

an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue in effect the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13338.

The United States will consider changes in policies and actions of Syria in determining whether to continue or terminate this national emergency in the future.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 7, 2025.

### BIG, BEAUTIFUL BILL

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. MOORE of Utah was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

GENERAL LEAVE

MR. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

MR. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to be joined by my colleagues this evening to talk about our progress on the reconciliation bill, as well as the importance of supporting our Main Street businesses during National Small Business Week.

I understand some of my colleagues have commitments, and I want to be respectful of their time. So I will have them start us off before I provide some of my own comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Dakota (Mrs. FEDORCHAK), a much improved Representative from the previous individual of the great State of North Dakota.

Mrs. FEDORCHAK. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative MOORE for yielding. I never get tired of that joke.

Mr. Speaker, as we consider the critical reforms in the reconciliation process, I rise today to make the case for why we must eliminate the generous Federal subsidies for wind and solar energy paid for by taxpayers.

By continuing to incentivize these intermittent energy sources with generous tax credits, we are distorting energy markets, sending the absolute wrong signal to investors, and spending hundreds of billions of dollars in taxpayer money.

We must stop providing generous incentives that run contrary to the types of energy resources we need, and tonight I want to highlight 10 reasons why. Yes, you heard me right. There are 10 good reasons to eliminate these incentives.

First, the cost to taxpayers is enormous. Over the next decade, these subsidies are projected to cost up to \$900 billion.

Second, these subsidies are driving instability in our power grid. Right

now two-thirds of the country is at risk of not having enough power to meet demand. That is not a few years from now. That is not a near, long-term problem. That is today. Keep in mind, the power needed for AI is also growing exponentially, further creating a more difficult problem for us.

Third, grid operators are asking for dispatchable resources, such as coal, natural gas, and nuclear. Yet, we continue to incentivize the opposite.

These reliable resources are being prematurely retired, and we are not replacing them with the technologies we can count on around the clock.

This is not a political statement. It is simply a matter of physics. We don't need to imagine the consequences of retiring these baseload energy resources. Spain, just a few weeks ago, experienced nationwide blackouts, and their economy came to a grinding halt.

Spain relied on wind and solar for 80 percent of its power, which is ultimately what jeopardized their grid. This should be a wake-up call for policymakers everywhere.

That brings me to reason number four. Despite the warning signs and the cries from grid operators, 95 percent of the projects waiting to connect to our grid in the U.S. are wind and solar; 95 percent.

That is not because of market demand for wind and solar. It is because of the very generous subsidies that this body and the rest of Washington continues to provide for these resources. This artificial growth is making it harder for reliable baseload generation to connect to the grid.

Number five, the incentives. These same incentives are distorting the market. Eliminating these subsidies would allow private investment to go toward other technologies that are more in line with what our grid actually needs.

As I mentioned earlier, with the rise of AI, we are going to need a lot more power. We should be sending the right market signals to bring the power on that will actually meet the demand that we need for the future.

Number six, wind and solar are no longer emerging technologies. They are mature. They are widely developed. Wind and solar now account for 17 percent of our electric generation.

The cost of these technologies has also dropped dramatically, and this is the seventh reason to phase them out. Wind and solar technologies have less overhead, longer lifespans, and higher profits than they did when these credits were introduced nearly 30 years ago in the 1990s.

For example, the cost of solar has decreased more than 80 percent since 2010. Truly, the market is more than capable of supporting continued growth without subsidies.

As if that isn't compelling enough, there are yet more reasons to phase out these subsidies.

Number eight, their efficiency has increased substantially. Today's wind turbines and solar panels are far more

productive than they were even a decade ago.

When I first started permitting these projects 12 years ago, the capacity factor for wind was around 25 percent. Today that average capacity factor is up to 40 percent and in some places even 50 percent. Clearly, these are proven technologies.

Number nine, the true cost of installing wind and solar is often misrepresented. Advocates routinely leave out the cost of the massive transmission infrastructure needed to connect remote wind and solar projects to population centers.

They also ignore the cost of backup generation needed to keep the lights on at night or when the wind isn't blowing. The low-cost claims don't account for these expenses, but, rest assured, utility customers still pay for them.

And last, but not least, eliminating these subsidies is fully consistent with an all-of-the-above energy strategy.

I believe in competition. Wind and solar are viable, market proven, widely available technologies. Mr. Speaker, it is time to let them compete and succeed without the help of Federal taxpayers.

Phasing out these tax credits will save taxpayers billions of dollars, help restore reliability to our power grid, and help deliver on the promise of one big, beautiful bill to make America stronger, safer, and more competitive.

Let's retire these subsidies permanently.

MR. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Dakota for her remarks.

I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. STUTZMAN).

MR. STUTZMAN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to talk on such an important issue that faces our country.

Our country has been ailing since 2020, but, thankfully, President Trump is back, along with Republicans in both the House and the Senate, and we are ready to govern responsibly.

The prescription that will help heal our country and get us back on track is the beautiful reconciliation bill that Republicans have been working on diligently to get to President Trump's desk. It cannot be overstated. Our debt crisis is out of control.

When I was first sworn into office in 2010, our Federal Government had \$9 trillion of debt. When I left temporarily in 2017, despite our efforts to curb spending, it had doubled to \$18 trillion of debt, and now today in 2025, we are staring down the barrel of \$36 trillion of debt.

This is only going to hurt our children, grandchildren, and, frankly, it is going to hurt us today.

Republicans' big, beautiful bill was passed out of our Budget Committee just under 3 months ago and is already well on its way to being approved by this body by Memorial Day.

□ 1830

The legislation that committees are marking up this week and next is going

to usher in the new golden age of America by prioritizing a revolutionary, conservative agenda that will improve the efficiency of government and finally get a handle on runaway spending that has gone unchecked for far too long.

This bill is going to lower taxes. This bill is also going to increase border security and restore fiscal sanity back to the greatest country on Earth. Gone are the days of prioritizing wokeness, frivolous spending, and the leftist dream of open borders. Here to stay is a new era of putting America first.

The American people spoke loud and clear in November. They are ready for Washington to operate in a new patriotic and responsible way, and our reconciliation package is the first step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of such a historic opportunity, and we as Republicans cannot let this opportunity slip by. I appreciate our Speaker and the leader in the Senate working together well and this body working together to make sure that our country is strong, not only for our generation but for generations to come, and continue to keep America great.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana for his comments, and I appreciate his work. We share a lot of work together on the Budget Committee, and it has been a very active time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN). Her State, quite possibly, may be the second-best State out there in the West, second to Utah, of course. I think we have that mantle pretty well locked up, but there are some other good ones in the running.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I like being in the top five. I rise to recognize Wyoming's outstanding small businesses during this Small Business Week.

Like Wyoming's diverse topography, from pastures to sagebrush to majestic mountains, our small business landscape boasts a robust variety of services and industries. We have small businesses catering to the oil and gas industry and mining and energy, and we have boutique shops that make up our incredibly vibrant downtown areas. We have international businesses, like Brunton, within our State and those with similar national prominence, even some supporting our space mission and our military and putting food on the tables of Americans across this great country.

I recently had the opportunity to meet Wyoming's Small Business Person of the Year, Lauren Heerschap, of Brunton International. Lauren is an innovator who saw an opportunity to improve a product she used every day. She worked with her husband to refine the tool and presented it to Brunton, a company that at the time was just a business whose equipment Lauren was using.

Within only a few years of presenting that idea, and the company deciding to move forward with then manufacturing and eventually marketing a new product, Lauren and her husband, David, purchased that company. Thanks to Lauren, Brunton International is now, once again, an American-owned company. It is a beacon of resilience and prominence, in no small part due to the company's passionate leaders, who are willing to take on new opportunities with enthusiasm and trudge through challenges with tenacity.

Wyoming businessmen and -women are a special kind of people. If you are in business in Wyoming, you are willing to be both the janitor and the CEO, sometimes even on the same day. You have a growth mindset and are willing to take on the challenges brought by fluctuating markets. You both strive to progress into new areas but are willing to take time for one-off projects in order to help an individual in your hometown.

For Wyoming's business community and small businesses across our great Nation, I am committed to ensuring that we pass legislation that creates a legacy and regulatory climate that allows our small businesses to be competitive and to grow.

Small businesses are pivotal to the success of our Nation's economy. I join my colleagues this week in celebration of the small businesses that keep our country thriving, and I will work with them to ensure that there is opportunity long into the future.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming for her comments, and I appreciate her being a part of the Special Order this evening.

Our last colleague who is going to address us this evening is a new Member from the great State of Kansas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SCHMIDT), also an improvement to the previous Member. He is a good friend.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I will have no comment on that last comment from my colleague from Utah.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, that is smart.

Mr. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I am very proud to join my colleagues tonight in recognition of National Small Business Week, and actually, all the parts we have talked about are connected.

National Small Business Week recognizes the importance of the small businesses throughout all of our communities, and the numbers aren't that different from State to State.

In my home State of Kansas, 99 percent of the businesses that operate are small businesses. Whether they are small businesses on Main Street, small mom-and-pop shops, little manufacturing operations, farming operations, or supporting operations, 99 percent of our businesses are small businesses.

Those 99 percent in my State employ about 600,000 Kansans, which is roughly

half the total number of Kansans who work. All but 1 percent our businesses, 99 percent, employ half of our people who rely on them for their livelihood, for their hope, for their jobs, for their benefits in many cases, and for filling their days because they, obviously, have to work in order to support their families and pursue their dreams.

We cannot overstate the importance of small businesses to all of us, the people we represent. Yet, that often doesn't get reflected in the decisions and the actions that come out of this town.

My colleagues have talked a bit about reconciliation, and I say these are connected because we are going to make large policy decisions here in the House, in the Senate, and with the President over the course of the coming weeks that are going to have huge implications for all of those small businesses on our Main Streets and all of those individuals who work in them and rely on them for their livelihoods.

We talk a lot about the tax implications. That is not my focus this evening. It is critically important. We have to extend the small business and middle-class tax relief so that those businesses can continue to operate and continue to employ the people we represent.

I want to talk a little bit tonight about the regulatory environment and the burden that we have created—really, a tax by another means. When the government says to a small business, “thou shalt do this,” the compliance cost of doing it is borne by that business, and it comes out of their bottom line or out of their pockets. It takes away from their ability to invest in expanding, growing, and hiring more people. It has the same effect as taking another dollar of tax out of their pocket to pay not for their priorities, their community's priorities, or their employees' priorities, but for the government's priorities. That is true whether it is a dollar taken out of their pockets collected in tax, in cash, or whether it is a dollar taken out of their pockets and ordered by the government to be used to comply with a government requirement, a mandate, a regulation.

I am one who believes, because my constituents have told me this, that one of the most important things we can and must do in this Congress is make real progress on regulatory relief for the small businesses that all of our communities rely on. We have begun to take some steps.

You know, Mr. Speaker, that we are currently using one of several tools available to us in this body to undo some—a small number, but some—of the newer regulations that have piled burdens on our small businesses. We are using the Congressional Review Act. We only have a short amount of time that we can use that tool, so we have to strike while the iron is hot.

So far, in the House, we have used that tool to propose undoing 15 new regulations that were adopted in

roughly the last 6 months of the prior administration. Of those 15 that we have approved here, 3 have been signed into law by the President. We have done three. Another six have been approved by the Senate and are currently awaiting President Trump's signature. Then, there are an additional six that are awaiting consideration and, I hope and expect, passage in the Senate.

That is good. It is a good thing. We are using the tool available to try to make progress to provide some relief for those small businesses, but, Mr. Speaker, it is barely a drop in the bucket.

The chart next to me was compiled by George Washington University. It shows the number of pages in the Federal Register, starting back in 1950. The Federal Register, of course, is the government book, the government entity, where all the agency regulations, not the laws passed by this body, but the agency regulations, the bureaucratic regulations, get published.

They have the force and effect of law. They are just as burdensome and binding on somebody running a mom-and-pop shop on Main Street in Kansas as is a statute enacted by this body. Usually, they are regulations adopted by an agency at the direction or, arguably, with the permission of this body. We fight over that sometimes when agencies exceed the authority they were given.

There is a penchant here in Congress to avoid some of the hard decisions and just ship it downtown, let the agencies have a lot of running room. As a result of that, you get lots of decisions. Sometimes, they are not consistent.

One administration goes one way, and another administration goes the next way, or they adopt one regulation, then pile another regulation on top of it, and then another on top of that. I heard a term the other day—I had never heard it before—"coral reefing," this idea that you lay down something that is living and makes sense, then that layer dies, and you just build another on top and another on top. Eventually, you get this giant dead mass. That is what we have done with a lot of these agency regulations. Part of it is Congress' fault. Part of it is the agency's fault.

If you look at this chart, Mr. Speaker, back in 1950, roughly the time they started publishing the Federal Register, compiling all these agency rules, diktats, actions, there were about 10,000 pages. That is about how long it was, the sum of all regulations adopted by agencies. The year I was born in, 1968, it had grown fivefold to 50,000 pages. When this chart was compiled about a year ago, a little more, it was nearly 200,000 pages. Nearly 200,000 pages of regulations that folks in our country, our small businesses, have to comply with.

By the way, to put that in comparison, the number of pages in the U.S. Code, the laws actually adopted by the people's Representatives in this body,

last time it was compiled, it was around 60,000 pages, so about four times, roughly, three or four times as many rules and requirements on Main Street businesses written by people nobody out in the real world ever voted for as opposed to laws that their elected Representatives are accountable for.

By the way, this chart is not current. It doesn't include those regulations piled on top of this last tallest bar. Since this chart was compiled, we know that in the last 5 months of the Biden administration alone, more than 1,400 new regulations were adopted and shoved out the door. That is not 1,400 pages. That is 1,400 regulations, most of which were long, so this chart is actually much higher.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to remind all of my colleagues and all of us who serve in these roles how important it is that, during this Small Business Week, as we are doing our reconciliation bill and doing all the things we do, we not forget about this hidden tax, that we have created this burden that we have placed on the 99 percent of small businesses in our community, which employ half the people working in my State, making it harder for them to do what they do, what we rely on them to do, what we count on them to do, and, more importantly, what the people we represent, our constituents, count on them to do.

We can't lose sight of it. We must fix this system, tear down some of the coral reef, and get those lines moving back down.

□ 1845

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. SCHMIDT), who had excellent points. We all talk about small business. We all use it as a line and a bullet point, and we all say that we support them, and then where does the actual policy come in?

Those are incredibly important points to highlight that they are the lifeblood. We have data that suggests that Utah, which has an incredible economy, strong work ethic, low unemployment, good volunteerism across the board, is ranked high in the economic indicators for the country, and we are heavily tilted toward small business out of Utah. There aren't an enormous amount of global headquarters for big, multinational firms. It is a ton of small businesses. I thank the gentleman for highlighting that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my other colleagues for being here to discuss the goings-on for this week. We have heard so much about the reconciliation process and the dangers of not getting this done. There is a real threat.

We are working under unique circumstances because there is a time limit set for the end of this year that, if we don't accomplish this piece of legislation, there is no other way to look at it except for the fact that taxes will increase on virtually every American family and business.

We desperately want to create good, strong, predictable tax policy so that our companies and our families can continue to thrive and continue to understand what their landscape is for them to compete and go and create more job growth and actually go and create more revenue for our Nation to become a wealthier nation. This is a priority for Republicans. It is a priority for House GOP leadership, the President, his administration, and we are neck deep in the process of getting this over the finish line.

This bill will deliver on our conservative agenda and make positive changes that we know that Americans want. From a more secure border to stronger domestic energy resources, to more efficient Federal programs, to a tax code that supports families and businesses, this is a once-in-a-generation moment, and I am grateful to be part of this effort on both the Committee on Ways and Means and the Budget Committee.

There is obviously a lot going into this and, on the Committee on Ways and Means, we are trying to find the sweet spot of many considerations at play. We need to ensure the provisions in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act aren't just extended but, where possible, made permanent.

If we don't act, we risk seeing critical policies roll back, such as the child tax credit, which goes back to just \$1,000. It was \$1,000 prior to 2017. Republicans doubled it. That reverts back to \$1,000, and \$1,000 in 2026, after the inflation that we have seen over the last 4 years in the previous administration, is a significantly different number than it would be from pre-2017.

While we can't solve the debt crisis with this bill alone, it will drive strong economic growth, bolster GDP—we know this because we have seen this—and it puts us in a better position to address our national deficits. This is probably the most substantive action that I have been a part of, and it has been an honor to have been right in the thick of it.

Over the last few weeks, several committees have passed bills aimed at saving hundreds of billions of dollars, and we are well on our way to making historic savings a reality. As we work through this, we are doing so with a clear focus on the needs of our economy, particularly on small businesses.

This week is Small Business Week, and I am recognizing the hard work of our small business owners as something that we can all support from both sides of the aisle. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, as I mentioned what it means to the State of Utah, and they are critical to every local community across this country.

In this role, I am grateful to get to know as many small business owners as possible and hear their concerns, understand their areas of growth, what their opportunities are, and, most importantly, what their challenges are.

Going back to the reconciliation package—and we are working on, particularly, the tax portion—we are looking to deliver positive results to our small businesses and craft policies that will allow them to thrive.

The 199A, small business, LLC, S corp, deduction from their qualified business expense, a 20 percent deduction, expires at the end of this year. That is a massive tax hike on small businesses, and this is oftentimes a category that gets overlooked because my colleagues talk about corporations and about high-net-worth individuals, but the small businesses are structured in a way that their ordinary income is taxed at what some of the highest income individuals of our society are taxed at.

These small businesses are taxed at a significantly high rate, oftentimes higher than other corporations. We need to make sure that 199A is extended and, if not just extended, made permanent. The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act made our small businesses more competitive, and we want to continue to pursue policies that provide regulatory relief, economic stability, and the ability to grow and create jobs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues again for joining me tonight to talk about these important issues, and we will continue to dig into this in the weeks to come.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### GROSS VIOLATIONS OF LAW BY TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. MIN of California was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BAUMGARTNER). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. MIN. Mr. Speaker, we just heard all day from Republicans on the other side of the aisle that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act is going to lead to helping small businesses and reducing the deficit. Yet, what we just missed in all of this discussion was any discussion of the T-word, and I am not talking about Trump here. I am talking about tariffs.

In fact, when I talk to the small businesses in my district, that is the number one, number two, and number three concerns that they have.

When Members talk about the deficits and the jobs creation that the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act are supposed to have, note that this is going to add \$7 trillion to our national debt. It will blow up our deficit. In fact, Donald Trump is responsible for roughly 40

percent of the national debt just in the 4 years in which he was in office.

He oversaw, of course, the worst jobs record of any President since Herbert Hoover.

That is right. He oversaw the worst jobs growth of any President since the Great Depression.

It now looks like he is doubling down on those failed policies, and congressional Republicans are looking to support those efforts and potentially take us into the Great Depression 2.0, as economist after economist has warned us.

Mr. Speaker, that is not what I am here to talk about today. I rise today to speak about the Trump administration's egregious Hatch Act violations and also Congress' failure to hold Donald Trump and his administration accountable for these gross violations of law.

That is, of course, a theme that we have seen. Trump has bent and broken the law and key provisions of the Constitution over and over. Yet, this body, which, as any kid knows, is supposed to be a coequal branch of government to the President, to the executive branch, has rolled over and played dead rather than holding anybody accountable.

Today, we heard another oversight hearing about something that people in my district just don't care about: trans athletes who are fencing in different types of competitive atmospheres. That may be something for local sporting bodies to take up. It is not something that is pressing to my constituents. It is not pressing in the way that the corruption, the lawlessness, the tariffs, or so many other things are.

The Hatch Act, I think, embodies the problems that we are seeing right now with just the sheer criminality and lawlessness of this administration and the failure of Congress—again, a coequal branch of government—in standing up for itself. We have an hour for this Special Order, but we would need much more time to talk about all of the Hatch Act violations made by members of the Trump administration.

Mr. Speaker, this is important to me because, as someone who has spent my career trying to uphold the rule of law, I turned down Wall Street to begin my career at the Securities and Exchange Commission to crack down on corporate fraud, exactly the type that Donald Trump and many of his allies are committing right now, such as securities fraud, corporate fraud, and the like.

When I was a law professor at the University of California, Irvine, I spent my career trying to uphold law enforcement and the rule of law, and right now we are just seeing a level of sheer criminality and lawlessness that is unprecedented in history. What is happening right now makes the Teapot Dome scandal and all of these scandals we read about in history look like penny-ante stuff.

The Trump administration is doing everything it can right now to allow

for people to violate the Hatch Act. I emphasize the Hatch Act was a series of laws passed by Congress to prevent senior officials in the administration from abusing their official executive branch positions to campaign and to engage in politics.

Of course, the Trump administration issued an executive order essentially undoing many of the provisions of the Hatch Act, allowing members of the administration to use their official offices to campaign for Donald Trump and Republicans, something that is totally outrageous, something that is totally in defiance of the Hatch Act.

Again, this is a law that we passed in Congress, and, no, the President does not get to make law by executive order. This President has issued more executive orders than the last approximately 10 Presidents combined already, and we are only 3½ months into his Presidency. Executive orders do not rewrite laws that we pass.

I remind my colleagues of something that my kids learned in third grade: Article I of the Constitution gives Congress and only Congress the authority to create laws, to enact laws. The President does not get to rewrite laws that we passed, including the Hatch Act, by just having his lawyers come up with some nonsense and calling it an executive order. Yet, that is what we have seen done here.

The administration has also directed the Office of Special Counsel to refer Hatch Act violations by White House-commissioned officers directly to the President for disciplinary action, rather than the Independent Merit Systems Protections Board.

What he is basically saying is to send those to the White House. If Members expect this White House to enforce any violations of law committed by a Trump supporter, my colleagues haven't been following the news at all. Of course, this White House, this President, from the very beginning, when he pardoned all of the January 6 felons, including people who had assaulted police officers, he was, again, showing his contempt for the rule of law. If we rely on the White House to enforce the law, we have another thing coming.

Mr. Speaker, this is good news for people like Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick, who told viewers during a FOX News interview in March that they could buy Tesla stock, that they should buy Tesla stock, again, violating his position, abusing his position, going on national television to promote a stock aligned with Donald Trump's interests.

It also looks to be great news for people like Lynne Patton, who is returning to work for President Trump this week after finishing up a 2-month suspension from Federal service after she improperly used her position with the Department of Housing and Urban Development for political purposes during President Trump's first term.

It is also good news for all of the White House employees who helped set