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No. 20

## House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARL).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

February 5, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JERRY L. CARL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

### IMMIGRATION PLAN WOULD DO IRREPARABLE HARM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, last night, the Senate released the text of legislation that would do irreparable harm to our border security.

By announcing a plan that permits thousands of illegal immigrants to enter the United States and creates new avenues for asylum, this is a bill

that will only make our Nation more dangerous.

Incentivizing more illegal immigration will not address the crisis that has been created in border communities like Eagle Pass, Texas, or major cities like New York, where schools have been forced to close in order to house undocumented migrants.

Since Joe Biden took office, there have been more than 8 million illegal border crossings and 1.7 million known got-aways that have evaded our Border Patrol agents.

This massive surge has led to Border Patrol agents being forced to suspend vehicle inspections and patrols in order to handle the influx, leading to more opportunities for cartels to bring dangerous drugs like heroin, methamphetamine, and fentanyl into the United States.

It is clear that these issues are not being addressed by Homeland Security Secretary Mayorkas and that his policies have contributed to a national security crisis.

Despite clear evidence that his refusal to comply with the law has led to unprecedented levels of illegal immigration, Secretary Mayorkas has implemented a catch-and-release scheme, violating detention requirements and misusing parole authority.

It is clear that the House must act to impeach Secretary Mayorkas and finally hold the Biden administration accountable for putting American lives at risk by allowing an open southern border.

### STOP PLAYING POLITICS WITH STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, during his first year in office, President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline, a decision that caused oil prices to rise and cost over 16,000 American jobs.

This decision was only the beginning of a sustained attack on American energy producers that the Biden adminis-

tration has continued to carry out each and every day.

During his time in office, President Biden has ordered our Strategic Petroleum Reserve drained by over 40 percent. This reserve is meant to be used in case of a national security crisis, not to score cheap political points ahead of an election.

It is time to stop playing politics with our Nation's energy.

This week, the House will vote on H. Res. 987, which condemns the harmful and anti-American energy policies that have become the hallmark of Joe Biden's Presidency.

It is time to put an end to the failed energy policies that have led to higher prices at the gas pump across the entire United States.

It is time for Joe Biden to focus on returning to American energy dominance instead of continuing to dismantle our energy infrastructure—an infrastructure that is so vital to the strength of America.

### SOCIAL SECURITY IS UNDER SIEGE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to talk about America's number one anti-poverty program for the elderly and the number one antipoverty program for children. That program is Social Security, our Nation's number one insurance plan. Currently, it is under siege.

Both Senator WYDEN and President Biden have, I think rightly, said that what this amounts to is a buzzword for cuts to Social Security: a fiscal commission that is designed to have backroom meetings without hearings, unamendable, yet bring to both floors of the House and Senate an up-or-down vote.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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This is put together by 16 people—4 who have no vote, 6 from the Senate, and 6 from the House—with only 7 votes required to pass a bill that goes directly to the floor for a vote. That is an abomination and dereliction of duty on behalf of the House and the Senate. I strongly oppose it.

It has been 53 years since Congress has enhanced Social Security. These are your brothers, sisters, family members, neighbors, and the people you go to church with. This money comes directly back to every single congressional district and your community, and it goes to help people.

The average Social Security check is \$18,000 for a male and \$14,000 for a female. There are 5 million of our fellow Americans who get below-poverty-level checks from the government because Congress hasn't taken responsibility.

We have a plan to change that. We put our plan out on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, contrast that with a behind-closed-door study. How about we do something for the American people like vote, vote on something that is essential to their livelihood?

As you know, Mr. Speaker, Social Security isn't just a pension plan. More veterans rely on Social Security disability than they do on the VA, and spousal and dependent coverage, as well, that we are providing.

Even President Trump has gone so far as to criticize Nikki Haley, and say, hey, listen, this idea of raising the age, which the Republican Study Committee calls for, is cutting benefits in Social Security. You listen to Donald Trump on everything else. Let us hope that you understand what he is talking about here in terms of gutting Social Security and causing across-the-board cuts to a vital program that every single American needs.

Mr. Speaker, there are also more than 28 million Americans who the only benefit that they have in retirement will be Social Security. It is an outrage that this body, in the House and the Senate, has not taken up Social Security both to improve its solvency and also to enhance its benefits.

We have a program that does that—a 2 percent across-the-board increase for everyone. It lifts 5 million Americans out of poverty who have paid into a system all their lives and get below-poverty-level checks from the government because of Congress' inaction.

It repeals WEP and GPO for teachers, firefighters, and municipal employees. It will provide a tax break for more than 23 million Americans. It does so by simply lifting the cap on people over \$400,000.

What does that do? It pays for all of these benefits and also extends solvency well into the future.

That is what we should be doing as a body. We don't need to study Social Security. We know what this program does.

If my colleagues can honestly go home and look any fellow citizen in the eye and tell them that we don't need to

improve Social Security, that we need to study it, God bless them.

What we need here is a vote on Social Security 2100 to make sure that we are enhancing benefits for the citizens we are sworn to serve.

#### WAR ON AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to shed light on the ongoing war against American energy producers.

The Biden administration recently announced a pause on all pending non-free trade agreement export permit applications for liquefied natural gas export projects. This policy will no doubt have a negative impact on job growth, economic development, and energy exploration, but it will also empower America's adversaries.

By curtailing our energy dominance in the natural gas sector, we are making our economy and the world more dependent on countries like Russia and Iran for energy production. For obvious reasons, we should want to do everything within our power to hinder, not help, their cash flow.

This is more than a strategic failure. It is also contrary to the goal of reducing carbon emissions.

We know that American natural gas is cleaner than that of many other producers, especially Russia. In fact, our natural gas is 41 percent cleaner. The benefit of exporting more, not less, energy would remove hundreds of tons of emissions from entering the atmosphere. It would also pose an economic benefit here at home.

This isn't a problem just for the natural gas industry. All of America's energy producers, putting aside the renewable sector, have taken negative regulatory hits from the Biden administration. We have seen energy prices soar as a result.

On the campaign trail in 2019, then-candidate Biden vowed to end fossil fuels. This helps explain why he killed the Keystone XL pipeline on his first day in office. It also explains why he went on to put a moratorium on new oil and gas leases on public lands and raise taxes by nearly \$150 billion on oil and gas producers. For those who don't remember, this anti-energy agenda resulted in the President of the United States begging OPEC to increase their supply.

It is important to note that we were not just energy independent during the Trump administration, Mr. Speaker. We were energy dominant and a net oil exporter.

Gas prices averaged \$2.39 per gallon the day President Biden was inaugurated. Today, the average price per gallon of gas is \$3.15. Let's not forget, as a direct result of this anti-American energy agenda, gas prices reached an all-time high of \$5 per gallon in June 2022.

The President is also responsible for the largest-ever drawdown from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve, 180 million barrels of oil over 6 months. Our reserve is supposed to be used for adverse events like weather or national security emergencies, not to combat bad policy and harmful regulations from a misguided White House. That reserve, which is now depleted by more than 40 percent, is at its lowest level since the early 1980s, when I was in high school.

In addition to the pause on natural gas permits during his administration, the President announced he would no longer hold court-ordered offshore oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska. This assault on domestic energy producers destroys any incentive for investment and growth and is going to continue to lead to price volatility at home and around the world.

House Republicans see the pinch this causes working families, like the families in my home district in Tennessee, which is why one of the first things we did after taking the majority in 2023 was to pass H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Cost Act.

□ 1215

H.R. 1 makes sense to most people. It is not radical or extreme. It would unleash American energy and get government out of the way by reforming our permitting system and removing red tape. It fosters more economic growth and job creation while lowering prices for American families.

Yet this administration seems committed to doing the opposite. Since President Biden's inauguration, his administration has finalized 812 new regulations costing the U.S. economy about \$451 billion in compliance costs annually and requiring 283 million hours of additional compliance paperwork by American workers.

I continue to support an all-of-the-above energy approach to fueling our economy. In a time when prices are still hurting families and despots around the world are looking for our weak spots, we should be unleashing, not overregulating and kneecapping, American energy production.

#### CONGRATULATING DAVID ALCORN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2023 Guam Business Magazine's Executive of the Year, Mr. David Alcorn.

In 1975, Dave Alcorn moved from Hawaii to Guam to help launch King's Restaurant. Ten years later, Alcorn and his wife, Lucy, bought the restaurant and became the owners of what is today one of the most successful local restaurant chains and food and beverage icons in Guam.

After his success with King's, Dave and his wife incorporated Global Food

Services, or GFS, in 2003, and began contracts with several entities, including the Department of Defense, the Guam Naval Hospital, and the Guam Department of Education.

Today, GFS is one of the largest food service contractors in Guam and is responsible for nourishing thousands of Guamanians on a day-to-day basis.

Over the years, through his leadership, GFS expanded to bring the national Ruby Tuesday's restaurant to Guam and opened Domino's Pizza inside a military installation.

In Guam, cuisine is a large part of our culture, and Dave has the immense job of bringing people together through the shared act of breaking bread.

Dave Alcorn's dedication, hard work, and determination are vital qualities that emphasize the entrepreneurial spirit of Guam and our Nation.

Guam is the embodiment of the American Dream, and a display of these qualities means anyone can succeed. Dave is certainly living the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of a proud island and Nation, I send my sincerest congratulations to Mr. David Alcorn; his wife, Lucy; the staff and management of King's, and the many entities under Global Food Services for this momentous accomplishment.

#### FIXING NEW YORK CITY'S MIGRANT CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, sending Federal dollars to New York City to pay for hotels and other free stuff for migrants will only make New York's migrant crisis worse. That is why I have offered the No Bailout for Sanctuary Cities Act.

My commonsense bill will provide that sanctuary jurisdictions like New York City that refuse to cooperate with Federal law enforcement such as ICE are ineligible for Federal funds intended to benefit such noncitizen aliens.

Mr. Speaker, the migrants aren't coming to New York City for the warm weather or the Broadway shows. The reason that migrants are coming to New York City, 10,000 per month, is for the sanctuary laws and all the free stuff—free hotels, free clothing, and free healthcare.

New York City Mayor Adams gives a heck of a lot of free stuff to migrants. Well, Mr. Speaker, it is not exactly free. It is all paid for by lawful citizens, hardworking taxpayers.

Just a few days ago, Mr. Speaker, it was revealed that New York City is giving out \$53 million worth of credit cards to migrants.

New York City Democrats are literally incentivizing migrants to come to New York City and then feigning frustration when they do so. Worse, New York Governor Hochul is doubling down, offering \$2.4 billion in her pro-

posed budget to New York City to give more free stuff to migrants, while she proposes to cut funding from 44 Long Island School Districts.

It is these backwards, wrong, and self-defeating policy choices which will only make the migrant crisis worse. If we as a country want to secure the border and have cities without migrant crises, we need to remove the incentives which are causing it. No more free stuff.

Until New York repeals its short-sighted and self-defeating policies, which incentivize New York's migrant crisis, it should not be entitled to Federal funds for the migrant crisis its policies are creating.

#### RECOGNIZING CUTTER PAPRITZ

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Cutter Papritz, a remarkable recipient of the Congressional Youth Award in our district.

The Congressional Youth Award, established by Congress in 1979, stands as the highest honor conferred upon young individuals by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

I was thrilled to honor Cutter for this award and the hard work that led to this recognition. Cutter has accumulated over 200 volunteer hours, including a noteworthy Eagle Scout project that involved constructing a brick plaza at Continental Elementary School.

Cutter has also invested significant time in training to become the kicker for Walden Grove High School, as well as organizing a 3-day trip to the Chiricahua National Monument.

Growing up, Cutter started operating drones at the age of 11 and volunteering as a junior member of the Mount Lemmon Ski Patrol, having spent time cross-country skiing in Washington State. As a young adult, Cutter now aspires to enter the medical field and pursue a career in anesthesiology.

I take immense pride in having outstanding individuals like Cutter and his family—who I got to spend a good amount of time with—in our district, dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in Arizona Sixth.

REMEMBERING U.S. AIR FORCE GENERAL EARL T. O'LOUGHLIN

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember U.S. Air Force General Earl T. O'Loughlin, who passed away November 10, 2023, at the age of 93 years old.

General O'Loughlin was a distinguished four-star general, who commenced his military journey during the Cold War in 1951.

An exceptional pilot, he navigated various aircraft, ranging from the B-29 to the KC-135. Over the course of his career, he covered approximately 6,000 miles, including 224 combat hours.

Beyond his military achievements, Earl was a devoted husband to Thelma

Bentley, a loving father, brother, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, and a cherished friend.

The general emphasized the mantra "freedom isn't free" throughout his entire life.

Among his numerous accolades are the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Air Medal, and Air Force Commendation Medal adorned with four oakleaf clusters.

In the hearts of the Tucson community and the residents of District 6, General O'Loughlin remains a true hero. We extend our gratitude for his dedicated service, and I am eternally thankful for his contributions.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

We pray to You, O Lord, to work among and within us as we seek to serve You this day.

Open the closed doors of our hearts and encourage us to unlock all that bars us from discovering and receiving You in our lives and in this place.

Open our ears that we would hear Your voice calling us to serve You unequivocally. You have summoned us to this esteemed court of law that we would uphold Your righteousness and render Your justice.

Open our minds that we would grasp the knowledge and insight You offer us. In the most disagreeable moments, You challenge us not only to be tolerant of others, but to be open to the truths You teach us through these encounters.

Open our eyes that we will see the wonder of Your love, the spiritual beauty that resides in the souls of those whom and with whom we serve. In them, may we bear witness to Your everlasting faithfulness to all people and Your eternal presence among even the least of these.

Then open our hands that we may share the richness of the blessings You have bestowed on us. Deliver us from all selfishness and purge us from the meanness within us that desperately clings to Your grace gifts without regard for Your counsel that we have been so blessed so as to be a blessing.

All that we are and all that we have is Yours, O Lord. This day, help us to be faithful stewards of Your generous grace.

In your merciful name we pray.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. ROSE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS), the whole number of the House is 431.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARL) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 1, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker, House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 1, 2024, at 3:45 p.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1568

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
*Acting Clerk.*

### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE SELECT SUBCOMMITTEE ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1(a)(2)(A) of House Resolution 12, 118th Congress, the second order of the House of February 1, 2023, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Members to the Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government:

Mr. DAVIDSON, Ohio  
Mr. FRY, South Carolina

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

FEBRUARY 5, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, I am pleased to appoint the following individual to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission:

Mr. Jonathan Nicholas Stivers of Falls Church, Virginia

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,  
*Democratic Leader.*

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

FEBRUARY 5, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House,*  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), I am pleased to appoint the following member to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission on behalf of the Speaker:

Mr. Leland Miller of Alexandria, Virginia  
As previously agreed, because of the change in Congress and the presumed statutory intent of the Commission, I am appointing Mr. Miller on behalf of the Speaker. As such, I am pleased to make this appointment.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,  
*Democratic Leader.*

### WEDNESDAY IS NATIONAL GIRLS AND WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

(Mr. ROSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, Wednesday is National Girls and Women in Sports Day, a time to highlight House Republicans' efforts to protect the right of women to compete against other athletes on an equal footing.

Last April, Republicans passed the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act of 2023. It makes clear that allowing a biological male to compete in a sport designated for women or girls is a violation of Title IX. The bill requires schools to only recognize a person's reproductive biological sex at

birth when determining athletic eligibility.

It is simple: If you were born a biological male, you compete against biological males. In fact, the vast majority of Tennesseans call that common sense.

This weekend, my family and I attended a Lady Vols basketball game. It reminded me of how proud I am to fight to prevent them from ever having to compete unfairly against biological men.

### CONGRATULATIONS TO ALEDO BEARCATS FOR THEIR WIN

(Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Aledo Bearcats for their win over Smithsonian Valley Rangers with a score of 51-8 to become the UIL class 5A State football champions.

The Aledo Bearcats finished the season with a record of 16 wins and zero losses.

After a season of early mornings, long hours on the field, and staying focused in school, these young men showed dedication, strength, and an unwavering commitment to victory. I am proud that all their hard work and dedication throughout the year has paid off.

As these bright and talented men and women prepare for their next endeavors, I wish them the best of luck and blessings for an even brighter and more victorious future.

Go Bearcats.

In God we trust.

### MAUI'S DEVASTATING AGRICULTURAL IMPACTS

(Ms. TOKUDA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Agriculture Committee, the impact of the fires on Maui and Hawaii Island were not lost on me.

The USDA estimates that over \$23 million were lost in revenue, crops, property, and livestock. With 8,350 acres of agricultural lands burned, millions in sales were lost, water and irrigation infrastructure destroyed, and everything from crops and cattle to machinery and fencing incinerated on that fateful day.

In addition to the fires, the 80 mile-per-hour winds decimated some of Maui's oldest and most iconic farms.

I walked heartbroken through Hashimoto's Persimmon Farm and saw most of the fruit that should have been part of a bumper crop year on the ground. Their branches turned and their leaves gone, the survival of these century-old trees are now in jeopardy.

Even before the fires, Mr. Speaker, agriculture was a hard life in Hawaii, but if we truly want to build back better and stronger, agriculture must and will be a part of our islands' future.

From agroforestry techniques to help prevent fires to rebuilding water infrastructure and helping our farmers, ranchers, and producers not just survive but thrive, we now have a chance to do better.

□ 1415

#### REIN IN BIG PHARMA

(Mr. KHANNA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, for patients with leukemia, doctors often prescribe Imbruvica. In 2021, Johnson & Johnson and AbbVie sold it for a combined \$10 billion.

Keytruda, a drug prescribed to cancer patients, netted Merck \$20 billion; and Humira, a prescription drug for arthritis, allowed AbbVie to rake in \$21 billion. This needs to stop.

Big Pharma is putting profits over people. They have three lobbyists for every one Member of Congress and have spent \$370 million on lobbying while making excessive profits on the backs of cancer families.

That is why Senator SANDERS and I have a bill to rein in prescription drug costs, and that is why I said let's ban PAC and lobbyist money. Americans shouldn't pay more for their drugs than the average price people in other countries are paying.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GIMENEZ) at 4 p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### UDALL FOUNDATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2882) to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2882

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023".*

#### SEC. 2. INVESTMENT EARNINGS.

*Section 8(b)(1) of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5606(b)(1)) is amended by adding at the end the following: "Beginning on October 1, 2023, and thereafter, interest earned from investments made with any new appropriations to the Trust Fund shall only be available subject to appropriations and is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the provisions of this Act.".*

#### SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE UDALL FOUNDATION TRUST FUND.

*Section 13 of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation Act (20 U.S.C. 5609) is amended—*

*(1) in subsection (a), by striking "2023" and inserting "2028";*

*(2) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "2023" and inserting "2028"; and*

*(3) in subsection (c), by striking "5-fiscal year period" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "5-fiscal year period beginning with fiscal year 2024.".*

#### SEC. 4. AUDIT OF THE FOUNDATION.

*Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Inspector General of the Department of the Interior shall complete an audit of the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2882, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2882, the Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023, as amended, would reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation through 2028.

Congress passed the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation Act in 1992, intending to provide scholarships and internship opportunities for Native Americans. This program continues today and brings Native American students into the halls of government, providing opportunities for them to pursue public policy and work on issues that directly address their own experiences.

In 1998, Congress broadened the scope of the Udall Foundation and created the United States Institute for Envi-

ronmental Conflict Resolution. In 2009, Congress amended the act to add former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall's name to the Foundation.

The Udall Foundation was last reauthorized in 2019. In that reauthorization, Congress renamed the United States Institute to the John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution.

The Udall Foundation currently supports several programs that encourage research and study related to the environment, American Indian and Alaska Native healthcare issues, and Tribal public policy concerns.

H.R. 2882 reauthorizes the Udall Foundation through 2028. This reauthorization maintains currently authorized appropriations and has been amended to make interest income from the trust fund subject to appropriations.

The bill also requires the Department of the Interior's Office of the Inspector General complete an audit of the Udall Foundation within 4 years of passage. Past audits highlighted areas where the Foundation was then able to strengthen processes within the Foundation.

I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI) for his work on this bill, and I encourage adoption of the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, January 3, 2024.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WESTERMAN: This letter is in regard to the jurisdictional interest of the Committee on Education and the Workforce ("Committee") in certain provisions of H.R. 2882, the Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023, which fall within the Rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, the Committee is willing to waive the right to sequential referral. By waiving consideration of the bill, the Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill that fall within its Rule X jurisdiction. I request that you urge the Speaker to name members of the Education and the Workforce Committee to any conference committee that is named to consider such provisions.

Please place this letter into the committee report on H.R. 2882 and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,

VIRGINIA FOXX,  
Chairwoman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
Washington, DC, January 4, 2024.  
Hon. VIRGINIA FOXX,  
Chairwoman, Committee on Education and the  
Workforce, House of Representatives, Wash-  
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN FOXX: I write regarding H.R. 2882, the "Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023." The bill was referred primarily to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and additionally to the Committee on Natural Resources, and was ordered reported, as amended, by the Committee on Natural Resources on November 15, 2023.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and appreciate your willingness to forgo any further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Education and the Workforce will not formally consider H.R. 2882 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill and will include such letters in the committee report on H.R. 2882. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,

Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2882. This bill will reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund.

The Udall Foundation was established as an independent Federal agency in 1992 by Congress in honor of Mo Udall's contributions to our Nation's public lands and natural resources and his support for Tribal self-determination. In 2009, Congress honored Stewart Udall in the name of the Foundation alongside his brother.

The Udall Foundation's impact is monumental in supporting the next generation of environmental and Tribal policy leaders. From the John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution to the Native Nations Institute for Leadership, Management, and Policy, the Foundation serves a critical role in shaping public policy.

In addition, the Foundation supports several educational programs, such as the Parks in Focus program, fellowships, scholarships, and congressional internships.

H.R. 2882 will ensure the Foundation remains an essential partner in Tribal and environmental education.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, this is important legislation to reauthorize the Udall Foundation to continue supporting Native American congressional interns, as well as the research and study that goes along with that.

As I mentioned earlier, it also works with Alaska Native healthcare issues and Tribal public policy issues. This is a very important piece of legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI), the sponsor of the bill.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. WESTERMAN, my good friend, for yielding me the time to speak in support of my bill, H.R. 2882, the Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023.

The Udall Foundation is a non-partisan agency established by Congress in 1992, committed to the values of civility, integrity, and consensus, which are emblematic of how Mo Udall approached his 30 years of public service in this House.

Since its creation, the Udall Foundation has done incredible work. They have awarded over 1,800 undergraduate scholarships to students pursuing careers in environmental public policy, Tribal public policy, or Native healthcare. They have placed over 300 Native American and Alaska Native students in summer internships on Capitol Hill and with Federal agencies. They have conducted over 800 environmental collaboration and conflict resolution assessments, and facilitated processes and trainings across all 50 States.

My bill, H.R. 2882, extends the Udall Foundation's authority for 5 additional fiscal years, through FY 2028. This reauthorization will allow the agency to promote public service through research, education, and service programs. Moreover, they will continue to foster leadership, education, collaboration, and conflict resolution in the areas of environment, public lands, Native Nations, and natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this commonsense, bipartisan legislation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I again thank the gentleman from Arizona for sponsoring this important legislation. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2882, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further pro-

ceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION EXTENSION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1727) to amend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act to extend the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1727

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act".*

### SEC. 2. CHESAPEAKE AND OHIO CANAL NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK COMMISSION.

*Section 6(g) of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal Development Act (16 U.S.C. 410y-4(g)) is amended by striking "40" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting "on October 1, 2031."*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1727, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I support the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act. This bill reauthorizes the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission for 7 years beyond the Commission's current expiration date of September 2024.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, or C&O Canal, stretches over 184 miles from Georgetown in Washington, D.C., to Cumberland, Maryland. For nearly a century, the national historical park played a crucial role in the transportation of many agricultural products along the Potomac River.

Today, the park offers numerous outdoor recreation opportunities while continuing to serve as a source of economic growth through tourism and employment opportunities. In 2021, the park attracted over 5 million visitors, supported 1,360 jobs, and generated \$104 million in economic output in local gateway communities surrounding the park.



The park's commission is comprised of 19 members who serve on a volunteer basis. By including the voices and unique perspective of various local stakeholders, the commission provides a critical link between the National Park Service and local communities with no cost to the American taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1727, the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act, introduced by my colleague from Maryland, Representative TRONE.

Once a transportation route from Maryland to Washington, D.C., the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park now serves as an area full of recreational opportunities, while maintaining the historical structures of the old transportation route.

The park is comprised of 184 miles along the Potomac River, hosting over 5 million visitors annually. The bill before us would reauthorize the park's advisory commission until 2031 to allow them to continue their leadership in working with their communities to enhance visitor experience and recreational opportunities.

The advisory commission is key to ensuring that local communities have a voice in the operation, maintenance, and restoration of the park.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time and continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE).

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today and urge a "yes" vote on my bill, the C&O Canal National Historical Park Commission Extension Act.

Running from D.C. to Cumberland, Maryland, the park's 20,000 acres of land are home to history. George Washington himself spearheaded the efforts to navigate these waters and drive industry in our then-newly formed Republic. For nearly 100 years, the canal transported lumber, crops, and coal, crucial commerce for the many communities depending on it for their livelihoods.

Now a national park, the C&O Canal is home to thousands of native species, over 100 of which are listed as rare and threatened or endangered by the State of Maryland, all of which must be fiercely protected.

For more than 40 years, the advisory commission has served as a link between the surrounding communities and the National Park Service to manage and restore the park. The commission has a proven track record of ensuring the growth and maintenance of the land, as well as protection of the plants and animals living within it.

Every 10 years, Congress must reauthorize this commission for it to continue the vital work, which brings us here today. I am proud to lead this effort with my dear friend, Senator BEN CARDIN, to ensure Americans can enjoy, explore, and protect our park for generations to come.

□ 1615

I am honored to represent so many Marylanders who get to appreciate the beauty and rich history of the C&O Canal every day.

By reauthorizing the commission, we are showing that Congress values the investments in our Nation's natural resources.

I thank all Members from the C&O Canal region who support this legislation: Representatives BEYER, CONNOLLY, HOLMES, NORTON, MOONEY, RASKIN, and WEXTON. I thank Natural Resources Committee Chair WESTERMAN for moving this bill through committee with unanimous support and Chairwoman DINGELL for her support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a commonsense bill that promotes collaboration between Federal agencies and local stakeholders. It achieves this without adding any burden on the American taxpayer.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1727, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### CLIFTON OPPORTUNITIES NOW FOR VIBRANT ECONOMIC YIELDS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2997) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to Mesa County, Colorado, certain Federal land in Colorado, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2997

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields Act" or as the "CONVEY Act".*

#### SEC. 2. CONVEYANCE OF FEDERAL LAND TO MESA COUNTY, COLORADO.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CLIFTON PARCEL.—The term "Clifton parcel" means the approximately 31.1 acres of Federal land depicted as "31.1 Acres to be Conveyed to Mesa County" on the map titled "Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields (CONVEY) Act" and dated April 19, 2023.

(2) COUNTY.—The term "County" means Mesa County, Colorado.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management.

(b) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the Secretarial Order dated August 26, 1902, and the Secretarial Order dated July 25, 1908, the Secretary shall convey to the County, as soon as practicable, all rights, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Clifton parcel.

(c) REQUIREMENTS.—The conveyance under this section shall be—

(1) subject to valid existing rights; and

(2) for not less than fair market value, as determined in accordance with subsection (d).

(d) APPRAISAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The fair market value of the Clifton parcel shall be determined by an independent appraisal obtained by the Secretary.

(2) APPRAISAL STANDARDS.—The appraisal required by paragraph (1) shall be conducted in accordance with the—

(A) Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(B) Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(e) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—The County shall pay all costs associated with the conveyance required under subsection (b), including all costs associated with any survey conducted for the purpose of accomplishing such conveyance.

(f) PROCEEDS FROM CONVEYANCE.—The proceeds from the conveyance required under subsection (b) shall be—

(1) deposited into the Federal Land Disposal Account established by the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.); and

(2) available for expenditure under that Act.

(g) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize a map and a legal description of all land to be conveyed under this Act.

(2) CONTROLLING DOCUMENT.—In the case of a discrepancy between the map and the legal description created under paragraph (1), the map shall control.

(3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and the County, by mutual agreement, may correct any minor errors in the map or the legal description created under paragraph (1).

(4) MAP ON FILE.—The map and the legal description created under paragraph (1) shall be kept on file and available for public inspection in each appropriate office of the Bureau of Land Management.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in

which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2997, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support Representative BOEBERT's bill, the Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields Act, or the CONVEY Act.

H.R. 2997 conveys land from the Federal Government to Mesa County in Colorado. As the House Committee on Natural Resources considered and ultimately passed this bill through our committee last year, it was clear Representative BOEBERT had done good work to build consensus and solve an important issue in a local Colorado community.

The bill is good policy. Representative BOEBERT worked with her constituents, county leaders, and the Bureau of Land Management to draft legislation they all support.

Many of our Western States are largely owned by the Federal Government. In Colorado, over 36 percent of the land is federally owned. In Mesa County, an astonishing 72 percent of the land is owned by the Federal Government, and this presents many local challenges.

As communities grow in proximity to Federal lands, there simply is not enough space for new homes, schools, hospitals, or other necessities to sustain a growing population. Large swaths of Federal land limit the tax base to support the local community. While creative solutions have been enacted by Congress to address this issue, there are still setbacks to communities lacking a strong tax base.

The growing population in this Colorado community has encouraged county leaders to seek out new land for development. The land in question is on the Bureau's disposal list, meaning the agency has determined it no longer wants to manage the land and the land does not serve the taxpayers' interest.

While both the Bureau of Land Management and Mesa County are supportive of this land exchange, the process has continued to run into bureaucratic delays. Mesa County has been working for 5 years to acquire a mere 31 acres—let me repeat that: 5 years to acquire 31 acres—all because of bureaucratic delays. We now need an act of Congress to speed up this process.

This is evidence of a much larger problem. There should not be excessive delays preventing the conveyance of land when all parties agree this land would be put to more productive use outside of Federal management and there is a willing buyer.

The House Committee on Natural Resources will continue to conduct oversight on how we can expedite the process of disposing of unwanted Federal

land, especially land that could be better utilized to support small, rural communities and their economies.

While the committee continues its work to address the larger issue of Federal land management, I applaud Representative BOEBERT for her leadership in addressing this important issue for her constituents.

Mr. Speaker, I support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2997 would authorize the Bureau of Land Management, or BLM, to convey 31 acres of Federal land to Mesa County in Colorado.

This parcel of land was once used by the Bureau of Reclamation for irrigation under the Grand Valley Reclamation Project. It has since been designated suitable for disposal by BLM, with agencies having started the withdrawal revocation process.

Following the completion of this process, BLM will engage in a direct sale with Mesa County.

The CONVEY Act is designed to facilitate and expedite the ongoing parcel conveyance process. Following the conveyance, Mesa County will use the land for economic development and growth opportunities in and around Clifton, Colorado.

I thank the majority for working with us to ensure that, under this bill, Mesa County is responsible for paying for all the costs associated with the conveyance, as is typical in these types of transactions.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT), the author of the legislation.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2997, my Clifton Opportunities Now for Vibrant Economic Yields Act, the CONVEY Act.

This commonsense bill directs the Secretary of the Interior to convey 31.1 acres of land that the Federal Government no longer wishes to manage to Mesa County for economic development in Clifton, Colorado. Mesa County will purchase the land for fair market value.

For over 5 years, Mesa County has been stuck in red tape as they have been diligently pursuing the acquisition of this parcel of land that is on the BLM disposal list. This land holds immense value for Mesa County as it presents a critical opportunity for economic development in Clifton, an area of the county that has struggled economically.

I have worked closely with BLM, the committee, and the Mesa County commissioners to cut through the bureaucracy and expedite this process. The Principal Deputy Director at the Bureau of Land Management, Nada Wolff Culver, said: "The BLM supports H.R. 2997," the CONVEY Act, "and the direct sale of the parcel to Mesa County."

The economic potential of this land will allow Mesa County to attract job creators and foster an environment that encourages economic prosperity for Clifton.

Once Mesa County is able to secure the land, they will establish an economic development board to solicit input from local stakeholders.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, this bill would reduce Federal spending. It also ensures the funds from the sale of this land will be deposited into the Federal Land Disposal Account, established by the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act, and retained by the Bureau of Land Management Colorado office, so the funds from the sale will actually be used in Colorado.

More than 55 percent of Colorado's Third District and 73 percent of Mesa County's land area is Federal land. As Mesa County continues to grow, the county is significantly limited in the land it has available to develop.

These large Federal footprints often stifle local communities that lack power in decisionmaking over the land in their own backyards from moving forward on important development opportunities.

I am proud to empower local communities and jump-start rural economies through innovative solutions that reduce our Federal footprint and cut bureaucratic red tape that is stifling economic growth with the CONVEY Act.

It has been a pleasure to work on this piece of legislation and to offer this to Mesa County to see what they come up with for their economic development.

I urge my colleagues to support this simple, straightforward bill, Mr. Speaker.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Representative BOEBERT for her hard work and leadership and the effort she put into crafting this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2997, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PILOT BUTTE POWER PLANT CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3415) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey to the Midvale Irrigation District the Pilot



Butte Power Plant in the State of Wyoming, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3415

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **AGREEMENT.**—The term “Agreement” means the agreement entered into under section 3(a).

(2) **DISTRICT.**—The term “District” means the Midvale Irrigation District located in Pavillion, Wyoming.

(3) **POWER PLANT.**—The term “Power Plant” means the Pilot Butte Power Plant and other appurtenant facilities in the State of Wyoming authorized under the Act of March 2, 1917 (39 Stat. 969, chapter 146), transferred to the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Reclamation under the Act of June 5, 1920 (41 Stat. 874, chapter 235), and incorporated into the Riverton Unit of the Pick-Sloan Missouri Basin Program under Public Law 91–409 (84 Stat. 861), including the underlying land.

(4) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Commissioner of Reclamation.

#### SEC. 3. AGREEMENT, CONVEYANCE, AND REPORT.

(a) **AGREEMENT.**—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall enter into good faith negotiations with the District to enter into an agreement to determine the legal, institutional, and financial terms for the conveyance of the Power Plant from the Secretary to the District.

(b) **CONVEYANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In consideration for the District assuming from the United States all liability for the administration, operation, maintenance, and replacement of the Power Plant, the Secretary shall offer to convey and assign to the District all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Power Plant—

(A) subject to valid leases, permits, rights-of-way, easements, and other existing rights; and

(B) in accordance with—

(i) the terms and conditions described in the Agreement; and

(ii) this Act.

(2) **STATUS OF LAND.**—Effective on the date of the conveyance of the Power Plant to the District under paragraph (1), the Power Plant shall not be considered to be a part of a Federal reclamation project.

(c) **REPORT.**—If the conveyance authorized under subsection (b)(1) is not completed by the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(1) the status of the conveyance under that subsection;

(2) any obstacles to completing the conveyance under that subsection; and

(3) an anticipated date for the completion of the conveyance under that subsection.

#### SEC. 4. LIABILITY.

(a) **DAMAGES.**—Except as otherwise provided by law and for damages caused by acts of negligence committed by the United States or by employees or agents of the United States, effective on the date of the conveyance of the Power Plant to the District under section 3(b)(1), the United States

shall not be held liable by any court for damages of any kind arising out of any act, omission, or occurrence relating to the Power Plant.

(b) **TORTS CLAIMS.**—Nothing in this section increases the liability of the United States beyond that provided in chapter 171 of title 28, United States Code (commonly known as the “Federal Tort Claims Act”).

#### SEC. 5. COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS.

(a) **COMPLIANCE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION LAWS.**—Before making the conveyance authorized under section 3(b)(1), the Secretary shall complete all actions required under—

(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(2) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.);

(3) subtitle III of title 54, United States Code; and

(4) any other applicable laws.

(b) **COMPLIANCE BY THE DISTRICT.**—Effective on the date of the conveyance of the Power Plant to the District under section 3(b)(1), the District shall comply with all applicable Federal, State, and local laws (including regulations) with respect to the operation of the Power Plant.

#### SEC. 6. PAYMENT OF COSTS.

(a) **ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.**—Administrative costs for the conveyance of the Power Plant to the District under section 3(b)(1) shall be paid in equal shares by the Secretary and the District.

(b) **REAL ESTATE TRANSFER COSTS.**—The costs of all boundary surveys, title searches, cadastral surveys, appraisals, and other real estate transactions required for the conveyance of the Power Plant to the District under section 3(b)(1) shall be paid in equal shares by the Secretary and the District.

(c) **COSTS OF COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS.**—The costs associated with any review required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, or any other applicable laws for conveyance of the Power Plant to the District under section 3(b)(1) shall be paid in equal shares by the Secretary and the District.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3415, the bill now under consideration.

The **SPEAKER** pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3415 sponsored by Congresswoman HAGEMAN of Wyoming. This legislation would direct the Bureau of Reclamation to enter negotiations with the Midvale Irrigation District to transfer the Pilot Butte Power Plant to the district.

Under current law, the Bureau of Reclamation holds title to the power plant and related facilities, and ownership of the power plant cannot be transferred unless authorized by Congress.

This plant has not produced electricity since 2008, when the Bureau of Reclamation determined that increasing operation and maintenance costs made electricity generation at the plant economically infeasible.

The district has expressed interest in taking ownership and rehabilitating and operating the power plant and related facilities to provide power to the district's water users.

This legislation is the first step in achieving that goal. It would allow the Midvale Irrigation District to harness additional hydroelectric power resources, a carbon-free, reliable source of energy.

At a time when good stewardship of taxpayer resources and access to reliable energy are at the forefront of so many debates in Washington, I am proud that our committee advanced legislation that accomplishes both objectives.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman HAGEMAN for her leadership. I urge adoption of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to convey the title of the Pilot Butte Power Plant in Wyoming to the Midvale Irrigation District. The transfer would follow negotiation of a mutually beneficial transfer agreement that must ensure full compliance with environmental laws and other applicable laws.

Following a title transfer, the irrigation district will explore opportunities to rehabilitate the facility for improved power generation.

I am pleased to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN), the bill's sponsor.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, the Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act.

This important legislation initiates the transfer of the Pilot Butte Power Plant from the Bureau of Reclamation to the Midvale Irrigation District.

Specifically, the Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act requires the Bureau of Reclamation to enter good-faith negotiations with the Midvale Irrigation District for the conveyance of the Pilot Butte Power Plant, located in Pavillion, Wyoming. This is a critical step towards improving responsible resource management.

Several months ago, we had the privilege of learning from Wyoming's Midvale Irrigation District on this important topic in a hearing in the Subcommittee of Water, Wildlife and Fisheries.

In this hearing, we learned from both Midvale and the Bureau that this conveyance will allow the district to more easily maintain and operate the plant after the title transfer.

The message from each party involved in the conveyance was that this is a win-win for everyone involved. Transferring ownership of the power plant to Midvale will provide for greater flexibility and relieve administrative burdens for the Bureau of Reclamation.

As we all know, local communities and entities are often better equipped to understand the unique needs and challenges of their communities.

Placing control of the hydro plant in the hands of Midvale Irrigation District will empower them to make decisions that directly impact their region. This conveyance promotes a sense of ownership and accountability that will lead to more efficient operations and responsive governance.

This transfer will have positive economic benefits. Hydroelectric plants have the potential to generate substantial revenue. By allowing Midvale to control these resources, they can reinvest profits into the community. This will ultimately mean improved infrastructure and more support for local businesses.

The economic ripple effect can be profound and positively impact the lives of those living in the district.

Moreover, it is important to note that Midvale is intimately familiar with the intricacies of water management and distribution in their area. Updating and repairing this hydro plant will expand the State's portfolio, allowing for a more holistic approach to resource management.

This will help Wyoming to optimize water usage, balancing the needs of agriculture, industry, and the environment more effectively.

We have an obvious need to increase the amount of water stored through surface infrastructure and groundwater storage projects.

This particular conveyance will allow us to more effectively manage our water and provide power to our communities. Additionally, environmental stewardship is a critical consideration.

Wyomingites are more attuned to the ecological nuances of their surroundings. By placing the hydro plant under local control, we increase the practice of responsible environmental practices. This includes measures to protect aquatic life, maintain water quality, and ensure the responsible operation of the plant without compromising our ecosystems.

The Pilot Butte Power Plant Conveyance Act will empower Wyoming communities, boost Wyoming's economy, enhance resource management, and promote responsible environmental practices.

It is a decision that reflects the values of decentralization, self-determination, and self-reliance.

I thank Senator BARRASSO and Senator LUMMIS for their leadership on

this issue on the Senate side, and Midvale Irrigation District manager Steve Lynn, who was critical in elevating this issue and the solution we have before us this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, the principle of cooperative federalism means that decisions are made at the appropriate level of government, at the Federal, State, and local levels.

H.R. 3415 embodies this principle by transferring control of the Pilot Butte Power Plant to the Midvale Irrigation District, putting local project beneficiaries in charge of resource management, harnessing additional hydroelectric power resources, and ultimately, lowering cost.

I once again thank Congresswoman HAGEMAN for her leadership. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3415.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### SUPPORTING THE HEALTH OF AQUATIC SYSTEMS THROUGH RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE AND ENHANCED DIALOGUE ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4051) to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4051

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Supporting the Health of Aquatic systems through Research Knowledge and Enhanced Dialogue Act" or the "SHARKED Act".*

#### SEC. 2. SHARK DEPREDAATION TASK FORCE AND RESEARCH PROJECTS.

(a) SHARK DEPREDAATION TASK FORCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish a task force (referred to in this

subsection as the "task force") to identify and address critical needs with respect to shark depredation.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary of Commerce shall appoint individuals to the task force, including—

(A) 1 representative from—

(i) each Regional Fishery Management Council established under section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1));

(ii) each Marine Fisheries Commission, as such term is defined in section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802);

(iii) the fish and wildlife agency of a coastal State from each Regional Fishery Management Council established under section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)); and

(iv) the National Marine Fisheries Service;

(B) an individual with expertise in the management of highly migratory species;

(C) a researcher with expertise in shark management and behavior; and

(D) a researcher with expertise in shark ecology.

(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The task force shall—

(A) develop ways to improve coordination and communication across the fisheries management community and shark research community to address shark depredation;

(B) identify research priorities and funding opportunities for such priorities, including—

(i) identifying shark species involved in interactions;

(ii) shark stock assessments;

(iii) how sharks become habituated to humans and thus lead to more interactions between sharks and humans;

(iv) how angler behavior and fishery regulatory frameworks may influence shark interactions;

(v) techniques and strategies to reduce harmful interactions between sharks and humans, including the development and use of non-lethal deterrents;

(vi) the role of healthy shark populations in the ocean food web; and

(vii) climate change impacts on shifting shark populations, prey, and shark behavior;

(C) develop recommended management strategies to address shark depredation; and

(D) coordinate the development and distribution of educational materials to help the fishing community minimize shark interactions including through changed angler behavior and expectations.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter until the termination of the task force in accordance with paragraph (5), the task force shall submit to Congress a report regarding the findings of the task force.

(5) SUNSET.—The task force shall terminate not later than 7 years after the date on which the Secretary of Commerce establishes the task force.

(6) COASTAL STATE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "coastal State"—

(A) means a State of the United States in, or bordering on, the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Long Island Sound; and

(B) includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

(b) SHARK DEPREDAATION RESEARCH PROJECTS.—Section 318(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1867(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(6) Projects to better understand shark depredation, including identifying what causes increases in shark depredation and determining how to best address shark depredation."

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to affect the authority and responsibility

of the Secretary of Commerce in carrying out the Endangered Species Act of 1973 or the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4051, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4051, sponsored by my friend and colleague, Congressman ROB WITTMAN of Virginia.

Concerns over shark depredation are increasingly common. From fishermen in the Florida Keys and throughout the Gulf of Mexico whose prized snapper or grouper catch was eaten by a shark, to charter boat captains in North Carolina's Outer Banks fishing offshore, shark interactions can be frustrating for anglers as they result in loss of catch, damaged gear, and degraded fishing experiences, and may also impact the post-release survival of target fish.

While the number of reports of depredation have increased, the underlying cause of the increase remains uncertain. It could be due to an increase in the number of sharks, as stocks rebuild, or learned behavior by sharks as they recognize motors, fishing techniques, or shark-feeding locations as a source of food.

We simply do not have enough information.

To make matters worse, shark depredation touches on many Federal and State jurisdictions, but because no single entity has a responsibility to address it, very little is being done.

H.R. 4051 would require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force to address shark depredation.

The task force membership would include representatives from Regional Fishery Management Councils, the Marine Fisheries Commissions, the State fish and wildlife agencies from the States within the Regional Fishery Management Councils, NOAA, and shark experts from the Fisheries Service, and non-Federal experts.

During committee consideration of this legislation, the minority worked closely with two of the bill's sponsors, Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. GRAVES, to make modest changes by including more engagement with the scientific community engaged in shark research and clarifying that the findings and work done by the task force do not impact the Secretary of Commerce's responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act or the Magnuson-Stevens Act.

The legislation will help the Federal Government further understand, identify, and address critical needs as they relate to shark depredation.

I applaud Mr. WITTMAN for his work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4051, the SHARKED Act, would establish a new task force led by the National Marine Fisheries Service to identify shark conservation needs and depredation research.

Sharks are critical to healthy ocean ecosystems.

As the apex predators of the ocean, they help shape marine food webs and are a key indicator of ocean health.

Many shark species are, unfortunately, also threatened or endangered.

Oceanic sharks and rays have declined by 71 percent since 1970, and three-quarters of these wide-ranging species are threatened.

While some shark populations are recovering, scientists predict that nearly 100 million sharks are still killed each year, and current levels of fishing pressure will cause the majority of shark populations to continue declining.

According to the IUCN, half of the coastal sharks and rays are threatened with extinction, primarily due to overfishing.

A fundamental lack of understanding of shark biology and ecological importance, combined with fear, was partially responsible for dramatic increases in the recreational harvest of sharks in the United States in the 1970s and the 1980s.

Any effort to address shark depredation, therefore, needs to be considered in light of recovering shark populations and the threats that sharks face from heightened fishing pressure and climate change.

Through the committee process, we have been able to significantly improve this legislation. However, I recognize there are still some legitimate concerns about whether this legislation goes far enough to ensure good outcomes for shark populations and is not a slippery slope towards increasing shark harvests.

I am grateful that the majority worked with us to amend the original bill text, ensuring that the focus is placed on changing angler behavior and managing expectations, as well as building out the scientific understanding of shark ecology and the impacts of climate change on predators and prey in the ocean.

Recently, Australian researchers found that the use of non-lethal deterrents and simple changes in angler behavior are proven to reduce the probability of sharks taking fish by 65 percent.

NOAA has funded similar studies in the United States but admitted in the legislative hearing on this bill that

depredation research is complex and requires sustained investment due to the high intelligence and adaptability of sharks.

Notably, this bill doesn't include funding. Without it, NOAA will be unable to fund much more than what they are currently doing to address shark conservation and depredation.

I hope my colleagues who support this bill will also work with us to ensure robust funding for shark conservation priorities, like increased shark stock assessments.

This bill should promote greater collaboration between the fishing community and shark researchers to reduce risks to sharks and humans from depredation events and build out our understanding of the importance of sharks and how to conserve them.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN), the bill's sponsor.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter of support for the SHARKED Act, signed by 123 companies and organizations, including the American Sportfishing Association.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2023.

Hon. ROB WITTMAN,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. GARRET GRAVES,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. DARREN SOTO,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. MARC VEASEY,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES WITTMAN, SOTO, GRAVES AND VEASEY: As businesses that have experienced the negative impacts of shark depredation, we are writing to express our support for the Supporting the Health of Aquatic systems through Research, Knowledge and Enhanced Dialogue (SHARKED) Act. Collectively we represent charter captains, tackle shop owners, equipment manufacturers, and other sportfishing-related business leaders. Saltwater recreational fishing is a major economic driver in coastal communities throughout the country, with more than 13 million saltwater anglers supporting 595,000 jobs and generating \$98 billion in sales every year.

This bill brings focus to the increasing challenge of shark depredation, which negatively impacts fishing experiences, risks the safety of sharks and humans and threatens the sustainability of fish populations.

Shark depredation occurs when a shark eats or damages a hooked fish before an angler can reel in their catch. In general, the possibility of depredation occurring is accepted as a natural part of fishing. However, in recent years the frequency of shark depredation has increased rapidly in many parts of the country, likely due to increasing fishing activity, increasing shark abundance and depredation becoming a more frequently learned behavior.

As some of the nation's leading conservationists, recreational fishermen firmly believe that safeguarding our marine ecosystem is of utmost importance. Sharks play a vital role in maintaining balance in the marine ecosystem. However, shark depredation is escalating to a level that is detrimental to all involved, exposing sharks to potentially harmful fishing gear and putting anglers in dangerously close proximity to these apex predators. As the rate of shark

depredation has increased, fishermen have become increasingly frustrated by the issue and a lack of response from the fisheries management community. It is a complex issue with no simple solution, but there are policy, research, management and education tactics that warrant exploration to help mitigate the issue. Shark depredation touches on many federal and state jurisdictions. Unfortunately, because no single entity has responsibility to address it, very little is being done.

The SHARKED Act would establish a task force that would be responsible for improving coordination and communication across the fisheries management community on shark depredation, as well as identifying research priorities and funding opportunities. This bill would be a critical first step toward addressing shark depredation nationally and establishing foundational knowledge that can be used to improve future management, education and research actions.

By implementing efforts to minimize interactions between sharks and anglers, the SHARKED Act will advance conservation for the benefit of sharks, anglers, fisheries and the economy. We are grateful for your support of this bill and for providing a voice to the recreational fishing industry.

Sincerely,

Carl Abissi, National Manager, Dexter Outdoors, Southbridge, MA; Steve Atkinson, President, Virginia Saltwater Sportfishing Association, Midlothian, VA; Hunter Avery, Key Accounts Manager, Jones and Company, Stuart, FL; Eric L Bachnik, President, L&S Bait Company, Largo, FL; Will Benson, Owner, World Angling, Key West, FL; Gregory Bogdan, Owner/Captain, Permitted, Inc., North Palm Beach, FL; Bryan Boyle, Captain, Dedicated, LLC., Jupiter, FL.

Scott Brown, Owner, Push it Good Inshore Fishing Charters, Destin, FL; Tad Burke, Captain, The Wild Side Guides, Tavernier, FL; Brandon Carter, Owner, Fathom Offshore, Wilmington, NC; Nicholas Castillo, Captain, Castillo Charters, LLC., Islamorada, FL; John Chauvin, Sr., Owner, Fin-tastic Charters, Grand Isle, LA; Louis Chemi, Vice President, Freedom Boat Club, Venice, FL; Dennis Clark, Owner, Frontier Sales and Marketing Group, LLC., Katy, TX.

Eric Cosby, Vice President, Top Brass Tackle, Starkville, MS; John Crews, President/Owner, Missile Baits, Salem, VA; Mike Cyr, Captain, C Hawk Charters, Key West, FL; Bill Dantuono, Owner, Offshore Naples, Naples, FL; Adam Debruin, Captain, Red Hook Fishing, Tavernier, FL; Mike Delzingo, Owner, Fishbucket Sportfishing, Boston, MA; GW De Pauw, Captain, Captain GW Guide Service, Tavernier, FL.

Joe Diebold, Outfitter, Bass Pro, Apollo Beach, FL; Paul Diggins, Owner/Captain, Reel Pursuit Charters, Charlestown, MA; Michael Dixon, Vice President, Engel Coolers, Jupiter, FL; Robert Dufek, Sales Manager, Shimano, Ladson, SC; Aaron Dykes, CEO & Captain, Triple D Charters, Tavernier, FL; Brian Esposito, President, Skiff Guide Charter Service, Hollywood, FL; Drue Eymann, Owner/Captain, Keys on The Fly, LLC., Key West, FL.

Bill Falconer, President/CEO, Anglers Resource, Foley, AL; Richard Fischer, Executive Director, Louisiana Charter Boat Association, Metairie, LA; Tammy Foshee, OEM Manager, GSM Outdoors, Georgetown, GA; Thomas Fote, Legislative Chairman, Jersey Coast Anglers Association, Toms River, NJ; Steve Friedman, Owner, A Fishing Guide, LLC., Islamorada, FL; Patrick Gill, CEO, TackleDirect, Egg Harbor Township, NJ; Austin Glassman, Captain, Gladesman Charters, Tavernier, FL.

Alan Gmann, President, REC Components, Stafford Springs, CT; Lain Goodwin, Owner/

Captain, Dirty Waters Charters, Inc., Key Largo, FL; Scott Gregg, Captain/Owner, Wreckless Sport Fishing, Mechanicsville, VA; Mike Guerin, Owner, Capt. Michael Guerin, Big Pine Key, FL; Chris Hanson, Owner, Scales 2 Tales, LLC., Key Largo, FL; Jim Hardin, Government Relations Manager, Grady-White Boats, Inc., Greenville, NC; Richard Hastings, Captain, Capt. Rich Hastings, Islamorada, FL.

Gary Hayes, Owner/Captain, Sunrise South Charter Fishing, Dulac, LA; Patrick Healey, President/CEO, Viking Yacht Co., New Gretna, NJ; Mark Hlis, Owner, Flamingo Charters, Islamorada, FL; Barry Hoffman, Captain, flatsguide.com, Tavernier, FL; Mike Holliday, Captain, Fish Tail Guide Service, Stuart, FL; Houston Hoover, Captain, Gene's Fishing Charters, Gonzales, LA; Dylan Hubbard, Owner/Captain/VP, Hubbard's Marina, Madeira Beach, FL.

Dylan Hubbard, President, Florida Guides Association, Madeira Beach, FL; Buddy Hughes, CEO, Bates Fishing Co., Celina, TX; Robbie Hunziker, Owner, RH Marine, Parrish, FL; Steven Impallomeni, Owner/Captain, Gallop Ghost Charters, Summerland Key, FL; Rich Johnson, Owner/Operator, Scotty J's Charters, Clearwater, FL; Luke Kelly, Captain, Key Flat Charters, Summerland Key, FL; Doug Kilpatrick, Owner, Capt Doug Kilpatrick Inc, Sugarloaf Key, FL.

Frank-Paul King, President, Temple Fork, Dallas, TX; Luke Krenik, Captain, LVKFL, LLC, Key Largo, Florida; Steve Lavoie, Captain, Capt Lavoie, Tavernier, FL; Mike Leonard, Vice President of Government Affairs, American Sportfishing Association, Alexandria, VA; Phillip Lillo, President, Don Coffey Company, Orlando, FL; Patrick Lynch, CEO, Bionic Bait, Pompano Beach, FL; Putnam Maclean, Captain, Eagle Eye Fishing Co., Marshfield, MA.

Gary Maier, Chief Design Officer, DroneFisher Tackle, Tomball, TX; Michael Manis, Owner/Captain, Punta Gorda Fly Charters, Punta Gorda, FL; Spencer Marchant, Senior Manager, Don Coffey Company, Jupiter, FL; Colby Mason, Mate, Kalex, Islamorada, FL; Chase Masters, Owner, The Chase Fishing Charters, Islamorada, FL; Will McCabe, Captain, Will McCabe Charters, Islamorada, FL; James McGrath, President, Grand Slam Tackle, Riviera Beach, FL.

Daniel Medina, Captain, Salty Fishing Charters, Cape Coral, FL; Andy Mezirow, Owner, Gray Light Fisheries, LLC, Seward, AK; Daniel Miers, Owner/President, King Sailfish Mounts, Fort Lauderdale, FL; Tom Morgan, Captain, Flying Thief Charters, Big Pine Key, FL; Patrick Neukam, Owner, Offshore Addict Charters, Madeira Beach, FL; Andrew Nobregas, Captain, Fishy Business Charters, Tavernier, FL; Daniel Nussbaum, President, Z-Man Fishing Products, Inc., Ladson, SC.

Frank Ortiz, Owner, Capt. Frank Ortiz, Key Largo, FL; William Pappas, Owner/Operator, Playin Hookey Charters, Virginia Beach, VA; Jason Parker, Captain, Reel Steel Fishing, Ocean City, MD; Donald Patnaude, President, Jones & Company, Stuart, FL; Cheryl Pawlak, President, Aquatic Nutrition, Inc., Eustis, FL; David Peck, Captain, Skilgal Charters LLC, Nags Head, NC; Michael Pierdinock, Owner/Captain, CPF Charters, Plymouth, MA.

Greg Poland, Owner/Captain, Capt. Greg Poland Inc, Islamorada, FL; Matt Ponzio, Captain, Smoking Reels Charters, Fort Myers, FL; Victor Porter, Owner, Chief Charter Fishing, Islamorada, FL; Jason Prieto, President, Steady Action Fishing Charters, Ruskin, FL; Thomas Putnam, President, Half Hitch Tackle, Panama City, FL; Kellie Ralston, Vice President for Conservation and Public Policy, Bonefish & Tarpon Trust, Tal-

lahassee, FL; Sean Rice, Owner, Lawless Lures, Grenada, MS; Olden Rodrigue, Owner, Coastal Charter Services LLC, Montegut, LA.

Joe Rodriguez, Captain, Fishing Guide Fla keys, Summerland Key, FL; Paul Sabayrac, Owner & Captain, Goin' Raptor Fishing, Juno Beach, FL; Amanda Sabin, VP Marketing, Contender Boats, Ormond Beach, FL; Jonathan Schrier, Owner/Operator, Shake Your Tail Feather, LLC., Marathon, FL; Peter Schulz, President, Schulz Brothers Fishing Headquarters, Jupiter, FL; Perry Scuderi, Owner/Operator, P.S. Fishing Inc., Islamorada, FL; Robert Shamblyn, Vice President, JL Marine Systems, Inc., Valrico, FL.

Anthony Solmo, Owner, Got 'Em on Sportfishing Charters, Key West, FL; Ron Stallings, PR/Marketing, TTI-Blakemore, Wetumpka, AL; Brandon Storin, Owner, Bean Sportfishing LLC, Islamorada, FL; Gary Stuve, Captain, Native Guide Jupiter, Jupiter, FL; Larry Sydnor, Captain, Capt. Larry Sydnor, Islamorada, FL; Andrew Tipler, Owner/Captain, Last Cast Charters, Cudjoe Key, FL.

Georgios Toris, Owner, Salta Americas, Inc, West Palm Beach, FL; Chris Trosset, Owner/Operator, Reel Fly Charters, Key West, FL; Brandon Vaughan, Owner, Salty Dog Charters, LLC, St. Petersburg, FL; Russ Walker, Owner/Captain, Tide Walker Charters, Cape Coral, FL; William Walsh, Captain, PJ's Enterprises, Tavernier, FL; Jeff Watkins, Owner, Anchors Away Charters, Port Charlotte, FL.

Ashley Weber, President/Owner, Ashley Weber Art, Inc., Rockledge, FL; Leonard Weinbaum, Owner, L. W. Fine Arts, Keystone Heights, FL; Nathan Weinbaum, President, KeysXplorer, Islamorada, FL; Bryan Williams, Sales Representative, Shimano, Wilmington, NC; Holly Williams, President/CEO, Cablz, Birmingham, AL; Chris Wilson, Owner, Rivers End Outfitters, LLC, Belle Chasse, LA.

Edward Wilson, Owner/Operator, Captain Ted Wilson Charter Fishing, Islamorada, FL; Jerry Winton, National Sales Manager, Winton Electronics, Manasquan, NJ; Billy Wood, Captain, Mine Time LLC, Key Largo, FL; Shane Wood, Owner, Shane Wood Charters, Sugarloaf Key, FL; Alex Zapata, Owner, Silver King Charters, Miami, FL; Ed Zyak, Captain, Captain Ed Zyak Fishing, Jensen Beach, FL.

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support of my bill, H.R. 4051, the Supporting the Health of Aquatic Systems through Research Knowledge, and Enhanced Dialogue Act, also known as the SHARKED Act.

Picture this: A charter boat fisherman takes a group of excited anglers 90 miles off the coast in hopes of reeling in a yellow fin tuna, a snapper, or grouper, or even ensure reeling in a tarpon.

One of the individuals hooks the first fish and starts to fight to reel it in. However, before the fish ever gets to the boat, sharks have completely consumed the fish, all the way up to the gill plates.

This phenomenon is called depredation, which occurs when sharks interfere with fishing activities.

Shark depredation is accepted as a natural part of fishing, but it has become a widespread issue in our waters and has increased rapidly in recent years.

During the House Natural Resources Committee hearing for the SHARKED

Act, we heard from experts discussing the impact of this phenomenon.

According to the American Sportfishing Association, 52.4 million people went fishing in the United States, supporting 826,000 jobs and contributing \$129 billion to the economy.

The American Sportfishing Association also found that 87 percent of charter guides surveyed said they experienced depredation with clients, resulting in negative impacts on their businesses.

Anglers are losing their catch and tackle to sharks at alarming rates, and they are understandably becoming increasingly frustrated by it.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced the SHARKED Act to study this issue, evaluate how we can improve sportfishing conditions for anglers while protecting sharks.

This bill establishes a fisheries management task force to focus on identifying research opportunities, recommending management strategies, and developing educational materials for fishermen.

□ 1645

This legislation will help fishermen understand which species of sharks have higher rates of depredation and where you are most likely to run into that species.

It will serve first as a major step in improving communication and coordination among fisheries managers in addressing shark depredation nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to passing this bill through the committee and further consideration on the floor, which is where we are today. It has been a great process.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have experienced what Mr. WITTMAN was talking about; you know, excited to be reeling in a fish, and you get it to the boat, and you maybe have a couple of lips and an eyeball and part of a gill. That is all that is left. I don't get to fish offshore that much, but I can tell you it can be disappointing, and that is why it is important to do this research.

I appreciate the gentleman bringing the bill before us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES), who is quite the fisherman himself.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, nothing ruins a great day like the tax man. Nothing ruins a great day like the tax man, and I am not talking about the IRS. I am talking about when you are out there fishing, and you have this big shark that just comes up and takes your catch.

You have great fishermen like Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. WESTERMAN, and maybe it is not that big of a deal; your next cast you are going catch another one. But you have people out there who don't know what they are doing, like

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio; it is a whole other thing. You just ruined his day.

What happens is—as Mr. WITTMAN clearly laid out—you will be out there, and you may be on a red snapper, you may be out there in some mangrove, and you are just catching fish; that is dinner.

This is an amazing experience. As Mr. WITTMAN noted, this is about economic activity all across the coastal United States. One of the biggest gaps, one of the biggest voids in our ability to properly manage fisheries is knowing more, knowing better about the impact of this apex predator, the shark.

I want to be very clear. This bill is not about culling species. It is not about killing sharks. What it is about is simply ensuring that we have the right data, that we have the right understanding to build properly managed fisheries, and to be able to ensure we can promote avoidance techniques to prevent this depredation from occurring.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia, who is an expert in this field, Mr. WITTMAN, and I thank Mr. SOTO and Mr. VEASEY, some of the cosponsors on this legislation, for their support, but this is all about improving the accuracy of fish management.

It benefits recreational fisheries, it benefits commercial fisheries, and, most importantly, Mr. Speaker, it benefits the sustainable fisheries, the sustainable stocks of some of these important areas like the Atlantic, the Pacific, the Gulf of Mexico, and other areas.

Again, I thank my friend from Virginia for his hard work on this legislation. I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for working with us and some of the great staff on his team, Vivian and Sandra. I thank Anderson on our staff, as well as Rachel on Ranking Member GRIJALVA's staff for their work in coming together to make sure that we have the right balance here.

This is all about ensuring that for generations to come that our children and our grandchildren can enjoy the same experiences that we have for many, many years.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I am prepared to close, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am sure living in Florida you have probably stood on the edge of a boat and asked that question: Why? Why did a shark eat my fish? What was it that motivated it? Is it because there are too many sharks? Is it something I did? It leaves you with this empty feeling.

This legislation is here to answer that question. It is simple legislation. It creates a task force that would be responsible for improving coordination and communication across the fisheries management community on shark depredation, as well as identifying research priorities and funding opportunities.

Again, I commend Congressman WITTMAN for his tireless work on fisheries issues and for his work on this bipartisan legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4061, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DROUGHT PREPAREDNESS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4385) to extend authorization of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4385

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Drought Preparedness Act”.

#### SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION.

(a) DROUGHT PROGRAM.—Section 104(c) of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2214(c)) is amended by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 301 of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2241) is amended by striking “2022” and inserting “2028”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members will have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4385, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4385, sponsored by Congressman NEGUSE of Colorado. This legislation extends authorities granted to the Bureau of Reclamation under the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act, which provided Reclamation emergency authorities to make water available for users outside of a project's area, offer loans to water

users to build drought mitigation infrastructure and make water available for fish and wildlife restoration efforts, among others.

Since 1992, when this legislation was enacted, Reclamation has relied on these authorities to assist communities across the 17 Reclamation States and territories to effectively manage water resources and mitigate impacts posed by droughts and natural disasters.

As the western United States responds to drought events and with the cost of these events posing ever greater financial burdens, it is critical that Reclamation continues to utilize these important authorities to pursue its vital mission, helping to support local economies and ensuring access to water resources.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4385 introduced by my colleague from Colorado, Representative NEGUSE.

Over the past several years, we have seen higher temperatures—with 2023 having been the hottest year on record—and reduced precipitation, snowpack, and stream flow due to climate change.

As ongoing impacts of climate change intensify, it is imperative we advance policies that would enhance climate resilience, restoration, and conservation—particularly when it comes to the quality and quantity of our available water resources.

The Drought Preparedness Act helps to do just that by reauthorizing a key program to support the development of drought contingency plans and mitigate climate-related drought impacts, including emergency response for communities grappling with water shortages for human health and safety needs.

I urge the swift passage of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. NEGUSE).

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my distinguished colleague and friend from Michigan for yielding. I also thank Chairman WESTERMAN for his leadership and Ranking Member GRIMALVA for his support of this bill—my bill, the Drought Preparedness Act—and for being willing to consider it through the Natural Resources Committee and help us to bring it to the floor today.

Finally, I thank my colleague, Representative CISCOMANI, who co-chairs the Colorado River Caucus here with me in the United States and is a co-lead of this particular bill.

As has been mentioned, throughout the West and certainly in my home

State of Colorado, we have seen continuing drought conditions threaten the lives and the livelihoods of so many of our communities. These ongoing drought conditions are shrinking the region's many, many water lifelines.

I will just say as someone who represents the Second Congressional District of Colorado and has the privilege of representing the Headwaters of the Colorado River, we know in my district and our communities know firsthand just how important that critical water supply is for our State.

That is why we created and formed the bipartisan Colorado River Caucus, a forum for Members located in Colorado River Basin States to discuss the various issues facing the Colorado River, upper basin and lower basin States.

As the Bureau of Reclamation, States, Tribes, and stakeholders are working toward long-term solutions, it is necessary that we continue to provide States and agency partners with every tool possible to mitigate its impacts, and that is exactly what this bill does.

As Representative DINGELL and Chairman WESTERMAN just articulated, the authorities that the Bureau has used in the past include drought contingency planning, resiliency projects, and emergency response actions. It is critical that we empower the Bureau to be able to utilize these tools into the future.

The Bureau of Reclamation testified during the legislative hearing during this particular bill as to just how important these tools are and how critical it is for Congress to ensure that they continue.

I am excited that this bill passed unanimously out of the House Natural Resources Committee and has strong bipartisan support. I urge my colleagues to support this bill here on the floor so we can get this across the finish line and to support Colorado and States across the Rocky Mountain West and the 17 Bureau of Reclamation States as we continue to deal with this crisis.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, when President George H.W. Bush signed the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991, he said that the legislation would help us serve as good neighbors in times of need.

The Drought Preparedness Act reauthorizes vital authorities that the Bureau of Reclamation has relied on for more than three decades to do just that—help communities respond and to prepare for droughts, ensure effective management of water resources, and encourage fish wildlife restoration efforts. These efforts are critically important.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4385.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### WILDLIFE INNOVATION AND LONGEVITY DRIVER REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5009) to reauthorize wildlife habitat and conservation programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5009

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver reauthorization Act” or the “WILD Act”.

#### SEC. 2. PARTNERS FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE ACT.

Section 5 of the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (16 U.S.C. 3774) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

#### SEC. 3. AFRICAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT.

(a) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—Section 2101 of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4211) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for African elephants and the habitat of African elephants.

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 2306(a) of the African Elephant Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 4245(a)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

#### SEC. 4. ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ACT OF 1997.

(a) ASIAN ELEPHANT CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 5 of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4264) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for Asian elephants and the habitat of Asian elephants.

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 8(a) of the Asian Elephant Conservation Act of 1997 (16 U.S.C. 4266(a)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.



**SEC. 5. RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ACT OF 1994.**

(a) RHINOCEROS AND TIGER CONSERVATION ASSISTANCE.—Section 5 of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5304) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for rhinoceroses or tigers and the habitat of rhinoceroses or tigers.

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 10(a) of the Rhinoceros and Tiger Conservation Act of 1994 (16 U.S.C. 5306(a)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

**SEC. 6. GREAT APE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2000.**

(a) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—Section 4(j)(1) of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6303(j)(1)) is amended by inserting “of up to 5 years” after “multiyear grant”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 6 of the Great Ape Conservation Act of 2000 (16 U.S.C. 6305) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

**SEC. 7. MARINE TURTLE CONSERVATION ACT OF 2004.**

(a) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—Section 4 of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6603) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) MULTIYEAR GRANTS.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may award to a person who is otherwise eligible for a grant under this section a multiyear grant of up to 5 years to carry out a project that the person demonstrates is an effective, long-term conservation strategy for marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises and the habitat of marine turtles, freshwater turtles, or tortoises.

“(2) EFFECT.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from awarding a grant on an annual basis.”.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 7(a) of the Marine Turtle Conservation Act of 2004 (16 U.S.C. 6606(a)) is amended by striking “2019 through 2023” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 5009, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

□ 1700

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5009, sponsored by my friend and colleague, Congressman DAVE JOYCE of

Ohio. The programs this bill reauthorizes are decades old and have had proven results. This bipartisan piece of legislation will continue our longstanding efforts to promote responsible conservation efforts in the country and internationally.

First, H.R. 5009 authorizes the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, which allows the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to partner with private landowners to preserve habitat for at-risk species on private lands. Over the past 35 years, the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has helped around 30,000 landowners complete more than 50,000 habitat restoration projects totaling more than 6.4 million acres of fish and wildlife habitat.

In February 2023, the service reported that two-thirds of federally listed species have at least some habitat on private land, and some species have most of their remaining habitat on private land. Voluntary, collaborative conservation efforts like the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program help to empower private landowners to aid these species.

Lastly, this bill reauthorizes the programs which make up the multinational species conservation funds. These programs provide grant funding to conserve some of the world's most iconic species, such as elephants, lions, tigers, rhinos, and great apes.

Since their inception, these programs have provided over \$92.5 million in grants and cooperative agreements for conservation projects in 54 countries, while leveraging \$200 million in private matching contributions. These grants and cooperative agreements are vital to reducing illegal trafficking and poaching, decreasing conflict with humans, and improving habitat for these iconic species.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud Mr. JOYCE for his work on this bill, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be the co-lead of H.R. 5009, the WILD Act. I want to start by thanking my partner, Representative JOYCE, for his hard work on this bipartisan bill. The WILD Act would authorize and amend several wildlife conservation laws, making it easier to support long-term conservation in the United States and abroad.

The multinational species conservation funds, which are managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, support five programs that help conserve iconic wildlife species, including elephants, rhinos, tigers, great apes, and turtles.

Grants awarded through these programs can be used to secure additional matching funds, increasing the impact of U.S. dollars. Awards made through these funds support synchronized aerial surveys, increasing habitat connectivity, reducing poaching and wildlife crime, community engagement activities, and breeding and reintroduction programs.

The WILD Act also would reauthorize the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, which supports habitat restoration efforts across the United States and territories.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program within the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service employs biologists who work with private landowners to help them conserve and improve wildlife habitat.

Program staff provide free technical and financial assistance to plan, design, supervise, and monitor customized habitat restoration projects ranging in size from a few acres to hundreds of thousands of acres.

The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program is an important component of our Nation's collaborative conservation efforts for endangered and threatened species.

Mr. Speaker, the WILD Act is a bipartisan win for conservation. I urge a “yes” vote, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), who is the bill's sponsor.

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage support for the Wildlife Innovation and Longevity Driver reauthorization Act, also known as the WILD Act.

Like many in northeast Ohio, some of my fondest memories are from growing up connected to the Great Lakes, especially in the wildlife area. However, our Nation's wildlife and habitats are facing unprecedented challenges. As Members of Congress, it is our responsibility to protect and preserve these habitats for future generations.

By reauthorizing the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program and the multinational species conservation fund, this critical legislation will not only safeguard the diverse ecosystems of our 50 States and territories, but also ensure the preservation of some of the world's most iconic species.

From the elephants in Africa to the turtles in Lake Erie, we must do everything we can to protect our world's rich biodiversity. For decades, these programs have garnered bipartisan support and have proven to deliver tangible results. Commonsense, community-centered conservation efforts like these help restore habitats and endangered species and wildlife and lift up economies and make communities more secure.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting the WILD Act. I also thank my colleague, my dear friend, Michigan, Congresswoman DEBBIE DINGELL, for her support on this bill and for leading the bipartisan efforts with me.

Together we can ensure that our children and grandchildren will inherit a world rich in wildlife and abundant natural wonders. The time to act is now for the sake of our planet and all who call it home.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I am

prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to strongly support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I consider myself a conservationist. The Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program has long been a critical tool to help advance collaborative conservation on private lands, and the multinational species conservation funds have been essential to conserving some of the world's most iconic species, as we discussed.

I, again, applaud Congressman JOYCE's bipartisan efforts on this legislation that will continue our longstanding efforts to promote responsible conservation efforts in the country and internationally.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5009.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### WINNEBAGO LAND TRANSFER ACT OF 2023

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1240) to transfer administrative jurisdiction of certain Federal lands from the Army Corps of Engineers to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to take such lands into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1240

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023".*

#### SEC. 2. LAND TO BE TAKEN INTO TRUST.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to all valid existing rights, all right, title, and interest (including improvements and appurtenances) of the United States in and to the Federal lands described in subsection (b), those Federal lands—

(1) *are declared to be part of the Winnebago Reservation created by the Treaty between the United States and the Winnebago Tribe in 1865; and*

(2) *shall be held in trust by the United States for the benefit of the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska subject to the same terms and conditions as those lands described in the Treaty with the Winnebago Tribe, 1865 (14 Stat. 671).*

(b) *FEDERAL LANDS DESCRIBED.*—The Federal lands described in this subsection are the following:

(1) *That portion of Tract No. 119, the description of which is filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa*

*(Western Division), Civil Case No. 70-C-3015-W, executed May 11, 1973, said tract being situated in Section 8 and the accretion land thereto, the Southwest Quarter of Section 9, the West Half of Section 16, the East Half of Section 17, Township 86 North, Range 47 West of the Fifth Principal Meridian, Woodbury County, Iowa, lying Easterly of the Nebraska/Iowa State Line and Southerly of the Easterly extension of the North line of the Winnebago Reservation.*

(2) *Tract No. 210, as described in Schedule "A" of the "Declaration of Taking, Legal Description of Tract 210 and Judgment on Stipulation and Order of Distribution", filed in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Iowa (Western Division), Civil Case No. 70-C-3015-W.*

(3) *Tract No. 113, as described in the "Judgment on Declaration of Taking and Legal Description of Tract 113", filed in the United States District Court for the District of Nebraska, Civ. No. 03498.*

(c) *GAMING PROHIBITION.*—Class II and class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) shall not be allowed at any time on the land taken into trust under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1240, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arkansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1240, the Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023, would replace approximately 1,600 acres of land into trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

The Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska is one of the federally recognized Tribes of the Ho-Chunk people. Their reservation encompasses 117,000 acres of land located in Thurston and Dixon Counties in Nebraska and Woodbury County in Iowa.

The treaties of 1865 and 1874 between the Tribe and the U.S. Government established the land that is now known as the Winnebago Tribe's reservation.

In 1970, the Army Corps of Engineers condemned tracts of land on the eastern boundary of the Winnebago Reservation in Nebraska and Iowa through eminent domain for the use of the Snyder-Winnebag Oxbow Lake Recreation Complex project. The Tribe challenged this taking in Federal Court. In Nebraska, the District Court ruled in favor of the Tribe, and the parcels in the State were returned.

That was not the case in Iowa. A failure to properly preserve a right of appeal meant that the Eighth Circuit Court could not return the land to the Tribe through a court order, even though they won their case. The land

would have to be returned to the Tribe through an act of Congress.

H.R. 1240 would right the wrong that occurred in 1970 by returning the land and placing it into trust. An additional 60-acre tract that was condemned by the Army Corps of Engineers would also be placed into trust as it would be landlocked by the main parcels being placed into trust.

The land is currently woodland and marsh and has recreational, hunting, and fishing values. The Tribe testified they intend to manage the land under their Winnebago Wildlife and Parks Department and plan to make few, if any, changes to the conservation measures currently in place. Under this legislation, the land would be ineligible for gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA) for his work on the bill, I encourage adoption of the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1240, the Winnebago Land Transfer Act of 2023, introduced by my colleague from Iowa, Representative FEENSTRA.

This bill would return two tracts of land acquired through eminent domain by the Army Corps of Engineers back into the trust for the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska.

In 1865, the Winnebago Tribe and the United States signed a treaty promising the Tribe their reservation in Nebraska along the Missouri River for the cession of their Dakota lands.

The United States violated this treaty in the 1970s when the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers acquired land from the reservation for flood control by invoking eminent domain without congressional approval or approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit has since held that the Army Corps of Engineers lacked the authority to exercise eminent domain over trust lands. Despite the court's decision, the land has never been returned to the Tribe and remains in the possession of the Army Corps of Engineers.

H.R. 1240 seeks to rectify this wrong by returning and reintegrating the land into the Winnebago Tribe's reservation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to right this wrong and vote "yes," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the bill's sponsor, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA).

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for bringing this important bill to the floor.

The Winnebago Reservation was established by two treaties in 1865 and 1874 and has been the home of the Winnebago Tribe ever since.

In 1975, more than 100 years later, the Army Corps of Engineers took two

small pieces of land within the Missouri River away from the Winnebago Tribe. Since then, the Federal Government has ignored the land and has not made any plans to develop it. The bill would make things right by returning the land that was taken by the Army Corps of Engineers and give it back to the Winnebago Tribe.

During this process, I have gotten to know many of the people of the Winnebago Tribe. I have learned about the great work and the things they do in agriculture, business, and community development.

It is wonderful to see several of them in our gallery today, and I thank them for coming.

This is so important to them and for our land. From my conversations with them, the Winnebago Tribe plans to use this land for conservation that will be open to the public, and I am excited to see their plans for how they will improve this land.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to lead this effort in the House, I encourage my colleagues to support this important bill, and I thank the chairman for yielding me time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I am prepared to close, and I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as has been stated, the Winnebago Tribe has been working for more than 50 years to have these approximately 1,600 acres restored to their reservation. I am hopeful that in this Congress we can finally get it done.

Mr. Speaker, I, again, want to thank Congressman FEENSTRA and the Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska for their hard work on this legislation. I urge adoption of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1240, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1715

#### ENHANCING DETECTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 443) to direct the Secretary of Labor to train certain employees of Department of Labor how to effectively detect and assist law enforcement in preventing human trafficking during the course of their official duties, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 443

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the “Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act”.*

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

*In this Act, the term “human trafficking” means any act or practice described in paragraph (11) of section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).*

#### SEC. 3. TRAINING FOR DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL TO IDENTIFY HUMAN TRAFFICKING.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor shall implement a program to provide the training and periodic continuing education described in subsection (b) to employees of the Department of Labor whom the Secretary determines should receive such training or education based on their official duties. In making such determination with respect to employees of the Wage and Hour Division, the Secretary shall consider the training and education needs of such employees operating in a State with a significant increase in oppressive child labor (as defined in section 3(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(1)).*

*(b) TRAINING AND CONTINUING EDUCATION DESCRIBED.—The training and continuing education provided under the program referred to in subsection (a)—*

*(1) may be conducted through in-class or virtual learning capabilities; and*

*(2) shall include—*

*(A) training or continuing education that—*

*(i) is most appropriate for the particular location or professional environment in which the employees receiving such training or continuing education perform their official duties;*

*(ii) covers topics determined by the Secretary of Labor to appropriately reflect current trends and best practices for such location or environment; and*

*(iii) includes—*

*(I) the provision of current information on matters related to the detection of human trafficking to the extent relevant to the official duties of such employees, and consistent with privacy laws;*

*(II) methods for identifying suspected victims of human trafficking and parties who may be suspected of the trafficking activity; and*

*(III) a clear course of action for referring potential cases of human trafficking to the Department of Justice and other appropriate authorities, in accordance with best practices for protecting the rights of victims of human trafficking, including appropriate collaboration with victim advocacy organizations, Federal agencies, and State and local officials; and*

*(B) an evaluation of the training or continuing education by such employees after the completion of such training or education.*

#### SEC. 4. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

*Not later than 1 year after the Secretary of Labor first implements the program under section 3(a), and each year thereafter, the Secretary of Labor shall submit to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, a report on—*

*(1) the training and continuing education provided under the program for the preceding year, including—*

*(A) an evaluation (including the overall effectiveness) of such training and continuing education; and*

*(B) the number of individuals who have completed such training or continuing education; and*

*(2) the number of cases related to the detection of human trafficking, which were referred*

*to the Department of Justice and other appropriate authorities during the preceding year by the Department of Labor, and the processes used by the Department of Labor to accurately measure and track the response of the Department of Justice and other appropriate authorities to such cases.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from the Northern Mariana Islands (Mr. SABLON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 443.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Trafficking is modern-day slavery, period.

Trafficking goes against our country's founding values of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, so it is all the more heartbreaking and frustrating to know this crime is happening in our own country.

According to the Polaris Institute, experts believe that worldwide labor trafficking—the illegal exploitation of an individual for commercial gain—is more common than sex trafficking.

This grotesque form of servitude knows no geographical limits. From the Mariana Islands to my home State of Michigan, cases of trafficking can happen anywhere to anyone. Victims of labor trafficking can be young children, teenagers, or adult men and women.

While a lot of work has been done over the years to raise awareness about this terrible crime, sadly, events over the past year have demonstrated that more measures are necessary. Statistics from the Justice Department indicate human trafficking in the United States is on the rise. This is unfortunate but not surprising, given the lawlessness at our southern border.

As one columnist put it, “The absence of border security, in conjunction with nonexistent interior enforcement, has made the U.S. a fertile breeding ground for human trafficking.”

The Biden administration's open-border policies have led to more than 450,000 unaccompanied alien children crossing the southwest border on Secretary Mayorkas' watch. Given this surge, the Department of Health and Human Services, under guidance from the administration, lowered the standards for sponsors to take these unaccompanied children. Simply put, HHS knowingly transferred these children to the possession of others who were not their parents without ensuring that the child was healthy or that the transfer was necessary.

The result? Mr. Speaker, 85,000 children can't be found. There have been reports of sponsors having 20 of these children in one home, being used for forced labor.

Mr. Speaker, this breakdown in Federal agencies' ability to keep children out of harm's way underscores the need to ensure that Federal officials are properly educated on the signs of human trafficking.

While I am sure there is more work to be done at other Federal agencies, the Committee on Education and the Workforce has jurisdiction over the Department of Labor. Specifically, Wage and Hour Division and Occupational Safety and Health Administration employees, through the course of inspecting workplace safety and labor law compliance within the United States, often have a frontline opportunity to identify patterns of forced labor. Providing these employees with the proper education on how to detect and respond to the signs of human trafficking is an important part of the larger comprehensive effort to eradicate this unthinkable crime.

Specifically, H.R. 443 would direct the Department of Labor to educate appropriate staff on how to effectively detect instances of human trafficking; ensure personnel regularly receive information on current trends and best practices; allow flexible education options, including in-class and virtual learning options; establish a clear course of action for referring suspected instances of human trafficking to law enforcement; and require a report to Congress on the implementation of the education and the processes used by the Department to measure and track its agencies' and law enforcement's responses to human trafficking.

An earlier version of this bill passed the House unanimously in 2017, and this bill passed the Education and the Workforce Committee by a vote of 42-0.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 443 so we can give folks on the front lines of identifying labor trafficking tools and the tools to stop it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SABLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 443, a bill to assist the United States Department of Labor in identifying and preventing cases of human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative WALBERG for his leadership and partnership on this issue and for introducing this legislation, of which I am an original cosponsor.

Human trafficking is a scourge that preys on the most vulnerable, subjecting more than 27 million people around the world—and thousands here in the United States—to abhorrent working and living conditions.

Eradicating all cases of human trafficking first requires an awareness of where it exists. As the Federal agency

that oversees labor laws, the Department of Labor is uniquely positioned to identify patterns of labor exploitation.

That is why Representative WALBERG and I reintroduced H.R. 443, the Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act. This bipartisan, no-cost legislation directs the Department of Labor to train appropriate Department staff on how to detect human trafficking and ensure that personnel of the Department of Labor are provided with screening tools to identify and detect trafficking activities.

The bill requires the Department to report back to Congress within a year on the progress that is being made by such efforts.

Unfortunately, this horrible crime occurs in every part of our country, including in my own district in the Northern Mariana Islands. In the past, several construction companies have lured non-U.S. workers to come to the Marianas with false promises and misrepresentations about pay and conditions. They didn't come through the southern border, I will assure you of that. They came by airplane. The companies then withheld the employees' wages and confiscated their passports.

The workers were subjected to inhumane working conditions and crowded, unsanitary barracks with barely enough food and water. They were forced to work in unsafe conditions, forced to look up to the community for food and food assistance, some suffering serious injuries without access to adequate medical care. There was even a workplace fatality.

To their credit, the Department of Labor's OSHA, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, and Wage and Hour Division have worked to address these crimes, issuing fines and citations and recovering wages.

These grave injustices that rob people of their freedom, and sometimes their lives, are preventable. Congress can and must do more to hold human traffickers accountable. H.R. 443, the Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act, is an important step toward ensuring that the Department has the tools and resources it needs to combat human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership of the House, especially Chairwoman VIRGINIA FOXX and Ranking Member BOBBY SCOTT of the Education and the Workforce Committee, for moving this bill to the floor. Again, I thank my friend, Representative WALBERG, for his leadership in combating human trafficking.

One reason we should vote for this bill is because it is a good bill. Another good reason we should vote for it is because Mr. WALBERG's team got the national championship. He deserves this win here.

Last month, this bill gained overwhelming support in committee with a vote of 42-0. It passed the House unanimously in the 117th Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill today

and support this legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, the Representative from the Northern Mariana Islands. We have worked on this a long time, and it is worthy of the time spent.

Let me close with some heart-breaking statistics to remind my colleagues of why we have done this.

The International Labor Organization estimated there were roughly 78 million victims of forced labor across the globe on any given day in 2022.

In 2021, more than 10,000 trafficking cases in the U.S. were reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline.

According to the Department of Homeland Security, human trafficking is second only to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of international crime.

Roughly one in six endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is likely a victim of child sex trafficking.

Clearly, more needs to be done to combat this form of modern-day slavery.

One of the biggest obstacles we face in this fight is awareness. H.R. 443 will ensure Department of Labor employees are equipped with knowledge and processes to catch traffickers and keep them from inflicting more harm and abuse on individuals.

Lastly, I thank my colleague, Representative SABLON, and his team for their strong partnership and advocacy over the years on this bill. I thank my colleague, and I certainly thank him for Go Blue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 443, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 443, the bipartisan Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act, sponsored by Representatives WALBERG and SABLON.

Human trafficking is a blight upon civil society—everyone can agree, and it is an issue that remains one of the greatest challenges of our time.

According to the International Labor Organization, in 2022, an estimated 27.6 million victims are trafficked on any given day.

Roughly one in six endangered runaways reported to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children is likely a victim of child sex trafficking.

These horrid crimes are committed by those who prey on the innocent and vulnerable.

We have seen stories right here at home of human trafficking operations taking place at our own southern border.

When our nation's borders are left wide open, the cartels are emboldened—and act with impunity—as they enslave innocent boys and girls.

H.R. 443 offers a viable avenue to equip Department of Labor personnel with the necessary information and tools to identify and report human trafficking cases—as well as cases of forced labor and sexual exploitation—because they investigate employment law violations.

It also requires the Department of Labor to provide an annual report to Congress regarding its own efforts to combat the scourge of human trafficking.

Mr. Speaker, human trafficking must be stamped out, and this bipartisan legislation can help move us towards achieving that end.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 443.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 443, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORAN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 2882; and  
H.R. 443.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

## UDALL FOUNDATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2882) to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 350, nays 58, not voting 22, as follows:

[Roll No. 32]

YEAS—350

Adams	Eshoo	Lee (CA)
Aderholt	Espaillet	Lee (FL)
Aguilar	Estes	Lee (PA)
Alford	Evans	Leger Fernandez
Allen	Ezell	Lesko
Allred	Fallon	Letlow
Amo	Feenstra	Levin
Amodei	Ferguson	Lieu
Armstrong	Finstad	Lofgren
Auchincloss	Fischbach	Loudermilk
Babin	Fitzgerald	Lucas
Bacon	Fitzpatrick	Luetkemeyer
Baird	Fleischmann	Lynch
Balderson	Fletcher	Mace
Balint	Flood	Magaziner
Barr	Foster	Malliotakis
Barragán	Foushee	Maloy
Beatty	Fox	Mann
Bentz	Frankel, Lois	Manning
Bera	Frost	Matsui
Bergman	Fulcher	McBath
Beyer	Gallagher	McCaul
Bice	Gallego	McClain
Bilirakis	Garamendi	McClellan
Bishop (GA)	Garbarino	McCollum
Blumenauer	Garcia (IL)	McGarvey
Blunt	Garcia (TX)	McGovern
Bonamici	Garcia, Robert	McHenry
Bost	Jimenez	Meeks
Bowman	Golden (ME)	Menendez
Boyle (PA)	Goldman (NY)	Meng
Brown	Gomez	Meuser
Brownley	Gonzales, Tony	Mfume
Buchanan	Gonzalez,	Miller (OH)
Bucshon	Vicente	Miller (WV)
Budzinski	Gottheimer	Miller-Meeks
Burgess	Granger	Moolenaar
Bush	Graves (LA)	Moore (UT)
Calvert	Graves (MO)	Moore (WI)
Cammack	Greene (GA)	Moran
Caraveo	Griffith	Morelle
Carbajal	Grijalva	Moskowitz
Cárdenas	Guest	Moulton
Carey	Guthrie	Mrvan
Carl	Hageman	Mullin
Carson	Harder (CA)	Murphy
Carter (GA)	Hayes	Napolitano
Carter (LA)	Hill	Neal
Carter (TX)	Himes	Neguse
Cartwright	Hinson	Newhouse
Casar	Horsford	Nickel
Case	Houlahan	Norcross
Casten	Hoyer	Obermole
Castor (FL)	Hoyle (OR)	Ocasio-Cortez
Castro (TX)	Hudson	Omar
Chavez-DeRemer	Huffman	Owens
Cherfilus-	Huizenga	Pallone
McCormick	Issa	Panetta
Chu	Ivey	Pappas
Ciscomani	Jackson (IL)	Pascrell
Clark (MA)	Jackson (NC)	Payne
Clarke (NY)	Jackson Lee	Pelosi
Cleaver	Jacobs	Peltola
Clyburn	James	Pence
Cohen	Jayapal	Perez
Cole	Jeffries	Peters
Comer	Johnson (GA)	Pettersen
Connolly	Johnson (SD)	Pfluger
Correa	Jordan	Pocan
Courtney	Joyce (OH)	Porter
Craig	Kamlager-Dove	Pressley
Crawford	Kaptur	Quigley
Crenshaw	Kean (NJ)	Ramirez
Crockett	Keating	Raskin
Crow	Kelly (IL)	Reschenthaler
Cuellar	Kelly (MS)	Rodgers (WA)
D'Esposito	Kelly (PA)	Rodgers (AL)
Davids (KS)	Khanna	Ross
Davis (IL)	Kiggans (VA)	Rouzer
Davis (NC)	Kildee	Ruiz
De La Cruz	Kiley	Ruppersberger
Dean (PA)	Kilmer	Rutherford
DeGette	Kim (CA)	Ryan
DeLauro	Krishnamoorthi	Salazar
DelBene	Kuster	Salinas
Deluzio	Kustoff	Sánchez
DeSaulnier	LaHood	Sarbanes
Diaz-Balart	LaLota	Scanlon
Dingell	Lamborn	Schakowsky
Doggett	Landsman	Schiff
Duarte	Langworthy	Schneider
Dunn (FL)	Larsen (WA)	Scholten
Edwards	Larson (CT)	Schrier
Ellzey	Latta	Schweikert
Emmer	LaTurner	Scott (VA)
Escobar	Lawler	Scott, Austin

Scott, David  
Sessions  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Simpson  
Slotkin  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Smucker  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Staubert  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Stevens  
Strickland

Strong  
Swalwell  
Sykes  
Takano  
Thannedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Turner  
Underwood  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey

Velázquez  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

NAYS—58

Arrington  
Banks  
Bean (FL)  
Bishop (NC)  
Boebert  
Brehnen  
Buck  
Burchett  
Burlison  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Collins  
Crane  
Davidson  
DesJarlais  
Duncan  
Franklin, Scott  
Fry  
Gaetz

Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Green (TN)  
Grothman  
Harris  
Harshbarger  
Hern  
Higgins (LA)  
Houchin  
Hunt  
Jackson (TX)  
Joyce (PA)  
LaMalfa  
Luna  
Massie  
Mast  
McClintock  
McCormick  
Miller (IL)

Mills  
Moore (AL)  
Nehls  
Norman  
Ogles  
Palmer  
Perry  
Posey  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Roy  
Self  
Spartz  
Steube  
Tenney  
Timmons  
Van Dуйne  
Waltz

NOT VOTING—22

Biggs  
Costa  
Curtis  
Donalds  
Garcia, Mike  
Green, Al (TX)  
Kim (NJ)  
Lee (NV)

Luttrell  
Molinaro  
Mooney  
Nadler  
Nunn (IA)  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Rogers (KY)

□ 1856

Messrs. BURLISON, JOYCE of Pennsylvania, GOODEN of Texas, DESJARLAIS, DUNCAN, SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, JACKSON of Texas, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Messrs. HIGGINS of Louisiana, MCCORMICK, and WALTZ changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mses. TLAIB, GARCIA of Texas, and MALOY changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## ENHANCING DETECTION OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 443) to direct the Secretary of Labor to train certain employees of Department of Labor how to effectively detect and assist law enforcement in preventing human trafficking during the course of their official duties, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.



The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 407, nays 0, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 33]

YEAS—407

Adams	Crawford	Harder (CA)
Aderholt	Crenshaw	Harris
Aguilar	Crockett	Harshbarger
Alford	Crow	Hayes
Allen	Cuellar	Hern
Allred	D'Esposito	Higgins (LA)
Amo	Davidson	Hill
Amodei	Davis (IL)	Himes
Armstrong	Davis (NC)	Hinson
Arrington	De La Cruz	Horsford
Auchincloss	Dean (PA)	Houchin
Babin	DeGette	Houlihan
Bacon	DeLauro	Hoyer
Baird	DelBene	Hoyle (OR)
Balderson	Deluzio	Hudson
Balint	DeSaulnier	Huffman
Banks	DesJarlais	Huizenga
Barr	Diaz-Balart	Hunt
Barragán	Dingell	Issa
Bean (FL)	Doggett	Ivey
Beatty	Donalds	Jackson (IL)
Bentz	Duarte	Jackson (NC)
Bera	Duncan	Jackson (TX)
Bergman	Dunn (FL)	Jackson Lee
Beyer	Edwards	Jacobs
Bice	Ellzey	James
Bilirakis	Emmer	Jayapal
Bishop (GA)	Escobar	Jeffries
Bishop (NC)	Eshoo	Johnson (GA)
Blumenauer	Españillat	Johnson (SD)
Blunt Rochester	Estes	Jordan
Boebert	Evans	Joyce (OH)
Bonamici	Ezell	Joyce (PA)
Bost	Fallon	Kamlager-Dove
Bowman	Feenstra	Kaptur
Boyle (PA)	Ferguson	Kean (NJ)
Brecheen	Finstad	Keating
Brown	Fischbach	Kelly (IL)
Brownley	Fitzgerald	Kelly (MS)
Buchanan	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (PA)
Buck	Fleischmann	Khanna
Bucshon	Fletcher	Kiggans (VA)
Budzinski	Flood	Kildee
Burchett	Foster	Kiley
Burgess	Foushee	Kilmer
Burlison	Fox	Kim (CA)
Bush	Frankel, Lois	Krishnamoorthi
Calvert	Franklin, Scott	Kuster
Cammack	Frost	Kustoff
Caraveo	Fry	LaHood
Carbajal	Fulcher	LaLota
Cárdenas	Gaetz	LaMalfa
Carey	Gallagher	Landsman
Carl	Gallego	Langworthy
Carson	Garamendi	Larsen (WA)
Carter (GA)	Garbarino	Larson (CT)
Carter (LA)	Garcia (IL)	Latta
Carter (TX)	Garcia (TX)	LaTurner
Casar	Garcia, Mike	Lawler
Case	Garcia, Robert	Lee (CA)
Casten	Gimenez	Lee (FL)
Castor (FL)	Golden (ME)	Lee (PA)
Castro (TX)	Goldman (NY)	Leger Fernandez
Chavez-DeRemer	Gomez	Lesko
Cherfilus-	Gonzales, Tony	Letlow
McCormick	Gonzalez,	Levin
Ciscomani	Vicente	Lieu
Clark (MA)	Good (VA)	Lofgren
Clarke (NY)	Gooden (TX)	Loudermilk
Cleaver	Gosar	Lucas
Cline	Gottheimer	Luetkemeyer
Cloud	Granger	Luna
Clyburn	Graves (LA)	Lynch
Clyde	Graves (MO)	Mace
Cohen	Green (TN)	Magaziner
Cole	Greene (GA)	Malliotakis
Collins	Griffith	Maloy
Comer	Grijalva	Mann
Connolly	Grothman	Manning
Correa	Guest	Massie
Courtney	Guthrie	Mast
Craig	Hageman	Matsui
Crane		McBath

McCauley	Peters	Steel
McClain	Pettersen	Stefanik
McClellan	Pfluger	Steil
McClintock	Pocan	Steube
McCollum	Porter	Stevens
McCormick	Posey	Strickland
McGarvey	Pressley	Strong
McGovern	Quigley	Swalwell
McHenry	Ramirez	Sykes
Meeks	Raskin	Takano
Menendez	Reschenthaler	Tenney
Meng	Rodgers (WA)	Thannedar
Meuser	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (CA)
Mfume	Rose	Thompson (MS)
Miller (IL)	Rosendale	Thompson (PA)
Miller (OH)	Ross	Timmons
Miller (WV)	Rouzer	Tlaib
Miller-Meeks	Roy	Tokuda
Mills	Ruiz	Tonko
Moolenaar	Ruppersberger	Torres (CA)
Moore (AL)	Rutherford	Torres (NY)
Moore (UT)	Ryan	Trahan
Moran	Salazar	Trone
Morelle	Salinas	Turner
Moskowitz	Sánchez	Underwood
Moulton	Sarbanes	Valadao
Mrvan	Scanlon	Van Drew
Mullin	Schakowsky	Van Duyen
Murphy	Schiff	Vargas
Nadler	Schneider	Vasquez
Napolitano	Scholten	Veasey
Neal	Schrier	Velázquez
Neguse	Schweikert	Wagner
Nehls	Scott (VA)	Walberg
Newhouse	Scott, Austin	Waltz
Nickel	Scott, David	Wasserman
Norcross	Self	Wassman
Norman	Sessions	Waters
Oberholte	Sherman	Watson Coleman
Ocasio-Cortez	Sherrill	Weber (TX)
Ogles	Simpson	Webster (FL)
Omar	Slotkin	Wenstrup
Owens	Smith (MO)	Westerman
Pallone	Smith (NE)	Wild
Palmer	Smith (NJ)	Williams (GA)
Panetta	Smith (WA)	Williams (NY)
Pappas	Smucker	Williams (TX)
Pascarella	Sorensen	Wilson (FL)
Payne	Soto	Wilson (SC)
Pelosi	Spanberger	Wittman
Peltola	Spartz	Womack
Pence	Stansbury	Yakym
Perez	Stanton	Zinke
Perry	Stauber	

NOT VOTING—23

Biggs	Lee (NV)	Rogers (KY)
Cartwright	Luttrell	Scalise
Chu	Molinaro	Sewell
Costa	Mooney	Tiffany
Curtis	Moore (WI)	Titus
Green, Al (TX)	Nunn (IA)	Van Orden
Kim (NJ)	Phillips	Wexton
Lamborn	Pingree	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1902

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and the roll call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted: “yea” on rollcall No. 32, H.R. 2882—Udall Foundation Reauthorization Act of 2023, as amended and “yea” on rollcall No. 33, H.R. 443—Enhancing Detection of Human Trafficking Act, as amended.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, during roll call votes on H.R. 2882 and H.R. 443, my vote was not recorded. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 32 and “yea” on rollcall No. 33.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I missed votes today due to a 12,000 foot altitude flight delay. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 32 and “yea” on rollcall No. 33.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I regret I was not able to be present to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 32 and “yea” on rollcall No. 33.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 5408

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 5408, the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act, a bill originally introduced by Representative BRIAN HIGGINS of New York, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF INDIVIDUAL TO THE UNITED STATES-CHINA ECONOMIC AND SECURITY REVIEW COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 1238(b)(3) of the Floyd D. Spence National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2001 (22 U.S.C. 7002), as amended, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following individual on the part of the House to the United States-China Economic and Security Review Commission for a term expiring on December 31, 2025:

Mr. Cliff Sims, Birmingham, Alabama

RECOGNIZING AFC CHAMPIONS KANSAS CITY CHIEFS

(Mr. ALFORD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 2024 AFC champion, the Kansas City Chiefs.

Chiefs Kingdom was so proud to watch our team hoist the Lamar Hunt Trophy once again.

The haters and naysayers said the Chiefs couldn't win on the road. They



said that the Ravens defense would still be Patrick Mahomes. They said we couldn't stop Lamar. They even said Travis Kelce would be too focused on Taylor and not on football.

Well, Mr. Speaker, shake it off. You see, Mr. Speaker, nothing can stop the Chiefs—not Tucker's helmet placement, not Flowers' taunting, and especially not Lamar's throwing into triple coverage.

As Mitch Holthus said: "You can doubt the Chiefs. You can dislike the Chiefs. You can disrespect the Chiefs. You are going to have to deal with the Chiefs being the AFC champions for the fourth time in five seasons."

Missouri is rooting for you. Go Chiefs.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SHEILA Y. OLIVER

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Lieutenant Governor of the State of New Jersey, Sheila Y. Oliver.

Ms. Oliver was a trailblazer in every sense of the word. She was the first Black woman to serve as Lieutenant Governor in the State's history. She was the first Black woman to be elected to statewide office in New Jersey. She was the first Black woman to serve as speaker of the general assembly. She was only the second Black woman to lead a legislative chamber in American history.

I knew her before she made history. I knew her as my neighbor on Bock Avenue in Newark, New Jersey. She became my mentor, my friend, and someone I respected. Her oratory skills were second to none. You felt honored when she spoke on your behalf.

It was her endorsement that helped propel me to my seat in the United States Congress. The Positive Community magazine will publish a tribute to Sheila Oliver this month, and it is well-deserved.

#### ATTACKS IMMINENT ACROSS AMERICA

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, my heartfelt warning today is for all families of all political parties in America.

I had been excusing the irresponsible Biden open borders as recruiting millions of low-information voters to perpetuate Democrat elitist power. This weekend, well-respected Members of Congress clarified open borders is purposeful insanity, putting American families at risk everywhere of murderous attacks.

With terrorists and unknown millions of illegal aliens, more 9/11 attacks

will lead to a growth of government for elitist power. This "ends justifies the means" concentrates power in their worship of government run by elitists.

American families, having full gas tanks, should prepare with an attack rally point when communications are going to be cut. Congressional offices today have rally points. Families should have a pre-chosen refuge of safety to face the threats of terrorists.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders for terrorists.

It is sadly clear that there will be more 9/11 attacks across America imminent in the country, as finally revealed by the FBI.

Mr. Speaker, our prayers go out for the three Georgia National Guard members murdered by Iranian puppets.

□ 1915

#### CELEBRATING THE CAREER OF RABBI RACHLIS

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of my dear friend, Rabbi Arnie Rachlis, who is retiring after 35 years as the spiritual leader of University Synagogue in Irvine.

From serving as a White House fellow, to delivering an invocation for President Obama, to growing University Synagogue into a place of worship that now serves over 600 Orange County families, Rabbi Rachlis has created a legacy that will resonate for generations to come.

Rabbi Rachlis has been a beacon of wisdom, compassion, and inclusivity, and his teachings foster a spirit of unity and understanding. I am particularly grateful for the Rabbi's dedication to civic engagement and his deep understanding of that as a part of Jewish life. I am honored that Rabbi Rachlis often welcomed me to engage with his congregation in thoughtful dialogue.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Rabbi Rachlis so much for his service to University Synagogue and our community. Mazel tov on a well-deserved retirement.

#### LIQUEFIED NATURAL GAS IS CLEAN, AFFORDABLE, AND RELIABLE

(Mr. CARTER of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in staunch opposition to President Biden's ban on liquefied natural gas export projects.

Under the guise of a pause, President Biden has taken complete control of an

important piece of the American energy sector.

Do not be fooled. This is, in fact, a ban on LNG exports and a massive gift to Putin.

Our European allies are desperately seeking American energy to counter Russia's weaponization of its natural gas exports. But instead of being the leader Americans in the rest of the world need, he is being the puppet that far-left climate activists want.

If President Biden were serious about his rush-to-green agenda, he would unleash the production and export of clean, affordable, and reliable American LNG, which has roughly 40 percent lower life-cycle emissions than Russian LNG.

Mr. Speaker, these policies are entirely out of touch and widely unpopular.

We should be diverting our attention to fixing the economy, solving the question of the national debt, closing our southern border, and aiding our ally, Israel. This White House needs to get its priorities in order. It is causing the American people to suffer.

#### FIGHTING INSURANCE COMPANIES TO HELP PREMATURE BABIES

(Mr. MCGARVEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, in 2011, our twins, Clara and Wilson, were born 14 weeks premature. They weighed a pound and a half and a pound and fifteen ounces. We spent 99 days in the NICU before coming home.

No journey through the NICU is easy. The fear, the ups and downs, and the helplessness that comes with having your babies in someone else's hands, that is only made worse when you have to fight the insurance companies—like my wife, Chris, and I did—to get your preemies the nutritional support they need to grow out of the NICU.

We were lucky. We won our fight with the insurance company, and we made a promise that if we could, we would do everything we could to help other families, as well. That journey took us to the Kentucky State Senate where I passed the first insurance mandate in over two decades.

Now it is time to go national. That is why I have introduced the Supporting Premature Infant Nutrition Act, so every family and every preemie is given the best chance to thrive.

#### YOUNG WOMEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION IN OIL CITY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Young Women's Christian Association of Oil City, in Venango County, or more widely known as the YWCA, as they celebrate their 100th anniversary.

In 1922, Olive Bailey Shaffer proposed the idea of establishing a YWCA in Oil City. Two years later, on June 24, 1924, with 450 charter members enrolled, the Oil City YWCA was founded.

To sustain the organization and their mission, members of the YWCA raised more than \$10,000 in their first year. Following these efforts, the Oil City YWCA received their national charter on December 24, 1924.

Over the years, the YWCA continued to grow and establish strong roots in the community. What started as humble beginnings led the chapter to the Samuel L. Maxwell Home at 109 Central Avenue, which remains the current home.

This location continued to grow with the chapter with multiple renovations and additions over the 100 years. The group now uses this location to host programming and advocacy to generate institutional change in three key areas—racial justice and civil rights, empowerment and economic advancement, and health and safety of women and girls.

Today, the YWCA stands true to their mission to eliminate racism, empower women, stand for social justice, help families, and strengthen communities.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the women of the Young Women's Christian Association of Oil City on this monumental anniversary. May they continue their good work for the next 100 years.

#### LOWERING EVERYDAY COSTS FOR THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mrs. SYKES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, from day one, I promised the people of Ohio's 13th Congressional District that I would do everything I could to lower everyday costs.

Due to high costs, too many families in Ohio's 13th District and across the country are lying awake at night trying to figure out how to pay their bills, put food on the table, and provide for their children. Hardworking Ohioans need relief, and they need it now.

I am proud to have supported the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act. This progrowth, profamily, bipartisan bill delivers lower costs for families and small businesses in Ohio's 13th District. I am especially excited that this bipartisan bill expands the child tax credit, a policy I have consistently championed throughout my time in public service, including my time here in Congress, where last year I introduced my Lower Your Taxes Act, which also includes expansions to the child tax credit.

While the Tax Relief for American Families and Workers Act does not go as far as to fully restore the American Rescue Plan's child tax credit expansion like my legislation, this bipar-

tisan bill will still make a significant difference for 37,000 children in Ohio's 13th Congressional District whose families are struggling to pay for medicine, school supplies, and other childcare expenses.

This is only the start of what Congress should pass to support our families. I will keep fighting for additional policies like my Lower Your Taxes Act, which will expand the child tax credit even more and expand the earned income tax credit.

#### IT IS EASY ENOUGH FOR PEOPLE TO COME HERE LEGALLY

(Mr. GROTHMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, obviously the biggest issue facing America today is the huge volume of people coming across our southern border. We recently had 1 month in which 370,000 unvetted people crossed the southern border.

In debating this topic, I sometimes hear people say it is important and the United States has an obligation to let some new people in our country every year. That is true, but what is not talked about enough is that we just got done with a year in which 950,000 Americans were legally sworn in.

This is a number that goes up and down over time, but over the last 4 years, the average number of people who are sworn in as new American citizens, and find a way to do it legally, is over 800,000. It is the highest ever in this country's history.

If you go back to when I was a child in the 1960s and the 1950s, it was more likely to be 200,000.

Throughout most of my life, we have had 200,000 to 250,000 people being sworn in every year. We are now over 800,000 in an average month. Last year, we were up to 950,000. It is easy enough for people to come here legally.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE YVONNE B. MILLER

(Ms. MCCLELLAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, in honor of Black History Month, I rise today to recognize the legacy of the Honorable Yvonne B. Miller, who became the first Black woman to serve in the Virginia General Assembly when she was elected to the Virginia House of Delegates 40 years ago. Four years later, she became the first Black woman to serve in the Senate of Virginia. As a young member of the Virginia House of Delegates, I had the opportunity to work with Senator Miller when I was in the house until her untimely death of stomach cancer in 2012.

I was proud to build on her legacy in the senate, and one of the habits that I

took from Senator Miller was whenever she would have visitors come to her office, whether they were interns, students, university presidents, she would have them sit at her desk for a picture and she would say: This seat belongs to you as much as it belongs to me.

She treated everyone the same whether you were a Governor, an intern, or anyone in between. You would often hear her shout in her loud, booming voice: You look gorgeous. She was a lifelong educator. She was a champion for those underprivileged and underserved communities, including her own in Norfolk, that she proudly represented.

As the first Black woman elected to Congress from Virginia, I stand on Yvonne Miller's shoulders. I join my former colleagues in the Virginia General Assembly who recognized her with a commemorating resolution last week and are working on a tribute to her in our State capitol, where as a child she often did not feel welcome, but she broke barriers to ensure that Black women everywhere knew they belonged in that capitol. I honor her today and miss her very much, but I still hear her voice saying: You look gorgeous.

#### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION FURTHERED THEIR ASSAULT ON AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, last week, the Biden administration furthered their assault on American energy production, deciding to essentially slash all pending and future liquefied natural gas export permits.

Limiting these permits and these exports doesn't do anything to curb natural gas usage here or around the world. Instead, it will be replaced by adversaries around the world. It kills U.S. jobs and processing and has the opposite, so-called climate-smart agenda, results than were intended.

The U.S. and the rest of the world will be forced to depend even more on global adversaries, such as Iran and Russia who have significantly looser emission standards than us, while lining their pockets, giving the ability in the case of Iran to fund terrorism, such as in Yemen, with weapons that have Iran's name on them.

The Biden administration has been doing this since the President's first day in office and look what we have got: Russia invaded Ukraine. Iran-backed terrorists launched an attack on one of our closest allies, Israel. They are wreaking havoc blasting missiles at U.S. vessels in Middle Eastern waters, such as the Red Sea; cutting commerce; and have killed three of our U.S. servicemembers this weekend in Jordan; and Yemen is wreaking havoc.

Energy security is national security. This decision jeopardizes our national security and global energy markets.

## SALUTING ISSUES THAT ARE IMPORTANT DURING BLACK HISTORY MONTH

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to salute Black History Month. The month of February is the time that we spend on issues and icons and heroes and sheroes that have contributed to the history of America and to the African-American community.

Throughout this month, I will talk about great heroes and sheroes, but at the same time, I will raise topical issues that are very important to us.

I will first acknowledge the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, an enormously important legislative fix on the criminal justice system that all of America rallied around, thousands and thousands, maybe millions marched, because we came together as a Nation to be able to address the fairness in that system. That means that we were against the choke hold being a part of the system of law enforcement; no-knock not being a part of law enforcement; providing more funding to ensure that there was training and professional development to our law enforcement community; and to instruct our communities as well to be better.

At the same time, we have a stop human trafficking bill at school zones because human trafficking impacts the African-American community.

These are issues that affect all of us, but I want them to be noted this month as we work together during Black History Month.

□ 1930

## DELTA SIGMA THETA INSPIRES POSITIVE CHANGE

(Mr. THANEDAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, today I honor the centennial legacy of empowerment and service embodied by the Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, celebrating 100 years of unwavering commitment to sisterhood, scholarship, service, and social action.

Chartered in the heart of the 13th Congressional District on January 24, 1924, Tau Chapter stands proudly at Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, the inaugural Black Greek letter organization on the campus.

Founded 111 years ago at Howard University by 22 visionary women, Delta Sigma Theta set the standard for service and advocacy. Boldly standing for women's rights in the women's suffrage march shortly after its inception, Delta Sigma Theta continues to inspire positive change.

## AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE ASKED FOR SOLUTIONS

(Mr. LANDSMAN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the bipartisan Senate bill that would strengthen our national security, secure our borders, and support allies across the globe.

The American people have asked us for solutions, and this bill is packed with solutions, solutions to address the border and the fentanyl crisis. I was at one of the busiest border crossings on Friday, and this bill gives those folks the staff and the reforms that they need and the administration and the authority they need to close the border when it is overwhelmed.

The bill also provides solutions to support our allies, to stop Putin from pulling the world into a much larger, deadlier war in Eastern Europe, to provide funds to Israel and vital humanitarian aid to Gaza. We must end this war, and we need the assurance of stability and prosperity for Israel and Gaza.

I believe there is bipartisan majorities in both Chambers for these solutions if leadership gets behind them. The American people want this. The Speaker works for us, not Donald Trump. Bring us this bill.

## INACTION EMPOWERS ENEMIES OF LIBERTY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, why would a Speaker of this House choose to enable the aims of Russian dictator Vladimir Putin?

Why would any Speaker of the United States House of Representatives use his power to stop and dawdle for months and months, delaying critical supplemental defense funding to defend America against all its enemies at home and abroad that impose tyranny and terrorism?

All of us take an oath to protect and defend our people against all enemies, so why give Vladimir Putin comfort and license as he salutes himself in the mirror?

The manner in which House leadership is behaving by not bringing up a key defense bill month after month after month fails liberty where she is being most tested. Our Nation must move with our allies to defeat terrorism and tyranny wherever it exists—Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, the Pacific, and even sometimes inside our own borders.

Inaction by House leadership empowers enemies of liberty. It rewards Putin, Khamenei, Xi, Kim Jong Un and their chessboard.

Move the long delayed supplemental defense bill, Mr. Speaker. Liberty awaits.

## CONGRATULATING DR. HENRY SMITH ON HIS WELL-DESERVED RETIREMENT

(Ms. MANNING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Dr. Henry Smith of Cone Health upon his retirement.

For nearly 30 years, Dr. Smith has been saving lives in our community as an interventional cardiologist. His passion for cardiology and his desire to improve quality of care has shaped his legacy of being a committed, patient-focused physician. Those who have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Smith will tell you he treats his patients as if they were his own family.

As the director of the Moses Cone Hospital cath lab, and with his role in Cone Health's early use of 3D/AI-driven imaging, Dr. Smith has been an innovator for 30 years. Dr. Smith has also served as chairman of Cone Health's board of trustees and is a member of the board where he was a steadfast advocate for expanding access to healthcare.

Outside the hospital, Dr. Smith is known for his involvement in his church and as a founding member of the Black Investments in Greensboro—or BIG—Equity Fund, at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.

Dr. Smith is an exceptional cardiologist, fierce leader, and a remarkable advocate for a more equitable healthcare system and community.

I congratulate Dr. Henry Smith on 30 years of excellence and his well-deserved retirement.

## VSOS ARE HEROES

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there is no greater way to learn how to help those who have fought for our country than to talk to a veteran and those who fight for them every day.

I was glad to discuss the most pressing challenges facing our veterans and their families in eastern North Carolina at a Veteran Service Officers roundtable. Participants shared the barriers for veterans who live in rural communities and their legislative priorities.

Consequently, I signed onto H.R. 196, the Expediting Temporary Ratings for Veterans Act, and H.R. 522, the Deliver for Veterans Act.

Our VSOs are vital in assisting veterans with claims, identifying State benefits, and facilitating their transition from Active Duty. VSOs are heroes.

## LNG BAN HURTS AMERICANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EZELL). Under the Speaker's announced

policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day to see an administration choose party over country, radical views over the common good, and leftwing environmentalists over the American people. However, that is what happened a week and a half ago when President Biden halted permitting additional liquefied natural gas export facilities.

Let's be clear, this is not a pause. It is the first step of a process to ban outright any future export of LNG. This was a political decision to pander to the far left that will increase energy prices for American households. It will abandon our allies in their time of energy need. It will harm family-sustaining jobs, and it will relinquish American global energy leadership.

We will hear tonight from my colleagues of the many ways LNG exports strengthen our economic well-being and how this ban will weaken American security around the world.

First, before we get ahead of ourselves, let's quickly discuss the LNG industry, what it is, and why it is so important. LNG stands for liquefied natural gas. In a process where natural gas is cooled to a temperature of minus 260 degrees Fahrenheit, the gas becomes a liquid with a volume of one-six hundredth of its original size. This decrease in volume is what creates the possibility for LNG to be shipped around the world.

The exportation of LNG is only possible because of two incredible American technological achievements. The first took place in 1959 when an American proved that you could successfully and safely ship liquefied natural gas. The second was the shale revolution of the 2000s, and suddenly States like Pennsylvania, Texas, North Dakota, and Louisiana were able to produce huge amounts of natural gas.

This production dropped energy costs for Americans and led to our Nation being a net exporter of energy for the first time in 60 years. It was the technological innovation of extracting natural gas from shale that dramatically increased production. That, paired with our ability to liquefy natural gas and ship it, has allowed all of this to happen.

The American people have benefited significantly from these advances. The ability to export natural gas has driven investment to continue increasing nat-

ural gas production. This means more jobs in districts like mine in Pennsylvania and across rural America. It means more jobs in the pipeline industry, as companies invest in infrastructure to get the resources from the gas fields to the processing facility. It means more jobs on the coasts, where LNG export facilities are being operated and new ones are being built.

Important for all Americans, more production means more supply in the market, so natural gas prices have stayed lower and less volatile for American families. Finally, and ironically, given LNG's environmental detractors, it is better for the environment. American LNG is one of the cleanest baseload power fuel sources on the planet. President Biden's own Department of Energy trumpets the fact that U.S. LNG exports are 41 percent cleaner than competing Russian natural gas.

In summary, if exporting LNG leads to lower prices, more family-sustaining American jobs, and lower emissions, why would President Biden attempt to ban it? That is the question that we are struggling with tonight.

This action reeks of shortsighted election year politics that will have harsh, long-term effects on America. Along with all of my colleagues this evening, I urge President Biden to reverse this decision.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES).

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration just announced a total pause on new export permits for liquid natural gas, all in the name of climate change.

I am from Michigan, the Great Lakes State. We all love clean air and clean water. Michigan is the home of the automotive industry, and the longest coastline of any place in America with our Great Lakes, protecting both our table stakes. To those ends, LNG is one of the cleanest energy fuels on the Earth, mined with American labor according to the strictest environmental and safety standards in the world.

However, this administration has decided to play politics with not just our energy security but also our national security. Let me be clear. This administration does not hate oil and gas; they hate American oil and gas.

Since he has been sworn in, Biden has waged war on American industry. He has crippled the very industry that our prosperity and security rely on and the very reason the U.S. dollar is the currency of global trade, yet he has made us dependent on our adversaries, including Russia, China, and Iran.

If we had just done what President Trump asked of our allies in shutting down Nord Stream 2, Putin would not have been able to fund his war against Ukraine in the first place, but I digress.

Mr. Speaker, this war on LNG is going to impact my State specifically. Michigan has the most underground natural gas storage in the entire coun-

try, with 1.1 trillion cubic feet of underground storage. That is one-eighth of the Nation's natural gas storage capacity.

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's energy policies are insane. We cannot allow this administration to continue relying on dictators and despots from Tehran to Caracas to keep our supply chain moving and our homes heated. That would be like asking the fox to lock up the chicken coop at night or Secretary Mayorkas to watch the border.

By pursuing energy independence using safe, American-made energy, we lower prices, grow jobs, and reshore domestic manufacturing.

□ 1945

That is why I voted in favor of H.R. 1 alongside 225 of my Republican and Democratic colleagues. H.R. 1 would unleash American oil and natural gas while securing our critical supply chains. It would ensure that America is energy independent, prepared for threats down the road.

This makes certain that America has the resources necessary to defend and protect herself while also assuring that blue-collar families in my district can afford to keep their lights on and their gas tanks full without breaking the bank.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to champion energy that is made in America and hold Biden accountable for the foolish games he is playing with our future.

Mr. Speaker, Governor Granholm's policies crushed the State of Michigan. I will not stand idly by while Energy Secretary Granholm's policies crush the United States of America.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank Dr. Joyce for organizing this Special Order tonight.

I thank the Biden administration, actually. I thank the Biden administration because they came out a week from Friday and admitted what we knew all along. They paused American energy.

Mr. Speaker, it is consistent with what we have seen out of this administration for the last few years. They go out there and say, yes, Russia should be able to build the Nord Stream 2 pipeline to facilitate Russian energy, but the Keystone pipeline in the United States can't be built. It is pro-Russia; it is anti-U.S.

It is not just that, Mr. Speaker. Let's look at what is happening. Since Putin has invaded Ukraine, the European Union is still dependent upon Russian natural gas today. Mr. Speaker, 14 percent of the natural gas being supplied to the European Union is coming from Russia. Let me say it another way: It is a billion dollars a month. Of course, it was twice or three times that before the invasion.

What is happening is this billion dollars a month today is actually funding the Russian war against Ukraine. At the same time, this administration is out there banging on Congress to give them \$60 billion in aid for Ukraine.

I have an idea: Stop funding the Russian war. How do you do that? Dr. Joyce said this a little while ago. You can look at the National Energy Technology Lab analysis looking at U.S. natural gas. Compared to Russian gas, Russian gas has 41 percent higher emissions.

Mr. Speaker, let me say it another way: If we had taken 1 year of Russian gas that was supplied to the European Union and supplanted it, replaced it with U.S. gas, it would have reduced emissions to the tune of 218 million tons of emissions.

Do you know what? It would have been for free. We could have just supplanted U.S. gas with Russian gas. We could have kneecapped Vladimir Putin and those billions of dollars he received. We could have helped the economy in the United States. We could have strengthened our economic ties with our allies.

This doesn't make any sense, Mr. Speaker, but this is what we are seeing out of this administration over and over again. Their policies are resulting in Iran profiting \$60 billion—\$60 billion to Iran as a result of this administration's flawed energy policies.

We lost three servicemembers and had 30-plus more injured because we are funding Iran that is funding the Houthis that is funding Hezbollah that is funding Hamas that is funding the Islamic Jihad and other terrorist organizations.

This is unbelievable. Higher costs for American families, higher emissions, and lower energy security—this makes no sense. It lacks common sense, and it is simply not in America's interests.

I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for hosting this tonight. Most importantly, Mr. Speaker, we have to bring common sense back to American energy policy.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for his passionate presentation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Dr. Joyce of Pennsylvania, for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my very serious concerns over the Biden administration's misguided, out-of-touch decision to pause pending approvals of liquefied natural gas exports, the latest assault by this President on American energy.

I represent the Ninth District of Pennsylvania, which encompasses a large portion of the Marcellus Shale natural gas region, one of the largest reserves of natural gas in the world. Not only does the natural gas industry support over 125,000 jobs in Pennsylvania, Mr. Speaker, but it also contrib-

utes \$25-plus billion to the Commonwealth's GDP, meaning Biden's continued assault on American energy, including on the natural gas industry, is truly an assault on Pennsylvania's workforce and economy.

The President's gas-backward energy policies directly impact companies in my district like Coterra, Seneca Resources, Chesapeake, Southwestern, and the many thousands of people they employ, including their families.

Yet, Joe Biden doesn't seem to care. Since taking office, he has issued a moratorium on natural gas leasing activities on various of the United States' resources, increased regulatory building codes that disincentivize the use of natural gas, issued an ESG rule hindering investments in natural gas companies, and implemented a new \$8 billion tax on companies that produce, process, transmit, or store natural gas. He significantly raised requirements for assessing proposed natural gas pipelines.

The list goes on. He has proposed overly stringent natural gas infrastructure project reviews and proposed a rule to severely restrict power generation at new and existing gas-fired power plants. Outside of that, he is wonderful.

Now, on January 26, the Biden administration announced its most harmful and inexplicable energy decision yet—to pause all approvals on LNG exports, which threatens our economy, our national security, and our ability to reduce carbon emissions.

On an economic front, the benefits of natural gas for America cannot be overstated. The U.S. natural gas industry is a powerhouse, supporting over 10 million American jobs and contributing \$1.8 trillion in U.S. GDP.

By fostering a robust natural gas industry, we stimulate investment, drastically enhancing domestic American-made goods and manufacturing and, of course, creating well-paying jobs across various industry sectors.

The Biden administration's decision will hinder all of this. This heavy-handed, Big Government approach is going to cause a great disruption to long-term LNG infrastructure initiatives.

At a time when we should be growing the industry, increasing production, and boosting exports, the Biden administration instead wants to limit our ability to be a world leader on the natural gas stage.

Beyond the economic implications, resuming the consideration of LNG export applications is crucial to our national security and strategic interests. Our allies depend on a secure, reliable source of LNG. By withholding these approvals, we risk pushing them into the arms of less stable, potentially adversarial suppliers like Russia, as my colleagues have been bringing up.

LNG export projects are indispensable for ensuring that we continue to function as the economic arsenal of democracy during geopolitical incidents,

such as the war on Ukraine. Simply put, energy security is national security.

Mr. Speaker, while this administration claims to want to reduce carbon emissions, their actions related to natural gas are doing the exact opposite.

Clean natural gas emits almost 50 to 60 percent less carbon emissions than other fossil fuels. Let me tell you, the way we extract and process natural gas here in the United States of America is far cleaner than it is in Russia, Iran, China, or Venezuela. Does anybody doubt that? Of course not.

Joe Biden's crusade against the natural gas industry is not only detrimental to consumers and producers, but it is detrimental to America's ability to regain the energy dominance we secured under President Trump.

We must embrace an all-of-the-above and all-of-the-below energy solution. The only people who benefit from Joe Biden's anti-American policies are our adversaries overseas.

Joe Biden, Mr. Speaker, is choosing Moscow over communities in my district like Montrose, Pennsylvania. He is choosing Tehran over Towanda. He is choosing Venezuela over Pennsylvania and Saudi Arabia over Sayre, Pennsylvania. This makes absolutely no sense.

The global uncertainty caused by Biden's pausing of LNG export hinders our ability to bring American natural gas to the world markets and limits our strategic advantages that the United States can provide to our allies.

We must support our economy. We need to be looking out in a serious way for our national security. We want to support Pennsylvania's workforce. I urge the Biden administration to reverse its pause.

Mr. Speaker, lastly, the administration needs to check their extreme ideology at the door and focus on outcomes, not ideology. We need to wake up and woke down.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), my colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for taking this opportunity tonight to remind us that on January 26, inexplicably, President Biden announced an indefinite ban on pending LNG export projects.

I wish it were indefinite, but I believe this is just another shot over the bow, showing that fossil fuels are going away—in his mind. Even for a President known for inflation and global instability, this is an inexplicable move.

Last week, during the international events surrounding the National Prayer Breakfast here, I even had comments from Baltic representatives, Balkan representatives, and others from the EU incredulous that that was going on when they need more LNG terminals, not less, more exports, not less.

American LNG has been a lifeline to our allies while wars rage. This decision is beyond the wildest hopes and dreams of Putin and the Ayatollah, who have capitalized on this opportunity to further finance their terror on this Earth.

I have yet to hear from any American clamoring to drive our allies to Russia and Iran, which is exactly what Biden's LNG export ban will do.

Maybe the White House needs a simple lesson: Cutting the supply of a product does not magically erase the demand or need for that product. However, cutting the supply does raise prices and forces consumers to look elsewhere. In this case, the consumers are our allies. They will look to Russia and Iran.

Ironically, these countries' energy production is far dirtier than our clean LNG. Due to this, from a climate and emission standpoint, Biden's decision will actually lead to more pollution.

American LNG has over 40 percent lower life cycle emissions compared to Russia and its compressed natural gas, which will help fill the void created by the Biden administration. American LNG has been one of the greatest tools used to reduce emissions. Instead of indefinitely banning LNG exports, we should be increasing them and touting our LNG success story, which has led to a decrease in energy-related emissions by 15 percent since 2005, beyond any of our closest allies.

The Biden war on domestic energy accomplishes a rare trifecta. It empowers our adversaries, raises energy prices, and increases pollution. Wow.

President Biden is once again putting politics over the American people and disregarding any semblance of common sense.

Mr. Speaker, this policy from the executive branch is unreasonable and indefensible, but I assure you this body will not allow the Biden administration to sacrifice energy security for America and our allies. This moratorium puts climate activists at TikTok above the energy needs of the world. We must do everything we can to reverse it.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, our Nation has been blessed with abundant natural gas reserves, and thanks to the shale revolution, the resources under the feet of my constituents have been unlocked. The boom in natural gas production has brought jobs and hope back to small towns throughout Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON).

□ 2000

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Congressman JOYCE for leading the Special Order this evening.

Mr. Speaker, over the last 3 years, we have seen the Biden administration op-

pose American energy production at every turn. Biden's most recent announcement not only undermines our energy sector, but also endangers our allies overseas.

Since Putin began his invasion of Ukraine, our European allies have raced to transition away from Russian energy by importing clean American LNG.

The administration's shortsighted, dangerous decision accomplishes one thing and one thing only: empowering Russia.

Claiming that this decision is based solely on protecting the environment is just absurd. Because of natural gas, the United States has reduced its own emissions more than any country in the world over the last 20 years.

The President's ban on new LNG export projects is not an environmental decision, it is a political decision.

Rather than holding countries like China and Russia accountable, President Biden would rather appease climate activists who are determined to ban fossil fuels at all costs.

This latest announcement hurts producers here in America, in Ohio, the thousands of men and women working to keep our lights on every day, and throttles investment in clean American energy.

Simply put, by freezing LNG export permits, the President is putting election year politics ahead of the interests of American workers, consumers, and allies abroad.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, the graph beside me tells an incredible story. It talks about the volatility that occurs in natural gas prices. We see the spikes, but those spikes have diminished because of the shale revolution.

The access to natural gas has actually leveled off the price. This allows families to sit at their kitchen table and make budget plans because they know that next month they are not going to pay double or triple the cost of natural gas.

The shale revolution, the ability to utilize the resources that are under the feet of so many Americans, has allowed American financial stability to occur for American families.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to talk about the Biden administration's shortsighted policy, and I thank Dr. Joyce for bringing it up.

Mr. Speaker, this is another one of those examples of promises made, promises kept.

When this person was running for President, he couldn't stop telling people how we were no longer going to rely on our own energy. We were going to do something completely different. We were going to protect the environment.

He has actually kept those promises.

He has crippled the American economy. He has made the rest of the world

dependent on people who they should not be depending on, and the rest of the world has awakened to just how far to the left this current administration is.

We are talking about jobs, an unbelievable amount of jobs. We are also talking about not being dependent on any foreign country to supply us with the energy that we need.

How in the world could anybody sit back now after 3 years of watching this wrong-sided approach to how we would run the greatest Nation the world has ever known and reduce it down to what it is today?

We are talking about jobs. We are talking about the cost of energy. We are talking about reliability, not on some foreign supplier, but on our own domestic energy, people.

Why would anybody under this current administration think that somehow my future is drilling for natural gas; my future is looking at oil fields; my future is based on the ill-fated thinking of this current administration?

This goes so far beyond what any normal thinking person would say: Good idea, good idea. Let's continue to do that.

I know some people will say: Well, you shouldn't be speaking that way.

My answer to that is: Maybe more of us should be speaking this way.

How can our fellow American citizens sit back and watch the devastation to our own economy; walking away from domestic energy and thinking that somehow this is a move in the right direction?

Candidate Biden said he would cut back on all these environmental absolute disasters that were taking place in America. He has kept his promise to the American people. He continues to make his promise kept to the American people.

The question is: When will the American people wake up from this slumber? When they will forget about being woke and wake up to what is happening to America today and happening to us every single day?

For the President of the United States to make a statement like he is making today about domestic energy, and what LNG will no longer be permitted: You won't be allowed to do it in the future. We are going to cut back on your permits—why in the world would anybody stay in this business and say: I think I have a shot.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for America to stand up, not just our colleagues on the Republican side but everyday Americans.

We are talking about jobs. We are talking about American energy. We are talking about clean energy. We are talking about the future of the greatest Nation the world has ever known, and the fact that she does not have to depend on anybody else in the world for her energy, nor do other countries have to depend on Russia for their energy when they can actually get it from their friends in America.



Promises made, promises kept. This is another one of those promises that leads to the complete disaster and destruction of America.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his passionate presentation.

Mr. Speaker, as we discuss this issue, it is important to recognize that liquefied natural gas actually has a positive impact on emissions rather than a negative one. Because of the clean power that natural gas provides, the United States continues to lead the world in carbon emission reductions.

In the last 20 years, natural gas has led to a 32 percent reduction in carbon emissions right here in the United States. As I said before, President Biden's own Department of Energy trumpets the fact that U.S. liquefied natural gas exports are 41 percent cleaner than Russian natural gas.

Our continued innovation, our continued development has helped lead to new technologies that have made our energy sources cleaner and more affordable.

As we look around the world, no other Nation has matched our work in this area. If the Biden administration is truly serious about reducing carbon emissions, then a ban on LNG exports is truly a massive mistake.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this administration's latest attack on the American energy industry, and I thank my very good friend, Congressman JOYCE, for holding this Special Order.

President Biden's LNG export ban is nothing more than a political stunt simply to appease the far-left activists. It has become abundantly clear that President Biden and his administration lack a competent understanding of global energy markets. This export ban will fuel higher costs for families here at home and push our allies abroad into the hands of our adversaries.

Hoosiers watching at home won't be fooled by false claims of environmental stewardship.

American LNG is the cleanest form of natural gas available and has allowed the U.S. to lead the world in emission reductions.

Since day one, the Biden administration has led our Nation into an energy crisis of their own making, and we have arrived:

Energy costs are through the roof. Our electric grid is on the brink of failure, and all forms of reliable baseload power are retiring at an alarming rate, leaving us perilously afraid of the future.

House Republicans are not alone in our concerns. Engineers, grid operators, refiners, and the rest of our energy industry are saying in unison: This will not work, and it is not working right now.

It is past time this administration paid attention to the experts and not radical environmentalists.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I think there is a point that cannot be missed today: That we have Members of Congress from North, South, East, and West, from all corners of the U.S., questioning the Biden administration's reckless ban on the export of liquefied natural gas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), my colleague and another member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, Dr. JOYCE, for organizing this Special Order on the Biden administration's indefinite de facto ban on LNG exports.

While this is a clear election year stunt by President Biden, the real policy impacts will be profound, unfortunately, putting the national security of the U.S. and our allies at risk, increasing global greenhouse emissions, and unduly jeopardizing American economic prosperity. What a shame.

Perhaps the greatest winner of the LNG permitting pause is Russia and its maligned allies and coconspirators.

Even before its invasion of Ukraine, Russia weaponized its natural gas exports to extract concessions that undermine the rules-based international order.

In response, the United States provided our allies and the world a much-needed check against those threats to democracy, to reliable and accessible energy, but no more.

President Biden is abandoning our allies, and choosing to enrich despotic regimes, such as Russia and Iran. This decision will also decrease available alternatives to less clean forms of energy.

Many countries were relying on American LNG to help in their green transition. Instead, the Biden administration will leave countries like Germany, India, and Japan all needing to reopen previously shuttered, high-emission power plants.

China, a major LNG importer, is already building new high-emission power plants, and President Biden's decision will only encourage that trend, unfortunately.

Finally, this decision will cost Floridians jobs. Florida is a growing LNG exporter, and the President's pause will see significant economic benefit and opportunity evaporate due to a political stunt. No common sense.

Mr. Speaker, America and its allies deserve better.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 26 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is important to remember that every shipment of LNG that does not come from the United States has to

come from somewhere else. Often that means that gas is being sold by our adversaries, including Russia and Iran.

At a time when Iranian-backed terrorists are killing American troops, the Biden administration is voluntarily opening up avenues for the Iranian Government to profit on the sale of liquefied natural gas.

Sadly, this is business as usual for an administration that fails time and time again to understand how its decisions can impact our national security.

We saw this when President Biden telegraphed his plan to withdraw from Afghanistan ahead of the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, emboldening the Taliban.

We saw this last week when the President failed to respond quickly to strikes carried out by Iranian-backed terrorists. We are seeing President Biden's failed foreign policy on display once again with this decision to withhold American liquefied natural gas from our friends and from our allies who need it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague, Dr. Joyce, for hosting this Special Order on such an important topic.

Simply put, President Biden's liquefied natural gas export ban puts politics over people and America last.

The Biden administration states that they must put a pause on the LNG permits to conduct more studies to better understand the effects of U.S. LNG exports.

Let's be honest, how many more studies do we realistically need?

The Department of Energy has already commissioned five studies on this very subject. Let us not forget that previous administrations did these studies without blocking export permits.

Really, what this administration is doing is creating additional uncertainty in an industry that is already under constant assault by the Biden administration. This pause will have and is starting to have a chilling effect on investment and discouraging foreign governments from signing long-term contracts.

Furthermore, this will undermine America's position as a global energy leader and exporter of LNG.

Stopping U.S. LNG exports will stifle economic growth by limiting revenue streams and job opportunities associated with LNG production, liquefaction and export infrastructure.

For those unfamiliar, the LNG industry is not one you can turn on and off like a light switch. It requires constant investment and development. You can't stop on a whim. There are billions of dollars at stake, jobs at risk, and allies' trust that is now compromised, allies who are looking for the United States to be a reliable partner to fuel their economies.

Instead, the White House seems more interested in taking domestic energy

advice from TikTok influencers who are just in it for clicks, shares, and impressions.

□ 2015

Indeed, the Biden administration agreed to meet with TikTok influencers at the White House after a trend slamming and targeting the LNG industry went viral. President Biden said in the aftermath: "This pause on new LNG approvals sees the climate crisis for what it is: the existential threat of our time. . . . We will heed the calls of young people and frontline communities who are using their voices to demand action from those with the power to act."

The consequences to the economy or our national security be damned, because, clearly, this is about getting votes, and, in particular, the youth vote, of which President Biden has suffered tremendous losses.

This is not about saving the planet, clearly, because denying the development of domestic LNG is not scientifically sound. Stopping LNG exports does not make the climate any cleaner or safer. In fact, the opposite happens. Ultimately, this restriction will curtail innovation, investment, and the overall competitiveness of the United States energy sector in the global market and in the process keep our allies dependent and reliant on dirty fuel from energy-producing nations that, let's face it, just don't give a damn about the environment.

We need to follow the science. How about we look to the data and not to social media influencers. Let's work to keep this industry strong. In return, we get a strong economy, robust national security, and job opportunities for Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration must reverse their decision and lift the ban on LNG export permits.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for her words.

Mr. Speaker, from my home State of Pennsylvania to the Gulf Coast, natural gas creates family-sustaining jobs that are vital for our communities. From 2005 to 2019, more than 1.4 million manufacturing jobs were created in the natural gas industry.

When President Biden stops the flow of LNG, he is sending a message to American families that are supported by these jobs. Biden is sending a message that his political welfare is more important than American families' livelihoods. Biden is sending a message that keeping his far-left base happy is more important than American families' financial stability. It is shameful. It is shameful for the President to pretend to care about the American workers and then make decisions that directly harm them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN).

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time, and I thank him for leading us here together in this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, President Biden's decision to indefinitely pause LNG export approval permits is misguided and wrong. It prioritizes radical activists over American energy security and the security of our allies abroad. This pause is economically and strategically dangerous and unnecessary.

The Department of Energy has consistently found that American LNG exports serve the public interest by providing positive economic benefits and strengthens our energy security.

Mr. Speaker, our European allies are seeking American energy leadership to counter Putin's weaponization of Russian natural gas exports. In December 2023 alone, over 87 percent of U.S. LNG exports went to the EU, U.K., or Asian markets.

Any action that slows or halts the U.S. ability to export LNG would weaken global energy security. In Congress, and within this administration, we should be doing everything in our power to incentivize reliable natural gas and to grant the export permits that allow access to markets around the world. Policies that encourage LNG exports create good-paying jobs here in America and strengthen our allies abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Biden administration to end this pause.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his comments.

Mr. Speaker, one of the reasons that our allies rely so heavily on American-made liquefied natural gas is because of its reliability.

In recent years, we have seen billions of tax dollars used to prop up failing energy producers like wind turbines and solar farms. While wind and solar should certainly be available, the fact is they are unable to sustain major electric grids. Without battery technology to store the energy collected by renewable energy sources, the United States and our friends and our allies will continue to rely on natural gas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. JOYCE for hosting tonight's Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, just 2 weeks ago, in yet another example of President Biden caving to leftwing activists, this administration announced that they would pause all pending approvals of liquefied natural gas, or LNG, export terminals.

Under the guise of climate change, this blatantly political decision will only serve to eliminate American jobs, increase costs for American consumers, and further jeopardize U.S. energy security, all to appease climate extremists and prop up President Biden's rush-to-green agenda.

Let me remind the American people that just 3 years ago, our Nation was energy independent for the first time in our history. We controlled the price of a barrel of oil. We dominated the world energy economy.

Studies show that LNG exports could increase the U.S. economy by over \$73 billion by 2040 and could create more than 453,000 American jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the President should please listen.

It is no surprise that this reckless announcement was met with bipartisan backlash when a recent study showed that only 3 percent of Americans believe climate change is the most pressing issue facing our country.

I hear constantly from my constituents how high energy prices are. Indefinitely banning exports of LNG will not lower the cost of energy. We need to open our markets and domestic energy production to lower costs for the American people.

Now, more than ever, we need to embrace an all-of-the-above energy strategy and unleash the production and export of clean, affordable, and reliable American LNG to further reduce emissions.

Finally, President Biden's war on American energy is undermining our national security. As Chair RODGERS said, this is nothing more than a gift to Putin.

Mr. Speaker, if this administration wants to end the war in Ukraine and bring peace to the Middle East, then give us the permits for the pipelines and the LNG facilities, and we will power Europe. This will cripple Russia and Iran. In fact, Europe, like the U.S., would be burning their energy 42 percent cleaner.

I thought we wanted to reduce the carbon footprint and at the same time promote world peace. I proudly stand with my colleagues in calling out this political charade.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his words.

Mr. Speaker, from New Jersey to Florida, from Pennsylvania to California, liquefied natural gas, its production and export, has a positive effect on so many Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER).

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is constantly putting his Green New Deal ideology ahead of the American people when it comes to the U.S. energy sector. From canceling the Keystone pipeline to ending Federal drilling projects, the President has weakened our domestic energy production since his first day in office, leading to sky-high oil prices across the country and a loss of nearly 11,000 American jobs.

Now, the administration is performing the same song and dance in the name of climate change by halting exports of liquefied natural gas abroad. It is lunacy.

I am proud to join 150 of my Republican colleagues, led by Chair CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, in a letter to the President expressing our concerns and our opposition to this decision.

LNG is a clean energy source. By cutting off American exports, we are forcing our allies into the arms of nations

often hostile to America. By the way, they often have zero environmental regulations.

Over the last 2 years, the EU has been forced to import 40 percent more LNG from Russia, directly funding Russian aggression in Ukraine with roughly \$21 billion in 2022 alone.

If kept intact, our LNG industry is projected to bring up to 452,000 additional jobs to hardworking Americans by 2040, adding some \$50 billion to \$73 billion to our economy. Plus, we gain the economic leverage as an economic exporter of energy to other nations.

Mr. Speaker, as a cosponsor of H. Res. 987, Denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, I urge my colleagues to put an end to Biden's war on the U.S. energy sector. It is time to prioritize the well-being of Americans over the flawed ideologies of the Green New Deal.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Idaho, a fellow member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for his insight and comments.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 11 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as we have stated, the impact of stopping the export of liquefied natural gas affects all Americans.

We have had individuals from all over, Representatives, who know the impact financially to their constituents. They know the impact on jobs to each one of the Americans who are in the natural gas industry. We understand, and this is not lost on us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. JOYCE leading this Special Order here tonight. It is very important that we shed the positive spotlight on energy production that natural gas is and also shine the spotlight on what a horrific decision it is by Mr. Biden and his administration to shut down export, as well as the ongoing efforts to shut down capacity, exploration, and production of natural gas in this country.

Through the miracle of hydraulic fracturing, not that many years ago, it put the U.S. on the map internationally as a gigantic energy source in the world.

I remember about 20-plus years ago, we were looking at how we could find a way to import more liquefied natural gas, set up our ports for that so the big ships can come in from somewhere else and bring us this energy source. Hydraulic fracturing has made it possible that we are a gigantic source of energy around the world, and indeed other countries are looking to us and would look to us more if we were giving more of a positive signal.

This is the chart showing usage from about 2010 up to current. If you look at

that on a global scale, energy usage on a global scale is going to increase massively as more and more countries come on board and become less Third World and more of a modern economy.

Oil and gas is going to be extremely important, so the U.S. should be leading the way. We should be stronger partners for our European allies. We have seen the debacle that the Russian pipeline is going to be and has been for Germany, in one case, and the reliance on Russian gas.

□ 2030

Don't they look back at how these alliances haven't been strong enough to rely on a neighbor like that for so much of your energy?

In Germany just 1½ years ago people were going out to the woods and cutting firewood to make sure they were going to get through the cold season. This was on top of their destroying so much of their nuclear generation.

So the Biden administration's approach to natural gas is very wrong-headed. So as you see, Mr. Speaker, increased demand in just a short amount of time of low-cost domestic energy has been, indeed, miraculous.

My next chart will show that the cost of natural gas, although peaking some years ago in the early 2000s, was getting quite expensive. This is right where hydraulic fracturing came in and made it a very, very low-cost and very clean form of energy. It was helping get us to energy independence until the Biden administration decided to come along and say: No, we are not going to do it here. We want Germany and Europe to rely on Russian gas, and we are going to be somehow more green than everybody else here.

So it is very dangerous for us. It is dangerous to our allies. As we have seen, it empowers those in Russia and in Iran to do the types of things that they are doing around the world to upset peace. Indeed, Iran is a major sponsor of terror helping out Yemen.

As I mentioned earlier, so many of the weapons that you will find, Mr. Speaker, missiles that maybe didn't completely fire or explode, what have you, you will find that Yemen has been using them and they have Iraqi signatures on them. So every time the rest of the world patronizes Iranian gas or Russian gas, it just helps them to undermine Western countries and those who are trying to be good neighbors.

So the more we go the wrong direction on this and follow the Biden model, the bigger trouble we will be in. Indeed, natural gas has been a miracle in how important it has been to our economy up until recently with the Biden crew.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of the Members who have joined us this evening to hold this Special Order to address President Biden's policy failure on liquefied natural gas. Since his first day

in office, President Biden has worked to dismantle our Nation's energy production, revoking permits, stonewalling new development, and using red tape to harass our energy producers.

The decision to halt the permitting of LNG exportation facilities is the next step in an agenda that puts Green New Deal policies ahead of American families.

The Biden administration has continually passed the buck for high prices by blaming domestic energy producers. Biden's regulatory assaults destroy any incentive for domestic energy producers to invest in building our natural gas infrastructure.

Now, most recently, President Biden announced that his administration would no longer hold court-ordered offshore oil and gas lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico and Alaska.

Liquefied natural gas is safe, affordable, and easy to transport. That is why this week 150 of my colleagues and I were led by E&C Chair RODGERS and Speaker of the House MIKE JOHNSON to demand that President Biden overturn this terrible decision. We know that this energy source, which is underneath the feet of my constituents, will help power our allies, it will help create American jobs, and it will help reduce emissions.

Instead of embracing this technology, President Biden has caved to his far-left base who refuse to recognize the benefits that LNG has for America. A single shipment of LNG can power an entire city, and, yet, the Biden administration has refused to allow these shipments.

Tonight, we have heard about the dangerous impacts that the cutting of LNG exports have from raising prices here at home to funding our adversaries by forcing European nations to rely on energy from Russia and from Iran.

Let's be clear. President Biden is choosing to cut American jobs and fund our enemies. When it comes to our energy security, appeasing liberal activists can have long-lasting and very dangerous consequences. We all must continue to urge the Biden administration to reverse this disastrous decision and allow liquefied natural gas exports to continue and to power communities around the world.

It is time to return to American energy dominance, and it is time to stop using our energy security as a pawn in political games.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### BIPARTISAN IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I have the incredible privilege of representing El Paso, Texas, which is a vibrant, wonderful, and generous community of goodwill that is right on the U.S.-Mexico border. My community has seen firsthand the challenges that come with a significant number of people fleeing their homeland and seeking refuge in the United States. We have opened up our pantries, we have opened up our wallets, and we have opened up our hearts, but it is time for Congress to act.

I am so proud to be spending this Special Order hour talking about the first bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill introduced in Congress in a decade. In fact, even today, it is the only bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill that exists in Congress. It is a bill that addresses the border and beyond. It is a national security bill. It is an economic bill. It is a bill that finally forces Congress to do its job.

While we are seeing a large number of migrants arriving at our Nation's front door, at the same time, we have 8 million unfilled jobs in our country. If we want to be a competitive nation and if we want to make sure that we are at the forefront of having a bold economy, then, frankly, we need immigrants. However, we also need order and humanity at the border. President Biden has repeatedly asked Congress to do its job and find a legislative solution.

Now, the Senate has just introduced their own bipartisan bill. We don't know the fate of that, but what we in the House know is that we have a wonderful bipartisan coalition that has introduced a real solution, and that real solution is the Dignity Act.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to introduce and yield the floor to one of my cosponsors who herself is an expert on immigration.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN).

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, last week I joined my colleagues from all corners of the country on a trip to the southern border to El Paso, hosted by my good friend, Congresswoman ESCOBAR. This wasn't my first trip to the border.

Before coming to Congress, I worked on this issue for close to 20 years as a social worker, walking alongside immigrants and refugees who were new to this country, also as an attorney for the United States Department of Justice enforcing our immigration laws at

the Nation's highest law enforcement agency. I also worked at a community legal aid organization in west Michigan. I have also helped employers try to get the workers that they need. I have worked on all aspects of this issue.

What I saw on the border was truly horrific. We are in a crisis mode. During our trip we talked to Border Patrol agents, we met with individuals at holding facilities, talked to the immigrants themselves, and we talked to humanitarian aid workers. Across the board everyone was unified in this one belief: the border is broken. Our immigration system is broken. There has never been a more important time to come together with bipartisan solutions to fix it.

There is truly a crisis at our border. It is a humanitarian nightmare, a national security red alarm, and an economic disaster.

We visited a holding facility just outside of El Paso. The number of immigrants crossing the border every single day is far too many for the El Paso Del Norte Processing Center to contain in just 1 day, so they are held at a detention facility. It costs our United States Government, our taxpayers, \$1.2 million every single day to run this facility just to hold people. This cannot be.

Now is the time for action, not the time for pointing fingers. Now is the time not for kicking the can down the road but picking it up and solving this problem.

We don't have to start from scratch for a new bill, a bill that would get bipartisan support. We already have that bill. It is bipartisan, and it is called the Dignity Act. It is the only bipartisan comprehensive reform bill in Congress right now.

Instead of infighting and pointing fingers, Mr. Speaker, why not put it to a vote on the floor and see how many individuals would support it?

What are we afraid of?

That it might actually work?

That it might actually solve this problem?

The immigration crisis in our country is at a fever pitch. It has evolved over many years of inaction, of moments just like this where we are compelled to act but we refuse to do so.

The immigration crisis in our country is a multifaceted problem that requires a multifaceted response.

Just insisting that we are going to close the border is not a magic wand that would wave and fix the vast number of individuals who are finding their way across our border every day.

It doesn't automatically provide the funding necessary for the Border Patrol agents who would be required to enforce this border closure, and it doesn't provide the pathways to the legal workforce that is so desperately needed in this country.

Moreover, it surely does not address the root causes of the increase in migrant flow that we are seeing over the years.

However, the bipartisan Dignity Act does.

The Dignity Act provides for an immediate infusion of \$25 billion to help secure our border, and the bill pays for itself through fees generated from visas for qualified workers.

If we put this bill to a vote on the floor tomorrow, billions of dollars would begin to start flowing to our border communities to give them the help that they need.

This bill also addresses the source of the flow by creating new, regional in-country processing centers, taking the pressure off the border and helping individuals determine their eligibility ahead of time—or lack thereof—and immigrate here to the U.S.

The bill also addresses the fact that our immigration crisis does not exist in a vacuum at the southern border. Our years of failed policy have resulted in millions of individuals living in the shadows of the United States, again, a national security red alarm, an economic disaster, and a humanitarian crisis that must be addressed.

This bill provides a means to identify these individuals and the means to remove those who have violated our laws and pose a threat to our country. Those who pass a background check and qualify and who pay a fine will immediately receive permission to work and be provided a pathway to lawful citizenship, supporting our growing economy and enhancing all of our communities in a multitude of ways.

Why wouldn't we take this moment to address this immigration crisis?

Why wouldn't we put this bipartisan bill on the floor?

This is not a perfect bill by any stretch of the imagination. It is a compromise bill. Republicans are not getting everything they want, and Democrats are surely not getting everything they want, I can tell you that, Mr. Speaker, but it is a compromise. That is not a dirty word.

The last time we had comprehensive immigration reform in this country was over 40 years ago. Think about how much our world and our economy have changed in that time. We are not always going to get exactly what we want, but if we work hard and we work together, then we can provide for the good of this country.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, HILLARY SCHOLTEN. I so appreciate her leadership and her support of the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I was born and raised on the U.S.-Mexico border. I am a third-generation border resident. My children are both adults. My son, Cristian, and my daughter, Eloisa, are fourth-generation border residents.

□ 2045

No one wants a solution to the border more than those of us who live there, who have made our lives there, raised our kids there, and know that we will spend the rest of our days there.

We need to come together and find areas of compromise. There is so much

disunity, but we can find unity, and the Dignity Act provides us with that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD), a cosponsor of the Dignity Act, a dear friend, and an incredible leader.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be joining the gentlewoman from El Paso, Texas, to address one of the most pressing issues facing our Nation: our broken immigration system.

I am from Pennsylvania. We are not a border State, but I hear an awful lot about what is happening at the southern border. I am deeply concerned about it, as are my constituents. It is something that we, this group of us who are speaking this evening, are committed to fixing.

For far too long, both parties have played political games with the crisis at our southern border rather than pursuing real solutions to restore order. That is why I am so proud to be a cosponsor of the Dignity Act, a bipartisan bill that would tackle the crisis at our border and reform that badly broken immigration system.

Let me tell you just a few things about what the Dignity Act would do.

Number one, and most pressing to many, many of my constituents, it addresses border security. It increases the hiring of CBP personnel. It provides funding for border infrastructure and equipment. It makes it a crime to transmit the location of law enforcement personnel at the border for the purpose of trying to defraud the immigration laws. It also requires employers to verify the immigration status of their employees using an E-Verify system.

All of those are things that we have been hearing about from the GOP for ages. This bill also provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers who came here as minors and have lived here for years in the shadows, unable to fulfill their lives, unable to become meaningful members of the workforce and to pay taxes.

These people, these Dreamers, need a pathway to citizenship. We have been talking about this for way too long. It gives good, law-abiding people an opportunity to pursue the American Dream, which, by the way, so many of our parents, grandparents, and ancestors pursued. That is what this country is all about.

There is absolutely no question about it: We need comprehensive immigration reform, and that means we have to bolster border security and ensure that law-abiding, tax-paying immigrants are treated with humanity and respect.

We need enhanced infrastructure and funding for our Border Patrol agents to help enforce our laws and keep dangerous drugs off of our streets. We also need to strengthen those pathways to citizenship, which, by the way, will help build our workforce in critical industries and will boost our American economy.

I have heard from employers, HR managers, manufacturers, and all sorts

of businesses in my community that face workforce shortages. They want us to find ways to expand opportunities for legal immigration.

Immigration reform is also a national security issue. Comprehensive immigration reform, as contemplated by the Dignity Act, would help us keep the drug dealers, terrorists, and other bad guys out.

The best way to get things done in Congress is something that we don't do nearly often enough. It is for Democrats and Republicans to work together. We know that. We all know that. We have seen it historically. As I said, we don't do nearly enough of that.

I am so proud that the Dignity Act has broad bipartisan support. I will continue to work to find ways that I can engage more of my friends across the aisle to support this commonsense immigration reform.

Let me be clear. Our country needs the Dignity Act. This bill would allow us to bring order back to the southern border. It would surge resources to help enforce our laws and to support border communities like El Paso and so many others.

It would help take back power from those who seek to abuse and overrun our asylum system. It would allow us to efficiently process those who are eligible for legal immigration and asylum.

We must bring the bipartisan Dignity Act to the floor for a vote. It is the only truly bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill. We need to pass it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in leadership to put aside partisan politics and consider the best interests of the American people.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine if we came together and actually solved the most politically divisive issue facing our Nation today? The American people would be incredibly relieved. They would be so grateful. We could check this key issue off our list and move on to all the other issues that our Nation faces.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING), another wonderful colleague who is a cosponsor of the Dignity Act.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, Representative ESCOBAR, for yielding time to me and also for her tireless work on this incredibly important issue.

Mr. Speaker, the last time Congress passed comprehensive immigration reform was in 1986. That was nearly 40 years ago—before laptop computers, before cell phones, and before the internet became available to all.

In so many ways, our economy and our need for workers has changed and grown. In fact, we have a workforce shortage at all skill levels, from farm and factory workers to nurses and physicians to high-tech and other STEM workers.

Even though we educate the best and the brightest of foreign students, we

send them home to compete with us because there simply aren't enough visas to accommodate them. Our immigration system hasn't changed to accommodate our needs. It is hampering our economic growth.

While other countries, like Canada, are encouraging immigration, we are allowing our partisan disputes to get in the way of creating a system that is in our own best interest.

Even worse, we have failed to update our system to tackle the rapid growth of migrants fleeing persecution and hazardous conditions in their own countries and seeking to enter our country by claiming asylum at our southern border.

As one of my hometown immigration attorneys recently wrote in our hometown newspaper, many of these people would come in other ways, seeking legal visas if we had visa categories that accommodated them.

Despite record levels of people seeking refuge in our country, we have failed to pass legislation that would address this crisis. Our processes are inhumane, slow, and simply don't work. Dreamers and asylum seekers deserve better. Border towns deserve better. Americans deserve better.

That is why I joined a bipartisan group of women in the House to work on serious immigration reform. Alongside my friends, Representatives VERONICA ESCOBAR and MARIA SALAZAR, I was proud to help introduce the Dignity Act.

This bill would finally address the country's workforce needs, strengthen the economy, provide pathways to citizenship for Dreamers and asylum seekers, and secure the border.

The Dignity Act finds common ground between Democratic and Republican immigration priorities. It is not perfect. There are things that I love in the bill, and there are things I don't love. But if we don't find compromise and common ground, we will never solve this challenge.

The Dignity Act strikes the right balance. It offers tough but creative solutions to our Nation's most pressing immigration challenges.

Over the past few months, we have seen House Republicans spend an enormous amount of time on the House floor, in hearings, and, frankly, on TV talking about the border crisis and demanding action. We have heard the administration call on Congress to pass legislation to address the border crisis as well as other immigration challenges. For weeks, a bipartisan group of Senators had been working on legislation, on an immigration deal, but the extreme House Republicans recently described that deal as dead on arrival even before the text of the bill was released.

They didn't reject the deal because it was bad policy. They didn't know what the policy was. They rejected it because former President Trump told them to.

He doesn't want a solution. He wants a border crisis that he can run on. Extreme Republicans are falling in line

with him. They don't want a solution. They want a problem that will rile up their voters. This is shameful.

Our country deserves better. Our country deserves real solutions. That is why I am here with my fellow Democratic co-leads of the Dignity Act to say: Stop the whining and get to work.

We all know the border issue needs to be addressed. We all know we have a workforce shortage. We all know we need an upgraded immigration system that works for all of us. We have a solution crafted right here in the House by Democrats and Republicans working together on a bipartisan basis.

Mr. Speaker, I call on my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in supporting the Dignity Act. Let's work together to solve this problem and build a stronger future for all.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Ms. MANNING's powerful voice.

Mr. Speaker, many of the sponsors of the bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill, the Dignity Act, are relatively new to Congress, including Ms. SCHOLTEN and Ms. MANNING, who you heard from.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SORENSEN).

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman ESCOBAR for hosting this important discussion.

I would be remiss if I didn't say that your home State of Texas is the only State that I have ever lived outside of my own home State of Illinois. So, I have a soft spot for the Lone Star State.

Mr. Speaker, I stand here proud to cosponsor the Dignity Act tonight, which is the only bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform bill that currently exists in the House of Representatives.

This legislation is critical. It does just what we need. It secures our border, strengthens our economy, creates an orderly and humane path to legal status for those who follow U.S. law, and gives law enforcement the tools they need to stop the flow of fentanyl that is hurting and killing members of our families and our neighbors.

Make no mistake, I am deeply concerned with what is happening at the southern border. It is now Congress' time to act.

Since the moment I was sworn in, I have tried to work as hard as I can with both sides of the aisle to find solutions to complex problems. I have proposed legislation to increase the number of Customs and Border Protection officers that patrol our southern border. I have proposed legislation that would help identify the fentanyl that is coming into our country. I found Republican colleagues, Republican friends, to come together because we need to work together.

Unfortunately, House GOP leadership has rejected all of the bipartisan ideas.

I am a believer that to get things done here in Congress, we need to listen to the perspectives of both sides. In this Congress, the bipartisan path has

been the only way that we have gotten results.

□ 2100

That is how we have been able to fund the government, prevent a catastrophic debt default, pass a bill to lower taxes for businesses and working families.

We have tried the partisan-only path to solving the immigration and border problem, but that does not work. Securing our border and fixing our immigration system must be done on a bipartisan basis.

Now, there are Members of Congress, especially my colleagues here on the floor right now, who want to solve the problem, but there are some in the House and the Senate GOP who want to strong-arm us, using the border as a political football in the ultimate display of gamesmanship.

Just yesterday, a bipartisan group of Senators released a plan to secure the border and fix our broken immigration system.

This compromised proposal is aggressive about tackling the challenges that we see at the border without straying from our Nation's core values.

The Senate plan makes our country safer; it makes our border more secure; and it treats people fairly and humanely.

But less than a day after its release, before most Members have even had a chance to read it, House GOP leadership said it is dead on arrival in the House.

Now, let's call it what it is: It is a display of inaction that puts politics in front of any solution.

The choice is clear: Do we choose to solve the problem in a bipartisan way, or do we allow Members across the aisle just to continue to refuse to consider the solution at all?

The latter is not what the people sent us here to do. In my district, in central and northwestern Illinois, my neighbors expect us to come here and solve problems, not to ignore them for political gain.

I have families in my district who have an empty seat at their dinner table because they lost a loved one to fentanyl.

And the House GOP leadership's response to that family is: Let's put the upcoming election in front of hurting families. That, Mr. Speaker, is as pathetic as it is selfish.

But the good news is, Speaker JOHNSON has another chance. He can work with us to put the Dignity Act up for a vote. Passing a bipartisan bill will show the American people we are serious about solving this problem.

I can think of few other examples where Democrats and Republicans have come together on such a difficult topic to propose bipartisan legislation that will secure our border, reform our immigration system, and put us on a sustainable path to solving the issues.

We can be the Congress to do it. We can create security for our Nation and for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask Speaker JOHNSON to give us the chance to do what we need. Bring the Dignity Act to the floor. Let us debate it, let us vote on it, and let's work together to solve the problem.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SORENSEN so much. I am so grateful for his leadership and support.

Mr. Speaker, there are diverse groups and organizations that support the Dignity Act, from the evangelical community, to the American Chamber of Commerce, to ABIC, the American Business Immigration Council.

It is remarkable that once we put up our bill, our bipartisan bill, people from every corner of this country have been clamoring, asking us when it is coming to the floor, when will it get a vote because they are in support.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN), who is an incredible leader here in Congress and a colleague, a classmate that I was elected to Congress with, another cosponsor of the Dignity Act.

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, I came out today to address the issue that is top of mind for so many Americans: Immigration.

We find ourselves at this existential moment on the issue. As a Nation of immigrants, where nearly every single one of us has our own immigration story to tell, we know in our bones that our immigration system is broken. It is not working for, literally, anyone.

When I say "anyone," I mean, everyone. It is not working for our businesses, who desperately need vetted immigrant labor. It is not working for the immigrants who are walking a thousand miles in some cases to cross our border. It is not working for our border agents and for our customs and border folks who are trying to manage an astounding number of people coming over the border. It is not working for our communities who are having people bused to them. It is not working for the strain on those cities and the services. It is not working for anyone.

We can say with clarity and certainty that immigration system in a Nation of immigrants is broken, and there is blame enough to go around.

Democrats, Republicans, multiple White Houses, multiple administrations, Congress plays a big part in this, Washington departments and agencies over many, many years have used this issue to play politics rather than actually doing anything about it.

Finally, as you can see from the speeches here tonight, there is agreement that we have a problem, right?

The first step you can take to dealing with your problem is admitting you have a problem, but the fundamental question is: What are we going to now do about it?

I am a national security person by trade. I am a former CIA officer, a former Pentagon official. I did three tours in Iraq alongside the military.



My whole life before I came to this body was about protecting the homeland from external threats.

Not only that, but I come from Michigan, a northern border State. I was just at our border in Detroit this past week where I got to see a healthy, functioning border and what it looks like.

There is no greater responsibility for those of us who are elected than to protect our citizens, and no greater responsibility than to work on solutions that do just that.

Two months ago in December, I thought we finally had gotten over a major hump. We were at a moment where Democrats and Republicans here in the White House, in the Senate, across the country were all saying that we needed to work on immigration.

The Speaker of the House, the Speaker of this body, wrote to President Biden personally, saying that if the President wanted more things on Ukraine, it was “dependent upon enactment of transformative change to our Nation’s border security laws.” Those were his words.

In the Senate, a group of Democrats and Republicans did what people pay them to do, what they actually expect them to do, which is sit in a room, negotiate, argue, debate over policy to deal with the extreme pressure on the border, and they came to a solution.

Yesterday, we got our first look at what that proposal actually is, but no sooner was it out, than it is now sailing down the river like a dumpster fire, being trashed by the very people who negotiated it, being trashed by the very people who asked for it, being trashed by the Speaker of the House who desperately said: I won’t consider any future assistance without border security.

No piece of legislation is ever perfect, but it does help us curb who is coming in. It gets people working legally in our businesses like on our farms, which desperately need that labor. In the meantime, these people would be paying taxes, paying into Social Security, paying into Medicare.

I can’t understand why we continually refuse to take up bipartisan solutions like the one that is being debated in the Senate and the one that we are presenting on today, the Dignity Act. We need something to move the ball forward.

I know that all of us are willing to work with anyone across the aisle on solutions, but you have got to come to the table and acknowledge we have a problem and say you want to work on the solution.

Just two months after the Speaker laid out this existential problem with border security where he said: What is happening at the border is nothing short of a catastrophe and demanded immediate changes to the administration policy and to our laws.

He has now reversed course. He did a complete 180, changed his views and now we can’t talk about the border.

Why? Because former President Donald Trump told him to.

He is out there saying that I am in control of my caucus. If you have to say you are in control of your caucus, you are not in control of your caucus.

□ 2110

Donald Trump told him he didn’t like the bill. He told MITCH MCCONNELL he didn’t like the bill. The thing we have been working on as a healthy bipartisan negotiation falls apart in a day because Donald Trump wants to make ads about it; he wants to do political rallies about it; he wants to use it as a club against Joe Biden; he wants to use it for himself instead of doing what the country expects, which is dealing with the crisis at the border.

The leaders who were elected to protect their constituents are bowing to this pressure with barely a bat of the eye. It is embarrassing actually. It is sad to watch, but definitely embarrassing, and another sign of how toxic and ill our politics have become.

I was trying to think about what would happen when I was a CIA officer or at the Pentagon if I had identified a real national security crisis with facts and data, if I had said this is a threat to our country, talked about it publicly, constantly came back to it to raise attention to this issue, and then refused to do anything about it? There is a term for this in the military. It is called dereliction of duty. It is a fireable offense.

The next time I hear one of my colleagues railing about the border, railing about immigration in the same breath that they are refusing to actually do anything about it, I am going to remember that in other places other than this body, that is completely unacceptable, that it is a joke to care about something and then ignore it.

Remember this, our colleagues had the chance to work on this issue. If they don’t like that bill, come and talk to us about the Dignity Act. Come to the table to negotiate, but stop choosing yourself instead of your constituents and the safety of the country.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. SLOTKIN for those very powerful words. She mentioned something that I think is so important to repeat. As I have been talking to colleagues on both sides of the aisle about the Dignity Act, they have pointed out things they don’t like or things that they consider imperfect.

I have said two things in response: Please give me a suggestion on how you would change whatever provision it is that you don’t like and how you would accomplish that in a bipartisan way. That is the first thing I say. The second thing I say is, if this bipartisan bill that to date has about 30 bipartisan cosponsors, a really great coalition of bipartisan support, if this isn’t the bipartisan immigration bill you like, I would be happy to look at yours.

If folks don’t like this bill, they can either introduce their own after work-

ing hard to produce a bipartisan product like we did or they can even offer suggestions on provisions they would like to see changed as long as those changes reflect the bipartisan compromise that we worked so hard to create in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my colleague from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN), who was just in my district and my hometown this weekend.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative ESCOBAR for not only yielding her time but also for welcoming me and many others to her community just a few days ago.

Last week, I had the opportunity to visit our southern border by way of El Paso. This was my second time to the border. Very similar to the op-ed that I published in Newsweek earlier today, I share a little bit of my reaction to this very important and eye-opening congressional delegation that I was able to participate in.

If you are a Pennsylvanian like I am, you know that we just observed Groundhog Day, and Punxsutawney Phil didn’t see his shadow, so we can all expect an early spring. At our country’s southwest border, it feels like every day is Groundhog Day. Like so many Americans, I am a combination of angry and frustrated and heartbroken by what continues to happen there day after day and year after year and decade after decade.

We know that our immigration policies have to align with the shared values of our country. We are a country that was built primarily by immigrants, and we must welcome new arrivals compassionately while also protecting and securing our safety and our economy.

My community is, indeed, thousands of miles away from the southern border, in the suburbs of Philadelphia. We face unique challenges every day regarding immigration, but what is not unique about my community, indeed about every community, is that we have felt the impact in some way of our fractured and broken immigration system.

My visit to the southern border last week was not my first. Previously, I had the opportunity to go to Brownsville, Texas, and these trips have taught me that our system is broken but, indeed, can be repaired.

I have seen the efforts firsthand of important changes that Congress here has made and implemented since my first visit. Gone are the dehumanizing cages and the literal smell of humanity. In their place is a clean and dignified environment, centered on the health and the well-being of the migrants and of the incredibly dedicated Americans who work on behalf of our country. There is still clearly an enormous amount of work that needs to be done to secure our border, with enhanced processes, more staffing, and better systems, but the difference is palpable.

Most significantly, though, what has not been improved is the volume of migrants and the fact that there is still no other path than this desperate one for people who seek a better life in this vibrant and healthy economy. We don't need more of the same expensive Band-Aids but, rather, we need real reform, with more legal pathways to come here and to participate in our Nation's next 250 years.

I am committed to bipartisanship and to securing our border, and I am asking the very same of Congress. Specifically, I am asking the very same of our Speaker. The message that I share today is this: Our Republican leadership in Congress needs to commit to bringing bipartisan immigration reform bills like VERONICA ESCOBAR's bipartisan Dignity Act to the floor for a vote and now.

As an example, here is what the Dignity Act would do:

Number one, it would provide more money for CBP and border infrastructure to prevent illegal immigration.

Number two, it would require employers to verify the immigration status of workers and to ensure that they are here lawfully.

Number three, it would provide a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, who are the children of immigrants who came here when they were very young.

Number four, it would establish a path to permanent residency status for eligible individuals without lawful immigration status who meet various requirements, including paying into a fund to provide training for U.S. workers.

Let us pause and think about what I have just shared—policies that the vast, vast majority of Americans agree on. If we, as a Congress, are not passing legislation that the vast, vast majority of Americans agree on, I truly believe, as my colleague Representative ELISSA SLOTKIN mentioned, we are derelict in our duties.

Efforts like the Senate bipartisan bill that was just introduced yesterday must also be considered and be voted on. While I am still reading through the details of the 370-page bill, I am encouraged by the very summary that I have seen. While the path forward on immigration reform will likely not be straightforward, this much is true: We must reach a compromise with real solutions to this complex conversation and issue right now.

Again, I am calling on Speaker JOHNSON to change his deeply cynical position that "now is not the time" for immigration reform. I couldn't disagree more. Most people in most communities across America couldn't disagree more.

No solution will be perfect, but we cannot let that keep us from making progress for both the American people and for those who seek refuge here.

Not too long ago it was, indeed, my own family seeking shelter. My father and my grandmother survived the Hol-

ocaust. They left war-torn Poland after World War II and sought a better way of life here in the United States. I saw my young dad and grandmother in the eyes of frightened, desperate, and hopeful migrants that I was able to meet last week.

One small family unit in particular struck me. He was a young man of probably no more than 20 years old with his beautiful, curly-headed toddler, who reminded me of my youngest child. He told me about traffickers taking pictures of his son to intimidate and extort the father into conformance with their threats and demands. We can do better.

A lot has changed since my own father and grandmother took a ship across the Atlantic Ocean to New York City, and our immigration laws must also change as well.

I honor the souls, both migrant and American, whose lives collide with each other every day at our borders, and I again urge Republican leadership to bring a bipartisan border bill to the House floor. We must seek the hope of fresh opportunities. The shadows that burden us must all be lifted. That is possible, but only if we here in Congress understand that this Nation depends on us to act and to act now.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support the bipartisan immigration reform.

□ 2120

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of my colleagues and so incredibly honored and privileged to be working alongside them toward this very noble purpose. I am so proud of my Republican colleagues, as well, and honored they are on this bill.

It is a strange thing to say, but it actually takes a lot of courage for people to compromise in this place. The U.S. Congress today, unfortunately, is in some ways set up to ensure that our divisions are even more deeply rooted and that the chasm between us is made even greater.

It really is up to each and every one of us to build a bridge over that chasm, to find that pathway toward unity, and to focus, really, on areas of agreement instead of areas of disagreement. It is what the American people want. It is what the American people deserve.

A couple of my colleagues mentioned the trip to El Paso last weekend. Since I was elected to Congress my first year in 2019, I have brought over 25 percent of Congress—that number is probably even higher now—to El Paso. I invite my colleagues to join me. The trips are really insightful. We don't just talk to Border Patrol agents. We actually do a very holistic evaluation and have robust conversations with everyone that a broken system touches.

It helps put into perspective how complex the solution really is and how unacceptable it is that we have gone so long without addressing this solution.

I am going to close with this, Mr. Speaker, because my colleagues have

done such an effective job of advocating for this bipartisan compromise. I mentioned just a little bit ago the large number of supporting organizations that have come to us and told us they want to help. They want to see this bill get to the floor. They want a solution. The organizations range from left leaning to right leaning and everything in between.

Last week, I had the opportunity to speak to the Power and Communication Contractors Association, a group that came to Washington specifically to advocate for the Dignity Act. This is not a group I reached out to. This is not a group that any of us called and invited to D.C. They heard about the bill. They shared it with each other. They are a trade organization that is trying to install broadband across this country, especially in rural areas, but they are up against workforce shortages.

When they learned of the Dignity Act, they reached out to me. They asked me to speak to their group. I visited with them last week in the evening after a long day here on Capitol Hill, and they gave me such inspiration.

If regular Americans who are just trying to do their jobs are coming to D.C. to beg us to do ours, something is very wrong, but something is also very right. That means the American people are finally demanding of us that we do our job.

I would be remiss if I didn't say this: My party should have worked to compromise a long time ago.

Colleagues of mine on the other side of the aisle today are refusing to compromise. They keep pointing to their bill, H.R. 2. They keep saying this is the solution. I can tell you it is not.

A fundamental component to H.R. 2, something that is rarely talked about but fundamental to H.R. 2, is that Mexico be willing to accept every migrant the U.S. decides to expel. That has never happened, nor will it ever happen, so H.R. 2 is not realistic.

House Democrats who are holding onto the perfect are not realistic, either.

Let's come together. Let's fix this once and for all. Let's get to work and bring this to the floor. Let's put everyone to the test. Do we want a solution, or do we not?

On behalf of my colleagues and the millions of Americans who are ready for this vote, let's get this done.

Mr. Speaker, I am so grateful for the opportunity to highlight this very important bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### --- HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

#### STRENGTHENING CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 30 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, February is Career and Technical Education Month. I join the Nation in commending all the educators who play a vital role in preparing America's students for prosperity in the 21st century economy. However, there is often a disconnect between the curriculum taught at schools and the skills required for in-demand jobs.

There are currently 9 million unfilled jobs in the United States, and job creators are struggling to find qualified workers. Career and technical education programs offer a practical solution to bridge this skills gap. These programs offer students hands-on experience and skills that will allow them to excel in the workforce. By equipping students with the competencies they need to be successful on the job, career and technical education programs give participants an invaluable head start.

Building a strong, skilled workforce is a national priority. Now is the time to strengthen career and technical education.

Mr. Speaker, last week, the Committee on Education and the Workforce advanced the College Cost Reduction Act, CCRA, a landmark bill that would lower the cost of postsecondary education and provide much-needed relief for countless students and families.

For too long, colleges have been given free rein to charge exorbitant tuition for degrees without a worthwhile economic benefit. This legislation would ensure that that is no longer the case.

Don't take my word for it. Preston Cooper from the Foundation for Research on Equal Opportunity, FREOPP, states: "The College Cost Reduction Act would hold colleges and universities financially responsible for unpaid Federal student loans while delivering direct aid to institutions with low prices and strong student outcomes." Cooper notes the key provisions of the bill would save billions while lowering tuition costs. Those include loan repayment assistance.

The bill pares down the confusing array of Federal student loan repayment plans to two: a standard mortgage-style plan and an income-driven repayment plan.

Student loan risk sharing: Colleges, rather than students, are responsible for the cost of repayment assistance. Schools would be required to compensate the government for a portion of the forgiven unpaid interest associated with their former students.

Performance bonus: Schools may be eligible for new direct payments from the Federal Government known as

Promise grants. These payments are determined by a formula that rewards colleges for low-income student enrollment, high graduation rates, low tuition prices, and strong graduate earnings outcomes.

Loan limits: The bill caps aggregate student loan limits at \$50,000 for undergraduate students, \$100,000 for graduate students, and \$150,000 for students in graduate professional programs.

□ 2130

Maximum price guarantee: Colleagues must guarantee that the net tuition that students pay in their first year will not increase in subsequent years, for as long as the student is enrolled at the institution.

College is an investment for families, and they should know that graduates are receiving a financial return.

As such, the centerpiece of this legislation builds off of the Bipartisan Workforce Pell Act and measures the return on investment of college programs by comparing the ratio of the total price students were charged relative to the value-added earnings graduates receive from their degree.

Not only does this metric provide a sector-neutral way to assess whether students are better or worse off for enrolling in a given program but provides a measure to which institutions can be held financially responsible or financially rewarded for the outcomes of their students.

This means that, among other actions, institutions can reduce or eliminate the risk-sharing penalties by lowering their price, and in doing so, can become eligible for additional performance-based funding, like PROMISE grants that require that, at a minimum, the total price paid by students is at least equal to the value-added earnings of graduates.

For example, Preston Cooper's analysis of the CCRA highlights several institutions who are promoting economic mobility and would benefit substantially under this legislation—the State Technical College of Missouri, which could receive millions in flexible performance-based PROMISE funding.

In fact, Cooper's analysis finds that almost 90 percent of community colleges would financially benefit under the bill after accounting for risk sharing and PROMISE grants.

Most importantly, the bill benefits students by ensuring that as a condition of receiving PROMISE grants, institutions would provide students an up-front, guaranteed price for their entire degree program.

This means that for up to a maximum of 6 years, colleges would lock in students' tuition, making it far easier to budget needed resources, and also to weigh the cost of postsecondary education against perceived future benefits, such as their value-added earnings.

Policy experts across postsecondary education agree that the CCRA will help lower college costs. Here is what others are saying about it:

Andrew Gillen of the Texas Public Policy Foundation:

"Much is in the College Cost Reduction Act, but the most important changes revolve around transparency, financial aid reforms, deregulation, and accountability. . . .

"Overall, the College Cost Reduction Act would be a dramatic improvement for higher education."

Michael Brickman of the American Enterprise Institute:

"The College Cost Reduction Act provides the first substantive and comprehensive proposal in years to reform the way colleges and universities are funded and held accountable. There's a lot to like."

Finally, Beth Akers of the American Enterprise Institute:

"The College Cost Reduction Act represents the largest serious and comprehensive higher education reform package in decades and, in theory, has plenty of bipartisan appeal."

Everyone can agree that college is too expensive and a temporary Band-Aid like one-time loan bailouts simply won't cut it.

The College Cost Reduction Act is a promise from this Congress to the next generation of students that we are pursuing lasting solutions to the value problem in postsecondary education. It is also a promise to taxpayers that they will no longer be forced to pay for someone else's debt.

You don't have to take our word for it, though. Go listen to and read the mounds of evidence in support of the CCRA. I am proud of the work of the committee to advance this bill, and I look forward to a robust debate upon it reaching the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

#### KLAMATH RIVER DAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA) until 10 p.m.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about an extremely important project, really a tragedy, that is happening in the very northern part of my district.

This evening, I am joined by my colleague, CLIFF BENTZ, to discuss the Klamath River and the hydroelectric dams that have been around for at least 60 to 100 years providing low-cost, reliable hydroelectric power for many, many residents and up to 70,000 homes.

Now we see the initiation of the destruction of these dams due to filling out the dreams, or what have you, of a handful of environmental groups that have enlisted efforts up there to destroy these dams, ostensibly, to establish a fish population of what is known to be a very warm lake with a lot of FOS feed in it on a very warm river.

Indeed, some of the things that happened to make this system up there work was over 100 years ago an original

reef up in the area there was blown up, and a pathway was carved so that water that would never have gone down the river now it does go down the river.

So there are a lot of facts that we can point out that show this system has actually benefited the river, as well as agriculture and hydroelectric power in the area.

Now there is this major push in this country and in my home State of California to electrify just about everything: Electric vehicles, electric stoves, electric appliances, electric yard equipment, leaf blowers, lawn mowers, everything. They think we are going to electrify all of that at the same time that we are destroying the ability to generate electricity and to deliver it, especially in my home State with these dams being removed, as well as precariously the nuclear power plant, Diablo Canyon. They gave it just a 5-year extension recently; that is 9 percent.

So there is a lot of hypocrisy, talking out of both sides of their mouths, really on the issue.

Mr. Speaker, the area that Mr. BENTZ and I represent will be deeply affected negatively by these removals.

My side of the California-Oregon line has three of the dams, and Mr. BENTZ represents the area that has the one largest dam, the JC Boyle.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) to talk about some of the effects he is seeing in his district, as well as what that means for agriculture and other things.

Mr. BENTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman LAMALFA for allowing me time to address this important issue.

The destruction of the Klamath Dam is a classic case of misdiagnosing the problem and then applying the wrong remedy.

Destroying the dams on the Klamath will not save the salmon. Returning more river habitat to its natural state will not save the salmon. Stealing all the water from farmers and ranchers and putting it in streams will not save the salmon.

Why not?

Because the main problem facing salmon is not the dams. The main problems facing the salmon are the conditions salmon face in the ocean.

There may be, someday, a modest benefit to these fish after the dams have been removed, and when millions upon millions of tax dollars are spent on habitat recovery, but these misplaced efforts will not bring fish runs back.

Whatever the modest improvement might be, it will not be worth the loss of the clean electrical power that has been created by these dams. Certainly, the few additional fish that return will not justify increased flows of water taken from farmers.

Why?

Because, again, habitat is not the issue.

There are hundreds of miles of unused habitat, and the volume of water

is not the issue. For the past 20 years, the water flows, using water taken from farmers, exceeded what would have been available in the Klamath River under natural conditions. Despite this additional water, these fish have not recovered.

Again, the problems facing the fish that need to be solved are those found in the ocean. If further evidence of this is needed, look at what has happened on the Elwha River in Washington State. Two dams were removed over 10 years ago, and there has still been no increase in fish.

Who is it really that bears the brunt of the damage occurring as a result of the destruction of these four dams? Who is it that actually suffers?

First and foremost, the fish. They are the real losers in this entirely misdirected exercise. The National Marine Fisheries Service is being derelict in its duty to study and then protect salmon against the challenges they face in the sea.

Secondly, the farmers of the Klamath Basin. These people are truly bearing the costs of shutting down and now removing these dams. First came the loss of the low-cost electrical power generated by the four dams that made possible movement of massive volumes of irrigation and bird refuge water across the Klamath Basin.

Then came the taking of farmers' water to flush fish down the river to the sea, and now the stealing of even more of the farmers' water to clean up, by flushing to the ocean, a huge portion of the 20 million cubic yards of silt and mud left from destruction of the dams.

It is the total loss of the value of the farmers' land, much of it being farmed by third- and fourth-generation family members, that is the real and unforgivable travesty.

This inequitable and unjust consequence of the imposition of the ESA, the Endangered Species Act, must be and will be addressed in the Subcommittee on Natural Resources.

□ 2140

The third problem we face is the millions of costs in dollars by the electrical ratepayers of Oregon and California and the Nation. Remember, the dams are private property. There is a tax adjustment somewhere on the books of PacifiCorp that I am guessing is in the numerous millions.

Finally, the millions upon millions of wildfowl that once used the Klamath refuges as an important part of the Pacific flyway can't. We will not have the thousands of acres of water that once upon a time supplied these birds with clean water delivered by dam-driven electrical pumps.

There are many more victims of removal, but time does not permit further discussion. Sadly, the one predictable thing that is going to emerge from this billion-dollar exercise in self-destruction will be the ultimate conclusion that the salmon's most chal-

lenging existential issues are ocean trawler and predation based.

These obvious and inconvenient facts will not be accepted until every drop of water has been wrung out of every farm and ranch in the Klamath, taking with it the livelihoods of farmers and ranchers and cities in the upper reaches of that basin.

The spotted owl debacle was the last time this many thousands of people and businesses were sacrificed up on the altar of flawed science. The last time the ESA ruined this many people's lives, it was loggers and their communities. This time it is the ranchers and farmers, who, according to courts, bureaucrats, and environmentalists, are expendable. I assure you they are not.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BENTZ for his time and leadership on his side of the lineup there. Indeed, it is good to work together and spotlight and fight the fight on this.

Indeed, it will not help the people in the area who have largely not been listened to. When seminars are held up there, they are excluded unless they are shown to be willing to go along with this, which is tragic and unjust.

Pictured here is one of the still existing dams. One is gone. This is one of the remaining Copco dams, as well as the Boyle up north of it a little more and then the Iron Gate farther south.

You can already see what they call dewatering, where they have drained the lake behind that. You can see—it may be hard on this camera here—this black plume of muck and crud that are on either side of the dam as the lake was drained. Eighty or 100 years' worth of silt have built up, and so now you see that building up all through the system of the Klamath River, the area they claim to be saving and making as a salmon habitat.

This is not an impressionist painting here. This is actually is a blown-up photograph of how the river looks presently. It is this black, rolling—basically black water. I am not talking about the Doobie Brothers song either. It is not that positive. This is a very ugly situation, full of sediment, full of algae and other things that have been sitting at the bottom of the lake for a long time.

Wherever this makes its way down to the plume—which is at least 130 miles now; 130 miles of the Klamath River looks like this. What it has done to the wildlife in the area, the fish or the wildlife that would come down to the water and drink from it—the fish kills on this are just appalling. Again, what we are talking about is the whole effort to ostensibly save fish and create a habitat for them.

You can see here in this photo; this is the main stem of the river. This is a tributary filling in here. This water is still off-color a little bit because it is wintertime flows, but you can see that greenish, bluish color there. This is the brown and black stuff that is coming

down the main stem where they have done the work already. It is appalling. It is unbelievable.

Yet, what do we hear from the authorities on this, from Fish and Game and the KRC, as it is known, the shell corporation that was created in order to take the liability from that? At least the FERC, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, ruled that the shell corporation did not have the financial wherewithal to endure what was going to be the full aspect of the possible cost of this.

\$450 million was put together more or less to do all this work; \$250 million from the taxpayers of California as part of the so-called water bond, and \$200 million from the ratepayers of PacifiCorp, mostly in Oregon, have kicked in extra money in their monthly bill to pay for this.

They are expecting cost overruns on something of this magnitude. The States of California and Oregon had to come in basically with a line of credit backing this up, so the taxpayers are going to be on the hook for even more as more and more of the disaster is unleashed upon the whole Klamath system here.

Here is the tragedy right here. As I was starting to mention, the entities involved, Fish and Game, the KRC, on one hand they are saying this loss of wildlife—right here in this photograph are three deer that went out there to drink and got caught in the muck and have basically died this miserable death because they couldn't extract themselves from that. A couple of them, Fish and Game came out and finally just shot them, because they didn't have the facilities to go out and rescue these animals. This is the cost here. This is the cost.

Now, they are claiming on one hand, well, this is unforeseen. How can it be unforeseen if you have a plan here? You say you have a plan. Well, everybody starts out with a plan, right? This isn't going according to plan.

Then, on the other hand, the same groups will tell you it was foreseen that a lot of the yellow perch and other things would be casualties in this, will be collateral damage. Indeed, they tell us they have a plan, but if you are a farmer in the area and you accidentally trap one of these threatened or endangered fish that happens to get into your stream, even though you have fish screens and this and that, in order to go out and water your crops, they come down on you like you are a felon. You lose one fish, and everybody loses their minds over that, but this is an acceptable damage here. This is acceptable to them because the agenda really is about the removal of the dams. It isn't so much about the fish, because you are going to find in the long term, this is not going to work out.

This tragedy you are seeing, this is really, really hurting obviously the wildlife but also really the mental effects to the people who live there, to

see and hear these deer bawling out there just outside their homes they have on the Copco Lake area and such.

Here we have some more of the collateral damage. You can see scattered through here some of the dead fish along the shore there. This stuff is so nasty that they can't breathe very long in that. As soon as that plume hits them, as soon as it hits the whole 200 miles of this river, all the way out to the ocean, to the mouth of the Klamath, it is all going to be a killing habitat for them.

How long will it take for all this silt to—the folks involved estimate 6 to 7 million cubic yards. I think the number is going to be more like 20 million cubic yards. When you look at some of the photos there, there is still a lot of residual silt and stuff built up on the banks that has not been swept out of that initial volley when they blast the holes in the bottom of the dam where they had the original drains in construction.

There is much more silt to still affect the system. Guess what, these folks are running on guesses. A lot of this has been based on somebody's term paper a long time ago. When we have had these discussions with folks, they just gloss over the silt. Is it really about saving fish, or is it about collecting four of these trophies, as they brag on and on about this being the largest dam removal project in the history of the country?

They have more on the list. They have more targets. It is dominoes. The extremists in this environmental movement want to continue to topple dams. My colleagues up in Washington are seeing this discussion happening right now with the Snake River. As Mr. BENTZ mentioned, Elwha has already been done, yet they are not seeing the recovered population of fish. Right now we are wiping out the population of fish in there. How long will it take for all of that silt to transition out 200 miles worth of river? How many years?

The lifecycle of the salmon is about 3 years. Will they be able to hold off for 3 years out in the ocean, or will they come back up and try to spawn? Once the entire lifecycle is wiped out, then you don't have that fish anymore.

The flaw in the thinking is indeed this is more about politics. It is political science, not actual science. These folks are hell-bent on removing a lot of infrastructure in this country in Oregon and California because they see this as a sign of progress.

We need to build more water storage in California. We need to have more projects that store the massive amounts of water that right now are escaping to the Pacific Ocean in our so-called atmospheric rivers that are occurring.

□ 2150

Now we are rating them on a number system like we do hurricanes on a 1 through 5 AR. What used to be for a big storm or tropical, pineapple express,

now they have a scientific name in order to scare the public with it.

Yes, the conditions are serious. We have high winds right now, and a lot of water, but it is also partly a manipulation by government in order to exercise more control over the water supply and the infrastructure and keep people in just a little bit more fear.

Again, more of the fish they purport to be saving, preserving, and trying to build a population of is for how many years going to be damaged and destroyed by the destruction of just one dam so far?

One of the four is the only one that has been completely destroyed. Others, again, they have started draining from the bottom there, and that is where all this material is coming from.

It is, indeed, unscientific and much more about power and politics.

Over here a little farther away from me, Mr. Speaker, you see many dead fish laying on the shoreline here all through here. There are probably 40 in this picture if it is discernible enough on the camera there.

This is the same all the way up and down; so far about 130 miles of river.

Are we really doing any good here?

Politically, I guess we are, but as far as being real on helping species, I hope this is a case study because there are very few silver linings that we can find coming out of this. The loss of the hydroelectric power, the loss of the locals there, I have hardly even touched on the infrastructure damage locally there because with the drainage just so far in these lakes, people are losing their groundwater wells that have been supported by this water supply. We have wells drying up.

We have our roads all along the edge are having sloughing now. Mr. Speaker, you can see a big crack like an earthquake hit it and split it down the middle. That is sloughing off down there.

The KRC, as well as FERC, are over-seeing them supposedly, and they are supposed to be mitigating this. So far, the mitigation fund has disappeared. It is gone. It is not that they spent the money, we can't find the money. We can't find anyone there to talk to. There is no 1-800 number for people to talk about these damages.

As far as people's homes, one lady we are talking to, her home up on the hillside used to overlook beautiful Copco Lake but is now overlooking the mud flats there. It is subject to slippage as well. There are folks with big mortgages there, they still have payments. Also, they still have to pay their taxes, and they are not going to be able to recoup the cost of any of this because now property values have been basically destroyed with the dams.

What are they supposed to do?

KRC and FERC are not coming back in and, indeed, they are reneging on some of the things that were agreed to with FERC as part of this plan. Indeed, it is not a plan. It is political science forced upon these folks. It feels like the people of Siskiyou County and that

region up there, every time there is some great idea in Sacramento on species or on conservation, they are being subject to it.

I say great idea facetiously because these are folks who have been up there, in some cases, six and seven generations producing for all of us. They are producing the food on your table and are helping to be part of the process of producing electricity to keep your lights on. All they want to do is do it honorably and do it well. These aren't drug dealers. These aren't people doing bad things. These are people trying to produce things that Americans need. They are made to feel like criminals, they are made to feel like subjects, and they are made to feel like constant victims because of some idea coming out of an urban area and coming out of somebody wanting to say: Oh, let's conserve wolves now. Let's introduce wolves to the area and we can wipe out the cattle growers that way.

It is not a success so far. They say: Well, that is still to come. It will be better later.

How many years is this going to take?

How many fish generations are going to be wiped out to do this?

As Mr. BENTZ was saying: At what cost?

Because this is still not an ideal river. This river was actually modified to make the flows happen down the river where it used to go to a different zone where there had been a refuge. It was an amazing area for ducks and other wildlife, the Lost River.

So we have lost a lot with this. People actually can do good things, and there is a balance before government steps in at the behest of environmentalists and environmental groups that are manipulating some of our folks in the Tribal community up there to be part of this.

So here, symbolically, this single dead fish, the thing that supposedly we are trying to save, is being wiped out.

A \$450 million initial price tag, the loss of electric power, the loss of the people locally of their water supply, their roads, their infrastructure as the people destroying the dams are driving hell-bent all over this place with equipment much heavier than the roads can handle, and there is no plan.

KRC is reneging on what they told the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission they would do. So we need to hold their feet to the fire on that.

However, in that the three dams are still existing there, I have this crazy idea: Why don't we just leave them alone?

We have seen just a microcosm, just a taste, of how bad it is going to be for the habitat and the destruction that they are causing by the destruction of the dams.

We are at a point right now that the environmental groups have a choke hold on Sacramento, much of Washington, D.C., the court system with liberal judges who have been appointed

who don't listen to anybody and don't listen to science, instead they listen to a handful of folks and don't look at the balance of what it means to the entire community up there and other places around the country.

I only hope that maybe the Supreme Court rulings on some other decisions will help put balance back into the argument on how extreme either the Clean Water Act has been abused, the Endangered Species Act, and other codes and other things that have really not been codified by Congress but given broad powers to these agencies to do as they see fit. What is called the Chevron decision, the Supreme Court will be looking at pretty soon in order to re-evaluate just because a Federal agency rules it a certain way doesn't mean they are necessarily infallible. These are human beings too with biases.

The way we see so many things politicized these days, how are we to trust them even more, especially when just common sense and science is showing that this ain't working?

It certainly doesn't work for people. It certainly doesn't work for those who are providing.

Where is the mitigation fund to help the folks?

FERC needs to be helping answer that question. KRC is the shell corporation that was created out of thin air so the utility could leave town and not have the liability. Instead, the liability created was put into a shell corporation, and once that money runs out, the \$450 million is taken from taxpayers via the bond and ratepayers from PacifiCorp, and it will run out. They wasted the first \$40 or \$50 million just talking about and planning for it.

Where does it go from there?

People of the State of California and Oregon will have to follow up with the disaster that will undoubtedly be seen after this with more money out of their pockets for something that at the end of the day was created by their actions.

When this system was put in with the Klamath project which was dedicated to returning World War I veterans to foster agriculture in an area, and, indeed, it was amazing agriculture as long as it lasted, the water flows that come down the Klamath wouldn't even be possible without some of that work that was done. A lot of that water would be lost to basins where, again, it was good for other wildlife, but that water wouldn't be regulatable or getting down the river so you would have the luxury of year-round water flow to meet these demands of flush flows for fish during certain times of the year or for rituals further down the river. We don't have the luxury for that.

So the Klamath Lake is tied into that, the Klamath project is tied into that, and the benefit of having hydroelectric power, which is the greenest, cleanest, and most available baseload power we could get, and we are seeing that slowly being destroyed right now. They want to have it done before the end of the year probably because

maybe there will be a change this coming election, and maybe there will be something to stall some of this destruction and nonsense.

If they complete it here, they will keep looking at other places. They will keep looking at the Snake River up there in Washington, another dam over in Mendocino County there which many people rely on in order to supply water to agricultural crops and give flexibility to the system there. They are not going to stop here. They are not going to stop here.

So the timeline, again, they hope to have it accomplished by September, but they are going to run into some problems with that as well with the destruction just on logistics.

We are basing this, again, on unproven science. Salmon populations in other places where dams have been destroyed have not rebounded like they would.

So what is the bang for the buck on this?

As Mr. BENTZ was talking about, how much is happening down river out in the ocean to affect these fish populations that has nothing to do with what a farmer might be doing who might accidentally get a fish?

They have spent plenty of money and made a lot of effort to put fish screens on their intakes or destroying these dams. We are not getting the bang for the buck. People have a part of this too. People are part of the ecology. Hydroelectric power is a beautiful thing. This discussion isn't over by any stretch because they are going to be hell-bent on keeping on doing this and destroying the livelihoods, the economy, and the good that has been up in this area along the Klamath dam.

Now, instead, as I have shown you tonight, Mr. Speaker, is the destruction and the pollution that has come from unleashing this.

So with that, Mr. Speaker, we will be back, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, February 6, 2024, at noon.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3031. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Bank Community Development Investments [Docket ID: OCC-2023-0005] (RIN: 1557-AF19) received February 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.



EC-3032. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final interagency guidance — Principles for Climate-Related Financial Risk Management for Large Financial Institutions [Docket ID: OCC-2022-0023] (RIN: 3064-ZA32) received February 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-3033. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Appraisals for Higher-Priced Mortgage Loans Exemption Threshold [Docket No.: OCC-2023-0012] (RIN: 1557-AF23) received February 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-3034. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Chief Counsel's Office, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Community Reinvestment Act [Docket ID: OCC-2022-0002] (RIN: 1557-AF15) received February 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-3035. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's correcting amendment — Methoxyfenozide; Pesticide Tolerances; Correction [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0336; FRL-9525-02-OCSPP] received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3036. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Canton, Cleveland, and Steubenville Second 10-Year 2006 24-Hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> Limited Maintenance Plans [EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0615; EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0616; EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0617; FRL-11003-02-R5] received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3037. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Linuron; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2022-0134; FRL-11402-01-OCSPP] received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3038. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Florida; Miscellaneous SIP Changes [EPA-R04-OAR-2022-0660; FRL-11572-02-R4] received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3039. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — Air Plan Approval; Indiana; Lake and Porter 2008 Ozone NAAQS Maintenance Plan Revision [EPA-R05-OAR-2023-0482; FRL-11618-02-R5] received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3040. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Baicalin in Pesticide Formulations; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-

OPP-2023-0065; FRL-11656-01-OCSPP] received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3041. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a letter informing congress of action taken consistent with the War Powers Resolution, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1543(c); Public Law 93-148, Sec. 4(c); (87 Stat. 556) (H. Doc. No. 118—103); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-3042. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report that the United States as part of a multinational operation alongside the United Kingdom, with support from Australia, Bahrain, Canada, Denmark, the Netherlands, and New Zealand, conducted discrete strikes in Yemen against facilities, locations, and equipment associated with the Houthi's missile and air surveillance capabilities, unmanned aerial vehicle capabilities, and command and control capabilities, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1543(c); Public Law 93-148, Sec. 4(c); (87 Stat. 556) (H. Doc. No. 118—104); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

EC-3043. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-20, V-222, V-289, V-552, V-569 and V-574, and Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes T-483 and T-485 in the Vicinity of Beaumont, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1528; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASW-9] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3044. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of United States RNAV Route T-251 in the Vicinity of Bowling Green, MO [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2365; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ACE-7] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3045. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Very High Frequency Omnidirectional Range Federal Airway V-4 in the Vicinity of Burley, ID [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2453; Airspace Docket No.: 22-ANM-57] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3046. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Route T-401 in the Vicinity of Paynesville, CA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1338; Airspace Docket No.: 22-AWP-86] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3047. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31523; Amdt. No.: 4093] received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3048. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31524; Amdt. No.: 4094] received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3049. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace; San Juan, PR [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0052; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ASO-01] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3050. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Areas R-3801A, R-3801B, and R-3801C; Camp Claiborne, LA, and R-3803A, R-3803B, R-3803C, R-3803D, R-3803E, R-3803F, R-3804A, R-3804B, and R-3804C; Fort Polk, LA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2544; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASW-19] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3051. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Renaming of Restricted Areas R-6601A, R-6601B, and R-6601C; Fort AP Hill, VA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2555; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AEA-18] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3052. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Restricted Area R-2512 Holtville, CA; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2220; Airspace Docket No.: 23-AWP-59] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3053. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Aviation Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-1502; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00380-T; Amendment 39-22634; AD 2023-25-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3054. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0032; Project Identifier AD-2024-00021-T; Amendment 39-22663; AD 2024-02-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received January 23, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3055. A letter from the Management Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Statesboro, GA [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2051; Airspace Docket No.: 23-ASO-38] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received February 2, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-3056. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Section 45W Commercial Clean Vehicles and Incremental Cost for 2024 [Notice 2024-5] received January 22, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

*(The following action occurred on February 3, 2024)*

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee: Committee on Homeland Security. House Resolution 863. Resolution Impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors, with an amendment (Rept. 118-372). Referred to the House Calendar.

*(Submitted February 5, 2024)*

Mr. LANGWORTHY: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 994. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7160) to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the limitation on the amount certain married individuals can deduct for State and local taxes, and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 987) denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-373). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. BURGESS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 996. Resolution providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 863) impeaching Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security, for high crimes and misdemeanors, and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 485) to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to prohibit the use of quality-adjusted life years and similar measures in coverage and payment determinations under Federal health care programs (Rept. 118-374). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CALVERT (for himself, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SCALISE, Mr. EMMER, and Ms. STEFANIK):

H.R. 7217. A bill making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GUTHRIE (for himself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Ms. WATERS):

H.R. 7218. A bill to amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to extend the program for promotion of public health knowledge and awareness of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. McCLAIN (for herself and Ms. PORTER):

H.R. 7219. A bill to ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of Federal agency rules and guidance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. STANTON (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. GOODEN of Texas):

H.R. 7220. A bill to establish in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services of the Department of Homeland Security an EB-5 Regional Center Program Advisory Committee; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 7221. A bill to provide for the conservation and designation of habitat connectivity areas, with support from the voluntary conservation programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture, as American wildlife corridors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BUCHANAN (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 7222. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow expenses for parents to be taken into account as medical expenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana):

H.R. 7223. A bill to require the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration of the United States to develop guidelines to improve returning citizens' access to the Transportation Worker Identification Credential program, to assist individuals in custody of Federal, State, and local prisons in pre-applying or preparing applications for Transportation Worker Identification Credential cards, and to assist individuals requesting an appeal or waiver of preliminary determination of ineligibility, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. CARTER of Georgia):

H.R. 7224. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 7225. A bill to restore administrative law judges to the competitive service, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. CROCKETT (for herself and Mr. GOODEN of Texas):

H.R. 7226. A bill to require research with respect to fentanyl and xylazine test strips, to authorize the use of grant funds for such test strips, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas (for herself and Mr. COLE):

H.R. 7227. A bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to

the Committees on Natural Resources, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 7228. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to expand the copyright protection provided to architectural works to golf courses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 7229. A bill to appropriate \$25,000,000,000 for the construction of a border wall between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, the Judiciary, Agriculture, and Appropriations, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself and Mr. TORRES of New York):

H.R. 7230. A bill to amend the definition of extremely low-income families under the United States Housing Act of 1937; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 7231. A bill to prohibit Federal support for institutions of higher education that promote antisemitism, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 7232. A bill to direct the Secretary of State to revoke the visas of students who have engaged in antisemitic activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself, Mr. McCAUL, and Ms. WILD):

H.R. 7233. A bill to amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for grants in support of training and education to teachers and other school employees, students, and the community about how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse among primary and secondary school students; amend the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act to provide for grants in support of training and education to teachers and other school employees, students, and the community about how to prevent, recognize, respond to, and report child sexual abuse among primary and secondary school students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 7234. A bill to ensure that the National Advisory Council on Indian Education includes at least 1 member who is the president of a Tribal College or University and to require the Secretaries of Education and Interior to consider the National Advisory Council on Indian Education's reports in the preparation of budget materials; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. NORMAN (for himself, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 7235. A bill to amend the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 to provide for a legislative line-item veto to expedite consideration of rescissions, and cancellations of items of new direct spending and limited tax benefits; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 7236. A bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2017 to extend the availability of identity protection coverage to individuals whose personally identifiable information was compromised during recent data breaches at Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7237. A bill to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program to construct barriers near rail lines that are adjacent to a residential structure, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. NICKEL):

H.R. 7238. A bill to amend the Housing Act of 1949 to extend the term of rural housing site loans and clarify the permissible uses of such loans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PFLUGER (for himself, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. BACON, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 7239. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to enhance the penalties applicable with respect to certain violations involving the use of interactive computer service to distribute a controlled substance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 7240. A bill to achieve a fair, equitable, and final settlement of claims to water rights in the State of Montana for the Fort Belknap Indian Community of the Fort Belknap Reservation of Montana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STAUBER (for himself, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mrs. FISCHBACH):

H.R. 7241. A bill to amend the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to establish an emergency preparedness and response technical assistance program to assist entities that operate rural water or wastewater systems in preparing for and responding to natural or man-made disasters; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 7242. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to increase the maximum gross loan amount for a loan made under section 7(a) of such Act; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PANNETTA, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. TRONE, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.J. Res. 112. A joint resolution expressing support for designation of the week of February 5, 2024, through February 9, 2024, as "National School Counseling Week"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H. Res. 995. A resolution appointing and authorizing managers for the impeachment trial of Alejandro Nicholas Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. PAYNE):

H. Res. 997. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to the legacy of Bob Marley; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. FOUSHEE (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. ROSS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CARSON, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. OMAR):

H. Res. 998. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 4, 2024, as "Transit Equity Day"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

## CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 7217.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 9, Clause 7:

"No Money shall be drawn from the Treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by Law; and a regular Statement and Account of the Receipts and Expenditures of all public Money shall be published from time to time."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Making emergency supplemental appropriations to respond to the attacks in Israel.

By Mr. GUTHRIE:

H.R. 7218.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This is a single issue bill.

By Mrs. McCLAIN:

H.R. 7219.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Ensure that Federal agencies rely on the best reasonably available scientific, technical, demographic, economic, and statistical information and evidence to develop, issue or inform the public of the nature and bases of agency rules and guidance.

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 7220.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Immigration visa reform

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 7221.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Environmental Conservation

By Mr. BUCHANAN:

H.R. 7222.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow expenses for parents to be taken into account as medical expenses, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CARTER of Louisiana:

H.R. 7223.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Spending Clause Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 along with the Necessary and Proper Clause, Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Judiciary and re-entry issues.

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 7224.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

health care

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 7225.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

The ALJ Competitive Service Restoration Act restores administrative law judges to the "competitive service"

By Ms. CROCKETT:

H.R. 7226.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require research with respect to fentanyl and xylazine test strips, to authorize the use of grant funds for such test strips, and for other purposes

By Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas:

H.R. 7227.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 7228.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is,

To amend title 17, United States Code, to expand the copyright protection provided to architectural works to golf courses, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 7229.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To appropriate funds for and require the construction of a border wall between the United States and Mexico.

By Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 7230.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section I of the U.S. Constitution

"All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and a House of Representatives."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the definition of extremely low-income families under the United States Housing Act of 1937.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 7231.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit Federal support for institutions of higher education that promote antisemitism, and for other purposes.

By Ms. MALLIOTAKIS:

H.R. 7232.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of State to revoke the visas of students who have engaged in antisemitic activities, and for other purposes

By Mr. MORAN:

H.R. 7233.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To encourage community-based education and training for teachers, caregivers, and students to prevent child sexual abuse.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 7234.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Amend the National Advisory Council on Indian Education.

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 7235.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill establishes expedited legislative procedures for congressional consideration of proposals by the President to rescind funding, cancel a new item of direct spending, or cancel a limited tax benefit.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7236.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would require the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to make permanent the free identity protection coverage that Congress required OPM to provide for 10 years to individuals whose Social Security Numbers were potentially compromised during the OPM data breaches.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 7237.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would establish a grant program for the design and construction of barriers to mitigate rail activity that may harm homes and their occupants, including derailments, noise and vibrations.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 7238.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Housing Act of 1949 to extend the term of rural housing site loans to clarify the permissible uses of such loans.

By Mr. PFLUGER:

H.R. 7239.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Combatting drug trafficking in the United States

By Mr. ROSENDALE:

H.R. 7240.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Fort Belknap Indian Community Water Rights Settlement

By Mr. STAUBER:

H.R. 7241.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

The purpose of this bill is to establish an emergency preparedness and response technical assistance program to assist rural water system operators.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 7242.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States;

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Small Business Act to increase the maximum gross loan amount for a loan made under section 7(a) of such Act.

By Ms. SANCHEZ:

H.J. Res. 112.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution, to "provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States."

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 20: Mr. AMO.

H.R. 30: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 51: Ms. SALINAS and Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 55: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 82: Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 148: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PERRY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 333: Mrs. HAYES and Ms. LEE of Florida.

H.R. 427: Mr. BURCHETT.

H.R. 506: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. COSTA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. PETTERSEN.

H.R. 603: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 653: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. SANCHEZ, and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 727: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 766: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 807: Mr. MFUME, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 880: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 895: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 907: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1097: Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. CROW.

H.R. 1100: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 1134: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 1179: Mr. MEUSER, Ms. SEWELL, and Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 1191: Ms. LEE of Florida.

H.R. 1200: Mr. FITZGERALD.

H.R. 1202: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 1247: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 1263: Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 1321: Mr. NICKEL.

H.R. 1403: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 1465: Mrs. RAMIREZ.

H.R. 1480: Ms. LEE of Florida.

H.R. 1491: Mr. CUELLAR and Mr. NICKEL.

H.R. 1610: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1685: Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 1705: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 1716: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 1770: Mr. COHEN and Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 1788: Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 1829: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 1833: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 1838: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 2377: Mr. BURGESS.

H.R. 2382: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 2407: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 2422: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2540: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2621: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 2666: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 2700: Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. ALFORD, and Ms. VAN DUYN.

H.R. 2713: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 2725: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 2743: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.

H.R. 2808: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2849: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 2851: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 2867: Mr. MAGAZINER.

H.R. 2891: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 2941: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 2961: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 2974: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 3009: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 3012: Mrs. WAGNER.

H.R. 3054: Mr. BALDERSON.

H.R. 3056: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 3106: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 3179: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 3238: Mr. MRVAN and Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 3277: Ms. BARRAGAN.

H.R. 3331: Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 3421: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 3433: Mr. CLYDE, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. LATURNER.

H.R. 3444: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 3470: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 3495: Mr. FROST.

H.R. 3539: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 3548: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 3601: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 3682: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 3713: Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 3720: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 3792: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 3845: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 3934: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3957: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 4034: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 4035: Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 4040: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 4175: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. LATURNER, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 4177: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 4274: Mrs. PELTOLA.

H.R. 4315: Ms. CARAVEO.

H.R. 4335: Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 4343: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 4391: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.

H.R. 4418: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 4456: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4524: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 4540: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 4585: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 4612: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 4728: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 4760: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 4769: Mrs. PELTOLA.

- H.R. 4858: Ms. STANSBURY.  
H.R. 4929: Ms. BROWNLEY.  
H.R. 4960: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 4993: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.  
H.R. 4999: Mr. FALLON.  
H.R. 5041: Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
H.R. 5075: Ms. PINGREE.  
H.R. 5077: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania and Mrs. DINGELL.  
H.R. 5080: Mr. VASQUEZ.  
H.R. 5096: Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. STAUBER.  
H.R. 5155: Ms. MANNING.  
H.R. 5163: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.  
H.R. 5199: Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 5403: Mr. ALFORD, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. BUCSHON, and Mr. CARL.  
H.R. 5420: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.  
H.R. 5456: Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 5530: Mr. ELLZEY and Mr. MURPHY.  
H.R. 5545: Ms. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 5577: Mr. CLOUD.  
H.R. 5611: Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 5702: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 5717: Mrs. LUNA, Mr. PALMER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. LATURNER, and Mr. POSEY.  
H.R. 5739: Mrs. HAYES.  
H.R. 5799: Mr. THANEDAR.  
H.R. 5808: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 5813: Mr. MFUME, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MULLIN, and Ms. STANSBURY.  
H.R. 5844: Mr. VASQUEZ.  
H.R. 5867: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.  
H.R. 5887: Mr. CONNOLLY.  
H.R. 5909: Mr. ALLRED.  
H.R. 5975: Mr. MAGAZINER.  
H.R. 5995: Ms. PORTER, Mr. BERA, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 6046: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. MAST, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. MILLS.  
H.R. 6052: Ms. HAGEMAN.  
H.R. 6065: Ms. VAN DUYN and Ms. MANNING.  
H.R. 6078: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 6090: Mr. CAREY, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. STEUBE, and Mr. BACON.  
H.R. 6094: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 6128: Mr. CURTIS and Mr. CRANE.  
H.R. 6203: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.  
H.R. 6227: Mr. PFLUGER.  
H.R. 6247: Mr. MCCAUL.  
H.R. 6248: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois and Mr. FITZPATRICK.  
H.R. 6283: Ms. LETLOW.  
H.R. 6293: Ms. STANSBURY.  
H.R. 6319: Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. SLOTKIN.  
H.R. 6352: Mr. CARL.  
H.R. 6377: Mr. NICKEL, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Ms. SLOTKIN.  
H.R. 6378: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
H.R. 6425: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
H.R. 6429: Mr. CRANE.  
H.R. 6431: Mr. BURLISON.  
H.R. 6451: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SOTO, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. LIEU, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.  
H.R. 6492: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.  
H.R. 6504: Mr. CLOUD and Mr. EDWARDS.  
H.R. 6519: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 6524: Mr. MOYLAN.  
H.R. 6538: Mr. MRVAN and Mr. BACON.  
H.R. 6554: Mr. VASQUEZ.  
H.R. 6598: Mr. GARBARINO.  
H.R. 6603: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. WALTZ.  
H.R. 6610: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Ms. MENG, and Ms. SCHOLTEN.  
H.R. 6634: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
H.R. 6645: Ms. GREENE of Georgia.  
H.R. 6687: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Mr. BOST.  
H.R. 6727: Ms. DE LA CRUZ and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.  
H.R. 6750: Mr. MOYLAN.  
H.R. 6756: Ms. TLAIB.  
H.R. 6763: Mr. PENCE and Mr. PFLUGER.  
H.R. 6780: Ms. LEE of California, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. RASKIN.  
H.R. 6784: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 6789: Mrs. WAGNER and Mrs. HOUCHIN.  
H.R. 6805: Mr. COHEN.  
H.R. 6815: Mr. SARBANES.  
H.R. 6831: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.  
H.R. 6832: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. POCAN.  
H.R. 6888: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H.R. 6926: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. VALADAO, and Mr. HUNT.  
H.R. 6929: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mrs. PELTOLA, Ms. CHU, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. GARBARINO, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Mr. BACON, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.  
H.R. 6935: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 6937: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 6962: Mrs. HOUCHIN.  
H.R. 6963: Ms. CARAVEO.  
H.R. 6992: Mr. TONKO.  
H.R. 6993: Mr. ROY.  
H.R. 7015: Mr. VASQUEZ and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
H.R. 7029: Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 7051: Ms. LEE of Florida.  
H.R. 7059: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.  
H.R. 7065: Mr. MOYLAN.  
H.R. 7075: Ms. CHU and Mr. FOSTER.  
H.R. 7083: Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BRECHEEN, and Mr. ALLEN.  
H.R. 7087: Mr. FINSTAD and Mr. HORSFORD.  
H.R. 7089: Mr. LAWLER, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.  
H.R. 7109: Mr. OGLES, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FRY, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. SELF, Mr. CURTIS, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. ROSE, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MOONEY, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. HERN.  
H.R. 7117: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.  
H.R. 7118: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.  
H.R. 7125: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 7127: Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 7136: Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. MOYLAN, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.  
H.R. 7137: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 7151: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 7152: Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 7159: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. BACON.  
H.R. 7161: Mr. CRANE.  
H.R. 7162: Mr. PANETTA.  
H.R. 7163: Ms. STANSBURY and Ms. TOKUDA.  
H.R. 7168: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.  
H.R. 7169: Mr. CLINE.  
H.R. 7193: Ms. MALOY.  
H.R. 7202: Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. FEENSTRA.  
H.R. 7204: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 7206: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
H.R. 7209: Mr. MOYLAN.  
H.R. 7210: Mrs. PELTOLA.  
H.R. 7216: Mr. CRENSHAW.  
H.J. Res. 72: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
H.J. Res. 80: Mrs. HOUCHIN.  
H.J. Res. 107: Mr. CRANE.  
H. Con. Res. 27: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. CONNOLLY.  
H. Con. Res. 59: Ms. LEE of Florida.  
H. Res. 146: Ms. TITUS and Mr. ALLRED.  
H. Res. 539: Mr. CONNOLLY.  
H. Res. 627: Mr. GARAMENDI.  
H. Res. 709: Mr. VALADAO and Mr. MOYLAN.  
H. Res. 762: Mr. MAST.  
H. Res. 901: Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. STANTON, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. CORREA, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, and Mrs. DINGELL.  
H. Res. 946: Mr. BACON.  
H. Res. 962: Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. COHEN, and Ms. TITUS.  
H. Res. 965: Mr. ISSA, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. KEATING, Mr. MAST, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. SOTO, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, and Mr. CUELLAR.  
H. Res. 967: Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. QUIGLEY, and Mr. COMER.  
H. Res. 979: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
H. Res. 987: Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BACON, and Mrs. BICE.  
H. Res. 989: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Mr. MULLIN.  
H. Res. 991: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.  
H. Res. 993: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.