

the jet fuel, so to speak, for a record wave of stock buybacks and grotesque levels of executive pay. In January, Chevron announced \$75 billion in stock buybacks, which will cut the number of shares by as much as 20 percent. Exxon, likewise, announced another \$35 billion in buybacks for this year and next. These are just two examples of many.

Americans, meanwhile, will continue to feel the sting of Big Oil's greed every time they go to the pump. That is why we are calling on the FTC to look into this pattern of consolidation announced in recent months and step in, if necessary.

NOMINATION OF RONALD T. KEOHANE

Mr. President, now on nominations, today the Senate will continue our work to confirm President Biden's nominees. We will begin by confirming Ronald Keohane, a proud Buffalo, NY, native, as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and I am proud to support this great New Yorker.

Mr. Keohane is exceptionally qualified for this position, having served in various support roles for our servicemembers and their families during his 30-year career. He served in the Obama administration in a similar role as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Military Community and Family Policy.

So Mr. Keohane is the right man for the job because he understands the value of caring for our servicemembers and their families.

NOMINATION OF SANKET J. BULSARA

Mr. President, off the floor, the Senate is also moving forward with more of President Biden's judicial nominees.

I just returned from the Judiciary Committee, where I had the honor of introducing Judge Sanket Bulsara, whom I recommended to President Biden to serve as a district judge for the Eastern District of New York.

Judge Bulsara made history in 2017 as the first South Asian-American judge to serve in any court within the Second Circuit when appointed as a magistrate judge for the Eastern District of New York.

New York's South Asian population, I am proud to say, is one of the very fastest growing in New York. We have the largest South Asian community in a metropolitan area in the country, and these folks are hard-working. They raise good families. They make sure they do everything they can to see their children have better lives than they do, often through education and study and hard work.

They are law-abiding, and they are just great Americans, part of the American dream. And so I feel proud when they are elevated to an exalted position like Federal judge.

Judge Bulsara is the epitome of the American dream, just like so many in the South Asian community. He is the proud son of hard-working immigrant parents from Kenya and India, and a graduate of Harvard University and Harvard Law School. He has considerable experience in both the public and

private sectors. If confirmed, Judge Bulsara would make an exceptional addition to the Eastern District, and I am very proud to champion his nomination.

CLEAN ENERGY

Finally, Mr. President, on clean energy investment, when President Biden comes before the Congress to deliver his State of the Union this week, Americans will hear a clear theme: America's economy is accelerating, inflation is decelerating, and the investments Democrats made in the past few years—I was proud to be majority leader during probably the most successful, productive Congress in 30 years, and these investments are really paying off.

Today, for example, many Americans are paying less for insulin than they did a few years ago, thanks to reforms we made on the IRA. Seniors on Medicare have a cap on prescription drug spending. No longer does a serious illness mean seniors on Medicare spend \$10,000 or more on prescription drug expenses. Consumer sentiment is way up, compared to 2 years ago. And despite so many naysayers who were sure there would be a recession, inflation has slowed to more normal levels without—without—causing a recession.

In fact, manufacturing construction is at an alltime high, triple its highest point during the last administration, the Trump administration. And these are just the accomplishments of the past year. The IRA, the Inflation Reduction Act, is projected to create another 1.5 million jobs over the next decade.

But today, I want to point out another part of our agenda delivering beyond anyone's wildest expectations: the surge in America's clean energy and the jobs it creates. The New York Times put it best in a recent article when they noted that "clean energy manufacturing is booming."

Thanks to investments Democrats made in the Inflation Reduction Act, in the Chips and Science Act and other bills, clean investments, just last year, reached over \$230 billion. For context, that is triple the investment levels of 2019, just 5 years ago.

Many companies who invested towards clean energy have said legislation like IRA and Chips and Science made their decisions easier. And while \$230 billion can seem hard to visualize, the practical impacts of these investments are plain as day.

Americans see these investments at work through new EV battery plants, new construction sites, new good-paying jobs that will stick around for years. Our economy has added nearly 30,000 jobs in power generation and supply, a stark turnaround from years of decline during the previous administration.

New Yorkers see these investments through the surge of onshore wind and solar energy production and through all of the factory openings we have seen across the State, particularly in

Upstate New York, in an area that in the past had lost jobs—manufacturing jobs—is now growing again. That is great news. It makes us all very happy.

Consumers will see these investments at work through cheaper EVs; and in time, Americans everywhere will see these investments pay off through less pollution, cleaner air, and fewer kids getting sick from asthma and other illnesses. That is something we are very proud of.

Sometimes it can take a while for the effects of an ambitious agenda to take root. We saw this happen with ACA. But today, the evidence is pouring in that the work that President Biden and Democrats put in over the past few years, the investments, are paying off in a big way for our country, and Americans are beginning to take notice.

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. THUNE. 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.

The Republican whip.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, last week, President Biden visited the southern border—just his second such trip in his entire half-a-century-long political career. While I suspect his visit was motivated more by the thought of an election year photo op than by a desire to see the border crisis firsthand, the President should—should—be visiting the southern border. But more than that, the President should be taking action on the border, real action—the kind of action that will actually do something to help stem the crisis we are facing, because we are facing a crisis.

The number of migrant encounters at our southern border in January was the highest January number in more than 20 years. That, of course, followed a recordbreaking and staggering, I would add, 301,983 encounters in the month of December—not only the highest December on record but the highest total for any month ever. And there is no end in sight. The first 4 days of March saw 7,000-plus migrant encounters each day, putting us on track for yet another month of 200,000-plus migrant encounters at the southern border.

Of course, none of these numbers include "got-aways," and those are individuals whom the Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend. There have been approximately 1.8 million known "got-aways" since President Biden took office and an untold number of unknown "got-aways" over the same period.

Now, this is a crisis on many levels. It is a logistical and enforcement crisis, it is a humanitarian crisis, and it is

a national security crisis. Our Nation is simply not secure as long as we have hundreds of thousands of unknown individuals taking up residence in our country.

In fact, U.S. Border Patrol Chief Jason Owens, speaking about the number of “got-aways” at the border, told FOX News:

[T]hose are the numbers that really keep us up at night, because if you know that all you need to do is turn yourself in to the Border Patrol and go through the process, what possible reason would you have for wanting to evade capture? Could it be that those are the folks that probably have criminal intent?

Chief Owens was referring to the fact that under the Biden administration’s lax asylum system, individuals who show up at the border claiming asylum are frequently released into the country with court dates as much as a decade into the future. His point, of course, is that when turning yourself in to the Border Patrol with a claim for asylum is likely to result in years of essentially legal permanent residence, it is especially concerning that we have hundreds of thousands of individuals choosing not to turn themselves in to the Border Patrol but escaping into the interior of our country. Given that, it stands to reason that many of these “got-aways” have more malign intentions.

While there are always various factors that affect the flow of illegal immigration, we are on track for a fourth—a fourth—recordbreaking year of illegal immigration under the Biden administration because of the actions President Biden has taken or failed to take.

From the day he took office, when he rescinded the declaration of a national emergency at our southern border, President Biden made it clear that border security was at the bottom of his priority list. Over the 3 years since, he has turned our southern border into a magnet for illegal migration—from repealing border policies of his predecessor to misusing our asylum and parole systems, which are now providing temporary amnesty to hundreds of thousands of individuals who are here illegally.

Recent news reports suggest that President Biden is thinking of taking new, more substantial immigration action aimed at helping to finally stem the flow of illegal migration. I hope that is true, although given his record, I am not holding my breath.

The President helped create this crisis, and he should end it. For example, tightening the asylum claims, as President Trump did, could help weed out many of the specious claims that are being made that allow individuals to take up long-term residence in our country.

With 75 percent of respondents in a recent poll describing the situation at our southern border as “a very serious problem” or “a crisis,” perhaps election-year politics will do what 3 years

of recordbreaking immigration has not done, and that is, force the President to take his responsibility for our Nation’s security seriously and finally shut down the flow of illegal immigration at our southern border. But, as I said, given the President’s record, I am not holding my breath.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

VOTE ON KEOHANE NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Keohane nomination?

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT).

The result was announced—yeas 69, nays 30, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 69 Ex.]

YEAS—69

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Padilla
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Hassan	Reed
Booker	Heinrich	Ricketts
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Romney
Brown	Hirono	Rosen
Butler	Hoeven	Rounds
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Capito	Kaine	Schatz
Cardin	Kelly	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Manchin	Stabenow
Cornyn	Markley	Tester
Cortez Masto	McConnell	Van Hollen
Cotton	Menendez	Warner
Cramer	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Moran	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Welch
Ernst	Murphy	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Murray	Wyden
Fischer	Ossoff	Young

NAYS—30

Barrasso	Hawley	Rubio
Blackburn	Johnson	Schmitt
Braun	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Budd	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	Mullin	Tuberville
Grassley	Paul	Vance
Hagerty	Risch	Wicker

NOT VOTING—1

Britt

The nomination was confirmed.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 529, Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2028.

Charles E. Schumer, Bernard Sanders, Brian Schatz, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Mark Kelly, Alex Padilla, Richard J. Durbin, Tammy Baldwin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Gary C. Peters, Jack Reed, Tim Kaine, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Jeanne Shaheen, Debbie Stabenow.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Moshe Z. Marvit, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission for a term of six years expiring August 30, 2028, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 70 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Lujan	Stabenow
Carper	Manchin	Tester
Casey	Markley	Van Hollen
Coons	Menendez	Warner
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sinema
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Vance
Daines	Mullin	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Graham	Ricketts	

NOT VOTING—1

Britt

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.