

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

don't like what Republicans are doing. It is energizing people, not just Democrats but people across the board, to participate in more and more elections of all kinds.

And here in Congress, Republicans are pushing forward on an agenda that will make their political fortunes all the more obvious.

MIDDLE EAST

Mr. President, on Donald Trump's Middle East trip—there is so much going on today. Donald Trump's trip to the Middle East seems less like a Presidential visit and more like a personal business venture—less like a Presidential visit and more like a personal business venture.

Since Donald Trump became President, nobody seems to have benefited more from Middle East deals than Donald Trump himself; golf courses by the beach, hotel openings in Dubai, billions in investments toward Trump stablecoins. All of that enriches Donald Trump. That is what American foreign policy is all about, to make the rich President richer?

And then, of course, there is the matter of half—of a half-billion-dollar private jet that Qatar wants to gift Donald Trump to use as Air Force One. On this Middle East trip, who exactly is Donald Trump working for—for the American people or for his own bottom line or the bottom line of the companies he brought on tour?

Until Attorney General Bondi, a former high-powered lobbyist for Qatar, explains why this robber baron deal was allowed to go through on the Qatar plane, I will not be complicit in the further polarization of DOJ and will hold all political DOJ nominees.

Let me say that again. Until Attorney General Bondi, a former high-powered lobbyist for Qatar, explains why, resolves the issues of this robber-baron deal for Qatar to gift to President Trump a \$400 million airplane with huge security issues—until they resolve those issues in a way that is satisfying to the American people in terms of security and in terms of fairness, I will not be complicit in the further polarization of the DOJ and so am holding all political DOJ nominees.

Now, some of our Republican colleagues, to their credit, have said they have concerns about the Qatar deal. Well, how about showing it? How about showing some outrage? Republicans should join us in getting answers or else they can expect this hold on nominees to persist.

If this were done by a Democrat, you would all be out here screaming. You know how bad it is. You know how bad it is. So speak up.

Maybe that will stop the President, because there is a real national security risk. We cannot let a foreign country—Air Force One is the most complicated, sophisticated plane in the world by a lot because it must protect a President when he or she is communicating and in case there is nefarious action against that plane, God forbid. To let Qatar in on those secrets?

You would have to dismantle the plane they gave us down to every screw and every ratchet to see if they put little devices in there. It is estimated it will end up costing more to make this “gift” secure than it would to buy the new planes from Boeing that in 2 years will be available for delivery.

There are laws on the books precisely designed to prevent the naked corruption of a foreign country paying for a luxury Air Force One. We should apply those laws, and that is why I am deploying these holds.

Americans deserve to know the answer to a basic question: Again, who is Donald Trump working for—the American people or himself?

THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF BUFFALO SHOOTING

Mr. President, finally, on the anniversary of the shooting in Buffalo, 3 years ago today, 10 beautiful lives were cut short in a horrible, racist, mass shooting at a Tops supermarket on Buffalo's East Side. Buffalo is the city of good neighbors, and nowhere is that truer than on the East Side, but in just 2 minutes, the community was forever changed. Ten of our grandparents, parents, sons, daughters, friends, neighbors went to the grocery store that day—it was a convenient place, a meeting place, the Tops supermarket was—and they never came home.

I remember being in the community in the days and weeks after. I met a young boy, only a few years old, whose father was out buying a birthday cake at the grocery store, and he never came home. It rattles you to your core.

The Buffalo community has done a lot of healing over the last 3 years, but the pain from the shooting still lingers to this day.

After the shooting, I worked hand in hand with the families of those we lost in Buffalo to pass the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act—the first gun safety legislation in 30 years, when I had authored the Brady Law. I was the author of that law, which did so much good—and still does so much good—30 years before.

Both sides came together, Democrats and Republicans—it was a good moment—to expand background checks, crack down on gun traffickers, and invest in violence intervention programs to make our streets safer and make our community safer.

Passing this bill was a moment of significant progress in the fight against gun violence. We cannot turn back the clock on this progress we made in honor of those we lost. We have a long way to go and a lot of work to do to rid America of the gun violence epidemic. But the memories—the memories—of those we lost in Buffalo 3 years ago today give me endless motivation to keep pushing.

May God bless Buffalo. God bless all the families impacted by the tragedy 3 years ago today.

May God bless America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

ENERGY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I have just come to the floor and listened to the minority leader talk about energy. Energy. Do you know why he is in the minority and we are in the majority? It is because of energy, because Joe Biden, former President, told the EPA, the Environmental Protection Agency, to prioritize the climate over energy that is affordable, available, and reliable. They tried to shove electric vehicles down the throats of every man, woman, and child in America. That is why they are in the minority and we are in the majority. People want affordable energy.

I am here today on the floor, and in the Gallery are many people from the State of Wyoming, our law enforcement officers who are here as part of Police Week ceremonies. They know about affordable energy. They know that this week in Wyoming, graduation week at home, gas at the pump is 50 cents a gallon cheaper than it was a year ago. So if they have to drive the distances around the State of Wyoming to see kids or grandkids for graduations, it is \$10 a tank less to fill up now than it was a year ago when Joe Biden was in the White House and the Democrats were in charge.

Wyoming is America's energy breadbasket. We are a powerhouse of energy. And the Presiding Officer's home State of Oklahoma knows a lot about energy as well. We know what the American people want, and it is not what CHUCK SCHUMER is trying to sell here on the floor of the U.S. Senate or across the country.

So when I come to the floor to talk about Police Week and hear the minority leader talking about energy, I just can't help but think about how much better we are now with this effort to unleash American energy than we were the last 4 years when they wanted to keep American energy in the ground and made it so hard for the hard-working men and women who produce that energy to do their jobs in ways that respect the environment, ways that protect the environment. That is what the American people want. That is what they voted for.

And to hear the minority leader come to the floor, when, when Biden left office, energy prices were 30 percent higher than they were the day he came into office—the American people said: We can't afford this. We need a big change.

They got that change on election day, and I am proud to be part of those who are being able to restore American energy dominance.

I know the men and women who listen from around the country and certainly our officers who are here today know how important affordable energy is to our home State of Wyoming.

NATIONAL POLICE WEEK

Mr. President, I rise today during Police Week with a message to our law enforcement officers, and it is one they don't hear often enough. It is a message of “thank you.” Thank you for