



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 171

WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2025

No. 63

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

Lord, thank You for this day and for the countless gifts You have showered upon us. You give us love and laughter, faith and fulfillment, hope and happiness. Lord, even in turbulent times, You give us Your peace. May we use these blessings to serve You and to bring glory to Your Name.

Bless our Senators as they strive to do Your will. Give them the wisdom to hear Your voice and the courage to carry out Your commands. Keep them from weariness, doubts, and despair, and give them an abundant harvest in due season.

Finally, Lord, bless us all. Teach us to love the goodness and the justice of Your law. Remind us to do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with You.

We pray in Your righteous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

IOWA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, we are in the middle of what is known as March Madness. I am not talking about budget reconciliation or tax season; I am here to congratulate and say thank you to our outstanding student athletes who have competed their hearts out on the court and on the mat these last few weeks.

First, I want to pay tribute to our Iowa teams who made it into the NCAA Division I basketball tournament. That includes Iowa State University women's and men's teams, the University of Iowa women's team, and the men's team at Drake University in Des Moines.

Division I wrestlers from the Iowa Hawkeyes, Iowa State Cyclones, and my alma mater, the University of Northern Iowa, competed earlier this month in Philadelphia.

I want to congratulate two teams from my home State who won their respective collegiate championships this month. In the NCAA Division III wrestling national championship, the Knights from Wartburg College returned from Rhode Island as cochampions and with their 16th national title—the most in Division III history. The women's basketball team at Dordt University in Sioux Center returned to the NAIA national championship held last week in Sioux City, IA. The Dordt Defenders defended their title and are back-to-back champions.

Sports brings communities together from one generation to the next. As loyal UNI Panther fans and proud boosters for Dike-New Hartford athletics, Barbara and I would say that sports are like glue that sticks, a refreshing antidote in these polarizing times.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I have another point to make, which I think I have made once or twice before. Remember last December, we got to December and didn't pass 12 appropriations bills. We didn't pass a farm bill. We didn't debate the DOD authorization bill. We didn't solve the high prescription drug prices, and about 65 Senators backed bills doing that.

So I want to remind my colleagues that there are 14 Fridays between now and the end of this fiscal year on September 30, and we ought to think about, do we want another December 2025 without doing 12 appropriations bills, without doing a farm bill, without doing the DOD authorization bill, without a debate in the Senate, and not doing anything about high prescription drug prices?

Now is the time to start thinking about whether a 2- or 3-day working week in the U.S. Senate is enough time to do all this important stuff.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

ENERGY REGULATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, over the last 4 years, the Biden administration put our energy security on a dangerous trajectory. The administration sharply restricted oil and gas development. It

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



Printed on recycled paper.

S2461

threatened the closure of existing powerplants with burdensome new regulations, even as our electric grid struggled to keep up with demand. President Biden attempted to force the widespread adoption of electric cars, despite the incredible strain that would place on our already shaky power grid. And that is just to start with.

The administration unleashed a veritable blizzard of Green New Deal regulations as it attempted to push through its far-left agenda.

The American people called for a new direction this past November, and the Trump administration and the Republican majorities in Congress have wasted no time in getting to work to provide relief from burdensome regulations, especially when it comes to energy.

Last month, the EPA announced 31 significant deregulatory actions. Among these are actions addressing the Biden administration's good neighbor rule and Clean Power Plan 2.0. Both of these regulations were designed to effectively force fossil fuel-powered powerplants to close—a dangerous goal at a time when we are already running low on the electricity we need to meet demand. And preventing these Biden-era rules from going into effect removes a significant threat to our energy supply.

Farmers, ranchers, and other landowners can also breathe more easily knowing that the Obama-era waters of the United States rule, which the Biden administration attempted to resurrect, is being revised. The so-called WOTUS rule would have given the Federal Government sweeping jurisdiction over most water features on private property, including things like irrigation ditches, ephemeral streams, and even prairie potholes.

I know farmers and ranchers in my State of South Dakota would have appreciated a seat at the table before the Biden administration resurrected this harmful policy, and I am pleased that the Trump administration is committed to consulting with stakeholders for their input on an alternative clean water rule.

The EPA is also now working to terminate the Biden electric vehicle mandate. The switch to electric vehicles that the Biden administration envisioned was unwelcome, unworkable, and unaffordable for a lot of Americans and, as I said, threatened to put an incredible new strain on our already creaky electric grid. I know South Dakotans were concerned about the loss of choice and about being forced into electric vehicles that aren't suitable for the long distances and bitter cold of life on the Great Plains. So the elimination of this mandate is welcome news in South Dakota, as I am sure it is for a lot of Americans around the country.

Here in Congress, we are joining the President in his deregulatory efforts, and Republican majorities in the House and Senate have spent the last several

weeks working to rescind burdensome energy regulations using the Congressional Review Act. President Trump has already signed two CRA resolutions into law—one eliminating the marine archeology rule that targeted offshore energy development and the other stopping the implementation of the Biden tax on natural gas.

Last week, the Senate passed another CRA resolution to block a Biden-era regulation on walk-in freezers and coolers. This rule, part of the Biden administration's climate agenda, would have heaped additional costs on small businesses like restaurants, butchers, convenience stores, and others.

And, later this week, I expect the Senate to vote on another energy-related CRA resolution—this one to block a Biden administration rule that would take certain gas water heaters off the market by 2029. This rule would not only increase the cost of water heaters for American homeowners, it would also imperil U.S. manufacturing jobs. One manufacturer has said the rule could force a shutdown of its \$70 million plant in Georgia.

The resolution to repeal this burdensome rule received bipartisan support in the House, and I hope our Democrat colleagues will join Republicans in opposing this regulation.

The impact of these regulations is felt across industries by American workers and American businesses. They are felt by Americans who work in the energy sector, by manufacturers, by small business owners, by farmers, by ranchers—and the list goes on.

Regulatory burdens can be especially tough on smaller businesses, sometimes leading them to sell or shutter their operations. Those who stay in business often have to raise prices to stay afloat. And whether it is through higher utility bills or higher costs at the grocery store or for other goods, it is the American people who ultimately bear the cost of these rules.

That is why this is such an important issue for Republicans. It is why we are working hard to eliminate these and many other regulatory burdens, and we will continue working to deliver regulatory relief for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader is recognized.

TARIFFS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would like to begin by reading a quote

from Bill Ackman, the billionaire well known for his support of Donald Trump. He said:

We are headed for a self-induced, economic nuclear winter, and we should start hunkering down.

Preston Caldwell, a senior economist from Morningstar Research, likewise, said:

If they're maintained, the tariff hikes announced April 2 represents a self-inflicted economic catastrophe for the United States.

Meanwhile, Larry Fink of BlackRock says, most CEOs he has spoken to would say we have already entered a recession. The damage of Donald Trump's tariff tax has already been done. And regardless of what the markets say from one hour to the next, there are no signs that the chaos is changing at any time soon.

Americans are anxious. Nobody, looking at their retirement accounts today is feeling anything close to liberated. It has been a hellacious few days for people worried about their 401(k)s and their savings and their kids' future. And that is not changing anytime soon.

Before things get worse, Donald Trump should immediately reverse his reckless trade war. He should halt his tariff tax at once, and he should start focusing more on America's actual trade adversaries, like China, instead of picking a fight with the entire world and causing chaos and steering us toward a recession in the process.

The chaos within the Trump administration was shown a few minutes ago, when Elon Musk called Peter Navarro—the chief architect of these tariffs—a moron. That is Musk's word. He called him a "moron." Their plan is so crazy, so controversial that this administration cannot get its act together—with them calling each other names—regarding this tariff plan.

This is perhaps the most significant task for the Republican congressional leadership since Donald Trump became President. The choice in front of Leader THUNE and Speaker JOHNSON is simple: Choose Donald Trump or choose American families. Stand up to Donald Trump or watch him trigger a recession.

So this morning, I am writing to Speaker JOHNSON, urging him to put the Senate-passed resolution undoing Donald Trump's tariffs for a vote in the House.

Let me quote from the letter:

Plain and simple, the Trump Trade War is a Trump Tax on families, raising their costs by nearly \$4,000 per year and devastating small businesses, forcing them to raise prices or lay off staff. It is a dangerous, foolish exercise that is wreaking havoc on the American economy and could very well tee up a recession. If the president doesn't back off, Congress must take action—the Senate has already taken action to provide relief from tariffs on Canada, and the House should follow immediately.

Remember, this resolution affects Canada. Nobody understands what the heck the President is doing with Canada. It was bipartisan. It got four Republican votes and passed the Senate.