

for our safety. All of this has been exacerbated by a global pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

We can't afford to wait any longer to bring manufacturing of computer chips back to the United States. The Senate will be voting on bipartisan legislation to bring computer chip manufacturing back to the U.S. and help existing manufacturers compete, creating thousands of new American jobs and enhancing both our economic and our national security.

We will also improve our supply chain, which will help businesses like Varian Medical Systems, and it will minimize the supply chain disruptions which will ultimately help lower prices for consumers. This bill will do so much more to spur innovation and invest in our American economy.

As the first and only former computer programmer to serve in the U.S. Senate, I am so excited about what this legislation will do for the future of American technology and innovation. It will establish a first-of-its-kind effort to accelerate our development of critical technologies, like artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and advanced manufacturing. We will invest heavily in STEM education and in our cybersecurity workforce. And it will help build regional technology hubs all across this country to spark innovation.

I am also so proud that this bill includes bipartisan provisions that I worked on in the committee that wrote the bulk of the legislation, which includes these: my bipartisan Rural STEM Education Act with Senator WICKER to increase access to quality STEM education for rural schools so it is accessible to all of our students no matter where they live. It also includes provisions I worked on with Senator BLACKBURN to support advanced manufacturing workforce development and a bipartisan amendment I introduced with Senator LUMMIS to develop a secure and reliable critical mineral supply chain.

This historic bipartisan legislation is just common sense. So let's build up our communities; let's strengthen America's competitiveness; let's invest in American innovation; let's lower prices for hard-working families; and let's bolster our domestic supply chain. Let's pass this critical piece of legislation now.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be able to speak for up to 15 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

INFLATION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, "our experts believe and the data shows that most of the price increases we've seen . . . [are] expected to be temporary"—that is what President Biden said 1 year ago this month, something his administration has repeatedly echoed.

Unfortunately, it long ago became clear that was wishful thinking on the President's part. Far from being temporary, inflation has become a fact of life in the Biden economy.

Last month, inflation hit its highest level yet under President Biden, climbing to 9.1 percent, the worst inflation in more than 40 years. The impact of inflation is being felt in every corner of our economy. Businesses of every size are dealing with the effects of inflation. Small businesses, of course, are being hit particularly hard. And 75 percent of small business owners report inflation has had a negative effect on the financial health of their business over the past 6 months. And 75 percent report that inflation pressures are getting worse.

It is not surprising. Everything from inputs to transportation to electricity has become more expensive in the Biden economy, and that has a huge impact on businesses' ability to pay their expenses and run their operations.

As one South Dakota business owner who wrote to me noted:

It makes it hard for me to grow my USA-made business when I don't have the funds to pay my employees more, add more benefits, purchase more machinery, and buy more material in buck as inflation continues to rise.

Farmers and ranchers in my State are also struggling. As of March, the price of fertilizer had risen to an astounding 162 percent since January 2021. The prices of two common herbicides have risen more than 50 percent since last year. And the price of diesel, which powers a lot of farming and ranching equipment, has doubled since President Biden took office. Farming and ranching are tough jobs already, often with tight margins and a lot of weather-related risks. Inflation is making things exponentially hard.

The list of inflation's impacts goes on. For example, last week I talked about how inflation is affecting our military, which is able to do less with the funds appropriated for it, thanks to soaring prices across the economy. That, in turn, can affect troop readiness and the military's ability to keep up with needed programs and purchases from weapons to vehicles to aircraft, and ships.

Of course, I haven't even yet mentioned the most basic impact of inflation and that is the misery faced by hard-working Americans who confront sky-high prices at the grocery store and the gas pump and wonder how they are going to feed their family this month or whether they will be able to afford to get to work.

Bloomberg reported last week that nearly 6 in 10 American workers are concerned that their paychecks won't stretch far enough to support themselves and their families. Another recent poll reported that 70 percent of Americans have had to cut back on other spending to afford necessities.

Life in the Biden economy is grim. At this point, how we got here is well-

established. One of the main reasons we are in the midst of this inflation crisis is Democrats' decision to pass a massive partisan \$1.9 trillion spending bill last March under the guise of COVID relief, despite the fact that Congress had just passed a fifth bipartisan COVID bill that met essentially all current pressing COVID needs. Democrats were warned that their bill would cause inflation; and they proceeded anyway. The so-called American Rescue Plan flooded the economy with unnecessary government money, and the economy overheated as a result.

So here we are with Americans struggling under the weight of the worst inflation in 40 years, and Democrats want to double down on the spending strategy that helped get us into this mess in the first place. That is right. Despite the fact that even Democrat economists have stated that the American Rescue Plan helped create our current inflation crisis, Democrats want to pass another massive government spending bill filled with excessive spending and tax hikes—a trillion dollars in tax hikes in recent discussions.

Apparently, Democrats are not content with spending us into an inflation crisis, they would also like to tax us into a recession. There is already reason to worry about the negative economic impacts of new climate measures the President is contemplating imposing, but on top of that, Democrats want to spend even more government money and impose a trillion dollars in tax hikes, a substantial part of which would fall on small businesses.

At this rate, there is no telling when our inflation crisis will end. Democrats are so committed to big spending that even if their legislation fails this time around, they are already planning to run on their big spending agenda in November.

I am not sure I would want to try to convince voters to elect me by touting the same spending strategy that helped land our country in this inflation crisis in the first place. But Democrats' belief in big spending is so deeply ingrained that it apparently can't be swayed even when they see the negative consequences.

It is incomprehensible that Democrats are contemplating doubling down on the spending strategy that helped get us in this mess in the first place. The first spending spree has been a disaster for our country, and I can only imagine how much Americans would suffer from their next one.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the scheduled 11 o'clock vote.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair

lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4346, a bill making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, with amendment No. 5135.

Charles E. Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Ben Ray Lujan, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, John W. Hickenlooper, Mazie Hirono, Mark R. Warner, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4346, a bill making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, with amendment No. 5135, offered by the Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER], shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 64, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 268 Leg.]

YEAS—64

Baldwin	Graham	Reed
Bennet	Hagerty	Romney
Blumenthal	Hassan	Rosen
Blunt	Heinrich	Sasse
Booker	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Brown	Hirono	Schumer
Burr	Kaine	Shaheen
Cantwell	Kelly	Sinema
Capito	King	Smith
Cardin	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Markey	Tillis
Cassidy	McConnell	Van Hollen
Collins	Menendez	Warner
Coons	Merkley	Warnock
Cornyn	Moran	Warren
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Whitehouse
Daines	Murray	Wicker
Duckworth	Ossoff	Wyden
Durbin	Padilla	Peters
Feinstein	Peters	Young
Gillibrand	Portman	

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Cotton	Ernst
Blackburn	Cramer	Fischer
Boozman	Crapo	Grassley
Braun	Cruz	Hoeben

Hyde-Smith	Marshall	Scott (SC)
Inhofe	Paul	Shelby
Johnson	Risch	Sullivan
Kennedy	Rounds	Thune
Lankford	Rubio	Toomey
Lee	Sanders	Tuberville
Lummis	Scott (FL)	

NOT VOTING—4

Hawley	Manchin
Leahy	Murkowski

(Mr. PADILLA assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJAN). On this vote, the yeas are 64, the nays are 32.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion is agreed to.

CHIPS ACT OF 2022—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 4346, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 4346, a bill making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Schumer amendment No. 5135 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment), relating to the CHIPS Act of 2022.

Schumer amendment No. 5136 (to amendment No. 5135), to add an effective date.

Schumer motion to refer the bill to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 5137, to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 5138 (to the instructions) amendment No. 5137), to modify the effective date.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the motion to refer and the amendments pending thereto fall.

The Senator from Wyoming.

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the Biden energy crisis that is affecting our country.

Now, Joe Biden has been threatening to declare a climate emergency. Democrats from New England, Members of this body, have been practically begging him to do so. They actually went to Massachusetts with him last week to try to twist his arm.

Democrats say this would give Joe Biden even more legal authority to restrict American energy. So that is what the Democrats want these days: less American energy—more expensive American energy, less American energy, and more power for Joe Biden.

Well, I have got bad news for the Democrats. The Supreme Court has ruled very recently, less than a month ago, that energy regulation requires "clear congressional authorization."

Congress writes the laws. It is the President who is just supposed to carry out the laws that are written by Congress. The President doesn't have the

authority to just do whatever he wants by saying we have a climate crisis and then calling it an emergency. But Democrats are far too eager to give more and more of the Senate's power to the least popular President in the last 70 years.

Democrats say we have a crisis right now. Well, they are right about the fact that we have a crisis. We have a lot of crises in this country, and they are crises because of Joe Biden and because of the Democrats and the policies of this administration. We have an energy crisis. We have an inflation crisis. We have a crisis at the southern border. We have a crisis of crime in the cities. And as we come to the end of another month, millions of families are facing a crisis at home trying to pay their bills. The result is that Democrats have a crisis too. It is a crisis in the White House and in the party, a crisis of competence and a crisis of credibility.

Two-thirds of Americans say that this President and the Democrats are focusing on the wrong things. There was a poll last week in the New York Times. It showed that only 1 percent of Americans—1 percent—say climate change is their No. 1 priority. Now, that is of all people. What about Democrats? Only 3 percent of Democrats say that the idea of what the President is focusing on and trying to declare an emergency on, a national emergency—only 3 percent of Democrats say it is their top priority. What about the young people, the people who the Democrats always say: We appeal to the young people? Only 3 percent of people under the age of 30, voters under the age of 30, say that climate is their No. 1 concern.

The numbers are astonishing, and the President continues to ignore it. Working families aren't thinking about what the White House is calling the liberal world order, which is why the President wants to declare a climate crisis. Working families are trying to balance their checkbooks, trying to make it to the end of the month with some money left over to pay the bills.

People say: What do families want? I know, in my home State of Wyoming, I talk to families at the grocery on Sunday, traveling the State Saturday. We had folks all around the State coming together for Frontier Days in Cheyenne. People want to be able to pay for a full tank of gas. They want to be able to go to the grocery store and buy groceries for a week. And they want to have money left over at the end of the month—and the end of the month is coming—to pay their bills. That is all they are asking. Under this administration, they have been falling further and further behind, and it is becoming almost impossible to do those three simple things.

A survey from Bloomberg last week found that 60 percent of workers say they are worried that they can't support their family. They were doing it beforehand, but they can't do it now.