

Trump wage a crusade against Trump's political enemies.

At a time when our Nation is at war and is preparing for massive security events like the World Cup and America's 250th anniversary, we need a DNI who is committed to telling hard truths, not one who is committed to telling Donald Trump whatever he wants to hear.

This is dangerous. This could be disastrous, having Pulte in charge.

NOMINATION OF DAVID M. PROUTY

Mr. President, now on David Prouty's nomination to the NLRB, today, the Senate HELP Committee will consider the nomination of David Prouty to continue serving on the National Labor Relations Board.

From his time working for the Major League Baseball Players Association to his tenure as general counsel for UNITE HERE! and for an SEIU local that represented 175,000 workers, Prouty has spent a lifetime defending the rights of organized labor across the country. For the past 5 years, Prouty has been a force for reason and a voice for workers on the NLRB even as Republicans tried to undermine that vital institution—hurt working families and hurt the unions that represent them.

Between August 2025 and January 2026, Prouty served as the only sitting member of the NLRB after Trump's unprecedented purge of the Board's only other Democratic member, a great member, Gwynne Wilcox and the expiration of the Chair's term. Trump's gutting of the NLRB paralyzed it for the better part of a year until it regained a quorum.

While I am pleased Prouty was nominated for another term, Trump continues to try to undermine our workers and their right to organize by trying to stack the NLRB with partisan loyalists committed to shielding employers from accountability.

I urge my colleagues to support Prouty's nomination so that workers have someone who will speak up for them on the NLRB for years to come.

COMMISSIONERS LETTER

Mr. President, on our Commissioners letter, in addition to his attacks on the NLRB, Donald Trump has refused to nominate and confirm Democratic Commissioners and Board members to vacancies at numerous Agencies that are required by law to have bipartisan members. It is outrageous.

Every other Republican President has gone along with the fact that there have to be a number of Democrats on these Boards. Every other Democratic President has gone along with the fact that there have to be Republicans. Only Trump, once again, has smashed these positive, bipartisan values.

So today, I join our Senate Democratic ranking members in calling on Trump and Leader Thune to start following the law and stop refusing to nominate or confirm these Commissioners.

Shortly after taking office, Trump launched an unprecedented purge of

over a dozen Democratic Commissioners and Board members across the Federal Government—officials who uphold election security, protect consumers, keep our roads safe, and perform other vital services for America. Trump removed these officials without a second thought and has either left these crucial positions vacant or filled them with MAGA loyalists committed to serving him rather than serving the American people.

Democrats will continue to call out Republicans for trying to undermine these Agencies and the crucial services they provide to Americans every day.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina). Without objection, it is so ordered.

WAIVING QUORUM CALLS

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum calls with respect to the Powell and Dahl nominations.

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

AGRICULTURE

Mr. RICKETTS. Mr. President, this is the 250th anniversary year of the founding of the United States of America—the greatest Nation the world has ever seen. Agriculture has been a part of this country since our founding, and agriculture is the heart and soul of what we do in Nebraska. We must always work to support our farmers and ranchers. It is a privilege for me to be able to do so as a Senator from the great State of Nebraska.

However, these are tough times in our industry of agriculture. We have seen widespread drought and wildfires. We have seen commodity prices in corn and soybeans be depressed and input prices be high. This puts a lot of pressure on our farming families.

We, also, as recently as in the last day or so, have seen more wildfires in the State of Nebraska, in the northwest portion of our State, around Chadron and Fort Robinson. Our Governor is taking the appropriate action to be able to help fight these fires. But it is in very rugged terrain, and it is going to be difficult for our firefighters there. So I ask that all Nebraskans and Americans keep the firefighters and all of those who have been impacted by these fires in their thoughts and prayers as we go through it.

One of the other challenges we are now facing in agriculture has to do with one of the bright spots in our industry, and that is the beef industry. Now, the beef industry is the No. 1 industry in the State of Nebraska—we are the beef State—but this industry is being threatened by the New World screwworm. This is a parasite that we

had wiped out back in the 1960s and that is now making a reappearance. In fact, we have had six confirmed cases—five in Texas and one in New Mexico. They are in livestock, but in the case in New Mexico, it actually involves a dog. This is why Mexico is taking the steps to prevent all livestock from coming across the border, including pet dogs. It is to prevent the spread of the New World screwworm.

Today, I am sending a letter to our Ag Secretary, Brooke Rollins, to encourage her to continue to expedite the steps we are taking to combat the New World screwworm. The way we do that is by producing sterile flies that ultimately then wipe out the population here in this country, like we did before.

Panama has the only facility in North America right now that is capable of producing these sterile flies, while Mexico is set to have a facility come online later this summer. Panama is producing about 100 million screwworm sterile flies right now, and Mexico is distributing those. The USDA is distributing about 8 million a week in the affected areas of Texas right now. So we are trying to combat that right now. The USDA is also investing another \$750 million in a facility at Moore Air Force Base, near Edinburg, TX, so that, when it comes along, it will be able to produce about 300 million screwworm flies a week to be able to help combat this.

With the roughly 100 million a week that are being distributed right now, we are working on it. But to get there, we need to have more. This is where the USDA's investment is so critical to be able to help combat this. I appreciate the work that Secretary Rollins and the USDA are doing. I encourage them to continue to expedite this so we can combat this disease.

I would also point out that all of these investments are in addition to what the Senate Republicans did in the Working Families Tax Cut last year, wherein we added to the programs with regard to animal biosecurity and parasite mitigation. We actually were able to add about \$233 million a year to the USDA's budget in three different programs, which is seven times the level of funding that was being done before—again, all of this to help make sure we continue to protect our strong agricultural industry in the United States. Of course, as I always remind people, food security is national security.

In addition, one of the things that we have been able to do is to have Secretary Rollins and Under Secretary Fordyce come to Nebraska to see the damage that was done by the previous wildfires. The previous wildfires burned about a million acres in Nebraska and displaced tens of thousands of cattle—sadly, costing the life of one Nebraskan who was caught in that fire.

One of the things farmers and ranchers have told us is that they need to have flexibility and not regulatory red-tape when it comes to this recovery. I am happy to report that the USDA is

working with farmers and ranchers to provide that flexibility. One of the areas, for example, is that a lot of fencing was destroyed, and the USDA is giving us the flexibility to be able to replace that fencing with different sizes of fences.

As for the regulations, again, somebody had some reason for them in the past, but they required that you had to replace the fencing with the exact same post fence. And that is not all available, given the widespread damage. So we are getting some flexibility to replace it with different sized fencing.

I also introduced, this week, the FENCE Act—the Fencing Eligibility for New Conservation Equipment Act—for our farmers and ranchers to be able to replace the fencing that they have lost with electronic fencing. We have collars, for example, to fit cattle with so that they can have virtual fencing. The FENCE Act would be able to get dollars from the Emergency Conservation Program so that another tool will be available for our farmers and ranchers to be able to recover from these fires.

In addition, I also want to credit Fish and Wildlife and the USDA for working to open up the Valentine National Wildlife Refuge for grazing, as well to be able to help our ranchers out from that standpoint.

So there is a lot of work going on to help our farmers and ranchers recover from these terrible fires.

In addition, in the Working Families Tax Cut, I mentioned the money that we are putting toward biosecurity. We also made a number of great improvements for agriculture.

We were able to make the death tax exemption permanent. That is important to allow for farmers and ranchers to be able to pass on the family farm and ranch to the next generation. It is one of the reasons I say that our farmers and ranchers are the original conservationists. It is because they want to pass along that family farm or ranch to the next generation so that they will take care of their land and their animals. But the death tax could get in the way of being able to do that. By making that death tax exemption permanent, we are assisting farmers and ranchers in being able to pass along that ranch. About \$200 billion in farm and ranch assets will now go to the next generation of farmers and ranchers and not to the government. This will assist them, and that was all done in the Working Families Tax Cut.

We were able to update reference pricing for things like corn and soybeans, especially given the tough time. For our row crops there, this is especially important. But we were able to update that reference pricing for the first time in 11 years. That was an important thing we got done in the Working Families Tax Cut.

We were able to renew the 45Z renewable fuel tax credit. Renewable fuels are a win-win-win situation. Con-

sumers save money at the pump. The last time I filled up, it was with a 10-percent blend of ethanol at my local grocery store, and I saved 55 cents a gallon. It helps clean up the environment, and it is also good for our farmers and ranchers. So promoting renewable fuels is something we want to continue to do, and we were able to renew that 45Z tax credit to be able to encourage companies to invest in renewable fuels.

We were also able to double the amount of money for trade promotion. In Nebraska, about a third of everything that we grow and we raise goes overseas. We are the largest beef exporting State, for example. So we want to have more trade relationships. We doubled the amount of money for programs like our Foreign Market Development and the Market Access Programs with an initial \$285 million to be able to open up those trade opportunities in markets around the world to be able to help our farmers and ranchers.

We also doubled the program for our new farmer and rancher program, from 5 years to 10 years, to be able to help out those new producers coming into the industry to be able to take advantage of some of the benefits in that program and to give them a leg up as they start their careers in agriculture.

These were all great things that we did in the Working Families Tax Cut, and there are actually many, many more things that we did for agriculture in there.

Having said that, we still need to get a 5-year farm bill. Our current farm bill authorizations run out on September 30. We have been living on extensions. Our farmers and ranchers deserve the certainty of a 5-year farm bill. I am pleased to report that the House has passed their version of the farm bill. It includes some of my priorities—priorities around things such as rural microentrepreneurship and flood resiliency. There is my AFIDA Improvements Act, which would help us deter communist China from buying farmland around our sensitive military installations, like at Grand Forks Air Force Base in North Dakota and Fort Bragg in North Carolina. So we need to get a 5-year farm bill done.

My esteemed colleague from Arkansas, who is the chair of the Ag Committee, has been in Nebraska to hear directly from farmers and ranchers about our priorities for the farm bill, and I know he is working diligently to be able to get that farm bill passed, as I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do. We must work to find common ground and get this passed.

Again, this is not only about making sure that our farmers and ranchers have that certainty of a 5-year farm bill. It is that food security is national security. This is a national security issue as well. So it is very important that we get that done.

Also, in the farm bill, I would like to see one of my priorities with regard to

fair labels. One of the things that we have seen is that products are being put on the market that market themselves as one thing but are not really. My FAIR Labels Act would address this specifically with regard to meat. We don't want something that is grown in a petri dish or something that is actually a plant to be labeled as meat or beef. Consumers should know exactly what they are consuming, and so my FAIR Labels Act would require that if you are real beef or real pork or real chicken, you can say that on the label. But if you are not, if you are a plant-based product, if you were cultured in a lab, you cannot claim that title of being meat.

This is one of the priorities that would make sure that not only would we be properly representing agriculture but consumers would know exactly what they are purchasing.

Also, one of the things that I did when I was Governor of Nebraska is have the SNAP Next Step, which is encouraging our families on SNAP to be able to get better paying jobs by helping with job coaching, with resume writing, things like that. This would be another thing that we could add into the farm bill since a lot of the farm bill—most of the spending in it, like 80 percent of it—actually has to do with the Food Stamp Program, the SNAP program. This would be a great way to be able to help those families be able to reduce their dependency.

When I was Governor, of the families that participated in that, 60 percent were able to end their need for food stamps and the other 40 percent reduced their need for food stamps. So that is a great way to be able to do it.

And then, finally, another thing that we can do to be able to help agriculture is pass E15 all year-round. Again, ADRIAN SMITH, one of my esteemed Congressmen from the State of Nebraska, helped pass this in the House. It is now for us in the Senate to be able to pass this.

And I would point out that we have actually had E15 all year-round through emergency waivers from the EPA for the last 8 years. The refineries that were worried about this—again, the sky has not fallen. I believe that there is an opportunity for us to find common ground to be able to get this passed in the Senate.

This is important, again, for our farmers who would like to have that certainty. It would help create demand for our corn, for example. What it would do is, by passing a law that says you can use E15 all year-round, it would give consumers a choice to be able to choose that, and we would not have to go to the EPA for that emergency waiver every summer.

It would then give certainty to our marketers to invest in the infrastructure to distribute E15. And, once again, this is something that can help mitigate high gas prices. I saved 55 cents a gallon just on E10; you can save more on E15.

So I encourage my Senate colleagues to take a look at this to be able to work with my colleagues like my senior Senator from the State of Nebraska to be able to find common ground to get this passed.

We have been doing it by emergency waiver for the last 8 years. It is something we continue to do. Let's make it permanent so we get more investment in the infrastructure to help give consumers more choice and help them reduce their fuel costs at the pump.

All of this would also help out our farmers and ranchers. Our farmers and ranchers are the backbone of Nebraska, and they have been the backbone of our country since its founding. We need to continue to support our farmers and ranchers. This is very important not only for our industry of agriculture but so that we can continue to feed our Nation and, indeed, the rest of the world.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Kansas.

NOMINATION OF ANTHONY J. POWELL

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise here on the Senate floor for the third time in the last 2 weeks to explain to my colleagues that we are about to vote on a district judge. The three times I have explained this is three different judges. Kansas has three vacancies, and we are in the process of having those filled. This is the third one, and we are about to vote on cloture in that regard. I rise today in support of the Honorable Anthony Powell to serve as United States district judge for the District of Kansas.

I have said before that this is an important responsibility for me and my colleagues to find the right people to serve in the judicial branch, and this is an issue that I have always taken very seriously.

Judge Powell is a graduate from George Washington University and Washburn University School of Law before going on to his law practice at Martin & Churchill in Wichita, KS.

He also served on Capitol Hill, including time as an intern for one of my predecessors Senator Bob Dole.

He was a member of the Kansas House of Representatives for 8 years. He served as the majority whip. And following his time in the State legislature, he was a judge in the 18th Judicial District serving Sedgwick County—that is the county that Wichita is the county seat of—for a decade before being appointed to the Kansas Court of Appeals.

Judge Powell most recently served as the Kansas solicitor general, and I believe he has the qualifications, the in-

tegrity, and the commitment necessary to serve Kansans and perform duties of this new role.

I met Judge Powell during the selection process, although I knew him previously, and I appreciate his commitment to public service, devotion to our Constitution, and respect for the people of Kansas.

Judge Powell and his wife Betty have four children, and I am grateful to the entire family for their dedication to this service.

I was pleased to recommend Judge Powell's nomination to the White House, and I look forward to voting to confirm him to the federal bench in Kansas. And I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting his nomination.

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. 745, Anthony J. Powell, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas.

John Thune, Tim Sheehy, Pete Ricketts, Mike Rounds, John Barrasso, Ted Budd, Jim Banks, Rick Scott of Florida, Todd Young, David McCormick, Shelley Moore Capito, Jerry Moran, Jon A. Husted, John Boozman, Mike Crapo, Katie Boyd Britt, John R. Curtis.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, 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 Anthony J. Powell, of Kansas, to be United States District Judge for the District of Kansas, 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 Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

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

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

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

[Rollcall Vote No. 167 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Armstrong	Fischer	Moody
Banks	Grassley	Moran
Barrasso	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	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Curtis	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	McCormick	Young

NAYS—45

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

NOT VOTING—7

Bennet	Graham	Tillis
Blackburn	Moreno	
Crapo	Smith	

(Mr. DAINES assumed the Chair.)

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 Kansas.

REMEMBERING BOB DOLE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize a date that is significant in the history of the U.S. Senate and that is especially meaningful to me and to my home State of Kansas.

Thirty years ago tomorrow, on June 11, 1996, Senator Bob Dole gave his final speech on the floor of this Chamber, marking his retirement as both majority leader and as a Member of the Senate. In his farewell speech, Senator Dole demonstrated the high regard he held for the people of Kansas.

He said:

If we could all go [home] and shake hands of all the people who are responsible for us being here, it would take a long, long time.

He grew up in a little town just down the road from my hometown. He grew up in Russell. Bob Dole was my Congressman when I was a kid, and I could tell even then how deeply respected and admired he was by the folks at home. He cared deeply about representing the people of our State. He represented them well, and he had a profound respect for the institution of the U.S. Senate.

He said in his final remarks that day, which was 30 years ago tomorrow:

The truth is that I would no more distance myself from the Senate than I would from the United States itself. The body is a reflection of America. It's what America is all about. We come from different states and different backgrounds, different opportunities, different challenges in our life.