This bill puts our military behind the eight ball. There is not one penny in this bill for Ukrainian assistance. As I speak tonight, Ukraine is engaged in a fight for its life. They are going on the offensive. I have high hopes in the coming days and weeks they will liberate part of their territory occupied by Russia.

The assistance we have provided in a bipartisan fashion with our European allies has made all the difference in the world. We were told after the invasion that it would fall in 4 days; but 60 days later, they are still fighting. The Russian Army has been weakened and bloodied because of the weapons we have provided. I appreciate the bipartisan support to make sure we win a war in Ukraine without one American soldier being involved.

If we can defeat Putin in Ukraine, that means China will, hopefully, take notice and Putin will be stopped, because if you don’t stop him in Ukraine, he will think we will be in a war between NATO and Russia.

So I appreciate all the hard work of the staff to make a statement to the people who are facing threats from China, from Russia, from Iran, that we have your back. I wish there were no war anywhere. I wish we could end the suffering of totalitarian governments and those who suffer most.

To my American citizen friends, I wish there were no war anywhere. I wish China wasn’t the way they are. I wish there were no war anywhere. I wish the Ayatollah didn’t want a nuclear weapon and would use it if he could. I wish that Putin would not have invaded Ukraine. I wish that the world was different than it is. But if you want peace and stability, it comes at a high price.

The good news for us is that not one American soldier has died evicting Russia from Ukraine. The Ukrainians have fought like tigers. It is in our national security interest to provide them the weapons and the technology to keep this fight up. Their win is our win.

So I look forward to hearing the statement that I think is forthcoming. It does not fix this bill totally, but it begins to march in the right direction. To my colleagues, thank you for listening. Thank you for working with me and others. Victory for Ukraine. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHUMER). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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 President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all votes after the first be 10-minute votes in length.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I am pleased—so pleased—to announce that both sides have just locked in an agreement that enables the Senate to pass legislation tonight, avoiding default.

For the information of my colleagues, this is what will happen on the floor: In a few minutes, the Senate will begin holding votes on 11 amendments—10 from the Republican side and 1 from the Democratic side.

To finish our work tonight, after the first amendment, we are limiting each vote to 10 minutes. So I ask my colleagues to stay in their seats or near the floor during the votes. Let’s keep this process moving quickly. After we finish voting on the amendments, we are immediately considering final passage, and by passing this bill, we will avoid default tonight.

America can breathe a sigh of relief—a sigh of relief—because, in this process, we are avoiding default. From the start, avoiding default has been our North Star. The consequences of defaulting would be catastrophic. It
would almost certainly cause another recession. It would be a nightmare for our economy and millions of American families. It would take years—perhaps decades—to recover from. But for all of the ups and downs and twists and turns it took to get here, it is so good for this country to see both parties have come together at last to avoid default.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their cooperation. Let’s finish the job and send this very important bipartisan bill to the President’s desk today.

Mr. President, I also want to dispel rumors and reassure our friends across the world about the Senate’s commitment and ability to respond to emerging threats and needs.

This debt ceiling deal does nothing to limit the Senate’s ability to appropriate emergency suplemental funds to ensure our military capabilities are sufficient to deter China, Russia, and our other adversaries and respond to ongoing and growing national security threats from Russia’s ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, our ongoing competition with China and its growing threat to Taiwan, Iranian threats to American interests and those of our partners in the Middle East, or any other emerging security crisis; nor does this debt ceiling deal limit the Senate’s ability to appropriate emergency/supplemental funds to respond to various national issues, such as disaster relief, or combating the fentanyl crisis, or other issues of national importance.

I know a strong bipartisan majority of Senators stands ready to receive and process emergency funding requests from the administration. The Senate is not about to ignore national needs nor abandon our friends and allies who face urgent threats from America’s most dangerous adversaries.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 107. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

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

AMENDMENT NO. 107

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I call up amendment No. 107 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Kentucky [Mr. PAUL] proposes an amendment numbered 107.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Five Penny Plan of 2023”.

SEC. 2. STATUTORY ENFORCEMENT OF OUTLAY LIMITS THROUGH SEQUESTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part C of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

``SEC. 250D. ENFORCING OUTLAY LIMITS.

(1) ENFORCING OUTLAY LIMITS.—In this section, the term ‘outlay limit’ means an amount equal to—

(1) for fiscal year 2024, $4,839,204,000,000 in outlays;

(2) for fiscal year 2025, $4,597,244,000,000 in outlays;

(3) for fiscal year 2026, $4,367,382,000,000 in outlays;

(4) for fiscal year 2027, $4,149,013,000,000 in outlays; and

(5) for fiscal year 2028, $3,941,562,000,000 in outlays.

(b) TOTAL FEDERAL OUTLAYS.—In this section, total Federal outlays shall include all on-budget outlays.

(c) SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) OMB REPORT.—Not later than 15 days after the end of session for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, OMB shall prepare a report specifying whether outlays for the preceding fiscal year exceeded the outlay limit for that fiscal year.

(2) SEQUESTRATION.—If a report under paragraph (1) shows that outlays for a fiscal year exceeded the outlay limits for that fiscal year, the President shall issue a sequestration order reducing direct spending and discretionary appropriations for the fiscal year for which outlays exceeded the limit by the uniform percentage necessary to reduce outlays during that fiscal year by the amount of the excess outlays.

(d) PROCEDURES.—In implementing the sequestration under paragraph (2), OMB shall follow the procedures specified in section 256 of this Act.

(1) CONSIDERATION IN HOUSE AND SENATE.—

``It shall not be in order in the House of Representatives or the Senate to consider any bill, joint resolution, amendment, or conference report that would cause the most recently reported current outlay limits set forth in subsection (a) to be exceeded.’’

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in section 250(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

``Sec. 250D. Enforcing outlay limits.’’

SEC. 3. LIMIT ON TOTAL SPENDING.

Section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (4); and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) through (21) as paragraphs (4) through (20), respectively.

SEC. 4. PUBLIC DEBT LIMIT.

Section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by striking ‘‘$14,294,000,000,000’’ and inserting ‘‘$14,794,000,000,000’’.

Mr. PAUL. The Biden-McCarthy debt deal will do nothing to avert the looming debt crisis. A debt deal that creates no limits to the debt accumulation over 2 years is not fiscally responsible and should be rejected.

My amendment replaces the spending caps with caps that balance the budget in 5 years and limits the extension of debt to $500 billion, and I urge a ‘‘yes’’ vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Mr. President, with all due respect to my colleague, I strongly urge a ‘‘no’’ vote.

This amendment would create catastrophic damage throughout the Federal economy with spending cuts as much as 37 percent by 2028, putting Federal programs like Medicare, Medicaid, border security, and transportation into extremely difficult circumstances. This is not the America that Americans expect, and we should not allow this vote to pass.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 107

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 107.

Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 107.

Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 107.

Is there a sufficient second? There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.
Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, about an hour ago, I entered a statement into the RECORD, and I would like to read it so the Members can hear it.

I want to also dispel rumors and reassure our friends across the world about the Senate's commitment and ability to respond to emerging threats and needs. This debt ceiling deal does nothing to limit the Senate's ability to appropriate emergency supplemental funds to ensure our military capabilities are sufficient to deter China, Russia, and our other adversaries and respond to ongoing and growing national security threats, including Russia's evil ongoing war of aggression against Ukraine, our ongoing competition with China and its growing threat to Taiwan, Iranian threats to American interests and those of our partners in the Middle East, or any other emerging security crisis; nor does this debt ceiling limit the Senate's ability to appropriate emergency supplemental funds to respond to various national issues, such as disaster relief, combating the fentanyl crisis, or other issues of national importance.

I know a strong bipartisan majority of Senators stands ready to receive and process funding requests from the administration. The Senate is not about to ignore our national needs nor abandon our friends and allies who face urgent threats from America's most dangerous adversaries.

Mr. President, I want to remind Members, we were indulgent in the first vote. That is over. We are doing 10-minute votes. Please stay in your seats so we can finish this bill at a reasonable hour.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Duly noted.

The Senator from Indiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 91

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 91 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk reads as follows:

The Senator from Indiana [Mr. BRAUN] proposes an amendment numbered 91.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To rescind discretionary appropriations in the event of a debt ceiling crisis period and to honor the full faith and credit of the debts of the United States in the event of a debt ceiling crisis)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___ Rescission of Discretionary Spending and Honoring Debts During a Debt Ceiling Crisis.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) CURRENT FISCAL YEAR.—The term "current fiscal year" means the fiscal year during which the applicable rescission of discretionary appropriations under subsection (b) occur.

(2) DEBT CEILING CRISIS PERIOD.—The term "debt ceiling crisis period" means a period—

(A) beginning on the date on which, but for subsection (c), the Secretary of the Treasury would be required to issue obligations under chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code, or other obligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States Government, of the Office of Management and Budget, to the Federal Reserve System, on the last day of the debt ceiling crisis period, 1 percent of the amount provided for the discretionary appropriations account under the Appropriations Act for the current fiscal year is permanently rescinded.

(b) RESCISSION OF DISCRETIONARY SPENDING.—The term "discretionary appropriations" has the meaning given such term in section 250(c) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900(c)).

(c) TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF DEBT CEILING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall not apply for the period—

(A) beginning on the first day of a debt ceiling crisis period; and

(B) ending on the last day of the debt ceiling crisis period.

(2) SPECIAL RULE RELATING TO OBLIGATIONS ISSUED DURING EXTENSION PERIOD.—Effective on the first day of a debt ceiling crisis period, the limitation in effect under section 3101(b) of title 31, United States Code, shall be increased to the extent that—

(A) the face amount of obligations issued under chapter 31 of such title and the face amount of obligations whose principal and interest are guaranteed by the United States Government (except guaranteed obligations held by the Secretary of the Treasury) outstanding on the first day of the debt ceiling crisis period; exceeds

(B) the face amount of such obligations outstanding on the last day of the debt ceiling crisis period.

(3) EXTENSION LIMITED TO NECESSARY OBLIGATIONS.—An obligation shall not be taken into account under paragraph (2)(A) unless the issuance of such obligation was necessary to fund a commitment incurred pursuant to law by the Federal Government that required payment on or before the last day of the applicable debt ceiling crisis period.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the first day of a debt ceiling crisis period, and every 30 days thereafter until the date that is 30 days after the end of the debt ceiling crisis period, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget submits each report under paragraph (1), the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report containing the description of the rescission of discretionary appropriations in the report by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is now 2 minutes of debate, equally divided.

Mr. BRAUN. This should be the easiest vote of the night. This is to take default off the table in future endeavors like this. This simply says that when we get notice that extraordinary measures are going to be incorporated—that happened in January, I believe, of this year; X date is this Monday—that if we do not do a bill that either raises the amount or changes the date, ideally with reforms, that on the X date, after we had 5 to 6 months to do it, we have 1 percent cuts across the board.
The PROSECUTOR pro tempore. The Senator’s time is expired.

Mr. MARSHALL. I am proud to introduce my amendment today and hope you will vote ‘yes’ and support it.

The PROSECUTOR pro tempore. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, we had a hearing this week in the Committee on the Judiciary. We had a grower from South Carolina, a guest of Senator GRAHAM. He professes to be the second largest peach grower in America. I asked him point-blank: If you had E-Verify on your farm today, what would happen to you and the growers who need workers?

He said: We would be out of business tomorrow.

That’s what your amendment does. It imposes E-Verify on farmers in Kansas and Illinois and all across the United States. We are not ready for this. You are going to put them out of business. And, secondly, it strips away all of the protections of unaccompanied children at the border. We do not want kids in cages anymore at the border. Please vote against this amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 125

Mr. SCHUMER. Ten minutes forty seconds. We have got 40 seconds to go, and we can get it all in 10.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The amendment is as follows: (Purpose: To provide adequate funding for defense and increase the rescission of funding for the Internal Revenue Service)

On page 5, line 18, strike "$886,349,000,000" and insert "$904,779,000,000"

On page 5, line 21, strike "$885,212,000,000" and insert "$950,017,950,000"

On page 51, line 22, strike "$1,389,525,000" and insert "$1,474,625,470,000"

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, the Fiscal Responsibility Act, unfortunately, does not meet the moment in terms of defending our Nation.

The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs and others have said we are now in the most dangerous period of any time since World War II. And yet this bill cuts defense spending in inflation-adjusted terms by approximately 3 percent this year and 5 percent next year. We need to recognize that the President’s defense budget, this bill shrinks the Navy, shrinks the Army, and shrinks the Marine Corps. Next year, it will take us below 3 percent of GDP spending for the first time in 25 years.

My amendment does what the Armed Services Committee and this Chamber have done in a broad bipartisan manner over the past 2 years. It significantly pluses up the inadequate defense budget submitted by the President. My amendment fully funds the Biden Pentagon’s unfunded priorities list by——

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator’s time has expired.

Mr. SULLIVAN. By $18 billion.
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senate’s time has expired.

Mr. SULLIVAN. And it raises—Madam President, I ask unanimous consent for 30 seconds more.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

Mr. SULLIVAN. And for fiscal year 2025, it raises the defense top line by 5 percent to simply keep pace with inflation. These increases are offsets by rescinding the additional amounts from the President’s $80 billion plus-up from the IRS.

So, my colleagues, the choice is clear: more Navy ships, soldiers, and marines to protect America or more IRS agents to harass Americans. I urge a “yes” vote on this important amendment.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon is recognized.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I oppose the gentleman’s amendment, and Senate Democrats will keep this Chamber on time.

There are three important reasons to vote against this amendment. First, it would be an even bigger Republican handout to wealthy tax cheats—nearly $200 billion. Second, at a time when Congress is supposed to be debating fiscal responsibility, this amendment doubles counts billions and billions of dollars by increasing the deficit with more spending on defense contractors and bigger handouts to wealthy tax cheats.

Finally, this Senate should focus on better service to taxpayers, improved information technology, and ending the free ride once and for all for information technology, and ending double-count billions and billions of dollars by increasing the deficit with the President’s $80 billion plus-up from the IRS.

I urge colleagues to oppose the amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 125

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. WICKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Missouri [Mr. HAWLEY] proposes an amendment numbered 93.

The amendment is as follows:

(a) CALCULATION OF TRADE WITH THE PEOPLE’S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—(1) the total value of articles imported into the United States from the People’s Republic of China comes into balance.

(b) IMPOSITION OF DUTIES.—(1) the total value calculated under paragraph (a) shall be in addition to any duty previously applicable with respect to an article.

(c) CONTINUOUS IMPOSITION OF DUTIES.—The duties imposed under subsection (b) with respect to articles imported into the United States from the People’s Republic of China shall remain in effect until the total value calculated under paragraph (a) is equal to or less than the total value calculated under paragraph (2) of that subsection for the preceding calendar year.

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, in the last 20 years in the State of Missouri, we have lost 60,000 jobs to the People’s Republic of China. That number nationwide is almost 4 million. Our trade deficit with China, as we stand here tonight, is at all-time record levels, and every dollar of that deficit represents blue-collar jobs destroyed, industry shuttered, manufacturing capacity withering away.

I would submit to you that it is the most important deficit that we face. We can talk about budget reforms, and we can talk about savings here and there, but until we do the work of bringing back productive capacity to this Nation and good-paying blue-collar jobs, you can raise a family on the tax bill, we will not put our economy on the basis that we need to address the economic challenges that we face.

So my amendment does something very simple. It imposes across-the-board tariffs on China for every year in which we have a trade deficit until that deficit is zero. Bring back jobs to this country.

I urge a “yes” vote.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator’s time has expired.

The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. Madam President, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

I take a back seat to no one when it comes to standing up to China. LINDSEY GRAHAM and I have been fighting to close the trade deficit for decades.

I went to junior high at Johnny Appleseed Junior High in Mansfield, Ohio, with the son and daughters of machinists and IUE members and steelworkers and auto workers and carpenters and millwrights and plumbers and pipeliners and operating engineers. Ten years later, most of these jobs were gone, and so much of industrial America all over the country has been lost because of bad trade policy with China.

But do you know? The People’s Republic of China would love for us to pass this amendment because, if it passes, the United States of America will default, and they will be rejoicing in Beijing.

Stand up to China. Vote no on this amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 93

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 93.

Mr. HAWLEY. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.
The legislative clerk called the roll. Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: The Senator from Tennessee Mr. (HAGERTY).

The result was announced—yeas 17, nays 81, as follows:

[RoJollCall Vote No. 140 Leg.]

YEAS—17

Blackburn Lumas Schmitt
Bennet Grassley Peters
Blumenthal Hassan Reed
Booker Heinrich Romney
Boozeman Hickenlooper Rosen
Brown Hirono Rounds
Budd Hoeven Sanders
Cantwell Johnson Schatz
Capito Kaine Schumer
Cardin Kelly Shaheen
Carper Kennedy Sinema
Casey King Smith
Cassidy Klobuchar Stabenow
Collins Lankford Sullivan
Coons Lee Tester
Coryn Lujan Thune
Cortez Masto Manchin Tillis
Cotton Markley Van Hollen
Cramer McConnell Warner
Crapo Menendez Warrick
Cruz Merkley Warren
Daines Moran Welch
Duckworth Markiewski Whitehouse
Durbin Murphy Wicker
Ernst Murray Wyden
Feinstein Ossoff Young

NOT VOTING—2

Feinstein Hagerty

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 17, the nays are 81.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to.

The amendment (No. 99) was rejected. Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, we are slipping a little—11 minutes. Let's stay in our seats.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

AMENDMENT NO. 104

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 104 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

[The text of the amendment is not transcribed.]

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To remove the sunset on modification of work requirement exemptions)

In division C, in section 311, strike subsection (b) and insert the following:

(b) APPLICATION—A State agency shall apply section 603(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(h)(3)), as amended by subsection (a), to any application for initial certification or recertification received starting 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator will be notified that there is 6 minutes, equally divided, to this amendment under the previous agreement.

The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, the America are the most generous people in the world. In our country, if you are hungry, we will feed you. If you are homeless, we will try to house you. If you are sick, we will pay for your doctor. I am very proud of that, and I am too. However, those who can work should work. Those who can work should work.

A person without a job is not healthy, not happy, and not free. History has demonstrated that the best social program is a job. Free enterprise has lifted more people out of poverty than all the social programs put together. So while we should continue to be generous to our neighbors as Americans, we what we are talking about and repeat often: Those who can work should work.

My amendment would make the food stamp work requirement permanent in this bill. It would remove the sunset.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, first of all, the great news is, we have a robust economy growing, more small businesses opening, the lowest unemployment rate in a generation, and we all want people to be able to work.

Let me speak to the reality of what is in this bill. First of all, we have had work requirements for people who are single adults with no dependents since the 1990s. If you don’t work, if you are not in school, the most you can qualify for is 3 months’ worth of SNAP within 3 years. That is current law—§6 is a day is what we are talking about.

This bill extends that out in terms of the age, of the number of people required to be in school or at work, with certainly important exemptions for our seniors, for our veterans, and our homebound, and it is in place until 2030.

Here is my question: How do you tell your constituents that you are willing to default, create a catastrophic default now that will raise their unemployment, cost us jobs, raise interest rates, and so on, because you want to change something that is going to be in place until 2030? We have plenty of time to revisit it at that point. This is a bipartisan agreement.

I would just suggest it is very irresponsible for us to change something here that we know—the House is gone. We are going to go into default. We make a change and say it is because we wanted something to be extended beyond 2030. I would suggest we give this a chance, evaluate it.

I would suggest we vote no.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there further debate?

Mr. KENNEDY. Yes, Madam President.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 1 minute 11 seconds remaining.

Mr. KENNEDY. Thank you, Madam President.

I think we all know the June 5 deadline is a fiction. It is. We know that. We know that the Treasury Secretary can take special measures to extend the deadline until the middle of June, when tax revenues will come in. I understand the need to go ahead and act, but we all know that.

Let me say it again. Those who can work should work. Those who can work should work, and that is all my amendment does.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 104

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. WICKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: The Senator from Texas Mr. (CRUZ) and the Senator from Tennessee Mr. (HAGERTY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 46, nays 51, as follows:

[RoJollCall Vote No. 114 Leg.]

YEAS—46

Barrasso Graham Risch
Blackburn Grassey Romney
Boozman Hawley Rounds
Braun Hoeven Rubio
Budd Hyde-Smith Schmitt
Capito Johnson Scott (FL)
Daines Kennedy Scott (SC)
Duckworth Lankford Sullivan
Durbin Murphy Tester
Ernst Murray Wyden
Fetterman Ossoff Young

NOT VOTING—3

Cruz Feinstein Hagerty

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. KLOBUCAR). On this vote, the yeas are 46, the nays are 51.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is not agreed to. The amendment (No. 104) was rejected.
The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, 10½ minutes. We are getting a little better than last time. Let’s get it down to 10. Stay here. We are all getting to know which one we are.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

AMENDMENT NO. 106

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 106 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Arkansas [Mr. Cotton] proposes an amendment numbered 106.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To provide appropriate adjustments to the discretionary spending limits, in the event of funding under a continuing resolution)

Strike section 102 and insert the following:

SEC. 102. SPECIAL ADJUSTMENTS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024 AND 2025.

Section 251 of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is amended at the end of the following:

“(d) REvised DISCRETIONARY SPENDING LIMITS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024.—

“(1) In general.—Subject to paragraph (3), if on or after January 1, 2024, there is in effect an Act making continuing appropriations for part of fiscal year 2024 for any discretionary budget account, the discretionary spending limits specified in subsection (c)(9) for fiscal year 2024 shall be adjusted in the final sequestration report, in accordance with paragraph (2), as follows:

“(A) For the revised security category, the amount specified in subsection (c)(9)(A), reduced by one percent.

“(B) For the revised nonsecurity category, the amount specified in subsection (c)(9)(B), reduced by one percent.

“(2) Final report; sequestration order.—If the conditions specified in paragraph (1) are met during fiscal year 2024, the final sequestration report for such fiscal year pursuant to section 254(f)(1) and any order pursuant to section 254(f)(3) shall be issued on the following:

“(A) 10 days, not including weekends and holidays, for the Congressional Budget Office, and 15 days, not including weekends and holidays, for the Office of Management and Budget, after the enactment into law of annual full-year appropriations for all budget accounts that normally receive such annual appropriations (or the enactment of the applicable full-year appropriations Acts without any provision for such accounts); or

“(B) April 30, 2025.

“(3) Reversal.—If, after January 1, 2025, there are enacted into law each of the full year discretionary appropriation Acts, then the adjustment to the applicable discretionary spending limits in paragraph (1) shall have no force or effect, and the discretionary spending limits for the revised security category and revised nonsecurity category for the applicable fiscal year shall be such limits as in effect on December 31 of the applicable fiscal year.”

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, colleagues, this bill has budget caps for domestic and defense spending. I don’t like the defense number this year. I like it even less next year. That is why I am opposing it.

But it also has a much worse provision. It has a 1-percent automatic reduction that is based on last year’s omnibus, not the caps on this bill. Let me restate that: last year’s omnibus, not this bill.

So if we go to a continuing resolution on October 1, which we almost always do, domestic spending will go up by $61 billion while defense goes down by $27 billion—not the caps in this bill.

If the sequester of 1 percent kicks in, domestic spending will go up by $61 billion and defense will go down by $37 billion. Progressives will get more welfare for grown men who refuse to work while defense is slashed. Think about the incentives this gives to the Democratic leader when it comes to appropriations bills.

I ask for a simple change in this amendment. The sequester should be based on the caps that you are about to agree to, not last year’s spending bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I rise in opposition to the Senator’s amendment.

Our defense spending is critical, but so are our investments to combat fentanyl; rebuild American manufacturing, especially for chips; improve access to childcare, early learning, and a lot more. We cannot shortchange our investments in families and our country’s future, and the underlying bill will already force painful cuts.

This amendment would make it so the consequences of failing to pass our appropriations bills falls heavily on our nondefense programs, and that will hurt our families across the country. Let me be clear. We will not let that happen.

None of us want to end up in a situation where we have a CR in the first place. That is exactly why I am committed to making sure that we write the strongest 12 funding bills possible and get them passed in a timely way.

This amendment will set us back even further and target the programs that are a lifeline for working people in this country.

I urge my colleagues to vote no.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 106

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. WICKER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. Hagerty).

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 142 Leg.]

YEAS—48

Barrasso       Cass    Heinrich     Portman
Blackburn      Cruz       Fischer     Paul
Boozman       Collins     Grassley    Paul
Braun          Collins     Hawley      McConnell
Britt         Cotton      Hoeven      Rounds
Budd       Coney      Hyde-Smith   Rubio
Capito        Cosumano   Johnson     Schrader
Cassidy        Cornyn     Kennedy     Scott (Fla)
Collins        Cotton     Lankford    Scott (Rc)
Collins        Crapo      Lee         Sullivan
Cotton        Crapo      Lummis      Taylor
Cramer        Crapo      McCain      Tiahrt
Crapo         Crapo      McCaskill   Tillis
Crus           Crapo      Moran       Vargo
Daines         Crapo      Mulin       Wicker
Ernst      Daines       Murkowski   Young

NAYS—51

Baldufar       Carper     Heinrich     Reed
Bennet         Casey       Hickenlooper Rosen
Bennet         Casey       Hirono      Sanders
Booker          Casey       Kaine       Schatz
Brown           Casey       Kelly       Schumer
Cantwell       Corzine     King         Shaheen
Carter          Cortez      Kludtchar    Simon
Carper          Cortez      Lujan       Smith
Casey           Cortez      Manchin     Slaven
Casey           Duckworth  Mckay       Tester
Casey           Duckworth  Menendez    Van Hollen
Casey           Duckworth  Mckay       Warner
Casey           Duckworth  Murphy      Warnock
Feinstein       Duckworth  Murray      Warren
Fetterman       Duckworth  Ozsoy       Welch
Gillibrand       Duckworth  Padilla     Whitehouse
Hassan          Duckworth  Peters      Wyden

NOT VOTING—1

Hagerty

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 48 and the nays are 51.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for the adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

The amendment (No. 106) was rejected.
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Who seeks recognition?

The Senator from North Carolina is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 134

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to call up Senate amendment No. 134 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The bill clerk read the amendment as follows:

The Senator from North Carolina [Mr. BUDD] proposes an amendment numbered 134.

The amendment is as follows:

Strike title I of division B and insert the following:

TITLE I—RESCISION OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS

SEC. 201. RESCISION OF UNOBLIGATED CORONAVIRUS FUNDS.

The unobligated balances of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available by the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–2) and by each of Public Laws 116–123, 116–127, 116–136, and 116–139 and divisions L and N of Public Law 116–260, are hereby permanently rescinded, except for—

(1) such amounts that were appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs; and

(2) amounts made available under section 601 of division HH of Public Law 117–32.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, on March 13 of 2020, the Federal Government declared a national emergency concerning the COVID–19 pandemic. More than 3 years later, on May 11, 2023, that declaration ended. And yet, to this day, billions of COVID dollars throughout the Federal Government remain unspent.

So let’s be clear. Each and every one of those dollars came from a hardworking taxpayer, from a working family’s budget. That is why my amendment would rescind an additional $17 billion of unspent COVID money.

If we really want the Piscataway Responsibility Act to live up to its name, the least we can do is to rescind the taxpayer dollars that remain to fight a pandemic that everyone knows is over. Every taxpayer dollar is sacred and should be treated that way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I rise in opposition.

The bipartisan package importantly negotiated between Speaker McCarthy and President Biden, in fact, makes specific rescissions to unused COVID funds while protecting important funding for programs that are still necessary to support our community.

This amendment, colleagues, goes beyond the McCarthy-Biden agreement. This amendment would take an ax to nearly all of the funding in the Recovery Act and several other COVID bills, even if the communities are still dependent on or planning on using that money.

Blue States or red States, pass this amendment and you risk default. I strongly urge a vote against this amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 134

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, any remaining time?

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator has 5 seconds.

Mr. BUDD. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE, the following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY).

The result was announced—yeas 47 nays 52, as follows:

[Holcall Vote No. 143 Leg.]

YEAS—47

Barrasso   Blackburn   Blackburn   Boozman
Blumenthal   Boozman   Brown   Carper
Casey   Cassidy   Cornyn   Cotton
Cromartie   Cruz   Daines   Ernst

NAYS—52

Baldwin   Bennet   Blumenthal   Booker
Brown   Canwell   Cantwell   Cardin
Casey   Carper   Carstens Mastro   Duckworth
Durbin   Feinstein   Petersman   Hilliard
Hassan   Heinrich

Not Voting—1

Hagerty

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 47, the nays are 52.

Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for adoption of this amendment, the amendment is rejected.

The amendment (No. 134) was rejected.

Mr. SCHUMER. All right, everybody, that is our record—9:20. Let’s beat it.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Utah.

AMENDMENT NO. 98

Mr. LEE. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 98 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The amendment is simple. It strikes section 265 of this bill. Section 263 creates a regulatory pay-go measure, but section 265 nullifies that by giving outside, complete discretion to the Director of OMB—who, by the way, just announced the day before yesterday from the White House that she would use this effectively to nullify the regulatory pay-as-you-go measure.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on the amendment.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 98

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

Mr. LEE. I ask for the yeas and nays. The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY).

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 51, as follows:
Barrasso
Blackburn
Boozman
Brown
Britt
Budd
Capito
Collins
Coryn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Daines
Ernst

VerDate Sep 11 2014 19:01 Jun 07, 2023 Jkt 039060 PO 00000 Frm 00034 Fmt 0624 Sfmt 0634 E:\RECORD23\JUNE\S01JN3.REC sradovich on DSKJLST7X2PROD with DIGEST

with Senators CAPITO and MANCHIN

(Purpose: To strike a provision relating to clerk will report the amendment by
up my amendment No. 101 and ask that
Senator from Virginia.

Feinstein
Duckworth
Casey
Carper
Blumenthal
Cruz
Cornyn
Collins
Cassidy
Capito
Budd
Britt
Barrasso
Peters
Wyden

The amendment (No. 98) was rejected.
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 101 and ask that it be reported by number.
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment by number.
The bill clerk read as follows:
The Senator from Virginia [Mr. KAINE] proposes an amendment numbered 101.
The amendment is as follows:
(Purpose: To strike a provision relating to expediting completion of the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Strike section 324.

Mr. KAINE. I ask unanimous consent that there be 4 minutes equally divided prior to the vote on my amendment, with Senators CAPITO and MANCHIN each controlling 1 minute in opposition.
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.
Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I rise to offer an amendment to strip a single provision out of this bill: the provision green-lighting the Mountain Valley Pipeline.
I offer my amendment for three reasons.
First, this provision that would put Congress’s thumb on a permitting scale is completely unrelated to the debt ceiling and should not be included in this bill.
Second, I object on behalf of Virginia landowners. If you could build a pipeline in midair, that is one thing. But the only way I could do it is to be eminent domain to take people’s land. Virginians don’t want to have their land taken for a pipeline unless there is a thorough process where they have all the rights accorded to them by law, administrative agency, and judicial review. Cutting off those rights is disrespectful to these landowners, who, in this part of the State, sometimes land is all they have, and it has been in their families for generations.
Finally, this bill would strip jurisdiction of a case away from the Fourth Circuit in the middle of the case. That is unprecedented and historic.
I used to try cases all the time in this circuit. I lost them, and I would appeal them. But I wouldn’t try to get Congress to strip jurisdiction away from the court because I was unhappy. No everyday person gets this deal. No criminal defendant gets this deal. No small business gets this deal. Nobody gets this deal, and we shouldn’t give it to some company just because they are powerful and they have influence in Congress.
For these reasons I ask for a “yes” vote on my amendment.
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise in opposition to the Senator’s amendment. This Mountain Valley Pipeline is an important infrastructure. It has been vetted numerous times. It has permitting—all permits that are from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, the Fish and Wildlife, and the Bureau of Land Management. These are all permits through both administrations—both the Biden and Trump administrations—that have already been offered. They are in a judicial hellhole right now where they can’t get out. This is absolutely essential to the eastern seaboard.
It is jobs and tax revenues in the State of West Virginia, and I think this is an opportunity for us to cut through this redtape and move forward with the very essential infrastructure package.
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Madam President, I also rise in opposition. For eight years—eight years—and three administrations this project has been under review. Eight times NEPA—eight times of NEPA reviews. Three times through every Agency. This has been reviewed more than anything in the United States of America. The people in this eastern part of our country, especially in the Carolinas, are paying sometimes 10 times more for gas because of the shortages during severe weather.
This is critical for the people of this country. If you believe in energy independence, and you believe that we should be the superpower of the world, this helps us do that. It puts more product in the market than anything that we have available. This will be up and running in 6 months. Already, 293 miles are already built. We only have 20 more miles to go to finish it. It is time to finish this project.

Please vote no on this, an amendment by my friend, who I respectfully disagree with.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 101

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 101.

Mr. KAINE. I ask for the yeas and nays.
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?
There appears to be a sufficient second.
The clerk will call the roll.
The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY).
The result was announced—yeas 30, nays 69, as follows:

(Roll Call Vote No. 145 Leg.)

YEAS—30

Baldwin
Ben net
Blin smen tal
Booker
Brown
Cantwell
Cardin
Cardy
Carper
Casey
Coons
Cortez Masto
Duckworth
Durbin
Feinstein
Fetterman
Gillibrand
Hassan

NAYS—69

Barrasso
Blackburn
Boozman
Brown
Britt
Budd
Capito
Cassidy
Collins
Cox
Cox
Coryn
Cotton
Cramer
Crapo
Cru
Daines
Duckworth
Durbin
Ernst
Feinstein
Fetterman

Hagerty

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 30, the nays are 69.

The amendment is not agreed to.
The amendment (No. 101) was rejected.

AMENDMENT NO. 102

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.
Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I call up my amendment No. 102 and ask that it be reported by number.
The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment by number.
The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:
The Senator from Louisiana [Mr. KENNEDY] proposes an amendment numbered 102.
The amendment is as follows:
(Purpose: To require up-to-date employment data for waivers of work requirements)
SEC. 312. WAIVERS.

Section 6(o)(4)(A)(i) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(4)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting ‘‘; as determined by the most up-to-date employment data’’ before ‘‘; or’’. The PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this amendment, there is 6 minutes of debate, equally divided.

The Senator from Louisiana is recognized.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, this is the last amendment of the evening. I have 3 minutes. I can read a room, and I can count votes.

This amendment would require States to use the most up-to-date unemployment data for waivers of food stamp work requirements. Thank you.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I will be equally brief. The good news is this is already required by law.

This is a total duplication. States must already provide up-to-date employment data in order to measure if they hit a 10-percent unemployment rate in order to get a State waiver. This amendment Please do not risk a default of our country on language that is already in the law.

Would my friend accept a voice vote?

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, the amendment (No. 102) was rejected. The amendment (No. 102) was rejected.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, for 2 years, Democrats had control of the House, the Senate, and the Presidency. They took the reins of power as the majority in the House, the Senate, and the Presidency, and they hit a 10-percent unemployment rate in order to get a State waiver. This amendment Please do not risk a default of our country on language that is already in the law.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, the amendment (No. 102) was rejected.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I will accept a voice vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 102

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 102) was rejected.

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The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I will accept a voice vote.

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The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I will accept a voice vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 102

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VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 102

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The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I will accept a voice vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 102

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Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, the amendment (No. 102) was rejected.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Louisiana.

Mr. KENNEDY. Madam President, I will accept a voice vote.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 102

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is on agreeing to the amendment.

The amendment (No. 102) was rejected.
the work being accomplished. Such accountability is a top priority.

With respect to the Direct eFile system, the IRS has provided no evidence it has authority to create such a system, and, indeed, the evidence strongly indicates it does not. The IRS will also have to explain how it has not violated case law prohibiting study provisions authorized by Congress from being converted by administrative agencies into implementation decisions, as well as those addressing instances where the IRS has been found to have unilaterally acted beyond its statutory authority.

Make no mistake: Congress has the final say on the ability of the IRS to build Direct eFile programs that puts the IRS—the tax collector and enforcer—in the business of tax preparation. Beyond this clearly being Congress's prerogative, many policy reasons weigh against the IRS action, including the irreconcilable conflict of interest of the IRS being tax return preparer, adviser, collector, enforcer, and, in many cases, adjudicator.

It is particularly poignantly in the context of a bill that attempts to rein in excessive Federal spending to address an Agency action that will assuredly result in billions in future, and ongoing, expenses to the Federal fisc. We must return to regular order and let Congress express itself, rather than be ignored by an Agency intent on overstepping its bounds.

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, the CHIPS for America Act uses innovative funding tools to incentivize private companies to construct, modernize, or expand semiconductor-manufacturing facilities in the United States. Properly structured, these incentives can encourage companies to build more facilities, faster, than with- out Federal support. In order to maxi- mize this opportunity to bring chip manufacturing back to the United States, we can’t allow redundant regulations to delay projects already under- way.

The benefit of Federal funding has in- fluenced the pace of investment in the U.S. At the same time, Federal funding doesn’t control the outcomes of projects that are currently being constructed. The role of the Department of Com- merce under the CHIPS for America Act is to determine whether the project is worthy of investing taxpayer dollars.

The enactment of the CHIPS for America Act has greatly accelerated the pace of investment in the U.S., but a Federal grant will not create control over the outcome of project plans that are already being implemented. Nota- bly, Arizona has four new leading-edge semiconductor fabs under construction.

These were announced after the CHIPS for America Act was enacted and with the hope for potential Federal support, but companies aren’t going to walk away from the multi-billion investment they have already made into these ongoing projects.

The change to the definition of “major Federal action” included in section 111 of H.R. 3746, the Fiscal Re- sponsibility Act of 2023, will ensure that certain projects that would not otherwise be subject to the National Environmental Policy Act—NEPA—do not in fact trigger NEPA simply by receiving a Federal incentive investment through programs, like the CHIPS for America Act, where the provision of Federal funds does not control the out- come of the project. It is important to note that privately funded semiconductor manufacturing facilities under- go significant environmental reviews.

I am grateful that H.R. 3746 clarifies the scope of NEPA as it applies to this narrow subset of projects where Fed- eral agencies do not control the out- come of a project.

Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, today the Senate takes up legislation to avert an economically catastrophic default on U.S. sovereign obligations. The Department of the Treasury has advised the Congress that without pas- sage of this legislation by June 5, the United States will default.

Any modifications to the legislative text under consideration by the Senate will require reconsideration of the measure by the House, pushing passage of such legislation past Treasury’s June 5 deadline and forcing a default. Our overriding governing responsibility is to avoid default and the massive eco- nomic damage it would impose on American families and businesses.

Accordingly, I will oppose all amend- ments offered to this measure to en- sure Senate passage of the measure as passed by the House and to protect families and businesses from economic catastrophe.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, first, I want to thank everybody for co- operating. I think we got the most votes in the least time.

Second, and more importantly, we are about to vote on something so im- portant to the country, and so many of us on both sides of the aisle will know that if we do this, we will not default. That is very, very important.

Thank you for your cooperation.

The next vote is Tuesday at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. THUNE. The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). On this vote, the yeas are 63, the nays are 36.

The 60-vote threshold having been achieved, the bill is passed.

The bill (H.R. 3746) was passed, Mr. THUNE. 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. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). Without objection, it is so or- dered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 179.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nominations.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Crane, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary of Energy.