

cartels are more emboldened than ever to send as many deadly drugs as possible to the border because they know they can take advantage of the crisis that has been unfolding here for 2 years. Just in the past week, officers have seized \$211,000 worth of cocaine and \$2.3 million worth of meth coming across the Texas border—and 187 pounds of fentanyl pills hidden in a vehicle in one single bust in Arizona. To put that in perspective, that is enough fentanyl to kill more than 42 million people, nearly 10 times the population of my State of Alabama.

And that is what our Border Patrol agents have stopped. Imagine what has gone undetected through this new open-border policy. More than 71,000 Americans died so far this year of fentanyl overdoses—71,000. That is 195 people a day in this country who are dying because we refuse to stop the fentanyl from coming into our country.

And, along with that, the drug cartels are becoming more and more rich and more and more compelled to do exactly what they want to do. It is yet another problem Democrats refuse to discuss or address out of fear of backlash from the radical, open-bordered ideologues running this administration and its immigration policy. Somebody has got to control this. One day we will find out.

But Democrats are quick to call out the problem when it ends up on their front porch. Mayors in New York, Chicago, and right here in DC have cried foul and even declared an emergency when the border crisis was delivered here to this city and others. They have no problem ignoring, excusing, and misrepresenting the facts of the crisis when it is hitting small towns far away in Texas, Arizona, and their southern neighbors, but when those illegal immigrants streaming across the border become problems of theirs, they suddenly see an emergency. But whom do they blame? Obviously, it is the Republicans, not the leader of their party.

President Biden has created this mess. They blame local and State leaders who are drowning in a humanitarian crisis that the Democrats are making every day and refusing to stop. Even as news reports how his own DHS planned to ship illegal immigrants to sanctuary cities across the country, President Biden condemns Republican leaders for doing the same. It is hypocrisy at its highest degree.

What is worse is their refusal to fix the problem, even though they are well aware of the steps that could be taken to secure the border. First and foremost, finish the wall that they have stopped building. Although the wall itself will not solve everything, it could certainly help address the number of people who get away—a number averaging 1,000 per week in some locations.

Secondly, fully reinstate the wildly successful migrant protection protocols which require individuals awaiting asylum proceedings to wait in Mexico—

not come over into the United States and wait; wait in Mexico, and let's go through your process. If people know they will not be allowed into the United States, they will not make the journey to our border knowing that they will have to wait. As of last week, we had accepted into this country people from 180 different countries. That is a long travel if you know that you may not get in.

And, lastly, Democrats could do a much better job of supporting law enforcement to address human smuggling and trafficking efforts at the border. As long as the border is wide open, cartels will take advantage of the situation. They are making billions of dollars a year by moving people and drugs into the United States, and it is getting worse every day.

Americans are dying. Cities are being overrun. Criminals are getting rich. Those are the consequences of President Biden's border crisis. Those are the problems that our Democratic colleagues have to fix.

While President Biden and Democrats celebrate the White House with celebrities, Americans are suffering because of these failures—most notably, their inability and unwillingness to keep our country safe.

So here is to the Democrats' record-breaking year: record inflation, record crime, record drugs, record-shattering illegal immigration. We can only hope they run out of things to celebrate in the very near future.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

#### SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, we have a 50–50 Senate, with 50 Republicans and 50 Democrats. Vice President HARRIS provides the Democrats with our majority. The House of Representatives has a very slim Democratic majority: currently, 221 to 212, with 2 vacancies.

When the 117th Congress began, I think most Americans were doubtful that we would be able to pass legislation to help them, their families, their communities, and our Nation. I am happy to report that, despite the odds, the 117th Congress has been a historically productive Congress. This is not a statement I make lightly, nor did I predict this many legislative accomplishments when we began the 117th Congress in January of 2021.

I knew America's doubts, but I also shared their fervent hope that Congress would somehow find a way to beat the odds. And we have, sending numerous major bills to President Biden to be signed into law. Some of our accomplishments have been genuinely bipartisan, especially the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the so-called CHIPS and Science bill. That is gratifying because I believe that Congress, especially the Senate, is at its best when it works in a bipartisan fashion.

Some of our accomplishments have been solely Democratic victories; notably, the American Rescue Plan and the Inflation Reduction Act. I regret that we were unable to convince our Republican colleagues to join us on those bills because they advanced public policies and enjoyed broad bipartisan support among the American people. Democrats will always reach across the aisle to pass legislation that enhances our national and economic security, but we are prepared to work alone, if necessary.

Our most recent accomplishment is the Inflation Reduction Act. The Senate passed this legislation just before the August recess on a party-line vote. That legislation will make it easier for American families to afford health insurance and help seniors with prescription drug costs. Extending the Affordable Care Act enhanced health insurance premium subsidies through 2025—just this one provision of this bill—and will save medium-income Marylander families about \$2,200 annually.

For tens of thousands of Marylanders on Medicare who use insulin, the Inflation Reduction Act caps their insulin costs at \$35 per month. We tried to extend that cap to Americans with private insurance. Our Republican colleagues blocked this effort, but Democrats will continue working to make that a reality.

For the more than 1 million Marylanders and all other Americans covered by Medicare, the Secretary of Health and Human Services finally will have the authority to negotiate lower drug prices for the Medicare Program. This will help ensure that Medicare patients get the best deal possible on high-priced drugs, saving taxpayers approximately \$100 billion.

The healthcare provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act are significant, but they are only part of the bill. The legislation makes a historic investment to shift our economy from fossil fuels to clean energy. This will help us cut our carbon emissions 40 percent by 2030. The Inflation Reduction Act will lower electricity costs and emissions and will create up to 9 million good-paying jobs here in America in the growing clean energy sector.

I authored a provision in the legislation to provide production tax credits to our existing fleet of nuclear powerplants. They produce 20 percent of the Nation's electricity and over 50 percent of its carbon-free electricity.

A new analysis estimates that this legislation will lower the average household electricity bill by approximately \$170 to \$220 annually over the next decade. Maryland homeowners will be eligible for tax credits for residential solar, wind, geothermal, and biomass fuel improvements now through 2034. They also will be eligible for a larger tax credit for energy efficiency home improvements through 2032, as well as tax credits for the purchase of new and used clean energy vehicles, including electric vehicles.

Maryland farmers will see tangible benefits from the more than \$20 billion of funds included for climate-smart agricultural practices through existing farm bill conservation programs, including the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and Natural Resources Conservation Service technical assistance for reducers. These are very valuable programs for Maryland farmers who are meeting their obligations in regard to the Chesapeake Bay Program.

The Inflation Reduction Act also bolsters resilience programs to help Maryland communities prepare for extreme storms and other changing climate conditions. We live in a coastal State so Marylanders fully understand the need to address climate change, cut greenhouse gas pollution, and protect the Chesapeake Bay. Our State and local governments will be eligible for new and expanded grant programs to improve public health, decrease pollution, increase climate resiliency, and promote environmental equity.

The legislation pays for these smart investments while reducing the deficit and without raising taxes on working families and small businesses. In fact, according to a nonpartisan analysis, many working families may actually see lower taxes on a net basis over the next couple of years as a result of the legislation.

This legislation and its targeted investments aimed at lowering costs for American families is only one of a string of positive accomplishments that we have been able to do in this Congress, coordinating with President Biden. Other major legislation in the 117th Congress includes the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act, which will make America more competitive by bringing home domestic production of semiconductors and investing in innovation and science; the bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act, known as the PACT Act, which provides healthcare benefits for all generations of toxic-exposed veterans for the first time in our Nation's history and will improve access to care for all our veterans—promises made, promises kept; the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which is the first major gun safety legislation Congress has approved in decades; the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, one of the biggest, most comprehensive Federal commitments to repairing and modernizing our Nation's infrastructure in modern history; the Keep Kids Fed Act, which the Senate passed unanimously, that extended essential funding for schools, daycare providers, and communities to ensure healthy meals for children throughout the school year and summer; and the American Rescue Plan Act, which Democrats passed in March of 2021 to provide billions of dollars in relief to help Americans recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We have done all this, and we are reducing the deficit by \$2 trillion.

Let me talk a little bit about the CHIPS and Science Act. Semiconductors are crucial to nearly every sector of our economy. They are in our cars, our trucks, medical devices, 5G telecommunications equipment, and the list goes on and on and on. America created the semiconductor industry in the 1960s. We ceded the global leadership in the seventies. We regained it, to an extent, in the nineties but have lost it again. In 1990, the U.S. share of semiconductor manufacturing was 37 percent. By 2020, that share had declined to 12 percent.

The CHIPS and Science Act gets the United States back on track with respect to domestic semiconductor manufacturing, which is crucial for our national and economic security. This is a national security issue that provides \$54 billion in grants to domestic manufacturers and another \$24 billion in tax credits through the Creating Helpful Incentives to Produce Semiconductors for America Fund.

The substitute amendment also authorizes \$102 billion over the next 5 years for the National Science Foundation, the Department of Commerce, and the National Institute of Standards and Technology—a \$52 billion increase over the Congressional Budget Office baseline.

These funds will be a shot in the arm for domestic manufacturing. Here is a list of some firms that plan to use the funding to expand or establish manufacturing facilities right here in the United States: Intel and TSMC plan to build factories in Ohio and Arizona; GlobalFoundries wants to expand a facility in Upstate New York; SkyWater Technology and Purdue University want to collaborate on a new \$1.8 billion factory and research facility in West Lafayette, IN; IBM and State University of New York at Albany want to establish a semiconductor research center in Albany. And the list goes on and on and on. We are preparing for America to continue to lead in manufacturing, particularly high-tech manufacturing.

I also want to highlight the science provisions in the bill. It authorizes \$20 billion to the first-of-its-kind NSF Directorate of Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, which will accelerate domestic development of critical national and economic security technologies such as artificial intelligence, quantum computing, advanced manufacturing, 6G communications, energy, and material science. We are going to be the leaders in these areas. We should be.

It authorizes \$9 billion—\$4 billion over CBO baseline for several National Institutes of Science and Technology programs, including tripling of funding for the Manufacturing Extension Program, leveraging that program to create a National Supply Chain Database, which will assist businesses with supplier scouting and minimize supply chain disruptions; and with NASA, the Artemis Program to return Americans

to the Moon as a prelude to sending humans to Mars is fully authorized and funded.

The science provisions in this bill also extend the International Space Station through 2030 and support a balanced science portfolio, including Earth science observations and continued development of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope. We are the leaders of the space telescope. I am proud of all the work that is done in my State of Maryland and the images that we see from outer space.

The provisions codify the Planetary Defense Coordination Office and requires NASA to continue efforts to protect Earth from asteroids and comets. In this regard, this Monday, the Double Asteroid Redirection Test—a Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab mission—will deliberately crash a probe into a “moon” of a double asteroid to shift its orbit.

It is amazing that we can do this. We are the leaders in science, and we are making sure we are going to be the leaders in science and in space moving forward.

I introduced the Cleaner, Quieter Airplanes Act in the previous Congress and again in this Congress, and I am pleased the CHIPS and Science bill directs NASA to continue research in aeronautics, including the use of experimental aircraft to advance aircraft efficiency and supersonic flight.

The PACT Act, in addition to providing the historic relief to toxic-exposed veterans, boosts claims processing; bolsters the Veterans' Administration's workforce; and invests in VA healthcare facilities nationwide to ensure the Agency can meet the immediate and future needs of every veteran it serves, including the 300,000-plus veterans who live in the State of Maryland. I will tell you, it provides for improvements to the community health centers in Prince George's and Baltimore City for our veterans.

The Safer Communities Act closes loopholes that allowed convicted domestic violence abusers to buy firearms legally. It boosts funding for community violence intervention and prevention initiatives, and it provides hundreds of millions of dollars in funding to improve and expand mental healthcare.

On the bipartisan infrastructure package, funding is flowing right now to improve Maryland's transit, ports, roads, and bridges; expand broadband availability; and fix our aging drinking water and wastewater system. The bill provides \$17 billion in port infrastructure and waterways. Congestion in American ports was a key factor in the disruption of the global supply chain. Expanding and modernizing port infrastructure will help ensure that American manufacturers and producers can move their goods to markets around the world. The bill also invests \$25 billion in our airports. Modernizing our airport infrastructure will help keep people and products moving around the country and the world.

I am particularly pleased the legislation includes \$238 million for the Chesapeake Bay Program. The bill also includes my bipartisan legislation to make permanent and expand the Minority Business Development Agency, which is the only Federal Agency dedicated to supporting minority-owned businesses.

The American Rescue Plan provides tens of billions of dollars to support vaccination and COVID-19 testing, driving down the death rate from the virus by 90 percent. The bill also invested in hard-hit communities and brought concrete relief to the Nation at a time of great need. I was especially proud of the investments we made to help save so many small businesses throughout Maryland and the Nation.

From the American Rescue Plan to the Inflation Reduction Act, and everything in between, these and other legislative accomplishments have helped address important needs across Maryland and our Nation.

At the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic, over 20 million Americans had lost their jobs. And the unemployment rate rose to 14.7 percent in April of 2020. The number of employed Americans now exceeds the prepandemic high—the second fastest job market recovery since 1981. The number of Americans working is at an alltime high. And the unemployment rate has dropped a half-century low of 3.5 percent.

Since President Biden assumed office, the economy added nearly 700,000 new manufacturing jobs. This represents the strongest manufacturing job growth since the 1950s. Manufacturing job growth in 2021 alone exceeded any other single year going back nearly 30 years.

Over the past year, the construction and new manufacturing facilities in the United States has grown by an estimated 116 percent. In recent surveys, the CEOs, 80 percent were either in the process of moving manufacturing operations back to the United States from China or were considering doing just that.

While unemployment continues at historic lows and gas prices are declining rapidly, we are still facing challenges. Food prices, rent, and other costs are still too high. The Federal Reserve has had to raise interest rates, which is painful for families and businesses alike. Most mainstream economists believe that we can avoid a recession and the economy will have a soft landing despite the supply chain challenges we continue to face because of COVID and Russia's war in Ukraine. This would be a truly historic accomplishment.

President Kennedy said:

Our responsibility is one of decision, for to govern is to choose.

Our legislative achievements over the last 20 months demonstrate that Congress can be productive and the Federal Government is a powerful force for good.

I hope we choose to remain on that path—Democrats and Republicans alike—because there is still so much we can do and need to do to help the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

#### ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND SECURITY ACT

Mr. Kaine. Madam President, I rise to talk about a piece of legislation that was announced last night by a very close friend of mine, Senator MANCHIN of West Virginia—the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2022. Senator MANCHIN and I were Governors together, and we sit next to each other on the Senate floor. And we are often in agreement. And on this particular bill—it is 91 pages long, and there are 24 sections—we are in agreement on 23 of the 24 sections and 86 of the 91 pages.

I want to talk about the permitting reform provisions in the bill that I support, but then I want to point out significant concerns with section 24 of the bill that is sort of an anti-permitting reform bill. It would take one project that is in my State, the Mountain Valley Pipeline, out of permitting processes, out of judicial review, and have Congress put our thumb on the scale, advancing the project immune from the normal permitting process and judicial review.

I would like to start by saying I am a strong supporter of American energy independence, and I applaud the efforts of my colleague Senator MANCHIN to do the same.

I voted with a number of Senators a few years ago to end the ban on export of crude oil from the United States. And I have strongly supported liquefied natural gas exports to help nations around the world wean themselves off of energy dependence on dictators like Vladimir Putin.

I also firmly believe in the need for permitting reform. The heart of the Energy Independence and Security Act is a recognition that permitting for energy transmission and other projects in this country is essentially broken; that it takes too long. It is too inconsistent.

I filed my first permitting reform bill in 2017 as a recognition of the fact that natural gas pipelines proposed in Virginia were running into very significant challenges, in particular. These pipeline programs require the use of eminent domain. So you are taking people's property to build these pipeline projects. And if the government is going to take people's property, we ought to have a process that is fair.

But what I heard from my constituents in Virginia is that they were being ignored; that there was inadequate public hearing. The hearings were scheduled hundreds of miles apart, far away from the landowners themselves. They would get to the public hearings and people had presigned up, often encouraged by the pipeline proponent so

that the actual landowners never got a chance to speak. And when they did get to speak, their input wasn't being taken seriously.

So, in 2017, I introduced my first permitting reform bill to deal exactly with some of the same kinds of issues that Senator MANCHIN has included in the Energy Independence and Security Act.

So I am here to say, I am all for permitting reform. I am all for permitting reform. And I believe that there is a bipartisan majority—indeed, a supermajority in this body—that were we to undertake this in regular order, we could come up with a permitting reform bill that, together with the infrastructure bill that we did and the Inflation Reduction Act that we did, will help us power forward American innovation, especially in leading the world in clean energy.

So that is 86 pages of the bill. And I strongly approve of the bill. The legislation that I introduced in 2017 isn't in it. I would like to get it added in. But even if it weren't added in, there is enough good in this bill for me to support it.

But what I want to talk about with an equal degree of passion is my strong opposition to section 24 of the bill, dealing with the Mountain Valley Pipeline.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline is a 304-mile natural gas pipeline in West Virginia and Virginia. About two-thirds of it is in West Virginia and one-third is in Virginia. The pipeline is proposed to withdraw natural gas from the Marcellus shale—one of the great American reserves of natural gas—and then transmit that gas first through West Virginia and then Virginia where it could hook up with other pipelines to be distributed around the country or to ports where it could be liquefied and potentially sold overseas.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline has had a star-crossed history in recent years. It has had multiple Federal authorizations vacated. It has accrued over 350 violations of water quality-related protections, both in Virginia and in West Virginia. And it currently lacks several necessary Federal authorizations to continue construction.

My constituents in Virginia have complained significantly about workmanship problems in the Mountain Valley Pipeline. And work on the pipeline has been stopped by State agencies because of slipshod quality that damages water and that damages people's property.

I am not opposed to the Mountain Valley Pipeline. I don't think Congress should be in the business of approving pipelines or rejecting them.

Madam President, you were an attorney general dealing with eminent domain. We generally don't let legislative bodies decide whose property is going to get taken.

Eminent domain matters are usually for courts and administrative agencies. So as the Mountain Valley Pipeline has