

Many farmers fear that their farm loans this year will not be renewed. They have to have farm loans to put a crop in the ground. They fear cash flows drying up and interest rates continuing to rise create an uncertain future for farming operations.

Although Congress only has a few legislative days left to act, we must stop adding fuel to the Biden-Harris administrative fire. We have to quit adding fuel. We have to help the farmers.

We need to pass the farm bill that helps our farmers. Democrats are in control of that. They have been in control of it for the last 8 years.

A farm bill is for 5 years. Four years ago or 5 years ago, the farm bill was \$870 billion for a 5-year period. It runs in a 5-year period. So this past year, we were supposed to be working on the farm bill. I am on the Ag Committee. We go by the control of the Democratic Party. Our Democratic chairwoman has decided we won't do a farm bill this year. We are just throwing farmers underneath the bus.

They need help. You would think by looking at everything going on that my colleagues on the left would rather our food come from other countries—take over our farmland, control it, and do something else with it.

Producers need a strong safety net. We have to have a safety net for our farmers. Considering no farmers' risks are the same, we cannot take a one-size-fits-all approach. Remember, we have a farm bill that covers livestock, hogs, row croppers, forest, fish. There are a lot of things involved. Farmers across the country have fluctuating levels of risk, impacted by land and equipment costs, access to irrigation, and variable input requirements. Southern row croppers rely heavily—heavily—upon title I commodity programs in the farm bill, particularly the Price Loss Program and the Agriculture Risk Program. Yet Midwest producers heavily utilize crop insurance. Where there may be an overlap across regions among these programs, we must fix the entire farm safety net, not just parts of it.

Take the reference prices in commodity programs for example. Reference prices are how much the prices are in their commodity sales report. Our farmers are operating today on 2012 revenue prices—2012; 14 years later. The costs of production are 22 to 31 percent higher today than they were at that time, a decade ago, making current reference prices completely inadequate for our farmers.

We don't have time to waste. Our farmers are facing an uphill battle to remain in business, and we are going to find out pretty quick—the American people going to the grocery store are going to find out pretty quick what it is to be hungry if we don't wake up and smell the roses.

Even if a farm bill is passed today, producers wouldn't receive any commodity program support from this farm bill until 2026. Game, set, match,

before 2026 for our farmers in this country. That is help our farmers need now to survive, not 2 years later.

Senate Republicans stand ready to act on the solid bipartisan bill that the House Agriculture Committee passed earlier this year. Yet Senate Democrats and the Biden administration refuse—they refuse—to come to the table to find practical, bipartisan solutions to the many problems our farmers are facing today.

Let's don't worry about our farmers. Let's worry about Ukraine. Let's worry about people overseas, the 800 bases we have around the world. Let's don't worry about eating. We can do without eating. That is what this administration is saying.

This forces us to look to supplemental appropriations packages to help our producers if we are not going to do a farm bill, renew their farm loans, and help for next year's crops. If they don't get help this year, we are going to have huge problems. They won't be pocketing this money, if we come up with some money, to help the farmers get a loan; they will just be planting another crop.

Without immediate action to assist producers, our Nation's agriculture industry may never ever make it back from the damage we are doing to them today.

America has lost—listen to this—America has lost 150,000 farms and 25,000 farmers in our country over the last few years. What? Mr. President, 150,000 farms closed up. Why? They can't make a profit.

You been on a farm for 100 years, you and your family, but you get to the point where you say, you know, I am not passing something down to our kids who really want to farm, but we are not going to put them in harm's way. We are going to sell. We are going to get out of the business, and we are going to let somebody else worry about it. Let's let the Federal Government worry about it.

Well, we do such a good job here, we would do a great job raising our food.

We can't afford any more losses to our farmers. Our farmers are hurting. They are hurting real bad. But have you heard anybody talk about it? No. You are going to hear a lot of people complaining about it, and there is going to be an uproar in the next few years when prices double and triple what they are today because we are not going to have food. It is going to come from Brazil. It is going to come from China. It is going to come from Vietnam.

We are doing severe damage to the farmers across this country, and nobody cares.

I will continue to be the voice of our southern agricultural producers in the Senate and ensure that we have a seat at table on this farm bill upcoming. But as I just said a while ago, if we do a farm bill today, we are going to lose at least half of our farmers in this country this year—this year—if they don't get some help.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to discuss the crisis that we are facing today in America at our southern border.

Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS have created the worst illegal immigrant crisis in American history. KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden removed every successful policy that was in place during the Trump administration. KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden replaced them with policies that released millions upon millions of illegal immigrants into our country. The crisis, the chaos, the crime—they are all a direct result of the terrible policies by KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden.

Here are the facts: More than 10 million—10 million—illegal immigrants have flooded into our country. They have done that in just the last 4 years with KAMALA HARRIS and Joe Biden in the White House.

At the same time, deadly drugs like fentanyl are flowing into our communities. Each year, tens of thousands of Americans are poisoned by fentanyl that comes across our southern border.

Our communities in every State are being overrun and overwhelmed by this flood of illegal immigrants.

Let's look at the horrible scenes that are developing now in Aurora, CO, just to the south of my home State of Wyoming. This is a city where members of violent Venezuelan gangs have turned apartment complexes into hell holes. That is exactly what they have done. One residence said, "It's been a nightmare."

So how did these gangs find themselves in that situation in that location, and how did the people living in those communities find themselves in this terrorizing situation? Well, according to one report, the Harris-Biden administration, along with the city of Denver, provided the incentives. What are the incentives? Well, Denver offered illegal immigrants 2 months of subsidized rent. The source of the rent money came from Democrats March 2021 reckless tax and spending spree—\$1.9 trillion.

Stop and think about that for just a second. The same law that fueled 40-year high inflation, that caused prices to go up for families all across the country by 20 percent since Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS came into office, that same bill has now incentivized the worst border crisis in American history.

It was Vice President HARRIS who came and sat in that chair and cast the critical, tie-breaking vote right here in the Senate for that reckless spending bill. Her one single vote as Vice President, as President of this institution, the U.S. Senate, brought record-high prices and a recordbreaking border disaster.

Look, these problems spill over from the sanctuary cities like those in Colorado, and they hit neighboring States like my home State of Wyoming.

In Laramie County, WY, law enforcement officials say that the number of illegal immigrants in their jails has more than doubled. One of those jailed illegal immigrants is a suspected member of that violent Venezuelan gang that took over the apartment complex in Colorado—a gang that has been described as “MS-13 on steroids.”

Make no mistake, Vice President HARRIS is complicit in all of this border disaster.

Now—just, I think, today—Vice President HARRIS says she wants to secure the border. New language for her. Well, let me tell you, she hasn't done it yet. For the past 4 years, KAMALA HARRIS has been the second most powerful person in the world, and she was appointed by the President to be the border czar. He said she knew how. He had full confidence in her; she knew how to handle the problem. Well, as the border czar, she had the power to secure the southern border and has that power still today. Not doing it.

So let me ask again: Why hasn't it been done? Let me tell you why. Like Joe Biden, Vice President HARRIS wants to smooth the flow of illegal immigrants. Doesn't want to stop it—oh, no. Doesn't want to stop it; wants to smooth the flow. This is an extreme position and out of touch with the American people.

Like Joe Biden, KAMALA HARRIS opposes the border wall. She actually called the wall a “stupid waste of money.” That is what we hear from the Vice President of the United States. That is an extreme position compared to what the American people would like to see happen today.

KAMALA HARRIS also said that building the wall to prevent terrorists from entering the country was the “height of irresponsibility.”

“[T]he height of irresponsibility” to try to keep terrorists out of the country. Nope. Come on in, she wants.

This again—KAMALA HARRIS. San Francisco liberal. Extreme position.

Remember, terror suspects are exploiting our vulnerability. The number of terror suspects that we have caught crossing the border has risen by 3,000 percent since Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS took over the Presidency and the Vice Presidency.

This administration promises amnesty for illegal immigrants. This is an invitation. They are inviting millions upon millions of illegal immigrants into this country. This is an extreme position compared to what the American people want and expect from their elected officials.

What we are seeing across the country are KAMALA HARRIS, Democrats across the board, and sanctuary cities providing free healthcare for illegal immigrants—another extreme position of the Democrats in the White House.

They demand that our hard-earned taxpayer dollars pay for free housing,

free preloaded debit cards, and free cell phones for illegal immigrants. The American public hates this. This is their taxpayer dollars. Democrats' open border policies have cost the taxpayers plenty. The numbers are jaw-dropping—\$451 billion so far—and the number keeps going up.

Like President Biden, KAMALA HARRIS wants to stop deporting criminals who are here in this country illegally. She wants to stop it. In the past, she said illegal immigration should not be a crime. Well, once again, she is out of touch with the American people. That is an extreme position.

This is the truth: KAMALA HARRIS's policies are no different than the dangerous, disastrous, deadly policies of President Joe Biden's, who signed 49 Executive orders in his first 100 days in office.

This is the problem that our country faces today: Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS threw open the borders, and 10 million illegal immigrants have come on through.

When this administration stopped building the wall and ended “Remain in Mexico,” Vice President HARRIS was right there, cheering on Joe Biden. When Joe Biden brought back the failed policy of catch-and-release, Vice President HARRIS had his back. When Joe Biden wanted to send stimulus checks to illegal immigrants, what happened? KAMALA HARRIS came into this Chamber; sat in that chair; and cast the tie-breaking vote for this radical and reckless policy of sending stimulus checks to illegal immigrants—just giving them more and more free stuff funded by the American taxpayers.

To add insult to injury, KAMALA HARRIS has actually said, then: Well, the border is secure. Nobody believes that. I don't even think she believes it. She should know better. If she does not, that should disqualify her from being a candidate for President or for being President.

On September 22, Vice President HARRIS claimed we have a secure border. Who is she listening to? Why didn't she go and look for herself? Three days earlier, the illegal immigrant who murdered Laken Riley entered our country.

It is time to close the book on Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS and their dangerous border policies. It is time for us to get serious about securing the border and making our communities safer.

Senate Republicans have real solutions. It is to finish the wall; it is to end catch-and-release; it is to restore the “Remain in Mexico” policy—a policy that worked. Our solution also includes deporting illegal immigrants and stopping illegal immigrants from voting in our elections.

So I return to the question I asked at the beginning: If KAMALA HARRIS wants to secure the border, why hasn't she done so yet?

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, here is a number for everyone to think about today: \$35.3 trillion—\$35.3 trillion. That is our Nation's debt number. As you can see, we have gotten there because of years of deficit spending.

Right now, this massive sum, which is our national debt, represents more than \$100,000 of indebtedness for every man, woman, and child in this country. While this number is almost impossible to comprehend, it poses one of the greatest threats to our Nation's stability, security, and survival.

To put this issue in perspective, our debt-to-GDP ratio is 121 percent, meaning our Nation's debt is one-fifth larger than our Nation's annual economic output. Think about that. The debt is larger than our output. By comparison, our debt-to-GDP ratio at the end of World War II was 106 percent. That was the record high before we got to the COVID-19 pandemic.

As our debt balloons, the annual cost of interest payments on the debt continues to rise, and this crowds out vital services that ought to be going to people who need them. In fact, through the first 6 months of fiscal year 2024, our country spent more taxpayer money servicing the debt than we spent on our military. We spent \$440 billion on interest payments on our debt. When faced with this reality, Tennesseans and Americans will probably wonder: Well, how did we get on this path to fiscal disaster?

Of course, \$35.3 trillion in debt didn't just appear overnight. Each year, the Federal deficit—and I have got a chart here that goes back to 2005 and shows you what the deficit was every year—which is the annual difference between government spending and taxpayer money that is collected and coming into the Federal Government, all gets tacked on to our national debt, and under the Biden-Harris administration, this deficit spending has exploded.

You can see these numbers. Last fiscal year, the Federal deficit was nearly \$1.7 trillion. It was up more than 21 percent from \$1.4 trillion in 2022. If you will recall, the Biden-Harris's Inflation Reduction Act—the Green New Deal giveaway that Vice President HARRIS sat right up there and cast the tie-breaking vote for—was supposed to somehow, miraculously, reduce the debt.

Still, so many Tennesseans say: How can you say you are going to spend more and that is going to reduce what you spend? It is void of common sense.

In fiscal year 2021, meanwhile, the Federal deficit reached more than \$2.7 trillion. Now, we know some of that overlapped with the final couple of months of the Trump administration, but the spending occurred primarily under the Biden administration and under that \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan. It was the driving force of this administration's four-decade-high inflation rate.