

standards. We urge Congress to swiftly vote to pass this resolution, an action which would allow the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to accelerate strengthening safeguards against methane and other pollution.

As you know, methane is a potent pollutant that is responsible for around 25 percent of the impacts of climate change we are experiencing today. In 2016, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) established regulations to tackle methane and other dangerous emissions from new and modified sources within the oil and gas sector, which is the largest industrial source of methane pollution. This action took concrete steps to implement science-based standards to combat previously unchecked emissions. The oil and gas sector is likewise a significant source of smog-forming volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants in communities across the nation.

In the waning days of the previous administration, EPA finalized a rule that eliminated safeguards that protect our climate and communities from oil and gas pollution and attempted to erect barriers to the promulgation of future standards. Many oil and gas operators, natural gas users like utilities, states, and environmental and health groups support federal standards to regulate methane emissions. Many environmental and health groups, state and local governments, utilities and other gas purchasers, oil and gas operators, and even the American Petroleum Institute (API), have expressed support for federal rules to curb the oil and gas industry's wasteful methane releases—wasted gas worth \$2.4 billion, which could be used to heat approximately 12.5 million homes in a year. Adopting S.J. Res. 14 and H.J. Res. 34 will reinstate pollution protections and clear the path for EPA to move forward with widely-supported, sensible safeguards for methane and other pollution from oil and gas production.

We must take early action to reduce harmful methane emissions as a necessary step to combating the climate crisis. Regulation of dangerous methane emissions is critical to lowering the magnitude of warming we will experience around 2050. We need leaders who will fight for a healthier future and seek ambitious next-generation standards for new and existing oil and gas facilities. S.J. Res. 14 provides the EPA with a clean slate to get back to a regulatory process that makes scientific sense and gets our goal of ambitious methane emissions reductions back on track, while advancing our collective climate and environmental justice goals.

Sincerely,

Blue Ridge Environmental Defense League, Brighter Green, Center for Civic Policy, Center for Human Rights and Environment, Chapel Hill Organization for Clean Energy, Citizens Caring for the Future, Citizens' Environmental Coalition, Clean Air Council, Clean Air Task Force, Clean Water Action, Climate Advocates Voces Unidas, Climate Law & Policy Project, Conservation Colorado, Conservation Voters New Mexico, Dakota Resource Council.

Defend Our Future, Earth Action, Inc., Earthjustice, Earthworks, Empire State Consumer Project, Environmental Defense Fund, Fort Berthold POWER, Franciscan Action Network, Grand Canyon Trust, GreenLatinos, Health Action New Mexico, Hispanic Access Foundation, Interfaith Power & Light, League of Conservation Voters, League of Oil and Gas Impacted Coloradans, Moms Clean Air Force, National Organization for Women, National Parks Conservation Association.

Natural Resources Defense Council, New Mexico Interfaith Power and Light, New Mexico Sportsmen, Partnership for Responsible Business, Powder River Basin Resource Council, ProgressNow Colorado, Project CoffeeHouse, Protect All Children's Environment, Public Citizen, Rachel Carson Council, Responsible Drilling Alliance, Rio Grande Indivisible.

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Santa Fe Green Chamber of Commerce, Sciencecorps, Sierra Club, The Evangelical Environmental Network, The Greater Prince William Climate Action Network, The Ohio Environmental Council, The Wilderness Society, Waterkeeper Alliance, Western Colorado Alliance, Western Organization of Resource Councils, Young Evangelicals for Climate Action.

SHELL OIL COMPANY,
Houston, TX, April 22, 2021.

Hon. TOM CARPER,
Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Washington, DC.

Hon. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO,
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works, Washington, DC.

Hon. FRANK PALLONE,
Chairman, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

Hon. CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS,
Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN CARPER, RANKING MEMBER CAPITO, CHAIRMAN PALLONE, AND RANKING MEMBER RODGERS: Shell supports passage of a proposed joint resolution of disapproval under the Congressional Review Act (CRA) to rescind the 2020 rule "Oil and Natural Gas Sector: Emission Standards for New, Reconstructed and Modified Sources Review" and reinstate the direct regulation of methane emissions from new and modified sources established by the Environmental Protection Agency in 2016.

Beginning in 2015, Shell worked with EPA and industry peers to develop a workable approach to regulating methane from onshore oil and gas sources. Shell was the first oil major to signal support for the rule. Beginning in 2017, Shell urged the Trump Administration to make desired refinements to the regulation, but to maintain the direct regulation of methane from onshore sources established by the previous Administration.

The efficient regulation of methane from onshore oil and gas production makes good business sense, as methane captured is methane sold, advances the energy transition and expands the role of natural gas as a transition fuel. The 2016 rule sparked innovation, contributing to the development of more efficient and affordable pneumatics, better cameras and new airborne imagery, tools that help us better understand and control methane leaks from our assets.

I have appreciated the leadership of those in Congress working to advance this joint resolution. I have attached an oped in support of the resolution published last week in the Houston Chronicle.

Sincerely,

GRETCHEN WATKINS,
President.

Mr. CARPER. Now, Mr. President, I will yield the floor, but before I do, I want to salute you for your role in an earlier day, in an earlier place, your State of Colorado, for helping get this started. We are in your debt. Good work. God bless.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Iowa.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, it has been nearly 100 days since President Biden delivered his inaugural address, promising our Nation "unity, not division." He called on all of us to "listen to one another," noting that unity "requires more than words."

I was there, and I was listening. I was hopeful that he actually meant what he said. But that very same day, as soon as he reached the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue, President Biden seemed to forget his own words as he began signing a record number of Executive orders.

With the stroke of a pen, he unilaterally created a new migrant crisis by reversing the previous administration's successful policies and ceasing construction of the wall.

He also killed thousands of jobs for American workers by canceling the XL Pipeline. And that was just his first day on the job.

Since then, the President and his Democratic allies in Congress have used a partisan process to fast-track trillions of dollars of new spending for their pricey pet projects.

Despite the President's call for us to listen to one another, the Democrats are planning to, once again, fast-track another \$2.2 trillion package being sold as an "infrastructure" bill, even though it spends less on roads and bridges than it does on parts of the Socialist Green New Deal and other progressive priorities.

And then right after that, they want to ram through another \$1 trillion for so-called human infrastructure.

The Democrats are threatening to end the right of Senators to debate by abolishing the filibuster so they can shove through their extreme agenda. This would fundamentally change the Senate, which has long been known as the world's—not just America's but the world's greatest deliberative body, in which every State has equal representation and every Senator is given a voice in our national conversations.

It is an interesting twist for the party that just a year ago proudly resisted nearly every effort put forth to address the problems facing our Nation.

For purely partisan political reasons, Democrats even filibustered—yes, they filibustered—the JUSTICE Act that would have provided police reform following the deaths of George Floyd and others.

This week, the Nation will have the opportunity to hear from the author of that bill, my dear friend Senator TIM SCOTT of South Carolina, who is delivering the Republican response to the President's address this evening. No one better represents the type of positive leadership we need to unify our Nation than TIM. He truly is the perfect voice for the American dream.

Growing up in a poor, single-parent household, TIM's mother worked hard

to make ends meet. Despite some early challenges and setbacks, TIM successfully started his own business and was chosen, time and again, to serve in public office.

As a Senator, TIM is focused on creating opportunities for others by tapping into the potential of individuals and communities. TIM listens, and he works hard to bring people together.

Folks, that is what President Biden promised to do, but he is not living up to that promise. Frankly, the President only seems to be listening to the far-left progressives within the Democratic Party who live on their own liberal "Fantasy Island."

He and his liberal allies on the left are pushing tax hikes on working Americans, while giving tax breaks to wealthy coastal elites. They are bringing back corrupt and costly earmarks.

Democrats want to defund our police and abolish ICE. They want to remake nearly every aspect of our economy with their radical Green New Deal. The Democrats are plotting to pack the Supreme Court with ultraliberal Justices and destroy that institution. And to pad their numbers in Congress, Democrats are attempting to make Washington, DC, a State.

Does that sound like the unity and bipartisanship we were promised on day one? It sure doesn't, folks.

If President Biden actually listened to the voices of Americans who live outside of the DC swamp, he wouldn't be hearing a demand for any of those radical proposals.

The Senate is split 50-50, while Democrats hold a razor-slim majority in the House of Representatives. And according to a recent Gallup poll, an overwhelming two-thirds of Americans say they are dissatisfied with the way things are going in the United States. Based upon those responses, it sounds like the Democrats' radical agenda is dividing, not unifying, our country.

Iowans want Democrats and Republicans to set aside partisan differences and work together on our national interests. They want students to be able to safely return to their classroom and for folks to go back to work.

Iowans want us to fix our roads and bridges and expand broadband to rural areas. They worry about the growing global influence of Communist China and the humanitarian and national security crisis on our southern border. They want us to protect the American dream for future generations.

Folks, we can do this.

President Biden, if you are listening, please hear me out. Giving into the deafening demands of the loudest on the left and attempting to silence half of the country will not solve our problems. It will only divide us more.

To succeed, we need to consider the voices of all Americans and speak to what unites us so we can overcome our challenges. And we can overcome these challenges together.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. First, Madam President, I would like to associate myself with the remarks of the Senator from Iowa, who did a magnificent job of pointing out what we are facing as a nation. And I admire her fortitude, her hard work, and her dedication as the vice chairman of the Republican conference.

Madam President, 99 days ago, Joe Biden took office. He took the oath of office. We were there. He gave an inaugural address. He said that "with unity, we can do great things." He said that "unity is the path forward." Well, that was the last example of unity and bipartisanship that we have seen from President Biden. He has lost all credibility when it comes to bipartisanship or unity.

In just 99 days, President Biden has already shown himself to be one of the most radical Presidents in American history.

When I am in Wyoming, as I am every weekend and have been over Easter, as well, traveling the State and talking to people, they ask about two specific issues; one is energy, and the second is the southern border. On these two specific issues, President Biden has already done tremendous damage—damage to our country, damage to our people, damage to our economy.

Right after his inaugural address about unity, President Biden drove to the White House, sat there, went in, and threw the unity speech out the window, and he drew a big target on the back of American energy, and he pulled the trigger. He shut down the Keystone XL Pipeline; he ended new fossil fuel projects on Federal lands; and he cut off traditional energy loans to developing nations that need our help and look to us for help.

Well, these steps aren't going to reduce carbon emission, but they will most certainly reduce jobs and wages for American energy workers.

Also, on his first day, President Biden flipped on the big green light switch on our southern border. He sent out the word, laid out the welcome mat, and people from around the world came illegally to the United States. He stopped construction on the border wall, and he ended a policy that was successful. The policy was that known as the "Remain in Mexico" policy.

Now, the result wasn't just one crisis; it was two. It was a humanitarian crisis, and it was also a national security crisis.

It is a national security crisis because two-thirds of the Border Patrol agents—and I went to the border and went with a number of Republican Senators and went on a midnight patrol with our border agents, and they told us that two-thirds of the Border Patrol agents are unable to do their jobs and keep us safe, unable to be there to enforce the law. And they said that, so far, people have come into the country illegally from 56 different nations.

The whole world knows the border is open. Our friends know it; our enemies

know it; and this will make us less safe as a nation.

There is also a humanitarian crisis at the border caused by President Biden. Just a month ago, a 9-year-old from Mexico died trying to cross the Rio Grande River. It is heartbreaking. That is what happens, though. This is what happens when more and more people try to come illegally to cross our border.

Children who cross the border unaccompanied are sent to a facility that is prepared and appropriate for about 250 children. The day we were there, there were 7,000 crammed in like sardines. That is Joe Biden's plan for immigration.

Ten percent of these children are testing positive for coronavirus. And we saw the testing process. We know that every child there was exposed to coronavirus based on the high percentage of those who were testing positive.

Now, as these young people are released, those who have tested negative but who have just been exposed in the days before, they are being sent all across America, and they are spreading the virus and unknown variants of the virus to this country.

Joe Biden is the superspreader of coronavirus today. Democrats think this is just fine.

The Vice President of the United States is going to be up here tonight on Capitol Hill. She says: "We're making progress."

NANCY PELOSI says: "We're on a good path on the border."

Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas says: "The border is secure and closed," even though he has also said this is the worst case in 20 years for young people and we are on a path for up to 2 million illegal immigrants coming across the border this year.

The White House refuses to use the word "crisis." In fact, when the President and his Press Secretary have accidentally called it a crisis—and they both have done that—the White House issued a correction. They said: No, no, not a crisis; only a challenge.

Who do they think they are fooling? Two million illegal immigrants this year is not a challenge. It is a crisis. It is chaos at the border. It is catastrophic.

Ninety-nine days ago, none of this was happening. For 99 days, Republicans in the U.S. Senate have repeatedly looked for common ground with President Biden and the Democrats. We have stood for American energy. We worked to secure the border. Yet for 99 days those efforts have been blocked by President Biden and a Democratic majority—which is hardly a big majority when it is 50-50, which you would think would be a mandate to move to the middle.

Well, President Biden still has a thousand days or so left in his term. Tonight's speech might sound a lot like his inaugural address with lots of promises. The American people know talk is cheap. It is time for President

Biden to start to practice what he is preaching.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I would like to start by thanking my colleague from Wyoming and my colleague from Iowa for their comments about where we are as a country 100 days into the Biden administration.

It has been discouraging that we haven't seen more bipartisan work and with regard to the border, having been down there a couple of weeks ago, particularly discouraging that we can't come up with a bipartisan solution that deals with the obvious crisis on the border.

Of course it is a crisis. Everybody knows that, including the Biden administration. The question is, What are we going to do about it? Some of us have laid out some proposals that we think would be very sensible, that could be done on a bipartisan basis. Yet we are not getting the kind of cooperation from the White House or the other side of the aisle, frankly, with regard to dealing with a clear crisis.

In my time here in Congress, I have tried to work to bring Republicans and Democrats together on issues. I think that is the best thing for our country. I think you get, actually, better legislation if you have input from both sides, and I think you also have more sustainable legislation.

If you don't work in a bipartisan way, what happens when there is a 50-50 Senate, as there is now, and where the Vice President can supply the tie-breaking vote, and if you do things on the basis of reconciliation or getting rid of the filibuster, which is what the Democratic majority currently would like to do, you end up lurching back and forth, don't you? So you pass Democratic legislation and then, when Republicans take over, Republican legislation.

We should be focusing on American legislation. In my office, we have had some success with this bipartisan approach. Sixty-eight of my bills were signed into law by President Obama, and 82 of my bills were signed into law by President Trump—on important issues like the eviction crisis, job creation, and natural resource protection. So it can be done, and President Biden knows that. He served here in the Senate. In fact, he took pride in coming together with Republicans and Democrats to actually have agreements on some of these tough issues.

Although I didn't vote for him because I thought that President Trump had better policy ideas, coming into this new administration, I was hopeful that President Biden would govern as he had campaigned. He promised, you remember, in his campaign to reach out to Republicans and Democrats alike. He talked about the need for unity. In fact, he gave that same speech in the primary and in the general election, which I thought took

some courage, frankly, to do so in the primary because most of his opponents did not take that position. Yet, now having gotten elected, he seems to have forgotten the pledges that he made.

I listened to his inaugural address intently, as I hope a lot of Americans did—and certainly my colleagues did—and he talked again about reaching out, going back to the days when we could work together, and he focused on unity. I was very hopeful with the tone he set that day, and I said so at the time. Yet that rhetoric has not been matched by action. It hasn't been matched by action when it comes to key policy initiatives they have already put forward, including the latest COVID-19 spending bill that passed in March.

Remember, despite a 50-50 Senate and very tight majority in the House of Representatives, there was no outreach to Republicans for the COVID-19 legislation. Not a single Republican was consulted before unveiling the plan, and once it was out there, Democrats chose to work only among themselves and do it under what is called reconciliation, where they don't need a single Republican vote—this despite some of us having an alternative, which we actually presented to the White House. The next day, we were told: Thank you, but we are going to take the reconciliation approach, and we don't need any Republican input.

That is too bad because the COVID-19 issue, obviously, is one where there has been not just bipartisanship but non-partisanship. Five times last year, we passed major COVID-19 legislative initiatives with huge majorities. In one case, the biggest bill, the CARES package, passed with a 97-to-0 vote here. So this is one where we had always been able to work together.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration chose the partisan path. Right now, the Biden administration is repeating this same mistake, as far as I can tell, because they have introduced their \$2.3 trillion infrastructure package without consulting, again, any Republicans.

We now hear that the White House and some Democratic leaders may want to pass this latest partisan proposal by reconciliation as well. I hope that is not true because, again, this is an area—infrastructure—where we have been able to work together on a bipartisan basis and get things done. In fact, typically that is how it happens with infrastructure.

Last Congress, we passed a bill out of committee on highways and bridges with a unanimous vote—not just a majority vote, a unanimous vote—by Republicans and Democrats. But the proposal they put forward, first, is not really about infrastructure because it dramatically expands the definition of “infrastructure” so that it is not at all what traditionally you would think or I would think of as the kind of hard assets—roads, bridges, ports, airports, transit, even broadband.

Even the most generous description of “infrastructure” applied to this bill means that less than 20 percent of it, 20 percent of \$2.3 trillion, is about infrastructure. It is about other things. And we can have a debate on those other things, whether it is nursing home subsidies or whether it is subsidies to electric car companies or whether it is more childcare. Those are all issues we can discuss, but they are not, obviously, infrastructure issues.

Proposing to pay for this huge plan with taxes on American workers makes it even worse. So the \$2.3 trillion plan is not mostly infrastructure—80 percent is not—but then the taxes that would apply to America and to American workers would be devastating, making us noncompetitive in the global economy again after finally we were getting our act together.

In 2018 and 2019, we saw a big increase in our economy, large increases in terms of employment. Also, wages were going up. We had the lowest poverty rate in the history of our country, going back to the 1950s, partly because we were putting in place policies that made sense in terms of tax reform to create more incentives to invest and bring jobs here to this country. That would all be changed under these tax increases that are being proposed to pay for this big, new Biden infrastructure package.

Making us less competitive in global markets and putting American workers at a disadvantage again is not the right way to go. The American people don't want that. The American people think we should be doing all we can to get businesses back on their feet right now so that people can get employment and so we can ensure that the economy continues to improve as we come out of the coronavirus pandemic.

Infrastructure, again, has always been so bipartisan. Why would, in this case, we want to take it down the partisan road?

Past Presidents, by the way, have shown that they can get big things done early in their administration. So during this first hundred days, there was an opportunity to reach out. I hope in the second hundred days, it will be different.

Let me give a couple of examples. When President Bill Clinton got elected, he worked with Republicans and Democrats to pass what was called the North American Free Trade Agreement. He got a lot of support from the Republican side of the aisle—in fact, even more than he got from the Democratic side of the aisle—and he pushed that through. Ronald Reagan's economic reforms of 1981 passed the Senate with an overwhelming margin of 89 to 11.

Last night, C-SPAN allowed us to look back in history at some of the speeches Presidents gave after their first hundred days. One was Ronald Reagan's speech to the joint session that I saw last night. It was amazing. Republicans and Democrats alike were

standing because President Reagan said: "I want to work with all of you." And he showed he would work with all of them by passing those economic reforms in 1981.

We should all want the Biden administration to succeed in putting in place bipartisan policies that help our constituents and help our country, but that can only happen if they agree to reverse course and engage with Republicans in a genuine way. That is clearly what the American people want. In a recent poll, a Washington Post and ABC poll, 60 percent of respondents, including two-thirds of Independents, said they wanted the Biden administration to work with Republicans to make these proposals bipartisan—twice the number that wanted him to pursue the partisan path chosen so far.

I suggest to my constituents in Ohio and all Americans who will be listening tonight: Don't just listen to the rhetoric; look at the action because the rhetoric thus far has not been matched by actions.

We were promised bipartisanship as a path toward unity. For the sake of our country, it is time to keep that promise.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I rise today to talk about how Congress can work together in a bipartisan way to pass infrastructure legislation, following my colleagues from Ohio, from Wyoming, from Iowa—and my colleague from North Carolina is here as well—with a real desire to come up with an infrastructure package, but we want it to be bipartisan.

Republicans and Democrats agree that investing in our national infrastructure is necessary to increase economic growth, ensure global competitiveness of American businesses, and create new, high-paying jobs. In fact, just last Congress, the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee unanimously approved a 5-year surface transportation reauthorization bill, which included about \$300 billion for roads and bridges. That actually represents a 27-percent increase over the FAST Act. We really feel that bill, with its bipartisan support, creates a starting point—a starting point on a bipartisan basis—for the negotiations that we should have in developing the infrastructure package.

Tonight we expect the President will outline his American Jobs Plan, but unfortunately it is not focused on infrastructure. It is a massive, \$2.25 trillion tax-and-spend bill that dedicates less than one-third, just over \$600 billion, toward actual traditional infrastructure.

The administration's plan would increase the corporate tax from 21 percent to 28 percent, resulting in reduced wages, increased costs for consumers, and a reduction in economic growth.

The Biden plan would revert the U.S. tax system to a worldwide tax system,

increasing taxes on U.S. multinational corporations, reducing the competitiveness of American businesses, and driving U.S. jobs and profits to other countries. The 2017 tax bill brought the United States into a territorial tax system for the taxation of multinational companies. It has worked. From 1985 to 2017, 85 U.S.-based multinational corporations took advantage of corporate inversions, resulting in a \$19.5 billion tax revenue loss to the U.S. Government. Since the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, there have been no corporate inversions. The Biden plan would abandon this successful approach.

Further, the administration has proposed a \$35 billion tax increase on U.S. energy producers, endangering U.S. energy independence, costing U.S. jobs, and empowering foreign energy production. A recent study from the National Association of Manufacturers shows that nearly 1 million jobs would be lost in the first 2 years alone if this tax increase goes through.

Tonight we expect to hear from President Biden on additional proposals to increase taxes on American workers as well as increase our debt and deficit. For instance, we have seen reports today that the President is going to seek to repeal stepped-up basis. Now, while the administration indicates there may be some exceptions, repealing stepped-up basis would place a significant and complex tax burden on small businesses and particularly family farms and ranches, not only in my State of North Dakota but across the country.

Right now, the average age of our farmers in America is about 60 years old, and we need to get the next generation into farming, but they can't do it if they have to sell the farm to pay the tax.

A repeal of stepped-up basis would increase the cost of capital, discourage investment, reduce the wages of workers, and stunt economic growth in both the immediate and long term. A recent analysis from Ernst & Young shows that eliminating stepped-up basis will result in the loss of 80,000 jobs a year for the next 10 years and a loss of nearly \$10 billion in GDP growth per year.

While we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, we should not be constraining economic growth by increasing taxes and regulation. Instead, we should maintain the pro-growth, low-tax regime put in place in 2017 by the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act and make targeted investments in traditional infrastructure, while reducing regulatory barriers to provide long-term certainty to Americans.

Last week, I met with President Biden at the White House to share this very message—that Republicans stand ready to work with the administration and our Democrat colleagues on the infrastructure package, in a bipartisan and targeted manner, focusing on updating our roads, bridges, railways, airports, broadband, and other traditional infrastructure.

We also support investing in energy infrastructure, including enhancing the 45Q tax credit to accelerate the deployment of carbon capture and sequestration technology, as well as pipelines to provide the safe and efficient transportation of our natural resources.

We should be working together for the American people to enact policies that will improve our national infrastructure. To this end, I want to highlight a number of bipartisan proposals that I have been working on with my colleagues across the aisle.

I have introduced bipartisan legislation with Senator SMITH, Senator CAPITO, Senator WHITEHOUSE, and others to enhance the 45Q tax credit for carbon capture and sequestration.

Also, Senator SMITH and I have legislation that would empower rural electric and telecom cooperatives to refinance existing debt, reinvest in improved energy efficiency, and expand broadband delivery to more of their rural customers.

Likewise, Senate Finance Committee Chairman WYDEN and I have introduced a bill that would encourage private investment in infrastructure by expanding private activity bonds and creating a new infrastructure tax credit.

Additionally, I have introduced legislation with Senator BENNET that ensures that our farmers, ranchers, and producers have the regulatory flexibility needed to safely and efficiently move their products—livestock, in particular—to market while ensuring the safety of all road users.

We don't need to burden hard-working Americans with increased taxes in order to pay for this. There are a number of potential options to provide the necessary revenue for a targeted infrastructure package. For example, we can make modest changes to our user-fee-based highway trust fund system, ensuring that electric vehicles pay into the fund. We can repurpose unused Federal spending, including using funds from the recent American Rescue Plan Act. We could also use revenue generated from energy production on Federal lands. These are just a few of the ideas we put forward.

Last week, Ranking Member CAPITO of the Environment and Public Works Committee, along with the ranking members of the Banking, Commerce, Energy, and Finance Committees, unveiled the framework of an almost \$600 billion infrastructure package, which focuses investment in traditional infrastructure.

We should use this framework and begin working through regular order in a committee-driven process to produce a bipartisan, targeted infrastructure bill that does not increase taxes on American workers. That way, we truly upgrade our infrastructure, create jobs, and keep our economy growing.

That is the right approach. We need to work in a bipartisan manner to get it done.

And with that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I want to thank my colleagues from North Dakota, Ohio, Wyoming, and Iowa, who have spoken before me, and my colleague from Kansas, after me.

I think Senator PORTMAN ended his statement by saying that we have heard the rhetoric, but we haven't seen the actions. Well, in North Carolina, our State motto, in Latin, is "Esse quam videri." It means: To be, rather than to seem.

I think our State motto does a good job of summarizing the first 100 days of the Biden administration. As a Presidential candidate, Joe Biden made it seem that he would govern as a moderate, pragmatic deal maker, and he set the bar high in his inaugural address. He said:

My whole soul is in this: bringing America together, uniting our people, [and] uniting our nation. I ask every American to join me in this cause.

I was actually inspired by that statement, and I am one of the Americans who was willing to work for him on that cause. In fact, I was 1 of the 10 Republicans who had the first official meeting with the President to see if we could come to common ground on the COVID relief package, after having successfully passed five bipartisan COVID relief packages in the last Congress.

Unfortunately, the President's actions have not corresponded with his promises to date. Instead of leading on his instincts to bring America together, President Biden has followed his advisers' recommendations to go it alone. He has pushed a highly partisan, ideologically driven agenda.

And you don't need to take my word for it. New York Representative ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ recently declared that President Biden has exceeded the expectations of progressives.

Indeed, there has been a lot in Biden's agenda for the left to like. It is an agenda designed to pass with no need for moderation and not a single Republican vote—no consensus whatsoever—proposing tax hikes on American families and businesses at a time that they are trying to rebound from the pandemic.

Ladies and gentlemen, we are in the middle of a national emergency. We are in the middle of a pandemic. We have spent and appropriated billions of dollars to healthcare, to businesses to recover. And now, long before the national emergency has been declared done, we are talking about taking those same dollars away.

Offering mixed messaging and failed policies that have caused a humanitarian and security crisis at the southern border is another issue. When I went down to the border about a month ago, the Press Secretary said: It is not a crisis; it is a situation. Now, a month later, the Press Secretary and the administration say it is a crisis, but now it is a catastrophe.

I saw a dead body floating in the Rio Grande River. Other people died. We

heard the report of a 9-year-old. That doesn't even count the number of people who died along the way.

It also doesn't count the 300 or 400 people who are called the "got-aways"—not the thousands who are coming in and going to the border agents but the hundreds every night who are crossing. They are bad actors. Many of them are gang members or they are smuggling drugs or are human traffickers, who are evading arrest. It is creating a dangerous situation. It is a catastrophe. The President hasn't spoken on it. To my knowledge, the Vice President has never gone down there to get a bird's eye view.

The President has embraced the Green New Deal policies, like canceling the Keystone Pipeline. That one stroke of a pen ended thousands of labor union jobs, good-paying jobs. But even more heartbreaking are the communities that would have benefited from all of that commerce occurring in some of the most rural areas and most economically challenged areas in our country.

They rammed through an entirely partisan \$2 trillion spending package. They called it COVID relief. But only about 9 percent of it actually had anything to do with continuing to recover from the damage that COVID has caused this country.

I am sure the President will talk about it tonight, a \$2.3 trillion—air quotes—infrastructure bill that isn't actually an infrastructure bill. In fact, they have been a little bit more intellectually honest. Now they are calling it human infrastructure.

I think most Americans, when you think about infrastructure, you think about roads, you think about bridges, you think about broadband. You don't think about human infrastructure. But that is what is being pitched today, and it is being pitched on a partisan basis, without even attempting to get a single Republican vote.

Americans did not elect President Biden to enact any of these partisan policies. They trusted him to come in and make deals—to settle for something less than 100 percent but something that was going to be embraced by more of the American people versus half, which is about where the President is today.

And he has pursued this for 100 days. I hope he changes his mind, but here is one reason why I am not optimistic. His most audacious action, in my opinion, is placating the far left and entertaining the idea of nuking the Senate legislative filibuster. In this very Chamber, 21 years ago, then-Senator Biden declared that defending the filibuster was about defending compromise and moderation. The promises he made on the campaign trail, the promise he made on the day of his inauguration—he noted that his speech was one of the most important he would ever give as a Senator, defending the filibuster. It is a shame that President Biden isn't demonstrating the

same political courage that Senator Biden did two decades earlier—the kind of courage that we are seeing today demonstrated by Senator MANCHIN and Senator SINEMA. Instead, the President has entertained the far left's push to eliminate the filibuster and destroy this institution, to end bipartisanship and compromise—they really are no longer a necessity—so that any piece of fringe legislation can pass with a simple majority.

The President, a 30-plus year defender of the filibuster, should know better than anyone. He knows that the left is demanding a Faustian bargain—trading 2 years for the far left to have free reign in exchange for permanent destabilization of our Republic, emboldening future demagogues on both ends of the spectrum.

Our country doesn't need more partisan pandering or political brinksmanship from this administration or from either party. That is why I stood against nuking the filibuster about 3 years ago, and I will as long as I am a U.S. Senator.

There are plenty of Republicans like me who are willing to work with President Biden and even put some of our supporters out of their comfort zone for the good of this Nation.

In fact, when I was sworn in, I said I would work to find common ground in areas where we may agree, and I would vigorously oppose policies where we do not. Unfortunately, to this point, I have only had the opportunity to do the latter.

The willingness to negotiate has only been a one-way street on the part of Republicans. I went to the White House to try to find common ground on another bipartisan COVID package, but it is ultimately up to the President whether he leads on bipartisanship instincts or follows his advisers who are pushing him to keep governing from the left.

Quite frankly, it doesn't matter what the President says about bipartisanship and uniting the country; it is what he does. And, tonight, I hope we will see it for the good of our great Nation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, on January 20, President Joe Biden gave his inaugural address to the American people, saying that in order to overcome the challenges we face as a nation and "to restore the soul and [to] secure the future of America requires more than words; it requires that most elusive of things in a democracy: unity. Unity."

I end the quote.

And he says for a second time: "Unity." In fact, he mentioned the word "unity" nine separate times throughout his inaugural remarks. Unfortunately, that "unity" President Biden preached about is nowhere to be found.

One hundred days in office, and there has been zero bipartisanship from the