

Ukraine, with another €50 billion in assistance announced just today. This is good news. But even as our European allies ramp up their support, strengthen their defenses, upgrade their capabilities, and expand their defense industrial capacity, America doesn't get to opt out—opt out—of doing the same. Even as our most technologically advanced allies take historic steps forward, America doesn't have the luxury of pawning off our interests.

Deterring China means defeating Russian aggression. Degrading Russia's military means weakening Beijing's "friendship without limits" with Moscow. Equipping Ukraine to defend itself means confronting the PRC with the thing it hates the most: sovereign nations that choose their leaders and defend their interests.

Strengthening America's national security means standing with our allies and investing even more heavily in the capabilities we need to face our top strategic rival and every threat we face with formidable American strength.

## ENERGY

Mr. President, on another matter, last week, the Biden administration followed through on a devastating threat to some of the most abundant and reliable energy made here in America and to those who rely on it around the world.

The administration's de facto ban on new liquefied natural gas export permits is the sort of policy so profoundly damaging that it could only have been dreamt up by the leftwing activists who are increasingly calling the shots on President Biden's energy policies.

As I have mentioned before, this de facto ban is harmful to American interests both at home and abroad. Canceled export permits mean canceled projects and canceled jobs. Bans on exploring and exporting American energy mean working families pay higher prices for gasoline, home heating, and countless other everyday expenses.

Since President Biden took office, the cost of gasoline has increased a cumulative 35 percent, fuel oil prices have increased 61 percent, natural gas has increased 27 percent, and electricity prices have increased 25 percent. But the costs of the administration's green bent aren't confined to our own borders. For the past 2 years, allies who once relied on Russian energy have started consuming more clean American LNG. As a recent editorial put it, "If new U.S. LNG projects are blocked, Europe and Asia will have to import gas from elsewhere to meet their growing demand. Most won't come from America's friends."

Iran and Russia are both increasing their LNG production capabilities, ready to meet desperate demand when American export capacity no longer can. Meanwhile, the same radical activists who drove a stake through the Keystone XL Pipeline are gleefully declaring victory in their campaign to make America and our allies more reliant on dirty energy from our adversaries.

President Biden, in keeping with his administration's practice of rewarding bad behavior with more responsibility, put one of the masterminds of his climate policy up for a promotion at the EPA. Yesterday, Senate Democrats overran bipartisan opposition to confirm Joseph Goffman's nomination as Assistant Administrator.

As I have said before, Mr. Goffman has encouraged the EPA's worst—worst—regulatory excesses and put activist whims over American workers and job creators. By some estimates, he has presided over the elimination of half the Nation's coal jobs. Unfortunately, the radical climate agenda he is helping to steer shows no signs of slowing down.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The 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. 477, Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "nay."

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, and nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 31 Ex.]

## YEAS—53

Baldwin	Cardin	Durbin
Bennet	Carper	Fetterman
Blumenthal	Casey	Gillibrand
Booker	Collins	Graham
Brown	Coons	Hassan
Butler	Cortez Masto	Heinrich
Cantwell	Duckworth	Hickenlooper

Hirono  
Kaine  
Kelly  
King  
Klobuchar  
Lujan  
Manchin  
Markey  
Menendez  
Merkley  
Murkowski

Murphy  
Murray  
Ossoff  
Padilla  
Reed  
Rosen  
Sanders  
Schatz  
Schumer  
Shaheen  
Sinema

Smith  
Tester  
Van Hollen  
Vance  
Warner  
Warnock  
Warren  
Welch  
Whitehouse  
Wyden

## NAYS—43

Blackburn  
Boozman  
Braun  
Britt  
Budd  
Capito  
Cassidy  
Cornyn  
Cotton  
Cramer  
Crapo  
Cruz  
Daines  
Ernst  
Fischer

Grassley  
Hagerty  
Hawley  
Hyde-Smith  
Johnson  
Kennedy  
Lankford  
Lee  
Lummis  
Marshall  
McConnell  
Moran  
Mullin  
Paul  
Ricketts

Risch  
Romney  
Rounds  
Rubio  
Schmitt  
Scott (FL)  
Scott (SC)  
Sullivan  
Thune  
Tillis  
Tuberville  
Wicker  
Young

## NOT VOTING—4

Barrasso  
Hoeven

Peters  
Stabenow

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

## 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. 476, Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

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 Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, 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. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) are necessarily absent.

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

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 97, nays 0, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 32 Ex.]

YEAS—97

Baldwin	Grassley	Reed
Bennet	Hagerty	Ricketts
Blackburn	Hassan	Risch
Blumenthal	Hawley	Romney
Booker	Heinrich	Rosen
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Braun	Hirono	Rubio
Britt	Hoeven	Sanders
Brown	Hyde-Smith	Schatz
Budd	Johnson	Schmitt
Butler	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cardin	King	Shaheen
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Lankford	Smith
Cassidy	Lee	Sullivan
Collins	Lujan	Tester
Coons	Lummis	Thune
Cornyn	Manchin	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Markley	Tuberville
Cotton	Marshall	Van Hollen
Cramer	McConnell	Vance
Crapo	Menendez	Warner
Cruz	Merkley	Warnock
Daines	Moran	Warren
Duckworth	Mullin	Welch
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Fetterman	Murray	Wyden
Fischer	Ossoff	Young
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Graham	Paul	

NOT VOTING—3

Barrasso Peters Stabenow

CHANGE OF VOTE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, on vote No. 32, I voted no, but my intention was to vote yes, actually. I would like to ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to change my vote, since it will not affect the outcome.

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

(The foregoing tally has been changed to reflect the above order.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). On this vote, the yeas are 97, the nays are 0.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The Senator from Maryland.

## HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS PROTECTION ACT

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I come to the floor today to express my deep appreciation and gratitude for human rights defenders. They are the core of free, democratic societies. They risk their lives and freedom to hold governments and the private sector accountable. They advocate for human rights and political freedom. They protect our environment and fight corruption.

Despite very real threats to their lives and safety, they have achieved incredible victories. Because of their tireless efforts, from Colombia to Mexico, nations across Latin America expanded reproductive rights; Argentina

passed a law to prevent gender-based violence online and hold perpetrators accountable; the EU reached an agreement to require companies to address the human rights and environmental harms of their operations; and Malaysia and Ghana took steps to abolish the death penalty. We celebrate these victories.

But I also must underline a deep sense of urgency today. Attacks against human rights defenders are on the rise across the globe. Hundreds are killed each year, and thousands more are attacked, threatened, or imprisoned; the Russian investigative journalist who was brutally attacked for exposing human rights abuses in the Northern Caucasus; the Guatemalan judge forced into exile after holding human rights abusers accountable for their actions during the brutal civil war; the taxi driver and human rights defender in Turkmenistan serving a 22-year sentence in a penal colony for documenting the torture of ethnic minorities; the 28-year-old human rights defender in Sudan who was killed, along with his parents and his four brothers; or one of the hundreds of human rights defenders killed by armed groups vying for control of Colombia's drug trafficking routes.

Not only are attacks growing in scale, today's oppressors use sophisticated surveillance technology to target their enemies, even those living in exile.

The United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders has said:

Governments claim that all this repression is about national security. In reality it is about power and money. They want to maintain power so they control information.

As a result, those who stand for freedom and justice often face death threats, harassment, arbitrary detention, and torture.

Women human rights defenders and those working on environmental protection, climate change, LBGTQI+ community issues, and indigenous rights face especially high levels of violence.

I am pleased that the Biden administration has made protecting human rights defenders a priority for American foreign policy. Human rights defenders are heroes in the fight for democracy and freedom, and the United States must stand in solidarity with them.

But we all need to do more. That is why I introduced the Human Rights Defenders Protection Act. This bill enhances our government's ability to prevent and respond to attacks on human rights defenders. It requires the administration to come up with a whole-of-government global strategy for human rights defenders. It creates a new, limited visa category for at-risk human rights defenders. It elevates the State Department's human rights officers in countries facing democracy and human rights crises. It trains Foreign Service officers on the protection of human

rights defenders. It expands fellowships to allow human rights defenders to conduct research, outreach, and exchanges in the United States.

My grandparents came to America in 1902 from Lithuania, where there were pogroms against Jews across Russia and Eastern Europe. The defense of human rights has always been profoundly important to me and my family.

For many decades in my life, the Soviet Union was one of the greatest threats to human rights on Earth, and it seemed indestructible. But I remember standing with my wife at the Berlin Wall in 1987—a symbol of totalitarianism suffering. My wife and I hammered at the concrete that was covered in graffiti, showing a crossed-out hammer and sickle. Chipping away at the Berlin Wall was a reminder of the good we can achieve if only we have faith.

So to everyone who cares about justice, to everyone who fights for freedom, to everyone who defends human rights against all odds, don't give up. Let us continue to advocate for those human rights defenders behind bars. Let us champion their efforts across the globe. Let us have faith that we can overcome oppression and violence and assassinations. Let us keep hope alive that we can build a world that is safe and peaceful and prosperous.

With that, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation I filed.

## NOMINATION OF LISA W. WANG

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Lisa Wang to the U.S. Court of International Trade.

Ms. Wang attended Cornell University and the Georgetown University Law Center before entering private practice in Washington, DC, as an international trade associate. Ms. Wang then spent 3 years serving in the U.S. Embassy in Beijing as a senior import administration officer before joining the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative as assistant general counsel. She went on to serve as a senior attorney in the Commerce Department's Office of the Chief Counsel for Trade Enforcement and Compliance before completing another stint in private practice.

In 2021, President Biden nominated Ms. Wang to serve as an Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Enforcement and Compliance, and she was confirmed in the Senate by voice vote. At the Department of Commerce, she has led the Federal Government's efforts to maintain a level playing field for American workers and consumers by holding our partners accountable to their trade agreements.

Ms. Wang was unanimously rated "well qualified" by the American Bar Association. Her deep knowledge of international trade law and commitment to fairness make her an excellent addition to the Court of International Trade. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for her confirmation.

Mr. CARDIN. I yield the floor.