

bent on reducing their own taxes if they are happy taking money away from hungry children and not feeding them.

Eleven million people will go hungry under the Republicans' bill, the biggest cut to food assistance in American history. That is the Republican idea of "beautiful"? taking food away from the mouths of hungry kids, all for tax breaks for billionaires? It is not beautiful; it is ugly. Very ugly.

Republicans will continue to defend their SNAP cuts as "reducing fraud, waste, abuse." So I ask them this, ask our Republican friends this: Which category does a hungry 7-year-old fall under? Are they waste? Are they fraud? Are they abuse?

What Republicans are really doing is increasing hunger, increasing poverty, increasing costs for States and families, lowering the productive lives that our future adult citizens can have, all to increase the wealth of the ultrarich. It is shameful. It is sad.

AI CHIPS

Mr. President, on the chip deal, Donald Trump says he is strong on China, but his trip to the Middle East shows, once again, that this is mostly talk with very little substance just like in his recent reduction in tariffs with China. America got almost nothing, and China got everything. Again, the chip deal shows that China is running circles—the Chinese Government is running circles around Donald Trump.

Right now, the Trump administration is in talks for a so-called chip deal with Saudi Arabia and the UAE that will green-light the sale of the most sensitive U.S. chip technology in exchange for vague promises of more foreign investment.

This deal could very well be dangerous because we have no clarity on how the Saudis and Emiratis will prevent the Chinese Communist Party, the Chinese Government, the Chinese manufacturing establishment from getting their hands on these chips.

Inevitably, when foreign countries end up with American-made chips, the CCP, the Chinese Communist Party, sooner or later gets ahold of these American chips and their secrets in them. That is why we have had strong restrictions on exporting these chips to other countries.

This deal screams security risk and loophole as China could be ready to exploit American technology. No respected security expert will tell you with a straight face that these advanced chips won't eventually find their way into the AI supercomputers of the Chinese Government and manufacturers.

I am not the only one worried. It is not just Democrats worried on this—thank God. The Republican chair of the House Select Committee on the CCP has expressed similar concerns about these deals.

Even worse, if we send our best chips to Saudi Arabia and the UAE, we will be giving them the tools they need to

build the best AI supercomputers in the world in their countries, not America.

What is this about bringing jobs and high-end technology back to the country, which we Democrats worked so long and hard to do successfully in the Science and CHIPS bill? All of a sudden, it is OK to give it to other countries, especially other countries whose security might be not as tight as ours and allow the Chinese Government to get hold of these chips?

I urge Secretary Rubio, who has been a China hawk, and Secretary Lutnick to prevent these deals from proceeding until we can be dead certain that these chips won't make their way into Chinese Government hands.

Remember that earlier this year, DeepSeek announced the development of an incredibly powerful AI model built with American chips. We have to double down on blocking the flow of our AI chips to China, directly or indirectly, to third countries.

The Trump administration also needs to protect against offshoring of American AI technology. AI is the industry of our time. It should be proudly made in America by American workers, not sent overseas to the highest bidder.

Why did Trump make this deal? Who the heck knows. The way he trades for things for his own personal aggrandizement and for his own ego and to please a few of his friends, Lord knows why they got hold of these chips—why they are getting hold of these chips, what was done in exchange that made Trump happy.

If Trump's goal in the Middle East is to enrich himself long term, then by all accounts he is knocking it out of the park. But if his goal is to ensure Americans' security and American AI leadership, this deal would be like a stick of lit dynamite.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican whip.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, today the Senate is going to vote on what is called the Kaine-Van Hollen resolution. To me, it is a political stunt, and I will vote against it. It is not about transparency. It is not about human rights. It is about bringing a verified member of MS-13, a terrorist group, criminals—and bringing that member back into the United States.

So today, Senate Democrats are voting, once again, to defend illegal immigrant criminals. They seem to like to do that. It is hard to believe, but it is true. That is whom Senate Democrats are here to protect, and that is whom Senate Democrats seem to want to defend.

So they are going to come to the floor today, and they are going to line up to express their blind loyalty and their belligerent support for illegal immigrant criminals. That seems to be the party model right now.

No Democrats are going to be able to answer this simple question, though:

How does allowing MS-13 gang members to roam free in our communities make our communities or make our country safer?

I will tell you the answer: It doesn't. You allow illegal immigrant criminals in our country, you let them stay in our country, it makes all of us less safe.

Under unified Republican government, illegal border crossings have plummeted. Illegal crossings are down 93 percent compared to last year—93 percent this year over last year.

Republicans are going to continue to fight for protecting American communities and protect our communities against illegal immigrant criminals.

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT

Mr. President, now on a matter that I hope to address today, a separate matter from that, I rise to speak today about improving and modernizing the Endangered Species Act.

The Endangered Species Act became a law in this country 52 years ago—1973—and it came to be a law for the right reasons. But what we know is that since then, Washington bureaucrats have added over 2,400 species of plants, as well as animals, to the list. Of those 2,400, only 54 species have ever left the list—just 54 species out of over 2,000 in 52 years.

Mr. President, you know I am a doctor. I am a surgeon. I practiced orthopedic surgery in Casper, WY, for over 20 years. As a doctor, if I put 100 patients on life support and only 3 recovered, I would lose my license. That is what is happening with the Endangered Species Act. Only 3 percent of those that were put on the list have ever come off. Why do we accept this level of failure with the Endangered Species Act?

When it became law, it was a bipartisan vote. People thought it was a good idea to save endangered species. The law has done good work to save species from extinction. We have seen the great work being done. The grizzly bear has come back from the brink of extinction; the bald eagle.

When the grizzly bear was listed in 1975, 50 years ago, we were down to 136 grizzly bears. The Federal Government set an ambitious goal. They said: We want to make sure we can get to 500. We think that is the safe version—go from 136 and get back up to 500.

Of course, the grizzly bears are at Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming, areas around there. Well, today, there are over 1,000 grizzly bears in the Yellowstone area. From 136 to the 500, blew right by that, and now there are over 1,000. But the grizzly bear is still on the list.

So the law worked in terms of getting the recovery. It identified a species in danger, and it helped them recover. But the law was also intended to protect species so well that they no longer need protection, so it is time to get them off the list.

The law was never intended to put something on the list and leave them there forever. That would be like a doctor leaving a patient in intensive care

even though they have gotten better. It is time to discharge them from the hospital.

But that is not what is happening today. The grizzly bear remains listed. Why, after going from 136 to the 500 that they said would be a really good number? Now to double that—there are 1,000. Well, they are trapped in a bureaucracy, the bureaucracy of Washington, DC, and the courts, because the Endangered Species Act is being weaponized by environmental activists and extremists.

Even the Washington Post Editorial Board agrees. The editorial board argued this month—the Washington Post Editorial Board, which is no real friend of conservatives—it says:

It has become difficult to delist a species even after it has met its recovery goal.

Why? It says “due to threats of litigation.” That is what has happened. The activist judges and activist environmental extremists do everything they can to prevent things from coming off the list, even species that are fully recovered.

The Washington Post is right. The Endangered Species Act is broken. So to fix it, the editorial board calls for what they describe as a “cooling off period” for lawsuits while States like Wyoming monitor recovered species.

I actually introduced legislation to that effect in the past. Now the Washington Post says it is a good idea. I think Congress should listen.

So this week, Senator LUMMIS, CYNTHIA LUMMIS of Wyoming, Congressman HARRIET HAGEMAN, and I sent a letter to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, with our colleagues from Montana and Idaho because Montana and Idaho border Yellowstone National Park. Parts of the park are in those States. The great preponderance of Yellowstone is in Wyoming, the borders and the areas, but the grizzly bears don't understand the barriers of the park. They go beyond the barriers. They are out in communities. They are impacting schools. They are impacting families. They are impacting livestock and wildlife.

We are calling on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to reverse last-minute interference that now has happened from the Biden administration that punishes States like Wyoming and Idaho and Montana for successfully managing the full recovery of the grizzly bear. It is a Federal boondoggle. We need to return the management of the recovered grizzly bears to the States, where it belongs. This is not meant to be a partisan issue; it is a practical one.

Wyoming has spent more than \$50 million to help the grizzly bears recover. Our State has changed our laws in order to meet Federal standards to manage species after their removal from the list. Our State management agencies continue to be in the field every day. They are working to protect the grizzly bears and other wildlife. Wyoming's good work and sound management practices have proven to be

very successful. The numbers tell the story: 136 grizzly bears, to 500 and now to 1,000.

But when you keep the grizzly bears under Washington's control, it hurts people in communities all around Wyoming and in Montana and in Idaho. Homeowners face bears in their backyards, and these are killer bears. Self-defense against the bears risks prosecution. Farmers and ranchers are losing livestock. We should be able to protect our families and our property in Wyoming.

The Endangered Species Act is a very important law. It needs to be improved. It needs to be updated. It needs to be modernized. The Endangered Species Act was last amended in 1988—37 years ago. Even the U.S. Constitution was amended more recently than the Endangered Species Act.

Both Democrat and Republican administrations in the past have acted to delist the grizzly bear. Yet, in another case of midnight meddling, the Biden administration relisted the grizzly bear in January, right before they headed out the door—once again kissing up to the environmental extremists.

This is also the continued problem of lawfare from environmental groups who engage in venue shopping for partisan liberal judges, and they can always find one.

Wyoming shouldn't need Washington's permission to protect our land, to protect our people, to protect our wildlife, and to protect our way of life. So I am going to continue to work closely with Interior Secretary Doug Burgum to empower the States to manage the recovered grizzly bear because it is time for Wyoming, not Washington, to be in charge of managing this fully recovered species.

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.

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

INVEST TO PROTECT ACT OF 2025

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO. Mr. President, this week is National Police Week. During this week, we rightfully honor the brave men and women who put their lives on the line every single day to keep our families safe.

For me, supporting law enforcement is personal. My husband is a retired law enforcement officer. I worked for years as a prosecutor, side by side with law enforcement in the State of Nevada and, quite honestly, here in Washington, DC.

I have seen firsthand the sacrifices our officers and their families make to keep our communities across the country safe. I also know how thinly stretched our police departments are across the country. Police departments

are understaffed, and our officers are quite often overworked.

Compounding the staffing shortages, it is becoming more and more difficult for our police departments to recruit and retain qualified officers. Once those officers are recruited, police departments often struggle to find the resources to train them. When they suffer traumatic experiences in the line of duty, which also happens quite often, officers routinely don't get the mental health care they need. Police officers risk serious injury every day. Members of the communities working with them see the worst of the worst, and that is why the mental health and stress of the job takes its toll amongst even the strongest of our men and women in law enforcement.

I also know that small local police departments are the backbone of public safety for our rural, suburban, and our Tribal communities across the country. And they often face the greatest hurdles to accessing resources. There are Federal grant programs available for law enforcement agencies, many of which I personally fought to support, but they often require long and confusing applications to secure.

Let's face it, the thousands of police departments in small towns across the country that have fewer than 10 full-time officers simply do not have the capacity to keep their community safe and spend hours filling out burdensome grant paperwork.

Along with my colleague during National Police Week, Senator GRASSLEY from Iowa and I have been working on legislation to support our law enforcement officers. It is called the Invest to Protect Act.

This bipartisan legislation would provide \$250 million in funding through the community-oriented policing services or the COPS Grant Program that specifically is out to help law enforcement. This particular program would identify those law enforcement agencies with under 175 officers.

This funding could be used to support critical training, mental health recruitment, and retention measures. This training and grant funding would be essential in our rural, our Tribal, and our suburban communities.

That is why this legislation is so important and why it is bipartisan. This should never be a bipartisan issue. This particular piece of legislation that CHUCK GRASSLEY and I introduced—Senator GRASSLEY—passed 5 years ago by unanimous consent—same piece of legislation. I am hopeful, working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, that we will pass this again—the sooner the better so that we can move this out of the Congress, get it to the President's desk for signature, and show our support for all law enforcement across this Nation, particularly at a time during National Police Week, when we are here to remember the ultimate sacrifice so many law enforcement officers have made across this country to keep our communities safe.