

As a former football player, I remember well how much this sport asks of young men. It is more than just a game, and the preparation that goes into competing at a high level can be grueling. Intense practices, careful film study, strength training, and much more are all key ingredients an elite program must get right. Harding did just that, in addition to putting on a consistent display of athleticism and skill.

Winning a national championship has solidified their brotherhood and forged a bond the team and its fans will hold on to for years to come. The hard work of the players, dedication of Coach Paul Simmons and his staff, as well as the enthusiastic support of alumni, fans, and the Searcy community, were all critical to making this dream come true.

Great coaches can get truly the best out of their players, so it is easy to see why Coach Simmons was named National Coach of the Year by D2Football.com. We applaud his commitment to excellence personally and for every individual involved with his team.

Senator COTTON and I, along with so many Arkansans, are thrilled to commemorate Harding's outstanding season. As Bisons players, coaches, and fans are painting Searcy black and gold this week to celebrate these champions, it truly is a time to honor them.

I look forward to seeing this program reach even further heights and am thankful for how it represents the university, community, and our State on and off the football field.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, I join Senator BOOZMAN today in congratulating the Harding University Bisons from Searcy, AR, for winning their first ever Division II football championship against the Colorado School of Mines Orediggers in a decisive victory—38 to 7.

Going into last month's game, few could have predicted such a decisive outcome. Both teams were undefeated. While Harding had the No. 2 defense and the No. 3 offense in the country, the Orediggers had the No. 3 defense and the No. 2 offense. It was an evenly matched game if there has ever been one, but after the first quarter, the Bisons didn't let the Orediggers score a single point.

Time and again, the Harding defense stopped the Orediggers dead in their tracks, with Nathaniel Wallace making two out of the Bisons' six sacks and linebacker Clark Griffin making six tackles, including two for a loss.

The offense charged just as well as the defense stopped. Harding's offense ran for an impressive 502 yards, with running back Blake Delacruz rushing 212 yards for a championship record. Braden Jay added 161 yards on the ground and scored three out of the Bisons' five touchdowns, with Jhalen

Spicer and quarterback Cole Keylon punching in the other two.

It was a game that players and their families will never forget, and it is a game that Harding University and Searcy, AR, also will never forget.

This championship victory is the culmination of years of hard work, dreaming, and especially prayer because, for those who don't know, Harding University is a small Christian college in the middle of our State, and Harding's Christian mission touches every part of the university, including the football program. In his pregame speech, Coach Paul Simmons told his players that "the scoreboard doesn't matter" and that the "great cloud of witnesses" around them "just want to see you be excellent and do things in a way that really does honor God"—a great message from a great coach for a great team before a great game.

With this game, Coach Simmons has led the Bisons to 65 overall wins since 2017—the fastest accumulation of victories in Harding University's history.

I want to again congratulate Coach Simmons and his entire team for their extraordinary victory last month. I want to congratulate them for their even more extraordinary 15-and-0 season, in which they scored an average of nearly 47 points per game.

The Harding Bisons should be proud of their many accomplishments. The State of Arkansas certainly is.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, as a native of the State of Arkansas, I would like to add my congratulations to Harding University national champions football. Being a former football coach, I know how hard it is to achieve any kind of championship, but to win a national championship is special. It is special to these young men and coaches, and people involved will always remember. So my congratulations go out to Harding. I actually played against Harding for 4 years, being in the same conference as they were in, back in the seventies. So, man, what an honor—I guess the first time—the first ever national championship. So, again, congratulations to the Harding Bisons. It is quite an honor.

#### NUCLEAR ENERGY

Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the need for more American energy. We are now in the coldest time of the year. The demand for energy is going up as people try to keep warm. This is placing a strain on our power grid across this country.

This administration obviously has no solution for this problem. I think they are adding to the problem. The Biden administration is on a crusade to make us dependent on unreliable renewable resources, like wind and solar.

I am not against wind and solar. I think they are very good. I think it is feasible that we invest in them. There is a role that they play in our economy. But we can't depend on wind and solar. It is not possible. The Sun

doesn't shine every day, and the wind doesn't blow every day. Our energy grid needs to stay running for 24 hours—what a thought.

Despite Joe Biden's best efforts, most of our energy grid today still comes from fossil fuels. By the way, it will always come from fossil fuels unless we have another alternative, which I will talk about. But when wind and solar power fail, people don't realize this.

At one time in my life, I had a huge wind turbine in my backyard—a couple hundred yards—and I noticed that even if the wind didn't blow, the turbine still ran. It ran because it ran off of a diesel generator—better known as fossil fuels.

You cannot run a modern economy without fossil fuels. It is impossible. I know we are talking about it every day, and you hear all the climate gurus talking about, you know, we have to do away with fossil fuels and we have to be net zero—which, by the way, if we did net zero, we wouldn't live very long because, by the way, we do need carbon in the air.

So with wind and solar, we need an all-above approach to American energy production to keep prices low and capacity high. We have to have it. And how do we do that? We do it by investing in nuclear power.

In 1979, we were on the way to being energy-independent through nuclear power.

We had a problem at Three Mile Island with a nuclear plant that went basically, in our words and in terms of this generation, berserk. They had problems. They had leaks.

There was a media presence at that time that started attacking nuclear energy because it was going to kill everybody; nuclear energy was going to be a disaster. At that time, we were constructing over 100 nuclear sites across the United States of America—100, closer to 150. Because of Three Mile Island and how it scared—the media actually scared the people of this country, we scratched those plans. We quit construction. We said: We can't do this. We are going to kill everybody on the planet with nuclear energy.

Right now, nuclear makes up about 20 percent of our energy grid. If we hadn't stopped back in 1979, it would be much closer to 70, 80 percent, and we wouldn't have to be burning fossil fuels.

I am proud the United States has the most nuclear power production of any country in the world. I think it shows that we are a leader. But we should get back to it. We could be producing a lot more nuclear energy right now. But, as I said earlier, the redtape from this administration and the "climate cons" is slowing permitting and production.

We actually just opened I think the first nuclear plant in many, many years in the State of Georgia, in the southeastern part of the country, which will provide energy for thousands and thousands and thousands of people for years to come because of

this—with zero carbon emissions, by the way.

The Biden administration is obsessed with wind and solar, but they know deep down that they can't touch nuclear energy. They know that their leftwing voting base hates nuclear energy—hates it.

I think we need to go back to the education department and start learning about nuclear energy. Everybody should be brought up to speed. Instead of being scared of it, we should adopt it. This opposition to nuclear power really has no basis in the facts. It is bad economics, and it is bad environmental policy.

Let's talk about the economics and let's talk about the environmental impact of nuclear energy. First, economics.

Nuclear energy is the most efficient source of energy ever known to man. In fact, nuclear energy is 8,000 times more efficient than fossil fuels—8,000 times. Fossil fuels are a lot more efficient than wind and solar. We know that.

Nuclear energy is cheap to produce. Nuclear is also safe for the environment. I am going to repeat that. Nuclear energy is safe for the environment. My Democratic colleagues are worried about carbon emissions, so why not nuclear energy? But I hardly hear any of them ever championing nuclear energy, which produces zero emissions and removes harmful pollutants from the atmosphere.

Environmentalists claim nuclear energy is dangerous. Environmentalists point to a few headlines from over the last 80 years, but they don't point to the facts. The fact is that our technology is better and better every day. We have different reactors that are unbelievable. They are cheaper to build. They are more efficient. They are almost 100 percent safe. They are salt-based. They have zero possibility of any reactor that melts down or releases any radiation in the atmosphere. But what have we done? We have just disregarded it. We just said: Oh, nuclear energy doesn't work. It is not safe. We are going to get away from it.

We better wake up and smell the roses. Nuclear energy is safer now than it was 40 years ago and certainly 80 years ago. Our scientists have learned. I can understand the thoughts of years and years ago when we had different reactors that actually melted down.

How many people died in Three Mile Island in 1979? I think if you are really interested, you ought to go back and look at this. You ought to go back and look at the things that were brought up by the media that never came to fruition.

So it should be clear: Nuclear energy is a good investment and should be a big target for investment for years to come for the United States.

I am deeply grateful to my State of Alabama's energy workers who are keeping the lights on for our people across our country. Right now as we speak, there are thousands of Alabama

energy workers off the gulf coast exploring for oil and gas. I am also proud that Alabama is America's fifth largest producer of nuclear energy. We have two nuclear plants and five nuclear reactors.

The Tennessee Valley Authority—which is run by the government, by the way—operates Browns Ferry in Athens, AL, which is TVA's largest nuclear plant. The Browns Ferry plant produces one-fifth of the TVA's energy, which covers a lot of the South. It directly supports 1,500 jobs and powers more than 2 million homes. In Wiregrass, AL, which is in the southeast part of the State, Alabama Power runs Plant Farley, which produces about a fifth of Alabama Power's electricity. I am deeply grateful that Alabama's energy workers are keeping the lights on for all of us.

It is clear we need to stop the obsession with wind and solar. We can use that, but we can do a better job of investing in nuclear energy.

We need to fix the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Right now, it takes about 10 years—10 years—to get a nuclear reactor approved in our country. There is no good reason that it should take so long.

We also ought to support advanced small modular reactors, called SMRs. They are safe, they are cheaper, and they are quicker to build. They are small reactors with lower demands for fuel.

By the way, we gave this technology to China back during the Obama administration. They are building them every day in Asia. They have taken our technology and are using it.

They can bring energy costs down and also emissions down.

It is time we got to work on nuclear energy. The polls show the American people are becoming more and more supportive of nuclear power; there is no doubt about that. A clear majority of the American people want and need more nuclear plants. This should be a bipartisan issue. Let's look out for the American people. It is good economics, it is good energy policy, it is good for our environment, and it is long, long overdue.

#### NOMINATION OF JOHN A. KAZEN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge John Kazen to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas.

Born in Lincoln, NE, Judge Kazen received his B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and his J.D. from the University of Houston Law Center. After completing law school, Judge Kazen began his legal career at Kemp, Smith, Duncan & Hammond, P.C., where he focused on personal injury defense litigation. He then opened his own firm, Kazen, Meurer & Perez LLP, where he advised businesses and organizational clients on personnel matters and business transactions. In 2018, Judge Kazen was appointed to be a magistrate judge for the same district to which he is nominated. In his time

on the bench, he has issued more than 7,500 reports and recommendations, orders, and opinions. The American Bar Association rated Judge Kazen "well qualified" to serve on the district court, and he has the support of Senators CORNYN and CRUZ.

Judge Kazen's deep ties to the southern Texas legal community, combined with his courtroom experience as both a litigator and a judge, make him an excellent candidate to serve on the federal bench.

I thank my colleagues for supporting his nomination.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON KAZEN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

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

Mr. SCHATZ. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

The result was announced—yeas 83, nays 14, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 2 Ex.]

##### YEAS—83

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Ossoff
Barrasso	Graham	Padilla
Bennet	Grassley	Peters
Blackburn	Hagerty	Reed
Blumenthal	Hassan	Ricketts
Booker	Heinrich	Risch
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Romney
Brown	Hirono	Rosen
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Butler	Johnson	Rubio
Capito	Kaine	Sanders
Cardin	Kelly	Schatz
Carper	Kennedy	Schumer
Casey	King	Shaheen
Collins	Klobuchar	Sinema
Coons	Lankford	Smith
Cornyn	Lee	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Tester
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Van Hollen
Crapo	Markey	Warnock
Cruz	McConnell	Warren
Daines	Menendez	Welch
Duckworth	Merkley	Whitehouse
Durbin	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Murkowski	Wyden
Fetterman	Murphy	Young
Fischer	Murray	

##### NAYS—14

Braun	Mullin	Sullivan
Britt	Paul	Thune
Hawley	Schmitt	Tuberville
Hoeven	Scott (FL)	Vance
Marshall	Scott (SC)	

##### NOT VOTING—3

Cantwell	Cassidy	Warner
----------	---------	--------

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table,