

we would be saying too: You can't push us around. We are a sovereign nation.

So what is the difference here between making a speech on the floor of the Senate and actually doing something to impact this tariff war that Donald Trump has started? The difference is four—four Members of the U.S. Senate on the Republican side.

If any four will step forward and say: Enough. We have a constitutional opportunity and responsibility when it comes to tariffs and our dealings with foreign countries, and we, as four Republicans, will join with the Democrats in engaging in a bipartisan discussion over how to go forward from here. If they don't step up—if four Republicans don't step up—then Donald Trump will continue this tariff war at the expense of American businesses and American workers and American taxpayers and our reputation in the world. That much is at stake.

Herbert Hoover signed the Smoot-Hawley law, which imposed tariffs on the world in June of 1930, and then President Hoover went fishing. President Trump signed off on these massive tariffs and went on to play golf at Mar-a-Lago. I don't get it.

This is the most serious economic and trade situation we have faced in modern times. Businesses are desperate looking around at how to resolve this in a fashion to keep themselves in business and to employ critical employees. This is the moment when we should be gathering together and talking about, specifically, where we are headed. But the best I can tell is that we are putting at risk our constancy, our reliability, and the trust of nations all around the world because of this undertaking.

If the President Trump tariff tax continues unabated, it is going to destroy this economy—period, end of quote. We are dealing with many people who feel that we are already in a recession or headed to one quickly.

Will there be four Republicans who will step up and say: Stop. We cannot do this without some thoughtful consideration of what impact it is going to have on our economy?

If four of them will step up in the House and four in the Senate, we can make history together on a bipartisan basis and come up with something that is thoughtful and avoids this terrible chaos and the reckless conduct of this administration to date.

President Trump has played many roles in his career. He played a billionaire real estate mogul on the hot, hit reality show "The Apprentice." On January 6, 2021, he played a cheerleader, ramping up an angry mob of insurrectionists to storm the U.S. Capitol. But his latest role may be the most outlandish. He calls himself a doctor.

On Thursday, after the President's so-called "Liberation Day" of tariffs, he took to social media to announce to the world:

THE OPERATION IS OVER! THE PATIENT LIVED, AND IS HEALING. THE

PROGNOSIS IS THAT THE PATIENT WILL BE FAR STRONGER, BIGGER, BETTER, AND MORE RESILIENT THAN EVER BEFORE.

That was reported by the President after his so-called "Liberation Day" of tariffs.

The "operation" in his twisted metaphor, of course, was Trump's tariff tax, a 10-percent tariff on imports from almost every nation in the world, and the "patient" is supposed to be the U.S. economy.

If this is Dr. Trump's idea of a successful operation, he should be sued for medical malpractice. He is playing a dangerous game and, this Trump tariff-tax gambit could push our country into a desperate recession.

Small businesses in Illinois—and large ones as well—have reached out to our office, concerned that the uncertainty brought on by this administration could leave them no other choice but to cut jobs due to increased costs. Some have even said their businesses would go under due to these tariffs—their life's work rendered to nothing.

Nobody knows what this administration wants to get out of these tariffs. They have yet to specify what they want from other countries. And why would any country want to do business with the United States again if trade agreements can be violated so willfully?

After threatening a 34-percent tariff on China, Trump raised it to 104 percent. And just this morning, China announced a retaliatory 84-percent tariff on American goods starting tomorrow. This is going to devastate our economy. In Illinois, it will hurt our farmers who export thousands of tons of soybeans, American corn, pork, and more to China.

Unsurprisingly, the markets have responded with shock and panic. I know that half of the American people don't own stock or really follow what is happening in the stock market closely, but many do. And this, I can say: In the week after Trump's self-destructive announcement, the S&P 500 dropped by nearly 19 percent—19 percent—from its last high on February 19, creeping eerily close to bear market territory.

Last week's drop wiped out more than \$5 trillion of total wealth. Overnight, many Americans watched their retirement accounts plummet—what a sinking feeling to see that happen in such a short period of time.

Americans who scrimped and saved their whole working lives for their retirement, who worked multiple jobs and made sacrifices to ensure they would have enough to live comfortably in their golden years, have been stunned by what has happened in just a matter of days with the Trump tariff tax.

And add tanking our economy and hurting working families in the process to a long list of inexplicable decisions by the Trump administration.

Donald Trump was bad as a TV real estate mogul, he was bad as a cheer-

leader on January 6, and he is bad as a doctor, with his failed Trump tariff tax operation.

GAZA

Finally, Mr. President, on a separate topic that I mentioned earlier, if you tuned in to "60 Minutes" in the last few weeks, you were reminded of the horrors that continue in Gaza.

I do believe I will put this statement in the RECORD, but I want to commend two doctors from Chicago who have volunteered and risked their lives to go to Gaza.

Dr. Lisa Thornton, a pediatric rehabilitation expert from Chicago, and orthopedic surgeon Dr. Samar Attar volunteered for the Syrian American Medical Society. They know the horrors of war, and they reported it accurately on that program.

Urgent medical and humanitarian supplies that had increased during the first phase of the cease-fire must be maintained and allowed in once again, and this ghastly 18-month war must finally come to an end.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The Senator from Arkansas.

NOMINATION OF MIKE HUCKABEE

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, today, I urge my Senate colleagues to confirm Gov. Mike Huckabee's nomination to be the next U.S. Ambassador to Israel.

I have had the privilege of knowing Mike, his wife Janet, and his children John Mark, David, and Sarah, for many years.

Mike's exemplary character, steadfast faith, and lifetime of servant leadership make him the right choice to represent the President in Israel, particularly at this critical moment.

A friend, patriot, and fellow Arkansan, Mike graduated from Ouachita Baptist University with a degree in religion before attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

As minister at Immanuel Baptist Church in Pine Bluff and, later, pastor at Beech Street Baptist Church in Texarkana, Mike led congregations toward Christ-centered lives of faith, service, and charity. Throughout his time in ministry and, later, as president of the Arkansas Baptist State Convention, Mike encouraged others to grow in their faith by dedicating himself to spreading the good news of the Gospel to all.

For some unknown and largely inexplicable reason, Mike left the pulpit and entered politics. Mysterious are the ways of the Lord indeed.

As Governor of Arkansas for more than a decade, Mike led the Natural State toward a stronger, more prosperous future by building coalitions and gathering support from both sides of the aisle. Governor Huckabee cut taxes, created jobs, improved infrastructure, reformed education, and improved healthcare for all Arkansans. Mike was a solution-oriented, pragmatic leader who left a lasting legacy for generations of Arkansans and their families. Word on the street is he even

played some small part in inspiring our current Governor into public service.

Now as the U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Mike will lead and strengthen our important diplomatic relationship with Israel with courage and conviction.

Upon selecting Mike for this critical role, President Trump said:

Mike will work tirelessly to bring peace in the Middle East.

I couldn't agree more.

Mike has been a lifelong friend of Israel's and an ardent supporter and defender of Israel's right to exist.

In 1973, Mike made his first trip to Israel as a recent high school graduate. The experience of visiting the Biblical sites at the center of history had such a profound impact on 17-year-old Mike Huckabee that he would go on to lead tens of thousands of people on similarly life-changing visits. Over the course of approximately 100 trips since 1981, Mike developed deep friendships with the people of Israel—Jewish, Muslim, and Christian alike.

Mike spent his career leading fellow Christians on journeys of faith, Arkansans toward a brighter future, and pilgrims on voyages of discovery. I am confident that he will lead the United States' relationship with Israel on a path toward peace and prosperity for both of our peoples.

I urge my Senate colleagues to support his nomination and approve his nomination swiftly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Idaho.

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I have come here today in support of President Trump's nominee for U.S. Ambassador to Israel, Gov. Mike Huckabee, who was reported out of our Foreign Relations Committee recently.

For years, the previous administration wrung its hands and withheld American support for Israel in the wake of the horrendous, awful October 7 terror attack by Hamas. Despite this, Israel had the courage to confront Iran, Hamas, and its other proxies, and it has decimated them.

Now, thanks to President Trump's negotiations and Israel's courage, Iran is at its weakest point in decades and hostages are returning home.

Israel is one of America's greatest allies, a bastion of freedom in the Middle East, and our closest partner in countering Iran's destabilizing efforts in the region.

To execute on President Trump's ironclad support of Israel, we urgently need a qualified ambassador in the region. I have no doubt Governor Huckabee is that person, and he will work alongside President Trump and Secretary Rubio and our friends in Israel to bring peace to a turbulent region and ensure both American and Israeli hostages are brought home from the clutches of Hamas.

The other countries in the region, our Arab allies, our Arab friends, are desperate to see peace in the region.

They want it as badly as anyone else does.

I urge all of my colleagues to support Governor Huckabee and to fill this important national security position.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Atkins nomination.

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

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that we immediately proceed to the rollcall vote.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant bill clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 61, of Paul Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2026.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Paul Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2026, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 51, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 200 Ex.]

YEAS—51

Banks	Capito	Crapo
Barrasso	Cassidy	Cruz
Blackburn	Collins	Curtis
Boozman	Cornyn	Daines
Britt	Cotton	Ernst
Budd	Cramer	Fischer

Graham	Lee	Risch
Grassley	Lummis	Rounds
Hagerty	Marshall	Schmitt
Hawley	McConnell	Scott (FL)
Hoeben	McCormick	Scott (SC)
Husted	Moody	Sheehy
Hyde-Smith	Moran	Sullivan
Johnson	Moreno	Tillis
Justice	Murkowski	Tuberville
Kennedy	Paul	Wicker
Lankford	Ricketts	Young

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—4

Gillibrand	Sanders
Mullin	Thune

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 51, the nays are 45.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Paul Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2026.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the clerk will report the Huckabee nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Mike Huckabee, of Arkansas, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the State of Israel.

VOTE ON HUCKABEE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Huckabee nomination?

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 201 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Collins	Ernst
Barrasso	Cornyn	Fetterman
Blackburn	Cotton	Fischer
Boozman	Cramer	Graham
Britt	Crapo	Grassley
Budd	Cruz	Hagerty
Capito	Curtis	Hawley
Cassidy	Daines	Hoeben