

✘ Mitch McConnell announced on the Senate floor today that Donald Trump will sign the new border compromise, then declare a National Emergency at the border, and use Presidential powers under the Emergency declaration to fund at least part of his border wall. Demonstrating his central philosophical principle — party over country — McConnell announced his support for the move, meaning that the Senate will most likely not override Trump's veto of any Congressional resolution of disapproval. (This resolution itself has time-limited debate, meaning it cannot be filibustered).

The outrageousness of the move cannot be overstated. If a patently false emergency can be concocted to allow the President to move money around, then it represents a pretty stunning abdication of the Congressional power of the purse.

But what goes around comes around. A President Harris, or Warren, or Booker, etc. etc. can just as easily declare a National Emergency on Climate Change — one that would have a far better factual predicate than Trump's patently false border emergency — and he or she will have a lot more money to move around. After all, a lot of the climate crisis is about infrastructure, and if the relevant statute allows the President to move money from one project to another, then it is *very* easy to do that. [Or the \\$100 billion that DOD has for national security emergencies](#): given that both the Pentagon and the heads of the national intelligence agencies have already said that climate represents a serious national security challenge, it's not a hard legal lift (assuming intellectually honest and consistent judges, which of course we cannot). This fund must be for a military purpose, and a smarter, more energy efficient energy grid could do the trick.

It's no way to run a democracy. But Trump and the GOP have made it clear that they do not believe in democracy, and as [Robert Axelrod demonstrated years ago in his classic book *The Evolution of Cooperation*](#), the best strategy in repeat-player games to facilitate cooperation is playing Tit-For-Tat.