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No. 72

Senate

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

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.

O God of light, illumine our way. O God of hope, strengthen our resolve. O God of truth, edify our souls so that we may live today for Your glory. May our lawmakers bring honor to You by being faithful stewards of love, grace, compassion, and patience.

Lord, use them to meet the pressing needs of our Nation and world, providing our Senators with opportunities to be Your hands and heart in these challenging times. Let them never lack the courage or the will to do Your work. May their words, thoughts, and actions reflect the content of Your character.

We pray in Your sovereign 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. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

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 FOR APPLIANCE STANDARDS: CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS, LABELING REQUIREMENTS, AND ENFORCEMENT PROVISIONS FOR CERTAIN CONSUMER PRODUCTS AND COMMERCIAL EQUIPMENT"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume consideration of H.J. Res. 42, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 42), 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 for Appliance Standards: Certification Requirements, Labeling Requirements, and Enforcement Provisions for Certain Consumer Products and Commercial Equipment".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

NATIONAL DONATE LIFE MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, April is National Donate Life Month. This is a month to raise awareness about the lifesaving importance of organ donation.

There happen to be over 103,000 Americans on the national organ transplant waiting list. We should have confidence that our organ transplant system is efficient and that the system is also fair.

Sadly, my oversight, dating back as far as 2005, has uncovered decades of corruption and mismanagement in that system. It has left vulnerable patients to die. They are on the waiting list while unused organs from generous American donors go to waste.

Speaking of waiting lists, I have been concerned about reports of those on the

wait-list being skipped over. This furthers the distrust in the organ donation system.

Through my bipartisan oversight and the 2023 Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network law that we passed, the Federal Government is making long overdue changes. The law improved the management and the oversight of our organ transplant system and encouraged participation from competent and transparent contractors.

To build on those reforms, in March, the President signed a continuing resolution that provided authority for the Department of Health and Human Services to collect registration fees from organ transplant member institutions. This action by our President ensures the 2023 law can be implemented properly.

I encourage all Americans to consider being organ donors and to understand the impact it can have on saving lives. So when you get your driver's license, you can tell them you want to be an organ donor.

It says "donor" right there on my driver's license.

And, of course, besides encouraging people to be organ donors, I am keeping a close eye on how the Federal Government is implementing this new law that we passed in a bipartisan measure to give people the chance at a life-saving transplant.

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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION FIRST 100 DAYS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, Americans woke up this morning to some

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



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very troubling news. The economy shrank in the first quarter of 2025 by 0.3 percent. It shrank. It was growing until now. It shrank. It is the worst quarter in years. Businesses, families, and consumers are bracing themselves for the hammer blow of Donald Trump's tariffs, and it is sending the economy into a tailspin.

Today's GDP numbers show that Donald Trump is running America the same way he ran his businesses—into the ground. Before our very eyes, Donald Trump's policies of tariffs and tax hikes are strangling the economy. Donald Trump's first 100 days have been defined by one big “f” word: “failure.” Donald Trump's first 100 days have been defined by the “f” word: “failure”—failure on the economy, failure to lower costs, failure on foreign policy, failure on democracy, failure everywhere you look.

Donald Trump must admit his failure and reverse course and immediately fire his economic team. Otherwise, we will see more of the same: failure and chaos and total incompetence.

His tariff strategy?—total failure. China is not coming to the table. Manufacturing is not racing back to our shores. There is no strategy—only chaos. Every day, he changes his mind. One day, he says yes to tariffs; the next day, no. One day, this country is on the list; the next day, that country is on the list. No tariffs. Double the tariffs. On and on and on. As he is doing this, his policy advisers have different explanations for what he is doing and why he is doing it.

Businesses pay the price for Donald Trump's failed policies. When businesses don't know what the President will do next, they can't plan for the future. They are not going to hire workers. I have talked to business leaders—small businesses, medium-sized businesses, and big businesses—in New York, and I am sure this is true around the country. They are holding off on any new spending because they don't know what Donald Trump will do next. His chaos is just totally impeding our economy. We are seeing it happen in real time.

Because the tariff policy has been such a mess, such a failure, today, later today, Senators WYDEN, KAINE, and I will force a vote here in the Senate to stop Donald Trump's trade wars. Our Republican colleagues have an opportunity to stop Donald Trump. Our resolution presents Republicans with a choice: Stand with Donald Trump or stand with American families.

The GDP number today should be a wake-up call to Republican Senators now more than ever. Four voted with us the last time on tariffs about Canada. Many more should vote with us this time given the new numbers and given that this resolution covers all of the countries that Donald Trump has so failed on with tariffs.

Senate Republicans know deep down that Donald Trump's tariff policies are awful for their States, so they have to

choose today: Stick with Trump or stand with your States.

But the failures don't stop there, just at tariffs. What about his promise to bring down costs? Again, failure—failure to bring down costs. Grocery prices are up. Housing is up. Rental housing is up. The price of a new car is up. Household appliances are up. Big retailers are warning that Donald Trump's trade war will make the problem far, far worse.

Foreign policy? Total failure. Putin is emboldened. China is not coming to the table. Our allies are all losing trust. He is ready to break up the European alliance over Ukraine.

DOGE? Total failure. Elon Musk talked a big game on cutting waste and reducing fraud, but DOGE is attacking Social Security, attacking veterans' care, attacking cancer research.

That is not cutting waste, Mr. Musk. That doesn't make the government more efficient. That puts a dagger to the programs that America needs and which make our country strong.

The list goes on. Rooting out corruption? Failure. Transparency? Failure. The rule of law? Failure. Economic optimism? Failure. It is one big “f” word: “failure.”

While our economy sinks in real time, while consumers get saddled with Donald Trump's tariffs, Republicans are complicit. They are coconspirators. They are aiding and abetting Donald Trump as he cuts taxes for billionaires. They are aiding and abetting Donald Trump as he wants to obliterate Medicaid. They are aiding and abetting Donald Trump as he wants to add \$52 trillion to the national debt. They want to help the richest of the rich while telling the working people to get lost.

The Republican agenda boils down to five dismal words: “Billionaires win; American families lose.” This is a recipe for failure if there ever has been one.

Finally, as Donald Trump destroys our economy, the American people cannot and will not stand by as he also tries to destroy our democracy. Donald Trump is everything the Founding Fathers worried about when they wrote the Constitution. They feared a man who would see the rule of law as a nuisance, who would consider the truth as an inconvenience, and who would regard his fellow citizens as little more than subjects. Either kiss the ring, bow before the throne, or watch your back—that is the ethos of Donald J. Trump.

Republicans howled at the Moon for years about weaponizing government, but no President in American history has weaponized the government like Donald Trump has in 100 days. The Department of Justice has become his personal henchman. He is assaulting the freedom of the press. He is assaulting our education system and institutions of higher learning. His deportation force is expelling American citizens with no due process. Let me re-

peat that. Donald Trump is deporting American citizens with no due process, and the American people don't like it.

One of the traits of a dictator is someone hostile to all forms of accountability, to all forms of criticism. That is Donald Trump to a tee. He is scared of debate. He is scared of opposition. He can't stand the idea of others disagreeing with him. So, instead, he tries to crush anything he views as opposition. That is not strength; that is a sign of deep, deep, deep insecurity.

The more Donald Trump tries to take America down this ominous road, the more he will face resistance. Democrats will oppose his agenda. The courts will oppose his attacks. Most of all, the American people will resist his hostile takeover of our democracy.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, over the last 4 years, the Biden administration subjected Americans to an onslaught of regulations. Altogether, the Biden regulatory agenda cost \$1.8 trillion. He heaped thousands of hours of paperwork on business owners, energy producers, and other hard-working Americans. And to what end? Well, often, these regulations were part of the Biden administration's radical climate agenda: efforts to tie up conventional energy production, force the widespread adoption of electric vehicles, and even go after things like household appliances.

Those days are over. We are no longer regulating our way to the Green New Deal. President Trump has moved swiftly to unleash energy production and remove regulatory barriers, and Republicans in Congress are joining those efforts. To date, we have passed a number of resolutions blocking Biden-era regulations through the Congressional Review Act, and we will continue those efforts this week.

Later today, we will vote on a resolution blocking the Biden administration's onerous appliance standards regulation—an effort that is going to be led here in the Senate by Senator HUSTED.

This rule imposed stricter reporting requirements on a number of household appliances: dishwashers, dehumidifiers, pool heaters, air-conditioners, light bulbs, and the list goes on.

Reporting and certification requirements may not sound like much, but there is a lot of front-end work that has to be done—work that costs time and money and can place a huge burden on businesses and drive up prices for consumers.

In its public comments on the Biden administration's appliance standards, Carrier, an appliance manufacturer, said that the Department of Energy failed to adequately account for the “cost and burden . . . to comply with updated requirements.” A manufacturers association said that the proposed

reporting standards had “no practical utility.” Another objected to what they called “burden without benefit.”

The same could be said of another Biden-era regulation we will be voting to overturn later this week.

Last year, the Biden administration finalized a rule setting stricter standards for commercial refrigerators and freezers. These are the refrigerators and freezers that we see at convenience stores, in restaurants, and at grocery stores. In other words, it impacts a lot of small operators. These stricter standards threaten to drive up costs and reduce choice for the owners of these businesses—costs, I might add, that will inevitably be passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

Proponents of this rule claim that more efficient appliances will save businesses money in the long run, but in the case of at least one new standard, the Department of Energy estimates that it will take more than 90 years—90 years—for a business to see those savings—in other words, longer than any business owner will survive at the head of his or her business.

I thank Senator MOODY for leading this effort to eliminate an unnecessary burden on America’s small businesses.

This week, the Senate is also taking up Senator CURTIS’s resolution to overturn the Biden administration’s major source rule.

This rule isn’t just burdensome; it is backward. The Clean Air Act has two categories of pollutants: major source and area source. Major source pollutants are more heavily regulated, but the Biden administration’s rule says that even if you reduce potential emissions below the threshold established in law for classification as major source pollutants, it doesn’t matter; you are still subject to the stricter major source rules. Once in, always in. That is wrong. Worse, it removes an incentive to reduce emissions, undermining the very purpose of the Clean Air Act. So this week, the Senate will vote to eliminate this backward regulation.

We have made progress on reining in excessive regulation, and the American people can count on Republicans to continue our efforts. We know that rules out of Washington can frequently have very negative consequences in the real world. Complying with a new rule costs money that could otherwise go toward innovation, improvements, or investing in employees. For small business owners, a new regulation can mean late nights trying to figure out what it means and how to make the business work while following the rules. Regulations can lead to higher costs and less choice for consumers. That is why we believe that regulatory power should be used judiciously, and it is why we are committed to eliminating rules that impose unjustified burdens.

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

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

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I also ask unanimous consent that the junior Senator from Ohio be allowed to complete his remarks before we go to the vote.

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

CHINA

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about America’s future. It is a future that must be secure. It is a future that must be prosperous, and it is, most importantly, a future that must be free of all dependency from communist China.

For decades, weak policies allowed China to exploit our workers, exploit our innovation, and exploit our markets. Under Republican leadership, America is once again reclaiming our strength.

Yesterday, the Senate confirmed David Perdue to be the Ambassador to China. He is a proven leader, former Senator, extensive experience dealing with China that he has had in the past equips him to represent American interests abroad, and he will do it firmly. His confirmation shows Beijing that under President Trump, America will put our workers, our families, and our security first.

The United States seeks a relationship with China, one that is fair, one that is respectful, and one that is reciprocal. Yet China’s predatory actions demand a robust response. China’s economic abuses are outrageous. What we are seeing is a predatory playbook. And using it in the past, China has gained an unfair advantage over global trade. China rigged the game with subsidies from the state, with currency manipulation, with market access barriers, and forced technology transfers. China abused our free enterprise and our open markets. At the same time, they slammed the door on American businesses. This came at the expense of American jobs, American innovation, and American security.

The risks of dependency are serious. Just this year, China banned exports on several critical minerals that came to the United States.

These critical minerals are vital for our technology as well as our national defense. So what is next? medical supplies? Today, 90 percent of U.S. antibiotics are stamped with “Made in China.” We can’t forget the lessons learned during the COVID pandemic.

We saw how dangerous it is to depend upon communist China for anything but certainly for lifesaving medicines and supplies.

Every American agreed that the United States needed to work aggressively to bring these critical supply

chains home. We said never again would we find ourselves in this dependent position. The costs of inaction are real. Since China joined the World Trade Organization back in 2001, more than 2 million American jobs vanished—jobs that our Republicans in Congress and in the White House are working to bring back with our economic policies.

China’s intellectual property theft alone costs America \$600 billion a year. The Department of Justice links China to four out of five economic espionage cases. China is infiltrating our culture, our skies, and our farmland. They do this because they see us as weak.

Today, China owns farmland in 27 States, often near military bases. My Wyoming colleague Senator CYNTHIA LUMMIS has legislation that would stop China from buying farmland next to Federal lands. This will be a safeguard to our national security.

China’s role in the fentanyl crisis is equally alarming. A recent report from the House Select Committee on Communist China exposed the depth of the Chinese Communist Party’s involvement.

Ninety-seven percent of the illicit fentanyl ingredients come from China. The Chinese Government subsidizes these ingredients, and it shields traffickers from prosecution. This crisis has killed nearly 50,000 Americans last year, and this is a direct result of China exporting illicit fentanyl. President Trump has rightly acted to stop this deadly flood of drugs into our country. Ambassador David Perdue will press China to end its exports of fentanyl.

Militarily, China’s rapid buildup is a growing menace. Their military spending has skyrocketed. Today, China has the world’s largest army. It has the world’s largest navy. It has the world’s second most advanced air force.

China has quadrupled their intercontinental ballistic missiles from 100 to 400. China produces 70 percent of the world’s drones. China’s shipyards vastly outpace our shipbuilding ability, and as the U.S. Secretary of Navy put it, one Chinese shipyard “has more capacity than all of our [U.S.] shipyards combined.”

China’s territorial grabs and provocative actions threaten global peace. China’s purchase of 90 percent of oil sales fuels global terrorism. To counter China’s military aggression, America must undertake a massive military revival. We must ensure America’s strength is unmatched, now and into the future.

President Trump has long known that the Chinese Communist Party is the primary threat to peace, to our prosperity, and to the freedom in the world today. For far too long, previous leaders let China get rich while Americans got ripped off. President Trump is changing everything. His bold actions and determination are finally turning the tide.

In his first 100 days, President Trump created over 450,000 American jobs. His

economic agenda is sparking an industrial revival. Hundreds of billions of dollars in private new investments is pouring into the United States. "Made in America" is back stronger than ever.

Seventy-five countries are now lining up for trade talks with the United States. This is a testament to President Trump's skills as a dealmaker. More will come.

Republicans are going to continue to champion policies that secure our supply chains and bring manufacturers home. We will work to end America's dependence on China for medicine, for minerals, and for manufacturing. This isn't about isolation; this is about our independence.

President Trump is working every day to stop China from raiding our factories, from gutting our industries, and from stealing our jobs. Other leaders dealt with China from a position of weakness. Never again. President Trump is dealing with them from a position of strength.

China must hear us loud and clear: Freedom is a powerful force. We will never give it away. We will not compromise our safety, our prosperity, or our liberty. We will never stop standing up for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

H.J. RES. 42

Mr. HUSTED. Mr. President, I am proud to stand here and lead this commonsense legislation to reverse the cumbersome Biden-era regulation that we are addressing today. This resolution overturns a Biden-era Department of Energy rule that expands paperwork, testing, and reporting requirements for home and commercial appliance manufacturers, without improving performance standards.

In other words, this rule wastes time and money, raising costs without delivering meaningful energy savings on items like dishwashers, clothes washers, and HVAC systems—things that people need to live and thrive every day. These are just everyday products that Ohioans depend on, and this Biden-era overreach makes it harder to afford them and leaves consumers with fewer choices and more costs.

While I have been in Washington only a few months, I can see the drag that the inflationary policies of the last administration have had on the American people, and it is my priority to make America and Ohio better places to work, live, and thrive. That is why repeal of unnecessary regulations is so important.

This bill contributes to the goal of cutting redtape for manufacturers, which gives consumers more choices and lower costs. This commonsense bill that has earned bipartisan support in the House is ready to be passed in the Senate and sent to the President's desk.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation

when we vote today. A vote for this bill is a vote for making life easier and more affordable for American consumers.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all debate time on H.J. Res. 42 is expired.

The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read a third time.

VOTE ON H.J. RES. 42

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. BARRASSO. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 223 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—46

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

NOT VOTING—2

McConnell	Whitehouse
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The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 42) was passed.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RELATING TO "ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM: ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS, AND REFRIGERATOR-FREEZERS"—Motion to Proceed

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I understand the Senate has received H.J. Res. 75 from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Mr. RICKETTS). The Senator is correct.

Mr. TILLIS. I move to proceed to H.J. Res. 75.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to H.J. Res. 75, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigerators, Freezers, and Refrigerator-Freezers".

Mr. TILLIS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. McCONNELL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 224 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeven	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Cassidy	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Justice	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Sheehy
Cotton	Lankford	Sullivan
Cramer	Lee	Thune
Crapo	Lummis	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Cortez Masto	Hickenlooper
Baldwin	Duckworth	Hirono
Bennet	Durbin	Kaine
Blumenthal	Fetterman	Kelly
Blunt Rochester	Gallego	Kim
Booker	Gillibrand	King
Cantwell	Hassan	Klobuchar
Coons	Heinrich	Lujan