

the temperature drops below 20 degrees, EVs' driving range can be reduced by as much as 41 percent.

Nebraskans tell me they feel like Washington, DC, bureaucrats have no idea how their policies will affect them in the middle part of the country. Of our 147 communities in Nebraska, designated cities, 99 do not have chargers. In fact, if you are in places like Valentine or Bloomfield or Alliance, you are 45 minutes away from the nearest charging station. If we are going to set national standards, those standards need to work in every State.

I promised my constituents I would fight these delusional mandates with every tool I have. My Congressional Review Act resolution of disapproval would overturn Biden's EV mandate. It is a bipartisan effort that has the support of 48 of my colleagues. In the coming months, every Member of this body will have the opportunity to join in this commonsense effort.

Anyone who votes against these will have to explain to their constituents why they don't want our low-income families to be able to get a job by buying a car or why they don't want folks in rural areas to be able to get to work.

I am confident that our CRA will earn bipartisan majorities in the House and Senate so we can send it to President Biden's desk. I want to thank all of my colleagues who have joined in this effort.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

#### ENERGY REGULATION

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I join my colleagues today to discuss the Biden administration's onslaught of energy regulations that will make electricity more expensive and less reliable for homes and businesses across the country.

In April, the Environmental Protection Agency finalized four new regulations specifically targeting our coal-fired electric powerplants—certainly the coal-fired powerplants in my State of North Dakota—including an expensive, unachievable new mercury and air toxics standards, or MATS, rule, despite the EPA's own regulatory analysis—their own regulatory analysis—stating that the previous rule was adequately protecting public health; the Clean Power Plan 2.0—so-called Clean Power Plan 2.0—requiring existing coal-fired and new gas-fired plants to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by 90 percent when the technology is not yet commercially viable. They can't do it. That just puts them out of business, meaning less baseload electricity.

And also they put forth a new coal ash management rule and water discharge rule, imposing costly, unachievable requirements on power generators, all at a time when we need more electricity.

Now, the Biden administration's regulatory blizzard comes at a time when the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or NERC, con-

tinues to raise concerns about elevated risks of blackouts and brownouts.

The Presiding Officer comes from a State where you know how important it is, in these really hot days—100-plus degrees—that we have power to power people's air-conditioning. It can be a life-threatening situation if we don't.

Further, multiple independent grid operators are warning that EPA's power sector rules will further threaten reliability. We need this baseload for reliability of the grid nationwide. That includes the Southwest Power Pool, which covers part of my State of North Dakota, which stated that it, meaning the Southwest Power Pool, "remains concerned . . . about the impact the Final Rule"—the findings of these final rules—"may have on the region's ability to maintain resource adequacy and ensure reliability."

Again, this is about that baseload electricity that we need for stability and reliability of the entire grid nationwide.

The PJM Interconnection, which serves 65 million Americans, noted that "the Final Rule may work to drive premature retirement of coal units that provide essential reliability services and dissuade new gas resources from coming online." Again, less power when we need more.

ERCOT, covering Texas, stated that EPA's rule poses an unacceptable risk to the reliability of the ERCOT system.

So, in all cases, these are examples where, across the country, the very institutions required to make sure that that grid is stable, the baseload power is there on the hottest day or the coldest day for reliability, they are sounding the warnings—very clear. They are sounding the warnings.

These regulations will drive up the cost of operations and force powerplants to prematurely close. This approach is in direct conflict with our Nation's energy reality. We need more energy, not less. Multiple forecasts show that electricity demand is projected to rise in the coming years as much as 27 percent in some parts of the country. Fast-growing areas, again, like the Presiding Officer's State, probably are going to see that 27 percent and maybe more as a function not only of growth but the fact that we are using more electricity in so many ways.

Much of the demand is coming from things like data centers, for example, that support cloud computing and artificial intelligence. Dispatchable resources like coal, gas, and nuclear powerplants remain critically important to meet demand, precisely because of their ability to operate regardless of weather conditions.

That is why, in North Dakota, we have been working for over a decade to crack the code on carbon capture technologies, allowing us to continue leveraging over 700 years of fuel supply in the form of coal supplies with the best environmental stewardship. We have worked to bring regulatory cer-

tainty, and, as a result, our State became the first one to be granted regulatory primacy for class VI wells to ensure that CO<sub>2</sub> is safely and securely stored below the surface. Wyoming and Louisiana are the only other States in the Nation that also have this authority.

We also recently secured \$350 million in a demonstration grant from the Department of Energy to advance Project Tundra, which will enable the coal-fired Milton R. Young facility to capture and store 4 million metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> per year.

We also have proven that we can lead the way in producing SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>—sulfur oxides, nitrous oxides—and mercury emissions, and now we are working to lead the way forward on CO<sub>2</sub>.

However, the Biden administration's regulations are adding these costly regulatory burdens at the very time we are working to deploy these new technologies. So think about it. Think about it. We are deploying these new technologies to produce more energy more reliably, baseload electricity that will stabilize the grid; and we are putting new technologies on that will enhance our ability to reduce emissions—not only SO<sub>x</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub>, and mercury, but CO<sub>2</sub> as well. But the regulations the administration is bringing forward are going to impede our ability to do exactly that: produce more energy more cost-effectively, more dependably—right—with better environmental standards.

And that means not only deploying those technologies here, but then other places around the world will follow our lead on this. I mean, that is the solution, and it is being impeded by these regulations that go so far that they prevent the industry from deploying the new technology. That makes no sense. That is not common sense. That is not the way to solve a problem.

So, again, Congress needs to push back against the EPA's regulations that go too far, undermining the reliability and affordability of the grid.

I am working with 12 of my Senate colleagues on a congressional review resolution of disapproval to overturn the MATS rules, and we will have CRAs to overturn other of these rules as well. For example, Senator CAPITO is leading the effort to overturn the Clean Power Plan 2.0 rule, and Senator MULLIN has also got a CRA to overturn the EPA's coal ash rule.

Our Nation is a global energy powerhouse. We have vast resources with its coal, oil, natural gas—many different sources, many different types of energy. We need to use them all. And we have the best environmental standards in the world. We lead in terms of those technologies and, again, environmental standards. It only makes sense, for all those reasons as well as national security reasons, to produce that energy here at home rather than forfeit that energy production to other parts of the world that pose either a security threat to us or, at the same time,

produce energy with vastly inferior environmental standards. Again, common sense.

Blackouts and brownouts are simply unacceptable in an energy-rich nation such as ours. And, again, it is about global competitiveness. Almost everything we do requires energy. If we are going to compete in a global economy, we need low-cost, dependable energy so that we can outcompete the rest of the world.

Instead of overregulation and Green New Deal-style mandates, we need to take the handcuffs off our energy producers, and we need to allow American ingenuity to continue to do what they can do better than anyone else in the world: produce more energy more cost-effectively, more dependably, with the best environmental standards. That is the right approach—not an approach of overregulation that handcuffs our energy producers.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### REMEMBERING PATRICK GOTTSCH

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of a great Nebraskan and great American, Patrick Gottsch.

Growing up on his family farm in Elkhorn, NE, Patrick learned to love rural America and the Western lifestyle. His father grew corn and had a cattle feedlot. After college, he worked as a commodities broker for 5 years in Chicago and in Omaha.

On the day his daughter was born, Patrick came down the hill from the hospital and saw a guy trying to put a satellite dish together. He decided to help. After 6 hours of work, the dish was installed, and Patrick was hooked on satellite television.

Patrick then started E.T. Installations, which was a pioneer in the home satellite industry. During this time, Patrick first began exploring the idea of a TV channel devoted to the issues and interests of rural America, but at that moment, it was only a dream. Patrick worked hard making that dream a reality.

In 1991, Patrick moved to Texas. He worked as the director of sales for Superior Livestock Auction, which pioneered satellite marketing in the livestock industry. Because of Patrick's innovations, Superior Livestock became the largest livestock auction enterprise in the country.

In 2000, Patrick decided to take a leap of faith. He committed full time to the task of creating a 24-hour TV network for rural America. He called his company Rural Media Group.

Patrick Gottsch's dream was becoming a reality. Rural Free Delivery Television, RFD-TV, launched with DISH Network in September of 2000. Distribution quickly increased. Today, RFD-TV is available in more than 50 million homes nationwide.

Patrick's Rural Media Group continued to expand, adding RFD The Magazine, RFD HD, Rural TV, Rural Radio, and the RFD-TV Now app.

In 2017, Patrick launched the Cowboy Channel, the first 24-hour network devoted entirely to Western sports like rodeo. The Cowboy Channel is now the official network of ProRodeo, bringing the talents of world-class cowboys and cowgirls to people all over the world.

In addition, Patrick last year launched the Cowgirl Channel, dedicated exclusively to women in Western sports and the modern-day cowgirl.

Patrick Gottsch loved rural America. He loved its people, its values, and its lifestyle. His visionary leadership brought the best of rural America to tens of millions of homes around the world. He reconnected the city and the country. His contributions to broadcasting, ranching, rodeo, and business will long be remembered.

My wife Susanne and I send our condolences to Patrick's beloved wife Angie; his three daughters, Raquel, Gatsby, and Rose; and his grandchildren.

I am grateful to Senator HYDE-SMITH for leading the resolution to honor Patrick Gottsch's life and legacy.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Madam President, I also rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend Patrick Gottsch, the founder and president of Rural Media Group, who passed away May 18.

Mr. Gottsch was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend who dedicated his life to supporting and promoting rural America through television.

Patrick was born on June 3, 1953, in Elkhorn, NE, and raised on his family's farm and cattle operation. From a young age, he learned the value of hard work, perseverance, and the unique value that rural communities bring to our Nation.

Having worked as a commodity broker on the Chicago Mercantile Exchange, in home satellite sales, and as director of sales for the Superior Livestock Auction, he founded Rural Free Delivery Television, RFD-TV, in 2000. And it is on my TV every day.

Rural Media Group grew to additionally consist of many other things, including the Cowboy Channel—one of our very favorite—giving rural America the visibility it lacked through traditional media outlets.

Rural America owes much to Patrick's innovation and his tenacity. Not many people have the ability to articulate and describe the true essence of how special life in rural America is like Patrick did. Rural communities are the heartbeat of our Nation, often overlooked but essential to our Nation's survival and prosperity.

Patrick gave rural America a voice. In an increasingly urbanized world, Patrick reminded us of the value of rural America. He advocated for the 2 percent of Americans who feed the other 98 percent. He reminded Americans that our clothes and food don't magically grow on shelves at the store.

We honor Patrick Gottsch for his unprecedented work to promote the American rural way of life that my family and I get to enjoy every single day. He was truly a great ambassador for rural America, and I know he would want us to continue to tell the story to the entire world.

I offer my deepest condolences to the Gottsch family during this time, and I will strive to honor Patrick's legacy by stressing the continued need for access for rural and agricultural media and programming for all Americans. May Patrick's determination, love for rural America, and persistence in telling the great story of rural America never be forgotten.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3696

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I rise today in the Senate to pass the DEFIANCE Act, a bipartisan bill that provides a remedy for victims of non-consensual sexual exploitation deepfakes.

I want to thank the Senate cosponsors of this legislation. They include my ranking Republican Member, Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM, the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, as well as Senators KLOBUCHAR, HAWLEY, KING, and LEE. This bill is truly bipartisan.

I have been proud to partner with New York Congresswoman ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, who introduced this legislation in the House of Representatives with four Republican and four Democratic cosponsors. As you can see, in both the Senate and the House, this is a bipartisan measure. When I describe it, you will understand.

Sadly, Congresswoman OCASIO-CORTEZ, herself, is a victim of what is known as explicit deepfakes. I commend her for her work and courage to create tools for victims in the fight against this despicable conduct.

The spread of these deplorable deepfakes is like a fire burning out of control. What used to take extraordinary technological expertise and a lot of time can now be done with the push of a button. Countless apps can swap someone's face onto another person's body or can digitally remove someone's clothing. These apps are often advertised as harmless entertainment. But when explicit images are produced and shared without the consent of the person depicted, the harm is very real. The exploitation of young children, the exploitation of women is really the price that is being paid for this.

Imagine losing control over your own likeness and identity. Imagine how powerless victims feel when they cannot remove the illicit content, cannot prevent it from being reproduced, cannot prevent new images from being created. The negative consequences to the victims can be profound. Victims may draw into silence themselves by withdrawing from online spaces and public