

nominees currently being blocked by the Senator from Alabama. This resolution was referred to the Rules Committee, and, when the time comes, I will bring it to the floor of the Senate for consideration. If we can't solve this problem another way, we will all have to vote to move these nominees forward.

We will work with our Republican colleagues in good faith to move this resolution forward because most of us want these holds on our military leaders to come to an end quickly. Our military deserves better. Our service members deserve better. Their spouses and their kids and their entire families deserve better. These holds must not continue. We will work to move this resolution, and I hope to see bipartisan support so we can finally get these hundreds of nominees appointed to their posts.

In the meantime, the Senate will move forward on three critical senior military nominees here on the floor. We will vote to confirm the nomination of Lieutenant General Mahoney to be the second in command at the U.S. Marine Corps. As I mentioned, Lieutenant General Mahoney's confirmation has become a top priority for the Senate after the Commandant of the Marines, Gen. Eric Smith, was unexpectedly hospitalized after a serious medical emergency. We pray for the General's recovery and for his family.

We will also vote to confirm ADM Lisa Franchetti to be the next Chief of Naval Operations. Admiral Franchetti's confirmation will mark a significant milestone in our military's history. Once confirmed, Admiral Franchetti will be the first woman ever to lead the U.S. Navy.

I am proud to say she is a Rochester, NY, native, and a graduate of Pittsford Mendon High School.

Admiral Franchetti is an exceptional leader with a distinguished career serving our Nation. I am confident she has the experience, the skills, and the vision to succeed as the U.S. Navy's top officer.

Finally, we will vote to confirm the nomination of Gen. David Allvin to be Chief of Staff of the U.S. Air Force.

Both parties must work together—work together—to ensure that our military is fully staffed and fully equipped to defend the American people at any time, but particularly at this time of crisis, and that begins by confirming these vital nominations today.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. President, now on the supplemental, today, the House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on the GOP's unserious and woefully inadequate aid package. By now, it is glaringly apparent that the House aid package is even worse—worse—than what people originally thought because, yesterday, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office reported that the House Republican package will add over \$12 billion to the budget deficit.

Now, Speaker Johnson said he wanted a pay-for. He insists that emergency funding for Israel has to be paid for, when we usually don't pay for emergency funding. But the hypocrisy here is that, by cutting funding to go after tax cheats, he will actually explode the deficit by billions and billions of dollars—what a joke.

I am glad that the President issued a veto threat over this stunningly unserious proposal. Unserious at a time of crisis like this? From the House GOP leader?

The Senate will not be considering this deeply flawed proposal from the House GOP, and, instead, we will work together on our own bipartisan emergency aid package that includes aid to Israel, Ukraine, competition with the Chinese Government, and humanitarian aid for Gaza, so much needed.

Let me say that again. The Senate will not take up the House GOP's deeply flawed proposal and, instead, will work on our own bipartisan emergency aid package that includes aid to Israel, Ukraine, competition with the Chinese Government, and humanitarian aid for Gaza.

It still mystifies me that at a moment when the world is in crisis, at a time when we need to help Israel respond to Hamas, the House GOP thought it was a good idea to tie Israel aid to a hard-right proposal that will raise the deficit and is totally, totally partisan, and all the while helping wealthy tax cheats get away scot-free. Why would they make support for Israel conditional on this hard-right giveaway to the wealthy? It is truly astounding, and it shows you how weak and unserious—and what a joke, frankly—the House GOP proposal is.

And don't just take it from me, folks. The Republican vice chairman of the Joint Economic Committee had this to say about the House GOP bill, and he is a Member of the House GOP. He said:

I think it was intellectually lazy. . . . It's a little hard to have, "I care about debt," and then at the same time move something as your pay-for that actually will have a multiplier of raising the debt.

That is a top Republican saying this House Republican proposal "actually will have a multiplier of raising the debt."

I really regret that the House Speaker has chosen this as his first major legislative step. When we spoke the night he was elected, I said: Let's work together in a bipartisan way. And I reminded him that things only get done if you work in a bipartisan way.

Speaker Boehner, Speaker Ryan, and Speaker MCCARTHY had to learn that lesson the hard way. I hope the Republican leader will examine what he has done and change course and work in a bipartisan way to help fund these necessary items for Israel, Ukraine, and Gaza, and the South China Sea.

The right way forward is something very different from what the House GOP is pushing. We need to stand with Israel. We need to provide swift human-

itarian aid for Gaza. We need to help Ukraine, which desperately and immediately needs the help. And we need to stay one step ahead of the Chinese Government.

The Senate will work on our own emergency aid package, not the one proposed by House Republicans.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, America's status as a global superpower comes with global interests and global responsibilities. We have a direct interest in a stable and peaceful Middle East, and we have a responsibility to stand with Israel, our closest ally in the region, and to impose real costs on those who seek to harm U.S. personnel. We have a direct interest in preserving free commerce and deterring aggression in the Indo-Pacific, and we have a responsibility to future generations of Americans to win this century's long-term strategic competition with communist China. And we have a direct interest in stability and security in Europe, not only because we have treaty obligations to NATO allies but also because Europe is our largest trading partner, largest source of foreign, direct investment, and a critical engine of our own economy.

As I have explained repeatedly, the emergency funding we have appropriated in response to Russia's war against Ukraine isn't charity. These resources are helping a Western-oriented country degrade the military strength of a major U.S. adversary. Ukraine is blunting Putin's tools of aggression and disrupting his imperial ambitions in Europe, and all without involving American servicemembers in the fight.

But let's be honest. Aside from the funds we have appropriated for U.S. military training and logistic support in Europe, the bulk of America's security assistance is being spent in factories right here at home. Some of it goes to purchase new weapons for Ukraine, but far more of it is going to replenish our own arsenal. Our investment is growing American military strength to meet the challenges that come with global leadership.

Since Putin's brutal escalation last year, the United States has invested \$24 billion in replenishing our—our—arsenal with brandnew capabilities. We have poured \$692 million into new munitions and tactical vehicles produced in Missouri, almost a billion dollars in Alabama, and more than a billion dollars in Wisconsin.

But our investment is also expanding our production capacity. That means more factory floor space, new production lines, and new shifts of workers—all to help meet future threats. State by state, we are breathing new life into the arsenal of democracy.

And, crucially, America's allies and partners are following suit. They are investing historic sums in their own industries, their own militaries. They are expanding their own defense industrial bases, and many are also choosing to "Buy American."

Poland has invested \$3.75 billion in new Abrams tanks from Michigan, Alabama, and Ohio; Estonia has spent half a billion dollars on HIMARS rocket systems from Texas; and Slovakia and Romania have spent a combined \$350 million on new tactical vehicles from Wisconsin.

And it isn't just European allies who recognize the need to modernize. Japan has allocated \$1.3 billion for new E-2 command and control aircraft from Florida. Australia has put \$6.3 billion toward new C-130 aircraft from Georgia, and Indonesia has invested \$14 billion on a new crop of F-15 fighter jets from Missouri.

All told, America's allies and partners have invested \$120 billion and counting since February of 2022 to rebuild their defense capacities right here in America. They are buying American because they appreciate our cutting-edge technologies because they understand the importance of an interoperable combined force.

But, most of all, they are buying American because of American leadership. It has been the United States' example that has helped our allies wake up from years of neglecting their commitments to defense. It is confidence in our leadership and military edge that is driving their historic efforts to start sharing more of the burden of collective security.

And let's get something absolutely clear: This will not continue if America loses its resolve. We don't have the luxury of closing our gates and hoping for evil to leave us alone. America's allies are waking up to that fact. Now is not the time for the leader of the free world to go to sleep.

#### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Now, Mr. President, on another matter, last week, the NLRB released a particularly unsavory new installment in the Biden administration's mess of overregulation. The NLRB's new rule dramatically expands the legal definition of an "employer-employee relationship," turning small business owners in a franchise setting into middle managers.

By one outside estimate, this rule will increase costs for small businesses, national franchisors, and consumers, all while decreasing the availability of jobs and business ownership possibilities. It would subject more of the American economy to the whims of the left's Big Labor allies, and it would force national companies to choose be-

tween offering less support for small business-owning franchisees and accepting greater liability for the policies of individual branches.

It is bad policy whichever way you slice it. Apparently, that is the self-described "most pro-union President in American history" in action.

Of course, the NLRB is just one example of how President Biden's radical nominees have led a campaign to drown the American economy in red-tape.

Since the day he took office, the President's war on affordable and reliable domestic energy has been driving up costs for working families. Last year, President Biden canceled three offshore oil and gas lease sales. This year, total U.S. oil production has fallen below the Department of Energy's predictions by 1.4 million barrels per day, and the administration's shortsightedness has left the Strategic Petroleum Reserve at its lowest level in 40 years.

Blanket bans on developing America's abundant energy reserves have already taken their toll on everything from grocery prices to home heating costs. But Washington bureaucrats continue to dream up new ways to micromanage families' choices on everything from home appliances to light bulbs. By one estimate, the Biden administration's energy regulations will drive up gas furnace costs by nearly \$500 and water heater costs by \$2,800. New efficiency standards could cost households an extra \$140 on lighting and another \$200 on washing machines.

And, while working families contend with this administration's maze of red-tape, the President is giving the architects behind it promotions.

Recently, President Biden designated Laura Daniel-Davis as Acting Deputy Secretary of the Interior. As several of my colleagues have noted, Ms. Daniel-Davis brings such an extreme record to the job that even the Democratic majority here in the Senate couldn't confirm her. For example, she has been a key player in the administration's efforts to curtail leasing on our Nation's abundant reserves of oil and natural gas.

Almost 3 years ago, President Biden handed the keys to his energy policy to the far left, and it shows. Working Americans are already struggling to contend with historic inflation and rising crime on the President's watch. The last thing they need is more of Washington Democrats' redtape.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Arizona.

#### MILITARY NOMINATIONS

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, we are in complex and dangerous times.

Ukraine is fighting off a Russian invasion. Israel is defending itself against Hamas. American soldiers have been attacked by Iran's proxies. China is watching closely and testing the United States and our allies. We need our military to be stronger and more focused than ever. However, because of

one Senator, our military is being severely hamstrung.

The Senator from Alabama, Mr. TUBERVILLE, has a policy disagreement with the Pentagon. However, instead of addressing this policy, he has decided to singlehandedly shut down what has historically been a bipartisan process to promptly confirm military nominees.

My Republican colleagues made this very clear last night. His decision isn't affecting just a handful of positions; he is currently blocking 367 admirals and generals, and that number continues to grow. That has left members of our Armed Forces stranded and unable to get the promotions they have earned. It has put their lives and the lives of their family members on hold.

Today, we will vote to confirm three of them: the Chief of Naval Operations, the Air Force Chief of Staff, and the Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps. They are the top officers in the Navy and the Air Force and the No. 2 officer in the U.S. Marine Corps.

Now, that may seem like progress, and the Senator from Alabama may say that this is an example of how the Senate can confirm military nominees one by one, but here is the thing: The new leaders of the Air Force and the Navy won't have anyone confirmed as their No. 2s. So they will have to do two of the highest ranking jobs in their services at the same time—their new jobs and their old jobs. That is because of Senator TUBERVILLE. With hundreds of admirals and generals awaiting promotion because of his holds, it is impossible for the Senate to catch up by doing this one by one.

In the Marine Corps, the situation is even more serious. Over the weekend, we learned the terrible news that Gen. Eric Smith, confirmed just last month to lead the U.S. Marine Corps, suffered a medical emergency. General Smith was in the same position—forced to do two jobs at once. Today, we will confirm his deputy, who will have to immediately step up to be Acting Commandant of the Marine Corps for as long as General Smith is recovering.

It is an outrage that it takes an urgent vote of the U.S. Senate to fill a leadership gap at the top of the U.S. Marine Corps. That is the result of this blockade, and it is what we risk across our military leadership if, God forbid, another service chief has to step away from their job.

The Senator from Alabama doesn't think this does real damage to our military readiness. He either doesn't know what he is talking about or he doesn't care. At this very minute, the brave men and women of the 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit are aboard the USS *Bataan*, the USS *Carter Hall*, and the USS *Mesa Verde* just south of Israel in the Red Sea. This is our quick reaction force, trained to evacuate civilians in conflict zones. Those marines are in a dangerous part of the world at a dangerous time, prepared to do a very dangerous job. They deserve fully