

media markets. None of this helps consumers. None of this helps small businesses. None of this lowers prices or spurs innovation. Until these illegal firings are reversed, I cannot support Mr. Meador's nomination to the FTC.

TRIBUTE TO TIM PENNY

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Tim Penny, a public servant, former colleague, and friend who is retiring after a lifetime of service to the State of Minnesota.

Tim grew up on a family farm in southeastern Minnesota, served in both the Minnesota State Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives, and has spent the past 18 years leading the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation as president and CEO.

Tim has been with me on many visits across southern Minnesota. Whether it was helping the community of Madelia recover from a devastating fire or to expand early childhood education, Tim's love for the people of Minnesota has always shined through.

To quote Tim, "I am always in awe of the accomplishments of small-town residents when they are provided the resources to realize their ambitions." And his work helped turn those ambitions to revitalize communities into reality.

Tim began his public life as a State senator in 1976. Six years later, he was elected to represent Minnesota's First Congressional District in the U.S. House, where he served for 12 years. He gained a reputation for his principles and independence.

Tim's commitment to transparency and honesty in government were central themes in the three books he wrote about his Washington experience: "Common Cents," "Payment Due," and "The 15 Biggest Lies in Politics." Talking about that book, he said, "We elect people to achieve the common good and when you get bogged down and paralyzed by mindless sloganeering you don't end up with the sort of consensus that moves policy forward."

He carried those values and commitment to the common good to the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and in all his other work in the community.

He was a senior fellow at the Humphrey Institute and also worked for the public affairs firm Himle Horner. Tim is cochair of the Economic Club of Minnesota, cochair of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, and serves on the Board of Parent Aware for School Readiness.

Tim, thank you for your work at the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation and through your many years representing our State in Washington. Minnesota is better because of you. I wish you all the best in your retirement.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

FAITH MONTH

• Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, Faith Month is designated every April, bringing together people of faith in prayer, thanksgiving, and celebration of their faith. I embrace this special month and commend Concerned Women for America, the Nation's largest public policy organization for women, and other faith-based organizations for encouraging people to use this month to actively strengthen their faith.

Religion is often viewed as a controversial topic, but without religious faith, there would be no United States of America. Faith is deeply woven into the fabric of our great Nation. It was a commitment to faith that led the Pilgrims to flee religious persecution in Europe and seek freedom in a new land. They were followed by Roman Catholics, Baptists, Quakers, and Calvinists, all seeking the chance to practice their faith free from the bonds of a tyrannical government. The Christian faith profoundly shaped the culture and politics of Colonial America.

Faith also inspired our struggle for independence. As our founding documents declare, we are "endowed by [our] Creator with certain unalienable Rights," and our government is founded on "the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God." Acknowledging our "reliance on the protection of divine Providence," we could not be ruled by a King or taxed by a Parliament without consent. America's Founders created the first Nation in history not based on shared ethnicity or language, but rather on the belief that God grants every human being inherent value and natural rights.

The Founders worked to protect the religious freedom sought by the first Colonists. They enshrined that freedom in the very First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, as well as "the free exercise thereof." They did not want the state to be separate from the church as a means to free the state from faith, but to guarantee that Americans could worship freely and as they chose. A nation founded on inalienable, God-given rights could not ignore the importance of belief in God.

The Founders also understood that faith was an indispensable part of freedom. For a nation to govern itself without a monarch or authoritarian ruler, its people must be capable of self-government, exercising their liberty responsibly. They understood that faith fosters good character, virtue, and self-restraint—qualities that prevent society from falling into chaos.

Unfortunately, we have seen the proof of this too often in years. Attacks against faith-based organizations and individuals of particular religious groups are staggeringly high. Peaceful pro-life advocates have been unjustly jailed, churches have been vandalized and burned, and students have faced

threats and violence on their college campuses due to radical protests. The emphasis on race and sexual preference over merit have undermined our businesses and schools. As faith—and the moral foundations that come with it—declines, so does the well-being and stability of our Nation.

Yet when religion is allowed to flourish, communities thrive. Research shows that faith strengthens the family unit, promotes stable marriages, and discourages drug abuse and violence. Regular church attendance is linked to lifting young people out of poverty, and faithful people tend to be happier and more fulfilled in life.

Our Nation has always been a beacon of hope for those seeking religious freedom, and today we are enriched by a diverse religious heritage. This Faith Month, I join Concerned Women for America and millions of Americans to celebrate our distinctly American foundations. We honor the right to worship freely and openly, proud of our heritage as a people of faith. In doing so, we reaffirm our commitment to the religious liberty principles of our founding and our national motto, "In God We Trust."•

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mr. Hanley, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGE REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate a message from the President of the United States submitting a withdrawal which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

(The message received today is printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGES

REPORT OF THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 14024 OF APRIL 15, 2021, WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIED HARMFUL FOREIGN ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—PM 22

THE PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of

its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation declared in Executive Order 14024 of April 15, 2021, which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 14066 of March 8, 2022, and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 14039 of August 20, 2021, Executive Order 14068 of March 11, 2022, Executive Order 14071 of April 6, 2022, and Executive Order 14114 of December 22, 2023, is to continue in effect beyond April 15, 2025.

Specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation—in particular, efforts to undermine the conduct of free and fair democratic elections and democratic institutions in the United States and its allies and partners; to engage in and facilitate malicious cyber-enabled activities against the United States and its allies and partners; to foster and use transnational corruption to influence foreign governments; to pursue extraterritorial activities targeting dissidents or journalists; to undermine security in countries and regions important to United States national security; and to violate well-established principles of international law, including respect for the territorial integrity of states—continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14024 with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 10, 2025.

REPORT RELATIVE TO THE
ISSUANCE OF A PROCLAMATION
PROVIDING EXEMPTION FOR
CERTAIN STATIONARY SOURCES
FROM COMPLIANCE WITH THE
FINAL RULE PUBLISHED BY THE
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
AGENCY TITLED “NATIONAL
EMISSIONS STANDARDS FOR
HAZARDOUS AIR POLLUTANTS:
COAL- AND OIL-FIRED ELECTRIC
UTILITY STEAM GENERATING
UNITS REVIEW OF THE RESID-
UAL RISK AND TECHNOLOGY RE-
VIEW,” 89 FR 38508 (RULE), WHICH
AMENDED THE PREEXISTING
MERCURY AND AIR TOXICS
STANDARDS RULE TO MAKE IT
MORE STRINGENT—PM 23

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying

report; which was referred to the Committee on Environment and Public Works:

To the Congress of the United States:

Consistent with applicable law, including section 112(i)(4) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. 7412(i)(4), I hereby report that I have issued a proclamation providing exemption for certain stationary sources from compliance with the final rule published by the Environmental Protection Agency titled *National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Coal- and Oil-Fired Electric Utility Steam Generating Units Review of the Residual Risk and Technology Review*, 89 FR 38508 (Rule), which amended the preexisting Mercury and Air Toxics Standards rule to make it more stringent.

As reflected in the proclamation of April 8, 2025 (Regulatory Relief for Certain Stationary Sources to Promote American Energy) (Proclamation), coal-fired electricity generation is essential to ensuring that our Nation's grid is reliable and that electricity is affordable for the American people, and to promoting our Nation's energy security. The Federal Government plays a pivotal role in ensuring that the Nation's power supply remains secure and reliable. Forcing energy producers to comply with unattainable emissions controls jeopardizes this mission.

In the Proclamation, I determined that the technology to implement the Rule is not available. I further determined in the Proclamation that it is in the national security interests of the United States to issue an exemption from the Rule to certain stationary sources subject to the Rule, as identified in Annex I of the Proclamation. The effect of this exemption is to extend the compliance date of the Rule for those stationary sources from July 8, 2027, to July 8, 2029.

I am enclosing a copy of the Proclamation I have issued and Annex I thereto.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 10, 2025.

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

At 11:48 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled joint resolution:

H.J. Res. 24. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers”.

At 1:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following joint resolutions, without amendment:

S.J. Res. 18. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Con-

sumer Financial Protection relating to “Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions”.

S.J. Res. 28. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Defining Larger Participants of a Market for General-Use Digital Consumer Payment Applications”.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 22. An act to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 to require proof of United States citizenship to register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes.

H.R. 981. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processes to approve programs of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1228. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the organization of the Office of Survivors Assistance of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 1526. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit the authority of district courts to provide injunctive relief, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 14) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2025 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2026 through 2034.

ENROLLED JOINT RESOLUTION SIGNED

The President Pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY) announced that on today, April 11, 2025, he had signed the following enrolled joint resolution, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

H.J. Res. 24. Joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers”.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 981. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the processes to approve programs of education for purposes of the educational assistance programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1228. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to clarify the organization of the Office of Survivors Assistance of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

H.R. 1526. An act to amend title 28, United States Code, to limit the authority of district courts to provide injunctive relief, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with