

like them at all. We like choice. We like to make our own decisions. I would dare say, everybody in this room uses a different kind of ink pen because we all like our choices and options. We drive different cars. We wear different colors of ties and different shoes because we like our options.

The Biden administration knew most American people would hate this rule because it suddenly created a nationwide mandate for what kind of car you could buy, and it had to be electric. So they sat on it.

After the election was over, in late December of 2024 and into January of 2025, the Biden administration dropped their order and gave California permission now to be able to do zero-emission vehicles by 2026. Next year, 35 percent of vehicles that have to be sold across 12 different States were going to have to be zero emissions, which would dramatically change car sales in America.

They did it after the election. That is the very definition of a midnight regulation. That is the very definition of a rule. It meets both criteria. It is well over \$100 million of impact onto our Nation, and it affects multiple States.

So when the Trump administration came into office, the Environmental Protection Agency immediately reupped this, and they laid it down and said: That is definitely a rule. That is a rule. The Agency declared it. Now, it definitely has both definitions: The Agency declared it is a rule, and it is over \$100 million of impact.

But then a letter went to GAO. Remember I said in 2023, they had worked with the Biden administration? Someone in this body wrote a letter to GAO and said: That thing you worked out with the Biden administration, do you still have that in the file? And GAO sent a letter back and said: We declared this, in 2023, just an order because it only affected one State, just California.

Here is the problem. GAO, as I mentioned in the beginning, in their very own legal opinion, said: If an Agency says it is a rule, it is a rule. And GAO doesn't even get involved. Literally, GAO broke its own legal opinion to now declare it is an order.

Why would they do that? Well, they would do that to prevent this Congress from speaking to that rule. It would no longer be under the Congressional Review Act.

I told you this was technical. But this was a fascinating little plot that went from 2022 all the way to the present to try to figure out how to get an electric vehicle mandate in America without ever having a vote in Congress. It was slick. It was well-shaped—except it was dependent on one thing: GAO breaking its own legal opinion.

I happened to call the leadership of GAO just last week and said: As far as you know, has GAO ever—ever—declared something not a rule when the Agency said it was a rule? And after a moment of silence, he responded: As far as I know, GAO has always deferred to the Agencies, until now.

They literally broke their own policy. They literally violated their own legal counsel. So now, we are in a quandary. GAO has broken their own legal counsel. We have an issue that will have well over \$100 million worth of effect onto the country. It is now a near nationwide mandate on electric vehicle sales across the country without ever having a vote in Congress.

And our Democratic colleague says you can't change it because we worked a way to be able to fix it so you couldn't. That is not true. This body worked extensively with the Parliamentarian's office. This body worked extensively across the aisle to be able to have conversation, talking with members of the Democratic caucus to say: Do you really want to have, in your State, a mandate sitting there?

We don't.

Not only that, what will this do to our economy across the country? This was not about challenging the essence of the Senate; this was not about breaking the filibuster rule; this was not about going nuclear. This is about confronting an entity that broke its own rules intentionally to prevent this body from acting. This was a decision made to say: Get an Agency to impose on America a mandate that Congress never spoke to—never.

Where does Congress get to speak to this?

I would say to you as a Member of the U.S. Senate, the U.S. Congress is the lawmaking body for the country. The U.S. Constitution begins with "All legislative power shall reside in a Congress," not an Agency that wants to have electric vehicle mandates for every American. That is not how it works.

So we worked to make sure that we were clarifying one simple thing—in the Congressional Review Act, in this time as it has been every time it has been done and for every time in the future, this one simple question: When an Agency says it is a rule, is it a rule? It has been every other time until this time.

We clarified that one question. It didn't change the dates of the Congressional Review Act. It didn't change the process. It answered one question that, apparently, was in dispute that was never in dispute before but now appeared to be in dispute: When an Agency says it is a rule, is it a rule?

And we clarified what it has always been. The answer is, yes, it is a rule. And then we acted on that.

This body said, no, we will not have a nationwide mandate for electric vehicles across the country.

By the way, I don't have any opposition to electric vehicles. If somebody wants to buy an electric vehicle, they should be able to buy them. I think a lot of them look like great vehicles. Buy if you choose to.

But we are Americans. This body should not mandate that everyone has to be able to buy one. This body should make the path that if people choose to

buy one, they can. That is setting the rules of the road saying: Here is the definition of a safe vehicle. Pick any one of those safe vehicles you want to be able to have.

We just set the rules of the road and then get out of the way and let people decide which vehicle they want to drive on that road. That is what has happened this week.

I understand there has been a lot of bluster and trying to redefine what actually occurred. But what has occurred this week is choice for the American people and clarification of what has always been: When an Agency says it is a rule, it is a rule—just like it was last year, just like it is now, just like it will be next year.

It is technical but important because the American people want to follow the U.S. Constitution and know that all legislative powers resides with this body, not in some other building somewhere down the street.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oklahoma.

#### HISTORIC GREENWOOD DISTRICT— BLACK WALL STREET NATIONAL MONUMENT ESTABLISHMENT ACT

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I wanted to thank the Presiding Officer and several folks because we passed by unanimous consent today a national monuments piece for the Greenwood District in Oklahoma.

On May 31 of 1921, the largest race massacre in American history occurred in my great State of Oklahoma. It was in North Tulsa. That community was burned to the ground and destroyed in a race massacre. It is a scar on our Nation's history and on my State's history, but it is an area that we remember for a reason because we know how far we have come.

The community in North Tulsa and Greenwood—they are turning tragedy into triumph. They are starting new businesses. It is a beautiful area, and it continues to be able to grow and advance, but it still bears the scars of over 100 years ago of the incredible fire and massacre that happened there.

What we did today with unanimous consent didn't change the property rights of any person in Tulsa or in Oklahoma. It didn't add eminent domain. It didn't change codes. It didn't give the Federal Government control of any square inch of my great State. It just gave a designation—a monument designation—to that area. It is very similar to some other places in that it is just a designation so that we will always remember as a nation that something significant happened here.

And it is not just about what happened on that day, May 31, into June 1 of 1921. It is what it was like before, when it was Black Wall Street, a thriving community. It was like what it was like afterward, when people stayed and rebuilt a community. It is like what it

is now. It is people with great pride who continue to be able to thrive in that community and still call it Black Wall Street based on the entrepreneurship that is there.

So I appreciate my colleagues who have been involved in this—Chairman MIKE LEE and Ranking Member MARTIN HEINRICH—for their leadership in allowing this to be able to move today, and to ANGUS KING and CORY BOOKER, who has been my partner in this now for years, to be able to move this particular designation.

I just want to tell the Presiding Officer that I appreciate all of the work of this body in what has actually occurred here and for allowing this to move, because it may not be significant to a lot of people in the country, but it is to us in Oklahoma; it is to the good folks in Greenwood. And it is not a bad thing for us to remember, during this time period, how far we have come and the work that is still yet to come.

#### APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 106-286, appoints the following Members to serve on the Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China: the Honorable JEFF MERKLEY of Oregon, the Honorable TAMMY DUCKWORTH of Illinois, the Honorable ANDY KIM of New Jersey, the Honorable LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER of Delaware.

The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 70-770, the appointment of the following individual to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission: the Honorable JOHN BOOZMAN of Arkansas.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: all nominations on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force, with the exception of PN89, Matthew Ryan, of the Army; that the nominations be confirmed en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed are as follows:

#### NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

##### AIR FORCE

PN116 AIR FORCE nominations (133) beginning JOSEPH L. ABRAMS, and ending JO-

SEPH M. YABES, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

PN117 AIR FORCE nominations (23) beginning MARGARET E. ABBOTT, and ending RACHAEL L. VOIGT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

PN132-1 AIR FORCE nominations (209) beginning AMARA B. ADAMS, and ending ROBERT D. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2025.

##### ARMY

PN121 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MATTHEW D. BRANDT, and ending DEJENE G. KASSAYE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

PN122 ARMY nomination of Missy L. McNeill, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

PN134 ARMY nominations (932) beginning DOMANIQUE M. ABNER, and ending 00003259357, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2025.

PN135 ARMY nominations (425) beginning EDWIN A. ABRAZADO, and ending 0003102153, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2025.

PN136 ARMY nominations (466) beginning JESSICA S. ABBOTT, and ending 0003390902, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2025.

PN137 ARMY nominations (29) beginning ROSS O. ANDERSON, and ending 0002422513, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 29, 2025.

##### COAST GUARD

\*PN127-1 COAST GUARD nominations (262) beginning JOSHUA S. ALLEMAN, and ending MATTHEW G. ZAVALIJ, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

\*PN128 COAST GUARD nominations (2) beginning JASON B. VEARA, and ending TARA E. LARKIN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

##### MARINE CORPS

PN50 MARINE CORPS nominations (2) beginning NATHAN C. HESS, and ending CHRISTOPHER S. LAMBERT, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of March 14, 2025.

PN151 MARINE CORPS nomination of Edward R. Rogers, II, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 12, 2025.

##### NAVY

PN123 NAVY nomination of Wendell C. Eldridge, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

PN124 NAVY nomination of Eric M. Beall, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

PN125 NAVY nomination of Alexandra K. Holland, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

PN152 NAVY nominations (4) beginning ISABEL M. BERNAL, and ending JOHN J. W. YUN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of May 12, 2025.

##### SPACE FORCE

PN126 SPACE FORCE nomination of Zachary R. Eagle, which was received by the

Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of April 28, 2025.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

#### JOINT REFERRAL

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, as if in executive session, the nomination of Jeremiah Workman, of Ohio, to be Assistant Secretary of Labor for Veterans' Employment and Training, received in the Senate on May 6, 2025, be jointly referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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

#### RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions, which are at the desk: S. Res. 250, S. Res. 251, S. Res. 252, S. Res. 253, and S. Res. 254.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### HONORING THE LIFE, ACHIEVEMENTS, AND LEGACY OF FORMER UNITED STATES SENATOR CHRISTOPHER "KIT" BOND OF MISSOURI

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 255, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 255) honoring the life, achievements, and legacy of former United States Senator Christopher "Kit" Bond of Missouri.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LANKFORD. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, that the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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