

to do. That includes boosting agriculture through trade opportunities and increased market access.

We had a lot to report to farmers and ranchers about the One Big Beautiful Bill, from strengthening commodity programs and crop insurance to supporting livestock producers facing losses to raising the exemption threshold to save more farms and ranches from the death tax.

And we are going to keep on working to build up strong family farms and ranches in America.

I also had the opportunity to visit some small towns in South Dakota, walk down Main Street, and meet small business owners in these communities. In Hoven, SD, I stopped into Salon 54, Brew 54, and more, and the Plains Commerce Bank on Main Street. I also stopped into city hall—one of my favorite ways to learn about a community's needs and how I can help.

In Mobridge, I toured the local hospital and attended an event supporting small businesses with Grow South Dakota and Akipton. Small businesses aren't always easy to run, but they are the backbone of our communities. Mr. Bob's Drive-In and Shorty's One Stop in Selby are two more small businesses that I visited this past month. I also stopped by Bauer's Super Valu, Buttercup Coffee Shop, and Blondie's Tables and Taps in Faulkton, SD. It was a great way to catch up with entrepreneurs, workers, and customers of these small businesses.

And there is a lot of good news in the One Big Beautiful Bill for small businesses and their employees. No tax on tips and overtime is welcome news to servers, busboys, bartenders, and the millions of workers who earn tips or put in extra hours to earn overtime pay.

And permanent tax relief in this bill means lower tax bills in working families in every corner of South Dakota.

For small businesses, permanent tax relief will help free up cash to invest in their workers and grow their businesses. And investment incentives like bonus depreciations will help businesses, farmers, and ranchers invest in new equipment for their operations.

I had a lot of good conversations these last few weeks, but some of my favorite moments come when I have a chance to just say "thank you." I had the opportunity to do that a few times this last month. I met with first responders from the Aberdeen Fire Rescue and law enforcement officers from the Rapid City Police Department and Pennington County Sheriff's Office to thank them for serving.

I got to participate in annual ag appreciation event at the Sioux Empire State Fair and the Central States Fair, shaking hands with hard-working farmers and ranchers.

And it was humbling to reflect on the service of South Dakotans past and present at the battleship *South Dakota* Memorial Day of Honor and to be on

hand for the 28th Bomb Wing change of command ceremony at Ellsworth Air Force Base.

It has been a busy few weeks back home in South Dakota and for all of my colleagues as they moved across their States these last few weeks. And now it is going to be a busy few weeks here in Washington. We are setting our country up for a stronger and more prosperous future, and I can't wait to see the benefits for my State of South Dakota and for our entire country.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

REVOLUTION WIND

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning, I spoke with Revolution Wind, informing me that they are suing the Trump administration over their attacks on offshore wind projects. The suit is a regrettable but necessary step, illustrating the deep damage Donald Trump's administration is causing to American energy and to U.S. jobs.

Donald Trump has made no secret he detests offshore wind strategy—and for no good reason. He doesn't like the way the windmills look. Someone built windmills off the coast of his golf course in Scotland, and he thought it was ugly. So what Donald Trump will do because of these whims is raise everybody's electricity prices dramatically. When your electric bill goes up, it is because of Donald Trump's whims. This one is ridiculous as 80 percent—or over 80 percent of it has been built. Billions of dollars have been sunk into the ground—and they call up, and they say stop, and they don't even give them a reason.

How can so many people go along with his idiotic behavior? How can so many people go along when Donald Trump simply has a whim that is just dumb, stupid, and harmful to the American people and no one does anything about it? Then he has all his minions in the various Agencies shut it off. People's electric bills are spiking. Our energy grid is strained. Everyone admits we need more energy, particularly as AI sucks up so much of it, and Donald Trump is making things worse based on no logic—based on a ridiculous whim.

So we are going to lose thousands of jobs; prices will go up; we won't expand American power; China will gain on us. So it is good that Revolution Wind is taking this step by going to court. But the idiocy of this policy has not been rebutted by anyone in the administration. They just go, "Yes, sir," and go along. It is a disgrace.

APPROPRIATIONS

Mr. President, on the appropriations process: Well, yesterday, Senate Democrats had a very good meeting about the appropriations process. All of us—myself, Leader JEFFRIES, Senate Democrats, House Democrats, Senator MURRAY, Ranking Member DELAUNO—we are all on the same page. The only way to avoid a shutdown on September 30 is to work in a bipartisan way; but Republicans are, once again, threatening to go at it alone, which will lead our country straight into a shutdown—a Republican-caused shutdown—because they refuse to work in a bipartisan way. Democrats don't want a shutdown. We want bipartisan negotiations and a bipartisan bill, where we can have some real input in undoing a lot of the damage that has been done by this administration.

If Republicans want to keep the government open, they have to work with Democrats in a bipartisan way. That is the only way to get it done, but if Republicans choose to continue going at it alone, if they refuse to be reasonable, if they close the door on negotiations, then any shutdown is going to be on them. Time is short.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Finally, Mr. President, on the good, old feeling of American optimism, unfortunately, in Donald Trump's America, American optimism is dying.

This week, a Wall Street Journal/NORC poll found the share of Americans who are positive about their future has fallen to a record low. It is the lowest level in the poll's history—the lowest level in the poll's history. The sunny American optimism that if I work hard, I will be doing better 10 years from now than I am doing today, and my kids will be doing still better than me is fading rapidly. Only one in four Americans believes they can improve their standard of living, and 70 percent of Americans believe the American dream no longer holds. That is a tragedy. The great, sunny American optimism, which has fueled us to greatness, which has pushed us to move forward despite crises and obstacles in the way, is dying.

This is a tragedy, and it is a warning, and most of all, it reflects how Americans feel under Donald Trump's leadership, and it is hard to blame Americans who feel this way. When rents go up, when mortgages go up, when the electric bill goes up—we just talked about what they are doing with offshore wind—and when groceries get more expensive, people don't want a President obsessed with military parades and winning the Nobel Peace Prize. They want someone with real solutions.

Donald Trump is stuck in his own little fantasy world. There is even another study that says Americans now think they are going to be spending less on Christmas goods this year, less on Christmas gifts. That is when you know something is deeply, deeply wrong, because Americans want to spend more for their children, for their

families, for their friends, and for their coworkers when it comes to Christmas-time, to buy gifts.

And it is no accident why we are here. A lot of Donald Trump's policies have pushed us here. His tariffs are sending prices up. They are not creating jobs. His "Big Ugly Bill," which he is desperately trying to rebrand, made the biggest cuts to American healthcare in history, and it took away food from hungry kids to give tax breaks to billionaires. These are acts of betrayal. That is why this Big Beautiful Bill—they want to rename it, but the American people know what it is. It is a big ugly betrayal about everything Donald Trump promised.

Donald Trump's actions steal people's hope. It is like the air being sucked out of your lungs. And while parents pay more for school supplies, Donald Trump's family is making billions off crypto schemes while small businesses are trying to make sense of his tariffs. He uses the White House lawn as a Tesla dealership. While honest Americans watch manufacturing jobs disappear in red States, Trump is handing government jobs to his cronies and his sycophants. While people see their healthcare premiums go up, he is enriching his billionaire friends with massive tax breaks.

This is not a golden age. This is not American greatness. This is not what the American people signed up for.

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

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

SENATE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I spent the last 4 weeks traveling all around the great State of Wyoming—from Cheyenne to Cody—and visited with people and families from all across the State. There was the State fair in Douglas, the Dubois firefighters' picnic, the River Festival and Shrimp Boil in Green River, WY, and pancake festivals in New Castle and Meeteetse.

One year ago, at events like this all around Wyoming, Wyoming families told me that they were very concerned because America, as they saw it, was heading in the wrong direction. They were really stressed about paying high prices a year ago. They were very angry about the wide open southern border. They were very anxious about what could have been a \$4 trillion tax increase had the Democrats gotten their way. Well, Democrats have been the party of high prices and open borders, so it is no surprise that people in my home State and in the Presiding Officer's were so very concerned. They were concerned because they saw our country and their future. They were less safe and less prosperous. They

were facing a grim reality—but, oh, what a difference a year makes.

Today, America is heading in the right direction. America is back on track. It is what I heard in every corner of Wyoming and what Americans are seeing all across the Nation.

On Labor Day, just this past weekend, gas prices were at a 5-year low for Labor Day gas prices. Small business optimism is at the highest in 5 months. Half a million new jobs have been created. Real wages continue to go up. Inflation is staying low, and we are repeatedly beating the economists' expectations.

Here in Washington, DC, a city known for its crime—now this city is safer and cleaner thanks to President Trump's commonsense policies. The American people were right to trust President Trump and Republicans in Congress to get America back on track. This is the beginning of the great American comeback.

The Republicans' working families tax cuts law is going to continue to make historic progress. Wyoming families are going to be saving \$2,400 this year because of the tax cuts. Now, that is according to a new analysis by the Tax Foundation. That is money back in people's pockets, paychecks, purses. That is where it belongs. This law cuts taxes on tips. No tax on tips puts an extra \$1,300 back into the pockets of waiters, barbers, bartenders. The law also cuts taxes on overtime. No taxes on overtime puts an extra \$1,400 back into the paychecks of nurses, firefighters, police officers. The child tax credit is higher. This saves working families \$2,200 per child per year. Seniors are going to pay less in taxes this year because of a new \$6,000 deduction on Social Security benefits.

The bottom line is this: Americans are going to keep more of what they earn. This is going to send less of the hard-earned money to Washington, DC, and Wyoming people clearly understand the meaning of wasteful Washington spending.

At the Wyoming State Fair in Douglas, I joined Wyoming families in celebrating our State's rich heritage and history. Republicans' new law supports our farmers and ranchers. The law's disaster assistance helps families whose grazing lands are destroyed by wildfires or by drought. Its full expensing of up to \$2.5 million for new equipment is also going to help grow businesses. The change in our law to the death tax? Well, that is going to ease families' burdens and our worries, specifically providing certainty for families into the future. These policies make our farmers and our ranchers more prosperous and help feed the Nation.

Not a single Democrat voted for these popular policies—policies that are making America safer and more prosperous—not a single one. Every single Democrat voted, instead, to raise taxes by \$4 trillion. That would have been the largest tax increase in

American history. So it is no surprise Democrats are putting the fear before the facts when it comes to this law.

Just yesterday, Senator SCHUMER came to the floor and falsely claimed that the law doesn't help our rural hospitals. I need to set the record straight on that. Republicans created a \$50 billion hospital—rural hospital—fund. It is specifically for rural hospitals. The Presiding Officer is from a rural hospital State, as am I. I am a doctor. I practiced medicine in Wyoming for two decades. I was the president of our Wyoming State Medical Society. I was the chief of staff of the hospital in which I practiced. I am in close contact with the hospitals and the doctors in my State.

Since ObamaCare became law over a decade ago, more than 100 rural hospitals have closed across the country. Many more are now at risk today. This \$50 billion rural hospital fund means real relief for our Nation's rural hospitals. Yet every Democrat in this body voted against helping rural hospitals—every one of them. Democrats in this very body even introduced legislation in July to eliminate this \$50 billion rural hospital fund.

Senator SCHUMER came to this very floor, and he bragged about the introduction of this bill that would hurt rural hospitals. At the same time, Democrats voted to continue to give free—free—taxpayer-funded healthcare to illegal immigrants. That compounded the disaster of 4 years of Joe Biden's open border policies.

Well, President Trump took immediate action—action to secure the border, action to end the chaos, action to protect American citizens. This message is now clear around the world: Don't come here and expect to get through our border if you are illegally trying to come here.

Illegal crossings are now at record lows. For 3 months in a row, zero illegal immigrants were released into our country—zero. Republicans in Congress went even further with our recent bill. We are finishing the wall at the southern border, hiring more border agents, and investing in Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

From cutting taxes to securing the border, America is safer, stronger, and more prosperous today than it was a year ago. This is all the result of the work of President Trump and Republicans in Congress.

The people of Wyoming feel the difference, and they are not alone. People all across America see that our Nation is getting back on track.

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Lanahan and Artau nominations.

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

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.