

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 2026 AS “RENEWABLE FUELS MONTH”

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I rise today to talk about the benefits of renewable fuels. My State of Nebraska is a leader in renewable fuels. We have 24 ethanol plants, for example, to create 2.2 billion gallons of ethanol.

And that, according to the Renewable Fuels Association, has allowed us to avoid importing about 640 million barrels of foreign oil. Renewable fuels are great for consumers to help save you money at the pump. Last time I filled up with a 10-percent blend of ethanol, I saved 55 cents a gallon at my local grocery store.

My Congressman has told me that he fills up with E15 and was able to save \$1 a gallon. It is also great for cleaning up the environment. It reduces carbon emissions and particulate emissions, NO<sub>x</sub> emissions. And then, of course, it is great for our farmers and ranchers.

Renewable fuels are part of an “America First” energy dominant strategy. They are great for our country. To that end, I would want to make May “Renewable Fuels Month,” as I did in Nebraska when I made that proclamation when I was Governor.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 747, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 747), expressing support for the designation of May 2026 as “Renewable Fuels Month” to recognize the important role that renewable fuels play in lowering fuel prices for consumers, lessening reliance on foreign adversaries, supporting rural communities, and reducing carbon impacts.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. RICKETTS. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 747) was agreed to.

Mr. RICKETTS. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### RECESS

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in recess until 12 noon today.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 11:03 a.m., recessed until 12 noon and

reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

#### MORNING BUSINESS—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ARMSTRONG). The Senator from California.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 3582

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, this past January on the fifth anniversary of the January 6 insurrection, I introduced a bill called the No Rewards for January 6 Rioters Act because, as we know, one of the first things Donald Trump did when he returned to office was to pardon every person convicted of crimes connected to the January 6 insurrection in 2021.

That is right, not just those accused of crimes, those convicted in a court of law by a jury of their peers. But for Donald Trump, that abuse of the Constitution’s pardon powers was just the beginning. And since then there has been a concerted effort to keep going even further, to not only try to rewrite the history of that awful day, but to raid taxpayer funds to actually reward those who ransacked the Capitol, those who assaulted law enforcement officers, who called for the hanging of Vice President Pence along with Members of Congress, and those who tried to stop the peaceful transfer of power.

And so, sadly, it was not exactly surprising when, earlier this week, Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche announced a corrupt settlement creating a special \$1.8 billion slush fund for Donald Trump to reward his supporters, including the perpetrators of the January 6 attacks.

And January 6ers being able to receive money from this fund isn’t some loophole or unintended consequence. Let me cite a few people. Ed Martin the Department of Justice pardon attorney whose nomination to be U.S. attorney for the District of Columbia was rejected by the Senate, that Ed Martin, made it clear that this fund’s explicit purpose publicly declaring last year that “you’re damn right I want to pay J6ers.” That is Ed Martin.

The leader of the Proud Boys says he expects a \$2 to \$5 million payout. Another January 6 convict told CNN he plans to claim \$30 million from the public treasury. And one other stated “[A]ll January 6ers will apply for restitution” from the Department of Justice’s funds. “All of us . . . it’s all over Twitter [and] our group chats.”

So to be clear, “all of us” he means includes the many attackers who have not just been convicted of crimes related to January 6 but even after they have been pardoned by the President have been convicted of additional serious crimes, including one man who tried to bribe a child who he sexually abused to stay quiet with the promise of this exact kind of payout.

Now, the American people have seen a lot of egregious things since Donald Trump first came down that golden escalator in Trump Tower to announce he was running for President, but

never—never—have we witnessed something this brazenly corrupt, an American President effectively suing and negotiating with himself to create a taxpayer-funded slush fund to funnel taxpayer dollars to his friends and allies. This cannot be allowed to stand, colleagues.

Now, I’m encouraged to hear some of my Republican colleagues agreeing with me, beginning with Majority Leader THUNE who said he is “not a big fan” of this proposal.

Another Republican colleague saying “People are concerned about making their own ends meet, not about putting a slush fund together without a legal precedent. We’re a nation of laws. If there needs to be a settlement, let’s consider it and Congress should come together and decide upon that.”

A third Republican Senator said “I’ve never heard of someone negotiating with themselves and making a plea bargain with themselves, so I think there’s no precedent for it.”

Finally, former Vice President Pence himself has said “It would be my hope that anyone who engaged in violence against law enforcement or at the Capitol building would never be rewarded with taxpayers’ money.”

Colleagues, this situation is so outlandish. Some might say it is laughable, but it is not. What it is: it is urgent and it is dangerous. Because if the Republican majorities in Congress, both in the Senate and the House, let this happen, then in less than 60 days, \$1.8 billion will be transferred from the judgment fund to this new slush fund, which Congress would have no control over and no oversight over.

Senate Democrats saw this coming months ago, but the time to stop it is now before it is too late, which is why today I am bringing up my No Rewards for January 6 Rioters Act. Let’s stand up for congressional oversight as a unified Senate. Let’s pass this bill and prevent corruption payouts before they happen.

Mr. President, and so I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged and the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 3582. I further ask consent the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

January 6, 2021 was my first day here on the job in the U.S. Senate. Let’s be clear about what happened that day. Let’s go back and look at it. Democrats and the deep state, they hated Donald Trump so much that they orchestrated a coup against our government. Let me explain this.

It first started with the tampering of the 2020 Presidential election results to oust President Trump and to install the woke globalists’ favorite Joe Biden.

As a result, great American patriots gathered in Washington to peacefully protest the illegal tampering of the 2020 Presidential election.

When the leader of the Democratic Party at the time Speaker NANCY PELOSI and the deep state learned that Trump supporters—and we all knew it—were headed to Washington, DC, to peacefully protest the fraudulent 2020 Presidential election results, they saw a great opportunity.

Speaker PELOSI spearheaded the true January 6 insurrection. This has all been proven to be true. Everybody knows it. She said it on tape. She admitted the responsibility for massive security failures that day. The deep state infiltrated the crowd with antifa and intelligence community members who would instigate trouble and massive chaos.

The FBI has confirmed that there were 274 FBI agents in plain clothes at the Capitol here that day.

Then Speaker PELOSI set up Capitol Police to fail by refusing to bring the National Guard in as backup; she admitted that. And then, of course, Democrats placed all the blame on President Trump and Republicans. I can remember it vividly that night, about midnight, we all took the blame here. After we came back that night, the Democrats called all the Republicans in this room everything that you can imagine, here on this floor. It was clear that they were planning that day that they were going after President Trump.

But the Democrats' plan to destroy President Trump and his supporters didn't end that day on January 6; for the next 4 years, President Biden and the Democrats did everything they could to arrest, harass, bankrupt, deplatform, and even tried to kill the former President of the United States Donald Trump, not to mention the Biden DOJ abusing their power by wasting almost \$3 billion in taxpayer funds to go after innocent—innocent—Trump supporters, fraudulently imprisoning them to intimidate their political opponents and the greater MAGA movement.

Hundreds, and I mean hundreds of innocent patriotic Americans sat behind bars for the past 5 years over this made-up witch hunt. Now, there were some guilty, but a huge number of them were vastly innocent. They even arrested grandmas for making phone calls on the Capitol steps, and the only person who died that day on January 6 was Ashli Babbitt an unarmed Air Force veteran who was shot that day in this very building. Ashli Babbitt was wrongfully killed on January 6, 2021. The Federal Government admitted it, and they actually paid money to her family, paid money. In the legal settlement they paid money.

Lives were ruined. Families were torn apart, careers were destroyed, all because lunatics on the left in our country would not let it go, and anyone who was involved in it was arrested.

So before we quickly try to pass a bill with a nice-sounding title, we ought to read what it actually does. Democrats claim this bill is about stopping so-called rewards for January 6 rioters, but in reality, the legislation says if the Federal Government prosecuted you, Congress can't even ask if the prosecution was fair, if the sentence was appropriate, if the evidence was handled properly, if detention conditions were lawful, or whether the government threw the book at you because you were a supporter of a political opponent. You can't even ask that.

This bill treats prosecution—prosecution—as proof, and that is not how American justice works. That is not how our justice system works.

Thankfully, Acting Attorney General Todd Blanche and the Trump Department of Justice established a standard—a standard—and lawful process to hear from American citizens who suffered lawfare or weaponization under the Biden administration. If they were wronged, the Trump administration will provide compensation from the Anti-Weaponization Fund. But if S. 3582 is passed, it would eliminate that process for American-loving Trump supporters who were wrongfully convicted before their claims are even reviewed.

In the future, the Federal Government—because of this bill—would be empowered to target a group of people, prosecute them, and make sure they never receive relief no matter what the facts. And there were some bad things that went on.

Radical Democrats and the deep-state folks do not like this country, and they dislike it so much—the way it is run—that they will do whatever it takes to weaponize our judicial system against anyone who opposes their globalist agenda. That is why I will not consent to this bill that treats prosecution as proof and blocks individualized review. That is not how this country works.

For that reason, I object.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, a couple of days ago, I had the pleasure—not just the honor but the pleasure—of welcoming a group of students from Southern California here to the Capitol. As so many schools from across the country do, it is sometimes an annual trip to come see not just a symbol of democracy but literally the home of Congress, where democracy is in action. These young students are smart. They are keeping up with the news to know what is going on in their communities and in their State and in our Nation.

Knowing that sometimes our—small “d”—democratic institutions are being challenged, are being stress-tested, as they are today, people can be discouraged, and part of our job, I think, is to have them not lose faith in our system.

It is not always running perfectly, but it is resilient.

We are close to celebrating the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and we have learned both from the steps forward our country has taken to be a more perfect Union and from some of the less proud moments of our Nation's history, where we tend to always come out a little bit stronger. And that comes to mind, it comes to the heart of this moment after hearing once again these conspiracies and these lies from Members of the Senate who should know better than either to believe them or to regurgitate them and to exacerbate them in this very debate.

The 2020 election was held. There were countless lawsuits before, during, and after the election. Ballots were counted. Ballots were recounted. Ballots were audited. It is clear who won the election. It is not some mass conspiracy to keep Donald Trump from having won that election.

January 6 happened. Don't take my word for it—plenty of video coverage. All types of news outlets saw the violence that day. It is undeniable.

The rule of law was followed. People who were accused of involvement on January 6 had their day the court. Maybe some were found innocent. Maybe some were found guilty of lesser charges. Many were convicted, found guilty because of the proof, because of the evidence, by juries of their peers.

It is President Trump who sent the message that if he came back into office, they would be pardoned. He won the election. I can say it. It was not my choice in 2024, but he won the election. I will admit it. And he made good on his promise to pardon those who were involved in the violence on January 6 in this Capitol. But I refuse to stand here and just let the administration and any Republican Member of Congress—in either House—who agrees with him to set up this slush fund. It is an offense and disrespectful to the American taxpayer, to our democracy, and to our Constitution.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HAGERTY). The Senator from Alabama.

#### MEMORIAL DAY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, you know even the most hotly debated issues in this building pale in comparison to the American soldiers who have sacrificed their lives to give us the freedoms to debate and disagree in the first place.

Later this year, America will celebrate its 250th birthday. Most democracies, they don't even come close to that. They don't survive that long, but our great country has survived because of the brave men and women who have answered the call to defend our freedoms at home and all across the world.

Sadly, some of our Nation's heroes never return home. Alabama has numerous memorials across our great