

Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall recently told the Agriculture Committee that “in 2025, farmers will plant one of the most expensive crops ever.” Many commodity producers are bracing for the prospect of serious financial losses this year.

These challenges are real. That is why last December Congress approved relief funding for agriculture producers hit by economic headwinds as well as those affected by natural disasters. Secretary Rollins committed to getting these funds out the door quickly during her confirmation hearing. Last week, USDA announced that farmers could now apply for direct payments from the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program through their local farm service agency, and additional assistance for those affected by natural disasters will be available soon.

Programs like the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program are designed to help farmers weather the current storm, but let’s be clear: They are only temporary measures, and they are no substitute for an updated farm bill that provides the resources that farmers and ranchers need to face current conditions.

When I became majority leader, I made it clear that a full and updated farm bill would be a priority for the new Republican majority. Secretary Rollins has been clear that this is a priority for the Trump administration as well. I appreciate the work that the Agriculture Committee is doing under Chairman BOOZMAN to respond to the needs of farmers and ranchers.

During my time in Congress, I have had a role in crafting four farm bills. This will be my fifth. It is a difficult task at any time, and it is harder when the situation is as dire as it is today. But Senate Republicans remain committed to finishing this important work and delivering a farm bill that ensures farmers and ranchers have the resources they need to face today’s challenges and tomorrow’s as well. I hope that our Democrat colleagues will join us in working productively to deliver this important legislation.

Farmers and ranchers need certainty so they can plan for the future, and providing that certainty is a priority of mine. I have introduced a number of bills that I will work to see incorporated into the farm bill, including the Crop Insurance for Future Farmers Act and the Livestock Disaster Assistance Improvement Act, among others.

Strengthening the farm safety net is an important priority of mine, as is a stable biofuels policy, including year-round access to E15 and timely and meaningful updates to the renewable volume obligations that matter to ethanol producers in America’s heartland.

I continue to advocate for eliminating the death tax once and for all so that no farmer or rancher has to worry about whether the family farm or ranch will be able to stay in the family after they pass.

Life on a farm or ranch isn’t easy, and I am grateful to all of our farmers

and ranchers, including in my home State of South Dakota, for the remarkable job they do day in and day out feeding not only our country but the world.

We have a responsibility to the men and women who work hard every day to deliver food, fuel, and fiber for America and the world. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to deliver the updated legislation that farmers and ranchers need.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. 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 PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

THE ATLANTIC REPORT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the more we learn about the unsecured text exchange of sensitive military operations, the more questions we have about how such an egregious breach of military intelligence occurred in the first place.

What the Atlantic released today is confounding and extremely disturbing to any American who worries about our national security and our safety. It is appalling. Worst of all, it confirms our darkest assumptions about mishandling of sensitive military operations.

The release of this letter was extremely important, but many outstanding questions are not answered by this letter’s release, so we need the full text exchange released by the administration. This morning’s report reinforces the need for immediate answers, transparency, and accountability from President Trump, Secretary Hegseth, and all the others who were involved.

So today I wrote a letter with top Senate Democrats to President Trump and Secretary Hegseth demanding they release the full, unredacted transcript of all texts in their Signal chats.

Many outstanding questions are simply not answered by the Atlantic’s release of the text messages this morning. That is why we need all the texts in the Signal chat. This includes all text exchanges that occurred after Mr. Goldberg removed himself from the group chat. Goldberg released his information, so now the administration must release theirs.

Again, what is so damaging is not just the presence of a reporter—as bad as that was. It is that these sensitive conversations happened on an unsecured channel at all. And that is why we need all the texts.

Director of National Intelligence Gabbard testified that no classified information was shared in the text chain. So what is the administration hiding by not releasing the full and complete

transcript of this text chain? If no classified information was shared, the administration should have no issue with the full transcript being shared with Senators. Again, this is something that cannot be answered by this morning’s report from the Atlantic, as important as Mr. Goldberg’s release was.

We have other questions in our letter too. Americans need to know if any officials in the chat used personal devices that lacked government overwatch and cyber security protections. How many of these officials were overseas during these conversations, susceptible to foreign surveillance?

It is alarming—alarming—that Director Gabbard refused to answer repeated questions on whether or not she was using her personal phone. That should be a very easy, “Of course not.” But it didn’t come from her.

Were there any other individuals without any security clearance erroneously included in the text chain? Has the intelligence community fully assessed the damage caused by the potential leak of classified information? Are there any other Cabinet-level officials using unsecured channels like Signal to discuss classified or sensitive information?

And another important question: Are there any other conversations that have taken place like this? These are all questions we have asked in our letter. They are all very important. They all follow on what Mr. Goldberg released.

But as I said, there are so many outstanding questions, even after the release of Mr. Goldberg’s text, that we need answers to. The American people need answers to these questions. What we learned this morning from the Atlantic is appalling, confounding, disturbing; and it reinforces the need to get answers to the questions in our letter. Our letter seeks to get to the bottom of these things to ensure this never, never happens again.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, on the economy, yesterday we got another piece of evidence that Donald Trump is failing at the one thing the American people want him to do: keep the economy strong. The Conference Board, one of the most trusted business research organizations, showed consumer confidence has dropped for the fourth straight month. And it didn’t just drop; it is now at the lowest levels since January of 2021, the last time Donald Trump was President.

Donald Trump’s disastrous policies are starting to catch up with him. The economic chickens are coming home to roost, and I fear this is just the beginning.

How can any American have confidence in the economy when Donald Trump and Elon Musk are trying to take away their Social Security and healthcare to cut taxes? How can Americans feel confident when Donald Trump starts, stops, starts, changes his position on tariffs? How can Americans have confidence when the prospect of

trade wars sends the stock market plunging and lets billionaires like Elon Musk take a chain saw to people's benefits?

Americans look at this chaos, they are worried, they are troubled. So what do they do? They say: I better keep some money in my pocket because who knows what is going to happen next and what will hurt me next. This fall is the lowest level of confidence in 12 years. This fall is the lowest level since January of 2021 and the lowest level that we have seen in so long, all because Donald Trump is creating chaos in the economy. And Americans are worried and afraid. When they are, they spend less money, they hire less, and the economy shrinks.

More and more people are learning that Donald Trump and his leadership in the economy—or lack of leadership—is far too erratic, far too chaotic, far too unpredictable. And many of us fear—many Americans fear—it is only the beginning.

VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. President, on voting rights, yesterday Donald Trump escalated his attacks on the bedrock of American democracy. Without a shred of authority, Donald Trump issued an Executive order that will, effectively, coerce States to institute policies that will prevent millions of American citizens from voting.

Let us be very clear: This is an assault on democracy. Donald Trump's order has nothing—nothing—to do with election security. It is an illegal power grab.

We all support safe and transparent and secure elections, but what Donald Trump is doing is making it harder for citizens to vote. He is fanning the flames of election denialism—nothing new to him—claiming without any evidence—without any evidence—that elections are rigged and the system is broken. Every single election authority says this is false.

We all know that if Donald Trump is anything, he is an election denier. He hates the idea of free and fair elections. This is another dark and twisted example of Donald Trump's lawless campaign to recreate America into his personal kingdom.

I am confident the courts will look at this power grab and quickly deem it unconstitutional.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, on Social Security, yesterday, the Senate Finance Committee heard from Frank Bisignano, who has been nominated by Donald Trump to lead the Social Security Administration.

To confirm Mr. Bisignano as the head of Social Security is like hiring an arsonist to run a fire station. His claim to fame is cutting and shrinking the companies he has been a part of.

A "yes" vote on Bisignano is a vote to cut Social Security. I say to my Republican colleagues: If you vote yes on Bisignano, you are voting to cut Social Security.

The Senate should oppose his confirmation. Mr. Bisignano would be a disaster because, at this very moment, in fact, because of what Trump has already done, the Social Security Administration is in crisis. Yesterday, Senate Democrats released a report detailing exactly what is happening now to the Social Security Administration and how Americans are going to suffer. Up to 60 percent of all regional offices are shutting down, dozens of field offices will be closed, and 7,000 workers are being laid off—12 percent of the entire staff. Cutting staff means people with disabilities could be waiting up to 3 years—3 years; disabled people who are entitled to Social Security, 3 years—to get their benefits. The wait time over the phones will explode. Seniors are already having to wait over 2 hours—sometimes longer, it is reported—to get someone on the phone.

Why are they doing this? Why are Donald Trump and Elon Musk doing this? The goal of Trump and Musk is clear: Destroy Social Security from within. Make it so unworkable, so inefficient that Donald Trump has a pretext to cut benefits and privatize the program.

Republicans are saying it loud and clear, and Donald Trump said it in his address to the joint session: This administration, the Trump-Musk administration, is going after Social Security. And why are they doing such a horrible thing? To cut taxes for billionaires like Elon Musk.

Senate Republicans should be using their majority to protect Americans' benefits, not to destroy them. Senate Republicans should be demanding that Elon Musk reverse the firings of the 7,000 staffers, reopen the field offices, and restore the phone services. Senate Republicans haven't done any of that. It is shameful, and they are complicit in destroying Social Security the way Musk intends to do.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes, followed by Senator CRUZ for up to 10 minutes, prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I traveled last week to visit with over 150 members of our Wyoming Army National Guard. They are stationed in Jordan and in Syria, and they are a long way from home—nine time zones away from Wyoming. They are there to keep our country safe and free.

One year ago, our adversaries were growing bolder, stronger, and more aggressive. That was a year ago. Today, America is stronger, safer, and much more secure. President Trump is restoring peace through strength. This is a dramatic change from what we saw in the previous administration.

Within days of taking office, President Trump began freeing American

hostages—Marc Fogel, Keith Siegel. Almost a dozen former hostages who were held by our adversaries are now safe on American soil. President Trump is bringing American citizens home.

He is also bringing America's enemies to justice. Let's look at the recent precision strike in Yemen against the Houthi terrorists. Remember who the Houthis are. They are Iran-funded terrorists. Their official slogans say "Death to the United States" and "Death to Israel." They are a direct threat to the American people and specifically to our servicemembers and to American trade.

Since October 7, 2023, the Houthis have attacked U.S. Navy ships 174 times. They have attacked U.S. commercial ships 145 times. Iran provides them with high-tech missiles and precision-guided drones.

These attacks continue. Why? Because Joe Biden and the Democrats were weak, and Joe Biden, their President, projected weakness. President Trump is strong, and he projects strength. President Trump responded firmly with overwhelming strength.

I am grateful for our servicemembers who carried out the attacks.

President Trump sent a clear message to the terrorists: Stop or get destroyed. He also sent a clear message to Iran: You will not escape accountability.

This is a remarkable change from his predecessor. Joe Biden appeased Iran. His administration gave Iran \$100 billion in sanctions relief. President Trump is keeping up maximum pressure on Iran, and the Houthi strike proves it.

President Trump knows that Iran is responsible for the chaos in the Middle East. Since taking office, President Trump rightfully has hit Iran with 94 new sanctions. President Trump also placed sanctions on Iran's so-called ghost fleet. These are the oil smugglers who move Iranian oil to China. These sanctions against Iran help put communist China on notice. These fleets are moving Iranian oil and selling it to China at a discount, making Iran richer and making China more powerful. Remember, 90 percent of Iran's exports of oil go to communist China. We saw a lot of it under the last administration. As the Wall Street Journal editorial board recently wrote, "[T]he Iranian oil-export problem is really a Chinese import problem" because they are getting the cheap oil. President Trump is responding firmly to this new axis of evil.

Here in the West, President Trump is taking historic action against the killer cartels. He recently designated killer cartels as "foreign terrorists." With this designation, he can move more aggressively to deport illegal immigrant criminals who are members of these deadly groups.

The President of the United States is our Commander in Chief, and President Trump takes the role seriously. He is