

against veterans, and that is just what is happening to our veterans through these DOGE cuts. What is happening to them is terrible.

Our veterans—these are the people who volunteered, who risked their lives. Many of them came back with injuries and PTSD. And when they get to the veterans hospitals, because there have been such cuts, their care is inadequate. They risked their lives for us, and Republicans and Trump and DOGE cut veterans' health and veterans' care. It is outrageous—outrageous—and they are doing it.

We have heard a lot of verbiage: Oh, we love our veterans. And then they cut what our veterans need and want.

The meeting today in the Appropriations Committee shows that there is a way Republicans can undo these awful DOGE cuts. Reversing DOGE cuts through the MILCON appropriations bill today is a direct rebuke to Donald Trump. It is saying to Trump: We don't like what you did, but we will see if Republicans come along, if they will defy Trump and vote to undo the DOGE cuts.

It is simple. Republicans have a choice to make as we move forward. They can put their constituents over Trump and work with Democrats to continue funding the government in a responsible way, or they can continue to go it alone and continue to bow in obeisance to Donald Trump and rubberstamp his awful cuts that do such harm to our Americans in uniform.

And if they go it alone, without undoing the terrible things that DOGE did here and elsewhere, Democrats will make them pay a price, just as we have made them pay a price on reconciliation.

Republicans can continue to bow in obeisance to Trump and rubberstamp whatever cuts he tells them to make, but you can't just push these awful cuts farther and farther down people's throats and not expect them—the people—to respond.

Republicans, for their own good and for the good of the country, need to be careful about making so many devastating cuts so quickly and just on party-line vote in reconciliation and rescission and whatever else they might come up with to avoid the process.

And if Republicans keep going down this road, if they choose to ignore the bipartisan process, if they keep reneging on funding agreements reached in committee, if they prefer to strike deals with Donald Trump and Russell Vought to use impoundment decisions and pocket rescissions to cut whatever they want on a party-line vote, the harms to the American people will be devastating.

It will be devastating in healthcare. It will be devastating to our farmers. It will be devastating to our veterans. It will be devastating to the millions of people who were promised jobs in healthcare and clean energy.

It will be Americans back home who will see even more cuts as they proceed on this road, if they do—more cuts to housing, more cuts to education, to research, to economic development.

It will be our farmers who see their costs go up. It will be our small businesses who get taken advantage of by special interests and by erratic tariff policies.

The consequences for this Chamber and our country will be stark—very stark, indeed.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

On judges, today, Republicans will spend the day ramming through more of Donald Trump's extreme judicial nominees.

When choosing his judges, only one thing matters to Donald Trump: unquestioned fealty to him—brazen, unquestioned fealty.

It doesn't matter what the law is. It doesn't matter about judicial independence or precedent or even the Constitution. The only thing that Trump cares about in a judge—we have seen this. We know it. Our Republican colleagues who just march in lockstep to vote for these awful judges know it. The only thing Trump cares about is unyielding fealty to him, and he says it brazenly.

We have never seen such a disturbing litmus test for judges in America. The judges before the Senate today are no different than the previous ones: radical, inexperienced, and chosen not for their fairness but for their ideological fealty to Donald Trump and the hard right.

The first nominee, Joshua Divine of Missouri, is a political operative—a political operative—with no judicial experience, who made a career attacking everything from voting rights to commonsense gun safety, to defending government overreach into people's private lives.

It is said that Donald Trump wants to make sure that no one in this Senate who gets nominated has ever shown any—any—independence. He looks through their campaign finance; he looks through who they have worked for—no independence.

Mr. Divine hasn't even been out of law school 10 years and spent less than half that time practicing as an attorney.

The next nominee, Cristian Stevens, is also of Missouri. He similarly made a name for himself by undermining racial justice efforts in our judicial system and siding almost relentlessly with corporations in cases of worker discrimination.

That is who Donald Trump puts in.

If the average American has the ability to go to court and fight their boss and anything else, Donald Trump wants nominees who will always side with the big shots, with the well-connected.

Nominees like Divine and Stevens should frighten anyone who cares about a strong, independent judiciary. They have failed to show the American people that they won't just be Donald

Trump's foot soldiers in black robes. The Senate should reject their nominations.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

RESCISSIONS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, this morning—in the early hours of this morning—Republicans voted to save the American taxpayers over \$9 billion.

Now, predictably, the Democratic leader came to the floor today in the U.S. Senate making false claims.

Let's be clear. Emergency alert infrastructure remains funded through the Department of Homeland Security and FEMA. None of that was touched.

But let me go through a list of some of the things that Republicans voted to not spend money on—things that have already previously been approved by the Democrats, and every one of the Democrats said: Nope, we want to spend all of that money on these things.

How about electric buses in Africa to the tune of \$500,000? How about teaching about environmental racism—\$7.4 million? How about vegan food programs in Africa? How about \$882,000 to fund social media mentorship in Serbia and Belarus? How about \$2.1 million for climate resilience in Southeast Asia, in Latin America, and in East Africa? How about \$3.3 million for civic engagement in Zimbabwe?

The Democrats wanted all of these things to continue to be spent, and the American taxpayers reject all of it.

How about \$4.4 million for a South Pacific youth climate corps?

Who comes up with this way to spend money? Only Democrats who want to spend and spend and spend.

And, of course, \$6.2 million to address the needs of Venezuelan migrants in Colombia.

I am proud of the votes of the Republicans to say these are taxpayer dollars that should not be spent. Every Democrat—every single Democrat—said: Keep sending the money to projects like that; keep spending that money.

Last night, for the first time since 1993—1993, and we are now 2025—the first time in all of that time that the Senate came and stripped out the spending by passing a bill on the U.S. Senate floor last night to finally say enough is enough of this kind of reckless Washington spending that the American people have rejected and that this Congress is now going to end.

ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL ACT

Mr. President, I come to the floor today on a different matter, and that is because, earlier this month, President Trump signed into law his historic economic plan—a historic economic plan for the future of our country, an economic plan that unleashes American energy and, with it, American prosperity.

It makes it easier to produce American energy—American oil, American natural gas, American coal—right here at home. It opens up energy production

onshore, offshore, and in Alaska—all vital areas in this country and for our economy.

And what does this all mean? It means lower energy prices and more savings for the American people.

Wyoming is America's energy breadbasket. It is where American energy's future begins and continues. We have a long and storied history—as does your State, Mr. President—and we are going to continue that and grow it into the future.

And just last Friday, Wyoming opened the first rare earth mine in America in 70 years. It is called the Brooks Mine, and it is located just outside the city of Sheridan, WY. Now, most Americans probably haven't heard of the Brooks Mine, but we need to know about it because it is going to have a very important role, and people will feel the influence and the importance of that mine. It is going to mean a lot in terms of prices, in terms of jobs, and also for national security.

Wyoming minerals mined by Wyoming workers are going to build a safer, more prosperous America because the mine holds over a billion tons of coal. Also, it critically includes over 2 million tons of critical minerals. These are the minerals that we use in smart phones and cars, washers and dryers, and even fighter jets.

Secretary of Energy Chris Wright came to Sheridan, WY, for the groundbreaking ceremony last Friday. He called it "a landmark moment"—one for workers, one for manufacturers, and one for our energy independence. He is exactly right.

Today, America is dangerously dependent on China for critical minerals. China controls 85 percent of the world's refined rare earth mineral elements today—85 percent. Some of it they mine there, but they also get it from mines around the world, and it gets sent there for processing. But they control 85 percent of the refined rare earth elements supplied.

Today, what is China doing? We know what they are doing. They are weaponizing this power to pressure our country and to threaten our U.S. supply chains. We can't be safe as a nation if we are dependent on our adversaries. We cannot prosper if we cannot properly power our Nation.

That is why this critical minerals mine in Wyoming matters. It reflects our commitments to our own independence, our own freedom, getting rid of the dependence. This last administration, the last 4 years, they put our head in a noose in terms of energy, energy availability, energy costs, and also critical elements from around the world.

America's future depends on abundant energy resources, and Wyoming energy resources and Wyoming energy workers will power that future.

Look, America is an energy superpower. We have the resources; we have the workers; we have the know-how. Now, finally, we are acting like it. Re-

publicans are focused on restoring American energy dominance.

No more of this Joe Biden prioritized the climate over energy that is available, affordable, and reliable. The American people rejected it. We saw what it did to raising energy prices, what it cost to heat our homes, cool the homes, fill the gas tank in the last administration. People suffered the pain of the policies of that Democrat administration.

We are getting America back on track: stronger, safer, more prosperous. And we are not going to stop until the American people see and feel the results they deserve.

I yield the floor.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Divine nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BARRASSO. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, in a moment, we will begin the process of confirming four outstanding new judges to the bench in the State of Missouri. This has been a long road for my State. We have waited a long time to have these four vacancies filled, and I am absolutely delighted that in just a few moments, we will begin to fill them. And I want to thank President Trump for nominating four truly outstanding individuals to these roles: Josh Divine, who is the current solicitor general of the State of Missouri and whom I had the privilege of having serve on my staff as my chief counsel, among other roles, for a number of years; Judge Cris Stevens, who is currently serving the Missouri State courts with distinction; Maria Lanahan, who is serving the Missouri Attorney General's Office even now; and Zachary Bluestone, who is a Federal prosecutor in the State of Missouri. Each of these four individuals will soon take his or her place on the Federal bench and I am confident will be a great credit not just to my State but to the United States, where I hope they will serve as Federal judges for a very long time to come.

I want to say just a brief word about each of them. I want to start with Josh Divine, whom we will be voting on here just shortly. Josh currently serves as Missouri's solicitor general, and before that, as I said, he served here in the Senate as my chief counsel. In fact, I have had the opportunity to work with

Josh on a number of occasions. I first hired him to the Missouri Attorney General's Office when I was attorney general, and he was just a young deputy. He served there and then came to the Senate and served on my staff and clerked at the U.S. Supreme Court, then came back here to the Senate as my chief counsel and then back to the State of Missouri.

Josh's record as solicitor general of Missouri is truly exceptional. He has argued—litigated—numerous cases in our State courts and Federal courts, from the trial court level all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, and here is the thing that really strikes me about Josh's record. If you total up his courtroom victories for Missouri, the dollar amounts that he has won on behalf of the State of Missouri, you won't believe the total. It is \$725 billion—billion—in successful judgments on behalf of the people of Missouri. That includes a successful lawsuit against the Chinese Communist Party for their role in the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent coverup and the many harms that it caused to the people of Missouri.

This is a very successful litigator. This is a very successful trial lawyer, a very successful appellate lawyer, and he is going to make an absolutely outstanding judge on the Federal bench for the State of Missouri.

I want to share just one personal story about Josh that I think illustrates his character more even than his win record does. You know, just a few years ago in the midst of an intense period of work for the State of Missouri, Josh and his family were taking a brief vacation, and he was catastrophically injured in a skiing accident that left him unable to walk. In fact, for a number of days, doctors feared for his life. I remember getting the call; people saying that, you know, Josh Divine has been seriously, seriously injured. We don't know if he is going to live.

He lived, thank God, and then they told him: You may or may not walk again. Do you know, over a period of months that followed, Josh set himself to regaining, with 100 percent confidence, his ability to walk. And I remember talking to him while he was yet in intensive care and then in the hospital for a long period of time and seeing the pictures of him propped up there in his bed already back to work for the State of Missouri, with his briefs around him, his laptop in front of him, writing briefs, on calls, trying to direct motions, argue them, if possible, over the phone. It was incredible.

And what he did then for a period of months after that is he taught himself to walk again. You will see him, I am sure, walking in and out of the courthouse soon in his new role on the bench. He has regained, with 100 percent capacity, his ability to walk, and it really is a testament to his determination, to his grit, to his faith, and also to his family.

Who really deserves the praise here is his exceptional wife Elizabeth, mother