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## 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.

Almighty God, smile on us and lift us with Your mighty strength. Lord, develop in us an optimism that will withstand all challenges, bear all burdens, and catapult all obstacles.

Guide the Members of this body today on Your path. Show them Your ways, as You lead them by the power of Your truth. Lord, help them to set priorities that will deliver captives and relieve the oppressed, causing "justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream." Direct our Senators in their going out and coming in, inspiring them with a resolute determination to fulfill Your purposes on Earth.

We pray in Your strong 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.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### RECOGNIZING OSKALOOSA HIGH SCHOOL

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last week for the first time ever, Wrigley Field welcomed a high school team, and it was a high school team from my home State of Iowa.

The Oskaloosa High School Indians baseball team—in partnership with Musco Lighting, also from Oskaloosa—were invited to play in an exhibition game at the home field of the Chicago Cubs.

After the Cubs played the San Francisco Giants, Musco Lighting company lit up the stadium, and the Indians took to the historic diamond. I imagine it was a dream come true for many, especially those who are Cubs fans.

To share in that once-in-a-lifetime experience, the Oskaloosa High School Chamber Choir performed the Star Spangled Banner prior to the Indians' scrimmage game season. What a way to start the season. We can say: Go Indians.

#### RECOGNIZING MUSCO LIGHTING

Mr. President, now I want to add from some memory that I have about 9/11 and the Musco Lighting company.

They had a team working in Rhode Island when 9/11 happened. When the World Trade Center went down, they left immediately from Rhode Island to go to New York to provide lighting for the cleanup as a result of the World Trade Center disaster.

I also remember they had a couple of trucks that left from Oskaloosa to go

to the Pentagon disaster to provide lighting there. This is just some of the things that Musco Lighting does as a public service and wanting to help people in need. That is beside providing lighting, sometimes at Olympics around the world.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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 majority leader is recognized.

#### REMEMBERING CHRISTOPHER S. BOND

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks today, I want to say a word about our former colleague Christopher "Kit" Bond, who passed away yesterday at the age of 88.

Kit Bond dedicated his life to serving the people of Missouri. After serving as State auditor, he became Missouri's youngest Governor at the age of 33. Missourians sent him to the U.S. Senate in 1986, and he served here for 24 years.

His interests were many, from literacy and housing to trade with Southeast Asia. And those of us who knew him remember his kindness, his great care for people, and his love for this institution.

Today, I remember Kit for his life and for his service, and my prayers are with his wife Linda and his son Sam.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. President, on Monday, Customs and Border Protection released its monthly update for April, and I want to read a line from that release:

Driven by the administration's decisive and effective immigration enforcement, our frontlines continue to see overwhelming improvements when it comes to securing our border.

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



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In April, CBP, Customs and Border Protection, encountered just 12,035 illegal immigrants trying to cross our southern border—in the entire month. March saw just 11,019; February 11,708. During the Biden administration, there were single days—days—that saw those kinds of numbers.

And that is not the only good news. CBP also reported an increase in drug seizures in April. And as Acting CBP Commissioner Pete Flores says, “For the first time in years, more agents are back in the field—patrolling territories that CBP didn’t have the bandwidth or manpower to oversee just six months ago.”

I have to say, it is amazing what new leadership can do. In seemingly no time at all, the Trump administration has restored operational control at the border. Border Patrol agents are no longer processing thousands of illegal immigrants a day. They are out in the field, apprehending illegal border crossers, seizing drugs, and disrupting human and drug smuggling networks.

Meanwhile, ICE agents and other law enforcement officers are busy removing criminal illegal immigrants who have taken up residence in our country.

Not long ago, the story was much different. During the Biden administration, hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants were crossing the southern border in a single month, including a concerning number of known “got-aways.” And the Biden administration abused the parole and asylum systems to wave illegal immigrants into the United States. As a result, communities across the country were overwhelmed by the influx, and valuable resources had to be used to process and transport these migrants—resources that could have gone toward securing the border, arresting criminals, and stopping the flow of illegal drugs.

I am grateful at the progress that has been made so quickly by President Trump and his administration. Our country is safer today than it was just a few months ago, and we want to ensure that President Trump and his administration—and future administrations—have the resources they need for this success to continue.

That is why the reconciliation bill that we will take up will make a generational investment in border security. That means money to finish the border wall. It means technology to help border agents stop illegal immigrants and drugs from entering our country in the first place. It means additional Border Patrol agents on the frontlines, more Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents to carry out removals, more detention capacity and transportation resources to facilitate deportations, and certainty for the President’s team that it will have the resources it needs to execute its mission for the entirety of the Trump administration.

Republicans don’t just want to turn the page on the border crisis of the Biden years. We want to close the book. And that is what this bill will help do.

Democrats may not support our efforts. Even now, I am not sure border security really even registers on their priority list. But the American people support border security, and we intend to deliver it. We are committed to ensuring that the success we have seen so far can continue long into the future, for the men and women on the frontlines and for the safety and security of the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The 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 Democratic leader is recognized.

CLEAN ENERGY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, there is really nothing—nothing—to celebrate about Republicans’ “big, beautiful bill,” unless you are a billionaire or an oil company. But for everyone else, this so-called “big, beautiful bill” is, in fact, nothing more than a big fat grift: taking money away from people, raising costs on average Americans, all to help the billionaires. And, today, I want to talk about how Republicans’ big grift is an assault on America’s clean energy—the bill that was just released by the Energy and Commerce Committee, or at least that part of it.

Now, Donald Trump and Republicans claim to want American energy dominance, but from the moment he became President, they have been hell-bent on killing the clean energy investments America needs to meet the energy needs of tomorrow. They say they want more energy, and then they cut off the cheapest, quickest, most available form of energy for ideological and grift reasons.

In a moment, I will talk about the awful Republican bill that just came out of committee, but first I want to talk about a specific project. Donald Trump’s clean energy vendetta is wreaking particular havoc on New York’s offshore wind industry. And it is a warning—a warning—to the rest of America on how he will deal with clean energy projects. What has happened here is utterly despicable, amazing, and awful.

A few weeks ago, the Trump administration suddenly and without explanation issued a stop work order on New York’s Empire Wind farm, a \$7 billion project already underway by the company Equinor. This is not some project in the planning stages. No, no, no. This was approved years ago. Three to four billion dollars have been put into developing the offshore windmills that will provide energy for hundreds of thousands of homes—clean energy, cheap energy. And, all of a sudden, out of the clear blue, the Secretary of the

Interior says: You must stop the project because the environmental impact statement was rushed.

The company asks why, and the Interior Secretary says: Well, there is a report that NOAA has issued—that is in the Commerce Department—that says this was rushed and inadequate in terms of the environmental impact.

So the company asked—I have asked, repeatedly—for the Commerce Department to show us what the reasoning is, which we think there is none—to show us the specifics of why they halted this project out of the clear blue, a project employing hundreds and hundreds—thousands—of people, a project where there are boats—I think close to 50 of them—right offshore actually building these offshore wind turbines.

Now it is stopped, but there is no explanation. This is like a dictatorship—no due process, no explanation. Out of the blue, just as billions have already been spent and just as construction is underway off the coast, just as 30 percent of the project is built, Donald Trump and Howard Lutnick say: Halt.

It is outrageous.

Give us a reason, says the company. We have invested billions here in America.

They are a Norwegian company, one of the largest offshore wind companies in the world. They are well-qualified. They are well-known. They have a history.

Give us a reason. Show us what is wrong with the approval previously 2, 3 years ago of the environmental statements.

And there is silence. No answer. No reason. And the project is now on hold.

All the boats, they are out there. The workers are out there. No explanation has been given, nor has Equinor been given any opportunity to discuss and address potential problems.

This is not how businesses operate. Our friends on the other side like to talk about running government more like a business. Well, this is just outrageous. And every week that Empire Wind sits idle, it costs \$50 million.

So now, the project may die altogether. Why? We know why. Donald Trump hates offshore wind. He hates offshore wind because, supposedly, years ago, they built a wind farm off the coast of his Scotland golf course. He fought to kill it. He lost. So now he is taking it out on all offshore wind to the detriment of the American energy needs in a way that is like—it is like a dictatorship.

Stop, they say. We are not giving you a reason.

It is outrageous. It is malicious and intentional sabotage. It is an outright attack on New York jobs, on New York workers, and it is happening for no other reason than partisan ideology and political sociopathy—partisan ideology because the rightwing oil and gas barons hate clean energy, even though it is the cheapest way to reduce our energy needs, and political sociopathy because Donald Trump hates offshore