

they want when determining what companies they do business with and where they will invest, but the Federal Government should not be making those decisions for them.

The President and his cronies and the far-left environmental movement may like the idea of choking off investment to the fossil fuel industry and other industries to hasten the arrival of their fantasy Green New Deal future, but reducing and limiting investment in conventional energy and other essential industries is likely to create a nightmare for American families and American businesses.

I am, and have long been, a strong supporter of alternative energy, but the fact of the matter is, we are still a long way from being able to rely exclusively on alternative energy. The technology that would enable us to rely solely on green energy simply doesn't exist yet, and pretending that we can rely exclusively on alternative energy isn't going to change the reality, which is that we still need oil and natural gas and will continue to need them for the foreseeable future.

Choking off investment to the conventional energy industry isn't going to bring about the Green New Deal future, but it is going to reduce essential energy supplies, and that, in turn, is going to increase energy prices. It is going to increase energy prices for American families, and it is going to increase energy prices for American businesses.

If Democrats succeed in reducing investment in oil and natural gas, we could be looking at a very serious reduction in our supply of conventional energy and correspondingly serious price hikes.

There is reason to be concerned that Democrats aren't just interested in choking off investment in oil and natural gas but in agriculture, as well, because of natural livestock emissions and farming inputs like fertilizer. The National Credit Union Administration published a since-rescinded strategic plan that seemed to recommend that credit unions reduce their membership and loan offerings to farming communities. And South Dakota banks and credit unions have repeatedly—repeatedly—expressed their concerns to my office that the President's far-reaching ESG agenda could ultimately damage their ability to extend capital to their farm and ranch customers.

Should investment in agriculture also drop off, we could be looking not only at higher energy prices but at higher food prices as well and possibly actual food supply issues. Between higher energy prices and higher food prices, the kind of financial hardship that Americans have been experiencing during our current inflation crisis could become a fixture for the long term.

Democrats like to think of themselves as the party of the little guy, but the truth is, they have become the party of extreme special interests, and

the little guy often ends up getting sacrificed as a result. Since President Biden and Democrats took office 2 years ago, ordinary Americans have faced almost nonstop financial challenges thanks to the inflation crisis that Democrats helped to create with their massive American Rescue Plan spending bill. If the President's ESG agenda continues unchecked, that diminished prosperity could last indefinitely.

In the letter that I am sending to the President later today, I am urging his administration to consider the real-world effects of rules and regulations on ordinary families and American businesses, and to refrain from regulatory actions that would drive up prices even further. I hope that the President will listen, but if past is prologue, then I am worried that we are looking at 2 more years of extreme Democratic policies and 2 more years of economic suffering for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

TWITTER AND THE 2020 ELECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Last Friday, Elon Musk released documents and very good information relating to Twitter's interference in the 2020 Presidential election by censoring the New York Post Hunter Biden reporting. Just yesterday, Musk reportedly fired Twitter's general counsel, Jim Baker, for his involvement in the censorship scandal. Baker, you might remember, was general counsel at the FBI and was involved in the Crossfire Hurricane investigation.

You can't make up these stories.

Musk also released information that showed that the Biden campaign was involved in the censorship efforts. The information shows that Twitter employees knew—actually knew—that they had no legitimate basis to censor the Hunter Biden reporting but proceeded to do it anyway. Twitter also removed links and blocked the reporting from being shared by direct messaging on its platform. Folks that fought the good fight against Twitter's extraordinary censorship were also locked out of their accounts.

These documents that Musk made public made very clear that Twitter was effectively an arm of the Democratic Party and the Biden campaign. Twitter essentially gave the Biden campaign a massive in-kind campaign contribution.

What Twitter and other big tech companies did in 2020 with respect to censorship was as much an outrage then as it is today. Simply put, what they did is expected of communist China, not the United States of America.

Reports also indicate that the FBI warned Twitter during weekly meetings before the 2020 election that hack-and-leak operations involving Hunter Biden material were likely to occur in October of 2020. Well, the FBI had the

Hunter Biden laptop since December of 2019, almost a year before the election.

Information on it has been verified by liberal news outlets. It took a long time for those liberal news outlets to admit that this wasn't Russian disinformation.

So, then, I ask this question: Did the FBI do the same or did they fail to do their due diligence?

I find the FBI's action in advance of the 2020 election to be more than suspicious. It is too bad that just now, 2 years later, we get this information from a person that bought Twitter and wants the public to know what actually went on.

Now, some of you remember that Senator JOHNSON and I released our first report on the Biden family connections to communist China on September 23, 6 weeks before the 2020 election. And you know, if you remember, at that time it was swept up into the Hunter Biden censorship fiasco not long after. So, too, was our second report, which we released on November 18, 2020.

But we were more than just censored. Before we even made the first report public, the liberal media and even some of our Democratic colleagues tried to smear us with false claims that our work was connected to you know what—Russian disinformation. My Senate colleagues went into full Joe Biden protection mode.

So here we have four elements to this fact pattern that ought to shake up every Member of the U.S. Senate and shake them up to their very core. No. 1, the FBI got their hands on Twitter via these weekly briefings—the weekly briefings that I have already expressed existed—and planted seeds regarding future hacked material relating to Hunter Biden. No. 2, the FBI improperly labeled information it possessed on Hunter Biden as you know what—disinformation. No. 3, the FBI provided an unnecessary August 2020 briefing to me and Senator JOHNSON that was used by some Democrats and by the liberal media to try to undermine our investigation that started well before the 2020 election. No. 4, the liberal media repeatedly and falsely labeled my and Senator JOHNSON's investigation as you know what—Russia disinformation.

Now, all of that happened in the runup to the 2020 Presidential election.

In the long run, these false allegations and bad faith efforts against me and Senator JOHNSON didn't work, as everybody knows now but didn't know at the time.

For example, in this Congress, Senator JOHNSON and I gave floor speeches on these dates in 2022: March 28, March 29, and April 5. Through those speeches, we introduced bank records connecting Hunter and James Biden to the Chinese communist regime. We sent hundreds of pages of bank records to U.S. Attorney Weiss on October 26 of this year, showing those very same connections—the same connections that Johnson and

I made in our 2020 report. These are authentic bank records. They aren't Russian disinformation.

President Biden still owes the American people answers about his connections to Hunter and James Biden's business deals and arrangements. He owes the American people an explanation as to how much he knew about their businesses and personal relationships with communist China.

On October 13 of this year, I wrote to the FBI telling them that I know it possesses documents that indicate Joe Biden was aware of Hunter Biden's business arrangements and may have been involved in some.

In conclusion, since Senator JOHNSON and I began our Biden investigation August 2019—now, remember, 14 months before the 2020 election—now, after all that, our work has been substantiated. Big Tech censorship may have succeeded in the short term; however, the truth eventually sees the light of day. And I thank the new Twitter owner for his transparency. Accountability should follow.

NOMINATION OF ROBERT P. STORCH

Mr. President, on another short point I want to make, I want to congratulate our Senate colleagues on confirming Rob Storch to be the new Department of Defense inspector general. This happened last week. The DOD Office of Inspector General has been without a Senate-confirmed IG for almost 7 years, and we all know that is far too long.

Inspectors general play a key role in watchdogging the executive branch. They act as force multipliers for Congress through our constitutional responsibility of congressional oversight.

Inspectors general must hold government bureaucrats accountable with hard-hitting findings and recommendations. They must remain on the attack to root out waste, fraud, and abuse. The Department of Defense has an annual budget of over \$700 billion. It is high time that we have an IG confirmed that is accountable to Congress to watchdog this money.

The Department of Defense inspector general must now hit the ground running in conducting effective and efficient oversight over the waste, fraud, and abuse that happens at the Department of Defense.

I, along with my colleagues, expect the Department of Defense inspector general to be an inspector general who has teeth, unafraid to identify wrongdoing. And we will expect him to call out those who seek to get rich off the backs of hard-working American taxpayers as well as those who put our Nation at risk.

I expect Mr. Storch to be that watchdog. I also expect him to work with Congress to conduct oversight in areas of congressional interest and be responsive to requests for information that any Member of Congress seeks.

Transparency is key, and being responsive and accountable to Congress will be crucial to his success. I look

forward to working with Mr. Storch in his new role as Department of Defense IG.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that I complete my remarks—I think they will be concluded by 11:30—but that I be allowed to go a minute or two over before the rollcall.

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

REMEMBERING O'DELL OWENS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. O'Dell Owens, a champion of public health and public education in Cincinnati whom we lost last month. He was a longtime friend, longtime activist, longtime Ohioan, a public servant, and a trailblazer.

Dr. Owens' story and his unwavering dedication to the public good serves as an example for all us in Southwest Ohio, throughout Ohio, throughout the Midwest, and throughout the country. So much of his work was aimed at empowering young people of color and encouraging them to recognize their potential by staying in school and attending college.

He often shared a memory from his year as a ninth grader. A college counselor said he was "too poor and too dumb to go to college." Imagine a counselor saying that. Dr. Owens proved that counselor and everyone who didn't believe in him—he proved them wrong. He graduated from college; he got a masters and a medical degree from Yale University. He completed his fellowship at Harvard Medical School.

After gathering degrees and credentials that provided him with opportunities anywhere in the world, Dr. Owens returned to his home in Cincinnati where he spent his career serving his community. He was a pioneering fertility specialist at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. He became the first African American to hold office in Hamilton County when he was elected the county coroner.

He served as president of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. That is where I worked with him the most closely. He served as the Hamilton County interim health commissioner and as president of the non-profit Interact for Health.

His work always came back to his community and extended far outside of medicine. He sat on the boards of various organizations and foundations, including the University of Cincinnati, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center—the only one of its kind in America. It is an extraordinary place. Anyone anywhere in the vicinity of my part of the Midwest should visit it—and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's Cincinnati Business Advisory Council.

He was chairman of the Cincinnati Preschool Promise. He volunteered as chair of the annual children's Cin-

cinnati Educational Television Action Auction in support of Cincinnati's public television programming.

Dr. Owens empowered each of us to make the world a better place, and he so succeeded. He reached out to me and my office to make sure we were paying close attention to issues impacting people in Cincinnati.

He was a very talented speaker known for his passionate delivery—always, always standing up for what he believed in. He was well-respected. He was dearly loved throughout our State for his courage and—what I would like most to think about—his moral clarity.

He took care of Cincinnati. I join our entire community in expressing gratitude for his lifetime of service. Today we recommit to his example.

Our thoughts are with the Owens family and with all those who knew and loved him.

REMEMBERING JULIA REICHERT

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Julia Reichert, an award-winning filmmaker, activist, and Ohioan whom we lost last week.

Julia was born in New Jersey, but she moved to Yellow Springs, OH, in Greene County to attend Antioch College where her interests in activism and storytelling emerged—interests that led her to become a strong, well-known voice for working Americans.

During her time at Antioch, she combined her passions by hosting a feminist program on the campus radio station and making "Growing up Female," a groundbreaking feminist documentary that explored the socialization of women. Decades later, it would be added to the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress.

After college, Julia made Dayton her home as her work gained national attention. Her documentaries "Union Maids"—M-A-I-D-S—which followed women active in the Chicago labor movement, and "Seeing Red" were both nominated for Academy Awards.

Her 2010 film "The Last Truck" followed the workers at a GM plant in Moraine, OH, as they built their final truck and the plant closed down. The film became the prologue for her Academy Award-winning documentary "American Factory," which focused on the next chapter of that GM plant after a Chinese company bought it.

In "American Factory," Julia took a global story; she made it local; she made it understandable; and she made it very popular. She gave a voice to the workers and the communities overlooked by the headlines, which happens all too often with a plant closing.

In her films and documentaries, as she explored feminism and family, labor and politics, globalism and the economy, she took these big ideas and showed what they meant on a human level. Julia had a unique ability—an extraordinary ability—to connect with all kinds of people and tell their stories in respectful, empathetic, and understandable ways.