

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

wind because he didn't like windmills off his golf course in Scotland.

The Trump administration must at least give an explanation so the company can answer why they should continue with the project. I call on Secretary Lutnick to immediately release the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration report that was used as justification to halt work on the Empire Wind project.

New Yorkers, Americans, the company which invests heavily in America deserves to know: Why halt this project? What is the deal? What is the justification? And what is the plan to get the jobs back on track? These are good jobs—good-paying jobs.

If everything is on the level, the administration should not fear being transparent with Equinor. What is the answer? How can they shut the project down and give no explanation?

We have called the Secretary of the Interior. He says it is up to Lutnick and NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. They are the ones who say that this was approved too quickly, even though it has been working with no problems for years and work is ongoing and construction is ongoing.

By the way, to everyone investing in America, whether you are an American company or not, this should be a shot-across-the-bow warning of what this administration can do—out of the clear blue, just say stop, no explanation, no reason, no ands, ifs, or buts.

Our business community should be outraged about how this business is being treated, not just the energy business. They can do this anywhere. We need answers, and at the very minimum, the explanation as to why they ordered this project stopped, which I imagine is very flimsy and came from Donald Trump's sociopathy because he hates offshore wind because of what they did. He didn't like those windmills off the golf course in Scotland. It is well-known that is why he hates offshore wind.

So what happened with Equinor is just a disgusting travesty that must be reversed. It is so, so outrageously unfair, malicious, and counterproductive for America's energy needs.

BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Mr. President, now, let me talk to the broader issue, the Republican bill that just came out of committee on the House side.

What is happening with Equinor is, frankly, part of a larger pattern of clean energy destruction—clean energy destruction—from Donald Trump and Republicans.

Before our very eyes, Republicans want to kill American clean energy in its tracks. They want to use their so-called "one big, beautiful bill" to repeal the Inflation Reduction Act.

Most of all, they want to cut taxes for the ultrarich and big corporations and make Americans pay for it with higher energy costs by rendering unusable wind and solar tax breaks that

were put into the legislation in the IRA.

What will the American people need to know? Republicans are raising taxes on Americans' electricity. One independent study—it is raising costs on Americans' electricity as well.

One independent study shows families and businesses will see their electricity bills go up by 10 percent as soon as next year. Hear that America? This ideological craziness that we shouldn't have wind and solar—some people don't think—there are some, I guess, who feel we shouldn't have coal, oil, and natural gas.

But actually, if we are going to meet America's energy needs, we need clean energy. It is the only way to go, even if you are for natural gas and oil to be used, even though those are far less efficient and productive than solar and wind energy.

But to do this, to meet the ideological thirst to shut this process down—to shut clean energy down—they are going to raise your electric bills, Mr. and Mrs. America—all Americans—as much as 10 percent by next year.

States like Kansas, Missouri, and South Carolina could see prices rise by 15 percent. Wyoming—I saw my friend from Wyoming in the back there—could see nearly a 30-percent increase in energy costs, hundreds of dollars a year extra for families and businesses, for a family or small business already dealing with inflation and a trade war. An extra 10 percent in costs could mean the difference between staying open and shutting down.

If Republicans repeal the IRA, a generation of American manufacturing jobs will also be at immediate risk, most of them in red States, although, they will be in red States and blue States alike.

The IRA has already spurred more than \$270 billion in clean energy investment, and that is in addition to the \$100 billion in domestic manufacturing to build these projects right here at home.

All of this will be shut down if the House Republican bill passes the House and passes the Senate and is signed into law.

Here is something for my Republican colleagues to think about: Nine of the ten top congressional districts receiving manufacturing investment from the IRA are Republican districts. Those investments are over \$5 billion each.

For a party that claims to be pro-business, what they are doing with Ecuador is so anti-business and so disruptive of business decision-making, and what they are doing here is just the same—just the same.

The restrictions they have put in the bill are such that if a project, as I understand it—if a project is not completed by 2028, it loses all its credits, which means project after project after project—clean energy projects for wind and solar and others—will be shut down.

So I have a message for the House Republicans in the Ways and Means Committee who just passed the bill on a strict party-line vote: To approve these cuts is to approve a death sentence for energy and manufacturing jobs for your communities.

These investments include a \$700 million battery manufacturing plant in Fort Worth, TX; the more than \$5 million in battery manufacturing at new and existing facilities in Fayette County, OH; or multiple solar manufacturing facilities in the Phoenix metro area of Arizona.

Mark my words, if Republicans gut the IRA, it would be a gift to the Chinese Communist Party. Jobs that should belong in America will go to cities like Chengdu, China, because China is not cutting back on clean energy. No way. They are going to get way ahead of us on this industry like they did on electric cars, and Americans will pay the price in higher energy costs, in fewer jobs, and in losing the leadership on another industry to China.

But this one didn't have to happen. The IRA did a great job getting America moving and ahead of China, and now they are taking it away.

So putting it all together, the Republican bill, what does it mean for the middle class: higher electricity bills, hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs erased around the country, rising insurance premiums, particularly in States by the water—Florida, Texas, Mississippi, South Carolina. Their insurance premiums are going up now because we don't have enough clean energy, and there is too much climate change with tornados and hurricanes and floods and, Lord, what else.

So insurers, they don't want to insure anymore. They want to insure at such high prices that people can't sell their homes in those States and across the country. And people—young people—want to buy a home but can't because the insurance is too high, and it is too high because we don't have enough clean energy. And they are cutting it off.

So these are all terrible prices to pay just to lower taxes for the ultrarich, just to satisfy the ideological thirst of oil and gas and coal barons who hate clean energy because they know it is the future, and they know they are not the future.

The broken Republican agenda is a political loser. Americans are learning that, whether it is on Social Security or Medicare or Medicaid or veterans' benefits or housing, and certainly it is here on clean energy, which has the broad support of the American people, Democrat and Republican alike.

So the warning signs, my Republican friends, are flashing. Last night, in Omaha, NE, the 3-term Republican mayor was voted out of office. The Washington Post described how "disquiet over Trump's agenda produced a surge of Democratic energy."

So the three-term Republican mayor lost to a Democratic candidate. People