

State's campus pulling a banner that read: "We are with you. Spartan Strong. Love, Ohio State."

The MSU community and the community of East Lansing are so grateful, we are all so grateful for the outpouring of support. We will get through this, but we shouldn't have to. But we will get through it. We just need to take action to stop this from happening again. We are all Spartan Strong.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, 15 months ago, I spoke here on the Senate floor to commemorate the victims of a shooting at Oxford High School in Oxford, MI. And just over 2 weeks ago, as a gunman opened fire at Michigan State University, our State lived through yet another nightmare. Another routine evening turned tragic. Another community was left scarred by unimaginable gun violence. And another three families will never see their children come home.

Just after 8 p.m., on a crisp Monday evening, gunfire erupted at MSU's Berkey Hall. As the alerts poured in, students all across campus huddled in fear. Some blockaded their dorm rooms and turned off the lights. Others grabbed whatever objects were nearby in case they needed to fight back. Parents called their children to check in if they were safe and worried if it could be the last time that they spoke. Those near the gunman hid under tables and ran for their lives. One student said it sounded like a stampede as they tried to escape.

In the end, three of their classmates did not make it. Three students who had their entire lives ahead of them were stripped of their futures in an instant.

Arielle Anderson, a 19-year-old from Harper Woods, was a sophomore. She enjoyed roller skating, photography, and live concerts. A committed student, she was working to graduate early and embark on a career as a pediatrician. She had a fierce intellect and a deep love for her family, touching everyone in her life with a kind and gentle spirit.

Alex Verner was 20 years old. She was a junior from Clawson and was studying to become a forensic scientist. She was a gifted student athlete in high school, excelling in softball and basketball and volleyball, and a dedicated member of her community. Friends and teachers describe her as a leader and a giver, someone who was always smiling. One of her peers remembered that she was "the very best of us."

Brian Fraser, the 20-year-old sophomore from Grosse Pointe had an infectious smile and a sense of humor that could brighten an entire room. As president of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity, he demonstrated a commitment to service and to leadership. He had been studying business and economics, but his life was cut short.

As a father and a fellow Spartan, my heart breaks for these gifted students, for their families and friends, and the time that was stolen from them. My heart breaks for those who survived who will carry the weight of this horrific memory for years to come.

And while this scene unfolded, first responders and law enforcement officials bravely leaped into action. Dedicated doctors and nurses have worked around the clock to help the five students who were critically injured. But I am grateful to these men and women for their tireless work.

At the same time, I know that the students and staff at MSU and in the broader East Lansing community will need time. They will need time to heal in the wake of this tragedy, but they shouldn't have to do that work alone. We can honor them by taking meaningful action, and we must do that now.

Last year, Congress showed that commonsense reform is still possible with the passage of the bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the most significant legislation to address gun violence in nearly three decades. It invests in mental health resources, expands school safety measures, enhances background checks, and includes new guidelines to make sure we keep guns from getting into the wrong hands.

While it is clear that this law did not go far enough, it has begun to make critical changes. We are already starting to see its benefits reach my State. Last week, Senator STABENOW and I welcomed \$8 million in Federal funding to the Michigan State Police. This investment will help combat drug violence and enhance crisis intervention programs all across the State of Michigan.

But there is so much more that we can and we must do. We must pass legislation to expand Federal background checks to all gun sales, a measure that I helped reintroduce in the Senate and one that is supported by the overwhelming majority of the American people. We could enact reasonable limits on high-capacity magazines and close dangerous loopholes. We can pass red flag laws while still respecting the rights of law-abiding, responsible gun owners. And we could invest in first responders, like those who so bravely answered the call at Michigan State.

The choice is ours to make. We could honor these young adults by making change or we can play politics and let this cycle continue. But for Arielle, Alex, and Brian, and for the students and staff at Michigan State and for every family that has been torn apart by gun violence, we must choose to act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Republican whip.

ENERGY POLICY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if you ask any Republican what kind of energy policy he or she supports, you will likely hear the phrase "an 'all of the above' energy policy." Today, I want to take a minute to talk about, first,

what we mean by an all-of-the-above energy policy and second, why we support this kind of policy.

So what is an "all of the above" energy policy?

Well, as the name suggests, an "all of the above" energy policy is an energy policy that embraces the full spectrum of available energy resources, both renewable and conventional. It is important not to ignore the conventional part, as many of my colleagues across the aisle would like to do. It is not enough to embrace renewable energy, even multiple types of renewables. And, for reasons I am going to discuss, any energy policy that doesn't embrace conventional as well as renewable sources of energy is insufficient. It places both our energy security and energy affordability in jeopardy.

Back to my explanation, as I said, an "all of the above" energy policy is an energy policy that embraces the full spectrum of available energy sources. It embraces wind, solar, hydropower, biofuels, biomass, geothermal, nuclear, oil, natural gas, and more. That is the definition.

Now, why is an "all of the above" energy policy important? Why not, for example, eliminate fossil fuels from the mix? Or why not choose one or two renewable fuels and put all of our energies into advancing those one or two technologies to hasten the arrival of a clean energy future?

Well, there are a number of reasons why these options or those options and any option that doesn't embrace the full range of available energy technologies are a bad idea.

First of all, the fact of the matter is that we are simply not yet at the point where we can rely solely on clean energy technologies. We will still need conventional energy, and we are going to continue to need conventional energy resources and, in particular, natural gas for the foreseeable future.

My State of South Dakota actually derives a huge portion of our electricity generation from renewables, notably wind and hydroelectric, totaling about 82 percent of utility-scale production in South Dakota. But conventional fuels, nevertheless, play an essential role in electricity generation in South Dakota.

Wind, like solar and other renewables, by its nature is intermittent, even in places like South Dakota, where wind is a regular feature. And because technology has not yet advanced to the point where we can store up sufficient renewable energy to power an electric grid, even places like my State that rely heavily on renewables for electricity generation depend on conventional energy sources like coal and natural gas to keep the power on consistently.

California is another State with significant production from renewables, like hydropower and solar, but the availability of those sources are affected by variables like cloud cover and drought. And while California generally gets a lot of sunshine, again, the

technology to effectively store energy from those renewables at the scale necessary to power California's grid is simply not here yet. It is probably fair to say that one reason California's electricity grid is known for being unreliable is because the State is overly reliant on renewables without sufficient backup from conventional energy sources to meet demand.

Now, I think we are unquestionably going to get to the point where we can store renewable energy more efficiently and on a large scale, but we are not there yet. It is important to recognize that fact and to recognize that the availability of consistent, reliable energy in this country is still dependent on a consistent, reliable supply of conventional energy sources.

An "all of the above" energy policy isn't just a reliability imperative. It is also a national security imperative. Having a secure and stable energy supply is critical to our Nation's security. Our military bases and hospitals, for example, can't afford energy blackouts.

Again, having a secure and stable supply requires embracing the full spectrum of available energy sources, including the conventional energy sources that ensure the reliability of our Nation's electricity supply.

Furthermore, embracing the full spectrum of available resources includes developing domestic resources so that we are not overly reliant on supplies from other countries. The energy challenges and soaring costs countries like Germany have faced over the past year, owing to their heavy reliance on Russian energy, are a timely reminder of the importance of developing domestic—domestic—energy supplies.

Aside from energy security and reliability, an "all of the above" energy policy is essential because we don't yet know exactly what a clean energy future will look like. There are still a lot of challenges to work out with renewables and clean energy technologies. As I said, we have not yet developed the technology to store renewable energy on a large scale without significant efficiency loss.

There are a number of other challenges with clean energy technologies. Electric car batteries, for example, are heavily reliant on critical minerals. We currently rely heavily on other countries—not all of them politically or environmentally friendly—for our critical mineral supply. Environmentalists are, of course, loathe to tap our own natural resources. The same constraints affect batteries necessary to expand commercial and residential energy storage.

And while wind and solar energy are producing record amounts of electricity, each have their own end-of-life challenges for recycling and disposal as they are replaced.

Nuclear power provides a valuable source of clean energy, but construction costs are staggering, and we still haven't fully arrived at a solution for storing nuclear waste.

And the list goes on.

This isn't to say that American ingenuity won't solve some of these challenges or that conventional energy has none of its own, but that is exactly why we need to keep exploring all of these technologies and the opportunities and challenges that they present.

The fact of the matter is that our country's energy future will continue to be multifaceted, not reliant exclusively or predominantly on one or two energy technologies. For one thing, different areas of the country will have different availability when it comes to renewables, like the abundance of wind on the Great Plains. Even if we significantly improve the storage and transmission situation, it is likely that it will always be most efficient for different areas of the country to rely most heavily on the energy resources that they have closest to home.

So, as I said, it is important that we move forward with developing the full range of energy resources and not attempt to put all of our eggs in the same basket or to have the government pick winners and losers. Excessive government direction runs the risk of diminishing or cutting off innovation in the technologies that could be the future of clean energy.

We should be encouraging the exploration of all clean energy avenues and then seeing what the market ultimately gravitates toward, which is likely to be the technologies that are simultaneously practical, affordable, and effective.

The clean energy evolution away from coal toward cleaner burning natural gas, which has been a major driver of emissions reduction, was driven not by top-down direction from government—certainly not by government ideologues here in Washington—but by private industry, which saw the next wave of energy production and harnessed it.

Finally, we need an "all of the above" energy policy to keep energy prices affordable for American families.

Discouraging conventional energy exploration and production—or forcing a move to renewable sources before we have the technology available to ensure that renewables can deliver a reliable and affordable supply—is a good way to make Americans' energy bills continue to soar.

An "all of the above" energy policy is the way to guarantee an affordable and reliable energy supply, and Members of both parties—both parties—should be embracing an "all of the above" approach to American energy. Unfortunately, however, that is not the case. Instead, Democrats are pursuing increasingly extreme, Green New Deal policies designed to discourage investment in the exploration of and the production of conventional energy, without regard to whether or not we are anywhere near to having the resources and technology to move beyond conventional energy.

The so-called Inflation Reduction Act that the Democrats passed last August contained a series of tax hikes on conventional energy production that are driving up Americans' energy bills. It also contained a lot of funding for Green New Deal fantasies that are likely to achieve nothing more than wasting taxpayer dollars.

I am a big and a long-time supporter of clean energy. I have a record that goes back to my days in the House of Representatives, and I am confident that we will get to a day when we will be able to rely almost exclusively on clean energy technologies, especially when you factor in carbon capture paired with clean natural gas. But we are not there yet. Until that day comes, we need to embrace an "all of the above" energy policy for energy security, for energy reliability, and to keep Americans' energy bills affordable.

I hope that more of my colleagues across the aisle will come to realize this reality before they seriously impair the stability and security of our Nation's energy supply.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, first of all, I want to thank my good friend, the assistant minority leader from South Dakota, for a very, very good review of exactly where we are. I agree wholeheartedly except for a little bit of the IRA. We might have a little difference of opinion there because I really think it is an energy security bill, and we are all going to work with and together to make sure an "all of the above" energy approach is what we are going to take.

With that, I want to thank him. I think it was very good. As one Democrat, I agree wholeheartedly, and I would like to work with him on that.

I ask unanimous consent that I, Senator CORNYN, and Senator BENNET be permitted to complete our remarks prior to the scheduled votes.

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

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to thank my friend from Oklahoma, Senator JAMES LANKFORD, for continuing the Senate's long tradition of delivering President George Washington's Farewell Address earlier this week. It is an annual reminder of what is great about America, but it is eerie how his warnings ring true today, even though it was delivered some 227 years ago.

President Washington warned of the dangers of putting the will of the political party ahead of the will of the Nation. He also warned against the accumulation of debt and encouraged us to cherish public credit as a very important source of strength and security.

My personal relationship with this and understanding is from my grandfather, affectionately known as "Papa," "Papa Joe," who would always