

them was mine, but just in the last week, his office proposed to expand the rule to 5 more States, which now include Arizona, Iowa, Kansas, New Mexico, and Tennessee. This has caused the Supreme Court to step in once again and consider pausing the program while litigation proceeds.

We are also expecting Mr. Goffman's office to finalize an unattainable, unnecessary air regulation that would threaten manufacturing jobs and projects across the country. That rule is expected any day now.

So, to sum it up, from his more than 10 years at the EPA, we know this is what Joe Goffman stands for because he has shown us this time and time again. His record is one that consistently kills American jobs, threatens our electric grid, and violates the law. That is why I continue to strongly oppose his nomination today, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

I yield the floor.

(At the request of Ms. LUMMIS, the following statement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD.)

• Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise to oppose the confirmation of Joseph Goffman for Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

My opposition is not about a person. My opposition is about a poisonous idea. The idea of total government control. Mr. Goffman wants to control what Americans can drive, where Americans can work, and what Americans can buy. Mr. Goffman wants to do this by imposing political, punishing, and penalizing regulations. These regulations will cost Americans their future and their freedom.

From energy to the environment, Mr. Goffman's record is radical and extreme. Mr. Goffman is one of the main architects of the so-called Clean Power Plan. This was such an extreme overreach that it was struck down by the Supreme Court. Mr. Goffman is also a champion of Joe Biden's out-of-touch, electric vehicle mandates. Mr. Goffman is one of Joe Biden's top generals in Democrats' war on affordable, reliable, American-made energy. By the EPA's own estimates, the regulatory costs imposed by Mr. Goffman's department already exceed \$500 billion. Mr. Goffman is determined to keep pushing Democrats' job-killing, radical, out-of-touch, environmental agenda.

The Supreme Court has repeatedly shot down the EPA for overreaching in its authority. Mr. Goffman doesn't care what the Court says. He wants to defy its rulings, including the landmark case *West Virginia v. EPA*. Mr. Goffman had the audacity to tell the *New York Times*, "This case does not take anything off the menu."

President Biden has chosen another unelected, unaccountable, heavy-handed, Washington bureaucrat who believes the rules don't apply to him. If confirmed by the Senate, Mr. Goffman will not moderate. He will not change. He will not stop.

If you want an EPA that is more aggressive, more out-of-touch, and controls more of your life, then vote for Mr. Goffman. But if you want to lower costs, unleash American energy, and protect American jobs, then vote no.

Energy-producing States such as Wyoming have been in Mr. Goffman's crosshairs for years. We should not allow him to have his fingers on the trigger.

The Senate must reject his nomination. •

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I rise today in support of Joe Goffman's nomination to serve as Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation.

At the end of last year, I joined several of our colleagues to discuss our recent delegation trip to Dubai for the annual United Nations climate conference, known as COP28. While on the ground, our message to the world was clear: The United States is again leading the global effort to attack the climate crisis.

That leadership is thanks in no small part to the Biden administration's work to implement the unprecedented climate and clean energy investments that many of us here on this floor helped to enact into law. It is also thanks to the historic action by the Environmental Protection Agency to rein in climate pollution in a way that supports economic growth and job creation.

Still, meeting our Nation's climate goals, reducing harmful air pollution, and supporting good-paying, clean energy jobs requires having the right leadership in place.

As I have said before many times on this floor, the Office of Air and Radiation has an outside impact on our lives, and the American people deserve someone leading this office who is committed to carrying out its mission. That includes reducing climate pollution, while also improving our vehicle emissions standards and protecting public health—all of which go hand in hand with economic growth and job creation.

Mr. Goffman has proven that he is up to the task. Under his direction, the EPA has made significant progress in implementing many of the programs that we secured in the Inflation Reduction Act. That includes programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to help lower energy costs for all Americans.

From the earliest days of his career serving on the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee, which I am now privileged to chair, to his time at EPA under President Obama and now President Biden, Joe Goffman has dedicated his life's work to cleaning up the air that we breathe and protecting our one and only planet. He is thoughtful, he is principled, and he is humble. I know those things because Joe has

served as chief counsel of the Environment and Public Works Committee, which I am now privileged to chair.

Importantly, he has followed and continues to follow the law, and he does so in a way that also provides certainty and predictability for the industry.

Joe Goffman is also committed to fair outcomes, and that is because he cares about doing things the right way while listening to the concerns of all who might be impacted by changes to our Nation's clean air standards. Don't just take my word for it. Over 50 groups representing a broad coalition of interests, from—oh my, what a wide group, and I will mention them in a minute—they voiced their support for Joe Goffman's confirmation to serve as EPA's Assistant Administrator.

Here is just a sample of the breadth of the groups that are supporting his nomination: National Resources Defense Council, the League of Conservation Voters, the Sierra Club, the Environmental Defense Fund, and the National Wildlife Federation. That is to name a few. Just as importantly, though, key industry partners, such as the Edison Electric Institute and the Renewable Fuels Association, support Joe Goffman's nomination. Finally, Joe Goffman's nomination has the support of some of our Nation's largest labor unions, and they include the AFL-CIO and the United Steelworkers. Even the United Mine Workers of America, our Nation's largest union of coal miners, has voiced its support for Mr. Goffman's nomination. A coalition this broad does not happen every day and certainly not on this floor, and it bears testimony to Joe's character and his commitment to doing what is right.

Let me close, if I could, by saying that Joe Goffman, I believe, is the right person to lead EPA's Office of Air and Radiation during this critical time for our Nation. I am confident that he will excel in this important role, in part because he is already doing the job. I do not doubt that Joe will be considerate, he will be courteous, and he will be inclusive as he develops EPA's rules to reduce harmful pollution, clean up the air we breathe, and protect America's health and well-being.

With that, I want to urge our colleagues to join me and to join us, I hope, in supporting Mr. Goffman's nomination so that he can continue serving the Nation. He will not disappoint us in the confidence we have placed in him.

With that, I yield the floor.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote occur immediately.

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

#### VOTE ON GOFFMAN NOMINATION

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

Mr. CARPER. 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 senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 30 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

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

#### NAYS—49

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

#### NOT VOTING—1

Barrasso

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Oregon.

#### GAZA

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I rise tonight to talk about the extraordinarily challenging humanitarian situation in Gaza. And let's begin with October 7.

Israel has every right to eliminate the military threat of Hamas, to go after Hamas terrorists who conducted a horrific attack on Israel October 7.

But how the Netanyahu government wages that war matters. And how they have done so is deeply disturbing to millions of Americans, and it is deeply disturbing to me.

Hamas is the enemy. Palestinian civilians are not the enemy.

Earlier this month, Senator VAN HOLLEN and I visited the Rafah Crossing on the border between Egypt and Gaza. We spoke with aid workers who had served in the worst conflict zones in the world, from Syria to Sudan to Yemen, including one worker who had spent several months working on the frontline in Ukraine. Each told us that

they had never witnessed a humanitarian disaster on the scale or severity of Gaza.

In Gaza, calamity after calamity multiplies the suffering. It is not just a shortage of food. It is a shortage of food; it is contaminated water; it is massive displacement; it is continuous bombing and shelling; it has destroyed hospitals and other hospitals that desperately need drugs and medical supplies; it is communication failures due to damage and communication failures due to blackouts.

As of today, more than 26,000 Palestinian civilians are dead. It is estimated that 70 percent are women and children—some 18,000 women and children. It is really an unfathomable number.

But let's try to put some perspective on that. If 18,000 women and children were lined up holding hands, they would form a line over 13 miles long. Or if you spent 1 minute with each child and woman—18,000 women and children—it would take you more than 300 hours to visit or connect with each of them—12 days.

In addition to the 26,000 Palestinian civilians who are dead, an estimated 65,000 Palestinians are wounded.

Of Gaza's 2.3 million people, 1.7 million are eternally displaced—over 70,000 homes destroyed. Those who are told to leave the north for the safety of the south are now often bombed or shelled in the locations they were encouraged to go to. There is no guaranteed safe place in Gaza. Even designated U.N. shelters have come under attack.

When thinking about food, 90 percent of Palestinians are living on less than one meal a day—one meal a day. Only one of the three clean drinking water pipelines from Israel is functioning. And water filtration equipment has been repeatedly turned away by Israeli inspectors, as I saw for myself in Rafah.

Just 14 of 36 hospitals are still operating, and those hospitals lack basic medical supplies and even lack food.

One doctor who came out of Gaza talked to me about the extraordinarily deep wounds—burns—caused by white phosphorus, and he showed me pictures of those wounds. Another talked to me about—he was an orthopedic surgeon. He fixed broken bones, but he said he couldn't believe how many bones had been shattered by the blasts and how much untreatable trauma there was to individuals' internal organs. UNICEF estimates at least 1,000 children have had arms or legs amputated, many without anesthesia.

New mothers have been profoundly impacted. More mothers are having miscarriages. More mothers are having stillbirths. More mothers are anemic and suffering postpartum hemorrhaging. More mothers are undernourished and cannot breastfeed, and yet finding clean water and formula is extremely difficult. More mothers are enduring C-section surgeries without anesthesia.

Let me say it again: Israel has every right to go after Hamas. Hamas is Israel's enemy. The Palestinian people are not their enemy, and they are not our enemy. So we should be disconcerted, we should be staggered, we should be horrified by the extraordinary level of civilian deaths and injuries and the humanitarian challenges I have described with food and water and medicine.

President Biden has called the bombing “indiscriminate” and urged the Netanyahu government to adopt a much more targeted war strategy. This message has been repeated by Secretary of State Blinken. This message has been repeated by Secretary of Defense Austin. These messages have been repeated with increasing intensity. But the Netanyahu government has rejected these requests.

President Biden has called for Israel to vastly increase humanitarian aid to afflicted Palestinian civilians, but the Netanyahu government has also rejected that request. The suffering is growing with each passing day. So what has prevented a massive influx of aid needed to address the humanitarian conditions in Gaza? Before October 7, 500 trucks a day went into Gaza. Why can't 500 trucks a day go into Gaza carrying that needed humanitarian aid—food, water, and medical supplies?

In short, Israel has done two things: They have set up a complex and inefficient inspection process post-October 7 that restricts aid from entering Gaza. And, second, once aid is into Gaza, there isn't a deconfliction process that makes it possible to deliver aid safely.

Into more detail now about how that inspection process works. Senator VAN HOLLEN and I witnessed the burdensome inspection process firsthand at the Rafah checkpoint. The inspection process can take more than a week from the time a driver loads a truck until that driver can deliver that aid into Gaza. We witnessed hundreds of trucks lined up on the highway in Egypt, mile after mile of trucks. They were filled with food, water, and medical supplies, sitting on the side of the highway. Some of them were waiting for permission to go to Israel, to Nitzana, for inspection. And some of them had been inspected in Nitzana and sent back to Rafah to await final permission to enter into Gaza. The challenge, when you think about a truck, is it should be able to load up its supplies, be inspected, and deliver those supplies in the same day, not a process that takes over a week.

Let's think about that process for a moment. Israel is appropriately trying to stop dual-use items from entering into Gaza, and so there is a preapproval process between the suppliers and the Israeli Government. That is appropriate. But then, when things are approved and trucks arrive at Nitzana, they are often told by the person inspecting: No, we are not allowing that to go in.