

Nothing will ever bring back Brett. And if we hope to prevent more young lives like this one from being taken far too early, we need to double down on our efforts to enforce law and order.

We need to support our law enforcement officers and demand that our elected officials throw the book at violent criminals instead of letting them continue to cause mayhem and violence in our communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

AMERICAN AI SOVEREIGN WEALTH FUND ACT

Mr. SANDERS. Madam President, artificial intelligence will almost certainly be the most transformational technology in the history of the world. It will profoundly impact the lives of every man, woman, and child in our country and, in fact, throughout the world. It will bring and it is already bringing unimaginable changes to our economy, to our democracy and political system, to our emotional well-being, to the health of our children, to our environment, and to how we educate and raise our kids.

Further, there is a very real fear that as AI becomes smarter than humans, it could eventually function independent of human control with potentially catastrophic consequences. That is not me; that is what Nobel Prize scientists and experts are saying.

The question, then, is not whether AI will change the world. It will. The question is: Who will own and control the future? Who will benefit from AI, and who will be hurt by it? Will AI be used to make life better for working families? Will it enrich our quality of life? Will it help us eliminate poverty, extend life expectancies, and help us solve the climate crisis? Or will the future of humanity be determined by a handful of some of the wealthiest people on the planet who have promoted and developed AI, with no democratic input, in order for them to become even richer and more powerful than they are today? That is the choice before us.

Let us be clear. AI was not created out of thin air. It was not a brilliant idea that just popped into Mark Zuckerberg's head or Elon Musk's imagination. The foundation of AI is our collective human intelligence. Let me repeat that. The foundation of AI is based on our collective human intelligence: our books, songs, artwork, journalism, computer code, scientific research, videos, conversations, images, and ideas spanning generations. It is our tweets, our Facebook posts, our TikTok videos, our Reddit comments. It is everything that human beings produce and that is absorbed into the digital world. That is not just my opinion. According to Sam Altman, the head of OpenAI, AI models were trained on our "collective experience, knowledge" and "learnings of human-

ity." That is Mr. Altman, the head of OpenAI.

The reality is that Big Tech oligarchs have fed this knowledge into their AI models without permission, without acknowledgement, and without compensation. In other words, the creative work of many millions of people—writers, artists, musicians, journalists, teachers, scientists, and ordinary people—has been stolen—has been stolen—by the wealthiest people in the world.

The time has come for us to reclaim what was stolen from us. Since AI is built on the collective knowledge of humanity, the wealth it generates must benefit humanity—not just Elon Musk, not just Jeff Bezos, not just Mark Zuckerberg or Larry Ellison and the other multibillionaires who have invested hundreds of billions into the development and implementation of AI, not the venture capitalists in Silicon Valley or the vulture funds on Wall Street who see AI as the next great wealth-extracting machine.

That is why in the coming weeks, I will be introducing the American AI Sovereign Wealth Fund Act. This legislation would give the public a direct ownership stake in the largest AI companies in our country. How would it do that? Through a one-time, 50-percent tax not on the profits of the largest AI companies in the United States but something that is far more valuable than that: the stock.

If passed, this legislation would do two critical things:

First, it would give the American people a direct role in determining the future of this technology. No longer would the future of AI and the transformation of human life that it will bring be dictated by a handful of Big Tech oligarchs. These people do not have the right to determine the future of humanity. Under this bill, the Federal Government would have the power, through its voting shares and an equal representation on each company's board, to block decisions that hurt the public and to push for policies that help them.

Secondly, this legislation would guarantee that the trillions of dollars potentially created by AI are used to improve the lives of all of us, not simply to make the richest people in the world even richer. Further, if these AI companies continue to grow as dramatically as many analysts expect, then the value of the sovereign wealth fund created under this bill would grow as well, and the benefits to the American people would grow along with it.

Let us be clear. This is not an original idea. In fact, it is an idea that has been endorsed by some of the leading AI companies in America. For example, OpenAI recently proposed creating a "Public Wealth Fund that provides every citizen—including those not invested in financial markets—with a stake in AI-driven economic growth." Anthropic also proposed the creation of "national sovereign wealth funds with

stakes in A.I." Elon Musk, the owner of xAI, went further and said that "Universal HIGH INCOME via checks issued by the Federal government is the best way to deal with unemployment caused by AI."

Let us not forget, over 100 sovereign wealth funds exist all over the world. Again, this is not a new idea. Norway's sovereign wealth fund—the largest in the world—was funded from the country's abundance in oil and is now worth more than \$2 trillion. Instead of a few oil executives pocketing all the benefits of that natural resource, Norway made the decision that the wealth created from it should be used to improve life for all of their people.

This concept also exists right here in the United States. Fifty years ago, Alaska created a sovereign wealth fund from the State's oil revenues, and for decades, it has paid dividends directly to Alaskans. In 2022, that check was over \$3,000 per person. In 2023, it was \$1,300 per person. In 2024, it was \$1,700. Last year, it was \$1,000. This is a direct check coming from a sovereign fund in Alaska to the people of that State. Even President Trump, in an Executive order, has proposed establishing a U.S. sovereign wealth fund.

The billions, if not trillions, of dollars generated by this legislation would provide direct payments to the American people. Further, as the fund generates more and more wealth, the proceeds would be used to ensure that every man, woman, and child in our country has a decent and dignified standard of living, including healthcare, education, and housing.

The principle behind this legislation is simple: When a public resource generates wealth, the public should share in that wealth. In this case, artificial intelligence is being built on a public resource far more valuable than oil: the accumulated knowledge, creativity, and labor of humanity throughout history. That is what AI is all about.

Bottom line: The future of AI and the fate of humanity must not be decided behind closed doors in Silicon Valley by the wealthiest people in the world. It must not be dictated by billionaires seeking to maximize their power and their profit. It must be decided by workers, parents, teachers, artists, scientists, communities, and the American people.

It is our future. We must decide it. Let's get it done.

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. 736, Kathleen S. Lane, of Montana, to be United

States District Judge for the District of Montana.

John Thune, Ted Budd, Thom Tillis, John Barrasso, Tim Sheehy, Joni Ernst, Jon A. Husted, Katie Boyd Britt, David McCormick, Mike Rounds, John Boozman, Bill Cassidy, Rick Scott of Florida, Josh Hawley, Cynthia M. Lummis, Kevin Cramer, Steve Daines.

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 Kathleen S. Lane, of Montana, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana, 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 Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 131 Leg.]

YEAS—50

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

NAYS—44

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

NOT VOTING—6

Bennet	McCormick	Schatz
Fetterman	Rounds	Tillis

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 44.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kathleen S. Lane, of Montana, to be United States District Judge for the District of Montana.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the postcloture time with respect to Executive Calendar No. 736 be expired and the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Democratic leader, tomorrow; further, that the cloture vote with respect to Executive Calendar No. 743 occur following disposition of Executive Calendar No. 736; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed, the motions 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.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

70TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WYOMING MINING ASSOCIATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 70th anniversary of the Wyoming Mining Association.

On June 3, 2026, the Wyoming Mining Association will celebrate its 70th anniversary. The annual convention is at the CAM-PLEX in Gillette, WY. This milestone highlights the WMA's role as the unified voice of the State's mining industry. Even prior to statehood, mining was essential to Wyoming's economy. The great seal of the State of Wyoming prominently features a miner in recognition of the industry's lasting significance.

In April of 1956, representatives from 12 Wyoming mining companies, with the help of future Wyoming Governor Ed Herschler, gathered to establish the Wyoming State Mining Association. The group set up its headquarters in Riverton. The new organization kept members informed about mining issues and promoted the industry's importance to the State. From its inception, the Wyoming Mining Association has highlighted the importance of industry partners. It has relied on geologists, engineers, and local stakeholders to advance mining in the State and region. Eventually, the WMA offices were re-

located to the State capitol in Cheyenne, where they remain today.

Wyoming's mineral resources are essential to our State and Nation. We produce almost 12 times more energy than we consume. Nationally, we are second in net energy exports. Wyoming is America's energy breadbasket. The WMA is the dedicated voice for the coal, bentonite, trona, uranium, and rare earths minerals industries.

In addition to advocating for the industry, the Wyoming Mining Association provides on-the-ground education for legislators, students, teachers, and environmental leaders. The association represents dozens of mining companies, along with more than 100 associate companies that provide equipment and services across the sector.

The association consistently advocates for commonsense policies and regulations that strengthen the industry. It strives to educate and inform people about the importance of mining. This includes highlighting the national value of mineral production and the economic impact on our State. Under WMA's leadership, Wyoming mines make health and safety for their employees and the public a top priority. Our mines are regularly recognized as some of the safest in the Nation.

Over the last seven decades, the WMA has prospered under strong, effective leadership. Executive directors include Russell "Russ" Beamer (1956-1972), William "Bill" Budd (1972-1986), John "Jack" Ratchye (1986-1991), Marion Loomis (1991-2014), Jonathan Downing (2014-2016), and my former military representative Travis Deti (2016-present.) Since 1956, the Wyoming Mining Association has shared the mining story and highlighted its crucial role in our State.

Today, the WMA is led by:

- Travis Deti, Executive Director
- Pat Joyce, Assistant Director
- Heidi Peterson, Office Manager and Event Planner
- Todd Druse, President (Black Hills Bentonite)
- Neil Malicoat, Vice President (Sisecam)
- Scott Schierman, Secretary & Treasurer (Uranium Energy Corporation)
- Casey Feimlee, Board Member (Peabody Energy)
- Trish Driver, Board Member (Core Natural Resources)
- Darrin Munoz, Board Member (Navajo Transitional Energy Company)
- Christian Palich, Board Member (Eagle Specialty Materials)
- Cole Anderson, Board Member (Wyodak Resources)
- Bernard Bonifas, Board Member (Energy Fuels)
- Kimberly Lytton, Board Member (Bentonite Performance Minerals)
- Don Crank, Board Member (Kemmerer Operations)
- Paul Bonifas, Board Member (Rare Element Resources)
- Randy Quig, Board Member (Wyoming Machinery)

As the Wyoming Mining Association celebrates 70 years of service, we honor the miners, engineers, equipment operators, geologists, and their families who work to meet the energy needs of