

that it redoes 2008: We have another national recession.

It is in that context that we need to understand that we need an EPA Administrator who will take climate change seriously, treat the science honestly, and stand up where necessary to the political pressure that will be coming from the White House, where we have a President who actually thinks it is a hoax, and from the huge fossil fuel forces that propelled him into office with enormous amounts of political money and who now think they own the place.

The fossil fuel industry has done nothing but lie about this and use their power for evil. President Trump is completely mistaken and under the thumb of the fossil fuel industry. And against that will stand the EPA Administrator who has to be truthful and factual and support and defend our environment and our safety from climate change.

In that context, I have nothing against Lee Zeldin personally, but the likelihood of him standing against that fossil fuel bulldozer that is coming at him is, essentially, zero. And that fossil fuel bulldozer is also going to be bulldozing their way into American homes in the form of an insurance crisis that is looming. So this is going to become very real very fast. And in that context, this is very much the wrong guy.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The majority whip.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Zeldin nomination be waived.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 8, Lee Zeldin, of New York, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

John Thune, Markwayne Mullin, James C. Justice, Tom Cotton, John Barrasso, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Joni Ernst, Roger Marshall, Deb Fischer, Chuck Grassley, Bernie Moreno, Ted Budd, John Kennedy, John Boozman, Tommy Tuberville, Cindy Hyde-Smith.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Lee Zeldin of New York to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 56, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 23 Ex.]

YEAS—56

Banks	Gallego	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Murkowski
Britt	Hawley	Paul
Budd	Hoeven	Ricketts
Capito	Husted	Risch
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Collins	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Kennedy	Sheehy
Crapo	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Curtis	Lummis	Tillis
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fetterman	McCormick	Young
Fischer	Moody	

NAYS—42

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kim	Schiff
Blumenthal	King	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Slotkin
Cooms	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Padilla	Warren
Hassan	Peters	Welch
Heinrich	Reed	Whitehouse
Hickenlooper	Rosen	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Booker Ossoff

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On the vote, the yeas are 56, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

ILLEGITIMATE COURT COUNTERACTION ACT

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, 480. That is the number of days since terror shook the Middle East. It has been 480 days since Hamas's unprovoked attack; 480 days since Hamas brought brutal terror on Israel and the citizens of more than 30 countries; 480 days since American family members and friends were kidnapped.

Last year, the International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and his former defense minister. The illegitimate court—which acts as prosecutor, jury, and judge—brought politically motivated charges for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Since when did self-defense in the face of terrorist attacks and atrocities become a war crime?

The ICC has forgotten too quickly who started this war, who turned a music festival into a graveyard, who attacked unprovoked, bringing devastating carnage on defenseless victims.

The ICC has forgotten the seven Americans still in Gaza, our fellow country men and women. They have forgotten the remains of the innocent Hamas victims that Hamas keeps—the

hostages even in death. They have forgotten the corpses in the streets, the babies and the soldiers beheaded, the people burned alive in their cars. They have forgotten the doors riddled with bullet holes, the ground stained with blood, the smell of decaying flesh.

The ICC has forgotten the hell Hamas inflicted on Israel and many other nations. And, instead, it vilifies a nation seeking justice and the chance to live in peace. This is not surprising. From the beginning, the United States has rejected this body.

From President Clinton to President Trump, every President—Democratic and Republican—has never recognized the ICC's jurisdiction over our Nation. In fact, no President has even submitted the Rome Statute establishing the ICC to the Senate for advice and consent. We have never ratified it.

And why? Because entrusting an international governing body with authority over U.S. citizens risks undermining the very freedoms and sovereignty that define this Nation.

The ICC has repeatedly sought to impose its authority over the United States and over our allies. And now, it has alleged that Israel has committed war crimes.

Meanwhile, the tribunal conveniently turns a blind eye to atrocities in China, hiding behind the excuse of nonmembership, despite the fact that neither the United States nor Israel are members. The hypocrisy of the ICC is breathtaking.

Well, enough is enough. Earlier this month, the House passed the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act on a bipartisan basis. I am deeply—deeply—disappointed that my Democratic colleagues who voted against moving forward on this legislation did that here in the U.S. Senate. I sincerely hope that they reconsider. Our sovereignty is non-negotiable. Allowing the ICC to operate unchecked and without consequence grants them authority where they should have none. Worse, it sets a standard that encourages repetition.

We have a responsibility to protect the sovereignty of our Nation and our allies. This moment demands courage, and it demands conviction. And we must rise to meet it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The other Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act that we voted on earlier in this Chamber.

The International Criminal Court was created to hold accountable war criminals, for example, in countries that did not have a system of justice, did not have the rule of law, and were incapable of holding those people accountable.

In 2020, the International Criminal Court started investigating American soldiers' actions. This, despite the fact that we have a system of justice. We are governed by the rule of law. As my senior Senator from Nebraska just

pointed out, we are not a signatory to the ICC. We are not a part of that international organization.

Last year, the International Criminal Court indicted Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. Israel has a rule of law. Israel has a system of justice. And Israel is not a signatory to the ICC; and yet they indicted him.

The International Criminal Court is out of control. It is a rogue international organization. And when they indicted Prime Minister Netanyahu, what they did is they put a moral equivalency between Israel's actions to defend itself and the barbaric attacks Hamas perpetrated on October 7.

Let's be clear here: When Hamas launched their terror attack on Israel, they were targeted civilians. That is a war crime. When Israel responds back to defend itself, civilians are going to get hurt in war, but that is not who Israel was targeting. They were targeting the terrorists who attacked them. That is legitimate.

The International Criminal Court destroyed whatever shred of credibility they had when they made that indictment. And if they are coming after the Israeli Prime Minister, it won't be long before they start coming after American troops.

In fact, the Wall Street Journal had an article that said "if the International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for Israelis, Americans are likely to follow."

This organization is a failure despite its \$187 million budget. It has not been able to bring to justice dictators around the world. They have done very little. My senior Senator mentioned China. They haven't done anything to stop Vladimir Putin. They haven't done anything against Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. They haven't done anything against North Korea's Kim Jong-un. Yet they are targeting countries that have a system of justice and rule of law. That is not why this organization was supposed to have been created.

The ICC is a lawless, politicalized international organization that is threatening our sovereignty. This requires a strong response on our part.

The Illegitimate Court Counteraction Act was that response. It would have directed the President within 60 days to launch sanctions against foreign nationals who are involved with the malign activities of the ICC to target our American troops or our allies, for example. We need to have a strong response back to protect our sovereignty. When we are talking about, for example, sanctions, we are talking about assets, freezing assets of those foreign nationals or travel bans. It would have sent a strong message to all of those foreigners who were trying to target us or our allies.

Sadly, the Democrats voted down this important bill that would have sent a strong message. Their arguments were speeches, frivolous, meaningless. The Democrats said: Well, this bill targets our allies.

No, what this bill did was target people who were outside the United States trying to target our soldiers or those of our allies. It was targeting individuals.

Democrats said: Well, this bill imposes draconian sanctions.

Actually, if you look at the sanctions that this bill was proposing, the same sort of sanctions were done under both Obama and Biden 49 times. They said: Oh, Well, some companies could be held responsible.

Again, no. This was about individuals. It was not about companies.

They said: Well, the bill was poorly written, poorly drafted.

Yet this same bill had passed the House of Representatives twice—the first time with 42 Democrats voting for it and the second time with 45 Democrats voting for it, including 2 of our colleagues who are in the Chamber now who voted for it when they were in the House, except that when they came to the Senate, they voted against it.

This was important legislation.

Now, when the minority leader got up, he talked about the ICC being anti-Semitic, and he is right. The U.N. in general is another one of those international organizations that are anti-Semitic.

He says that he stands with Israel, against the ICC, but his actions speak louder than words. When he had the opportunity, he stood on this floor earlier and said that Israel should have new elections to replace the Prime Minister.

Well, folks, that action was with the same logic that the ICC was using when they indicted Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. It seems hypocritical that he can stand up here and say "I stand with Israel, yet they should have new elections" and somehow have the moral authority to defend Israel against the ICC.

In blocking this bill, Democrats were voting to not protect our soldiers; they were voting to not stand up for our allies, not stand up for our sovereignty. They were not supporting specifically Israel.

The appeasement-first policy of the Biden administration is alive and well in the Democrats in the U.S. Senate today. Americans, take note.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I want to add to what my colleagues have been saying here.

It is a big disappointment for us on this side of the aisle that our Democratic colleagues blocked this bill to do what needs to happen with regard to the ICC.

Senator RICKETTS was just making a really good point with regard to the blatant anti-Semitism at that organization, and it is not new. We all know this is happening, which is why it was a disappointment we couldn't move forward. It is also something we know that has been happening at the U.N.

I had a Wall Street Journal op-ed a couple of months ago when President

Biden was getting ready to go to make his last major speech at the U.N. I strongly but respectfully requested the President make his speech about focusing on the systemic anti-Semitism that has existed at the United Nations for years and to call out the true terrorist in the world, which is Iran. President Biden didn't make that speech.

I had a meeting with the U.N. Secretary General and now former Senator Ben Cardin, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. It was a bipartisan meeting with the U.N. Secretary General. You know, we pressed him. We pressed him hard on his leadership of the U.N. and the systemic anti-Semitism that exists in these international bodies, in these international organizations.

The U.N. is going to have a wake-up call with our new Ambassador, ELISE STEFANIK. I think she is going to really raise these issues, really press these issues. She is going to be a modern-day Jeane Kirkpatrick, who, in my view, was the best U.N. Ambassador ever under President Reagan. She is going to bring it.

So, to the U.N. Secretary General, stand by. You are going to hear a lot more of this from our incoming U.N. Ambassador. She is going to do a great job.

ANTI-SEMITISM

Finally, Mr. President, I just want to mention—we are focused on the ICC, and we are focused on the U.N., appropriately. This bill should have moved forward, and we are disappointed. But, you know what, we also need to focus at home.

Since the October 7 attacks in 2023, the explosion of anti-Semitism that we have seen at our so-called elite universities—I don't call them elite; I just call them expensive universities—on the campuses of the top universities in America, has been nothing short of astonishing and disgusting. I don't know what other adjective I can use but "horrifying."

These are the statistics from the Anti-Defamation League: From 2023 to 2024, their annual report on anti-Israel activism on U.S. campuses tallied over 2,000 incidents. Anti-Israel incidents of assault, vandalism, harassment, protest actions, and divestment resolutions between June of 2023 and May of 2024 increased a staggering 477 percent—477 percent—at the top universities in America. This marks the highest number ever documented by the ADL.

I witnessed this at my alma mater, Harvard. My wife and I went there. I don't always talk about it because I am not proud of it. This university has huge problems. I was there about a little over a year ago, walking the campus. I went to Widener Library. That is the big, famous library in the middle of Harvard Yard. I went to the reading room—during finals—of Widener Library, and there was a giant anti-Israel protest in this reading room. It was