

But, again, I repeat to Donald Trump: If you break it, you buy it.

Donald Trump broke it badly, and now he is trying to get out of paying the price.

Donald Trump promised this would be over in a matter of days or weeks. Well, we are now in week 3. There is still no sign this war is close to ending. In fact, despite severe blows, most reporting suggests Iran's regime remains intact and has hardened rather than collapsed.

This war needs to come to an end. In the meantime, I repeat what I said last week: Donald Trump's Cabinet must come before the Senate. We need public hearings. We need to hear from Secretary Rubio, Secretary Hegseth, and others under oath, and answer tough questions. They need to answer some very basic questions: Why are we at war? What is the objective? Will there be American boots on the ground? How exactly do they plan to reopen the Strait of Hormuz? What is the exit strategy?

Right now, we do not have answers to questions that should be easy for any competent administration to answer, and that should alarm every one of us.

ENERGY COSTS

Mr. President, finally, on energy costs, later today, Senators HEINRICH, WHITEHOUSE, and I will release the most comprehensive Senate report to date on Donald Trump's broken promise to lower energy costs. This is the third major pillar in Democrats' year-long effort to present a lower cost agenda to the American people. Lowering costs will remain our North Star all year long.

Donald Trump might think affordability is a hoax. He might be fixated on foreign wars. But Democrats understand that the cost of living is the No. 1 issue on people's minds.

When it comes to energy prices, the story is very simple: Donald Trump promised he would cut the price of energy in half in his first year. Well, 14 months have passed, and not only are energy prices up, they are rising roughly three times the rate of inflation, and that is not sustainable.

Our report explains in detail why this is happening. Donald Trump chose to help his friends in Big Oil out instead of helping American families lower their energy bills. He has waged war on clean energy—the cheapest and fastest source to build and get electrons on the grid—and now Americans are paying the price.

He cut clean energy because many contributors—Harold Hamm—hate clean energy because they know it is the future, not the oil and gas that they claim should be the only route to go. When he was running for office, Donald Trump promised oil executives at Mar-a-Lago—Harold Hamm among them—that if they gave him \$1 billion for his election, he would give them a great deal in return. Now he is making good on that bargain.

His so-called Big Beautiful Bill has destroyed clean energy jobs across the

country and raised taxes on clean energy. He has weaponized the Federal Government to undermine 35 clean energy projects that could have powered 14 million homes and supported 170,000 jobs. At the same time, Trump's war with Iran has pushed up the cost of gasoline and diesel. His tariffs have raised the cost of material needed to produce energy here at home.

So after more than a year, the pattern is very clear: Donald Trump has systemically destroyed investments in energy production, favored Big Oil over working families, and raised costs on households by killing the cheapest and fastest sources of new energy—solar, wind, and battery storage.

The American people are paying the price for Trump's broken promises.

I thank Senators HEINRICH and WHITEHOUSE for their tremendous work on this report. We will have more to say later today and in the weeks ahead. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the St. John nomination.

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

NEBRASKA WILDFIRES

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, my home State of Nebraska is currently experiencing a natural disaster of unprecedented proportions for our State. We are experiencing the largest wildfires since Nebraska became a State. It started last week. We have a number of fires burning across the State that have burned up to 750,000 acres of Nebraska. That is over 1 percent, approaching 2 percent of the total land area of my State.

We have had one fatality. Rose Mary White, a grandmother of 12, died at her ranch near Arthur, NE. We have also had hundreds, if not thousands, of people impacted by these fires.

I ask all Nebraskans and all Americans to pray for the victims of these terrible fires.

I had the opportunity, with Governor Pillen and Congressman SMITH, to tour the areas that were burning on Saturday.

Thank you to all of the firefighters, our volunteer firefighters who are first responders on the scene, who worked tirelessly to be able to control this fire.

By the time we arrived on Saturday, they had had little sleep over the past several days and were exhausted. At 6 o'clock that night, a Federal firefighter team came in to provide relief, and I thank those firefighters as well.

Thank you to our Nebraska National Guardsmen. We have two Black Hawk helicopters with Bambi baskets that

are on site helping to control the fire by dumping water on it from the air. I thank Iowa as well because they have also loaned us two helicopters to be able to help out. The Governor was calling the fire departments of Omaha and Lincoln and Columbus, seeking to get additional firefighter help to be able to relieve the volunteers that are working so hard around the clock.

Nebraska is a great place. We have great community spirit. We saw it on full display as people pitched in to be able to help combat these fires. But we have a lot of work to be able to do.

The Morrill fire has burned over 572,000 acres and is only 18 percent contained. The Cottonwood fire has burned over 131,000 acres, and it is only 40 percent contained. The Road 203 fire has burned 35,000 acres, and it is 36 percent contained. And the Anderson Bridge fire has burned 17,000 acres and is only 60 percent contained.

I know that Nebraskans will continue to work hard to preserve life and property and take care of their neighbors during this time. We are no stranger to disasters. Nebraskans always pitch in to be able to help.

I do want to say to my fellow Nebraskans that if you get the evacuation order, be prepared because this fire has moved fast. We got some relief from the winds on Sunday, but they kicked up again on Monday. Those winds can drive that fire very, very fast. So be prepared to evacuate. Please don't stay. If you stay too long, you are putting yourself and the firefighters at risk who are trying to put out this fire and protect you. And when it is safe, please make sure you are documenting the damage that you have incurred.

The USDA Farm Service Agency has Disaster Assistance Programs. After you are safe and you have had a chance to document your damage, you can go to them to see what sort of programs are out there. The Nebraska Cattlemen, nebrascacattlemen.org, has the ability for people to donate to be able to help out those impacted by this fire, so do the Red Cross and Salvation Army.

In talking with our ag director Sherry Vinton, over 30,000 cattle may be displaced because of this fire. And certainly, there will be cattle losses because of it. We just don't know the magnitude yet. It has been very dry this winter in Nebraska, and this fire has burned out of control. But we have many brave Nebraskans—volunteers, firefighters, the National Guard—who are working to be able to get this fire under control.

As a Federal delegation, we will continue to support the local efforts and the State's efforts to control this fire and to help those impacted recover. And again, I ask for the prayers of Nebraskans and all Americans to be able to help us out in this terrible tragedy.

With that, Mr. President, I yield the floor.

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 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. 673, Anna St. John, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

John Thune, Bill Hagerty, Tim Sheehy, Jim Banks, Ted Budd, Katie Boyd Britt, Bernie Moreno, Tommy Tuberville, John R. Curtis, Mike Rounds, Pete Ricketts, John Barrasso, Kevin Cramer, James Lankford, Ted Cruz, Rick Scott of Florida, Mike Crapo.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, 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 Anna St. John, of Louisiana, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Louisiana, 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 Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "Yea" and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) would have voted "Yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 48, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 55 Ex.]

YEAS—48

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

NAYS—45

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

Warner	Warren	Whitehouse
Warnock	Welch	Wyden

NOT VOTING—7

Cotton	Lankford	Tillis
Graham	Scott (SC)	
King	Smith	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). On this vote, the yeas are 48, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes prior to the scheduled recess.

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

SAVE AMERICA ACT

Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, there are some things in the world that are so obvious that there is really no use in debating them. There are things in this world that really "go without saying," and voter ID laws are one of those things.

Voter ID laws are so obvious, they are so commonsense, that it is shocking that we are even having a debate on the floor of the U.S. Senate this week about it. It is hard to see that there are even two sides to this issue, unless, of course, you believe that it really is OK for illegal immigrants to vote in our elections.

But how is that even a debate? The Constitution is very clear that only citizens of the United States of America are eligible to vote in our elections. So that debate is already settled.

Indiana already has voter ID laws. Hoosiers have to show an ID when they show up to vote on election day, and they have to prove that they are who they say they are when they register to vote in the first place.

But it is not fair to Hoosiers when other States don't require voter ID. It is not fair to law-abiding Americans throughout the country because, when we allow noncitizens to vote in our Federal elections, we dilute the power of the American voter, and that should never be allowed to happen in the United States of America. American elections are for Americans, period.

Even with voter ID laws, there are still illegals who show up and try to vote. In fact, our Secretary of State in Indiana Diego Morales just audited our voter rolls in our State to find every noncitizen that voted in our elections to clean up the process and he actually found some, and the Secretary of State and our Attorney General Todd Rokita are prosecuting those voters who voted illegally.

So it is obvious that even in the State of Indiana, where we take election integrity very seriously, that we need to do more to protect our elections, and the SAVE America Act goes a long way to doing that.

It is also obvious that we need to pass the SAVE America Act for very practical reasons, to have voter ID nationwide in Federal elections.

Under Joe Biden, illegal immigrants invaded and flooded into our country,

tens of millions of them. Joe Biden and the Democrats allowed this invasion to happen. Democrats defended the flood of illegal immigrants into this country on this floor, and that is why they are so bothered today by the SAVE America Act, a simple bill that is common sense to protect the integrity of our elections.

Voter ID laws are the only way that we can prevent tens of millions of illegals from voting in our elections.

America is about to turn 250 years old. There is so much that we have to celebrate in this great country, the greatest country in the history of the world. But it is crazy to think that we are gearing up for this epic birthday by debating voter ID laws.

The SAVE America Act is common sense. Voter ID is common sense. We have an opportunity this week to pass maybe the most commonsense bill ever passed by the U.S. Senate to protect our elections. I hope we do that. I hope we pass the SAVE America Act now. It is fundamental. I beg my colleagues to join me in supporting it this week.

I yield the floor.

NOMINATION OF ANNA ST. JOHN

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Anna St. John to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana.

Ms. St. John's record reflects her partisan ideology and raises serious questions about her ability to impartially administer justice if she is confirmed. Her practice largely consists of challenging class-action settlements, and she has also made time to file amicus briefs in politically charged cases, in which she demeaned LGBTQ Americans and opposed diversity initiatives.

Her public commentary is also troubling. She has criticized what she calls "woke ideology." She has challenged First Amendment protections guaranteed by the Supreme Court more than 60 years ago in *New York Times v. Sullivan*.

In November 2021, Ms. St. John testified against bipartisan legislation ending forced arbitration in cases of workplace sexual assault and harassment. The legislation—the Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act—enjoyed broad support among lawmakers from both parties.

Former Fox News host Gretchen Carlson was one of the leading advocates for the legislation. She is speaking out about Ms. St. John's nomination, including in an article in which she wrote: "While women around the country bravely shared the urgency of eradicating forced arbitration, St. John used her power and influence to gaslight these women and the public. She downplayed their stories and minimized their pain."

I oppose Ms. St. John's nomination. I ask my colleagues to join me.