

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8574

To authorize the Secretary of State to provide funds for a United States pavilion or other major exhibit at any international exposition or world's fair, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 29, 2026

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of State to provide funds for a United States pavilion or other major exhibit at any international exposition or world's fair, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “U.S. Participation in
5 International Expositions Act” or the “U.S. in Expos
6 Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Since 1851, Expos have introduced global
2 consumer markets to United States culture, prod-
3 ucts, and technology, showcasing innovations such as
4 x-ray machines, typewriters, touchscreens, the Ford
5 Mustang, Disneyland, the Statue of Liberty, elec-
6 tricity, and much more.

7 (2) These global mega-events have not only
8 been platforms to display architectural marvels and
9 technological advancement but have also served as
10 opportunities for cultural exchange and diplomatic
11 engagement.

12 (3) The United States uses Expos to promote
13 American innovation, culture, and values, engaging
14 global audiences and demonstrating the benefits of
15 democratic principles, including free and fair trade
16 and representative government.

17 (4) Expos facilitate people-to-people diplomacy
18 while showcasing the latest American innovations
19 that can help address global challenges and change
20 the way we live.

21 (5) Expos are also competitive environments,
22 where visible American engagement sends a message
23 to visitors about United States leadership on the
24 global stage.

1 (6) The Department of State is responsible for
2 United States participation in international exhibi-
3 tions, managing United States engagement with the
4 Bureau of International Expositions (BIE), orga-
5 nizing United States participation at overseas
6 Expos, and mobilizing international support for
7 United States candidacies to host Expos.

8 (7) The United States has hosted more than
9 two dozen world's fairs since its first in 1876 in
10 Philadelphia.

11 (8) The last United States-hosted world's fair
12 was "The World of Rivers: Fresh Water as a Source
13 of Life" in New Orleans in 1984, which included 15
14 participating countries and drew 7.355 million visi-
15 tors.

16 (9) Beginning in 1994, a statutory restriction
17 limited Federal funding for United States presence
18 at Expos.

19 (10) Until the 2025 Expo in Osaka, the United
20 States was the only G7 country that relies on private
21 donations to guarantee its presence at world expos,
22 and the only country in the world that relied entirely
23 on private funding for the creation of its pavilion.

24 (11) Sole reliance on private sector fundraising
25 has caused the United States to miss out on impor-

1 tant opportunities, including pulling out of the Han-
2 over, Germany, Expo in 2000 and turning down an
3 invitation to the Zaragoza, Spain, Expo in 2008.

4 (12) Most recently, despite a two-year fund-
5 raising campaign, the Department of State was un-
6 able to raise private sector support for the United
7 States Pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai, and had to ac-
8 cept support from the United Arab Emirates, the
9 first time in history that a United States Pavilion at
10 a world's fair was funded by the host country.

11 (13) In recognition of delays, design com-
12 promise, and the risk of not participating at all due
13 to lack of Federal funding, Congress passed the
14 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, which au-
15 thorized the use of up to \$25 million to support the
16 United States pavilion at the 2025 Expo in Osaka,
17 Japan—the first authorization of its type.

18 (14) The United States pavilion at the 2025
19 Expo not only highlighted American leadership in
20 technology, space exploration, tourism, and invest-
21 ment, but also proved to be the most popular pavil-
22 ion, welcoming tens of millions of global visitors.

23 (15) The United States should consider such
24 participation a diplomatic priority and make the nec-
25 essary investments to continue to fund a United

1 States Pavilion that best tells America's story to the
2 millions of world visitors attending these mega-
3 events.

4 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF LIMITATION ON USE OF FUNDS FOR**
5 **INTERNATIONAL EXPOSITIONS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 204 of the Admiral James
7 W. Nance and Meg Donovan Foreign Relations Authoriza-
8 tion Act, Fiscal Years 2000 and 2001 (22 U.S.C. 2452b)
9 is repealed.

10 (b) NOTIFICATION.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Funds otherwise available to
12 the Department of State may be obligated for a
13 United States pavilion at an international fair or ex-
14 position abroad registered by the Bureau of Inter-
15 national Expositions only if the appropriate congres-
16 sional committees are notified not less than 15 days
17 prior to such obligation.

18 (2) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—Such notifi-
19 cation shall include the following:

20 (A) A description of the source of such
21 funds, including any funds reprogrammed or
22 transferred by the Department of State to be
23 made available for such pavilion.

1 (B) An estimate of the amount of invest-
2 ment such pavilion could bring to the United
3 States.

4 (C) A description of funds for the pavilion
5 expected to be provided from sources other than
6 the United States Government.

7 (D) A description of the means by which
8 the Department will require each entity receiv-
9 ing funds from the Department under a con-
10 tract, grant, or other agreement to construct,
11 maintain, or otherwise service such pavilion to
12 certify that such entity—

13 (i) is not in violation of the labor laws
14 of the host country, the Foreign Corrupt
15 Practices Act of 1977 (Public Law 95–
16 213), and any other applicable anti-corrup-
17 tion laws; and

18 (ii) does not employ, or otherwise uti-
19 lize, a victim of trafficking (as defined in
20 section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Pro-
21 tection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102)).

22 (c) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after
23 the date on which such a United States pavilion is opened,
24 the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate con-
25 gressional committees a report that includes—

1 (1) the number of United States businesses
2 that participated in such pavilion; and

3 (2) the dollar amount and source of any funds
4 from other sources obtained by the Department.

5 (d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
6 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
7 gressional committees” means the following:

8 (1) The Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
9 Committee on Appropriations of the House of Rep-
10 resentatives.

11 (2) The Committee on Foreign Relations and
12 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

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