

exports out of our country, Republicans are choosing to strangle America's supply of cheap solar and wind.

And thanks to Republicans and their "Big Ugly Bill," wind deployment is expected to drop from 200,000 megawatts and solar by 150,000 megawatts by the year 2035 compared to prior estimates before they passed their bill.

It is absolutely unbelievable the stuff that was working and cheapest and cleanest, they are destroying. The stuff that is dirtiest and more expensive, they are giving tax breaks to. It is the opposite of what the rest of the world wants. And China knows they are going to be selling the solar panels, the all-electric vehicles, the batteries, the wind to the rest of the world, 95 percent of the population. And we are pulling out of that competition.

This is economics 101. High demand plus low supply means higher energy prices for everyone, forcing families to pay at least \$130 more per month on energy bills in 5 years and \$170 more per month in 10 years.

It goes even beyond the "Big Ugly Bill." We are living in their big ugly world. Earlier this month, the Department of the Interior released a memo stating that all decisions related to wind and solar energy projects on Federal lands now require the Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum's personal signoff. Who is Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum? He was a fossil fuel guy. Now, you have to go to the fossil fuel guy to get permission to deploy wind and solar.

A few weeks later, the Trump administration came out with new messages, new measures to further sabotage wind, and the staff at the Department of Energy are now full-time coal lobbyists.

Can I say that again? The staff at the Department of Energy are full-time coal lobbyists who have been brought in. Coal, yes, the dirtiest source out there, both a major contributor to the climate crisis and to the public health threat for communities nearby. That is who is running the Department of Energy.

Just like Trump, coal is outdated, costly, dangerous. Perhaps it is no surprise that he is in a weird love affair with coal. It is just weird that he loves this technology from 100 years ago. He just can't move to the future.

Coal has shrunk from nearly half the country's electricity generation in 2008 to only 15 percent at the start of this year, a trend driven primarily by competition from cheaper fossil gas and renewables. Building new solar, even solar plus storage, is now cheaper than running existing coal plants in the United States. It is already winning.

From today's Twitter post of coal captioned, "She is the moment"—a type of coal, mind you, that has not been mined in the United States for more than 80 years—to spreading misinformation that coal is critical to modern technology, some of the coal love affair has just been plain weird.

But more concerning, they are actively spending your ratepayer dollars to keep retiring coal plants online.

With Trump's sham energy emergency Executive order, he has enabled the Department of Energy to use emergency authority to keep coal online, forcing working families to pay more in order to line the pockets of those Big Oil billionaires.

That is not an energy emergency. This is a Trump energy tax on the American public. It is a deliberate strategy to make sure working families stay dependent on a damaging fuel source that makes a handful of billionaires richer by the day while everyone else pays the price in higher bills and a deterioration of their health.

The truth is that Trump's gutting of cheap and reliable wind and solar has created a reliability risk to our grid, in addition to the rapid proliferation of massive, load-sucking data centers.

AI is incredibly energy intensive. One ChatGPT search uses ten times the amount of power needed for a Google search. It took the energy consumption of 28,000 households to train ChatGPT4. Data centers are expected to demand 130 gigawatts of electricity load by the end of this decade, equivalent to the electricity used by about 100 million U.S. homes.

This will require adding 10 to 20 additional gigawatts per year to the electricity grid. Data centers are expected to demand—

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. MOODY). The Senator's time has expired. Do you need a moment to wrap up?

Mr. MARKEY. I thank you, Madam President, and I will conclude, and I will be back because this subject is just too important.

We are now in a climate crisis. It is only going to worsen. NOAA is predicting higher than normal hurricanes coming our way. They are going to be supercharged.

The planet is running a fever, and there are no emergency rooms for planets. We have to engage in preventive care. The Republicans have removed that care, and so we have to have this debate, this discussion.

And I thank my colleagues, but especially my Democratic colleagues. We have to continue to fight. We have to continue to stand. We have to continue to ensure that the American people know that we are in this battle for the clean energy future for the next generations of young Americans who are out there depending upon us to lead that fight for them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to speak up to 5 minutes preceding this evening's scheduled vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF CASEY MULLIGAN

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, today the Senate will vote to advance the

nomination of Dr. Casey Mulligan to be the Chief Counsel of the Office of Advocacy at the Small Business Administration. I strongly urge my colleagues to vote yes in support of his nomination.

Over the past few years, the cost of regulations for small businesses has been out of control. The previous administration created more than 1,100 final rules, costing \$1.8 trillion. The Biden administration's regulatory costs were 600 times higher than that of the first Trump administration, and 3.7 times higher than that of the Obama administration.

In stark contrast, during his first 6 months back in office, President Trump's deregulatory actions have already saved an estimated \$86 billion and 52.2 million hours in paperwork.

Small businesses back in Iowa and across the country can now spend more time building their business and hiring employees, instead of dealing with pointless redtape.

While SBA Administrator Loeffler and the White House are working hard every day to optimize the regulatory landscape, small businesses deserve a Senate-confirmed Chief Counsel to help advance this mission. The Office of Chief Counsel For Advocacy has been vacant, without a Senate-confirmed occupant, for nearly a decade. This key role champions the interests and protection of small businesses, and President Trump nominated a highly qualified individual for this role.

Dr. Casey Mulligan's unique mix of academic success and real-world experience makes him an ideal candidate for this job. Dr. Mulligan received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Chicago, where he currently serves as an economics professor. In addition, Dr. Mulligan also owns two small consulting and economic research businesses.

Over the years, he has conducted extensive research on the economic effects of regulation on small businesses. At the SBA Office of Advocacy, Dr. Mulligan will serve as an advocate for small businesses nationwide.

The Office of Advocacy's duty remains the same regardless of party: to stand up for the little guy and warn regulators when their proposals could harm small firms.

Dr. Mulligan understands the significance of Main Street and the need to evaluate every burden placed on America's entrepreneurs.

Again, I urge my colleagues to support the confirmation of Dr. Mulligan as Chief Counsel of the Office of Advocacy at SBA.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON LUCAS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lucas nomination?

Ms. ERNST. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 464 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

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

#### NAYS—45

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

#### NOT VOTING—3

Gallego	Kelly	Tillis
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill 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. 59, Casey Mulligan, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

John Thune, John Barrasso, Cindy Hyde-Smith, John R. Curtis, Rick Scott of Florida, Bernie Moreno, Pete Ricketts, Eric Schmitt, Jon A. Husted, Roger Marshall, Jim Justice, Tommy Tuberville, Bill Hagerty, Joni Ernst, James E. Risch, Marsha Blackburn, Tim Sheehy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Casey Mulligan, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 465 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

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

#### NAYS—44

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

#### NOT VOTING—4

Gallego	Warnock	Kelly
Tillis		

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 44. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Casey Mulligan, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, Small Business Administration.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The bill 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. 118, David Woll, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

John Thune, Tommy Tuberville, Bernie Moreno, Tim Sheehy, John Barrasso, John R. Curtis, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Mike Rounds, Katie Boyd Britt, Roger Marshall, Pete Ricketts, John Boozman, David McCormick, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Rick Scott of Florida, Eric Schmitt, Lindsey Graham.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the mandatory quorum call under rule XXII has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of David Woll, of Virginia, to be General Counsel of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 466 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

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

#### NAYS—45

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

#### NOT VOTING—3

Gallego	Kelly	Tillis
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.