

The single working woman in Cameron Parish rests assured, knowing that there is help available when it comes time to replace the siding and roof tiles which may have been torn loose by torrential winds.

But this program—and the peace of mind for those who rely on it—is threatened. Since FEMA, under the Biden administration, implemented Risk Rating 2.0, premiums have skyrocketed, making desperately needed protection unaffordable for millions. Over 80 percent of NFIP policyholders in Louisiana saw a spike in their premiums after its implementation in 2021. The protection that millions desperately need has been unaffordable.

When I say “unaffordable,” I am not talking about a \$1 or \$200 increase, although that might be too much for some families. I am talking about an almost \$2,000 increase for a homeowner in Waggaman, LA, and about a \$4,500 increase for a homeowner in Gibson.

This is where they started, in the white, and this is where they went to, in the red.

So if you say “unaffordable,” for a family of limited means, paying almost \$600 to go to \$2,500 is a big jump—a 334-percent jump. To go from \$600 to \$5,100 is a 750-percent jump. And here in Belle Chasse, LA, it goes from \$5,070 to \$8,800—over a 1,400-percent increase.

That is unaffordable. For a family with limited income—perhaps a fixed income—to see that kind of a jump is, one more time, unaffordable.

The question is, Has FEMA been transparent about these increases?

The answer is no.

In fact, some of these folks have never flooded. They are not really quite sure why their premiums are rising. But because they are rising so rapidly and so much, they have no option but to drop their NFIP coverage altogether, which, of course, is the worst possible situation because, now, they are totally vulnerable.

It is important to note that Congress has not been allowed to weigh in on these increases. Under President Biden, Congress was stonewalled. Now, with President Trump in charge, I trust there will be more transparency into the Risk Rating 2.0 methodology than we have had.

The American people—and, certainly, those in Louisiana—made it clear when they elected President Trump that they are ready to end the confusion and high prices of the previous administration. They are talking about the grocery store, the gas pump, and, yes, also flood insurance.

The National Flood Insurance Program, if you add to that homeowner's insurance, is the heart of the cost-of-living crisis Americans struggled with under President Biden.

Now, we have a chance to bring down prices on flood insurance in the same way that President Trump has brought down all of these other prices—gas, eggs, milk—you name it. And I wish to work with my Senate colleagues, my

congressional colleagues, and with President Trump to make life affordable again.

As hurricane season ramps up, the clock is ticking. Let's act now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today because for the last few years, I think we can best describe the time in America as a time of record high prices and wide-open borders. Prices soared by over 20 percent, which was a 40-year high; 10 million illegal immigrants flooded across our Nation's borders; American families struggled; and communities were unsafe.

So in November of this past year, the American people said: Enough. They rejected the chaos and the extremism of the Democratic Party and the Democratic leadership, and they chose Republicans in order to get the country back on track.

So the bill that we are voting on this week is the Republican plan: a plan for a safer and more prosperous America. It is a plan to cut taxes, lower prices, secure the border, and, of course, to strengthen our Nation. It is the blueprint to renew, to rebuild, and to restore our Nation. Here is how.

First, our bill stops a \$4 trillion tax increase. Now, that would be the biggest tax increase in the history of the country. Every Senate Democrat has vowed to stop the bill. That is because the Democrats are the party of record high taxes. They want people's taxes to go up to a tune of \$4 trillion. If the Democrats have their way, every working family in America will pay more in taxes. They will see a higher tax bill next year.

So if you make between \$30,000 and \$80,000 a year, when our bill passes, you are going to get a 15 percent tax cut. We cut taxes on overtime, on Social Security, and on tips. If you are a waiter or a police officer or a nurse, you are going to keep more of what you earn. If you are on Social Security, you will see more money at the end of each month through a larger deduction. Now, this is real relief for the American people who have been suffering through 4 years of record high prices.

Additionally—and, as a doctor, I think this is critically important—our bill strengthens Medicaid. Medicaid exists for the vulnerable: for children, for pregnant women, for the disabled. That is who it was set up and established for. But, right now, Medicaid is failing them. And the problem, of course, is the waste and the fraud and the abuse and the corruption that has been allowed to get into that system as a result of the last 4 years of liberal leadership in Washington.

Experts tell us that over the past number of years, over \$1.1 trillion has been wasted on improper payments alone. And Washington was happy to shovel the money out of this city to big

States and big cities. In States such as California, money meant for the vulnerable was siphoned off; it was diverted for free healthcare for illegal immigrants. Well, our bill stops all of that.

We also believe and add the fact that there needs to be work requirements—work requirements for able-bodied, working-age people. If people can work, they should work. That is how you move people from poverty to a paycheck.

Additionally, our bill secures the border and deport illegal immigrants. The border has been wide open for the last 4 years. Over 10 million illegal immigrants have come into the country. We have seen the numbers. We have seen the videos, the crime, the chaos allowed by the previous administration, and we have seen how quickly things can change with real leadership in the White House. It is dramatic. It is the improvement that the American people have wanted.

Our bill invests \$160 billion in public safety—hiring 10,000 new Immigration and Customs agents, hiring 3,000 new Border Patrol agents, finishing the wall, giving our officers a well-deserved bonus for keeping our communities safe.

Additionally, the bill we have unleashes American energy. Under Joe Biden, energy prices rose 31 percent in 4 years. We fix that by producing more energy right here at home in America. We open up energy production onshore, offshore, and in Alaska. That means affordable gas prices, lower energy bills, good-paying American jobs. It powers innovation here at home. America is an energy superpower, and once again, we are going to act like it.

Additionally, our bill restores American strength. For 4 years under Joe Biden, the world saw American weakness. This bill, as well as our actions last weekend, sent a clear message: America is strong again. We invest \$150 billion in our military, we build 13 new warships, and we boost shipbuilding capacities.

Remember, strength deters. Weakness invites aggression. A ready America is a safe and strong America. That is what Americans want, it is what they need, and it is what Americans voted for in November: lower taxes, safer communities, secure borders, a strong economy, leaders who put common sense ahead of chaos. And that is exactly what this bill delivers.

This bill keeps the promises that we made to the American people, while a vote against the bill—and that is what the Democrats are coming to the floor and they are promising, saying: We have to beat this thing. That would saddle hard-working Americans with the largest tax increase ever, with open borders, with a weaker economy, a weaker country. And that is what they come to the floor and say they are fighting for.

I ask the American people: Whose side do you stand on? What is it that

you want for your future and your country? Because we know what works. In the 1980s, President Ronald Reagan tamed inflation, cut taxes, and stood strong. It was morning in America. And then in the 1990s, in a bipartisan effort, Republicans worked with President Bill Clinton to reform welfare. Millions moved from poverty to paycheck. We need to do that again.

In 2017, we cut taxes, we rolled back redtape, we unleashed American energy, and it created the best economy in my lifetime. Middle-class incomes rose by nearly \$6,000 across the board. Energy was much more affordable. We did it before. With this bill, we will do it again.

So, today, Senate Republicans stand united: united to deliver lower prices, higher wages, and more jobs here at home. This bill that we will vote on this week opens the next chapter in our great American comeback story. Republicans are ready to get America back on track.

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 proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RUSSIA

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, where is Russia? Where is President Putin? I ask that question in light of what has been happening over the past week in Iran. Where is Russia? Where is President Putin? You couldn't find either one of them with a search party. "Dog the Bounty Hunter," all of a sudden, couldn't find President Putin. All of a sudden, even Google can't find Russia.

I thought Iran and Russia were peeps. I thought they were best friends. I mean, for decades, Iran and Russia have had a partnership where they have attacked everyone in the freedom-loving West. They are best buds.

Now, I know Iran has a relationship with China, but that is more transactional. China just likes to buy Iran's cheap oil.

With Russia and Iran, it was supposed to be a deeper, more meaningful relationship. And this isn't something new; this has been a partnership for decades.

I remember when Putin invaded Ukraine. One of the first allies he turned to was Iran, and Iran sent Russia ammunition, and Iran sent Russia artillery shells, and Iran sent Russia drones. Iran has sent Russia drones and ammunition and artillery shells every single day of the war.

So where is Russia? I mean, it hasn't been a good week for Iran. Where is Russia?

On Monday of this week, Iran's top diplomat met with President Putin and asked for help. Do you know what President Putin said he would provide?

Nothing. Zero. Zilch. Nada. Some kind of friend.

You know, it is not the first time that we have seen President Putin's true colors. It has happened before. You would think that Iran would learn. The month after Iran, through Hamas, attacked Israel back in October of 2023, Iran immediately asked Moscow to supply Iran with—because Iran knew what was coming, and so did Hamas. They knew retribution was coming from Israel. Iran asked Moscow for jet fighters, for attack helicopters, air defense systems, and training jets, and Iran was sure that their buddy Putin would be there. Putin sent them a few jets and said: Go away. Don't bother me.

Then, not long ago, when Israel took out the better part of Iran's air defense system, its golden dome—it wasn't exactly golden. It was more like tin. But the Israelis took it out. Iran asked Russia, said: Look, we have to rearm. We are naked and alone here. We need more air defense missiles to shoot down the Israeli planes.

President Putin said: Go away. Don't bother me.

What a friend.

President Putin has done it to other countries. Russia has had alliances not just with Iran through the years. I will give you a couple of examples. Armenia. Armenia and Russia were best buds, two peas in a pod, but when Armenia got in a war with Azerbaijan, once again, you couldn't find Russia with a search party.

Iran and Russia worked together to prop up al-Assad in Syria. Remember that, when the people of Syria were revolting against Assad, who had blood under his fingernails? Do you know who kept him afloat? Iran, yes, but especially Russia.

Then Assad got in trouble, and that is when he really needed Russia. He went to Mr. Putin and said: Help me. Help me.

Mr. Putin said: No. You are on your own. You can come to my country, where they can't get to you, but that is it. Too bad. I don't need you anymore.

A lot is going on with respect to the Middle East right now, but I hope the world knows what kind of friend Russia is. I hope other countries that Russia has alliances with and that Russia is assiduously courting to be a "partnership" notice how Russia reacts to their friends.

Where is Russia? Where is Putin? All of a sudden, you can't find him. Now, I am delighted with that. I am just delighted. But this was very, very predictable. With friends like Russia—I say this to every country in the world that might be thinking about partnering with Russia—with friends like Russia, who needs enemies?

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

Mr. President, let me change the subject slightly. As you know, we are working hard on reconciliation. I suspect we are going to have a bill before us here in a few days. It is very impor-

tant. It does a lot. And I know reasonable people have disagreed over it, but first and foremost, if we pass the bill, it will represent the largest tax decrease in the history of our country.

Let me say that again because sometimes we tend to lose sight of the main purpose of the bill, of the forest as we start battling about the trees. If we pass this bill, it will be the largest tax cut in the history of America. But the converse is also true. If we don't pass this bill, it will be the largest tax increase on the American people in the history of America.

So there are two doors here. Door No. 1, pass it—largest tax cut in the history of America. Door No. 2, don't pass it—largest tax increase, \$4.3 trillion. That is how much taxes will go up on ordinary Americans—not just the rich. I know they are going to tell you that it is just the rich. No, it is not. It is ordinary Americans. It is every American.

If we don't pass this bill, you raise taxes \$4.3 trillion on 300-plus million Americans, and you watch this economy go down like a fat guy on a seesaw. We don't have a choice.

But as we are discussing reconciliation, there is another issue that I don't want us to forget about. Reconciliation is about cutting and spending, but what we call rescission is about cutting.

As you know, Mr. President, the U.S. Congress is responsible under our Constitution for passing a budget. When we pass a budget, we send it to the President—any President. The President can either veto it or sign it. What he can't do or she can't do is go through it and say: I like this; I want to keep it. I don't like that; I am going to cut it.

That is called a line-item veto. President Clinton tried it, and the U.S. Supreme Court said: You can't do it.

So the President, once we pass it, either has to swallow it whole or has to spit it out.

But one of the tools the President does have—the executive branch has, every President has—is the power of rescission.

You are going to hear that word a lot, "rescission." What does "rescission" mean? It just means the President looks at the budget, and he says: You know, I know I can't change it on my own unilaterally, but I, the President, can ask Congress to change it. I know you just passed this budget, but I think you made a mistake here. I think you shouldn't have spent this money or I think you spent too much money and we have got to cut back.

So the President can send us what is called a rescission bill, and we have got to take it up. We don't have a choice. And in that rescission bill, the President says what I just implied: I don't agree with this spending, and I want you, Congress, who put it in there, to take it out.

We can't afford it or it is wasteful spending—what I call spending porn.

We have to take up the President's request, and we can vote yes or we can