

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

equivalent of removing power to supply 8.4 million homes in America. No wonder prices are rising. It is simple supply and demand. But at the same time, Donald Trump is paying to extend the life of older fossil fuel plants, which will only raise costs. When they are older, they tend to be dirtier. When they are older, they are more expensive to maintain. And all of this while ceding our global leadership in renewable energy production and innovation to China. Now, that is not just bad for consumers; it is not just bad for reliability; it is literally putting lives at risk.

Every year that we burn more fossil fuel than we need to, our climate crisis worsens. That means more frequent and more devastating extreme weather—not just in California but across the country. In California, it has led to a worsening drought, relentless atmospheric rivers, and—yes, all too often—life-threatening wildfires, just as we experienced in the Los Angeles region this past January.

It is no surprise that Donald Trump loves to attack California's leaders on wildfire policy and our climate leadership. We also know he loves to play politics with disaster funding. That record is clear. He continues to dig us deeper and deeper into an energy policy that actually increases the risk of the next great disaster, and Californians will be left to clean up the mess.

So here in the Senate, I have worked hard to try to address that. We passed the FIRE Act a couple of years ago to help FEMA better prepare for and respond to wildfires. We secured the transfer of seven C-130 Hercules aircraft to strengthen our arsenal and to fight against deadly wildfires, adding to CAL FIRE's largest aerial firefighting fleet in the world. I continue to work with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to build support for the Fix Our Forests Act to improve forest management practices, protect urban areas from devastation, and harness our technology and our expertise.

I am proud of that work we have been doing, but the backdrop of all of that is still an indisputable fact that reliance on fossil fuels comes at a cost, and Americans—not just Californians but Americans—are paying for it in the form of higher energy bills and in lives destroyed after these major disasters.

So no matter how many times Donald Trump says it, we can never and will never “drill, baby, drill” our way to cheaper energy costs. Our solution has to be a more inclusive approach to our energy portfolios, and we also need to streamline projects and speed up the timeline it takes to get them approved, to get them completed, and to get them online. We need to make our grid more efficient by supporting the build-up of our transmission system and the regionalization of our grid. Regional cooperation means improved efficiency and improved reliability. That is how we meet our growing demand—more options, not less; more cooperation,

not less; and more sources of energy, not less.

Trump might continue to lie to the American people about renewable energy, but Americans know that this energy crisis doesn't have to continue forever, and California is proud to show the way forward.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Miran nomination and, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

#### VOTE ON S. RES. 377

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired. The question occurs on adoption of the resolution.

Mrs. FISCHER. 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 assistant bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 517 Ex.]

#### YEAS—51

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	Lummis	Sullivan
Crapo	Marshall	Thune
Cruz	McConnell	Tillis
Curtis	McCormick	Tuberville
Ernst	Moody	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	Young

#### NAYS—44

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

#### NOT VOTING—5

Daines	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Heinrich	Lee	

The executive resolution (S. Res. 377) was agreed to.

(The executive resolution is printed in the RECORD of September 8, 2025, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### CLOTURE MOTION

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

The assistant 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. 366, Stephen Miran, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2012.

John Thune, Pete Ricketts, John R. Curtis, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Bernie Moreno, Eric Schmitt, James E. Risch, David McCormick, Chuck Grassley, Joni Ernst, Cynthia M. Lummis, Ted Budd, Jim Banks, John Boozman, Tim Scott of South Carolina, John Barrasso.

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

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Stephen Miran, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System for the unexpired term of fourteen years from February 1, 2012, 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. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 44, as follows: