

group and helped me tremendously in Ohio. If you look at what he did—I am certain for you, Madam President, the same way for me—the way young people really took to his message. They want to have a voice in the future of our country. That is what Charlie wanted for them.

I will tell you, it is extremely sad and quite disappointing to see some of the reactions online—people actively cheering that a 31-year-old husband, father, and son would die; that the pejoratives used against him comparing Nazism or fascism—a stain on human history that shouldn't be compared quite frankly with anything. I think it is fair to say that Hitler and Nazis should have a special dark place in history and not be compared to anyone or anything because you see when you do that, you are inviting people, crazy people, to take actions into their own hands like what we saw tragically in Utah.

I hope that what comes out of what we just went through is that colleges and universities all over America heed to Charlie's call. Let's have our American colleges and universities be the one place—the one place—where freedom of speech is respected, where people can debate ideas, and even if we don't agree—for example, you and I may not agree that Ohio State University is the best college football team in America. You may have a different point of view. It is wrong. I know it is wrong, but, sadly, you may have a different idea. But we can be friends. We can have a dinner together. We don't have to be mad at each other because we have different points of views.

Of course, I am being flippant because there are more difficult conversations for us to have. It should never go to hatred. Look, I don't want to make this remark about partisan politics. But let me say to my Democratic colleagues: When you say we are at war; you must do anything you can to make certain that we protect our democracy, that is a bat signal. It is crazy. When a Democratic leader says that President Trump is Hitler or a Nazi—bat signal to crazy people. When the media, for example, in my State, the Cincinnati Enquirer said after President Trump was almost assassinated, much like Charlie was, that he “brought it on himself,” this sends a message to crazy people. When the Cleveland Plain Dealer, the largest newspaper in Ohio, analogizes JD VANCE, our great Vice President—your friend, my friend, whom we know personally—and says he is a Nazi sympathizer, that he reminds the editor of what it must have been like to be with Nazis in the thirties, it is a bat signal to crazy people. It puts us all in danger.

That is unacceptable. We can have vigorous debates. In fact, I would say we should have more vigorous debates on the floor. In fact, when we are doing confirmations to nominees, I welcome Democrats to come out here and defend

their position as to why they are not going to confirm somebody. For 81 to 100-plus nominees, they don't bother to debate. For the ones they do, it is 2 minutes of debate.

Let's have more debate. Let's do it respectfully, from the point of view that this is what I believe; tell me what your beliefs are, not just yelling at the Presiding Officer when nobody else is on the floor. That is not a debate. That is trying to get a 30-second clip on social media.

That is not what this institution should represent. This should be, like those college campuses, a free exchange of ideas. Maybe sometimes—but I find it hard to believe—my colleagues make a point that would maybe change the minds on this side. It would be great to see that. I hope that when we make points, that they listen. That is what Charlie wanted.

What I would like to do now is ask unanimous consent that the Senate observe a moment of silence in remembrance of Charlie Kirk, Erika Kirk, and her two young children who had to ask their mom when their dad was going to come home and understand we had a great tragedy.

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF  
CHARLIE KIRK

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for a moment of silence.

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

(Moment of Silence.)

Mr. MORENO. 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.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NOMINATION OF STEPHEN MIRAN

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, I rise today to oppose the nomination of Dr. Stephen Miran to serve on the Federal Reserve Board of Governors.

President Trump has run a monthslong campaign to turn the Fed into his personal piggy bank in an attempt to escape accountability for his own economic failures. He has tried to intimidate and threaten to fire Federal Chair Jerome Powell. And when that didn't work, he illegally attempted to fire Fed Governor Lisa Cook so that he could seize control of the Board. Both of those failed. So now he is attempting to install his own puppet on the Board with Dr. Miran, someone who intends to keep his White House job as the President's chief economic adviser open while serving at the Fed, setting up an unprecedented and unacceptable conflict of interest that will only ultimately cause more pain for American families.

Don't just take it from me. Take it from one of the President's closest advisers, Larry Kudlow, who said:

The bottom line is, President Trump's going to take the Fed over, as he should.

And Senate Republicans are facilitating it, including by jamming through this nomination at warp speed so that Dr. Miran can be sworn in literally hours before the Fed's meeting tomorrow morning to determine interest rates.

The facts are clear: Donald Trump promised that he would lower costs, in his words, “on day one.” Those were his words. He said them over and over as he ran for President: He would lower costs on day one. He didn't. Now the cost of groceries: up. The cost of utility bills: up. The cost of housing: up. The cost of healthcare: up. The cost of back-to-school shoes and backpacks and baby strollers: up and up and up.

He also promised a golden age for American workers. Again, he has failed. Job growth is down. The economy lost jobs in June. Unemployment is up. People are staying unemployed longer, and worker confidence in the labor market is at its lowest since the end of the great financial crisis.

Donald Trump can reverse course on his failing economic agenda. He could start helping families instead of turning everything over to his billionaire buddies. Instead, Trump wants to point the finger at everyone else and make the Federal Reserve his scapegoat.

If Republicans let Trump interfere with the Federal Reserve, American families and businesses will pay the price in terms of higher costs going forward. Here is why: Congress created an independent Fed to keep politicians from making shortsighted economic decisions that would benefit the politicians politically. Sometimes the Fed is called on to make really hard decisions about when to raise interest rates when fighting inflation, and the whole world needs to know that the Fed is making these decisions based on data rather than being influenced by politicians. If the Fed loses its credibility, businesses and consumers will stop trusting the Fed to control inflation, and they will start acting like inflation is here to stay, and that will make prices soar.

This is not a hypothetical. When autocrats take over their central banks, inflation follows. Türkiye hit nearly 80-percent inflation. Argentina reached nearly 200-percent inflation. Even here in America, back when Richard Nixon pressured the Fed to serve his political needs instead of American families', prices went up. If Trump can control the Fed, the cost of Americans' credit cards and car loans and home mortgages and student loans and more will all be higher.

So today's vote is not just about Dr. Miran; it is a question of whether the Senate allows President Trump to succeed in this next phase of his very public, very obvious, monthslong campaign to stack the Fed with loyalists who will prioritize Trump's personal whims over America's long-term economic health.

And throughout this confirmation process, Dr. Miran has spectacularly

failed to demonstrate independence from dear Leader Trump. During his confirmation hearing, Dr. Miran could not say the words “Donald Trump lost the 2020 election,” making Dr. Miran the first admitted election denier to sit on the Federal Reserve Board.

Dr. Miran refuses to resign from his current job at the White House as the President’s chief economic adviser at the Council of Economic Advisers. Dr. Miran’s so-called leave of absence from the Council of Economic Advisers is also just a joke. He will be sitting literally down the street from the White House, and he has refused to disclose any communications he has with the White House while he is at the Fed.

And, look, let’s be 100-percent clear here. The vote we are taking today is not to confirm Dr. Miran for a 4-month term at the Fed, the official vote. When the lights were off and the cameras stopped rolling, Dr. Miran confirmed in writing that he will not rule out staying in his seat after his term expires this January. That means he could serve as a Fed Governor and as the President’s chief economist simultaneously for an indefinite period.

Even if none of this were happening, Dr. Miran is a terrible choice for this job. He continues to callously dismiss the fact that Trump’s policies are raising prices for families. He compares tariff-driven inflation to a meteor strike while dodging questions about his own financial disclosures.

Now, look, you won’t hear me say this often, but I agree with the Wall Street Journal editorial board when it said that Dr. Miran “won’t be independent in any fair definition of the word.” Dr. Miran knows that if he is confirmed, every decision he makes and every vote he takes at the Fed determines whether or not he will be able to go back to his White House job later on. That is not independence—that is servitude—and he will have zero credibility with markets, zero credibility with businesses, and zero credibility with the public if he is ultimately confirmed.

Many Republican Senators have paid lip service to the importance of Fed independence. Well, if you actually mean it, then you should vote no. Otherwise, we are sentencing American families to years of higher prices and higher unemployment.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on Dr. Miran’s nomination.

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. PADILLA. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### ENERGY

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President and colleagues, I am here to share some good news. This past weekend, Cali-

fornia State lawmakers passed a package of legislation to lower the cost of living for working families.

I say this is good news because every day, Americans continue to wake up to higher and higher prices in so many ways. We all feel it at the grocery store. Many of us felt it these past few weeks as we were back-to-school shopping. We, I think, are about to see it in our healthcare costs pretty soon. We are certainly feeling it in our monthly energy bills.

I can give a lot of examples, but I want to focus today on our energy bills and what California is doing and what we seem to be doing here in Congress.

I think it is timely because despite the fact that then-candidate Donald Trump promised to “slash prices by half within 12 months,” the reality is that, today, not only are we not seeing energy prices go down, we are actually seeing them go up. That is right. They are actually rising twice as fast as inflation. So much for keeping your promises.

Many Americans are struggling to keep up with these bills so much that they are now turning to payment plans just to keep the lights on. So in California this last weekend, lawmakers did something about it, and I think it is notable. Together, Governor Newsom and the legislature took several steps to strengthen our energy portfolio and lower prices for consumers.

I want to point out just some of the highlights of these significant but meaningful steps. This includes working to increase the supply of energy that Californians count on, and it includes working with counterparts more formally now in States like Oregon and Washington to create a regional electrical grid across the Western United States.

But even for the progress that we are making at the State level and at the regional level, what is so frustrating is that at the national level, Republicans continue to pursue policies that are increasing our energy costs.

This administration is shamelessly working to block one of our best defenses against rising energy bills: renewable energy. And I say so because renewable energy is absolutely affordable; renewable energy is abundant; and whether you want to admit it or not, renewable energy sources are our future.

I know I have heard a lot of my Republican colleagues for years say that, well, renewable energy is simply too expensive. But the reality is that, today, solar is half the cost of coal and significantly cheaper than natural gas. Wind power, too, is also cheaper than both coal and gas.

Having heard the counterarguments, again, for years, I know others will say: Well, we shouldn’t be subsidizing renewable energy sources, as if the fossil fuel industry hasn’t been propped up by subsidies over the years. And even more recently, I suggest look no further than Trump’s “Big Beautiful

Bill”—plenty of subsidies for the fossil fuel industry. And, finally, I have heard naysayers say that, well, we can’t depend on renewable energy because it is just not reliable. What happens when the Sun is not shining? What happens when the wind is not blowing? We have a genuine concern about intermittency. So do we.

But guess what. California—yes, the same California that has grown to be the fourth largest economy in the world—is showing how we can overcome those concerns and solve those problems. See, over the last few years alone, California has brought renewable energy capacity onto the grid in record numbers. In 2023, clean energy made up two-thirds of our retail electricity. And it is not just bringing more renewable energy onto the grid; we have simultaneously made the grid more reliable. That is in part because, since 2019, battery storage capacity in California has grown by nearly 2,000 percent. So we are harnessing the power of solar and wind and hydroelectric power and nuclear, geothermal—even hydrogen power—to our State.

It is exactly because of those investments that even in a year like 2024, just last year, when we experienced record heat waves, we also saw record renewable energy generation and we kept the lights on.

Now, we are not naive. We know that with a growing population and a growing economy, including but not limited to the future of an AI boom, demand will continue to grow. But we are committed to the kind of inclusive portfolio of energy options that has made our grid more reliable.

But despite that progress, despite that success story, Donald Trump and many of our Republican colleagues have continued to wage war on clean energy. This administration and Department of Energy Secretary Wright say they support an all-of-the-above strategy—this was actually a very intentional conversation we had at Secretary Wright’s confirmation hearing in committee months and months ago—but the facts show otherwise.

What we have seen over the last several months is the Trump administration cut historic tax credits from the Inflation Reduction Act that were lowering costs and supercharging our clean energy transition.

This administration has canceled offshore wind projects, including one that was nearly complete off the coast of Rhode Island, and they are clawing back funding from job-creating solar projects that are lowering energy bills. This makes no sense. According to Climate Power, since Donald Trump was elected to his second term, over 120 clean energy projects across the country have either been canceled, delayed, or they are laying off staff. That is certainly not good for the economy and not good for job creation. It is not good for the grid. Taking nearly 14,000 megawatts off the grid—that is the