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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m., and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, Sovereign of this planet, give us the wisdom to surrender to Your will. Lord, guide our lawmakers to trust You with all of their challenges and opportunities as they strive to please You in their thoughts, words, and actions. Provide them with the discernment they need to tackle the problems of these critical times.

When they feel overwhelmed, sustain them as they give You their burdens. May they seek to be totally dependent on You for their guidance and strength. Free them from the chains of doubt, anxiety, and fear. May Your sovereign might abound in their lives.

We pray in Your revered Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The Senator from Iowa.

E15

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, many times, I and Senator ERNST and Senator FISCHER and maybe many other Senators have come to the floor to implore the Senate to pass E15 legislation. E15 is an additive to gasoline that comes from ethanol which comes from corn.

So I am going to cite to you something that I have got off of the web of iowarfa.org, Renewable Fuels Association, in other words. They have this chart that I am going to refer to. I am sorry I don't have a big one to put on an easel here.

It starts out with saying these six refining companies are trying to kill the year-round E15 legislative deal. These companies made more money than 3.3 million family farmers will make combined in 2026.

These six companies are: Delek US, HF Sinclair, Cenovus, Suncor, CVR Energy, and Par Pacific. They have made \$171.7 billion compared to 3.3 million family farmers, estimated to make in 2026 \$153.4 million.

So I think about the Members of Congress that are representing these interests. They also have tens of thousands of family farmers as well in their districts.

So why would they put the prosperity of these six companies ahead of 3.3 million family farmers?

When I bring that issue up, their answer is: We need to find a solution.

Yes, we do need to find a solution. But if we don't find a solution, these six companies are still going to be making their \$171 billion, and these 3.3 million family farmers are going to be making \$20 billion less.

So that is the employees and the management and the stockholders of these six companies are going to make out better than the 3.3 million family farmers, which is only 2 percent of the population of the United States feeding the other 98 percent.

I think we have got to give more consideration to the family farmers by

passing E15. That is not the main reason I came to the floor.

### RUSSIA

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am here today to condemn another attack by Vladimir Putin's regime on Ukraine's religious and cultural heritage.

On June 15, Russian strikes set fire to and damaged the Dormition Cathedral in Kyiv. This cathedral is part of a monastic complex whose history stretches back over 1,000 years. Generations of worshippers have walked its grounds, prayed within its walls, and looked to it as a symbol of continuity through war, through empire, and through upheaval.

It is one of the most sacred sites in Eastern Christianity and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. And right now, that same cathedral stands scarred by fire by the very regime that claims to defend the traditions and heritage of Eastern Orthodoxy.

So let's be clear what this means. This attack is part of a broader pattern of targeting Ukraine's cultural and spiritual landmarks because Putin wants to erase the identity, undermine morale, and rewrite the history of Ukraine.

This senseless attack exposes the real hypocrisy at the heart of Putin's propaganda. Putin claims that Ukraine is persecuting Russian Orthodox Christians, but that is not what happened.

In fact, it is Russia who is doing exactly what Russia falsely accuses others of doing because Russia is targeting churches, damaging sacred sites, and now has set fire to one of the holiest places in Eastern Christianity—a site that predates even the city of Moscow, a site that belongs not to one nation, but to the shared spiritual heritage of millions.

So let's set the record straight. Russia is not the victim of religious persecution in Ukraine; Russia is carrying

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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out this persecution and so ought to be condemned.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

#### WORKING FAMILIES TAX CUT ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I spoke on the floor yesterday about the landmark bill Republicans passed last year, the Working Families Tax Cut bill, and I talked about how this bill fits into Republicans' efforts to turn things around in our country, turn things around by putting more money in Americans' pockets, helping small businesses grow, strengthening the agriculture sector, and giving a lifeline to rural healthcare.

Any one of those things alone would have been a significant achievement, but the Working Families Tax Cut addressed all of them, all of them and more, much more, and this morning I want to talk about how this bill helps to make America more secure.

That, too, is, unfortunately, a turnaround story. And I say "unfortunately" because the previous administration allowed our Nation's security to fall into a sorry state. Images of the chaos at the southern border during the Biden administration come to mind, so does the state of our military readiness.

In recent years, our military readiness has not been where it needs to be to deter and counter threats. We had ships in need of maintenance, planes that can't fly. Meanwhile, China was investing in key military technologies. Yet the Biden administration showed little interest in making the type of investment needed to get our military back to where it needed to be.

And so when Republicans took control last year, we didn't waste any time. As part of the Working Families Tax Cut, Republicans made a generational investment in America's military. It was a major investment to help get our readiness to where it needs to be quickly.

It invested in shipbuilding, missile defense, defense manufacturing capacity, critical munitions, drones and counter-drone technology, an expanded Air Force fighter fleet, nuclear modernization, U.S. infrastructure in the Pacific and more.

And alongside robust funding in the annual defense bill, these investments will help restore America's military

strength and make our adversaries think twice before crossing us.

As I mentioned, we also needed to address border security. When President Trump took office, he wasted no time implementing policies that restored order at America's southern border and put criminal illegal immigrants living in our country on notice, and we saw the results.

Illegal crossings dropped precipitously. Border agents weren't being stretched so thin anymore and could spend more time stopping cartels and other criminals. That is how things should be at the border, and Republicans are making sure that it stays that way.

As part of the Working Families Tax Cut, we made a generational investment in border security. We provided the resources necessary to finish the border wall and deploy additional barriers and technology to secure the border. There was funding to support the hiring of new agents and to bring on more immigration judges to address the massive backlog in immigration cases, and those resources are making a difference.

Thanks to President Trump and the Working Families Tax Cut, as of the end of last month, apprehensions at the southern border are more than 90 percent lower than they were under the Biden administration. Border Patrol is seeing a few hundred border crossings on a typical day compared to as many as 10,000 in a single day, at times, under President Biden, and not a single illegal immigrant has been released from the border in more than a year.

The American people support border security, and keeping America safe should be something that cuts across party lines. Unfortunately, our Democratic colleagues have repeatedly demonstrated zero interest in border security, and they consistently reaffirm their belief in open borders.

First, there was their complicit silence as the Biden administration opened our borders to a flood of illegal immigrants. Then, every Democrat opposed our border security measures in the Working Families Tax Cut. And then this year—this year—Democrats took their radical open border beliefs to a new level and tried to defund Border Patrol and ICE.

That is right. Democrats not only opposed giving these Agencies adequate resources to do their jobs, they opposed giving them any resources.

Fortunately, Democrats' radical proposal did not carry the day, and Republicans were, once again, able to fund border security and immigration enforcement, unfortunately, without Democrats' assistance.

The security of our country is one of our greatest responsibilities. Without it, nothing else matters. It is a responsibility that Republicans are taking seriously. The Working Families Tax Cut is a big step toward a more secure America. It invests in safer streets with funding for State and local law

enforcement, safer skies by supporting air traffic control modernization, a secure border, and a strong military.

We all watch the news and can see that the world is a dangerous place. There will always be bad actors and other dangers threatening the safety and security of the American people, but Republicans are working to ensure there are individuals standing ready to protect us and that they have everything they need to keep America safe.

A stronger America is a safer America, and that is what Republicans are delivering.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. 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 Democratic whip.

#### VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, last week, I joined my colleague from California Senator ALEX PADILLA for a spotlight forum on the Trump administration's ongoing effort to undermine free and fair elections, particularly the upcoming midterm election, a few weeks away. I want to thank Senator PADILLA for hosting that forum and his leadership.

During the forum, we heard from a person who was a 15-year veteran in efforts to counter foreign malign influence across various government Agencies, most recently at the Department of Homeland Security. She warned us: There are bad actors out there who will take advantage of the diminished Federal effort to prevent foreign influence in our elections.

She was specific. Particularly under this administration, the Trump administration, and DOGE—you will remember that exercise by the richest man on Earth, Elon Musk—they attempted to and did gut the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, known as CISA, and dismantled the FBI's Foreign Influence Task Force.

Unfortunately, instead of taking serious steps to counter real threats to our elections, the President's cherry-picked so-called solutions to problems are nothing more than attempts to rig midterm elections and cling to power.

For example, Republicans tried to sneak the SAVE America Act into the President's ICE and CBP funding bill as an amendment, but Democrats defeated it.

Now, the President is back at it. Last week, in one of his many social media posts, the President said: I will not approve a FISA extension without the SAVE America Act going along with it.

Republicans are blaming Democrats for holding up FISA. It turns out the President is holding it up to get his—