

By attacking providers, such as Planned Parenthood, the Trump administration is once again threatening the health and economic well-being of millions. Women in New Hampshire and across the country deserve better. They should have the right to make their own choice about if or when to start a family, and they should be able to visit providers of their choice who understand their healthcare needs and will be truthful about their healthcare options and realities. This title X gag rule undermines all of that.

I am going to continue to stand up for a woman's constitutionally protected rights, and I will do everything I can to fight back against these partisan attempts from the Trump administration to undermine women's reproductive healthcare.

Thank you.

NOMINATION OF NEOMI J. RAO

Mr. President, I also want to take a moment to express my opposition to a nominee the Senate is considering today for the DC Circuit Court of Appeals—Neomi Rao.

Ms. Rao is up for a lifetime appointment on the DC Circuit, but her record and previous statements make it clear that she is unfit for this position.

Ms. Rao's writings as a college student are nothing short of outrageous. Ms. Rao once described race as a "hot money-making issue." She has called the fight for LGBTQ equality a "trendy political movement." She has criticized the "dangerous feminist idealism which teaches women that they are equal." Perhaps most disturbing are Ms. Rao's previous writings on campus sexual assault and rape. Ms. Rao once claimed that women shared the responsibility for being raped, saying: "If she drinks to the point where she can no longer choose, well, getting to that point was part of her choice." She also noted that "a good way to prevent potential date rape is to stay reasonably sober."

I know that Ms. Rao has said she regretted these comments now that she is up for this appointment, but that cannot make up for the type of damage that rhetoric like this has done. In 2019, survivors are still not listened to and taken seriously, and dangerous rhetoric and callous beliefs like these have prevented women from coming forward with their experiences of sexual assault in the first place.

I cannot support a nominee who made a decision to publish these types of outrageous sentiments.

If Ms. Rao's previous statements aren't already disqualifying, then her record as a member of the Trump administration certainly is.

As the head of the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, OIRA, Ms. Rao signed off on a policy that would allow the Environmental Protection Agency to not use the best available evidence when developing clean air and clean water protections—a policy with dangerous implications given the fact that the Trump administration has ig-

nored science and fought to undermine these protections. Ms. Rao signed off on this policy even after publicly pledging to meet in a Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs subcommittee hearing that she would do just the opposite.

Additionally, one of Ms. Rao's first efforts in the Trump administration was approving an effort to eliminate reporting requirements proposed by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to identify wage discrimination with regard to race and gender.

Finally, Ms. Rao approved of the title X gag rule, which, as I just discussed, will harm the health and well-being of people across the country.

It is clear that Ms. Rao is a partisan nominee with a dangerous record.

By the way, she has never tried a case—not in Federal court and not in State court.

Given her past comments, her record in the Trump administration, and her complete lack of experience, it is clear that she does not meet the standard that a lifetime appointment to a vital court requires. I will oppose her nomination today, and I urge my colleagues to do the same thing.

Thank you.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

THE GREEN NEW DEAL

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I would like to start by talking about one of the best things we are known for in Montana, and that is our great outdoors, whether it be our national parks, our iconic wildlife, hunting, or fly fishing. Like all Montanans, I want the peace of mind that I can continue to enjoy these opportunities with my kids and grandkids, just as my dad and my grandpa did with me growing up in Montana.

In Montana, we know how to foster commonsense, locally driven conservation to protect our environment. I am here to tell you today that there is nothing common sense about the so-called Green New Deal. In fact, the Green New Deal is a representation of everything that is wrong with Washington, DC. It is a radical, top-down idea that disregards the impacts on hard-working Montanans and Americans across our country.

You see, in Montana, we rely on a diverse portfolio of energy and fuel sources to help grow our economy, to create good-paying jobs, and to preserve our Montana way of life. In order to live where you also like to play—that is what we call Montana—you need a good-paying job. Montana is still a State where a mom or a dad, a grandma or a grandpa, or an uncle or an aunt can take a child down to Walmart and buy an elk tag over the counter and be at a trailhead to start elk hunting within 30 minutes. We need our ag production. We need clean coal. We need sustainable timber production. These are all part of our Montana way of life. They are all important to the

great State heritage we have. This Green New Deal would uproot all of that.

This Green New Deal sounds more like a socialist wish list than it does some great, bold conservation plan. Calling for an end to air travel, getting rid of all of the cows, and ceasing all production of coal would literally destroy our State's economy. The Green New Deal flat out doesn't work. Montana's rural communities would be left without any power or electricity. In fact, just this month, we saw record cold temperatures in Montana. I was trying to fly back to Washington, DC, a week ago Monday. When I got to our airport there in Bozeman, it was minus-40 degrees. We had to hold the plane for nearly 3 hours because deicing fluid only works at minus-25 and warmer temperatures.

The data that we have now looked at from during that cold snap shows that it was coal-fired generation—in particular, our Colstrip powerplant—that picked up the slack during those low temperatures. It kept the heat on for families across Montana.

Our wind turbines have difficulty working in subzero temperatures, and that is regardless of whether the wind blows. One of the challenges in a State like Montana is that when a high-pressure system moves in, whether in the wintertime or in the summertime—let's take the winter for example. When high pressure moves in, oftentimes that is associated with low temperatures. That usually is when we have a spike in requirements of energy consumption needs on the grid. What happens when a high-pressure system moves in is that the wind stops blowing. There is a reason wind is referred to as intermittent energy.

I am not opposed to the renewables. I think it is wonderful that we have wind energy in Montana. We have solar. We have hydro. We have a great renewable energy portfolio in Montana. But the reality is that during the coldest days of the winter, the wind doesn't blow. In fact, at minus-23 degrees and colder, they have to shut off the wind turbines because of the stress it presents to the materials of the turbines.

In the summertime, when high-pressure systems move in, the temperatures spike on the high side, and the wind stops blowing. At the same time, we have peak load on the grid.

So the commonsense thing to do is to focus on accelerating development of clean coal technology and keeping a balanced portfolio to make sure we meet the spike demands, whether they are in the summertime or in the wintertime.

While we should focus on accelerating investments to help renewables like wind become more reliable, which makes a lot of sense, we should continue to think about how to make renewables better.

The Green New Deal seems to think we all live in a fantasyland. In fact, it states how the United States has a disproportionate contribution to global