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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, the giver of every good and perfect gift, during this Thanksgiving season, we pause to express our gratitude for the blessings You daily bestow.

Lord, thank You for family, friends, life, health, and strength. We praise You for the gift of Your salvation that provides us with a future and a hope. We are grateful for Your prevailing providence and Your promise that, in everything, You are working for the good of those who love You.

Today, use our lawmakers as instruments for Your glory. Where there is hatred, let them plant love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 20, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Rebecca L. Pennell, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

### CONGRESSIONAL REVIEW ACT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, Congress writes the Nation's laws, and the executive branch sticks to enforcing them. That idea is actually not new. It is written plainly into our arti-

cle I powers right in the Constitution. But half a century of ceding legislative authority to an unelected bureaucracy has thrown this balance off-kilter.

Earlier this year, of course, the article III branch quite clearly restored the boundaries on freelance regulatory interpretation in the executive branch. But there is more work to be done to rein in Washington bureaucrats' expansive interpretation of their powers over working Americans, and fortunately Congress has a powerful tool called the Congressional Review Act that does exactly that.

To great effect, Senate Republicans used the CRA to scrap a slew of bureaucratic rules after 8 years of runaway regulation under the Obama administration. Republicans worked to end a coal-mining rule that threatened hundreds of thousands of workers, including many in Kentucky. We took a hammer to a pair of far-reaching and aggressive Obama-era education rules, and we dramatically scaled back DC bureaucrats' control of lands that should be managed with local input.

Between 2017 and 2018, Republicans used the CRA 16 times to impose an ambitious regulatory housecleaning that gave farmers and miners, landowners and job creators, small businesses and builders the certainty and confidence to stay producing on American soil.

We did all of this with hardly any Democratic support. So it is not surprising that, under the Biden administration, Democrats have worked relentlessly to resurrect the Obama administration's regulatory regime, from student loan socialism to job-killing energy policies, to blatant infringements on property rights. Literally, on day one, President Biden signed an Executive order that began tearing down the regulatory certainty that Republicans had restored.

Now, with just over a month left in the year, the Biden administration's 2024 regulations alone amount to the

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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second highest annual total by pages in the *Federal Register*. On the whole, President Biden's agenda has imposed regulatory costs that, by one estimate, surpass \$1.8 trillion. That is trillion with a "t."

So it is safe to say Congress once again has an opportunity. Two weeks ago, the American people gave Republicans a legitimate, crystal-clear mandate, and come January we ought to use it to hit the brakes on runaway regulation.

#### TRIBUTE TO OFFICIAL REPORTERS OF DEBATES

Mr. President, now, on another matter, I would like to take some time today to salute the outstanding Senate staff whom my team and I have relied on during our time in the Republican leader's office.

First, I would like to offer more fulsome thanks to the Official Reporters of Debates, the ears of the Nation here on the floor—always listening, carefully recording, and much to the relief of my staff, meticulously reconciling remarks as prepared with remarks as delivered.

The Official Reporters are integral to the life of the Senate and central to the construction of the historical record. But, by definition, they fly under the radar, blending almost intentionally into the fabric of this Chamber.

So I take particular pleasure today in asking to record in all caps, as the live transcript goes, my sincere gratitude to each of the Senate's Official Reporters of Debates for their essential work.

#### TRIBUTE TO REPUBLICAN SECRETARY AND CLOAKROOM STAFF

Mr. President, now I will turn to a final group of floor staff who deserve our sincere thanks.

In both the Democratic and Republican cloakrooms, you will find consummate professionals for whom loyalty, service, and deep institutional knowledge are calling cards. Much as I know the Democratic leader leans on the work of Gary Myrick and the Democratic cloakroom staff, I would like to brag for a few minutes on the Senate's Republican Secretary and the staff of the Republican cloakroom.

During my time in the Senate, I have been the majority leader, and I have been the minority leader. The majority is better. But whether it is designing the roadmap for a Republican majority's agenda or trying to amend or slow down a Democratic majority's agenda, I wouldn't want to navigate the Senate's arcana without a procedural expert like the Republican Secretary, Robert Duncan, by my side.

Duncan, in the footsteps of distinguished predecessors, has been an indispensable adviser to me and my staff. The entire Republican conference rightly trusts in his deep knowledge of the rules and precedents that govern this institution, and his calm manner projects confidence in even the thorniest procedural battles.

I am so grateful to Duncan for his rock-solid counsel. And, of course, a

portfolio as broad as the cloakroom's draws on the strengths of Duncan's entire team: the watchful eye of Assistant Secretary Chris Tuck, whose procedural ingenuity steers the Senate out of jams and whose sharp wit brings much needed humor to long days on the floor; the air traffic control of floor assistants Tony Hanagan, Brian Canfield, and their recently departed colleague Katherine Foster, whose deep relationships with Senators and staff across the conference keep important business moving swiftly and in good cheer; the agile readiness of cloakroom assistants Max Boyd, Maddie Sanborn, and Charlotte Ueland, whose record-keeping, conference-wide communications, and stewardship of the Republican pages make the cloakroom's most essential functions appear to happen as if magic; and the managerial savvy of administrative assistant Noelle Ringel, who wears a dizzying array of hats to keep the entire operation humming.

Cloakroom staff spend nights, weekends, and every working day making the jobs of Senators easier. Their pride in a very unique set of professional skills makes them more of a family than coworkers, and I know that sentiment extends entirely across the Republican conference.

So to each of you, thank you for the hard work you do so extraordinarily well.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### GLOBALFOUNDRIES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, when I wrote and led passage of the bipartisan Chips and Science Act, I often spoke about days in the not too distant future when this legislation would bring manufacturing back to the United States, strengthen our national security, and deliver big for New York, particularly Upstate New York.

Today, I am proud to say, is precisely the kind of day I had in mind when I helped write the bipartisan Chips and Science Act. Today, semiconductor company GlobalFoundries finalized a \$1.5 billion award—that is \$1.5 billion with a "b"—to build a new, cutting-edge, massive chip factory in Malta, NY, and expand production in the Capital Region of New York. This award was made possible precisely because of the law I wrote and passed.

This chips award is now locked in. The agreement is signed, sealed, and delivered—in fact, ready to deliver a better future for Upstate New York and for America. Importantly, this funding is protected for years to come.

GlobalFoundries' announcement is exciting for several reasons. First, it

means thousands of new, good-paying manufacturing and union construction jobs are on the way to the Capital Region, as GlobalFoundries triples its production in Saratoga County. When we wrote the Chips and Science law, we wanted to make sure that it was union labor that built these factories.

Mr. President, the funds will also modernize a GlobalFoundries facility in Vermont, you will be happy to know. These are jobs that will help transform the region, jobs that even the children and grandchildren of workers today will hold decades from now. When your kid gets one of these jobs, you are not going to think, oh, it will be gone in 5 years, because this is a growing, burgeoning industry. Semiconductor chips are the future of our modern economy.

So it is a great thing for optimism for our future, for those ladders up that we so believe in here in America.

Second, this funding will help create a strong domestic supply of essential chips that America needs for our national and economic security. The chips made by GlobalFoundries are critical to the auto industry, to national defense, to artificial intelligence, all the way down to our smartphones. If we want to keep prices low and prevent shortages, one of the best things we can do is build chips here at home. This funding will help make that happen.

Most importantly, as I said, the \$1.5 billion award is cemented for New York and for America as long as GlobalFoundries meets its project milestones. Upstate New York, the Capital Region, can rest assured that the funding announced today will be there in the years to come.

So today is a great day for the Capital Region, a great day for New York, and a great day for American leadership in the global semiconductor industry.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, now on judges, today, the Senate will keep working to confirm more of President Biden's judicial nominees. It has already been a very productive week here in the Senate.

We began on Monday by confirming Judge Kidd to serve as a circuit court judge to the Eleventh Circuit. He is the 45th circuit court judge confirmed under President Biden. Yesterday, we kept going. We confirmed two more district judges to seats in Oregon and the District of Columbia and invoked cloture on the third.

We will continue going forward today. This morning, we will vote on the confirmation of Rebecca Pennell to be district judge for the Eastern District of Washington State. We will then immediately turn to a cloture vote on the next judicial nominee, Amir Ali to be district judge for the District of Columbia.

We will continue working on judges throughout the day and into this evening. We have a lot of excellent nominees to work through. So I ask my