all time.

Well, with apologies to Stephen Stills, there is something happening here, and it is exactly clear what is causing it. It is a climate crisis. We have way too much carbon in the air. We are producing more. That is the bad news.

Here is the good news: We can do something about it. We can do something about it. Part of it is—I will just close with this—30 percent of our carbon emissions in this Nation come from our cars, trucks, and vans—30 percent. More and more, we are seeing automakers build cars, trucks, and vans that run not on gas and diesel but on electric. We are beginning to install literally thousands of charging stations all over the country to help provide an opportunity for people to charge their batteries and also to buy hydrogen, when we switch to hydrogen, for fuel cell vehicles. Those expansions and those investments will put literally hundreds of thousands of Americans—probably more than that—to work across the country, in every corner of the country, to enable us to reduce carbon emissions from our mobile fleet.

Instead of just burning coal and to some extent natural gas, we have the opportunity to create clean energy from advanced nuclear. I am a Navy guy, 27 years in the Navy all in. We have been doing nuclear energy in the Navy for 50 years. Do you know how many people have died in the Navy from exposure to radioactive materials? Zero. Fifty years—perfect record. We are now in the beginning of a new development and a new exploration in pursuit of nuclear energy using small modular nuclear reactors—a lot safer than the ones we have been building for years.

We are in a position now to have, literally, from Maine all the way down to Maryland, offshore wind that creates enormous amounts of carbon-free electricity that we can use to charge our cars, trucks, and vans and actually put a lot of people to work building those windmills and doing good things for our planet.

The climate crisis is here. The question is, What do we do about it? And there is an opportunity to meet it head-on. And it is not like you got to eat your broccoli. No, no, no. This is something we can do, and we could actually not just do good things for our planet, help us avert greater disasters in the days going forward, we could actually create a lot of economic opportunity, a lot of jobs and we can do that and we can do both. We need to do that. We need to do that.

I yield the floor to my friend from Texas. I think I will sit here and hear what he has to say.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, while my friend, the Senator from Delaware, is on the floor, in Texas we are known for oil and gas production, but the truth is, and what I think we really should be known for, is for an “all of the above” energy policy.

We produce more electricity from wind turbines than any other State in the country, and that is a surprise to a number of people.

But one reason for an “all of the above” energy policy is that during the current hot spell we are experiencing in Texas—I think we have had over 33 days of over 100-degree temperatures in my hometown of Austin, TX. It is hot. Some might say: Well, of course it is hot. It is July in Texas. But what has happened, we have seen this phenomenon where the wind is not producing nearly as much electricity because it is not blowing as hard as it might otherwise do.

So, again, I think if we can encourage an “all of the above” energy policy, then different segments of the energy picture can fill in at different times and satisfy our overall need.

I thought while my friend was speaking on that topic I would just mention that interesting lesson that we have learned here recently in Texas.

CHIPS ACT

Mr. President, last night, the Senate moved forward on the CHIPS Act. As

colleagues have heard me talk about this before, this was actually filed in 2020.

Senator WARNER, the senior Senator from Virginia, a Democrat, and I, a Republican from Texas, introduced this bill more than 2 years ago.

The main concern was that our supply of microcircuits that run everything from our cell phones to our laptops, to F-35 Joint Strike Fighters—we depended on a vulnerable supply chain from Asia for those advanced semiconductors. The United States produces zero percent of the advanced semiconductors we need here in America.

And anybody who has tried to buy a car lately or even a washing machine or a laptop or a desktop computer knows that the supply chains of semiconductors, and thus these products, are severely constrained because our economy has taken off post-COVID-19, but the supply chains can't keep up with them and particularly the supply of these semiconductors. So that is why this bill is so important.

Over the last several days, I have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to craft a dramatically slimmed-down version of the competitiveness bill we passed here in the Senate last summer.

The final text of the bill was not released before the procedural vote last night, which was a point of frustration for a number of colleagues, and I can certainly understand. Here they are, asked to vote on a procedural vehicle to get on this bill, and they don't know exactly what the bill is going to look like. And that was the reason some of them decided to vote no against the motion to proceed. I completely understand that.

But our colleagues will have time to review this bill in the coming days, and I hope that support for this legislation will continue to grow. After all, it is a matter of our economic and national security.

The global semiconductor shortage has claimed a lot of attention over the last couple of years because of the impact it has had on consumers, but these aren't existential threats; these are inconveniences because of these constrained supply chains.

If, for example, there was another pandemic or a natural disaster or if, Heaven forbid, the People's Republic of China decided to forcibly unify with Taiwan, this could potentially block access to all of the advanced semiconductors that we need in America, and this would be a dramatic negative effect.

First of all, it would create almost instantaneously a recession here in America. Thousands of people would be put out of work. But what I want to focus on are the national security consequences.

When we send our troops on any mission—by air, land, sea, or cyber—we need the very best equipment and technology available. And now more than