

wife, Irene, and they were together for 59 years.

Joe has continued to serve our communities as a labor leader, through his involvement in civic and veteran organizations, and as a youth sports coach.

Joe's dedication to our communities has earned him many awards and honors, and he continues to inspire the younger generations.

Happy birthday to Joe Belman.

CONGRATULATING THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mr. DUNCAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Presbyterian College Women's Basketball team and Coach Alaura Sharp.

The Blue Hose, as they are known, made history after beating the third-seeded Radford Highlanders to claim the Big South Championship title for the first time ever.

Now, they are in the Big Dance. They play tonight, and I wish them the best of luck in their game tonight.

HUD SECRETARY MARCIA FUDGE'S RETIREMENT

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, during this Women's History Month, I rise in recognition and celebration of our Ohio colleague and esteemed friend, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Marcia Fudge, as she retires from her Cabinet position at the end of this week.

We all are honored to have worked closely alongside Secretary Fudge during her tenure in Congress and her service as Secretary of one of the largest departments in the Government of the United States.

Her deep commitment to northern Ohio and to our Nation has been evident throughout her career, and we are all honored to call her a dear and valued friend. Her insights and her acumen have been invaluable as we sought housing and community development solutions across America.

She never forgot the neighborhoods that she came from in Cleveland nor all the rest of Ohio. Like every other American, she wants neighborhoods that are safe and vibrant.

Last spring, I had an opportunity to work with Secretary Fudge again in her new role when she visited Toledo. She never forgot Toledo. It has always been a pleasure to share with a good friend who shares our dedication to the people of America and Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Secretary Fudge the very best as she leaves her role at HUD. May she and her mother enjoy many, many months and years to-

gether. No matter what role she takes on in her next chapter, I know she will never stop fighting for the people of our country and the people of northern Ohio.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

□1715

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Ohio). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to be joined tonight by several of my colleagues who are doing excellent work to counter many of the misguided policy decisions made by the Biden administration that are costing American families.

From pushing legislation that fights back against the Biden administration's war on energy to creating a more sustainable Federal budgeting process, House Republicans are looking out for the American family and the American worker.

This is energy week. It is an opportunity for us to be able to highlight two different philosophies, and that is what you are going to hear a lot from my colleagues on, Mr. Speaker. We have also heard from other folks on the other side of the aisle who have literally put up a sign that says: polluters over people.

It is clear that there are two different philosophies about addressing this, Mr. Speaker. You can showcase that as American energy organizations we are going to do it better and we are going to do it cleaner than the rest of the world. By signaling that, we are able to effectively lower costs for American families.

What they have gone through over the last 3 years with historic prices and costs in the energy world is not putting people first. That is just categorically and completely disingenuous. There is a much more productive way to address this.

We harp on this a lot, but when we indicate and we showcase we are going to invest and that we are going to continue to embrace our ability to lead on this and bring our allies along with us, then we are able to weaken other adversaries across the world.

There are so many angles to this, from national security to domestic policy. It makes so much sense. I am thrilled to be able to hear from many of my colleagues on this issue.

I strongly believe that winning the future will take an optimistic and conservative approach, and we are committed to righting wrongs of the Biden administration and will continue to champion policies that allow American families to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for doing this Special Order hour on energy.

Mr. Speaker, there is no national security without energy security. I didn't come up with that. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said that, and Americans know it.

Energy is foundation to everything in American life. Americans really take our energy for granted. They expect the lights to come on when they flip the switch, they expect their refrigerator to have a cold beverage in it, and they demand that they have affordable energy.

Whether it is power generation or transportation fuels, the gas and diesel fuel that they put in their cars to travel to work to earn the income that is taxed by this government or to take their kids to school or attend a ball game or go to their house of worship, they know now that they are paying more for their transportation fuels than they were before the Biden administration. They know now that they are paying higher utility rates than they were before the Biden administration.

So, Mr. Speaker, you have to ask yourself: Why?

It is because President Biden on day one declared war on energy. Actually, before day one, on the campaign trail, he was going to end fracking. He was going to target the fossil fuel industry, and he did.

On day one, they canceled the Keystone pipeline that would bring Canadian oil down to the refineries in the United States to be refined into all of the miraculous products that come out of a barrel of oil or hydrocarbons. It is not just gasoline and diesel fuel, but it is all sorts of miraculous products that help us have items like these glasses. These are things that help make our homes safer and things we utilize to make our lives better.

He ended the oil and gas leases on Federal land both offshore and onshore.

Just recently, because he was required by law to do so, they issued a 5-year drilling plan on Federal lands offshore on the OCS. In that 5-year plan they issued a plan that will only have three lease cells, the fewest lease cells on the OCS, the Outer Continental Shelf, and the Gulf of Mexico in the history of the country.

There is no leasing off the coast of Alaska. They don't want us to go after the National Petroleum Reserve, the oil and gas that is in Alaska in a small sliver of property set aside for energy production to help Americans lower their energy costs.

Before Biden came into office, America was a net exporter of oil. We have so much natural gas in this country that it is immeasurable. That means we can't really tell you how much it is, Mr. Speaker, because it is so much. America could be, once again, a leader of exporting oil and natural gas.

Now, the Democrats are going to say that it was Putin's price hike. When gas prices went up it was because Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine. Yes, that caused some volatility in the world that affected gas prices, but gas prices and energy prices in general already were on the rise before Putin invaded Ukraine because of the Biden policies and their attack on American energy production.

There are four things we have to think about when we think about energy production and energy in this country, and that is production. Let's produce the resources that we have in oil and gas in the Marcellus shale formation, the Permian Basin, off the coast of Alaska, onshore in Alaska, other Federal lands, and in the Gulf of Mexico. Anywhere we can find those resources, let's produce those but then we have to deliver those resources, and that is where pipelines come in.

Pipelines deliver resources in the safest mode and manner, whether it is liquid fuel or gas, than any other mode of transportation of those resources. We can produce those resources and deliver those resources either to the refinery to be refined into the miraculous products that we have in oil and gasoline, but then utilize those resources to produce that electricity that we talked about 1 minute ago that Americans expect.

We don't have intermittent power here in this country. They do in South Africa, and they do in many places in Europe where at certain times during the day the power is not on. It goes off. They have a brownout and a blackout.

The Democrats' policies are doing away with reliable and dispatchable energy such as oil and gas and natural gas-fired generators. They are moving more toward renewables. I don't know a Republican on our side of the aisle who doesn't like renewable energy.

I like the fact we can harness the sun and harness the wind and create energy. I think it is groovy. Nonetheless, I also know that in South Carolina we have renewables. We have solar generation in South Carolina.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker?

It starts at zero every day, but when the sun comes up it starts generating power.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker?

When the sun goes down, then it goes back to zero. It starts at zero and ends at zero every day so that at least one-half of the day, solar isn't producing any energy, and the utilities need to provide that energy that we expect, so they need to have dispatchable energy, stuff that they can ramp up and down and draw on when it is needed. That is why natural gas-fired power plants are

so important in this Nation as a supplemental to the renewables or renewable is supplemental to gas to save money.

Nonetheless, we need to produce more resources here in this country. We need to deliver those through pipelines. We have a tremendous need to build our pipeline infrastructure in this country to send those resources to where they can be utilized by the utilities or the refineries for the products that we need; produce, deliver, and utilize.

Be that as it may, then we have such an abundance of natural gas that we could help improve the quality of lives of folks all around the globe by exporting American-produced and cleaner burning natural gas to help folks in Africa finally have stable and reliable electric generation. There is energy poverty in this world, and we could help solve that by exporting cleaner burning, American-produced natural gas that burns cleaner than any other natural gas.

It definitely burns cleaner than Russian gas. When Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, Europe looked West to the United States and said: Send us your gas. Send us your LNG so we can lessen our dependence on a foreign adversary, Russia.

Actually, Mr. Speaker, U.S. gas burns cleaner so you are helping your carbon emissions as well, if you approach it that way. However, because of the Biden policies, they couldn't count on the United States. We just saw a pause in LNG terminal permitting.

What did they do?

They looked to Norway, and Norway built a pipeline across the ocean to Poland in 1 year's time.

Mr. Speaker, imagine building a pipeline in this country in 1 year's time that length and that magnitude.

We need to export more LNG. We need to help our friends and allies around the globe, help American energy producers create American jobs, and help the climate because American gas has actually helped us lower our carbon emissions in this country. We can continue to do that through cleaner burning natural gas and something that is dispatchable that will always be there and always be on.

This is energy week, and we have approached a number of things. We just had a big markup on the Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act where we can actually start building out pipelines and improving pipelines that are in existing rights-of-way and providing that resource to the utilities that much need it.

In energy week, we just passed a no fracking bill so that future Presidents and this President can't ban fracking in this country because fracking has actually helped our energy revolution.

There is so much we can do, and I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, Republicans are focused on returning America to energy dominance to lower your prices at

the pump, to lower your utility bills, and provide reliable, affordable, and cleaner energy in this country for moms, dads, and businesses so that America can be successful.

We do it starting with energy, because if we don't have low energy prices, then I promise you, Mr. Speaker, you are paying more at the grocery store and at other retailers because most goods around this country are transported by something that runs on diesel fuel.

Diesel fuel is a product of refining that fossil fuel we produce here. However, when diesel fuel goes up, that cost is passed on to the consumer. That is why we are paying higher prices. It is because the Biden administration has driven up energy prices in this country and limited our production in this country.

This has hurt us on the global stage because countries are going to get energy from somewhere, and they will get it from adversarial countries like China, Russia, Iran, or Venezuela when they can get energy from the United States.

We can be a global leader again. We will be, and I look forward to the day that America reasserts its dominance in the energy sector.

I appreciate the gentleman for yielding to me today, and we are going to continue to focus on American energy.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. I appreciate the gentleman from South Carolina. Good energy policy is groovy, so I thank the gentleman for bringing that up.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the first district of California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MOORE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, energy really is the cornerstone of a modern economy and a modern country, and the United States has been able to be a great innovator for so many decades on improving our lot with energy, and, indeed, exporting civilization to the rest of the world. Energy modernizes us and makes people more easily able to feed themselves, clothe themselves, withstand disaster and not have to have every heat wave or cold wave be a disastrous loss of life due to our ability to harness and produce energy that works for us.

Energy independence is something that just a few short years ago we were largely achieving finally under President Trump. Over the last 3 years, that has unraveled. That independence along with our food security is, indeed, what makes us strong so we can withstand outside threats. Those two items really go hand in hand.

I wish President Biden would realize that and not have the cabal behind him that is doing everything it can to unwind all the progress and all the good things that have been made in recent decades to make the country so strong previously.

We need to have decisive action to renew our economic vitality instead of more damage. Instead of supporting

our farmers and ensuring a stable food supply, it appears agriculture and its industry of feeding our Nation has turned into a partisan issue somehow leaving farmers and ranchers to fend for themselves in an increasingly hostile business and regulatory atmosphere.

□ 1730

Costs of inputs—just a couple of years ago, we saw the cost of fertilizer triple and the cost of fuel triple. In my real life, I am a farmer at home. I saw it firsthand.

That has to be passed along. Otherwise, there is no longer a farmer there to produce those items if they do not make at least some level of profit.

As we work through these challenges to the agriculture sector, hopefully with a farm bill here that we can get heard next month and passed along to the Senate, we need to understand the far-reaching implications of Biden anti-American energy policies because that ties right back in. Agriculture in this country is really dependent on a good source of energy: diesel for our tractors and trucks and the ability to dry and process our products with electricity that is readily available at reasonable prices.

What do we get out of this lately? A brand-new push for more electric vehicles, a stroke of the pen by the President and his administration. We are going to be forced—if these things stand, in just 8 short years, the fleet will have to be two-thirds electric for our cars and pickups and about 46 percent on more medium-duty trucks, just by whim.

What are we finding? That our electricity supply in this country is already sometimes in peril, like in my home district. I was mentioning earlier that sometimes the power gets shut off in northern California because the wind blows and maybe they are afraid that a tree or a branch will blow into a power line and cause an outage and a massive forest fire like we see. How are you supposed to charge your vehicle at night when they have a 2- or 3-day power shutoff?

Even more so, we are going backward on energy production. They are tearing out the dams on the Klamath River that make CO₂-free, reliable, 24-7 hydroelectric power. Instead, they want more solar panels. They want more windmills.

Windmills are extremely inefficient for the amount of energy and effort it takes to put one up versus what their output is. Solar is fine and dandy, but it is only a tiny percent, a niche of production currently in this country.

We need the mainstays. We need hydroelectric. We need to expand nuclear power because that is a good 24-7 baseload power supply. A small plant can produce a mass amount of power. You don't need thousands of acres of solar fields covering up good land, like they are trying to do.

Even in the San Joaquin Valley, some of the most productive farmland

in the world right there in central California, their big idea is to have solar farms cover up this good land instead of the concentrated power plants that you have with nuclear, hydro, natural gas—yes—and the other forms.

I also want to talk about biomass. We don't get to talk about that a lot around here. Our forests are already way undermanaged. They have way too much material out there in them. We need to take more biomass and put it to work in power plants on a controlled basis. That is a 24-7 fuel also. It is baseload power that is available. You don't have to rely on the wind to blow, the Sun to come up, the clouds to blow away, or the rain to stop. You have the ability to run that 24-7 whenever you want.

Additionally, putting forest products to work means it is not going to be out there burning in the woods. You are going to have a 99.9 percent cleaner output burning that material in a power plant.

One of the other side effects of ignoring our forests and the dead trees is that they are still going to give off carbon dioxide as trees decay, so you could either control it in a power plant more efficiently or have it just release out there. A tree grows, dies, and gives off the CO₂ it absorbed.

One of the by-products not talked about much is methane gas released from a decomposing tree or other plant matter. My colleagues will talk about methane gas being much more volatile in the upper atmosphere than CO₂ by manyfold, so why don't we take this methane gas that is contained in this dead tree, put it in this power plant, and actually make it be a plus on making energy and control that and not release it in the atmosphere?

We need to talk more about that. That is a highlight that hasn't been exposed much, what good forestry means to the energy grid and also to cleaning up the forests, making them less fire-prone with all of that ash and all of that particulate matter that gets into the air and fogs out hundreds of square miles of a region there with really foul air.

The pluses on biomass just outstrip any of the negatives, other than it is not cheap to move the material. That is something we need to assess. The Forest Service is going to have to do more with their lands, and this is a way of harnessing power to the good. It means jobs in those communities. It means safer, healthier forests. It means electricity you can depend on 24-7 with what is burning in those power plants.

We see so many implications of high costs of energy, with groceries, with what it means for normal families, and this doesn't have to be happening. These high costs of electricity and fuel do not need to be happening to the American people. We need the Biden administration to go in the right direction, help farmers, ranchers, consumers, and the producers of energy to actually produce in this country and

not rely on imports from somewhere else. Let's get cracking on that and do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), especially as he brings up some of the forestry issues, massive amounts of invasive, very noxious trees, juniper trees, things like that that can be put to much better use, saving water, at the same time replacing that with a more productive forest option.

Those type of solutions exist out there, and we are working hard to identify that and actually do a productive job, instead of just allowing for the rhetoric to exist with regard to this energy narrative.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Mr. CLINE), my good friend and colleague.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for scheduling this Special Order and for taking the lead on addressing the challenges that are facing us with regard to the Biden energy policy in addition to a number of other areas where the Biden administration is doing so much to harm to the average American family.

At this critical juncture in our country's history, when our country is facing enormous challenges, it is becoming increasingly clear that President Biden and his administration are firmly unwilling to confront the stark realities of our Nation's fiscal path. Instead, the path we are on is marked by reckless, unnecessary spending and failed energy and economic policies, a direct result of years of out-of-control spending by Biden and the left.

This trajectory has not only jeopardized our economy but also significantly increased the daily costs burdening the American people, and not just with regard to their energy costs.

Just look at the tax-and-spend budget released by the Biden White House last week. We have all heard the promises that folks earning less than \$400,000 won't see their taxes go up, but what we are actually seeing with inflation hidden in this budget is a hidden tax hitting every American.

Biden wants to increase Federal spending by \$325 billion right away, on day one, pushing our national spending to over \$86 trillion over the next decade. This means higher prices for everyday things, making life harder for all hardworking Americans.

Now, as March Madness begins, President Biden's budget talks a good game about fighting inflation, but his plan does the opposite. It is small ball set to make things more expensive for families across the country.

Here is the technical. Even with massive tax increases, his budget doesn't ever balance. It will keep adding to our national debt. The President plans to spend \$7.3 trillion in just 1 year and push up our debt to \$45 trillion by 2034.

To cover this spending spree, the President is pitching \$4.9 trillion in new taxes—not just on the rich but on every American.

In stark contrast, I proudly stand here today to commend my Budget Committee colleagues and my colleagues on the Republican Study Committee for releasing and approving balanced budgets for fiscal year 2025 weeks ahead of Biden's too little, too late proposal.

The budget approved by the House Budget Committee and the budget approved by the Republican Study Committee are testaments to the House's commitment to rein in unsustainable spending and get our Nation back on track. Compared to Biden's budget, our budgets propose no new taxes, balance the budget, and spend trillions less throughout the budget window.

For far too long, House Republicans have been sounding the alarm bells over the looming fiscal cliff that our Nation is facing. The RSC budget plan and the House Budget Committee budget are roadmaps to restoring fiscal responsibility and ensuring the prosperity of future generations.

It is not surprising to see the release of Biden's budget, which can only be described as a compilation of leftwing fantasies filled with wasteful spending that will undoubtedly add trillions more to the already \$34 trillion debt burdening our country.

This is not the future that Americans deserve, nor is it a legacy that we should ever leave behind for our children and grandchildren. The American people demand and rightly deserve a budget plan that protects them from the looming debt disaster, and I am proud to highlight House Republicans' efforts to work toward delivering budgets that exemplify fiscal responsibility.

The House budget plan and the RSC budget are not just plans filled with numbers and forecasts. They are pledges to the American people to reinstate the fiscal sanity our country needs. We can either continue down the path of fiscal irresponsibility, saddling our Nation with debt and economic instability, or we can choose a new direction, one of prudence, accountability, and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the fiscally responsible budgets proposed by the House Republican Budget Committee and the Republican Study Committee, and I urge leadership to bring both to the floor for a vote alongside the false hopes of the Biden budget.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I sit on the same committee as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE). We call one of those opportunities reverse the curse, the budget resolution. I do my best to show my constituents this is the hope that we have, that we didn't get here overnight, but we can build back toward fiscal responsibility, building a 10-year balanced budget and

finding all those opportunities to extract waste out of our system so we can thrive and operate.

I thank the gentleman for culling out all of those differences. I appreciate it.

Now to my good friend from the greatest State—we call it the great State of Utah, but we both know that it is the greatest State—to share some of his thoughts for this important week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6009, the Restoring American Energy Dominance Act, and H.R. 1121, the Protecting American Energy Production Act.

Just a few years ago, American energy was booming. We were energy independent, creating more than we used for the first time since the 1940s. We moved the government out of the way for hardworking Americans and watched as domestic production, net exports, and energy innovation exploded.

In Utah, the impact was incredible. The price to go on a road trip, to heat a family's home, to run an A/C in the summer were all at record lows.

On Biden's first day in office, he teamed up with the most radical wing of his party and waged a war on American energy. Day one, he killed the Keystone XL pipeline. Already under construction with over 1,500 workers, it was projected by 2021 to provide approximately 11,000 jobs. This was thousands of real middle-class union jobs, approximately \$800 million in wages.

President Biden wasn't finished. He then paused all liquefied natural gas exports and spent so much on the Democrats' Green New Deal pipe dream that inflation has for years ravaged every sector of our economy.

Again, Utahns felt the impact. Today, we are spending 33 percent more to heat our homes and 40 percent more to fill up our tanks as we did in 2021.

The American people are tired of paying for the President's war on American energy. One year ago, the people's House passed H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Cost Act, to begin reversing President Biden's misguided energy agenda. This week, we will continue to fight by passing legislation to boost American energy production, cut green project slush funds, and lower the costs for families. We know how to make this work because we have done it before.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the American people, the President, and my colleagues across the aisle to join us in delivering affordable, clean, and reliable energy for every American.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS) for his sentiments on this important Energy Week. Solutions can be very common sense, and we hope to be able to beat that drum continually.

For our last speaker tonight, we get the pleasure of hearing from a Rep-

resentative from the great State of Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), a man of congenial disposition.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

President Biden's \$7.3 trillion budget proposal for fiscal year 2025 is full of costly woke policies that will end up hurting the Americans who elected us to office.

Here are some of the things he wants. Mr. Speaker, \$895 billion for defense—it comes as no secret in the history of audits that our Pentagon has never passed an audit. How did we punish them this last budgetary cycle? With \$20 billion more. Of course, that is \$9 billion more for defense than we spent this year. For the American Climate Corps—we are not sure what that is—there is \$8 billion, and \$3 billion for the State Department to advance gender equity and equality worldwide. Worldwide, Mr. Speaker.

President Trump asked for \$4 billion to help secure the border, and we said he couldn't have it because, as our friends across the aisle said, that would bust the budget.

There is \$1.5 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights.

□ 1745

There is so much more, but we don't have all day to go over every item.

President Biden also claims this budget would lower the deficit. We all know that is a lie but think about how that happens. If he is spending more money in lowering the deficit, it means he plans to significantly increase the government's revenue. How does he do that? He will do that by taking in more taxes.

His plan would raise taxes by nearly \$5 trillion. Of course, he claims no one making less than \$400,000 per year will pay more taxes, but we have seen what this promise has done so far in the past. If he is making companies pay more in taxes, these companies, of course, need to make up for the lost profit, so they charge us more for gas, food, energy, and other essentials we use every day.

To put it better, Mr. Speaker, companies collect taxes. That is what they do. Corporations collect taxes, and they pass it on to us.

Even if Americans don't pay more in taxes, they will pay for this plan somehow. It won't do them any good unless they want to get one of these new government jobs that will focus on climate change or diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his remarks.

I will wrap up here briefly, but as I started my remarks tonight about how this affects the family, I have the pleasure of having one of those families here today in the gallery watching this debate go on.

This is our focus. This is what we are completely focused on. This is not some nonsensical argument about pollsters over people. That is just disingenuous.

The U.S. has made incredible gains. In my home State of Utah, air quality is one of our most important aspects, and we have been able to experience strong growth, but maintain and even lessen the impact that we have on particles per million, tier 3 gasoline.

If you embrace and you create opportunities for innovation, you can actually do better. You can actually engage allies better. We can be a net exporter. We can create a stronger America and lower prices.

Our entire focus here is to make sure that families have an opportunity to thrive. We put so much burden with the unnecessary costs from Biden's energy policies on the backs of the American workers and the American family.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time for this Special Order.

THE ILLEGAL ALIEN INVASION AT OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I will be joined by a number of my colleagues to talk about the illegal alien invasion at our southern border and how it is victimizing our citizens.

Last month, a grievous event tragically reminded the American people that every State is a border State.

On February 22, Laken Riley, pictured here, a 22-year-old nursing student was murdered by an illegal alien in Athens, Georgia, on the campus of the University of Georgia.

Laken's murderer was an illegal alien who should never, ever, ever have even been here. He illegally entered El Paso, Texas, in September 2022 and was then released into the country via President Biden's significantly expanded parole program, an expansion that is illegitimate.

He then took a young, beautiful life, Laken's life, in a brutal and violent way. Laken's father, John, described her as an amazing daughter, sister, friend, who was selfless and considerate of others, with a laugh that was infectious and lit up a room.

He also highlighted her faith to me and noted that her love for the Lord guided her steps and shaped the way she lived her life.

Mr. Speaker, Laken should be alive today, running, laughing with her friends, studying for nursing school, and spending time with her parents and siblings, but she is not, and this tragedy was completely avoidable.

Her murderer is a dangerous criminal alien who took advantage of weak and bad Biden administration border policies. This horrific story has truly shaken our State and our entire Nation, and for good reason.

Laken's young life and bright future were cut short at the hands of an illegal alien. Her murder was 100 percent preventable because her murderer should never have ever been in our country. Yet radical, dangerous policies failed both her and her family.

Athens-Clarke County, the county where I have my business, the county where I have lived for 30 years, the county where as a Navy officer I taught when the Navy Supply Course School was in Athens-Clarke County.

This county is one of four sanctuary cities in the Peach State. This sanctuary jurisdiction undoubtedly incentivized illegal immigration, putting families, small businesses, and students in greater danger. Yet Athens' Democrat mayor shamelessly claimed that there is no connection between crime and immigration.

This is a flat-out lie, but it is a lie the mayor would rather tell than admit the truth: that his own policies played a role in Laken's murder.

But the buck doesn't stop with the failed leadership in Athens-Clarke County. This goes all the way to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

As a candidate, Joe Biden instructed illegals to "surge to the border." As President, he has ignored immigration law, destroyed our border security, and incentivized illegal immigration.

Notably, Secretary Mayorkas has unabashedly carried out the President's marching orders, willfully establishing a wide-open border agenda that has violated our laws and emboldened dangerous criminals like Laken Riley's murderer to illegally enter the United States.

Once aliens from across the world accept Biden's invitation, they are immediately released into our communities. In fact, Laken's murderer was released into the country due to the President's abuse of parole authority, which the Biden administration has weaponized to funnel millions of illegal aliens into the United States.

For 3 years now, these open-border policies have been in effect. The result has been the Biden administration's intentional illegal invasion. According to recent estimates, nearly 7.3 million illegal aliens have entered the country under the Biden administration's watch, a number greater than the individual population of 36 States. That is a stunning and unsustainable figure.

Clearly, we need to do more than secure the southern border. It is imperative that we also deport every solitary illegal alien who accepted the Biden

administration's invitation to enter and reside in our Nation unlawfully.

If we do not deport them, more Americans will suffer the tragic consequences of President Biden's open-border policies.

The list of victims extends far beyond Laken Riley. In fact, a 32-year-old illegal alien was recently arrested for sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl in Virginia. Another illegal alien was recently charged with first- and second-degree murder for a shooting that killed a 2-year-old child and injured his mother in Maryland. In Louisiana, an illegal alien was recently arrested for a series of violent crimes, including raping a 14-year-old girl at knifepoint and stabbing a man multiple times while robbing him. In Massachusetts, an illegal Haitian immigrant was recently charged with raping a 15-year-old girl in a hotel that housed asylum seekers.

Now, let's go back a couple years. Honestly, what I just said happened just the last few weeks, and yet the Biden administration has done nothing.

Let's go back a year or so.

In July 2022, Kayla Hamilton, an American, was sexually assaulted and murdered in Maryland by a 16-year-old alien and MS-13 gang member from El Salvador who was allowed to enter the U.S. through the unaccompanied alien program.

This 16-year-old illegal alien was initially apprehended by Border Patrol in Texas on March 23, 2022, and then referred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

According to the alien, members of his family paid \$4,000 to a guide who smuggled them to the southwest border. On May 3, 2022, the Office of Refugee Resettlement placed the alien with a sponsor, his alleged first cousin in Maryland.

As revealed in his case file, the alien had been arrested by police in El Salvador on January 21, 2020, for illicit association with the MS-13 gang. The illegal alien's case file also included information from law enforcement officials dated August 2022, noting that the alien had tattoos affiliated with gang activity.

So how did he get here? Through the Biden administration's abuse and weaponization of the immigrant parole program. This 16-year-old murderer should never, ever have been allowed in this country.

How many times do I need to say that? How many more Americans have to be murdered or raped or assaulted by an illegal alien for the President to act? How many more Americans have to be killed by fentanyl? How many more innocent Americans have to suffer?

Right now, the President has the executive authority, the power to do everything, yet he continues to do nothing because this is all by design. So it is up to Congress to stop this madness by using our leverage, the power of the purse, to force the White House to do