

keeps reminding us, he doesn't think about Americans' financial situation. He doesn't think about anyone but himself. Look at that:

I don't think about Americans' financial situation. I don't think about anyone.

That is Trump. He is totally on his own, helping himself, dipping into the pockets of the taxpayers and putting the money in his pockets and in his friends' pockets.

What a sad day for America it is that this man goes unchecked by almost everybody in his own party.

And when inflation is at its highest cost in years, costs are growing faster than wages, and the price of everything—from gas to groceries, to healthcare—is through the roof, Donald Trump demands that Americans shell out a billion dollars for his golden ballroom and tens of billions of dollars more for his masked secret police force. At the very moment Americans are asking, "How do I make ends meet?" Donald Trump is asking: How do I get taxpayers to fund my vanity project?

And as I mentioned, Senate Republicans, unfortunately, are going right along with him. Instead of changing course in the face of Americans' outcry, Donald Trump and Senate Republicans are doubling down on their ballroom.

In the reconciliation Byrd bath, over the weekend, Democrats successfully derailed Republicans' ballroom proposal, but now Republicans are scrambling to reinsert a new ballroom provision into their bill. Now, Republicans are scrambling over what comes next: whether they try to shove the ballroom back in, hide it somewhere else, or quietly retreat because Democrats exposed it. But either way, the point is clear: Republicans were ready to spend taxpayer dollars on Trump's vanity project, while doing nothing—nothing—serious to lower costs for families.

Do you hear that, America? Republicans will not work this hard to lower your costs, lower your rent, lower your grocery bill, but they worked overtime to protect Trump's priorities, including this ballroom. That tells you everything you need to know. Ballroom Republicans have made their choice: Trump's ego over your electric bill, Trump's palace over your paycheck, Trump's priorities over your family's needs.

And if Republicans are now running away from their own ballroom provision, good, they should. Democrats called the ballroom out, fought it, and made clear we would not let Republicans quietly stick taxpayers with the bill for Donald Trump's vanity project.

But, make no mistake, this reconciliation bill is still rotten to the core. Whether the ballroom stays, goes, or gets buried somewhere else, Republicans are still pushing a bill that does nothing meaningful to lower costs for families, while pouring tens of billions into Trump's extreme agenda. Democrats are going to fight this with ev-

erything we have: in the Byrd bath, on the floor, in vote-arama—amendment after amendment, vote after vote. We are going to force Republicans to answer a simple question: Who are you here to fight for—American families or Donald Trump's priorities?

Democrats fight for families. Republicans fight for Trump.

IRAN

Mr. President, on Iran, over the weekend, Donald Trump told Iran:

[T]he Clock is Ticking, and they better get moving, FAST, or there won't be anything left of them.

How can Donald Trump say the clock is ticking when he told the Senate the clock had paused when his war recently passed the War Powers Act 60-day threshold to either end hostilities or get congressional authorization?

Over the weekend, a drone strike caused a fire on the edge of a massive nuclear powerplant in the UAE, further proof that the fighting is anything but finished.

Senate Republicans need to stop playing dumb and realize that this war didn't end at the 60-day mark and will not end until Republicans show some backbone and support Democrats' War Powers Resolution to end the fighting.

This week, Democrats will force an eighth vote on our War Powers Resolution to withdraw our troops from hostilities with Iran. I urge Republicans to support our War Powers Resolution, end the war, and get the troops out of harm's way—or else Republicans will learn that the clock is ticking not only on this war but on their own political future.

CHINA

Mr. President, finally, on China, Donald Trump returns from his trip to China with virtually nothing—nothing—to show for it, other than some photo ops. He seems to like photo ops more than making the world a better place. In exchange for a photo op with Xi Jinping, Trump cast doubt on America's commitment to supporting Taiwan, failed to secure any meaningful Chinese actions to stem the flow of fentanyl into America, allowed the Chinese Communist Party to continue owning American farmland, neglected to safeguard America's lead in the AI and semiconductor race, and did nothing—nothing—to protect U.S. manufacturers from competitors in China.

The American people don't care about Donald Trump's latest red-carpet photo op with foreign dignitaries. They care whether he fights to defend their interests from the Chinese Communist Party. And as always, Donald Trump, with his son and business manager in tow, put his own interests and ego first in Beijing, to the detriment of American workers, American farmers, American families, and American manufacturers. What a disgrace.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. BRITT). The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. 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.

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

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

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026

Mrs. MOODY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, May 19; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, morning business be closed, and the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Clarke nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, the cloture motions filed on May 14 ripen at 11:45 a.m. and that if cloture is invoked on the Clarke nomination, then, following that vote, the Senate recess for the weekly conference meetings until 2 p.m. and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2:15 p.m.; and, finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday's session of the Senate, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

Mrs. MOODY. Madam President, for the information of my colleagues, we expect to vote in relation to S.J. Res. 185 tomorrow afternoon.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. MOODY. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that following the confirmation vote of the nominations to be considered en bloc pursuant to S. Res. 690, the Senate resume legislative session and stand adjourned under the previous order.

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

EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS

VOTE ON EN BLOC NOMINATIONS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations provided under the provisions of S. Res. 690?

Mr. SCHATZ. 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 senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Utah (Mr. CURTIS), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) would have voted "Yea," the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) would have voted "Yea," and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) would have voted "Yea."

Mr. SCHUMER. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 46, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 125 Ex.]

YEAS—46

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

NAYS—43

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

NOT VOTING—11

Bennet	Durbin	Tillis
Cornyn	Fetterman	Tuberville
Cramer	Peters	Young
Curtis	Risch	

The en bloc nominations were confirmed as follows:

Calendar Number 615: Andrew Benson, of Maine, to be United States Attorney for the District of Maine for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 616: William Boyle, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 617: Kevin Holmes, of Arkansas, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Arkansas for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 618: Brian David Miller, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 619: Richard Price, of Missouri, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 620: Darin Smith, of Wyoming, to be United States Attorney for the District of Wyoming for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 621: Gregory LoGerfo, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Calendar Number 622: Eric Meyer, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

Calendar Number 623: Jennifer Wicks McNamara, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Calendar Number 624: Frank Weiland, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs).

Calendar Number 648: Daniel Edwards, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

Calendar Number 649: Steven Haines, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

Calendar Number 650: Robert Harvey, of Florida, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2029.

Calendar Number 652: Thomas Govan, Jr., of Alabama, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Alabama for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 653: Zachary Keller, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 654: Ryan Raybould, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 664: Gregory Gilmore, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 665: Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2031. (Reappointment)

Calendar Number 666: Stevan Pearce, of New Mexico, to be Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

Calendar Number 667: David LaCerte, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for a term expiring June 30, 2031. (Reappointment)

Calendar Number 668: Kyle Haustveit, of North Dakota, to be Under Secretary of Energy.

Calendar Number 675: Robert Rotter, of Iowa, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 676: Daniel Satterlee, of South Dakota, to be United States Marshal for the District of South Dakota for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 677: David St. Pierre, of Maine, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maine for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 678: Brian Birdwell, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Calendar Number 679: Mark Ditlevson, of Minnesota, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

Calendar Number 680: Lee Lipton, of Florida, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of the Philippines.

Calendar Number 681: William Long, of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Iceland.

Calendar Number 682: Jared Novelty, of Missouri, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Independent State of Samoa, the Cook Islands, and Niue.

Calendar Number 683: Robert Sweeney, of Texas, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

Calendar Number 685: Asel Roberts, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Slovenia.

Calendar Number 686: Wesley Brooks, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

Calendar Number 687: Frank Garcia, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs).

Calendar Number 688: Matthew Anderson, of Colorado, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Calendar Number 689: Michael Graham, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2030. (Reappointment)

Calendar Number 690: Richard Kloster, of West Virginia, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2028.

Calendar Number 691: Seval Oz, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation. (New Position)

Calendar Number 692: Arvind Raman, of Indiana, to be Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology.

Calendar Number 694: Melissa Holyoak, of Utah, to be United States Attorney for the District of Utah for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 695: Phillip Williams, Jr., of Alabama, to be United

States Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 698: James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of North Carolina for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 699: Brian Barber, of Louisiana, to be United States Marshal for the Western District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 700: Steven Lewis, of Missouri, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Missouri for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 701: Priscilla Lopez, of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 711: Brian Gootkin, of Montana, to be United States Marshal for the District of Montana for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 712: James Stuart, of Minnesota, to be United States Marshal for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years.

Calendar Number 714: Yeouk Kim, of Texas, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Calendar Number 715: Ademola Adewale-Sadik, of New York, to be United States Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years.

Calendar Number 716: Catherine Dillon of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Educational and Cultural Affairs).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

EXECUTIVE RESOLUTION

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, while I voted no on S. Res. 690, which calls for an up or down vote on 49 nominations, en bloc, I would have voted yes on the following nominations if I had the opportunity to vote on each nomination separately:

1. Cal. #615—Andrew Benson, of Maine, to be United States Attorney for the District of Maine for the term of four years.

2. Cal. #621—Gregory LoGerfo, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

3. Cal. #622—Eric Meyer, of California, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka.

4. Cal. #623—Jennifer Wicks McNamara, of Virginia, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

5. Cal. #648—Daniel Edwards, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary of Transportation.

6. Cal. #649—Steven Haines, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Industry and Analysis (part of the International Trade Administration focused on supply chains).

7. Cal. #653—Zachary Keller, of Louisiana, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana for the term of four years.

8. Cal. #654—Ryan Raybould, of Texas, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas for the term of four years.

9. Cal. #664—Gregory Gilmore, of Illinois, to be United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois for the term of four years.

10. Cal. #665—Douglas Weaver, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the term of five years expiring June 30, 2031. (Reappointment)

11. Cal. #675—Robert Rotter, of Iowa, to be United States Marshal for the Northern District of Iowa for the term of four years.

12. Cal. #677—David St. Pierre, of Maine, to be United States Marshal for the District of Maine for the term of four years.

13. Cal. #678—Brian Birdwell, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Defense.

14. Cal. #680—Lee Lipton, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of the Philippines.

15. Cal. #681—William Long, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Iceland.

16. Cal. #682—Jared Novelty, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to New Zealand, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Independent State of Samoa, the Cook Islands, and Niue.

17. Cal. #683—Robert Sweeney, of Texas, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador.

18. Cal. #685—Asel Roberts, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Slovenia.

19. Cal. #686—Wesley Brooks, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs.

20. Cal. #687—Frank Garcia, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (African Affairs).

21. Cal. #688—Matthew Anderson, of Colorado, to be Deputy Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

22. Cal. #689—Michael Graham, of Virginia, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board for a term expiring December 31, 2030. (Reappointment)

23. Cal. #700—Steven Lewis, of Missouri, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Missouri, for the term of four years.

24. Cal. #701—Priscilla Lopez, of Florida, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Florida for the term of four years.

25. Cal. #712—James Stuart, of Minnesota, to be United States Marshal for the District of Minnesota for the term of four years.

26. Cal. #714—Yeouk Kim, of Texas, to be Representative of the United States of America to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador.

27. Cal. #715—Ademola Adewale-Sadik, of New York, to be Director of the African Development Bank for a term of five years.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE OPINION LETTER

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the GAO opinion letter dated May 12, 2026.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DECISION

Matter of: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security—Applicability of the Congressional Review Act to the Rescission of the Artificial Intelligence Diffusion Rule.

File: B-337935.

Date: May 12, 2026.

DIGEST

The U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security (Commerce) issued a press release titled Department of Commerce Announces Rescission of Biden-Era Artificial Intelligence Diffusion Rule, Strengthens Chip-Related Export Controls (Press Release). The Press Release announced the non-enforcement of the AI Diffusion rule. The Press Release also announced the planned rescission of the Framework for Artificial Intelligence Diffusion rule (AI Diffusion rule).

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) requires that before a rule can take effect, an agency must submit the rule to both the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as the Comptroller General. CRA adopts the definition of rule under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) but excludes certain categories of rules from coverage.

As of the date of the Press Release, Commerce announced a non-enforcement policy that applies to all parties otherwise subject to the AI Diffusion Rule. As such, Commerce's non-enforcement policy is generally applicable, operates prospectively, and implements agency policy. We conclude that the non-enforcement policy announcement in the Press Release falls within APA's definition of a rule, and that no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the Press Release is a rule subject to CRA's submission requirements.

DECISION

On May 13, 2025, the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Industry and Security (Commerce), issued a press release titled Department of Commerce Announces Rescission of Biden-Era Artificial Intelligence Diffusion Rule, Strengthens Chip-Related Export Controls (Press Release). We received a request for a decision about whether rescission of the AI Diffusion rule announced in the Press Release is a rule for purposes of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). As discussed below, we conclude that the Press Release is a rule for purposes of CRA.

Our practice when issuing decisions is to obtain the legal views of the relevant agency on the subject of the request. Accordingly, we reached out to Commerce to obtain its views. We received Commerce's response on January 30, 2026.

BACKGROUND

Export Control Reform Act of 2018

To protect national security and support U.S. foreign policy and economic objectives, the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (ECRA) authorizes the President to regulate exports of technologies and other items as well as certain high-risk activities of U.S. persons. ECRA also provides that the President shall carry out these authorities primarily through Commerce. Commerce administers and enforces export controls on