

of our country, guaranteed by each and every one of us—a \$3 billion loan.

Thankfully, President Trump was able to pull back part of that loan. Sunnova spent \$371 million of taxpayer dollars.

Well, guess what. Just yesterday, Sunnova filed for bankruptcy. Here is the article. I plan to put this into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the article from the Wall Street Journal this morning, Tuesday, June 10: “Solar Installer Sunnova Seeks Bankruptcy.”

The handwriting was already on the wall, but the arrogant, condescending, and elitist personnel of Joe Biden’s Department of Energy refused to read it.

Republicans need to keep investigating, and we will. We need to finish the job we have started.

Today, Republicans in the Senate are unleashing affordable, reliable American energy. It will fuel our prosperity. It will benefit the entire Nation. Families will pay lower energy bills. Small businesses will be able to afford to invest and to expand. Our country will no longer depend on dictators for energy and critical minerals.

America is an energy superpower. Under Republican leadership, we are acting like it. That is why I started my comments by referring to the minority leader’s speech this morning about energy as “rubbish.”

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the article that I referred to in my speech, “Solar Installer Sunnova Seeks Bankruptcy,” be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 10, 2025]

SOLAR INSTALLER SUNNOVA SEEKS
BANKRUPTCY

(By Jodi Xu Klein and Alicia McElhaney)

One of America’s largest rooftop-solar installation businesses filed for chapter 11 on Monday, a stark illustration of the strains haunting the U.S. clean-energy sector as shifting federal policies shake investor confidence.

Sunnova Energy International, once a poster child for America’s residential renewable energy boom with a market value above \$5 billion and more than 400,000 customers at its peak, plans to sell or wind down its assets in bankruptcy. Now a penny stock with \$8.9 billion debt, Sunnova in recent months struggled to take on new business providing solar-panel installations, energy storage and financing for residential customers.

Privately held Solar Mosaic, which makes loans to homeowners for solar installations, also filed bankruptcy on Friday. Both companies blamed political uncertainty around the future of solar-related tax credits, which hurt their ability to refinance debt or attract new investment, according to their filings with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Houston.

Debt defaults were building among solar companies before Sunnova and Solar Mosaic ran low on cash. Residential installers SunPower and Lumio also filed for bankruptcy last year, while Titan Solar unwound its business, leaving many residential customers with little support.

Weak demand, rising interest rates and shifting government tone toward renewables

have pummeled the solar energy sector, especially in recent months as Congressional leaders have moved to curtail incentives.

President Trump’s tax-and-spending package passed by the House sunsets certain tax credits for rooftop solar and battery storage, viewed by some analysts as a potential death knell for the solar industry. Further changes to the president’s “Big, Beautiful Bill” are likely in the Senate, where Republicans hold a 53-47 Majority.

Some senators from states benefiting from clean-energy job growth are pushing to preserve certain tax incentives, but investors have lost patience baking businesses like Sunnova with the continuing uncertainty.

Sunnova started out in 2012 in Texas to provide affordable residential solar products across the U.S. by offering financing options for homeowners that couldn’t afford the hefty upfront costs for installation. Customers can also lease the panels and pay monthly fees for the energy they use.

After going public in 2019, the company continued to leverage a residential solar boom driven by dropping panel costs and government incentives, expanding to be a nationwide provider. Trouble in its business, which relies on borrowed capital, began to escalate in late 2023 after rising interest rates made homeowners hesitant to install new solar systems.

The company reported a net loss of \$448 million for 2024, and its liquidity dried up. By April 2024, its shares lost more than 93% in value from their peak in 2021.

In March, Sunnova warned that even after securing a fresh \$185 million loan from asset manager KKR, the company might not generate enough cash to remain operational due to weakness in the residential solar market. The loan from KKR provided a temporary life-line, but at a steep cost of 15% interest.

Creditors holding roughly \$2 billion in junior debt hired advisers and began restructuring talks with the company. In the following weeks, Oaktree Capital acquired more than \$400 million of Sunnova’s debt and has since been driving the debt negotiations, said people familiar with the matter.

In an effort to quell creditor concerns, Sunnova replaced its founder and Chief Executive William J. Berger, promoting its chief operating officer Paul Mathews, who joined in 2023, to the top job. In April, Ryan Omohundro was appointed chief restructuring officer. On Friday, the company said it laid off more than half of its workforce, some 718 employees, in May.

While larger solar and wind projects now face an earlier expiration of federal credits in 2028, three years ahead of schedule, the impact was far more severe for battery storage and residential solar installers like Sunnova. The company recently exited a \$3 billion partial loan guarantee program it had secured from the federal government in 2023, citing falling demand for solar loans.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Vaden and Hughes nominations.

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

Mr. BARRASSO. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

LOS ANGELES PROTESTS

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise today to reiterate my objection to Donald Trump’s EPA nominations and Republicans’ unprecedented attacks not only on California’s climate leadership but on the rules and procedures of this body. But before I do that, I want first to address what has unfolded in my hometown of Los Angeles over the last several days.

Now, in my opinion, it is not a coincidence, after one of the most embarrassing weeks, to be sure, of the Trump Presidency and as the public has continued to learn the truth about the budget reconciliation bill that would cut healthcare for so many working families across the country in order to pay for further tax breaks for the most wealthy in America—I am sure he didn’t appreciate us shining a light on that—and as we continue to see the impact of his failed tariff wars and the increasing costs on those same working families and, of course, the attention that his breakup with Elon Musk got—it was not a good week for the President.

So, just as he has done so many times before, when things are going bad, when all else fails, what does he do? Classic Trump playbook: He turns to scapegoating immigrants. And he decided that this was the time to launch indiscriminate ICE raids throughout the Los Angeles region, clearly not just targeting criminals but so many others—ICE raids in workplaces—in an attempt to manufacture a crisis.

Colleagues, for the first time since 1965, the President federalized the National Guard without the Governor’s approval, without the request of the Governor, in order to create chaos, in order to escalate tensions in the region and to create a pretext for more extreme actions in the future.

So let’s be clear. What you are all seeing on the news about the Los Angeles region right now is a crisis that Donald Trump has created, and he is doing it to distract from his failed agenda.

To those back in California who are watching, I have a couple of messages. No. 1, please peacefully protest. You have a right to peacefully protest. No. 2, let’s not give the President what he wants. There are two things he wants. He either wants us to be quiet and go away and let him continue to overreach and abuse his power—we will not stand for that. We have First Amendment rights. So let’s peacefully protest.

Second, for those who think this is an opportunity to exploit and to turn violent, to vandalize, that is exactly what Donald Trump wants—any excuse, large or small, to continue to escalate his use of force. Let’s not give him that.

To the rest of the country, I urge you to see this for what it is, because when the headline turns on Donald Trump, Donald Trump turns on the American

people. And the truth is, California is no stranger to Trump's playbook. We have seen it before—which brings me back to the point I have today about the EPA nomination.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION AGENCY

Just a few weeks ago, in this very Chamber, the Senate majority—Republicans—decided to overrule the Parliamentarian in order to undermine California's clean air authority—authority that has existed since the original Clean Air Act was adopted decades ago. So I don't want to let our Republican colleagues off the hook, and as the ranking member of the Senate Rules Committee, I want to make sure the record is clear on what happened.

This was the very first time in the history of this Senate that the majority decided to go nuclear to take up joint resolutions that were subject to the filibuster one minute and eliminate the legislative filibuster for them the next. They can deny it all they want, but it is written there in the RECORD for all of us to see, and it was sparked by the Trump administration's EPA abusing the Congressional Review Act and twisting it into something it was never intended to be. But I know they are not too worried because they are betting that, through all the smoke and mirrors of procedural language, the American people won't be able to discern what truly happened.

So part of the reason I rise today is to continue to sound the alarm for the American people because the consequences, folks, are not just the change in the rules or the change in procedure or the change in how the Senate does its business; the consequences will be physical, impacting the health—not just the lungs but the broader health—of the people of my home State of California.

So I rise to remind my Republican colleagues and the EPA's current leadership that these actions will have consequences. And as long as my Republican colleagues continue to try to pull the wool over the eyes of the American people, I am going to continue to speak up and fight back.

Earlier this month, I announced my intent to place a blanket hold on nominees for the EPA, and I didn't do so lightly. I recognize how important it is for Federal Agencies to have qualified leadership regardless of which party is in charge. I respect that. And already, in several cases, I have voted in favor of reporting the current administration's nominees out of committee. I have even voted to confirm some of them on the Senate floor notwithstanding the political and policy differences I may have with some of them.

But the Senate's constitutional role to advise and consent is an important check on the abuse and overreach of the executive branch, and abuse and overreach is exactly what Trump's EPA did in this particular situation. So my objection not only to this nomi-

nation but to future EPA nominees is part of my duty on behalf of my constituents in the State of California.

So, yes, I am objecting to expedited consideration of EPA nominees in response to the Trump EPA's abuse of the Congressional Review Act. The EPA knew that these waivers did not qualify as rules under the CRA. They have never qualified as rules under the CRA. The nonpartisan Government Accountability Office, the GAO, as well as the nonpartisan Senate Parliamentarian even affirmed that they were not subject to the CRA earlier this year. But the EPA chose to ignore that and submitted them as rules anyway, launching this unprecedented power grab.

In May, I stated that I would continue to hold up EPA nominees unless the Trump administration's EPA withdrew the waivers or the majority leader committed to not overturning the Senate Parliamentarian on this issue. Unfortunately, the Trump administration and the Republican majority plowed ahead, at the expense of the health of millions of children and families in California—and many other States, for that matter.

They took advantage of the EPA's clear abuse of the CRA to go nuclear, first overriding the procedural limits in the text of the CRA itself and then, second, by overturning the Parliamentarian's decision—all in a quest to do away with California's clear, longstanding authority under the Clean Air Act.

That is unacceptable because, thanks to the Clean Air Act and California's authority in it, for 50 years, California has exercised its authority and leadership to set its own emissions standards to protect the health of our residents. It was granted by Congress on a bipartisan basis in recognition of California's unique air quality challenges.

In the time since, California has done nearly all it can do to reduce emissions from stationary sources of air pollution, which is what is under its jurisdiction. California has invested in R&D into cleaner locomotives, because mobile sources are not within its jurisdiction, but maybe there is an indirect way we can try to impact and reduce pollution in those sectors. California has invested in port electrification—again, trying to push the envelope in areas that are not quite within its jurisdiction because it is in the Federal jurisdiction—and making breakthroughs in hydrogen technologies, like the first hydrogen fuel cell ferry in the country.

Despite all of this, California still can't meet its Federal clean air standards because the biggest sources of continued air pollution are mobile sources—not the stationary sources under the State's jurisdiction but the mobile sources that are in the jurisdiction of the Federal Government. So California has done everything it can, and now the Federal Government needs to step up and do its part—do its part

or get out of the way and let California continue to lead.

That is why these waivers are so important—because absent the Federal Government doing its part, California needs the Federal waivers to fill the gap, to reduce pollution further, to reach attainment to protect the lungs and the health of Californians. But now, as a result of the Trump EPA and the Senate Republicans' abuse of the CRA, the people of California will be forced to breathe more toxic air pollution than they should have to and suffer the devastating impacts.

So to hold the Agency's leadership accountable for their actions, I am objecting to the Senate proceeding to all nominations for the EPA except for the vacancy of the inspector general. Let me be clear about that. I will maintain these objections unless acceptable accommodations are reached for the State of California to protect the health of our people.

To my Republican colleagues who may express frustration with this process, how many times have we heard you talk about “cooperative federalism”? Yet it seems to me that the rhetoric about cooperative federalism apparently only applies to some States, not California, because the second it touches California's ability to regulate the air we breathe, then their “States' rights” claims disappear.

But it is not a surprise, what is going on here. From the minute Donald Trump came back into office, we knew California was a target. The President decided to not just attack California on climate but with ICE raids, with attacks on Federal funding and research grants, with threats to withhold disaster aid, and more.

So to President Trump and to all those who choose to target California for a political agenda, you will soon see what California is capable of, and you will learn that it is far better to bet on California than against California.

In the meantime, I will continue to oppose these EPA nominees until the EPA reverses course and works with California—not just for California's interest but our Nation's interest. California is the most populous State in the Nation, with the largest economy of any State in the Nation. California's success drives America's success. If you rein in California's ability to lead, you restrain our country's success.

So I hope we can reach an agreement in the near future, but if not, we will continue to raise objections. And I will always stand up and defend California.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN VADEN

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of Judge Stephen Vaden's nomination to be the Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

Judge Vaden is no stranger to public service. He served as USDA general