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No. 36

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 28, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS 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.

PUBLIC TELEVISION IS IMPORTANT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, this week we are having a public media summit in our Nation's Capital, with representatives from independent television stations from across the country.

Thirteen years ago, the prospects were not particularly encouraging. We had just had a takeover in the House of

Representatives with people intent on reducing government spending, and public media was in the crosshairs. Today, 13 years later, the Federal funding is still flowing at record levels to America's public broadcasters. We noted the retirement of the head of America's Public Television Stations, Pat Butler, who helped guide us through these difficult times.

Congress has enacted a new infrastructure investment program for public media nearly three times as large as the one it replaced. When COVID struck, the economy imploded. Congress provided \$250 million in emergency financial assistance to America's public media. Our partnership for public radio and television includes our State governments, as well, who will commit a record \$365 million to support public media.

There are hundreds of advocates who will hit Capitol Hill to share the strong positive message of public broadcasting. In a way, this should be the easiest of lobbying assignments. Public broadcasting is the most trusted name in media; 180 million people watch or listen to it every week.

The Senate passed the appropriation out of committee 24-2, at a funding level overwhelmingly approved last spring by Congress with the agreement with the President to avert a shutdown. It included 149 Republicans. The benefits are powerful and almost universally supported, and it is not just news, but most point out that PBS and NPR are where even the critics go when they need to know what is actually going on.

Part of our challenge now is that there are a handful of people who are holding the budget hostage, which is unfortunate, because there is overwhelming support in the House and the Senate if we are able to see our way clear. It is perplexing because funding for public media is overwhelmingly supported by rural and small-town America.

There is always going to be public broadcasting in New York, San Francisco, Boston, or even Portland, Oregon, but there will not be as much and the programming won't be as good, but it will be there. However, that is not the case for rural and small-town America, in the mountain States, in the rural Midwest, in Alaska.

That is why the late Republican dean of the House, Don Young, was such a fierce champion for public broadcasting in his State and nationally. He knew that it was more important in rural America where there are fewer choices, and it is more expensive. Federal support was critical.

News, entertainment, culture, think of where we would be during COVID without the public educational component. It is also increasingly important for public safety. The network supplied by public broadcasting is the emergency communications for natural disasters, for efforts in terms of fires and floods. It is a system that we depend upon, and it is public broadcasting that provides the backbone. People literally depend on it for their lives.

Let's hope, as the visitors from the public television stations visit Capitol Hill, meeting with our staff, providing this information, that people are receptive because this is an opportunity for us on a bipartisan basis to strengthen the ability of Americans to be able to learn, to be able to promote culture, education, and public safety. It is the best bargain for the taxpayer dollar, and I hope that we will be supportive.

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS SCAM

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week, President Biden announced a plan to cancel \$1.2 billion

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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H699

in Federal student loans for 150,000 borrowers.

As Americans, we have always followed a simple rule: If you take out a loan, you pay back the loan. It is time to call a spade a spade. This student loan scam isn't forgiveness; it is an election-year handout to President Biden's far-left voters to transfer debt to the American taxpayer. This gimmick transfers the burden of the loans from the students who took the loans onto every American taxpayer.

Repaying these loans certainly has no personal benefit to 87 percent of taxpayers who don't have student loans and to the 100 million Americans who never attended college.

This program takes advantage of Americans who are already struggling to support their families under the weight of President Biden's inflation. It is time to send a message to President Biden and his administration that we cannot allow hardworking Americans, who have kept their word and repaid their personal loans, to be ripped off by yet another pandering scheme to the far left.

RARE DISEASE WEEK

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Rare Disease Week.

Right now, more than 25 million Americans and their loved ones are impacted by over 7,000 conditions which are classified as rare diseases.

Since the Orphan Drug Act was enacted in 1983, more than 600 drugs have been developed to combat these illnesses and ultimately save lives. Now, because of President Biden's so-called Inflation Reduction Act, the environment that has allowed these treatments to develop is being threatened.

This week, I am proud to be working alongside my colleagues to advance bipartisan legislation, the ORPHAN Cures Act, which would expand the orphan drug exemption for medicines with multiple indications involving rare diseases and cancers.

It is critical that Congress acts to support research and development into treatments and therapies that address rare diseases and further work to ensure that patients have access to the care and treatment that they need.

As we recognize Rare Disease Week, let's commit to standing with patients who are living with rare diseases, including pediatric cancers and diseases like cystic fibrosis, classified as rare, but they are not rare to the families and the patients who are suffering with them.

Let's commit to working together to ensure that every patient, regardless of the rarity of the condition, receives the support, the care, and the treatment that they need.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF LARRY MAKOBEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and celebrate the life of Larry Makoben of Bettendorf, Iowa.

Larry's remarkable work in the Quad Cities was transformative. Over the years, Larry was president of the Bettendorf Jaycees and the Bettendorf Chamber of Commerce, where he served for many years as an Ambassador. He was also a member of the Bettendorf and Quad Cities Morning Optimist Club, the Bettendorf Kiwanis Club, and Larry served as the district chairman for the Boy Scouts of America. His unwavering dedication, leadership, and passion for excellence set a standard that will continue to inspire us all.

As we reflect on Larry's achievements, his military service, and his service to our community, let us remember the positive influence he had on those around him.

I offer my deepest condolences to Larry's wife, Carolyn, and his family during this difficult time. May we honor Larry by carrying forward his spirit of resilience, creativity, and commitment to making a difference.

ZACH BOTT NAMED IOWA WINE GROWERS ASSOCIATION WINEMAKER OF THE YEAR

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the extraordinary achievements of Zach Bott, a winemaker at Fireside Winery in Marengo and Ackerman Winery in Amana for being named the 2024 Iowa Wine Growers Association Winemaker of the Year.

In a region known for its rich agricultural history, Zach's dedication and passion for winemaking have truly set him apart. Zach Bott has not only mastered the art of winemaking but has also become a symbol of excellence in the industry. His commitment to producing high-quality wine reflects the spirit of innovation and hard work that defines Iowa's winemaking industry.

Congratulations to Zach Bott on this well-deserved honor. May his success inspire a new generation of winemakers and continue to elevate Iowa's presence in the world of wines. Cheers.

PERMANENT UNIVERSITY OF IOWA ATHLETICS DIRECTOR BETH GOETZ

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate Beth Goetz, who was recently named the permanent athletics director for the University of Iowa. She is now the first woman to oversee the university's entire athletics program since Christine Grant led the then-separate women's athletic department from 1973 to 2000.

Beth's groundbreaking appointment not only marks a significant milestone for women working in athletics, but the promotion also reflects Iowa's commitment to excellence and diversity in leadership. With an impressive track record and a visionary approach, Beth is ready to lead Iowa athletics to new heights. Congratulations, Beth, and Go Hawks.

HEARTFELT GRATITUDE TO THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Iowa Department of Transportation, the city crews, the county crews, and all the volunteers who worked tirelessly during the recent winter storm in Iowa's First Congressional District.

With another storm coming in today, their work has been so helpful to all Iowans, and to those who are crossing the country on Interstate 80 or Interstate 35. Their unwavering commitment and dedication ensured that our roads were cleared, our sidewalks were usable, our communities remained safe, and ensured that our essential services continued uninterrupted. It was a challenging and dangerous job to do.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the women and men who, through their hard work, kept our cities running smoothly and our roads safe. Their efforts have not gone unnoticed.

PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BORDER BRUTALITY

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, last week our country lost yet another innocent soul to President Biden's administration's inexcusable and shameful open-border policy when 22-year-old Laken Hope Riley was brutally murdered by a Venezuelan citizen who illegally entered our country in September 2022.

Laken Riley was a nursing student at Augusta University's Athens campus who was out on a morning run near the intramural fields at the University of Georgia. May her soul rest in peace.

Unfortunately, this is what Americans across the country have come to expect since President Biden took office. His administration has enacted and implemented numerous open-border policies which directly and inevitably result in these sorts of tragedies.

In addition to this terrible tragedy that occurred in Georgia, local authorities in Virginia arrested a 32-year-old Venezuelan migrant in connection with the sexual assault of a minor. Just like the murderer who allegedly killed Laken Riley, this individual also entered the country in September of 2022 after being detained and released by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol in El Paso, Texas.

In our Nation's Capital, Washington, D.C., a man accused of shooting three District of Columbia police officers was found to be in our country illegally with an active deportation order with Immigration and Customs Enforcement. All three of these terrible, completely avoidable tragedies occurred in the same calendar month, just a week apart.

□ 1215

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, pure and simple, these are the consequences of

the Biden's administration indefensible open-border policies.

There is no doubt that President Biden's feckless border policies are the direct causes of this once unimaginable level of crime and loss of life.

To make matters worse, just days after both of these immigrants entered our country illegally, President Biden, instead of trying to secure the border, erroneously stated that the border was actually secure and that it was "not rational" to deport illegal immigrants from Venezuela.

If deporting illegal immigrants is not rational, then that begs the question, Madam Speaker, what is rational? Simply doing nothing but keeping the border wide open surely isn't rational.

As a father of two young children growing up in President Biden's United States where every town has become a border town, I fear it is only a matter of time until one of these families that I represent in middle Tennessee faces the same consequences of the Biden administration's open-border policies.

I pray that day never comes. I also pray the President comes to his senses and ends the humanitarian crisis at the southern border that his administration's policies have caused.

The administration has already admitted they have the authority to restrict migrants' ability to seek asylum at the border. It is well past time that the President used that authority.

Until then, House Republicans like me will continue sounding the alarm and beating the drum to shed light on this administration's open-border policies and blatant abuse of our immigration laws.

Border security is national security, and strong borders make for strong countries and safe countries.

STANDING WITH AMERICA'S FARMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, at this very moment, America's dedicated farmers and the Nation's entire agricultural community are facing a serious threat.

That threat is the Communist Chinese Party's continued purchasing of American farmland. This is a threat that I take very seriously and one that I remain committed to fixing.

Here is the truth: The Chinese Communist Party has absolutely no interest in supporting our Nation's food supply.

It cares only about improving its own bottom line while kneecapping a community that has always put food on the tables of families in every ZIP Code in America.

Think about the threat that is being posed to our national security as more American farmland is acquired by the Chinese Communist Party.

My record is crystal clear on standing with farmers, and I have recently

taken action to confront and expose the Chinese Communist Party's covert agenda.

I have cosponsored H.R. 7131, the AFIDA Improvements Act of 2024, legislation that makes serious reforms related to how the United States Department of Agriculture shares data on foreign investments in agricultural land.

What is more, I have cosponsored H.R. 809, the Prohibition of Agricultural Land for the People's Republic of China Act.

This legislation requires the President to take necessary actions to prohibit the purchase of public or private agricultural real estate located in the United States by nonresident aliens, foreign businesses, or any agent, trustee, or fiduciary associated with the Government of the People's Republic of China.

Further, under this legislation, individuals or businesses with direct ties to the Government of the People's Republic of China will be prohibited from certain programs administered by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Madam Speaker, the simple truth is that our Nation's food supply and supply chain are better off when American farmers are put first.

The interests of the Chinese Government should never be put first. This threat is one that should not be ignored.

I have long held that North Carolina's agricultural industry is the best that our Nation has to offer. It has always been and will always be a force to be reckoned with.

Last Congress, I was proud to be a recipient of the Friend of the Farm Bureau award in recognition of my voting record in support of farmers across North Carolina and the Nation.

These hardworking men, women, and families work tirelessly every day to support our Nation. I will always stand with them and push back against every attempt to undermine their livelihoods.

CONTINUED ACCESS TO FERTILITY CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MACE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to join my resolution in regard to IVF. My resolution expresses support for continued access to fertility care and assisted reproductive technologies such as in vitro fertilization in light of Alabama's court ruling last week that has jeopardized access to in vitro fertilization and other assisted reproductive technology in the State of Alabama.

For years now, since 2019, I have been advocating for women's issues and women's rights on the issue of contraception, on the issue of contraceptives, and on the issue of abortion exceptions, particularly for the life of the mother, rape, and incest.

In 2019, as a State lawmaker, I told my story as a survivor of rape. When the State of South Carolina was doing its fetal heartbeat bill, it had no exceptions for women who were raped or for girls who were victims of incest, and I was frustrated by that argument because very few women are actually speaking up about women and about those exceptions.

Ever since then, I have become very passionate about protecting women, about protecting their rights, and about protecting access to IVF, et cetera.

Today, I want to point out I have cosponsored legislation and resolutions by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle as it relates to contraception, as it relates to contraceptives, as it relates to providing information and protecting IVF, and, yet, not a single one of them got criticized for the legislation because they were Democrats.

Yet today, I am trying to work with Members on both sides of the aisle together to condemn the ruling in Alabama, to express our sentiment and express our support for IV access for women all across the country.

When a Republican does it, it should be equally supported by the corporate media, but, apparently, it is not.

I am urging my colleagues today to get beyond the divisive politics and look forward to how we can actually work together because this IVF issue shouldn't be Republican, and it shouldn't be Democrat.

The vast majority of Americans—I dare say almost every single American in this country, almost a hundred percent—support efforts to protect women's access to IVF.

I also want to mention, last year I cosponsored H. Res. 345, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ' resolution, that recognizes that infertility is a widespread problem that affects populations of diverse ages, races, ethnicities, and genders.

Madam Speaker, 12 percent of women in the U.S. have difficulty getting pregnant or staying pregnant, and 9 percent of men experience infertility.

The resolution acknowledged that infertility is a disease and that infertility is not just a women's issue because it impacts men also. This is a families' issue.

The Federal Government has a moral obligation to ensure the availability of infertility-related services to all individuals and families without barriers such as access, cost, and coverage.

I remind the press that I also was only one of eight Republicans that voted in favor of KATHY MANNING'S Right to Contraception Act.

The Greater Access to Contraceptive Options Act ensures women and families across the country have a right to obtain and use contraceptives. It is a commonsense measure in the case of rape, incest, or in order to maintain a healthy and well-functioning body. Reducing the number of unwanted pregnancies requires ensuring contraceptives are available to couples, women, et cetera.

Finally, beyond the numbers as it relates to my resolution regarding support for IVF, IVF has a genuinely positive impact on individuals, families, and communities.

IVF and other assisted reproductive technologies contribute to the birth of over 10 million babies globally every single year. In the U.S., 12 percent of women of reproductive age have utilized assisted reproductive technology.

Infertility is a deeply personal and obviously devastating issue. I am calling on my colleagues today on both sides of the aisle, Republican and Democrat alike, to join me in expressing the sentiment in the whole House of Representatives that we are dedicated to protecting the American Dream of starting a family by cosponsoring this resolution.

BRINGING KAI LI HOME

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

Mr. LALOTA. Madam Speaker, we, the United States Government, must do everything in our power to bring my constituent, Kai Li, home from his unlawful imprisonment by the Chinese Communist Party.

Since 2016, Kai Li, of Huntington, New York, has been unjustly imprisoned by the Chinese Communist Party.

In 2016, Kai Li visited Shanghai to mark the first anniversary of his mother's death. When he arrived at the airport in Shanghai, Chinese Communist Party authorities immediately arrested him on what they called espionage charges.

For months, Kai was held in secret detention without access to legal counsel. Almost 2 years later, in July of 2018, in a one-hour secret trial, Kai was convicted of espionage.

This is yet another example of the Chinese Communist Party's long history of aggressively targeting and detaining individuals on trumped-up charges of spying.

Since coming into office 14 months ago, I have called on the administration to do everything in its power to bring Kai Li home to his family, including his son, Harrison.

Soon, I will be introducing legislation to urge this administration to prioritize bringing Kai Li home and end his unlawful detainment. We must right this wrong and fix a broken situation.

POLICE EXPLORERS PROGRAM

Mr. LALOTA. Madam Speaker, the Suffolk County Police Department has an exciting program to increase interest among teenagers in pursuing a career in law enforcement. It is called the Police Explorers.

Participants in the program must show an interest in a law enforcement career, meet minimum academic standards, and have no criminal convictions or history.

The Police Explorers program is a learning-for-life program, which pro-

vides participants with police training and community service experience.

I had the chance to meet with Sergeant Linda Piotrowski of the Suffolk County Police Department in my Hauppauge office, and she briefed me on this program.

We had a great discussion about public safety and how to increase awareness among young people interested in a career in law enforcement.

As the son and grandson of police officers, I am thrilled to see efforts to increase law enforcement recruitment numbers and to help those interested in a career in law enforcement. Together, we must continue to support and back the blue at every opportunity.

COMBATING THE RISE IN ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. LALOTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to condemn the disturbing rise in anti-Semitism in this country and around the world, especially in the months following the October 7 terrorist attacks committed by Hamas against the people of Israel.

Since October 7, America has seen a demonstrable rise in anti-Semitism on college campuses where students have been harassed and even insulted simply for being Jewish.

Despite their years of elitist rhetoric, talk of safe spaces, and feigning how they welcome all cultures, duplicitous liberal college presidents have refused to take action to protect these students.

In America, every student should be free to live and learn without fear of harassment or physical violence. America's colleges must do better.

Here in Washington, I am proud to cosponsor several pieces of legislation to support Israel, hold Hamas and Iran accountable, and condemn anti-Semitism, including H.R. 6090, the Anti-Semitism Awareness Act, which would require the Department of Education to clearly define anti-Semitism and ensure anti-Semitic hate crimes on college campuses are properly investigated and prosecuted.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 29 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

O sovereign Lord, 2 years into this unrelenting conflict between Russia

and Ukraine, we appeal to You to act in condemnation against the unprovoked and the unjustified aggression and the heinous and hateful crimes against the Ukrainian people.

Uphold the cause of justice and defend these men and women who have called to You in their need. For they have been a testimony to faith, waiting patiently for You, fearing not when evil people have succeeded, and never losing heart even as the wicked carry out their schemes.

Protect them from their enemy but preserve them also from themselves, that they would refrain from acting out in anger and responding in wrath. In the horror of this interminable war, prevent them from resorting to vengeance, deliver them from exercising the very evil they are now enduring.

May all who suffer at the hands of such aggressors be assured that You, O Lord, laugh at the wicked for You know their day is coming. Though they draw the sword and bend the bow, You, O righteous one, will cause their weapons to pierce their own hearts. You will cause their strongholds to break.

Make firm the steps of those who delight in You. Though they may stumble, they will not fall, for You, O Lord, will uphold them with Your hand.

In the strength found only in Your name do we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. PLASKETT 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.

LEAP 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, tomorrow is Leap Day, which means the folks I represent in Tennessee will be subject to an extra day of the disastrous economic policies of the Biden administration that have resulted in record-high inflation and an unaffordable cost of living.

Look no further, Mr. Speaker, than a recent report that said December was the least affordable month on record to own a home, as home prices hit an all-time high.

December marked the 11th straight month of higher home prices and a 5 percent increase in prices over the entire year.

Coupled with higher interest rates, thanks to the Biden administration's reckless deficit spending, the American Dream of owning a home is quickly evaporating.

However, Mr. Speaker, I am committed to passing policies that make purchasing and owning a home more affordable and lowering the cost of living for the average American and the Tennesseans that I represent.

RECOGNIZING THE 180TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC'S INDEPENDENCE

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the 180th anniversary of the Dominican Republic's independence.

This past weekend, the streets in downtown Christiansted, St. Croix, and Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, were alive with the spirit of the Independence Day Parade, a tradition that has graced our islands for 15 years and serves as a testament to the rich tapestry of our shared heritage.

The Virgin Islands prides itself on being a melting pot of cultures, and the active participation and integration of the Dominican community showcase the strength and beauty of that diversity.

It is inspiring to see members of the Dominican community opening businesses, contributing to our economy, and taking on key roles in our government as they share their passion and their ideas.

Those efforts and achievements reinforce the value of cultural exchange and mutual respect that are the foundation of our society.

It is the fabric that weaves our communities together and allows every ethnicity and nationality to celebrate their unique culture and traditions.

Here is to many more years of friendship, collaboration, and shared prosperity between the Virgin Islands and, indeed, the United States and the Dominican Republic.

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 5 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 (Ms. VAN DUYNÉ) 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.

ATOMIC ENERGY ADVANCEMENT ACT

Mr. DUNCAN, Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6544) to advance the benefits of nuclear energy by enabling efficient, timely, and predictable licensing, regulation, and deployment of nuclear energy technologies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6544

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Atomic Energy Advancement Act”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Subtitle A—Efficiency, Performance, and Preparation for the Future

Sec. 101. NRC mission alignment.

Sec. 102. Nuclear licensing efficiency.

Sec. 103. Strengthening the NRC workforce.

Subtitle B—Fee Reduction

Sec. 111. Advanced reactor fee reduction.

Sec. 112. Advanced nuclear reactor prize.

Subtitle C—Siting, Licensing, and Oversight Reviews

Sec. 121. Modernization of nuclear reactor environmental reviews.

Sec. 122. Nuclear for Brownfield sites.

Sec. 123. Advancement of nuclear regulatory oversight.

TITLE II—NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT

Sec. 201. Advanced nuclear deployment.

Sec. 202. Global nuclear cooperation.

Sec. 203. American nuclear competitiveness.

TITLE I—NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Subtitle A—Efficiency, Performance, and Preparation for the Future

SEC. 101. NRC MISSION ALIGNMENT.

(a) MISSION OF THE COMMISSION.—

(1) UPDATE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall, while remaining consistent with the policies of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (including to provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of the public health and safety, to promote the common defense and security, and to protect the environment), update the mission statement of the Commission to include that licensing and regulation of nuclear energy activities be conducted in a manner that is efficient and does not unnecessarily limit—

(A) the potential of nuclear energy to improve the general welfare; and

(B) the benefits of nuclear energy technology to society.

(2) REPORT.—Upon completion of the update to the mission statement required under paragraph (1), the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(A) the updated mission statement; and

(B) the guidance that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will provide to staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ensure effective performance of such mission.

(b) OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION.—Section 203 of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 5843) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “(a) There” and inserting the following:

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT; APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTOR.—There”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1)—

(i) by striking “(b) Subject” and inserting the following:

“(b) FUNCTIONS OF DIRECTOR.—Subject”;

and

(ii) by striking “delegate including:” and inserting “delegate, including the following:”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “for the discharge of the” and inserting “to fulfill the licensing and regulatory oversight”;

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “(c) Nothing” and inserting the following:

“(d) RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFE OPERATION OF FACILITIES.—Nothing”;

and

(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

“(c) LICENSING PROCESS.—In carrying out the principal licensing and regulation functions under subsection (b)(1), the Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation shall—

“(1) establish techniques and guidance for evaluating applications for licenses for nuclear reactors to support efficient, timely, and predictable reviews of applications for such licenses to enable the safe and secure use of nuclear reactors;

“(2) maintain the techniques and guidance established under paragraph (1) by periodically assessing and, if necessary, modifying such techniques and guidance; and

“(3) obtain approval from the Commission if establishment or modification of the techniques and guidance established under paragraph (1) or (2) involves policy formulation.”.

SEC. 102. NUCLEAR LICENSING EFFICIENCY.

(a) EFFICIENT LICENSING REVIEWS.—

(1) GENERAL.—Section 181 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2231) is amended—

(A) by striking “The provisions of” and inserting the following:

“(a) The provisions of”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) Consistent with the declaration in section 1, the Commission shall provide for efficient, timely, and predictable reviews and proceedings for the granting, suspending, revoking, or amending of any license or construction permit, or application to transfer control, and in any proceeding for the issuance or modification of rules and regulations dealing with the activities of licenses.”.

(2) CONSTRUCTION PERMITS AND OPERATING LICENSES.—Section 185 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2235) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“c. APPLICATION REVIEWS FOR PRODUCTION AND UTILIZATION FACILITIES OF AN EXISTING SITE.—In reviewing an application for an early site permit, construction permit, operating license, or combined construction permit and operating license for a production facility or utilization facility located at the site of a production facility or utilization facility licensed by the Commission, the Commission shall, to the extent practicable, use

information that was part of the licensing basis of the licensed production facility or utilization facility.”.

(b) PERFORMANCE METRICS AND MILESTONES.—Section 102(c) of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2215(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, by striking “180” and inserting “90”; and

(B) by striking “180” and inserting “90”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) PERIODIC UPDATES TO METRICS AND SCHEDULES.—

“(A) REVIEW AND ASSESSMENT.—Not less frequently than once every 3 years, the Commission shall review and assess, based on the licensing and regulatory activities of the Commission, the performance metrics and milestone schedules developed under paragraph (1).

“(B) REVISIONS.—After each review and assessment under subparagraph (A), the Commission shall revise, as appropriate, the performance metrics and milestone schedules developed under paragraph (1) to provide the most efficient performance metrics and milestone schedules reasonably achievable.”.

(c) CLARIFICATION ON FUSION REGULATION.—Section 103(a)(4) of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2133 note; Public Law 115-439) is amended—

(1) by striking “Not later” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) EXCLUSION OF FUSION REACTORS.—Notwithstanding section 3(1), for purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘advanced nuclear reactor applicant’ does not include an applicant for a license for a nuclear fusion reactor.”.

(d) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section 104 c. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2134(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking the third sentence and inserting the following:

“(3) LIMITATION ON UTILIZATION FACILITIES.—The Commission may issue a license under this section for a utilization facility useful in the conduct of research and development activities of the types specified in section 31 if—

“(A) not more than 75 percent of the annual costs to the licensee of owning and operating the facility are devoted to the sale, other than for research and development or education and training, of—

“(i) nonenergy services;

“(ii) energy; or

“(iii) a combination of nonenergy services and energy; and

“(B) not more than 50 percent of the annual costs to the licensee of owning and operating the facility are devoted to the sale of energy.”;

(2) in the second sentence, by striking “The Commission” and inserting the following:

“(2) REGULATION.—The Commission”; and

(3) by striking “C. The Commission” and inserting the following:

“C. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), the Commission”.

(e) FUSION MACHINES.—

(1) DEFINITION.—Section 11 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2014) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“kk. FUSION MACHINE.—The term ‘fusion machine’ means a particle accelerator that is capable of—

“(1) transforming atomic nuclei, through fusion processes, into other elements, isotopes, or particles; and

“(2) directly capturing and using the resultant products, including particles, heat, and other electromagnetic radiation.”.

(2) TECHNOLOGY-INCLUSIVE REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 103(a) of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2133 note) is further amended—

(i) in paragraph (4), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) FUSION MACHINE APPLICANTS.—Not later than December 31, 2027, the Commission shall complete a rulemaking to establish a technology-inclusive, regulatory framework for optional use by fusion machine applicants for new license applications.”; and

(ii) in paragraph (5)(B)(ii), by inserting “and fusion machine license applications” after “commercial advanced nuclear reactor license applications”.

(B) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2215 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(21) FUSION MACHINE.—The term ‘fusion machine’ has the meaning given such term in subsection kk. of section 11 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.”.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall submit to Congress a report on—

(A) the results of a study, conducted in consultation with Agreement States (as defined in section 3 of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2215 note) and the private fusion sector, on risk- and performance-based, design-specific licensing frameworks for mass-manufactured fusion machines (as defined in subsection kk. of section 11 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as added by this subsection), that includes evaluation of the Federal Aviation Administration’s design, manufacturing, and operations certification process for aircraft as a potential model for mass-manufactured fusion machine regulations; and

(B) the estimated timeline for the Commission to issue consolidated guidance or regulations for licensing mass-manufactured fusion machines, taking into account the results of such study and the anticipated need for such guidance or regulations.

SEC. 103. STRENGTHENING THE NRC WORKFORCE.

(a) COMMISSION WORKFORCE.—

(1) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—The Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 161A the following:

“SEC. 161B. COMMISSION WORKFORCE.

“(a) DIRECT HIRE AUTHORITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 161 d. of this Act and section 2(b) of Reorganization Plan No. 1 of 1980 (94 Stat. 3585; 5 U.S.C. app.), and without regard to any provision of title 5 (except sections 3303 and 3328), United States Code, governing appointments in the civil service, if the Chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (in this section referred to as the ‘Chairman’) issues or renews a certification that there is a severe shortage of candidates or a critical hiring need for covered positions to carry out the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s (in this section referred to as the ‘Commission’) responsibilities and activities in a timely, efficient, and effective manner, the Chairman may, during any period when such a certification is in effect—

“(A) recruit and directly appoint highly qualified individuals into the excepted service for covered positions; and

“(B) establish in the excepted service term-limited covered positions and recruit and directly appoint highly qualified individ-

uals into such term-limited covered positions, which may not exceed a term of 4 years.

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) MERIT PRINCIPLES.—To the maximum extent practicable, any action authorized pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be consistent with the merit principles of section 2301 of title 5, United States Code.

“(B) NUMBER.—The number of highly qualified individuals serving in—

“(i) covered positions pursuant to paragraph (1)(A) may not exceed 210 at any one time; and

“(ii) term-limited covered positions pursuant to paragraph (1)(B) may not exceed 80 at any one time.

“(C) COMPENSATION.—The Chairman may not use authority under paragraph (1)(A) or paragraph (1)(B) to compensate individuals recruited and directly appointed into a covered position or a term-limited covered position at an annual rate of basic pay higher than the annual salary payable for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

“(D) SENIOR EXECUTIVE SERVICE POSITION.—The Chairman may not, under paragraph (1)(A) or paragraph (1)(B), appoint highly qualified individuals to any Senior Executive Service position, as defined in section 3132 of title 5, United States Code.

“(3) RENEWAL.—The Chairman may renew a certification issued or renewed under this subsection if the Chairman determines there is still a severe shortage of candidates or a critical hiring need for covered positions to carry out the Commission’s responsibilities and activities in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.

“(4) TERMINATION.—A certification issued or renewed under this subsection shall terminate on the earlier of—

“(A) the date that is 10 years after the certification is renewed or issued; or

“(B) the date on which the Chairman determines there is no longer a severe shortage of candidates or a critical hiring need for covered positions to carry out the Commission’s responsibilities and activities in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.

“(5) LEVEL OF POSITIONS.—To the extent practicable, in carrying out paragraph (1) the Chairman shall recruit and directly appoint highly qualified individuals into the excepted service to entry, mid, and senior level covered positions, including term-limited covered positions.

“(b) ADDRESSING INSUFFICIENT COMPENSATION OF EMPLOYEES AND OTHER PERSONNEL OF THE COMMISSION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the Chairman issues or renews a certification that compensation for employees or other personnel of the Commission serving in a covered position is insufficient to retain or attract such employees and other personnel to allow the Commission to carry out the responsibilities and activities of the Commission in a timely, efficient, and effective manner, the Chairman may, during any period when such a certification is in effect, fix the compensation for such employees or other personnel serving in a covered position without regard to any provision of title 5, United States Code, governing General Schedule classification and pay rates.

“(2) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.—A certification issued or renewed under this subsection shall—

“(A) apply to employees or other personnel who serve in covered positions;

“(B) terminate on the earlier of—

“(i) the date that is 10 years after the certification is issued or renewed; or

“(ii) the date on which the Chairman determines that the use of the authority of the

Chairman under this subsection to fix compensation for employees or other personnel serving in a covered position is no longer necessary to retain or attract such employees and other personnel to allow the Commission to carry out the Commission's responsibilities and activities in a timely, efficient, and effective manner; and

“(C) be no broader than necessary to achieve the objective of retaining or attracting employees and other personnel serving in a covered position to allow the Commission to carry out the Commission's responsibilities and activities in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.

“(3) RENEWAL.—The Chairman may renew a certification issued or renewed under this subsection if the Chairman determines that use of the authority of the Chairman under this subsection to fix compensation for employees or other personnel serving in a covered position is still necessary to retain or attract such employees or other personnel to allow the Commission to carry out the Commission's responsibilities and activities in a timely, efficient, and effective manner.

“(4) APPLICABILITY.—The authority under this subsection to fix the compensation of employees or other personnel during any period when a certification issued or renewed under paragraph (1) is in effect shall apply with respect to an employee or other personnel serving in a covered position regardless of when the employee or other personnel was hired.

“(5) RETENTION OF LEVEL OF FIXED COMPENSATION.—The termination of a certification issued or renewed under paragraph (1) shall not affect the compensation of an employee or other personnel serving in a covered position whose compensation was fixed by the Chairman in accordance with paragraph (1).

“(6) LIMITATION ON COMPENSATION.—The Chairman may not use the authority under paragraph (1) to fix the compensation of employees or other personnel at an annual rate of basic pay higher than the annual salary payable for level III of the Executive Schedule under section 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

“(7) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the Chairman may—

“(i) obtain the services of experts and consultants in accordance with section 3109 of title 5, United States Code;

“(ii) compensate those experts and consultants for each day (including travel time) at rates not in excess of the rate of pay for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of that title; and

“(iii) pay to the experts and consultants serving away from the homes or regular places of business of the experts and consultants travel expenses and per diem in lieu of subsistence at rates authorized by sections 5702 and 5703 of that title for persons in Government service employed intermittently.

“(B) LIMITATIONS.—The Chairman shall—

“(i) to the maximum extent practicable, limit the use of experts and consultants pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

“(ii) ensure that the employment contract of each expert and consultant employed pursuant to subparagraph (A) is subject to renewal not less frequently than annually.

“(C) ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AUTHORITY.—

“(1) FOR NEW EMPLOYEES.—The Chairman may pay a person recruited and directly appointed under subsection (a) a 1-time hiring bonus in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

“(2) FOR EXISTING EMPLOYEES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), an employee or other personnel who the Chairman determines exhibited exceptional performance in a fiscal year may be paid a

performance bonus in an amount not to exceed the least of—

“(i) \$25,000; and

“(ii) the amount of the limitation that is applicable for a calendar year under section 5307(a)(1) of title 5, United States Code.

“(B) LIMITATIONS.—

“(i) SUBSEQUENT BONUSES.—Any person who receives a performance bonus under subparagraph (A) may not receive another performance bonus under that subparagraph for a period of 5 years thereafter.

“(ii) HIRING BONUSES.—Any person who receives a 1-time hiring bonus under paragraph (1) may not receive a performance bonus under subparagraph (A) unless more than one year has elapsed since the payment of such 1-time hiring bonus.

“(d) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Chairman shall develop and implement a plan to carry out this section. Before implementing such plan, the Chairman shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and the Office of Personnel Management a report on the details of the plan.

“(2) REPORT CONTENT.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) evidence and supporting documentation justifying the plan; and

“(B) budgeting projections on costs and benefits resulting from the plan.

“(3) CONSULTATION.—The Chairman may consult with the Office of Personnel Management, the Office of Management and Budget, and the Comptroller General of the United States in developing the plan under paragraph (1).

“(e) DELEGATION.—The Chairman shall delegate, subject to the direction and supervision of the Chairman, the authority provided by subsections (a), (b), and (c) to the Executive Director for Operations of the Commission.

“(f) INFORMATION ON HIRING, VACANCIES, AND COMPENSATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall include in its budget materials submitted in support of the budget of the President (submitted to Congress pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code), for each fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this section, information relating to hiring, vacancies, and compensation at the Commission.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—The information described in paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) an analysis of any trends with respect to hiring, vacancies, and compensation at the Commission;

“(B) a description of the efforts to retain and attract employees or other personnel to serve in covered positions at the Commission;

“(C) information that describes—

“(i) if a certification under subsection (a) was in effect at any point in the previous year, how the authority provided by that subsection is being used to address the hiring needs of the Commission;

“(ii) the total number of highly qualified individuals serving in—

“(I) covered positions pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(A); and

“(II) term-limited covered positions pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(B);

“(iii) if a certification under subsection (b) was in effect at any point in the previous year, how the authority provided by that subsection is being used to address the hiring or retention needs of the Commission;

“(iv) the total number of employees or other personnel serving in a covered position

that have their compensation fixed pursuant to subsection (b);

“(v) if a certification under subsection (a) or (b) was terminated or was not in effect at any point in the previous year, why such a certification was terminated or was not in effect;

“(vi) the attrition levels with respect to term-limited covered positions appointed under subsection (a)(1)(B), including the number of individuals leaving a term-limited covered position before completion of the applicable term of service and the average length of service for such individuals as a percentage of the applicable term of service; and

“(vii) the number of experts and consultants retained under subsection (b)(7); and

“(D) an assessment of—

“(i) the current critical workforce needs of the Commission and any critical workforce needs that the Commission anticipates in the next five years; and

“(ii) additional skillsets that are or likely will be needed for the Commission to fulfill the licensing and oversight responsibilities of the Commission.

“(g) COVERED POSITION.—In this section, the term ‘covered position’ means a position in which an employee or other personnel is responsible for conducting work of a scientific, technical, engineering, mathematical, legal, managerial, or otherwise highly specialized or skilled nature.”

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 161 the following:

“Sec. 161A. Use of firearms by security personnel.

“Sec. 161B. Commission workforce.”

(b) GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2032, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report that—

(1) evaluates the extent to which the authorities provided under subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 161B of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (as added by this Act) have been utilized;

(2) describes the role in which the highly qualified individuals recruited and directly appointed pursuant to section 161B(a) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (as added by this Act) have been utilized to support the licensing of advanced nuclear reactors;

(3) assesses the effectiveness of the authorities provided under subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 161B of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (as added by this Act) in helping the Nuclear Regulatory Commission fulfill its mission;

(4) makes recommendations to improve the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's strategic workforce management; and

(5) makes recommendations with respect to whether Congress should enhance, modify, or discontinue the authorities provided under subsections (a), (b), and (c) of section 161B of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (as added by this Act).

(c) ANNUAL SOLICITATION FOR NUCLEAR REGULATOR APPRENTICESHIP NETWORK APPLICANTS.—The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, on an annual basis, shall solicit applications for the Nuclear Regulator Apprenticeship Network.

Subtitle B—Fee Reduction

SEC. 111. ADVANCED REACTOR FEE REDUCTION.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 3 of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2215 note; Public Law 115-439) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (15) as paragraphs (3), (6), (7), (8), (9), (10), (11), (14), (15), (16), (17), (18), (19), and (20), respectively;

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) **ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR APPLICANT.**—The term ‘advanced nuclear reactor applicant’ means an entity that has submitted to the Commission an application for a license for an advanced nuclear reactor under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).”;

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(4) **ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR PREAPPLICANT.**—The term ‘advanced nuclear reactor preapplicant’ means an entity that has submitted to the Commission a licensing project plan for the purposes of submitting a future application for a license for an advanced nuclear reactor under the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.).”;

“(5) **AGENCY SUPPORT.**—The term ‘agency support’ has the meaning given the term ‘agency support (corporate support and the IG)’ in section 170.3 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).”; and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (11) (as so redesignated) the following:

“(12) **MISSION-DIRECT PROGRAM SALARIES AND BENEFITS.**—The term ‘mission-direct program salaries and benefits’ has the meaning given such term in section 170.3 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).”;

“(13) **MISSION-INDIRECT PROGRAM SUPPORT.**—The term ‘mission-indirect program support’ has the meaning given such term in section 170.3 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).”;

(b) **EXCLUDED ACTIVITIES.**—Section 102(b)(1)(B) of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2215(b)(1)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) The total costs of mission-indirect program support and agency support that, under paragraph (2)(B)(ii), may not be included in the professional hourly rate charged for fees assessed and collected from advanced nuclear reactor applicants.”;

“(v) The total costs of mission-indirect program support and agency support that, under paragraph (2)(C)(ii), may not be included in the professional hourly rate charged for fees assessed and collected from advanced nuclear reactor preapplicants.”;

(c) **FEES FOR SERVICE OR THING OF VALUE.**—Section 102(b) of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2215(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) **FEES FOR SERVICE OR THING OF VALUE.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with section 9701 of title 31, United States Code, the Commission shall assess and collect fees from any person who receives a service or thing of value from the Commission to cover the costs to the Commission of providing the service or thing of value.”;

“(B) **ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR APPLICANTS.**—The professional hourly rate charged for fees assessed and collected from an advanced nuclear reactor applicant under this paragraph relating to the review of a submitted application for an advanced nuclear reactor may not—

“(i) exceed the professional hourly rate for mission-direct program salaries and benefits of the Nuclear Reactor Safety Program; and

“(ii) include the costs of mission-indirect program support and agency support.”;

“(C) **ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR PREAPPLICANTS.**—The professional hourly rate charged for fees assessed and collected from an advanced nuclear reactor

preapplicant under this paragraph relating to the review of submitted materials as described in the licensing project plan of such advanced nuclear reactor preapplicant may not—

“(i) exceed the professional hourly rate for mission-direct program salaries and benefits of the Nuclear Reactor Safety Program; and

“(ii) include the costs of mission-indirect program support and agency support.”;

“(D) **CALCULATION OF HOURLY RATE.**—In this paragraph, the professional hourly rate for mission-direct program salaries and benefits of the Nuclear Reactor Safety Program equals the quotient obtained by dividing—

“(i) the full-time equivalent rate (within the meaning of the document of the Commission entitled ‘FY 2023 Final Fee Rule Work Papers’ (or a successor document)) for mission-direct program salaries and benefits of the Nuclear Reactor Safety Program (as determined by the Commission) for a fiscal year; by

“(ii) the productive hours assumption for that fiscal year, determined in accordance with the formula established in the document referred to in clause (i) (or a successor document).”;

(d) **SUNSET.**—Section 102(f) of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2215(f)) is amended to read as follows:

“(f) **CESSATION OF EFFECTIVENESS.**—Paragraphs (1)(B)(v) and (2)(C) of subsection (b) shall cease to be effective on September 30, 2029.”;

(e) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on October 1, 2024.

SEC. 112. ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR PRIZE.

Section 103 of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (Public Law 115-439; 132 Stat. 5571) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) **PRIZES FOR ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR LICENSING.**—

“(1) **DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a non-Federal entity; and

“(B) the Tennessee Valley Authority.”;

“(2) **PRIZE FOR ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR LICENSING.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding section 169 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2209) and subject to the availability of appropriations, the Secretary is authorized to make, with respect to each award category described in subparagraph (C), an award in an amount described in subparagraph (B) to the first eligible entity—

“(i) to which the Commission issues an operating license for an advanced nuclear reactor under part 50 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), for which an application has not been approved by the Commission as of the date of enactment of this subsection; or

“(ii) for which the Commission makes a finding described in section 52.103(g) of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), with respect to a combined license for an advanced nuclear reactor—

“(I) that is issued under subpart C of part 52 of that title (or successor regulations); and

“(II) for which an application has not been approved by the Commission as of the date of enactment of this subsection.”;

“(B) **AMOUNT OF AWARD.**—Subject to paragraph (3), an award under subparagraph (A) shall be in an amount equal to the total amount assessed by the Commission and collected under section 102(b)(2) from the eligible entity receiving the award for costs relating to the issuance of the license described in that subparagraph, including, as

applicable, costs relating to the issuance of an associated construction permit described in section 50.23 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), or early site permit (as defined in section 52.1 of that title (or successor regulations)).

“(C) **AWARD CATEGORIES.**—An award under subparagraph (A) may be made for—

“(i) the first advanced nuclear reactor for which the Commission—

“(I) issues a license in accordance with clause (i) of subparagraph (A); or

“(II) makes a finding in accordance with clause (ii) of that subparagraph;

“(ii) an advanced nuclear reactor that—

“(I) uses isotopes derived from spent nuclear fuel (as defined in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101)) or depleted uranium as fuel for the advanced nuclear reactor; and

“(II) is the first advanced nuclear reactor described in subclause (I) for which the Commission—

“(aa) issues a license in accordance with clause (i) of subparagraph (A); or

“(bb) makes a finding in accordance with clause (ii) of that subparagraph;

“(iii) an advanced nuclear reactor that—

“(I) is a nuclear integrated energy system—

“(aa) that is composed of 2 or more co-located or jointly operated subsystems of energy generation, energy storage, or other technologies;

“(bb) in which not fewer than 1 subsystem described in item (aa) is a nuclear energy system; and

“(cc) the purpose of which is—

“(AA) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in both the power and nonpower sectors; and

“(BB) to maximize energy production and efficiency; and

“(II) is the first advanced nuclear reactor described in subclause (I) for which the Commission—

“(aa) issues a license in accordance with clause (i) of subparagraph (A); or

“(bb) makes a finding in accordance with clause (ii) of that subparagraph;

“(iv) an advanced reactor that—

“(I) operates flexibly to generate electricity or high temperature process heat for nonelectric applications; and

“(II) is the first advanced nuclear reactor described in subclause (I) for which the Commission—

“(aa) issues a license in accordance with clause (i) of subparagraph (A); or

“(bb) makes a finding in accordance with clause (ii) of that subparagraph; and

“(v) the first advanced nuclear reactor for which the Commission grants approval to load nuclear fuel pursuant to the technology-inclusive regulatory framework established under subsection (a)(4).”;

“(3) **FEDERAL FUNDING LIMITATION.**—

“(A) **EXCLUSION OF TVA FUNDS.**—In this paragraph, the term ‘Federal funds’ does not include funds received under the power program of the Tennessee Valley Authority established pursuant to the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 (16 U.S.C. 831 et seq.).

“(B) **LIMITATION ON AMOUNTS EXPENDED.**—An award under this subsection shall not exceed the total amount expended (excluding any expenditures made with Federal funds received for the applicable project and an amount equal to the minimum cost-share required under section 988 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16352)) by the eligible entity receiving the award for licensing costs relating to the project for which the award is made.”;

“(C) **REPAYMENTS AND DIVIDENDS NOT REQUIRED.**—Notwithstanding section 9104(a)(4) of title 31, United States Code, or any other

provision of law, an eligible entity that received an award under this subsection shall not be required—

“(i) to repay that award or any part of that award; or

“(ii) to pay a dividend, interest, or other similar payment based on the sum of that award.”.

Subtitle C—Siting, Licensing, and Oversight Reviews

SEC. 121. MODERNIZATION OF NUCLEAR REACTOR ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEWS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (in this section referred to as the “Commission”) shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on the efforts of the Commission to facilitate efficient, timely, and predictable environmental reviews of nuclear reactor applications, including through expanded use of categorical exclusions, environmental assessments, and generic environmental impact statements.

(b) REPORT.—In completing the report under subsection (a), the Commission shall—

(1) describe the actions the Commission will take to implement the amendments to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) made by section 321 of the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023;

(2) consider—

(A) using through adoption, incorporation by reference, or other appropriate means, categorical exclusions, environmental assessments, and environmental impact statements prepared by other Federal agencies to streamline environmental reviews of nuclear reactor applications by the Commission;

(B) using categorical exclusions, environmental assessments, and environmental impact statements prepared by the Commission to streamline environmental reviews of nuclear reactor applications by the Commission;

(C) using mitigated findings of no significant impact in environmental reviews of nuclear reactor applications by the Commission to reduce the impact of a proposed action to a level that is not significant;

(D) the extent to which the Commission may rely on prior studies or analyses prepared by Federal, State, and local governmental permitting agencies to streamline environmental reviews of nuclear reactor applications by the Commission;

(E) opportunities to coordinate the development of environmental assessments and environmental impact statements with other Federal agencies to avoid duplicative environmental reviews and to streamline environmental reviews of nuclear reactor applications by the Commission;

(F) opportunities to streamline formal and informal consultations and coordination with other Federal, State, and local governmental permitting agencies during environmental reviews of nuclear reactor applications by the Commission;

(G) opportunities to streamline the Commission’s analyses of alternatives, including the Commission’s analysis of alternative sites, in environmental reviews of nuclear reactor applications by the Commission;

(H) establishing new categorical exclusions that could be applied to actions relating to new nuclear reactors applications;

(I) amending section 51.20(b) of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, to allow the Commission to determine on a case-specific basis whether an environmental assessment (rather than an environmental impact statement or supplemental environmental impact statement) is appropriate for a particular nuclear reactor application, including in pro-

ceedings in which the Commission relies upon a generic environmental impact statement for advanced nuclear reactors;

(J) authorizing the use of an applicant’s environmental impact statement as the Commission’s draft environmental impact statement, consistent with section 107(f) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4336a(f));

(K) opportunities to adopt online and digital technologies, including technologies that would allow applicants and cooperating agencies to upload documents and coordinate with the Commission to edit documents in real time, that would streamline communications between—

(i) the Commission and applicants; and

(ii) the Commission and other relevant cooperating agencies;

(L) in addition to implementing measures under subsection (c), potential revisions to part 51 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, and relevant Commission guidance documents, to—

(i) facilitate efficient, timely, and predictable environmental reviews of nuclear reactor applications;

(ii) assist decision-making about relevant environmental issues;

(iii) maintain openness with the public;

(iv) meet obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(v) reduce burdens on licensees, applicants, and the Commission; and

(3) include a schedule for promulgating the rule required under subsection (c).

(c) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 2 years after the submission of the report under subsection (a), the Commission shall promulgate a final rule implementing, to the maximum extent practicable, measures considered by the Commission under subsection (b)(2) that are necessary to streamline the Commission’s review of nuclear reactor applications.

SEC. 122. NUCLEAR FOR BROWNFIELD SITES.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BROWNFIELD SITE.—The term “brownfield site” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601).

(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

(3) COVERED SITE.—The term “covered site” means a brownfield site, a retired fossil fuel site, or a site that is both a retired fossil fuel site and a brownfield site.

(4) PRODUCTION FACILITY.—The term “production facility” has the meaning given the term in section 11 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2014).

(5) RETIRED FOSSIL FUEL SITE.—The term “retired fossil fuel site” means the site of 1 or more fossil fuel electric generation facilities that are retired or scheduled to retire, including multiunit facilities that are partially shut down.

(6) UTILIZATION FACILITY.—The term “utilization facility” has the meaning given the term in section 11 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2014).

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF REGULATORY ISSUES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall evaluate the extent to which modification of regulations, guidance, or policy is needed to enable efficient, timely, and predictable licensing reviews for, and to support the oversight of, production facilities or utilization facilities at covered sites.

(2) REQUIREMENT.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Commission shall consider how licensing reviews for production facilities or utilization facilities at covered sites may be expedited by—

(A) siting and operating a production facility or a utilization facility at or near existing site infrastructure to support the reuse of such infrastructure, including—

(i) electric switchyard components and transmission infrastructure;

(ii) heat-sink components;

(iii) steam cycle components;

(iv) roads;

(v) railroad access; and

(vi) water availability;

(B) using early site permits;

(C) using plant parameter envelopes or similar standardized site parameters on a portion of a larger site; and

(D) using a standardized application for similar sites.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 14 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report describing any regulations, guidance, and policies evaluated under paragraph (1).

(c) LICENSING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall, based on the evaluation under subsection (b)—

(A) develop and implement strategies to enable efficient, timely, and predictable licensing reviews for, and to support the oversight of, production facilities or utilization facilities at covered sites; and

(B) initiate a rulemaking to enable efficient, timely, and predictable licensing reviews for, and to support the oversight of, production facilities or utilization facilities at covered sites.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out paragraph (1), consistent with the mission of the Commission, the Commission shall consider matters relating to—

(A) the use of existing site infrastructure;

(B) existing emergency preparedness organizations and planning;

(C) the availability of historical site-specific environmental data;

(D) previously completed environmental reviews required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(E) activities associated with the potential decommissioning of facilities or decontamination and remediation at covered sites; and

(F) community engagement and historical experience with energy production.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report describing the actions taken by the Commission under subsection (c)(1).

SEC. 123. ADVANCEMENT OF NUCLEAR REGULATORY OVERSIGHT.

(a) IMPLEMENTING LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE COVID-19 HEALTH EMERGENCY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on actions taken by the Commission during the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, with respect to COVID-19.

(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) identify any processes, procedures, and other regulatory policies that the Commission revised or temporarily suspended during the public health emergency described in paragraph (1);

(B) examine how any revision or temporary suspension of a process, procedure, or other

regulatory policy identified under subparagraph (A) affected the ability of the Commission to license and regulate the civilian use of radioactive materials in the United States to protect public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment;

(C) discuss lessons learned from the matters described in subparagraph (B);

(D) list actions that the Commission has taken or will take to incorporate into the licensing and oversight activities of the Commission, without compromising the mission of the Commission, the lessons described in subparagraph (C); and

(E) describe when the actions listed under subparagraph (D) were implemented or may be implemented.

(b) **ADVANCING EFFICIENT, RISK-INFORMED OVERSIGHT AND INSPECTIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall develop and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that identifies specific improvements to the nuclear reactor and materials oversight and inspection programs carried out pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 that the Commission may implement to maximize the efficiency of such programs through, where appropriate, the use of risk-informed, performance-based procedures, expanded incorporation of information technologies, and staff training.

(2) **STAKEHOLDER INPUT.**—In developing the report under paragraph (1), the Commission shall, as appropriate, seek input from—

(A) the Secretary of Energy;

(B) the National Laboratories;

(C) the nuclear energy industry; and

(D) nongovernmental organizations that are related to nuclear energy.

(3) **CONTENTS.**—The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall—

(A) assess specific elements of oversight and inspections that may be modified by the use of technology, improved planning, and continually updated risk-informed, performance-based assessment, including—

(i) use of travel resources;

(ii) planning and preparation for inspections, including entrance and exit meetings with licensees;

(iii) document collection and preparation, including consideration of whether nuclear reactor data are accessible prior to onsite visits or requests to the licensee and that document requests are timely and within the scope of inspections;

(iv) the cross-cutting issues program; and

(v) the scope of event reporting required by licensees to ensure decisions are risk-informed;

(B) identify and assess measures to improve oversight and inspections, including—

(i) elimination of areas of duplicative or otherwise unnecessary activities;

(ii) increased use of templates in documenting inspection results; and

(iii) periodic training of Commission staff and leadership on the application of risk-informed criteria for—

(I) inspection planning and assessments;

(II) agency decision making processes on the application of regulations and guidance; and

(III) the application of the Commission's standard of reasonable assurance of adequate protection;

(C) assess measures to advance risk-informed procedures, including—

(i) increased use of inspection approaches that balance the level of resources commensurate with safety significance;

(ii) increased review of the use of inspection program resources based on licensee performance;

(iii) expansion of modern information technology, including artificial intelligence and machine learning to risk inform oversight and inspection decisions; and

(iv) updating the Differing Professional Views or Opinions process to ensure any impacts on agency decisions and schedules are commensurate with the safety significance of the differing opinion;

(D) assess the ability of the Commission, consistent with its obligations to provide reasonable assurance of adequate protection of health and safety pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, to enable licensee innovations that may advance nuclear reactor operational efficiency and safety, including the criteria of the Commission for timely acceptance of licensee adoption of advanced technologies, including digital technologies;

(E) identify recommendations resulting from the assessments described in subparagraphs (A) through (D);

(F) identify specific actions that the Commission will take to incorporate into the training, inspection, oversight, and licensing activities, and regulations of the Commission, without compromising the mission of the Commission, the recommendations identified under subparagraph (E); and

(G) describe when the actions identified under subparagraph (F) may be implemented.

(c) **OFFICE AND FACILITY SPACE REVIEW.**—

(1) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(A) review office and other facility space requirements of the Commission; and

(B) submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report, with recommendations, on the results of such review.

(2) **CONTENTS.**—The report described in paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an examination of—

(i) the costs associated with the headquarters, regional offices, and technical training center of the Commission, including examination of—

(I) costs that do not support the Commission's mission, including rent subsidies for other Federal agencies; and

(II) opportunities to reduce future costs through reduction in unnecessary office space, consolidation of offices, use of advanced information technology, or any other appropriate means; and

(ii) current and anticipated office and facility requirements to efficiently accomplish the mission of the Commission; and

(B) recommendations to Congress, the Commission, and the General Services Administration for actions that may assist in reducing office and facility costs to licensees and taxpayers.

(d) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate.

(2) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

(3) **LICENSEE.**—The term “licensee” means a person that holds a license issued under section 103 or section 104 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2133; 2134).

TITLE II—NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY DEPLOYMENT

SEC. 201. ADVANCED NUCLEAR DEPLOYMENT.

(a) **ENABLING PREPARATIONS FOR ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR DEMONSTRATIONS ON FEDERAL SITES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 102(b)(1)(B) of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2215(b)(1)(B)) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(vi) Costs for—

“(I) activities to review and approve or disapprove an application for an early site permit (as defined in section 52.1 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation)) to demonstrate an advanced nuclear reactor on a Department of Energy site or any site or installation that is critical national security infrastructure (as defined in section 327(d) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019); and

“(II) pre-application activities relating to an early site permit (as so defined) to demonstrate an advanced nuclear reactor on a Department of Energy site or any site or installation that is critical national security infrastructure (as defined in section 327(d) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019).”

(2) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on October 1, 2024.

(b) **REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS FOR MICRO-REACTORS.**—

(1) **MICRO-REACTOR LICENSING.**—The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (in this subsection referred to as the “Commission”) shall—

(A) not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, develop risk-informed and performance-based strategies and guidance to license and regulate micro-reactors pursuant to section 103 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2133), including strategies and guidance for—

(i) staffing and operations;

(ii) oversight and inspections;

(iii) safeguards and security;

(iv) emergency preparedness;

(v) risk analysis methods, including alternatives to probabilistic risk assessments;

(vi) decommissioning funding assurance methods that permit the use of design- and site-specific cost estimates;

(vii) the transportation of fueled micro-reactors; and

(viii) siting, including in relation to—

(I) the population density criterion limit described in the policy issue paper on population-related siting considerations for advanced reactors dated May 8, 2020, and numbered SECY-20-0045;

(II) licensing mobile deployment; and

(III) environmental reviews; and

(B) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, implement, as appropriate, the strategies and guidance developed under subparagraph (A)—

(i) within the existing regulatory framework;

(ii) through the technology-inclusive, regulatory framework to be established under section 103(a)(4)(A) of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2133 note; Public Law 115-439); or

(iii) through a pending or new rulemaking.

(2) **CONSIDERATIONS.**—In developing and implementing strategies and guidance under paragraph (1), the Commission shall consider—

(A) the unique characteristics of micro-reactors, including characteristics relating to—

(i) physical size;

(ii) design simplicity; and

(iii) source term;

(B) opportunities to address redundancies and inefficiencies;

(C) opportunities to consolidate review phases and reduce transitions between review teams;

(D) opportunities to establish integrated review teams to ensure continuity throughout the review process; and

(E) other relevant considerations discussed in the policy issue paper on policy and licensing considerations related to micro-reactors dated October 6, 2020, and numbered SECY-20-0093.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Commission shall consult with—

- (A) the Secretary of Energy;
- (B) the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate;
- (C) micro-reactor technology developers; and
- (D) other stakeholders.

(c) EXPEDITED SUBSEQUENT COMBINED LICENSES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In accordance with this subsection, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (referred to in this subsection as the “Commission”) shall establish and carry out an expedited procedure for issuing a combined license pursuant to section 185 b. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2235).

(2) QUALIFICATIONS.—To qualify for the expedited procedure under paragraph (1), an applicant—

(A) shall submit a combined license application for a new nuclear reactor based off a previously licensed design;

(B) shall propose to construct the new nuclear reactor on or adjacent to a site on which a nuclear reactor already operates or previously operated; and

(C) may not be subject to an order of the Commission to suspend or revoke a license under section 2.202 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation).

(3) EXPEDITED PROCEDURE.—With respect to a combined license for which the applicant has satisfied the requirements described in paragraph (2), the Commission shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

(A) not later than 1 year after the application is accepted for docketing, issue a draft environmental impact statement;

(B) not later than 18 months after the application is accepted for docketing—

- (i) complete the technical review process; and
- (ii) issue a safety evaluation report and final environmental impact statement;

(C) not later than 2 years after the application is accepted for docketing, complete any necessary public licensing hearings and related processes; and

(D) not later than 25 months after the application is accepted for docketing, make a final decision on whether to issue the combined license.

(4) PERFORMANCE AND REPORTING.—

(A) DELAYS IN ISSUANCE.—Not later than 30 days after the applicable deadline, the Executive Director for Operations of the Commission shall inform the Commission of any failure to meet a deadline under paragraph (3).

(B) DELAYS IN ISSUANCE EXCEEDING 90 DAYS.—If any deadline under paragraph (3) is not met by the date that is 90 days after the applicable date required under such paragraph, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report describing the delay, including a detailed explanation accounting for the delay and a plan for completion of the applicable action.

(d) PILOT PROGRAM FOR NUCLEAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title VI of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58; 119 Stat. 782) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 639A. LONG-TERM NUCLEAR POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary may establish a pilot program under which the Secretary may enter into at least one long-term power purchase agreement for power generated by a commercial nuclear reactor with respect to which an initial operating license is issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission after January 1, 2024.

“(b) CONSULTATION.—In establishing a pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall consult with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies that may benefit from purchasing nuclear power for a period of longer than 10 years, including the Secretary of Defense.

“(c) PERIOD OF AGREEMENT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, an agreement entered into pursuant to this section to purchase power from a commercial nuclear reactor shall be made for a period of at least 10 years and not more than 40 years.

“(d) PRIORITY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall prioritize entering into long-term power purchase agreements for power generated by first-of-a-kind or early deployment commercial nuclear reactors that will provide reliable and resilient power—

“(1) to high-value assets for national security purposes; or

“(2) for other purposes that the Secretary determines are in the national interest, including for remote off-grid scenarios or grid-connected scenarios that provide capabilities commonly known as ‘islanding power capabilities’ during an emergency.

“(e) RATES.—A long-term power purchase agreement entered into under this section may not be at a rate that is higher than the average market rate, unless the agreement is for power generated by a commercial nuclear reactor described in subsection (d).

“(f) ADVANCED FUNDING.—The Secretary—

“(1) may not enter into any power purchase agreement under this section unless funds are specifically provided for such purposes in advance in appropriations Acts enacted after the date of enactment of this section; and

“(2) may only enter into such a power purchase agreement if the full extent of anticipated costs stemming from such agreement is recorded as an obligation up front and in full at the time such agreement is made.”

(2) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-58; 119 Stat. 594) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 639 the following:

“Sec. 639A. Long-term nuclear power purchase agreement pilot program.”

SEC. 202. GLOBAL NUCLEAR COOPERATION.

(a) GLOBAL NUCLEAR ENERGY ASSESSMENT STUDY.—

(1) STUDY REQUIRED.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Commerce, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Commission, shall conduct a study on the global status of—

- (A) the civilian nuclear energy industry; and
- (B) the supply chains of the civilian nuclear energy industry.

(2) CONTENTS.—The study conducted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) information on the status of the civilian nuclear energy industry, the long-term risks to such industry, and the basis for such risks;

(B) information on how the use of the civilian nuclear energy industry, relative to

other types of energy industries, can reduce the emission of criteria pollutants and carbon dioxide;

(C) information on the role the United States civilian nuclear energy industry plays in United States foreign policy;

(D) information on the importance of the United States civilian nuclear energy industry to countries that are allied to the United States;

(E) information on how the United States may collaborate with such countries in developing, deploying, and investing in nuclear technology;

(F) information on how foreign countries use nuclear energy when crafting and implementing their own foreign policy, including such use by foreign countries that are strategic competitors;

(G) an evaluation of how nuclear non-proliferation and security efforts and nuclear energy safety are affected by the involvement of the United States in—

- (i) international markets; and
- (ii) setting civilian nuclear energy industry standards;

(H) an evaluation of how industries in the United States, other than the civilian nuclear energy industry, benefit from the generation of electricity by nuclear power plants;

(I) information on utilities and companies in the United States that are involved in the civilian nuclear energy supply chain, including, with respect to such utilities and companies—

- (i) financial challenges;
 - (ii) nuclear liability issues;
 - (iii) foreign strategic competition; and
 - (iv) risks to continued operation; and
- (J) recommendations for how the United States may—

(i) develop a national strategy to increase the role nuclear energy plays in diplomacy and strategic energy policy;

(ii) develop a strategy to mitigate foreign competitor’s utilization of their civilian nuclear energy industries in diplomacy;

(iii) align its nuclear energy policy with national security objectives; and

(iv) remove regulatory barriers to the development of the United States civilian nuclear energy supply chain.

(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6 months after the study is conducted under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report, including a classified annex as necessary, on the results of such study.

(b) PROGRAM TO TRAIN AND SHARE EXPERIENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, in consultation with the Secretary of State and the Commission, shall develop and carry out a program under which the Secretary of Energy shall train foreign nuclear energy experts and standardize practices.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the program developed under paragraph (1), the Secretary of Energy shall—

(A) issue guidance for best safety practices in the global civilian nuclear energy industry based on practices established in the United States;

(B) train foreign nuclear energy experts on the operation and safety and security practices used by the United States civilian nuclear energy industry;

(C) review global supply chain risks for foreign civilian nuclear energy industries;

(D) identify weaknesses and concerns found in foreign civilian nuclear energy industries; and

(E) establish partnerships with foreign countries that have developed or are developing civilian nuclear energy industries.

(3) FOREIGN NUCLEAR ENERGY EXPERT.—In this subsection, the term “foreign nuclear energy expert” does not include a person who is from a country—

(A) in which intellectual property theft is legal;

(B) that takes actions to undermine the civilian nuclear energy industry or other critical industries of the United States; or

(C) which the Secretary of Energy determines is inimical to the interest of the United States.

(c) INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR REACTOR EXPORT AND INNOVATION ACTIVITIES.—

(1) COORDINATION.—The Commission shall—

(A) coordinate all work of the Commission relating to—

(i) issuing a license for the import or export of a nuclear reactor under section 103 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2133); and

(ii) international regulatory cooperation and assistance relating to nuclear reactors; and

(B) support—

(i) the consideration of international technical standards to assist the design, licensing, and construction of advanced nuclear systems;

(ii) efforts to help build competent nuclear regulatory organizations and legal frameworks in foreign countries that are seeking to develop civilian nuclear energy industries; and

(iii) exchange programs and training provided in coordination with the Secretary of State to foreign countries relating to civilian nuclear energy industry regulation and oversight to improve nuclear technology licensing.

(2) CONSULTATION.—In supporting exchange programs and training under paragraph (1)(B)(iii), the Commission shall consult with—

(A) the Secretary of Energy;

(B) the Secretary of State;

(C) the National Laboratories;

(D) the private sector; and

(E) institutions of higher education.

(3) NUCLEAR REACTOR EXPORT AND INNOVATION BRANCH.—The Commission may establish within the Office of International Programs of the Commission a branch, to be known as the “International Nuclear Reactor Export and Innovation Branch”, to carry out the nuclear reactor export and innovation activities described in paragraph (1) as the Commission determines appropriate.

(4) EXCLUSION OF INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES FROM THE FEE BASE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 102 of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2215) is amended—

(i) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(4) INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR REACTOR EXPORT AND INNOVATION ACTIVITIES.—The Commission shall identify in the annual budget justification international nuclear reactor export and innovation activities described in section 202(c)(1) of the Atomic Energy Advancement Act.”; and

(ii) in subsection (b)(1)(B), as amended by the preceding provisions of this Act, by adding at the end the following:

“(vii) Costs for international nuclear reactor export and innovation activities described in section 202(c)(1) of the Atomic Energy Advancement Act.”.

(B) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subparagraph (A) shall take effect on October 1, 2024.

(d) DENIAL OF CERTAIN DOMESTIC LICENSES FOR NATIONAL SECURITY PURPOSES.—

(1) DEFINITION OF COVERED FUEL.—In this subsection, the term “covered fuel” means enriched uranium that is fabricated into fuel assemblies for nuclear reactors by an entity that—

(A) is owned or controlled by the Government of the Russian Federation or the Government of the People’s Republic of China; or

(B) is organized under the laws of, or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of, the Russian Federation or the People’s Republic of China.

(2) PROHIBITION ON UNLICENSED POSSESSION OR OWNERSHIP OF COVERED FUEL.—Unless specifically authorized by the Commission in a license issued under section 53 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2073), no person subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission may possess or own covered fuel.

(3) LICENSE TO POSSESS OR OWN COVERED FUEL.—

(A) CONSULTATION REQUIRED PRIOR TO ISSUANCE.—The Commission shall not issue a license to possess or own covered fuel under section 53 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2073) unless the Commission has first consulted with the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State before issuing the license.

(B) PROHIBITION ON ISSUANCE OF LICENSE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clause (iii), a license to possess or own covered fuel shall not be issued if the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State make the determination described in clause (ii).

(ii) DETERMINATION.—

(I) IN GENERAL.—The determination referred to in clause (i) is a determination that possession or ownership, as applicable, of covered fuel poses a threat to the national security of the United States that adversely impacts the physical and economic security of the United States.

(II) JOINT DETERMINATION.—A determination described in subclause (I) shall be jointly made by the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State.

(III) TIMELINE.—

(aa) NOTICE OF APPLICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Commission receives an application for a license to possess or own covered fuel, the Commission shall notify the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State of the application.

(bb) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State shall have a period of 180 days, beginning on the date on which the Commission notifies the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State under item (aa) of an application for a license to possess or own covered fuel, in which to make the determination described in subclause (I).

(cc) COMMISSION NOTIFICATION.—On making the determination described in subclause (I), the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State shall immediately notify the Commission.

(dd) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State notify the Commission under item (cc), the Commission shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress of the determination.

(ee) PUBLIC NOTICE.—Not later than 15 days after the date on which the Commission notifies Congress under item (dd) of a determination made under subclause (I), the Commission shall make that determination publicly available.

(iii) EFFECT OF NO DETERMINATION.—The prohibition described in clause (i) shall not apply if the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of State do not make the determina-

tion described in clause (ii) by the date described in subclause (III)(bb) of that clause.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means each of the following:

(A) The Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

(B) The Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(C) The Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate.

(D) The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(E) The Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

SEC. 203. AMERICAN NUCLEAR COMPETITIVENESS.

(a) PROCESS FOR REVIEW AND AMENDMENT OF PART 810 GENERALLY AUTHORIZED DESIGNATIONS.—

(1) IDENTIFICATION AND EVALUATION OF FACTORS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State, shall identify and evaluate factors, other than agreements for cooperation entered into in accordance with section 123 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2153), that may be used to determine a country’s generally authorized destination status under part 810 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, and to list such country as a generally authorized destination in Appendix A to part 810 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations.

(2) PROCESS UPDATE.—The Secretary of Energy shall review and, as appropriate, update the Department of Energy’s process for determining a country’s generally authorized destination status under part 810 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, and for listing such country as a generally authorized destination in Appendix A to part 810 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, taking into consideration, and, as appropriate, incorporating factors identified and evaluated under paragraph (1).

(3) REVISIONS TO LIST.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, and at least once every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary of Energy shall, in accordance with any process updated pursuant to this subsection, review the list in Appendix A to part 810 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations, and amend such list as appropriate.

(b) LICENSING DOMESTIC NUCLEAR PROJECTS IN WHICH UNITED STATES ALLIES INVEST.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The prohibitions against issuing certain licenses for utilization facilities to certain aliens, corporations, and other entities described in the second sentence of section 103 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2133(d)) and the second sentence of section 104 d. of that Act (42 U.S.C. 2134(d)) shall not apply to an entity described in paragraph (2) of this subsection if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission determines that issuance of the applicable license to that entity is not inimical to—

(A) the common defense and security; or

(B) the health and safety of the public.

(2) ENTITIES DESCRIBED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity referred to in paragraph (1) is an alien, corporation, or other entity that is owned, controlled, or dominated by—

(i) the government of—

(I) a country, other than a country described in subparagraph (B), that is a member of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development on the date of enactment of this Act; or

(II) the Republic of India;

(ii) a corporation that is incorporated in a country described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i); or

(iii) an alien who is a citizen or national of a country described in subclause (I) or (II) of clause (i).

(B) EXCLUSION.—A country described in this subparagraph is a country—

(i) any department, agency, or instrumentality of the government of which, on the date of enactment of this Act, is subject to sanctions under section 231 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9525); or

(ii) any citizen, national, or entity of which, as of the date of enactment of this Act, is included on the List of Specially Designated Nationals and Blocked Persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury pursuant to sanctions imposed under section 231 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (22 U.S.C. 9525).

(3) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 103 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2133(d)) is amended, in the second sentence, by striking “any any” and inserting “any”.

(4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection affects the requirements of section 721 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4565).

(c) LICENSING CONSIDERATIONS RELATING TO USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY FOR NONELECTRIC APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (in this subsection referred to as the “Commission”) shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report addressing any unique licensing issues or requirements relating to—

(A) the flexible operation of advanced nuclear reactors, such as ramping power output and switching between electricity generation and nonelectric applications;

(B) the use of advanced nuclear reactors exclusively for nonelectric applications; and

(C) the collocation of advanced nuclear reactors with industrial plants or other facilities.

(2) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In developing the report under paragraph (1), the Commission shall seek input from—

(A) the Secretary of Energy;

(B) the nuclear energy industry;

(C) technology developers;

(D) the industrial, chemical, and medical sectors;

(E) nongovernmental organizations; and

(F) other public stakeholders.

(3) CONTENTS.—The report under paragraph (1) shall describe—

(A) any unique licensing issues or requirements relating to the matters described in subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (1), including, with respect to the nonelectric applications referred to in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of that paragraph, any licensing issues or requirements relating to the use of nuclear energy—

(i) for hydrogen or other liquid and gaseous fuel or chemical production;

(ii) for water desalination and wastewater treatment;

(iii) for heat used in industrial processes;

(iv) for district heating;

(v) in relation to energy storage;

(vi) for industrial or medical isotope production; and

(vii) other applications, as identified by the Commission;

(B) options for addressing such issues or requirements—

(i) within the existing regulatory framework;

(ii) through the technology-inclusive, regulatory framework to be established under section 103(a)(4)(A) of the Nuclear Energy Innovation and Modernization Act (42 U.S.C. 2133 note; Public Law 115-439); or

(iii) through a new rulemaking;

(C) the extent to which Commission action is needed to implement any matter described in the report; and

(D) cost estimates, proposed budgets, and proposed timeframes for implementing risk-informed and performance-based regulatory guidance for licensing advanced nuclear reactors for nonelectric applications.

(d) REPORT ON ADVANCED METHODS OF MANUFACTURING AND CONSTRUCTION FOR NUCLEAR ENERGY PROJECTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (in this subsection referred to as the “Commission”) shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on advanced methods of manufacturing and construction for nuclear energy projects.

(2) STAKEHOLDER INPUT.—In developing the report under paragraph (1), the Commission shall seek input from—

(A) the Secretary of Energy;

(B) the nuclear energy industry;

(C) the National Laboratories;

(D) institutions of higher education;

(E) nuclear and manufacturing technology developers;

(F) the manufacturing and construction industries;

(G) standards development organizations;

(H) labor unions;

(I) nongovernmental organizations; and

(J) other public stakeholders.

(3) CONTENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The report under paragraph (1) shall—

(i) examine any unique licensing issues or requirements relating to the use, for nuclear energy projects, of—

(I) advanced manufacturing techniques; and

(II) advanced construction techniques;

(ii) examine—

(I) the requirements for nuclear-grade components in manufacturing and construction for nuclear energy projects;

(II) opportunities to use standard materials, parts, or components in manufacturing and construction for nuclear energy applications; and

(III) opportunities to use standard materials that are in compliance with existing codes and standards to provide acceptable approaches to support or encapsulate new materials that do not yet have applicable codes or standards;

(iii) identify safety aspects of advanced manufacturing processes and advanced construction techniques that are not addressed by existing codes and standards, so that generic guidance for nuclear energy projects may be updated or created as necessary by the Commission;

(iv) identify options for addressing the issues, requirements, and opportunities examined under clauses (i) and (ii)—

(I) within the existing regulatory framework; or

(II) through a new rulemaking; and

(v) describe the extent to which Commission action is needed to implement any matter described in the report.

(B) COST ESTIMATES, BUDGETS, AND TIMEFRAMES.—The report under paragraph (1) shall include cost estimates, proposed budgets, and proposed timeframes for implementing risk-informed and performance-based regulatory guidance for advanced man-

ufacturing and construction for nuclear energy projects.

(e) EXTENSION OF THE PRICE-ANDERSON ACT.—

(1) EXTENSION.—Section 170 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2210) (commonly known as the “Price-Anderson Act”) is amended by striking “December 31, 2025” each place it appears and inserting “December 31, 2065”.

(2) LIABILITY.—Section 170 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2210) (commonly known as the “Price-Anderson Act”) is amended—

(A) in subsection d. (5), by striking “\$500,000,000” and inserting “\$2,000,000,000”; and

(B) in subsection e. (4), by striking “\$500,000,000” and inserting “\$2,000,000,000”.

(3) REPORT.—Section 170 p. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2210(p)) (commonly known as the “Price-Anderson Act”) is amended by striking “December 31, 2021” and inserting “December 31, 2061”.

(4) DEFINITION OF NUCLEAR INCIDENT.—Section 11 q. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2014(q)) is amended, in the second proviso, by striking “if such occurrence” and all that follows through “United States:” and inserting a colon.

(f) RISK POOLING PROGRAM ASSESSMENT.—

(1) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall carry out a review of, and submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on, the Secretary of Energy's actions with respect to the program described in section 934(e) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17373(e)).

(2) CONTENTS.—The report described in paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an evaluation of the Secretary of Energy's actions to determine the risk-informed assessment formula under section 934(e)(2)(C) of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17373(e)(2)(C)); and

(B) a review of the Secretary of Energy's methodology to collect information to determine and implement the formula.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAL-LONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 6544, the Atomic Energy Advancement Act. I first thank my colleague and friend, the ranking member of the Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee, for leading this effort with me, Congresswoman DIANA DEGETTE.

Madam Speaker, this is a package of nuclear bills and is comprised of the

work of many members of the Committee on Energy and Commerce on both sides of the aisle. I thank them for their work in advancing the use of nuclear energy here in the United States.

The Atomic Energy Advancement Act will advance durable, bipartisan policy that will expand nuclear energy and its many benefits for the Nation, while maintaining the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's global gold standard for safety.

Our goal is to bring America's nuclear promise back into alignment with the goals that Congress established when passing the Atomic Energy Act. This ushered in the age of the peaceful use of the atom, demonstrating American leadership around the world and the amazing benefits of nuclear power.

The NRC Mission Alignment Act provision in this bill, which I authored, does just that. It directs the NRC to update its mission statement to include that its licensing and regulation of nuclear energy activities will be conducted in a manner that is efficient and does not unnecessarily limit the potential of nuclear energy.

The NRC should not be an impediment but rather a facilitator of nuclear advancement in America.

There are many provisions in this bill that modernize the NRC and advance nuclear technology deployment, including American technology exports. For example, the bill requires the NRC to provide efficient, timely, and predictable reviews; strengthens the NRC workforce to address the new technologies coming down the pike; reduces hourly fee rates for advanced nuclear reactor licenses; avoids duplicative environmental reviews; updates the DOE's nuclear expert reviews; and extends the critical liability protections necessary for nuclear investment.

Now more than ever, it is essential that America lead in nuclear energy, especially as our adversaries work actively to undercut our strength. Russia and China are seeking to dominate the nuclear markets and supply chains for these technologies. America can and must continue to set the global nuclear standard, and the Atomic Energy Advancement Act will ensure that we do.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the Committee on Energy and Commerce, as well as all who have had input on this bipartisan legislation. I thank them for their work and dedication.

Madam Speaker, I urge support for this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, February 6, 2024.

Hon. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS,
Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR RODGERS: Thank you for consulting with the Committee on Foreign Affairs on the text of H.R. 6544, the Atomic Energy Advancement Act, and incorporating requested edits. I agree that Foreign Affairs

may be discharged from further consideration of the bill, so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor.

This agreement is made with the understanding that it does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, or prejudice our jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future.

I would appreciate it if you could include this letter in your committee report on the bill, or place it into the Record during Floor consideration. I look forward to continuing to work together as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,
MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, February 7, 2024.

Hon. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MCCAUL: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 6544, the "Atomic Energy Advancement Act." I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor.

I agree that your decision to forgo action on this bill does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Foreign Affairs, or prejudice that Committee's jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future.

As you requested, I will include a copy of our exchange of letters in the Committee on Energy and Commerce's report on H.R. 6544, and I will place it in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Thank you again for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,
CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS,
Chair.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND
TECHNOLOGY,
Washington, DC, February 13, 2024.

Hon. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS,
Chair, Committee on Energy and Commerce,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR RODGERS: I am writing concerning H.R. 6544, the "Atomic Energy Advancement Act", which was referred primarily to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, with an additional referral to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

H.R. 6544 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is being done based on our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,
FRANK D. LUCAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE,
Washington, DC, February 13, 2024.

Hon. FRANK D. LUCAS,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Thank you for your letter concerning H.R. 6544, the "Atomic Energy Advancement Act." I appreciate your willingness to forgo action on the bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House Floor.

I agree that your decision to forgo action on this bill does not in any way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, or prejudice that Committee's jurisdictional prerogatives on this measure or similar legislation in the future.

As you requested, I will include a copy of our exchange of letters in the Committee on Energy and Commerce's report on H.R. 6544, and I will place it in the Congressional Record during consideration of the bill on the House floor.

Thank you again for your assistance on this matter.

Sincerely,
CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS,
Chair.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6544, the Atomic Energy Advancement Act. This bill makes important changes to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ensure that our Nation will be able to license the advanced nuclear reactors that could play a vital role in combating the climate crisis.

H.R. 6544 will ensure that developers of advanced reactors are not asked to pay more than their fair share of their licensing costs. It will also help create commonsense pathways to site nuclear reactors on brownfield sites and sites that already have a nuclear reactor. Most importantly, it will do these things while ensuring that nothing about the NRC's core mission of safety is compromised.

Madam Speaker, the legislation will also help the NRC attract and retain staff, which is critical since the Commission needs to be at full capacity to license the fleet of new reactors that will apply for licenses over the next decade.

This was a particularly important provision championed by Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee Ranking Member DEGETTE, and I am very happy that it was included in this package.

I also thank Chair DUNCAN for the bipartisan way in which this package of bills was assembled. This is how Congress should always work. We held bipartisan oversight hearings, issued a joint request for information, had a legislative hearing to solicit feedback on the proposals, and eventually moved the legislation through committee, with Democrats and Republicans working together every step of the way. As a result, the bill before us today is much stronger than the bill that was first introduced.

The bill is certainly not perfect. It is a product of compromise, and like all

compromises, no one got everything they wanted. Further compromise will be necessary as we work together with the Senate to find a path forward to get this bill to the President's desk.

Madam Speaker, this is a strong bill that will protect communities while unlocking our Nation's nuclear potential. It will help lower emissions and ensure that new nuclear plants have a place in our Nation's energy economy, all while ensuring protection of public health and safety. I hope it is something all Members can support.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, Ranking Member PALLONE and his staff have been very good to work with the majority staff on this bill, and I thank them for that.

Last year, when I was given the opportunity to chair the Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee, Chairwoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS and I had a lot of talk about nuclear energy. This is a culmination of a lot of that initial discussion.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), the chair of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from the Energy, Climate, and Grid Security Subcommittee for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, H.R. 6544, the Atomic Energy Advancement Act.

We have worked very hard, and most agree that a robust and growing nuclear industry is critical for reducing emissions and providing reliable and affordable clean energy to Americans.

Nuclear energy can help us build durable, economic, and strategic relationships around the world, especially as the influence of China and Russia in this industry grows. We know our allies are eager for American leadership and technology, and our nuclear industry is ready to lead.

The Energy and Commerce Committee has a rich history of plowing the hard ground necessary to legislate, coming together on solutions that improve people's lives and that make our country stronger and prosperous.

H.R. 6544 continues that leadership, and I am grateful for the leadership of the chairman of the subcommittee, JEFF DUNCAN, as well as the ranking member, DIANA DEGETTE, and the ranking member of the full committee, FRANK PALLONE, for working together so that we can move this legislation forward, helping to maintain a robust and growing nuclear industry, which is vital to delivering reliable, affordable, and clean energy to all Americans.

This much-needed modernization of our regulatory framework will restore America's nuclear dominance; encourage innovation; enable industry to deploy safe, reliable nuclear energy; and

usher in a new era of U.S. energy leadership.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of the Atomic Energy Advancement Act.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Mrs. TRAHAN), a member of the committee.

Mrs. TRAHAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership on this important issue as ranking member of the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this bipartisan legislation, in particular, the important changes it makes to how we regulate commercial fusion energy.

Last spring, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission took an important vote to regulate commercial fusion energy under its existing regulatory framework—specifically, the byproduct materials framework. This was a critical step toward unlocking commercialized fusion energy, and it was made possible by a recognition that fusion does not need to be regulated the same way as fission.

Since then, the Congressional Fusion Energy Caucus, which I have the honor of co-chairing alongside Representatives DON BEYER, JAY OBERNOLTE, and CHUCK FLEISCHMANN, put pen to paper on the Fusion Energy Act, which will codify the Commission's decision and provide the fusion industry the regulatory certainty that it needs to continue pursuing their innovative research and development.

During consideration of this package in December, we offered the Fusion Energy Act as an amendment, which was adopted unanimously and is included in this legislation today.

I cannot overstate the importance of passing this package because fusion is the game changer. A future with fusion means thousands of good-paying, family-sustaining, clean energy jobs that we will create along the way.

Fusion unlocks a future where energy production is no longer tied to access to a resource. It means an endless supply of baseload clean energy, without any emissions. It means dictators like Vladimir Putin won't be able to manipulate energy markets to suit their needs.

Madam Speaker, but make no mistake, both our allies and our adversaries are racing to unlock fusion energy. The U.K. is investing 660 million pounds; Germany recently announced a 1-billion-euro investment; and China has already invested 1.8 billion in their state-owned facilities, with plans to massively ramp up over the next decade.

In China, there is no private industry investment in fusion. It is all government-controlled, and that is a huge competitive advantage that we have on them.

What the United States does best is innovate through public-private partnerships that leverage Federal research dollars with the work happening at

cutting-edge startups and businesses across our country.

One of those companies, Commonwealth Fusion Systems, is located in the district I represent. Since its founding roughly 5 years ago, CFS has raised more than \$2 billion in private investment, employs over 600 people, and is well on its way to building SPARC, a fusion machine that will achieve net energy and demonstrates that producing commercial fusion energy in just a few years is possible.

Madam Speaker, if we are going to beat China to fusion, then it is absolutely critical that we provide companies like CFS with the regulatory certainty that they need. Passing this bipartisan package does just that.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this important, commonsense legislation that will advance commercial fusion energy.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I agree that with fusion SMR advanced nuclear technology, the nuclear renaissance is right before us.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), my good friend.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I am proud that the Energy and Commerce Committee is championing nuclear energy, a clean, safe, and reliable energy source for which America should be paving the way.

Going forward, it must be a significant component of America's energy profile, and to make that happen, we need to cut the red tape at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, expediting environmental reviews for nuclear reactors.

Time and time again, the environmental review process takes entirely way too long. My bill, the Modernize Nuclear Reactor Environmental Reviews Act, is a part of this Atomic Energy Advancement Act. It will reduce duplicative efforts and speed up the review process for nuclear reactor applications.

Madam Speaker, let me reiterate: Nuclear is clean and safe and plays a critical role in putting reliable as well as dispatchable energy onto our grid.

I am proud to see that DIANA DEGETTE and FRANK PALLONE and their staff are working with us. It is encouraging that we are working across the aisle. I urge my colleagues to support this critical bill to advance nuclear energy in the United States of America.

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Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy for yielding.

Madam Speaker, Pennsylvania has a long and proud history of developing energy innovation. From the first oil

well in 1859 to leading the way on natural gas development to Westinghouse's work developing nuclear energy in the 1950s, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania has been a leader in producing the power that Americans, and the entire world, rely on to keep their homes warm and their refrigerators cold.

For decades, the United States has been a leader in the development of new technologies and innovation with regard to nuclear energy.

As demands on our Nation's electric grid continue to grow, small modular and microreactors are poised to be the next generation of clean, safe, and reliable nuclear technology.

It is vital that these reactors are permitted efficiently in order to allow American consumers to utilize the energy they rely on each and every day.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE), the chair of the Subcommittee on Health.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I rise in support today of H.R. 6544, the Atomic Energy Advancement Act.

I represent western Kentucky coal communities, including Muhlenberg, McLean, and Ohio Counties. Unfortunately, Washington Democrats' war on coal has resulted in the loss of good-paying jobs and key energy production for our Commonwealth and our Nation.

I introduced the Nuclear for Brownfields Site Preparation Act, which is included in this package, to ensure that we continue to use Kentucky's experienced energy workers to bring back American energy independence and ensure our leadership as an energy producer. We have an opportunity to repurpose sites, like retired coal facilities, to reinstate American energy dominance.

I am committed to making sure we have affordable, reliable energy from a diverse energy portfolio, while empowering communities who powered our Nation for generations to help us continue to keep the lights on for years to come.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), who will probably talk about what is going on at Plant Vogtle, the newest reactors to have been constructed in our lifetime.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

America used to be the leader in nuclear energy. It should be one of the key parts of our energy security and the awe of the globe. However, we have allowed it to deteriorate and for other countries to take the lead on the global stage.

Instead, Russia and China are building a larger and larger presence in global nuclear power. Together, the

two account for nearly 70 percent of reactors under construction or being planned worldwide.

The United States cannot stand by and allow China and Russia to be the standard bearers of nuclear energy. Just imagine the nuclear proliferation implications, let alone the economic ones. Don't be fooled. This is just another way for China and Russia to exert influence and manipulate countries around the globe. We have seen it with the Belt and Road Initiative, and with nuclear plants, this means decades and decades of developing countries tied to China.

Thankfully, this doesn't have to be the case. We can have a new American nuclear renaissance. This bill, the Atomic Energy Advancement Act, will provide important steps to do so.

We have proved that in the State of Georgia with the two newest reactors built in this country in over 30 years.

This bill includes reforms to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to increase licensing efficiency, strengthen our nuclear workforce, make advanced nuclear technology more accessible through fee reductions, modernize reviews, and other important improvements to how nuclear is approached in the U.S.

I am pleased to have my bill, the Global Nuclear Energy Assessment and Cooperation Act, which I introduced along with Representative SCOTT PETERS from California, included as a section of this bill.

This bill will take a multipronged approach to promoting nuclear energy around the globe by providing global nuclear energy assessment, providing a program for training and sharing of expertise, and provide for an International Nuclear Reactor Export and Innovation Branch.

This will inspire coordination, research, and development for the U.S. and our allies, which is extremely important.

Lastly, it will prohibit the import of nuclear fuel assemblies from hostile foreign nations, including Russia and China.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this will encourage energy independence and prevent our country from being reliant on our enemies for our nuclear energy needs.

My hope is that my bill will be just one small part of improving the global competition for nuclear energy. This is how we begin to secure a safe, reliable energy future for the United States of America and democracies across the globe.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

As you have heard today, the Atomic Energy Advancement Act is really setting America up to get ready for what is next. What is next is advanced nu-

clear reactors and small modular reactors. As the gentlewoman from Massachusetts said, the possibility of fusion is very exciting.

There are the industries that could be set up around the nuclear hub of these advanced reactors, jobs that will be created, keeping that intellectual property here in America, and addressing our supply issues for critical components, enriched uranium, the fuel that is necessary to make these reactors work. Lessening the Nation's dependence on Russia and China for nuclear technology or nuclear fuel just makes sense to a lot of folks in America.

In order to get ready for that nuclear renaissance that I mentioned earlier, we have got to make sure that the government agencies, specifically the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, is truly prepared as they move into the 21st century in the advancement of nuclear energy in this country.

We have got friends and allies who are looking to the United States to export the technology to help their countries meet their energy independence needs, to be cleaner in their energy production, and lessen their dependence on foreign adversaries.

For example, we were in the Czech Republic last spring, and they commissioned both small modular reactors and traditional light-water reactors. They were looking to the United States. They were looking to the NRC. They were looking to America to lead and help them as they develop their nuclear technology and their nuclear energy development in their countries. Poland was the same way with light-water reactors, the future of SMRs.

I think about what is going on in this country with SMR development. I think about what our neighbors in Canada are doing up in Ontario with probably the first SMR that will be full-scale brought online. Nuclear development is important to the cleaner energy future for America.

Madam Speaker, I don't have other speakers on this side, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join us in supporting H.R. 6544, the Atomic Energy Advancement Act.

This bipartisan bill, which passed out of the Energy and Commerce Committee in December, includes a number of policies designed to facilitate the deployment of advanced nuclear reactor technologies while not compromising on safety.

The bill will ensure that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is up to the job and prepared for the potential license applications for new reactor designs that are expected to come its way over the next decade.

Included in this package are provisions co-led by Democratic Members, including language that would:

First, allow the NRC to retain its current workforce and attract new talent to license new reactors;

Second, lower the regulatory costs imposed upon new reactor developers so they are only paying for the expenses they are directly incurring;

Third, ease the processes allowing for demonstration reactors at Department of Energy sites, sites with critical national security infrastructure, and brownfield sites;

Fourth, make it easier to co-locate new nuclear reactors on sites with currently operating reactors; and

Fifth, allow for DOE to enter into long-term agreements to purchase electricity from a new nuclear reactor.

Now, I would say nuclear energy is a vital source of zero-carbon baseload power. It is imperative in our fight against the worsening climate crisis that we strengthen the NRC's regulatory processes so the agency is prepared to license 21st century reactors in a timely fashion that does not compromise on safety or public health. H.R. 6544 will do just that.

Again, I intend to vote for the bill while it is on the floor under suspension, and we urge all Members to join us in supporting the legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), who represents Augusta, Georgia, where Plant Vogtle is.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6544, the bipartisan Atomic Energy Advancement Act, which aims to incentivize and advance nuclear energy production in the United States.

An all-of-the-above strategy is critical to reclaiming American energy dominance. As the Nation's largest source of clean energy, nuclear has a pivotal role to play.

Included in today's legislation is a bill I sponsored, the Nuclear Licensing Efficiency Act, which would improve the licensing review process for future nuclear projects by establishing updated procedures and timelines for reviewing nuclear licensing applications.

With the first two nuclear reactors built in over three decades in the United States located at Plant Vogtle, in my district, Georgia 12, we are leading our Nation's nuclear future. As we saw through the construction process, nuclear projects in the U.S. are often bogged down by burdensome licensing and permitting processes that result in unnecessary delays and cost overruns.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam Speaker, by modernizing the inefficient procedures that hamper our nuclear energy expansion, we can fully embrace the reliability of clean, 24/7 nuclear energy.

I am proud to have my bill as part of this broader, bipartisan Atomic Energy

Advancement Act to improve our nuclear energy regulatory process.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge a "yes" vote on H.R. 6544.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I am thankful, once again, for the bipartisan nature of this legislation. I thank Ranking Member DEGETTE on the subcommittee and Ranking Member PALONE and their staff for all they have done. Let's get this passed. Let's work with our Senate colleagues. Let's get something to the President's desk and get something signed into law to move the Nation forward.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Madam Speaker, I want to begin by thanking the Energy and Commerce Committee and Subcommittee Chairman DUNCAN for leading on this issue.

The Atomic Energy Advancement Act is an urgent and necessary package of bipartisan, commonsense reforms that will help unleash the full potential of America's commercial nuclear energy.

According to the Department of Energy, the United States will require at least 200 gigawatts of new electric power generation by 2030 to replace aging infrastructure and to meet growing energy needs. This demand will be impossible to fulfill without federal support for nuclear energy.

The Atomic Energy Advancement Act contains numerous, sensible regulatory reforms and market incentives that will empower the nuclear industry to provide affordable, resilient, reliable, and responsible power for Americans. Among these much-needed provisions are requirements that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission commits to efficiency and streamlines the licensing of safer and more affordable nuclear reactors.

Right now is the time for America to go all-in on nuclear power.

This package gives a modern regulatory framework to bring safe, clean, and affordable power. It unleashes American innovation, ensuring future generations of Americans energy abundance and energy independence.

I look forward to voting in support of this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6544, 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. DUNCAN. Madam 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.

D.C. ROBERT F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL STADIUM CAMPUS REVITALIZATION ACT

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4984) to amend the District of

Columbia Stadium Act of 1957 to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus to the Administrator of General Services and the leasing of the Campus to the District of Columbia for purposes which include commercial and residential development, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4984

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 "D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act".

SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION OVER RFK MEMORIAL STADIUM CAMPUS TO DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

(a) EXERCISE OF TRANSFER AUTHORITY.—

(1) TRANSFER.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior (hereafter referred to as the "Secretary"), acting under the authority of section 8124 of title 40, United States Code (except as provided under paragraph (2)), shall transfer administrative jurisdiction over the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus (hereafter referred to as the "Campus") to the District of Columbia (hereafter referred to as the "District"), subject to a Declaration of Covenants with the District which is consistent with the succeeding provisions of this Act and which includes such other terms and conditions as may be agreed to by the Secretary and the District.

(2) WAIVER OF REQUIREMENT FOR PRIOR RECOMMENDATION OF NATIONAL CAPITAL PLANNING COMMISSION.—The second sentence of section 8124(a) of title 40, United States Code, shall not apply to the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Campus under this section.

(3) NO EFFECT ON STATUS OF OWNERSHIP OF CAMPUS.—Consistent with section 8124 of title 40, United States Code, the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Campus under this section does not change the status of the ownership of the Campus by the United States.

(b) DEVELOPMENT AND USES OF CAMPUS.—After transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Campus under this section, the District may develop and use, and permit the development and use of, the Campus for any of the following purposes:

(1) Stadium purposes, including training facilities, offices, and other structures necessary to support a stadium.

(2) Commercial and residential development.

(3) Facilities, open space, and public outdoor opportunities, which may include supporting cultural activities, educational activities, and recreational activities, as such terms are defined in section 3306(a) of title 40, United States Code.

(4) Such other public purposes for which the Campus was used or approved for use prior to June 1, 1985.

(5) Demolition purposes to facilitate development and use of the Campus under subparagraphs (1) through (4).

(c) SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF CAMPUS.—The Declaration of Covenants entered into under subsection (a)(1) shall include provisions to require the District to meet the following requirements as a condition of the development and use of the Campus as set forth

under subsection (b) after transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Campus under this section:

(1) The District shall ensure that the development and use does not materially degrade or adversely impact any lands under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, including the restoration of the wetlands south of Kingman Island.

(2) The District shall designate, develop, operate, and maintain at least 30 percent of the Campus (excluding the riparian area of the Campus as defined in subsection (g)(2)) as the "Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Park" as parks and open space to provide land for passive and active outdoor recreation and shall require that portion to be reserved for such purposes for the duration of the transfer.

(3) The District shall ensure that the development and use provides for improved public access to the Anacostia River and shall not interrupt the Anacostia River Trail.

(4) The District shall, to the extent necessary, ensure that parking facilities are provided to accommodate the development.

(5) The District shall provide for adequate public safety and security measures and resources in the planning and ongoing management of the development.

(6) The District shall carry out measures that, to the greatest extent practicable, will reduce the impact of noise and traffic of the development on surrounding residential areas in the District.

(7) The District shall operate and maintain the riparian area of the Campus in accordance with subsection (g).

(8) The District shall ensure that no Member of Congress, Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress, or any other official of the Government of the United States or the Government of the District of Columbia shall be admitted to any share or part of any lease entered into by the District in the exercise of the administrative jurisdiction over the Campus transferred under this section, or to any benefit that may arise therefrom, including any contract or agreement made, entered into, or accepted by or on behalf of the District as a result of this section. Nothing in the previous sentence may be construed to apply to a person who is a shareholder or other beneficial owner of any publicly held corporation or other entity, if the lease is for the general benefit of such corporation or other entity.

(d) SURVEY.—

(1) REQUIRING SURVEY.—As soon as practicable after the date of the enactment of this Act, the District shall conduct a survey of the Campus, which shall determine the exact acreage and legal description of the Campus by a boundary survey prepared by a qualified Federally-, State-, or District-licensed surveyor who is approved by the Secretary.

(2) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Upon completion, the survey conducted under paragraph (1) shall be submitted to—

(A) the Committee on Oversight and Accountability and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

(3) INCORPORATION IN DECLARATION OF COVENANTS FOR TRANSFER.—The survey conducted under paragraph (1) shall be incorporated in the Declaration of Covenants entered into under subsection (a)(1).

(4) AVAILABILITY OF SURVEY AND MAP FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION.—The survey conducted under paragraph (1), together with the map of the Campus referred to in subsection (m), shall be kept on file and available for public

inspection in the appropriate offices of the Secretary.

(e) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—As a condition of the development and use of the Campus after transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Campus under this section, the Secretary and the District shall enter into a memorandum of understanding to determine an allocation of the costs of carrying out all responsibilities of the United States and the District with respect to the Campus under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.), including any costs of any response action with respect to any contamination present on the Campus.

(f) COSTS.—

(1) COSTS OF TRANSFER.—The District shall be responsible for payment of any costs of carrying out the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Campus under this section, including—

(A) any costs of carrying out the survey under subsection (d); and

(B) any costs of carrying out any environmental analysis required under Federal law.

(2) COSTS AFTER TRANSFER.—Except as provided under the memorandum of understanding entered into under subsection (e), the Secretary shall not be responsible for payment of any costs or expenses that are incurred by the District or any other party (other than the United States) associated with the Campus after the transfer of administrative jurisdiction under this section.

(g) SPECIAL RULES FOR RIPARIAN AREA.—

(1) RESTRICTION ON DEVELOPMENT AND USE.—The Declaration of Covenants entered into under subsection (a)(1) shall include provisions to ensure that the riparian area of the Campus may not be developed or used for any purposes other than the continuing maintenance of any development, use, or infrastructure (including roads and pathways) existing at the time of the execution of the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Campus under this section.

(2) RIPARIAN AREA OF THE CAMPUS DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "riparian area of the Campus" means the area designated in the map referred to in subsection (m) as "Riparian Area (Area F)".

(h) PROHIBITING USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR STADIUM.—The Declaration of Covenants entered into under subsection (a)(1) shall include provisions to ensure that the District may not use Federal funds for stadium purposes on the Campus, including training facilities, offices, and other structures necessary to support a stadium.

(i) TERM.—The transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Campus under this section shall be in effect for a term of not less than 99 years, and may be renewed for subsequent periods agreed to by the Secretary and the District.

(j) REVERSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION.—

(1) GROUNDS FOR REVERSION.—The Declaration of Covenants entered into under subsection (a)(1) shall include provisions stating that administrative jurisdiction over the Campus transferred under this section shall revert to the Secretary if each of the following occurs:

(A) The terms and conditions of the Declaration of Covenants have not been complied with, as reasonably determined by the Secretary.

(B) Such noncompliance has not been corrected within 90 days after written notice of such noncompliance has been received by the District. Such noncompliance shall be treated as corrected if the District and the Secretary enter into an agreement that the Secretary finds adequate to ensure that the

Campus will be developed and used in a manner consistent with the purposes referred to in subsection (b).

(2) TIMING.—The Secretary may not seek the reversion of administrative jurisdiction over the Campus under this subsection before the expiration of 90 days after the date on which written notice of the alleged violation is received by the District. The notice shall include notice of the Secretary's intention for administrative jurisdiction over the Campus to revert to the Secretary.

(3) COST OF REHABILITATING PROPERTY.—The Declaration of Covenants entered into under subsection (a)(1) shall include provisions requiring the District to bear the actual cost of removing structures from or rehabilitating the Campus if administrative jurisdiction over the Campus reverts to the Secretary under this subsection.

(k) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION RELATED TO THE APPLICABILITY TO THE ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION TRANSFER.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect or limit the application of or obligation to comply with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (42 U.S.C. 9601 et seq.) and the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 et seq.).

(l) CONFORMING AMENDMENT; TERMINATION OF EXISTING LEASE.—Effective on the date of the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Campus under this section—

(1) the District of Columbia Stadium Act of 1957 (sec. 3-321 et seq., D.C. Official Code) is repealed; and

(2) the lease dated January 14, 1988, between the United States and the District for the use of the Campus, as authorized by section 7(b)(1)(B) of such Act (sec. 3-326(b)(1)(B), D.C. Official Code), is terminated.

(m) DEFINITION.—In this Act, the term "Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus" means the approximately 174 acres of Federal land as generally depicted on the map entitled "Anacostia Park, Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus - Transfer of Administrative Jurisdiction", numbered 831/189,767, and dated January 2024.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LANGWORTHY. 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 measure.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1630

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4984, a bill that will provide economic opportunities to an area of our Nation's Capital in dire need of revitalization.

The bill transfers administrative jurisdiction over the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium campus from our National Park Service to the District of Columbia.

Under H.R. 4984, the Federal Government will retain ownership of the land while the District of Columbia manages the development, costs, and the use of the land.

Transferring administrative jurisdiction over property is a unique tool for the Congress, which allows the Federal Government to retain title to lands while the district assumes the responsibilities of administration and maintenance.

This tool has already been used multiple times to great effect in our Nation's Capital.

Under the current law granting D.C. a 99-year lease of land, the District cannot engage in any commercial or residential development of the land. With the lease set to expire in 2038, there are few options for future use of the property without congressional action.

This status quo is untenable.

H.R. 4984 fixes this problem by allowing stadium purposes, recreational purposes, and residential and commercial development. This allows the District of Columbia to revitalize this site, turning what was once a blight on our Nation's Capital into a thriving area of commerce and community.

Importantly, the bill also imposes any remediation or environmental costs onto the District of Columbia, saving taxpayer dollars that would otherwise be spent by the National Park Service.

As Congress continues to carry out its oversight duties over our Nation's Capital, this bipartisan bill will help create jobs and improve our great Capital City.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bipartisan bill. This bill would allow the District of Columbia to transform the RFK Stadium campus, 174 acres of underutilized Federal land in D.C. that primarily consists of parking lots, sports fields, and a long-vacant stadium in the process of being demolished, into a thriving mixed-use development.

The National Capital Planning Commission, the central planning agency for the Federal Government in the District of Columbia, has long called for the revitalization of the campus, and the Department of the Interior testified in support of the goals of this bill.

During my tenure, Congress has passed several bipartisan bills to transform underutilized land in D.C. into thriving mixed-use developments, including The Yards on the southeast waterfront and The Wharf on the southwest waterfront. Reservation 13, 67 acres next to the RFK campus, is now being transformed into a mixed-use development.

Since 1988, D.C. has leased, without consideration, the RFK Stadium campus from the Department of the Interior. The lease only permits D.C. to use

the campus for recreation, a stadium, and open space. The lease expires in 2038.

This bill would give D.C. administrative jurisdiction over the campus for at least 99 years and permit D.C. to use the campus for commercial and residential development, recreation, a stadium, parks, and open space.

This bill would require D.C. to preserve 30 percent of the campus for parks and open space, and prohibit D.C. from building along the waterfront.

This bill is a win-win for the Federal and D.C. Governments. As the Department of the Interior testified, this bill would allow D.C. to transform the campus from "acres of asphalt to a complex focused on community sports, recreation, park space, and community amenities" and would "guarantee public access to a sizable amount of park land and outdoor recreation areas."

At the same time, this bill would allow D.C. to create a mixed-use development and to generate significant revenue for D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman COMER for his leadership and partnership on this bill, and I also thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA for their work on this bill.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER), the sponsor of the bill and the great chairman of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) for yielding, and I thank my cosponsor, the gentlewoman from Washington, D.C., (Ms. NORTON).

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4984, which repurposes approximately 174 acres of unused Federal land in Washington, D.C.

Despite its long history and importance to D.C. residents, the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium campus in southeast D.C. has been abandoned to become unused parking lots, open fields, and a deteriorating stadium that is being demolished.

The campus is currently under a lease that requires the land to be used for stadium purposes, recreational purposes, or other public purposes. Under current law, the campus cannot be used for commercial or residential development.

Absent congressional action, this land in our Nation's Capital will remain unused with ongoing maintenance costs and environmental liabilities remaining the full responsibility of the National Park Service—an ongoing burden for the American taxpayer.

My bill, H.R. 4984, will change that.

The bill transfers administrative jurisdiction from the National Park Service to Washington, D.C., while preserving the Federal Government's ownership of the land. This allows Wash-

ington, D.C., to use the land for stadium purposes, commercial and residential development, recreational facilities, open spaces, or additional public purposes.

However, D.C. may not use Federal funds for any potential future development of a sports stadium. The bill enables D.C. to transform the unused RFK campus into stores, restaurants, office buildings, and apartment complexes.

This economic development will help revitalize the RFK stadium campus, creating new jobs and tax revenue for the District's residents.

Let me be clear. Congress has a constitutional duty to oversee the Nation's Capital City. We have diligently exercised this role by holding numerous oversight hearings in the Oversight Committee this Congress with the Mayor of D.C., and the D.C. City Council.

We have also successfully blocked, in bipartisan fashion with the President's support, the city council's ill-advised criminal reform legislation from going into effect last year—the first law of the 118th Congress.

We will continue looking for legislative opportunities to return order to the District by addressing the rising crime crises, returning Federal workers to their offices in the District to contribute to the local economy, and seeking ways to bolster the educational system.

The D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act also represents Congress doing its job to oversee the District by authorizing the best utilization of area land to help the city thrive.

We should want this for our Nation's Capital City—a home to the taxpayer's Federal workforce and a city that hosts millions of American visitors and global tourists each year.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my committee colleague, Congresswoman ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, for working with me to write this smart, bipartisan legislation. I thank the Natural Resource chairman, Mr. WESTERMAN, Ranking Member GRIJALVA, and their staff, for working with my staff to write the improved bill we are considering today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill so that we can help revitalize our Nation's Capital.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4984, the D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act.

Just 2 miles from Capitol Hill, the RFK Stadium was a prime sports and entertainment venue for almost 50 years. Today, the stadium and the land that surrounds it sits vacant on the shore of the Anacostia River.

This long-awaited bill would permit the District of Columbia to revitalize the underused Federal lands of the

RFK Stadium, enriching the culture of our Nation's Capital and making good on our responsibility to be good stewards of the land for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing the plans that Mayor Bowser and the D.C. leaders are developing to make good use of the space and better meet the needs of the local community.

I acknowledge and thank the tireless advocacy of our colleague, Delegate ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON, on this issue, and I applaud the bipartisan collaboration that made this legislation possible.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this timely legislation.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4984, which is bipartisan legislation that I am cosponsoring to allow development of the RFK Memorial Stadium campus in the heart of Washington, D.C.

As a former football player at the University of Arkansas, I know the powerful ways that sports can bring communities and even States together.

The current RFK Memorial Stadium, located just down the road from the Capitol, has had a long and complex history but is now decrepit and falling apart. The legislation before us today will allow D.C. to mark the end of decades of legal limbo and the start of an age of economic revitalization.

Under the bill, the National Park Service will no longer have to maintain and operate the campus, freeing up finite resources to focus on their deferred maintenance backlog. In turn, D.C. will be able to revitalize this area and create thousands of jobs with new commercial, residential, and recreational facilities. This can serve as a model going forward for other communities, particularly those with large footprints of Federal land, and represents a win-win for both the Federal Government and D.C.

I would take a moment to clarify the intent of Congress with respect to this legislation and the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

Over the course of several months of bipartisan negotiations that involved the Natural Resources Committee, the Oversight and Accountability Committee, as well as the city of D.C., and the National Park Service, several improvements were made to the bill. During these negotiations, we reached a bipartisan consensus that after this bill passes, the National Park Service will conduct a NEPA analysis on the transfer of administrative jurisdiction itself. After the transfer, NEPA will no longer apply to D.C.'s development and use of the site because those activities will not be considered major Federal actions.

This follows decades of precedent with previous administrative jurisdiction transfers, as well as technical as-

sistance and advice provided by the Department of the Interior. The National Park Service also provided several examples of instances in which the agency transferred administrative jurisdiction of land to D.C., including as recently as 2022. In none of these instances did NEPA apply after the transfer of administrative jurisdiction.

Mr. Speaker, the examples below were provided by the National Park Service (NPS) to the House Committee on Natural Resources during the consideration of amendments to H.R. 4984 of instances in which NPS transferred administrative jurisdiction of NPS lands within the District of Columbia. According to NPS, "in executing each transfer, the NPS complied with all applicable laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act. After transfer of administrative jurisdiction under this authority, the District of Columbia assumed the management and legal responsibilities for the properties."

1. 2010 transfer of approximately 15 acres in the northern section of Fort Dupont Park

Prior to the transfer, NPS issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI), which stated: "After the transfer of jurisdiction, the property will be the responsibility of the District since it will no longer be managed by NPS and will no longer be a part of Fort Dupont Park, and District environmental standards will apply."

2. 2014 transfer of a portion (Reservation 520) of Fort Lincoln

Prior to the transfer, NPS issued a finding of no significant impact (FONSI), which stated: "After the land transfer, the property would no longer be owned by the NPS and would be the responsibility of the District. Consequently, the District's environmental standards would apply."

<https://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?parkID=198&projectID=44032&documentID=100579>

3. 2022 transfer of another portion (Reservation 405) of Fort Dupont Park

Prior to the transfer, NPS issued a decision form finding that the transfer was categorically excluded from further analysis under NEPA.

https://www.nepc.gov/files/projects/2021/8324_Reservation_405_-_Portion_of_Fort_Dupont_Park_Transfer_of_Jurisdiction_NEPA_Document_-_CATEX_Nov2021.pdf

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, because there was a clear consensus and prior historical evidence demonstrating that NEPA would not apply to the development of the campus after the administrative jurisdiction transfer, the legislative text did not include superfluous savings clauses regarding NEPA's applicability.

In addition to this, it is my hope that both D.C. and the Department of the Interior will abide by Congress' 6-month timeframe provided in the legislation to reach all necessary agreements and complete the transfer.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize the hard work and collaboration of Chairman COMER, Delegate HOLMES NORTON, and the entire staff of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

I would also thank Ranking Member GRIJALVA and his team, the Energy and Commerce Committee, and the Trans-

portation and Infrastructure Committee for their assistance in getting this legislation to the floor today.

Finally, I would recognize several people without whom this legislation would not be possible: Beverly Perry, Tara Hupman, Jerry Couri, and Lisa Pittman. From the House Natural Resources Committee staff, I thank Aniela Butler, Brandon Miller, Colen Morrow, and Taylor Wiseman.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support the legislation.

□ 1645

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the District for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4984, the D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act.

This legislation presents an opportunity to revitalize the RFK Stadium Campus, a historic site that has served as a cornerstone of our Nation's Capital sporting legacy for over five decades. However, over the past two decades, the campus has sadly remained underutilized due to outdated statutory restrictions.

These restrictions have limited the use of the RFK campus to stadium purposes only, leading to a gradual decline and erosion. This legislation focuses on transforming the RFK campus into a mixed-use site, which will create thousands of jobs.

Additionally, it ensures that District residents gain direct access to premium recreational opportunities, including green spaces and scenic walking trails along the riverfront.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critical legislation.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4984, the D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act.

Like other members of the Maryland delegation, I believe Prince George's County and Maryland should be able to compete on a level playing field to keep the Washington Commanders, but this bill would give an unfair advantage to D.C. It is most certainly not a level playing field when one interested jurisdiction receives a free transfer of Federal Government-subsidized land.

I am not opposed to D.C. bidding to be the new home of the Washington Commanders, but its pursuit of the Commanders should be no different than its efforts to compete with Virginia for the Wizards and Capitals.

This is also a bad deal for Federal taxpayers. This bill transfers control over Federal Government property at no apparent cost to the District of Columbia so that private ownership can

build a football stadium. This is not a District of Columbia home rule issue. This is no different than any other city or State competing for a sports franchise or stadium, no different than the State of New Jersey competing with the State of New York for the Jets or the Giants.

I also do not object to the redevelopment or renovation of the current RFK campus. I think it would be outstanding to have new housing, retail use, and park space there. As a matter of fact, I live near the stadium and drive by it every day, but I do not believe a cost-free land transfer largely for stadium purposes provides the best opportunity to achieve these goals.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to respond to the comments from my friend from Maryland.

The National Park Service has a maintenance backlog of \$23 billion, including \$2 billion in the District of Columbia alone. The National Park Service does not have the money to transform the RFK Stadium site from acres of asphalt into parks or mixed uses.

There is precedent for Congress giving title to or administration jurisdiction over Federal land to States and other jurisdictions for no consideration. We do not have to look far for examples. Let's look at two of the many examples in D.C.

First, section 8124 of title 40 of the U.S. Code has long permitted the Federal Government to transfer administrative jurisdiction over Federal land in D.C. to the D.C. government for no consideration. Second, in 1986, Congress directed the Department of the Interior to enter into a 50-year lease with D.C. for the RFK Stadium site for no consideration.

While it is true that H.R. 4984 does not require D.C. to pay the Federal Government for administrative jurisdiction over the RFK Stadium site, it is expected D.C. will spend hundreds of millions of dollars transforming the site from acres of asphalt into mixed-use development.

This bill would not require a stadium to be built at the site. Whether to build a stadium would be a decision for the elected D.C. government. Several members of the D.C. Council have expressed opposition to a new football stadium at the site.

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

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, the D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act will allow D.C. to develop the vacant RFK Stadium site.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill that will promote economic growth and revitalization for Southeast D.C.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, while Chairman COMER and I often have plenty to disagree on, today I join him and Delegate NORTON to rise in support of H.R. 4984, the D.C. Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus Revitalization Act.

This bipartisan bill will allow the District of Columbia to reenergize Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium campus and redevelop the 174 acres of underutilized federal land into a new stadium, additional housing units, and green spaces.

As a result, these developments will spur economic growth, improve the surrounding infrastructure, and substantially transform the neighborhood.

H.R. 4984 represents the fight to protect and expand Home Rule.

As a former local government official having served on the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors for 14 years, including five as chairman and as a former chairman of the Council of Governments I have consistently supported autonomy for the District.

Congress must do the same to uphold the will of thousands of constituents and civil servants who live and work in the District.

Let me remind my colleagues of what my fellow Virginian, James Madison, said in the Federalist Papers, Number 43, with respect to the intent of the Congressional authority.

In referring to the residents of this federal District, Madison said "they will have had their voice in the election of the government which is to exercise authority over them; as a municipal legislature for local purposes."

There is no more basic exercise of municipal authority than planning critical investments for the community.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4984, 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. LANGWORTHY. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Avery M. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

SERVICE-DISABLED VETERAN OPPORTUNITIES IN SMALL BUSINESS ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3511) to amend the

Small Business Act to require training on increasing contract awards to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3511

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 "Service-Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act".

SEC. 2. TRAINING ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.

Section 36 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657f) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(j) TRAINING ON INCREASING CONTRACT AWARDS TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY SERVICE-DISABLED VETERANS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Veterans Business Development, shall provide to covered employees at each Federal agency that has not met the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(ii) training on how to increase the number of contracts awarded to small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans.

"(2) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Office of Veterans Business Development, shall issue guidance and best practices on increasing the number of contracts awarded to small businesses owned and controlled by service disabled veterans for Federal agencies to which the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(ii) applies.

"(3) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Administration shall submit to Congress a report detailing, for the fiscal year covered by the report—

"(A) a list of each Federal agency that failed to meet the goal established under section 15(g)(1)(A)(ii);

"(B) the number of trainings provided to each Federal agency described in paragraph (1); and

"(C) an overview of the content included in such training sessions."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that this is the first of eight bills from the Committee on Small Business that we will

be considering today. That goes to show that the Committee on Small Business is a committee that gets things done, and I hope our Senate counterparts follow our lead to get these bills to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3511, the Service-Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act, which is sponsored by my good friend, Representative LALOTA, from the great State of New York.

H.R. 3511 builds on this Congress' dedication to America's veterans. Our country asks a lot from our brave servicemen and -women. Therefore, we must support them when they return to civilian life and ensure that they have a fair shot to succeed back home.

That is why this bill is critical to ensuring that our veterans are supported as entrepreneurs. The Federal Government is the largest consumer in the world, and each year, these agencies have a goal to spend a portion of their contracts with small businesses owned by service-disabled veterans.

In last year's NDAA, Congress raised the spending goal to 5 percent of all contracting dollars. Unfortunately, not every Federal agency has met its commitment to the men and women who bravely served our country. H.R. 3511 would remedy this by requiring the Small Business Administration to help failing agencies improve their inclusion of service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses. Our veterans deserve to have every chance to succeed in the Federal contracting space.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support H.R. 3511, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, today we are considering eight bills, six sponsored by Republicans and two by Democrats.

I look forward to working with the chairman to bring the additional five Democratic bills to the floor that were unanimously approved by the committee in a timely manner.

I thank my colleagues, Representatives LALOTA and MCGOVERN, for their work to bring this bill to the floor today.

In fiscal year 2022, Federal agencies awarded 4.57 percent of contract dollars and a record of just over \$28 billion to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses, but this number does not tell the whole story.

Every year, a handful of agencies do not meet their individual agency goals, showing that there is more that can be done. This legislation will require SBA to issue guidance and to provide training for agencies when they come up short. It is also important to highlight that Congress has raised the service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses' goal to 5 percent of Federal contracting dollars moving forward, so additional guidance and training will be timely.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA).

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS for yielding, for his leadership in the Committee on Small Business, and most importantly for recognizing the importance of this legislation and its importance to the veterans community.

Mr. Speaker, America owes a great debt of gratitude to our service-disabled veterans. Those who have served our Nation in uniform deserve our utmost thanks, support, and respect. They put our great country before themselves.

As service-disabled veterans transition into civilian life and some look to enter the government contracting space, Congress must identify and implement ways to make that transition easier. My bipartisan bill does just that. The Service-Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act will provide greater opportunities to our Nation's disabled veterans by increasing government contracting opportunities for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

Currently, Federal agencies are required to contract with service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses for at least 5 percent of contracts awarded, yet the prior lower standard, 3 percent for all, wasn't even being met by many agencies.

My legislation will help solve that problem by requiring the Office of Veterans Business Development and the Small Business Administrator to provide training to Federal agency officials who fall below their procurement goals and issue guidance on best practices to increase the number of contracts to service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support the Service-Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MCGARVEY), the ranking member of the Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development Subcommittee.

□ 1700

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3511, the Service-Disabled Veteran Opportunities in Small Business Act, which I am proud to lead with Representative LALOTA.

I am grateful for his partnership, and I am grateful that the bill is on the floor today. I will echo the remarks of my colleague, Mr. LALOTA. We owe a great debt of gratitude to the men and women who have put on the uniform who were willing to fight for us and, of course, were injured in their service. It is up to us to support our veterans coming out of the military as much as

we support them going in, especially those who return with the wounds from their service, both visible and invisible.

So many veterans come home looking for ways to continue serving their communities, including by starting small businesses, and the Small Business Administration does a great job of connecting veteran and disabled veteran entrepreneurs to critical resources they need to start businesses, but the Federal Government must do more to ensure all veteran entrepreneurs have the tools and opportunities they need for their new businesses to thrive.

For disabled veteran entrepreneurs, opportunity can come in the form of sole-source or set-aside contracts, but Federal agencies all too often fail to meet their service-disabled vet contracting goals.

This bill requires the SBA to issue guidance to other Federal agencies to better meet the contracting goals for service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses and it would additionally require the SBA to provide training to agencies that fail to meet these goals.

If the agencies fail to meet their contracting goals, then this bill requires a report to Congress detailing which agencies haven't met their goals so we can better understand what works, what doesn't, and what we can do to continue improving business opportunities for service-disabled veteran businessowners. We shouldn't stop until we are delivering on all of our promises.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this good bipartisan legislation and look forward to its passage today.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, the Federal procurement goals are one way that Congress helps to ensure that small business government contractors can enter, compete, and remain in the Federal marketplace and that they receive a fair share of contracting dollars when doing so.

This bill will provide agencies with additional tools and training to maximize awards to firms owned by service-disabled veterans and meet their small business goals.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the work of my colleagues on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation that Mr. MCGARVEY and Mr. LALOTA did a great job on, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House

suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3511.

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.

DOE AND SBA RESEARCH ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4669) to provide for Department of Energy, National Laboratories, and Small Business Administration joint research and development activities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4669

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 "DOE and SBA Research Act".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy and the Administrator of the Small Business Administration (in this section referred to as the "covered officials") shall enter into a memorandum of understanding or other appropriate agreement to carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on the joint advancement of Department of Energy and Small Business Administration mission requirements and priorities.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OR AGREEMENT.—The covered officials shall carry out and coordinate the activities described in subsection (a) by entering into one or more memoranda of understanding or other appropriate agreements, as jointly determined by the covered officials.

(c) INCLUSION OF SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.—In carrying out the activities described in subsection (a), the covered officials shall ensure the inclusion of small business concerns (as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)) in such activities, as appropriate.

(d) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out the activities described in subsection (a), the covered officials may—

(1) carry out reimbursable agreements between the Department of Energy, the Small Business Administration, and appropriate entities in order to maximize the effectiveness of research and development activities carried out pursuant to a memorandum or agreement described in subsection (b); and

(2) collaborate with other Federal agencies as appropriate to carry out such activities.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the covered officials shall submit to Congress a report on activities carried out pursuant to a memorandum or agreement described in subsection (b) that includes the following:

(1) Coordination between the covered officials involved in such activities.

(2) Potential opportunities to expand the technical capabilities of the Department of Energy and the Small Business Administration.

(3) Collaborative research achievements.

(4) Areas of future mutually beneficial success.

(5) Continuation of coordination activities between the Department of Energy and the Small Business Administration.

(f) RESEARCH SECURITY.—The activities carried out pursuant to a memorandum or agreement described in subsection (b) shall be applied in a manner consistent with subtitle D of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (Public Law 117-167; 42 U.S.C. 19231 et seq.).

SEC. 3. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4669, the DOE and SBA Research Act, sponsored by my good friend, Representative LALOTA, from the great State of New York.

Our national laboratories provide some of the most cutting-edge scientific research initiated by the U.S. Government. The 17 national labs across the country help ensure we remain world leaders in a variety of disciplines, including our Nation's self-defense.

This legislation will ensure that the great work of our national labs and SBA are ensuring small businesses can play a part in these crucial activities. Small businesses play an important role in American innovation. The Committee on Small Business has heard countless testimonies from entrepreneurs who have found inefficiencies in many different industries and have since gone to work fixing these problems.

This is very similar to the work of our national labs as this bill, establishing a memorandum of understanding, will prove mutually beneficial to both parties.

The DOE and SBA Research Act is vital to increasing the opportunities that innovative small businesses must work with some of the most innovative federally funded research organizations in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 4669, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY

Washington, DC, December 1, 2023.

Hon. ROGER WILLIAMS,
Chairman, Committee on Small Business,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WILLIAMS: I am writing concerning H.R. 4669, the "DOE and SBA Research Act", which was referred primarily to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, with an additional referral to the Committee on Small Business.

H.R. 4669 contains provisions within the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology's Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and in order to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology will forego action on the bill. This is being done on the basis of our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar legislation.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the Congressional Record during the floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

FRANK D. LUCAS,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS,
Washington, DC, December 1, 2023.

Hon. FRANK LUCAS,
Chairman, Committee on Science, Space, and
Technology, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN LUCAS: Thank you for your letter regarding H.R. 4669, the DOE and SBA Research Act. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively to ensure that H.R. 4669 is considered expeditiously before the House of Representatives.

I recognize that this bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. I also acknowledge that your Committee's decision to forgo consideration would not prejudice your Committee regarding the appointment of conferees, to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill, or to similar legislation falling under your Committee's Rule X jurisdiction. In addition, should a conference on this bill become necessary, I would support your request to have members of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology represented on the conference committee.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included the Congressional Record during consideration on the House floor. Thank you again, I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ROGER WILLIAMS,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4669, as amended.

This legislation would allow SBA and the Department of Energy to enter into an MOU to formalize the research and

development activities that are currently under way. Investments in R&D are critical to providing high-paying jobs for Americans, increasing small business innovation, and ensuring our country remains competitive.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. LALOTA and Mr. THANEDAR for their bipartisan work, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA).

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS for yielding and for his leadership on the Small Business Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of my bill, the bipartisan DOE and SBA Research Act.

The DOE and SBA Research Act would simply require the Small Business Administration and America's 17 national labs to collaborate to ensure that small businesses are better utilized within the Department of Energy procurement process.

The Department of Energy is one of the largest procurers of small business goods and services in the government. Through the DOE's national laboratories, small businesses can play a critical role in executing the DOE's mission.

My district, which is home to one of these laboratories, Brookhaven National Lab, which is leading the way by prioritizing working with small businesses, specifically BNL and Suffolk County small businesses have created a mutually beneficial relationship based upon cooperative research and technical assistance.

Despite good intentions throughout the Federal system, far too often small businesses have been made to endure tremendous frustrations related to Federal contracting because the Federal contracting process is incredibly complex and bureaucratic and plagued with many inconsistencies and nuances.

Some programs, such as the Small Business Innovation Research program, operate differently in each agency. This means a small business utilizing the same program may have to meet significantly different requirements from one agency to the next.

My bill, the DOE and SBA Research Act, seeks to remedy this problem.

A small business' work with the Federal Government can be a frustrating maze, and this bipartisan bill will help bring existing resources and opportunities to innovative and successful small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues from both sides of the aisle to support the DOE and SBA Research Act.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am ready to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, small businesses produce more than 14 times more patents than large businesses and universities and employ nearly 40 percent of scientists and engineers. Enhancing coordination between the Small Business Administration and the Department of Energy will hopefully increase opportunities for small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsors for their work, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4669, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to provide for Department of Energy and Small Business Administration joint research and development activities, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

WOSB CERTIFICATION AND OPPORTUNITY EXPANSION ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7105) to establish requirements relating to certification of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7105

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 "WOSB Certification and Opportunity Expansion Act".

SEC. 2. EXCLUSION OF SELF-CERTIFIED SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN FROM GOALS.

(a) EXCLUSION OF SELF-CERTIFIED WOSBS FROM GOVERNMENTWIDE AND AGENCY GOALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 15(g) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 644(g)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) EXCLUSION OF SELF-CERTIFIED WOSBS FROM GOALS.—Only small business concerns owned and controlled by women that have been certified under section 8(m)(2)(E) shall be included in calculating the goals established—

"(A) under paragraph (1)(A)(v); and

"(B) by the head of a Federal agency for small business concerns owned and controlled by women under paragraph (2)."

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall take effect on the first day after the end of the second fiscal year beginning after the Administrator issues the regulations required under subsection (b)(2).

(b) REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO SELF-CERTIFIED WOSBS.—

(1) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN SELF-CERTIFIED WOSBS IN GOALS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a small business concern described in subparagraph (B) shall be deemed to have been certified by the Administrator or a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator under section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) as a small business concern owned and controlled by women under paragraph (2)(E) of such section (15 U.S.C. 637(m)(2)(E)) for the purposes of calculating the goals described in paragraph (4) of section 15(g) of the such Act (as added by subsection (a) of this Act) until the Administrator or such a national certifying entity make a determination with respect to the certification of such concern.

(B) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS DESCRIBED.—A small business concern described in this subparagraph is a small business concern—

(i) that is self-certified as a small business concern owned and controlled by women as of the date on which the amendments made by subsection (a) take effect;

(ii) that files a certification application with the Administrator or a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator under section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)) prior to such date; and

(iii) for which the Administrator or such a national certifying entity does not make a determination prior to such date regarding certification pursuant to such certification application.

(2) RULEMAKING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue regulations carrying out this section.

(c) QUARTERLY BRIEFINGS REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and on a quarterly basis thereafter until the date specified in subsection (b), the Administrator shall provide to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a briefing on the implementation of the requirements of this section. Such briefings shall include—

(1) the total number of small business concerns expected to seek certification as a small business concern owned and controlled by women;

(2) the number of applications for certification pending with the Administrator or a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator under section 8(m) of the Small Business Act during the period covered by the briefing;

(3) the total number of applications approved by the Administrator or such a national certifying entity since the date of the enactment of this Act;

(4) the timelines associated with processing such applications by the Administrator or such a national certifying entity between submission and approval;

(5) the administrative costs to the Administration to make determinations on such applications and the estimated cost to such applicant to seek certification from a national certifying entity;

(6) a discussion of the Administrator's current and future outreach efforts to small business concerns owned and controlled by women and to Federal agencies on the requirements of this Act; and

(7) recommendations for additional legislative authority or resources required to fully implement the requirements of this Act.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration” means the Small Business Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(3) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term “small business concern” has the meaning given under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(4) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—The term “small business concern owned and controlled by women” has the meaning given the term in section 8(m) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)).

(e) COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.—No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7105, the WOSB Certification and Opportunity Expansion Act, sponsored by the Committee on Small Business' Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ.

One of the Committee on Small Business' top priorities is combating fraud and abuse within the government's contracting programs. Small business participation in Federal contracting ensures a strong and resilient industrial base.

Congress sets a governmentwide goal to spend at least 5 percent of its procurement dollars with women-owned small businesses. However, since this goal contains self-certified firms, it is hard to tell the accuracy of the data. This bill would remove self-certified firms from this governmentwide goal. This will add accountability measures to make sure the businesses competing for these contracting dollars are not misrepresenting themselves.

I was proud to work with the ranking member on this important piece of legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to vote for H.R. 7105 and ensure that certified women small business owners are not unfairly shut out of the Federal marketplace by fraudsters.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, empowering female entrepreneurs has long been a top priority of mine and enhancing the programs that impact the success of women-owned small businesses continues to guide my work on our committee.

That is why I am pleased we are considering my legislation, the WOSB Certification and Opportunity Expansion Act, which, as amended, will improve and enhance the SBA's women-owned small business contracting program.

The WOSB program is a valuable tool for Federal agencies to contract with small businesses that are owned by women. However, a number of factors hinder the program's effectiveness. These limitations then translate into reduced contracting opportunities.

As a result, the data continues to show that women-owned small businesses are not seeing the contracting opportunities that should accompany the level of participation in the Federal marketplace.

My bill will move away from self-certification and require Federal agencies to only count contracts awarded to certified WOSBs toward their procurement goals.

This bill will help address a major concern that I regularly hear from WOSBs: that the program is more difficult to use than the other SBA programs, and that it is in part because WOSBs are not SBA certified.

Stakeholders highlight that when combined with other confusing and cumbersome WOSB-specific requirements, the lack of SBA certification creates a risk that disincentivizes use of the authorities by contracting officers.

□ 1715

It is my hope that by moving more WOSBs through the SBA certification process, we will see Federal agencies more confidently and frequently set aside sole source contracts to women-owned small businesses.

That has always been the goal of the WOSB program: to level the playing field for women in industries where they are underrepresented. My bill helps to do just that, and I urge all Members to support it.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA).

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS for yielding me the time today and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ, a fellow proud New Yorker, for leading this effort with me. It is a good day when Members of the same State delegation from different parties can work together to benefit New York's small businesses and small businesses throughout this great country of ours.

Mr. Speaker, our bipartisan WOSB Certification and Opportunity Expansion Act would phase out self-certified,

women-owned small businesses from the governmentwide procurement goals. In doing so, this bill would achieve two main things. It will protect the integrity of the women-owned small business program, and it will prevent the abuse of Federal small business contracting goals.

Self-certification, according to the SBA Office of Inspector General and others, presents significant risks of fraud and impedes the progress of businesses which rightfully qualify. While others can self-certify, women small business owners in the SBA's women-owned small business program undergo a certification program to ensure that only women-owned firms enter.

This bill aligns the women-owned small business program with similar programs that no longer count self-certified firms in the SBA's goals. A similar provision phasing out self-certified service-disabled veteran-owned small businesses from the procurement goals passed in the FY24 NDAA.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the WOSB Certification and Opportunity Expansion Act.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I have drafted this bill in a way that I believe ensures women-owned small businesses will not be harmed during the transition away from self-certification and that Congress has the tools necessary to conduct oversight of that transition.

There are sufficient protections built into the legislation so that women-owned firms are not penalized and specifically will not lose contracts if issues arise during implementation. Utilizing WOSBs in our Federal marketplace is critical for their success and the success of our national economy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this important bill to enhance the WOSB program, bolster its use, and provide female entrepreneurs with additional opportunities for success. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation from Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ and Congressman LALOTA. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7105, 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.

SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION RURAL PERFORMANCE REPORT ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5265) to amend the Small Business Act to require a report on the performance of the Office of Rural Affairs, to require a report on the memorandum of understanding between the Small Business Administration and the Department of Agriculture entered into on April 4, 2018, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5265

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 “Small Business Administration Rural Performance Report Act”.

SEC. 2. SMALL BUSINESS RURAL PERFORMANCE REPORTS.

(a) OFFICE OF RURAL AFFAIRS ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT.—Section 26 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 653) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) REPORTS.—

“(1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Administrator shall make available on a website of the Administration, and submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate, a report on the activities of the Office during the year preceding the date of the report that includes the following elements:

“(A) How the Office is promoting financial assistance pursuant to subsection (c)(1).

“(B) Annual statistics compiled pursuant to subsection (c)(2).

“(C) How the Office is providing information pursuant to subsection (c)(3).

“(D) How the Office is providing information pursuant to subsection (c)(4).

“(E) The number of outreach events conducted by the Office to provide information described in paragraphs (3) and (4) of subsection (c).

“(F) Details of any partnerships that the Office engaged in to provide the outreach described in paragraph (5), including any partnerships with the National Travel and Tourism Office of the Department of Commerce.

“(G) The name of the director of the Office and the number of staff employed by the Office.

“(2) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Administrator shall annually submit, along with the budget the budget justification materials submitted in support of the Small Business Administration budget for a fiscal year (as submitted with the budget of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31), a report that includes the elements described in paragraph (1).”.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 26(c)(5) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 653(c)(5)) is amended by striking “United States Tourism and Travel Administration” and inserting “National Travel and Tourism Office of the Department of Commerce”.

(c) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall make available on a website of the Administration and submit to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Small Business

and Entrepreneurship of the Senate a report on the MOU. Such report shall include a description of the following:

(1) How many working groups convened pursuant to the MOU the Administration was part of and if the Administration is still part of any such working groups.

(2) How many staff employed by the Administration were and are still involved with a working group convened pursuant to the MOU.

(3) The findings specified in clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph (1) of part 2 of the MOU.

(4) The findings specified in clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph (2) of part 2 of the MOU.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The term “Administration” means the Small Business Administration.

(3) MOU.—The term “MOU” means the memorandum of understanding between the Department of Agriculture and the Small Business Administration entered into on April 4, 2018, about collaborative efforts to promote stronger businesses and agricultural economies in rural America.

SEC. 4. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 5265, the Small Business Administration Rural Performance Report Act, sponsored by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

It should come as no surprise that rural entrepreneurs face unique challenges. In extending assistance to these entrepreneurs, the Department of Agriculture and the Small Business Administration offer a variety of programs to help them start and grow their businesses.

Unfortunately, government agencies often act in a silo and become ineffective in their outreach. That is why the Trump administration created a partnership between the USDA and the SBA to better tailor their outreach and services to rural entrepreneurs.

After our committee marked up this bill, we were happy to see the SBA announce that they are going to work to

renew another agreement with the Department of Agriculture. While this progress should not go unnoticed, this bill goes further to require a report to track the effectiveness of this agreement and the SBA’s Office of Rural Affairs. If we are going to be spending taxpayer dollars to help accomplish a goal, there must be performance metrics to see where the ROI is for the taxpayers and the businesses they are helping.

Mr. Speaker, it is vital that Congress knows just how impactful these efforts are so we can ensure our rural entrepreneurs are not left behind. I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 5265, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Today, we are considering H.R. 5265, the Small Business Administration Rural Performance Report Act, which, as amended, requires an annual performance report and budget justification for the Office of Rural Affairs.

Mr. GOLDEN has worked relentlessly to increase SBA outreach to rural small businesses and make sure the Office of Rural Affairs remains active. I commend Mr. GOLDEN for his efforts, and I am quite disappointed we are not considering his legislation today, which would have enhanced the Office of Rural Affairs and was unanimously approved by the committee in September. I look forward to its speedy consideration.

Today, we are considering legislation that would require a performance report and budget updates from the Office of Rural Affairs so that we can stay apprised of its activities. Currently, we get this information by simply asking the agency for an update, but this bill would now statutorily mandate that it is provided.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. PAPPAS for joining Mr. ALFORD in sponsoring this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the leadership of our Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ and our esteemed Chairman WILLIAMS. It is, indeed, a pleasure to be on this committee. There are many Members here today who are on the Small Business Committee and are making a difference for America in every piece of legislation we pass.

I rise today to speak on the Small Business Administration Rural Performance Report Act, a bill that we introduced to support our rural small businesses.

These businesses are essential to rural America, providing over 54 percent of employment in rural communities and counties. This bill would help us understand how the Small Business Administration is really helping them succeed.

The bill requires two reports. First, it would give us insight into the Office

of Rural Affairs, ensuring that they are providing the proper help to rural businesses.

We are all aware of the crucial role that these businesses play in our economy, yet the support that they offer is often unknown to small business owners. At a hearing just last summer, several small business owners, including Jennifer Cassaday, a constituent of mine who owns Byrd's Pecan Delights in Adrian, Missouri, came here to testify that she didn't even know that the Office of Rural Affairs existed.

Mr. Speaker, this bill would change that. It demands clear, detailed reports on the Office of Rural Affairs and its efforts to aid these businesses and people like Jennifer.

Are they providing the right assistance? Are the resources and information reaching those who need it the most?

It is time we had solid answers. This bill would provide them.

Mr. Speaker, the second part of this report requires a review of a memorandum of understanding between the SBA and the Department of Agriculture. This Trump-era MOU was a recognition that ag goes hand in hand with rural small businesses.

Supporting this bill means that we are committed to making sure that our rural entrepreneurs have the support they need in a timely fashion. We are standing up for the underrepresented, ensuring our rural small businesses are not left behind in America. We are promoting the accountability and oversight needed to support the backbone of our economy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote for transparency, responsibility, and the success of our rural small business owners.

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

Mr. Speaker, small businesses are powerful drivers of economic growth across the United States, employing 46 percent of the workforce and generating two-thirds of new jobs. In rural areas, self-employment tends to be higher than in urban and suburban areas, but the challenges they face are much greater. Rural small businesses have a harder time securing affordable capital, finding talented workers, and making ends meet.

Administrator Guzman is increasing SBA's commitment to rural America by appointing a new director to the office and improving the outreach and engagement with rural small businesses. She recognizes the importance of ensuring rural small businesses have access to SBA's vital programs. With this type of assistance, rural small businesses can thrive and, in turn, create good-paying jobs and lift up communities.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Mr. ALFORD, Mr. PAPPAS, and Mr. GOLDEN for their leadership on this issue, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this

commonsense legislation brought to us by Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. GOLDEN, and Mr. ALFORD. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5265, 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.

ENCOURAGING SUCCESS ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6591) to amend section 8(a) of the Small Business Act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to regularly reassess the asset and net worth thresholds for qualifying as an economically disadvantaged individual, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6591

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 "Encouraging Success Act".

SEC. 2. REGULAR REASSESSMENT OF THE THRESHOLDS FOR ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(a)(6) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(a)(6)) is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(F)(i) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subparagraph, and not less frequently than every four years thereafter, the Administrator shall assess and, if appropriate, revise the maximum value of asset and the maximum net worth an individual may have to qualify as an economically disadvantaged individual under subparagraph (A) to account for changes in the economy, including inflation and other factors as determined appropriate by the Administrator.

"(ii) The Administrator shall make each covered revision by issuing a rule after an opportunity for public notice and comment.

"(iii) To the extent practicable, the Administrator shall coordinate the activities carried out under clause (i) with the activities required under section 1344(a)(2) of the Small Business Jobs Act of 2010 (15 U.S.C. 632 note).

"(iv) In this subparagraph, the term 'covered revision' means a revision described in clause (i) that the Administrator determines is appropriate pursuant to an assessment under such clause."

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.—No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6591, the Encouraging Success Act, sponsored by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY), my good friend.

The 8(a) program allows certain small businesses to compete for valuable contracting opportunities. However, SBA regulations threaten to remove the participating firms if the owner reaches certain financial thresholds. While these thresholds are necessary to ensure that only true small businesses are utilizing this program, it can force some small business owners to make a tough decision: proactively stop expanding their business so they can stay in the program or grow outside the limits set by the SBA and get kicked out of the program.

I spoke with a female veteran in my district who was facing this exact issue. The bill doesn't solve all the issues in this program, but it requires the SBA to reassess the 8(a) asset threshold cap every 4 years, ensuring it is in line with market realities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 6591, the Encouraging Success Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1730

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Representatives ELLZEY and THANEDAR, for their work on this bill, the Encouraging Success Act.

The 8(a) program is one of the most effective tools for minority businessowners to get their foot in the door of the Federal marketplace.

The program is critical for entrepreneurs who have faced discrimination. This bill requires the SBA to regularly assess, and, when necessary, update the economic threshold for program participation.

I share the sponsors' concerns that the lack of reassessment or readjustment can penalize growth and that a regular assessment will ensure that the program keeps pace with changing economic environments.

Mr. Speaker, the National Minority Supplier Development Council has said that this legislation will enhance the effectiveness of SBA programs, including the esteemed 8(a) program, ensuring they continue to serve as powerful catalysts for community wealth building and inclusive economic development.

The 8(a) program remains a win-win for the government and for communities across the country. It has led to

a more diverse Federal market and supply chain, provided billions of dollars annually through streamlined contracting processes for minority businessowners, and continues to work to help minority businessowners overcome the real and ongoing discrimination that would otherwise hold them back.

Keeping 8(a) intact and relevant must remain a top priority. I appreciate the sponsors for their work, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY).

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS and Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for allowing me to lay out H.R. 5961, the Encouraging Success Act. Bipartisanship on this committee is alive and well, and I thank Congressman THANEDAR for joining me on this bill.

The Small Business Administration's 8(a) program was established in the 1970s to help small businesses compete with large corporations for U.S. Government contracts.

A qualifying small business can only be a part of the program for 9 years. To initially qualify and remain in the 8(a) program, there is a cap to the value of a small business' assets.

Since the program's inception, the asset cap has only been raised twice and is currently at the very small amount of \$6.5 million.

The asset threshold is set through an SBA-determined regulation, and the law does not outline any process of when or how the SBA should reassess the threshold to remain in line with market changes.

Unfortunately, because the requirements to initially qualify for the program or to remain in it haven't kept up with market changes, the cap is set to a level at which a small business is disadvantaged to compete in the open market at the end of the 9-year program.

The SBA's slow-to-change attitude with the asset cap can limit the success of an 8(a) small business or outright kill it.

With the threat of being graduated out of the 8(a) program, small business owners must decide whether their firm's growth is worth being removed from the program.

Our bill, H.R. 6591, helps solve the situation and encourages success of small businesses by compelling the SBA administrator to review the qualification caps with greater frequency to ensure that small businesses participating in the 8(a) program are allowed to grow big enough to compete with larger companies, once their participation in the program ends. We ask for your support for H.R. 6591.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, again, I appreciate the great work of my colleagues on this bill, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

I will close by noting that 3 weeks ago, the committee held a hearing on

small business size standards and contracting policies and the barriers they can pose to growth.

As we discussed, the Federal Government needs to both recruit and retain small business government contractors.

We are seeing that retaining small firms, like those in the 8(a) program, is a necessity for the health of the industrial base.

This bill will contribute to the retention of growing small businesses. It is a productive step designed to ensure that minority businessowners can succeed, thrive, and grow in the Federal marketplace and beyond.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation from Congressmen ELLZEY and THANEDAR, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6591, 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.

PROVIDING WEBSITE TO REPORT FRAUD RELATING TO CERTAIN COVID-19 LOANS

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5426) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to provide a link to resources for submitting reports on suspected fraud relating to certain COVID-19 loans.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5426

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

SECTION 1. WEBSITE TO REPORT FRAUD RELATING TO CERTAIN COVID-19 LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall include on the primary website of the Administration a link to a website of the Office of the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration regarding reporting fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement, and misconduct, and containing a resource for individuals to report suspected cases of fraud with respect to a covered loan to the Administration.

(b) COVERED LOAN DEFINED.—In this section, the term "covered loan" means—

(1) a loan made under paragraph (36) or (37) of section 7(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 636(a)); or

(2) a loan made under section 7(b) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 636(b)) in response to COVID-19 during the covered period (as defined in section 1110(a) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9009)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5426, a bill to require the SBA's administrator to place a visible link on their website to report COVID fraud.

Last summer, the SBA's Inspector General testified to our committee that throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, the SBA distributed more than \$200 billion in potentially fraudulent loans.

The committee was also told that in order to work through all these cases, it will take more than 100 years of work. That is simply not a realistic feat, and they need all the help they can get from the American people.

Reporting fraud in the SBA should be easy for everyday Americans to do. Our committee now has a direct fraud reporting link on our website, and the SBA should do the same.

When our committee was researching the need for this bill, we found that the only link to report COVID fraud redirected users to a different website that was in Spanish.

Even after we figured out how to correct the language, it was unclear how to actually report the fraud. This bill will ensure that reporting fraud is simply one click away.

It should be a top priority of this body to recoup as many of these taxpayer dollars as possible and in the most timely and efficient manner possible.

H.R. 5426 is a commonsense bill that will help individuals easily report suspected fraudulent activity and help the SBA and the OIG prioritize which potentially fraudulent loans to investigate.

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

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

Today we are considering H.R. 5426, which will require the SBA to put a link to the IG's fraud hotline on its website for whistleblowers to report suspected fraud.

The good news is that the Biden administration SBA already has a link to the OIG's hotline on its main landing page, but with this bill, it will be here to stay.

In July, Inspector General Ware testified that his office has received 250,000 hotline complaints since the beginning of the pandemic, and more than 90,000 have been identified as actionable. This amounts to more than 100 years of investigative casework.

To that end, the single most important action we can take to support the OIG is to make sure we give them the resources they need to investigate bad actors.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the efforts of Ms. VAN DUYNE and Mr. LANDSMAN to curb fraud, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his support of this legislation.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Small Business Administration oversaw what has been described as “the biggest fraud in a generation,” doling out more than \$200 billion to scammers, foreign crime rings, and others who took advantage of a pandemic to enrich themselves.

According to the Justice Department Inspector General Michael Horowitz, the SBA invited this fraud by failing to implement basic safeguards to ensure taxpayer funds were going to the right people. Some of the pandemic aid even went to people involved in transnational crime organizations.

When government mandates forced small businesses to close their doors, some resulting in permanent closures, fraudsters were out taking expensive vacations, buying Lamborghinis, mansions, private jets, horses, luxury jewelry, and more, all on the taxpayers’ dime. While we work to recover the stolen funds, those criminals must be identified and prosecuted.

The Small Business Administration not only failed to implement safeguards to prevent fraud of this scope, but they also failed to comply with the law originally authorizing the aid, which required the agency to include an easily accessible link for the public to report suspected fraud. Instead, the SBA has ignored legal requirements and made it incredibly difficult to report fraud.

As my colleagues and I highlighted during a hearing last year, if you were even able to locate the SBA’s link to report fraudulent COVID-19 loans—which were buried in their website—where did it take you? As our chairman noted, it took you to a different website that was written entirely in Spanish.

The Republican-led Small Business Committee has created a direct link for Americans to easily report pandemic fraud, and the Small Business Administration must do the same.

I urge my colleagues to support our bipartisan legislation to make it easier to report pandemic fraud.

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

Over the past 3 years, this committee has played an important role in examining the pandemic relief programs, which helped millions of small businesses stay afloat in unprecedented times.

While there may be disagreement on the actual estimates of fraud, it is clear we need to work together to protect the integrity of the SBA programs from bad actors.

The SBA, under the leadership of Administrator Guzman, has taken strong steps to root out fraud in the pandemic relief programs and put strong controls in place to prevent future fraud.

In 2022, SBA established a Fraud Risk Management Board, aligning its practices with GAO’s oversight policies.

A new role was also created, the SBA Special Counsel for Enterprise Risk, to advise the administrator of fraud and risk management activities.

The agency continues to work collaboratively with the SBA Inspector General, the Interagency COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force, and the Department of Justice to recover stolen funds.

I thank Ms. VAN DUYNE and Mr. LANDSMAN for looking for ways to enhance the work that the SBA is undertaking to combat fraud, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation from Congresswoman VAN DUYNE and Congressman LANDSMAN, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5426.

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. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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.

THE WOSB INTEGRITY ACT OF 2024

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7128) to establish requirements relating to size standard compliance of small business concerns owned and controlled by women for certain purposes, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7128

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 “The WOSB Integrity Act of 2024”.

SEC. 2. WOMEN OWNED SMALL BUSINESS SIZE STANDARD COMPLIANCE FOR RESTRICTED COMPETITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(m)(2)(E) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)(2)(E)) is amended by inserting “, including that each such concern does not exceed the applicable size standard established under section 3(a)” after “by women”.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall not be construed as disqualifying any small business concern owned and controlled by women that, as of the date of the enactment of this Act, is certified by a Federal agency, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration, or a national certifying entity approved by the Administrator as a small business concern owned and controlled by women from competing for contracts restricted under section 8(m)(2) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)(2)) before the earlier of—

(1) the date on which the small business concern owned and controlled by women submits a notice that such concern is no longer a small business concern owned and controlled by women; or

(2) the date on which the Administrator, Federal agency, or entity that provided such certification determines that the concern exceeds the applicable size standard established under section 3(a) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632(a)).

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to require the Administrator to perform a formal size determination on a small business concern when considering an application from such concern for certification as a small business concern owned and controlled by women.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

(2) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN.—The term “small business concern” has the meaning given under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(3) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY WOMEN.—The term “small business concern” and “small business concern owned and controlled by women” has the meaning given in section 8(m)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)(1)).

(e) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 8(m)(2)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(m)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “paragraph (3)” and inserting “paragraph (4)”.

(f) COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.—No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1745

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7128, The WOSB Integrity Act of 2024, sponsored by Representative MALOY from the great State of Utah.

The WOSB Integrity Act removes self-certification of size from this contracting program that is reserved for women-owned small businesses.

It is vital that there are programs to help small business owners access Federal contracting opportunities. That is where the Small Business Administration's women-owned small business program, also known as WOSB, comes in. This program allows women entrepreneurs to compete for unique contracting opportunities.

Unfortunately, the Federal Government currently does not independently verify that these businesses are truly small businesses. Firms can simply self-certify themselves as small businesses, potentially leading to misrepresentation and fraud to obtain contracting opportunities.

It is vital that women-owned entrepreneurs who participate in the WOSB do not have to worry that their competitors misrepresent themselves as a small business.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 7128, The WOSB Integrity Act of 2024, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Representatives Maloy and Scholten, for their work on this bill.

Since its inception, the WOSB program and the administration of the program have been a challenge for SBA. Similarly, Federal agencies have faced challenges using the authorities that Congress has put in place to streamline contracting with women-owned small businesses.

While working to boost participation of WOSBs and enhance the use of these authorities, Congress must also advance initiatives that are designed to protect the integrity of the program.

One issue we are addressing today is the inspector general's report that states there is a discrepancy in SBA's implementation of the program. The purpose of this bill is to align SBA processes with the IG's report and to clarify that we expect SBA to have a process similar to the other socioeconomic contracting programs for WOSB certifications.

Mr. Speaker, again, I appreciate my colleagues for their work on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Utah (Ms. MALOY).

Ms. MALOY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WILLIAMS for yielding me time. I also thank Ranking Member VELÁZQUEZ for her support on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, The WOSB Integrity Act of 2024.

The purpose of this bill is to make sure that the businesses that are taking advantage of the WOSB program are, in fact, small businesses. They are certifying that they are women-owned, but they are self-certifying that they are small.

The SBA inspector general found that there is room for fraud in this program, so this is simply a commonsense solution to close a loophole to make sure this program is serving the purpose it was intended to serve, which is giving women-owned small businesses the opportunity to compete in Federal contracting. It encourages fair competition, levels the playing field in government contracting, and ensures the opportunities are awarded justly and contribute to a competitive small business sector.

We have a goal of awarding 5 percent of government contracts to women-owned small businesses. We have no way of knowing how well we are doing in meeting that goal if we don't have any way of certifying that these WOSBs are, in fact, small businesses.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and I thank Ms. MALOY and Ms. SCHOLTEN for this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation from Congresswoman MALOY and SCHOLTEN, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7128.

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. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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.

NATIVE AMERICAN ENTREPRENEURIAL OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7102) to establish an Office of Native American Affairs within the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7102

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 "Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act".

SEC. 2. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

The Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 49 (15 U.S.C. 631 note) as section 50; and

(2) by inserting after section 48 (15 U.S.C. 657u) the following:

"SEC. 49. OFFICE OF NATIVE AMERICAN AFFAIRS.

"(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The term 'Assistant Administrator' means the Assistant Administrator for Native American Affairs appointed under subsection (c).

"(2) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term 'Indian Tribe' has the meaning given the term 'Indian tribe' in section 8(a)(13).

"(3) NATIVE HAWAIIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term 'Native Hawaiian Organization' has the meaning given the term in section 8(a)(15).

"(4) OFFICE.—The term 'Office' means the Office of Native American Affairs described in this section.

"(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established within the Administration the Office of Native American Affairs, which shall be responsible for establishing a working relationship with Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations by targeting programs of the Administration relating to entrepreneurial development, contracting, and capital access to—

"(A) establish or expand small business concerns owned and controlled by individuals who are members of Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian Organizations; and

"(B) promote economic development in Indian country (as defined in section 1151 of title 18, United States Code).

"(2) CONNECTION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—To the extent reasonable, the Office shall educate Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations about programs administered by other Federal agencies related to the interests described in paragraph (1).

"(c) ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR.—The Office shall be headed by an Assistant Administrator for Native American Affairs, who shall—

"(1) be appointed by and report to the Administrator;

"(2) have knowledge of Native American cultures and experience providing culturally tailored small business development assistance to Native Americans;

"(3) provide assistance to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations and small business concerns owned and controlled by individuals who are members of Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian Organizations;

"(4) formulate policies, and promote policies and existing programs, to better address the entrepreneurial, capital access, business development, and contracting needs of persons described in paragraph (3);

"(5) collaborate with Associate Administrators within the Administration and officials of other Federal agencies to develop policies and plans to implement programs of the Administration to holistically address the needs described in paragraph (4);

"(6) provide assistance, including grants, contracts, cooperative agreements, or other financial assistance, to Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations, or to private

nonprofit organizations governed by members of Indian Tribes or Native Hawaiian Organizations that have the experience and capability to use the assistance to—

“(A) deploy training, counseling, workshops, educational outreach, and supplier events; and

“(B) access the entrepreneurial, capital, and contracting programs of the Administration;

“(7) assist the Administrator in conducting, or conduct, Tribal consultation to solicit input and facilitate discussion of potential modifications to programs and procedures of the Administration; and

“(8) recommend annual budgets for the Office.

“(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—On an annual basis until the termination date, the Assistant Administrator shall submit to Congress a report on the effectiveness of the Office of Native American Affairs that includes the number of clients served in Tribal communities, the number of consultations conducted, and the number of trainings held in Tribal country.

“(e) TERMINATION.—The authority under this section shall terminate seven years after the date of the enactment of this section.”

SEC. 3. COMPLIANCE WITH CUTGO.

No additional amounts are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) and the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of H.R. 7102, the Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act, introduced by Representatives Davids of Kansas and Crane of Arizona.

This bill would codify into law the Office of Native American Affairs, which has been providing services like counseling, training, and Tribal consultations for many years.

Additionally, this bill installs specific reporting requirements from the office. If we are going to be spending taxpayer dollars providing a service, it is critical we understand how effectively the services are being performed.

This bill would not appropriate any additional funds or expand government in any way, but it would provide Congress with better oversight and performance metrics to ensure that this office is performing to its fullest extent.

Native American entrepreneurs, Tribal-owned corporations, and Native

American small businesses are vital to their local economies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative DAVIDS and Representative CRANE for their work on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7102, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are considering H.R. 7102, the Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act.

Let me begin by commending Ms. DAVIDS for her leadership and bipartisan efforts to codify the Office of Native American Affairs at SBA. She is a valued member of the Committee on Small Business and has remained committed to working with stakeholders to make this bill a reality.

The office has been a tremendous resource for American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians seeking to launch and grow their small businesses. Throughout the year, it engages in several outreach activities, including consultations, development and distribution of promotional materials, and participation in national economic development conferences.

Codifying the office would ensure that Tribal small businesses have access to SBA's full range of business development tools regardless of the administration.

Importantly, the legislation requires that the assistant administrator report directly to the Administrator, ensuring the voice of the Tribal communities will be heard at SBA.

I also thank Mr. CRANE for joining Ms. DAVIDS in her efforts, and I strongly support this legislation.

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

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CRANE).

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to co-introduce this legislation to officially establish the Office of Native American Affairs at the Small Business Administration, and I thank Representative DAVIDS for her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent over half of Arizona's Tribes. Something I hear often is there is a need for economic growth and opportunity.

Tribal entrepreneurs who run businesses on reservations face complex hurdles when it comes to understanding tax implications, property rights, regulatory burdens, and lending. Tribal entrepreneurs should have the ability to access SBA's programs just like anyone else, but in reality, these communities do not experience adequate access or outreach.

Most importantly, they need specialized expertise to assist them in navigating the unique complexities of running a business on a reservation—com-

plexities mostly created by us, the Federal Government.

Economic development in our Tribal communities is crucial. I am hopeful that establishing the Office of Native American Affairs into statute will bring attention to resources the Small Business Administration can provide to Tribal businessowners and encourage the office to continue developing new methods for outreach to ensure that Tribal businesses are not overlooked. This bill would also ensure that Congress can practice proper oversight of the office's activities and effectiveness going forward.

I encourage representatives from this office to come out and visit Tribal communities in my district and begin a dialogue with small business owners who may be unaware that this office even exists. Doing so will allow the Office of Native American Affairs to adjust and enhance their programs so they can best serve Tribal small business owners.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Kansas (Ms. DAVIDS).

Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, it is no secret that our Nation's entrepreneurs face challenges in starting and operating small businesses. Finding a skilled workforce, establishing an effective online presence, and building a customer base are hurdles common to all small business owners.

However, our Native American small business owners face these challenges in a more severe way. Today, I will highlight a few reasons for that disparity.

First, Native Americans are twice as likely to live in poverty as compared to other Americans. This significantly impacts their ability to use savings and assets to fund their small businesses, to access credit, and to take on the risk of entrepreneurship.

Second, these businessowners face geographical barriers, with longer distances for supply deliveries and a lack of reliable broadband and telephone service. These physical obstacles make networking, finding mentors, and reaching out to a consumer base a bit more difficult, ultimately reducing their chances of success.

Third, Native Americans who are entrepreneurs often face greater hurdles in attracting private investment and accessing Federal contracting opportunities. Addressing these challenges is crucial to leveling the playing field for Tribal small business communities and bolstering our overall economy.

Currently, the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Native American Affairs works diligently to connect Native businessowners with entrepreneurial development, lending, and procurement programs. However, the absence of a congressional mandate for this office limits its capacity and

leaves it vulnerable to changes from one administration to the next.

That is why we really need to pass this Native American Entrepreneurial Opportunity Act. This bill would codify the SBA's Office of Native American Affairs into Federal law, establishing an assistant administrator role to oversee operations and report directly to SBA leadership. It would also require the office to report to Congress on its successes in Indian Country.

Native-owned businesses employ over 300,000 Americans and are vital drivers of our national economy. These Tribal businesses deserve a seat at the table to advocate not only for the challenges that I mentioned earlier but also for the successes and achievements that they have.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman CRANE, my Republican colleague and co-lead on this, for his partnership in introducing this bill. I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to stand united in support of this crucial legislation and vote in favor of successful entrepreneurship in Tribal communities.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, Native American-owned businesses are powerful economic engines, contributing over \$33 billion to the U.S. economy every year and employing more than 200,000 people in their communities.

□ 1800

By enhancing the Office of Native American Affairs, SBA will be able to work on behalf of Indian Country and better target resources to Indian Tribes.

I once again thank Representatives DAVIDS and CRANE for their bipartisan work to provide assistance to these critically important businesses and entrepreneurs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation brought to us by Congresswoman DAVIDS and Congressman CRANE, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7102.

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. WILLIAMS of Texas. 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.

PREVENTING ACCESS TO AMERICANS' BULK SENSITIVE PERSONAL DATA AND UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT-RELATED DATA BY COUNTRIES OF CONCERN—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-109)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States

Pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*) (IEEPA), the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, I hereby report that I have issued an Executive Order that expands the scope of the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873 of May 15, 2019 (Securing the Information and Communications Technology and Services Supply Chain), and further addressed with additional measures in Executive Order 14034 of June 9, 2021 (Protecting Americans' Sensitive Data from Foreign Adversaries).

The continuing effort of certain countries of concern to access Americans' sensitive personal data and United States Government-related data constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat, which has its source in whole or substantial part outside the United States, to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Access to Americans' bulk sensitive personal data or United States Government-related data increases the ability of countries of concern to engage in a wide range of malicious activities, including espionage, influence, kinetic, or cyber operations, or to identify other potential strategic advantages over the United States.

To address this threat and to take further steps with respect to the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13873, the order authorizes the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security and in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, to issue, subject to public notice and comment, regulations to prohibit or otherwise restrict the large-scale transfer of Americans' personal data to countries of concern and to provide safeguards around other activities that can give those countries access to sensitive data. Section 2(b) of the order authorizes the Attorney General, in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, to take such actions, including the promulgation of rules and regulations, and to employ all other powers granted to the President by IEEPA, as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of the order.

In addition, section 2(d) of the order authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Director

of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, in coordination with the Attorney General and in consultation with the heads of relevant agencies, to propose, seek public comment on, and publish security requirements that address the unacceptable risk posed by restricted transactions, as identified by the Attorney General. Section 2(e) of the order authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security, in coordination with the Attorney General, to take such actions, including promulgating rules, regulations, standards, and requirements; issuing interpretive guidance; and employing all other powers granted to the President by IEEPA as may be necessary to carry out the purposes described in section 2(d) of the order.

I am enclosing a copy of the Executive Order I have issued.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.,
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 28, 2024.

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 6 o'clock and 3 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. 6544; and
H.R. 4984.

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.

ATOMIC ENERGY ADVANCEMENT 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. 6544) to advance the benefits of nuclear energy by enabling efficient, timely, and predictable licensing, regulation, and deployment of nuclear energy technologies, 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 South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 365, nays 36, answered “present” 1, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 55]

YEAS—365

Adams	Dean (PA)	Johnson (LA)
Aderholt	DeGette	Johnson (SD)
Aguilar	DeLauro	Jordan
Alford	DelBene	Joyce (OH)
Allen	Deluzio	Joyce (PA)
Allred	DeSaulnier	Kean (NJ)
Amo	DesJarlais	Keating
Amodoi	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (IL)
Armstrong	Dingell	Kelly (MS)
Arrington	Donalds	Kelly (PA)
Auchincloss	Duarte	Kiggans (VA)
Babin	Duncan	Kildee
Bacon	Dunn (FL)	Kiley
Baird	Edwards	Kilmer
Balderson	Ellzey	Kim (CA)
Banks	Emmer	Kim (NJ)
Barr	Escobar	Krishnamoorthi
Bean (FL)	Eshoo	Kuster
Beatty	Estes	Kustoff
Bentz	Evans	LaHood
Bera	Ezell	LaLota
Bergman	Fallon	LaMalfa
Beyer	Feenstra	Landsman
Bice	Ferguson	Langworthy
Biggs	Finstad	Larsen (WA)
Bishop (GA)	Fischbach	Larson (CT)
Blumenauer	Fitzgerald	Latta
Blunt Rochester	Fitzpatrick	LaTurner
Boebert	Fleischmann	Lawler
Bost	Fletcher	Lee (FL)
Bowman	Flood	Lee (NV)
Boyle (PA)	Foster	Lesko
Brecheen	Foushee	Letlow
Brown	Fox	Lieu
Brownley	Frankel, Lois	Lofgren
Buchanan	Franklin, Scott	Loudermilk
Buck	Fry	Luetkemeyer
Budzinski	Fulcher	Luna
Burchett	Gaetz	Luttrell
Burgess	Gallagher	Lynch
Burlison	Gallego	Mace
Calvert	Garamendi	Magaziner
Cammack	Garbarino	Malliotakis
Caraveo	Garcia (TX)	Maloy
Carbajal	Garcia, Mike	Mann
Cardenas	Gimenez	Manning
Carey	Golden (ME)	Massie
Carl	Gomez	Mast
Carson	Gonzales, Tony	Matsui
Carter (GA)	Gonzalez,	McCaul
Carter (LA)	Vicente	McClain
Carter (TX)	Good (VA)	McClellan
Cartwright	Gooden (TX)	McClintock
Case	Gottheimer	McCormick
Casten	Granger	McGarvey
Castor (FL)	Graves (LA)	Meeks
Castro (TX)	Graves (MO)	Menendez
Chavez-DeRemer	Green (TN)	Meng
Cherfilus-	Green, Al (TX)	Meuser
McCormick	Greene (GA)	Mfume
Chu	Griffith	Miller (IL)
Ciscomani	Grothman	Miller (OH)
Clark (MA)	Guest	Miller (WV)
Cleaver	Guthrie	Miller-Meeks
Cline	Hageman	Mills
Cloud	Harder (CA)	Molinaro
Clyburn	Harris	Moolenaar
Clyde	Harshbarger	Mooney
Cohen	Hayes	Moore (AL)
Cole	Hern	Moore (UT)
Collins	Higgins (LA)	Moran
Comer	Hill	Morelle
Connolly	Himes	Moskowitz
Correa	Hinson	Moulton
Costa	Horsford	Mrvan
Courtney	Houchin	Mullin
Crane	Houlahan	Napolitano
Crawford	Hoyer	Neal
Crenshaw	Hoyle (OR)	Neguse
Crockett	Hudson	Nehls
Crow	Issa	Nickel
Cuellar	Ivey	Norcross
D'Esposito	Jackson (NC)	Norman
Davidson	Jacobs	Nunn (IA)
Davis (KS)	Jacobs	Nunn (IA)
Davis (IL)	Jeffries	Ogles
Davis (NC)	Johnson (GA)	Owens

Pallone	Scholten	Thompson (PA)
Palmer	Schrier	Tiffany
Panetta	Schweikert	Timmmons
Pappas	Scott (VA)	Titus
Pascarell	Scott, David	Tokuda
Payne	Self	Tonko
Pelosi	Sessions	Torres (CA)
Peltola	Sewell	Torres (NY)
Pence	Sherman	Trahan
Perez	Sherrill	Trone
Perry	Simpson	Turner
Peters	Slotkin	Underwood
Pettersen	Smith (MO)	Valadao
Pfleger	Smith (NE)	Van Drew
Pocan	Smith (NJ)	Van Dune
Posey	Smith (WA)	Van Orden
Quigley	Smucker	Vargas
Reschenthaler	Sorensen	Vasquez
Rodgers (WA)	Soto	Veasey
Rose	Spanberger	Wagner
Rosendale	Spartz	Walberg
Ross	Stanton	Wasserman
Rouzer	Stauber	Schultz
Roy	Stefanik	Watson Coleman
Ruiz	Steib	Webster (FL)
Ruppersberger	Steu	Wenstrup
Rutherford	Stevens	Westerman
Ryan	Strickland	Williams (GA)
Salazar	Strong	Williams (NY)
Salinas	Swalwell	Williams (TX)
Sanchez	Sykes	Wilson (FL)
Sarbanes	Tenney	Wilson (SC)
Scalise	Thanedar	Wittman
Scanlon	Thompson (MS)	Womack
Schiff	Thompson (CA)	Yakym
Schneider		

NAYS—36

Balint	Jackson (IL)	Omar
Barragán	Jayapal	Pingree
Bonamici	Kamlager-Dove	Porter
Bush	Khanna	Pressley
Casar	Lee (CA)	Ramirez
Clarke (NY)	Lee (PA)	Raskin
Doggett	Leger Fernandez	Schakowsky
Espallat	Levin	Stansbury
Frost	McGovern	Takano
García (IL)	Moore (WI)	Tlaib
García, Robert	Nadler	Velázquez
Huffman	Ocasio-Cortez	Waters

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Kaptur

NOT VOTING—29

Bilirakis	Hunt	Phillips
Bishop (NC)	Jackson (TX)	Rogers (AL)
Bucshon	Jackson Lee	Rogers (KY)
Craig	Lamborn	Scott, Austin
Curtis	Lucas	Waltz
De La Cruz	McBath	Weber (TX)
Goldman (NY)	McCollum	Wexton
Gosar	McHenry	Wild
Grijalva	Murphy	Zinke
Huizenga	Newhouse	

□ 1858

Ms. PORTER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mses. BALINT, SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TAKANO, Mses. LEE of California, MOORE of Wisconsin, and CLARKE of New York changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

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.

Stated for:

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 55.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER 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 14, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of a letter received from Ms. Kristen Zebrowski Stavisky and Mr. Raymond J. Riley, III, Co-Executive Directors, New York State Board of Elections, indicating that, according to the unofficial results for the Special Election held on February 13, 2024, the Honorable Thomas R. Suozzi was elected for Representative to Congress for the Third Congressional District of New York.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

NEW YORK STATE
BOARD OF ELECTIONS,
February 14, 2024.

Hon. KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. MCCUMBER: This is to advise you that the unofficial results of the Special Election held on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, for Representative in Congress from the Third Congressional District of New York, show that Thomas R. Suozzi received 91,338 or 53.70% of the total number of votes cast for that office.

It would appear from these unofficial results that Thomas R. Suozzi was elected as Representative in Congress from the Third Congressional District of New York.

To the best of our knowledge and belief at this time, there is no contest to this election.

As soon as the official results are certified to this office by the New York City Board of Elections and the Nassau County Board of Elections, representing all jurisdictions involved, an official Certificate of Election will be prepared for transmittal as required by law.

Sincerely,

KRISTEN ZEBROWSKI
STAVISKY,
Co-Executive Director.
RAYMOND J. RILEY III,
Co-Executive Director.

SWEARING IN OF THE HONORABLE THOMAS R. SUOZZI OF NEW YORK, AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from New York, the Honorable THOMAS R. SUOZZI, be permitted to take the oath of office today.

His certificate of election has not arrived, but there is no contest and no question has been raised with regard to his election.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Will the Representative-elect and the members of the New York delegation present themselves in the well.

All Members will rise and the Representative-elect will please raise his right hand.

Mr. SUOZZI appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter, so help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 118th Congress.

WELCOMING THE HONORABLE
THOMAS R. SUOZZI TO THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, as dean of the New York delegation, it is my distinct honor to rise today to welcome my good friend Congressman TOM SUOZZI back to the people's House.

The people of New York's Third Congressional District have elected a Representative with the experience, character, and commitment to solve problems confronting everyday Americans and deliver for his constituents.

TOM is also a great family man. He is a devoted father, husband, and public servant who upholds the values instilled in him by his family. He has devoted most of his adult life to public service: first as the mayor of his hometown, Glen Cove, for 8 years; then as the county executive of Nassau County for 8 years, before serving as a United States Congressman for 6 years.

From working tirelessly to secure investments for the Northport VA Medical Center in Long Island to helping secure billions in Federal support for New York in pandemic relief and infrastructure funding, TOM's outstanding record in Congress speaks for itself.

TOM loves New York, he loves his country, and his love for public service runs deep. He is the kind of person we need serving in this House at this moment, and it gives me great pleasure to reintroduce him as our colleague, the gentleman from New York, TOM SUOZZI.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to Mr. SUOZZI.

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, I thank JERRY and the New York delegation, all my colleagues, and my friends and supporters who are here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I never thought I would be back here, but the Lord works in mysterious ways, and God made a way when there was no way.

I thank God for blessing me with this great responsibility, and I thank God for my best friend and partner for 30 years, my wife, Helene. She hates that.

Mr. Speaker, on the night of my election victory, I promised the people of Long Island and Queens I would deliver a simple message to this Chamber: Wake up. The people are sick and tired of the finger-pointing and the petty partisan bickering. They want us to work together.

They want you guys to work together, too. What are you doing? You are supposed to be clapping for that.

Mr. Speaker, I know there are so many good people in this Chamber on both sides of the aisle, but people are worried about the cost of living; they are worried about the chaos at the border; they are worried about Israel, Gaza, and Ukraine.

They look to Congress, and what do they see? The extremists get all the attention. We are letting ourselves be bullied by our base. We aren't getting anything done. We need less chaos and more common sense.

The last few months, I have talked with Democrats, Republicans, and Independents, and they all ask the same thing: What about me? What are you doing for me? Enough with the theater and the drama, enough with the hyperbole and the histrionics, enough with the shutdowns and the put-downs.

The people aren't paying us to make things worse. The people pay us to be in the solutions business.

Mr. Speaker, you and I came to Congress together in 2017. I remember when you founded the Honor and Civility Caucus. You said at the time it was to restore collegiality and encourage productive dialogue. Sign me up. Sign me up right away. Mr. Speaker, I know you believe in collegiality and productive dialogue. We need more of that and less of the hot air fanning the flames of anger that happens much too often in our country these days.

Mr. Speaker, after my recent election you said something I must gently take exception to. You said: TOM SUOZZI ran like a Republican. Now, I know you meant that as a compliment. Let me be clear. Mr. Speaker, I am a true blue, dyed-in-the-wool Democrat; but more important, like you, Mr. Speaker, and the men and women in this Chamber, I am a true blue, dyed-in-the-wool American.

Like any patriot of the greatest country on Earth, I am willing to compromise to try and solve problems like the chaos at the border. The bipartisan Senate bill doesn't have everything I wanted. I believe that Dreamers and TPS recipients should be granted a pathway to citizenship, and millions of others should have a path to legalization, but I will support a bipartisan compromise.

□ 1915

To not do so will keep the border open, will endanger peace in Israel, and will empower Vladimir Putin.

I know compromise is hard in this town, Mr. Speaker, but bring a bipartisan compromise to the floor, and I guarantee it will pass.

All of the issues we face in this country are complicated, every single one of them, and you can't solve anything in an environment of fear and anger. We can't fix them with a tweet or a press conference or even a speech.

I know many of you in this Chamber. I know a whole lot of you. You are in-

spired to do this work because of the command: Love thy neighbor. Let's actually do that. Let's do the hard work and get back to the solutions business.

Sadly, many of the people in America believe Democrats and Republicans can't work together. They have told me, Tom, wake up. You have to face the real world.

The real world is not something we must simply face. The real world is something that we as free men and women actively create. We make the real world.

I love this country. My father came here from Italy as a young boy, was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross during World War II, and went to Harvard Law School on the GI Bill.

It is hard to imagine today, but he faced rampant discrimination as an Italian immigrant, and no one would hire him, even though he went to Harvard, so he started his own law firm.

At 28 years old, he ran for city court judge and became the youngest judge in the history of New York State. What a country.

My father lived a great American success story like many of the stories in this room, and I will do everything I can to honor my father's legacy. More importantly, I will do everything I can to honor this Nation's legacy.

We all know what politics has become. Let's think about what it could be. While I may be the only one being sworn in today, what if we all see this as a fresh start?

What if we all took this chance to break some of our bad habits? What if today we remembered why we ran for office in the first place? Let's get back into the solutions business.

God bless the men and women of this Chamber. God bless the important work we do. God bless the United States of America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the administration of the oath of office to the gentleman from New York, the whole number of the House is 432.

D.C. ROBERT F. KENNEDY MEMORIAL STADIUM CAMPUS REVITALIZATION ACT

The SPEAKER. 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. 4984) to amend the District of Columbia Stadium Act of 1957 to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus to the Administrator of General Services and the leasing of the Campus to the District of Columbia for purposes which include commercial and residential development, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY) 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 348, nays 55, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 56]

YEAS—348

Adams	Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)
Aderholt	Dingell	Khanna
Aguilar	Doggett	Kigans (VA)
Alford	Donalds	Kildee
Allen	Duarte	Kiley
Allred	Duncan	Kilmer
Amo	Dunn (FL)	Kim (CA)
Amodei	Edwards	Kim (NJ)
Armstrong	Ellzey	Krishnamoorthi
Arrington	Emmer	Kustoff
Auchincloss	Escobar	LaHood
Bacon	Eshoo	LaLota
Baird	Espallat	Landsman
Balderson	Estes	Langworthy
Balint	Evans	Larsen (WA)
Banks	Ezell	Larson (CT)
Barr	Fallon	Latta
Barragán	Feenstra	LaTurner
Beatty	Ferguson	Lawler
Bentz	Finstad	Lee (CA)
Bera	Fischbach	Lee (FL)
Bergman	Fitzgerald	Lee (NV)
Beyer	Fitzpatrick	Lee (PA)
Bice	Fleischmann	Leger Fernandez
Bishop (GA)	Fletcher	Lesko
Blumenauer	Flood	Letlow
Blunt Rochester	Foster	Levin
Bonamici	Foushee	Lieu
Bost	Fox	Lofgren
Bowman	Frankel, Lois	Loudermilk
Brown	Franklin, Scott	Luetkemeyer
Brownley	Frost	Luttrell
Buchanan	Fulcher	Lynch
Budzinski	Gallagher	Mace
Burgess	Gallego	Magaziner
Bush	Garamendi	Malliotakis
Calvert	Garbarino	Maloy
Caraveo	Garcia (IL)	Mann
Carbajal	Garcia (TX)	Manning
Cárdenas	Garcia, Mike	Matsui
Carey	Garcia, Robert	McBath
Carl	Gimenez	McCaul
Carson	Golden (ME)	McClain
Carter (GA)	Gomez	McClellan
Carter (LA)	Gonzales, Tony	McClintock
Cartwright	Gonzalez,	McCormick
Casas	Vicente	McGarvey
Case	Gottheimer	McGovern
Casten	Graves (LA)	Meeks
Castor (FL)	Graves (MO)	Menendez
Castro (TX)	Green (TN)	Meng
Chavez-DeRemer	Green, Al (TX)	Meuser
Cherfilus-	Guthrie	Miller (WV)
McCormick	Hageman	Miller-Meeeks
Chu	Harder (CA)	Molinaro
Ciscomani	Hayes	Moolenaar
Clark (MA)	Hern	Mooney
Clarke (NY)	Hill	Moore (UT)
Cleaver	Himes	Moore (WI)
Cloud	Hinson	Moran
Clyburn	Horsford	Morelle
Cohen	Houchin	Moskowitz
Cole	Houlahan	Moulton
Collins	Hoyle (OR)	Mrvan
Comer	Hudson	Mullin
Connolly	Huffman	Nadler
Correa	Huizenga	Napolitano
Costa	Issa	Neal
Courtney	Jackson (IL)	Neguse
Crawford	Jackson (NC)	Newhouse
Crenshaw	Jacobs	Nickel
Crockett	James	Norcross
Crow	Jayapal	Nunn (IA)
Cuellar	Jeffries	Oberholte
D'Esposito	Johnson (GA)	Ocasio-Cortez
David (KS)	Johnson (SD)	Omar
Davis (IL)	Joyce (OH)	Owens
Davis (NC)	Joyce (PA)	Pallone
Dean (PA)	Kamlager-Dove	Palmer
DeGette	Kaptur	Panetta
DeLauro	Kean (NJ)	Pappas
DelBene	Keating	Pascarell
Deluzio	Kelly (IL)	Payne
DeSaulnier	Kelly (MS)	

Pelosi	Scott, David	Timmons
Peltola	Sessions	Titus
Pence	Sewell	Tlaib
Perez	Sherman	Tokuda
Peters	Sherrill	Tonko
Pettersen	Simpson	Torres (CA)
Pfleger	Slotkin	Torres (NY)
Pingree	Smith (MO)	Trahan
Pocan	Smith (NE)	Turner
Porter	Smith (NJ)	Underwood
Pressley	Smith (WA)	Valadao
Quigley	Smucker	Van Drew
Ramirez	Sorensen	Van Deyne
Reschenthaler	Soto	Van Orden
Rodgers (WA)	Spanberger	Vargas
Ross	Stansbury	Vasquez
Rouzer	Stanton	Veasey
Ruiz	Staub	Velázquez
Rutherford	Steel	Wagner
Ryan	Stefanik	Walberg
Salazar	Steil	Wasserman
Salinas	Stevens	Schultz
Sánchez	Strickland	Waters
Scalise	Strong	Watson Coleman
Scanlon	Suozzi	Webster (FL)
Schakowsky	Swalwell	Wenstrup
Schiff	Sykes	Westerman
Schneider	Takano	Williams (GA)
Scholten	Tenney	Williams (NY)
Schrier	Thanedar	Williams (TX)
Schweikert	Thompson (CA)	Wilson (FL)
Scott (VA)	Thompson (MS)	Womack
Scott, Austin	Tiffany	Yakym

NAYS—55

Babin	Greene (GA)	Nehls
Bean (FL)	Griffith	Norman
Biggs	Grothman	Ogles
Boebert	Guest	Perry
Brecheen	Harris	Posey
Buck	Harshbarger	Rose
Burchett	Higgins (LA)	Rosendale
Burlison	Hoyer	Roy
Cammack	Ivey	Ruppersberger
Carter (TX)	Jordan	Sarbanes
Cline	LaMalfa	Self
Clyde	Luna	Spartz
Crane	Massie	Steube
Davidson	Mast	Thompson (PA)
DesJarlais	Mtume	Trone
Fry	Miller (IL)	Wilson (SC)
Gaetz	Miller (OH)	Wittman
Good (VA)	Mills	
Gooden (TX)	Moore (AL)	

NOT VOTING—28

Bilirakis	Grijalva	Raskin
Bishop (NC)	Hunt	Rogers (AL)
Boyle (PA)	Jackson (TX)	Rogers (KY)
Bucshon	Jackson Lee	Waltz
Craig	Lamborn	Weber (TX)
Curtis	Lucas	Weston
De La Cruz	McCollum	Wild
Goldman (NY)	McHenry	Zinke
Gosar	Murphy	
Granger	Phillips	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MORAN) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1923

Messrs. WILSON of South Carolina and BABIN changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. DONALDS changed his 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.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to transfer administrative jurisdiction over the Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Stadium Campus to the District of Columbia so that the District may use the Campus for purposes including residential and commercial development, and for other purposes.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 56.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. WEXTON. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was not able to be present to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 55 and “yea” on rollcall No. 56.

HONORING LAKEN HOPE RILEY

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, we, the Georgia delegation, rise tonight to honor the life and legacy of Laken Riley, who was murdered last week in Athens, Georgia, on the campus of the University of Georgia.

Allow me to share a few words about Laken directly from her parents:

Laken was an amazing daughter, sister, and friend.

She was selfless, lived to be an example for others, and was a dedicated servant of her community from a young age.

Laken’s servant heart came from her love for our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, who guided her steps and shaped the way she lived.

Her faith informed her decision to enter the nursing program at Augusta University where she joined the A Chi O sorority and made countless friends who loved her and miss her dearly.

I will conclude with this message to Laken from her mom and dad: “Rest in peace, our angel. We look forward to seeing you again one day in heaven. Until then, we will do our best to make you proud.”

God help us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LOUDERMILK).

Mr. LOUDERMILK. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for taking this moment to recognize the life of Laken Hope Riley.

Mr. Speaker, parents and communities across the State of Georgia are extremely shocked, heartbroken, and outraged about the murder of Laken Hope Riley.

She was only 22 years old. She had a lot of life before her, but we should also focus mostly on the life and the legacy that she lived in her short time here.

She was a nursing student from Woodstock, Georgia, but her tragic death has devastated our community and sent shock waves across the State. Our prayers are with Laken’s family and friends as they begin to navigate this tremendously difficult time.

It is clear from her parents that Laken was a special young lady who went out of her way to make everyone feel special and part of her family.

She was a gifted and exemplary student, a talented athlete, and the light of her family and community. Her parents describe her character and her loving nature this way:

She knew when to listen. She knew when to speak. She knew when to give you some tough love, and she knew when you needed a hug.

She will forever be our loving oldest daughter and the best big sister and role model a parent could ask for.

We will not rest until we ensure justice for her and her family.

Colleagues, will you please join in a moment of silence for Laken Hope Riley, a wonderful young woman taken from her family and this world much too soon.

□ 1930

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL IN THE CAPITOL VISITOR CENTER FOR A CEREMONY AS PART OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on House Administration be discharged from further consideration of H. Con. Res. 89, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 89

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR A CEREMONY AS PART OF THE COMMEMORATION OF THE DAYS OF REMEMBRANCE OF VICTIMS OF THE HOLOCAUST.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used on May 7, 2024, for a ceremony as part of the commemoration of the days of remembrance of victims of the Holocaust.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as the Architect of the Capitol may prescribe.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 7056

Ms. LUNA. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 7056.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is granted.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 7298

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 7298.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is granted.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 1634

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 1634, a bill originally introduced by Representative JOHNSON of Ohio, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprints pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING PRIVATE CHARLES D. STALEY

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Private Charles D. Staley, an American hero who served during the Korean war.

Private Staley was born in Knoxville, Tennessee, and moved to Blount County in the sixth grade. His family owned and operated Maryville Monument, which played a large role in placing many veterans' headstones and markers throughout the county.

Private Staley was also drafted in the Army on May 11, 1953. He served his country with honor and an unflinching sense of duty as a military policeman at Fort Jackson.

Private Staley volunteered for overseas duty in March 1954 where he served behind the Iron Curtain during the Berlin Crisis. He was discharged from the Army on April 30, 1955.

He then served as the Blount County veterans service officer for 30 years. During that time, Private Staley demonstrated incredible professionalism and integrity. He has won the respect and admiration of his colleagues, his fellow veterans, and people all over our community.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize Private Charles Staley as the Tennessee Second District's February 2024 Veteran of the Month.

REPUBLICANS' FAILED FOCUS

(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 discuss the continued Republican leadership crisis.

Here we go again—2 days away from a government shutdown due to a lack of funding. Republican leadership is so poor that it can only achieve stopgap funding measures. There is no long-term solution because MAGA Republicans have no long-term goals.

They have no long-term goals because there is no long-term vision to better the country. They do not see

how a lack of humanitarian care for innocent Palestinian families causes more instability and extremism in the Middle East.

They do not understand how a lack of funding for Ukraine creates more political and economic instability across the globe. They deny that their rejection of an incredibly popular border security bill allows more fentanyl and illegal drugs to threaten American communities. They do not see because they do not care.

BIDEN'S BORDER CRISIS

(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, since Biden took office, there have been nearly 10 million illegal aliens entering America, with over 340 on the terrorist watch list. Sadly, this includes thousands of unaccompanied military-aged young men from dictatorships, as confirmed last night by Senator MARCO RUBIO with Sean Hannity.

Last month, I joined Speaker MIKE JOHNSON at Eagle Pass, Texas, and witnessed the madness. It is intentional irresponsibility thinking potential mass murderers will be low-information voters for a permanent, one-party Democrat, Big Government, as violent criminals cross to murder more Americans on our streets.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism moves from the Afghanistan safe haven to America.

We do not need new border laws. We need to enforce the laws that we have. Biden safely opened borders for dictators as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent, as warned by the FBI.

War criminal Putin will face trial for the assassination of Alexei Navalny. His widow, Yulia, is a hero for the oppressed people of Russia.

VISIT TO WAR-TORN UKRAINE

(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, as a result of intense fighting on the front line, a Ukrainian soldier's leg was blown off. However, he lived to share his story with me. He now uses a prosthetic leg to stand.

February 24 marked 2 years that Ukraine has successfully resisted Russia's unprovoked invasion.

During my recent visit to war-torn Ukraine, I witnessed the undeniable resilience of its people. While Ukrainian soldiers have given so much, including life and limbs, much like this soldier, we must not ignore their urgent plea for assistance to finish the fight.

Democracies around the world look to us, and the eyes of the world are on

us, including Putin's. Ukrainians are fighting tirelessly on the front lines, not just for their nation, but for democracy.

Mr. Speaker, in the face of these threats, the time to act is now.

CONGRATULATING MARK BURNS ON RECEIVING LIFETIME AVIATION INDUSTRY LEADER AWARD

(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 to congratulate Mark Burns, who recently received the Lifetime Aviation Industry Leader Award.

The Living Legends of Aviation Awards was founded in 2003 by the Kiddie Hawk Air Academy to recognize notable individuals who contributed to the aviation industry.

Prior to being named Gulfstream Aerospace Corporation's president in July of 2015, Burns worked in various areas spanning the company, including engineering and customer support. While president, Burns has guided Gulfstream during a time of rapid growth, innovation, and investment.

Additionally, Burns sits on the board of directors for the General Aviation Manufacturers Association, Georgia Power, and the Corporate Angel. He is a board member of the National Air and Space Museum, and he is a member of the National Committee for the Performing Arts, amongst others.

Burns is also a proud alumnus of Georgia Southern University, where he received his bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering, and from there, built a career worth applause and appreciation by Georgia residents.

Congratulations, Mark.

ATTACKS ON REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

(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, after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, we knew extreme MAGA Republicans wouldn't stop with attacking abortion rights. We knew they would come for birth control.

I introduced the Right to Contraception Act to codify the right to use all forms of FDA-approved birth control.

We also knew they would come for IVF. Last week, the Alabama Supreme Court decided frozen embryos are children, forcing clinics in Alabama to stop IVF treatments.

Republicans are now scrambling to claim they support contraception and IVF. Actions speak louder than words.

Mr. Speaker, 195 House Republicans voted against my bill to protect the right to contraception, and over 120 Republicans cosponsored the Life at Conception Act, a bill that uses the same reasoning as the Alabama court, that

includes no protection for IVF or birth control, and would decimate IVF and abortion access nationwide.

Earlier today, Senate Republicans blocked a bill to protect the right to access IVF. They don't care about protecting reproductive rights, they care about controlling women's bodies.

RECOGNIZING COMMAND SERGEANT CORY M. BELL

(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 a Pennsylvania 15th District native, Command Sergeant Cory M. Bell for his service to the United States of America.

Command Sergeant Bell is retiring as a master sergeant after 24 years of serving in the United States Army. He was raised in Eldred, McKean County, Pennsylvania. He enlisted in the Army on August 24, 2000.

After completing his One Station Unit Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, he became a 12B combat engineer. Over the next 24 years, Command Sergeant Bell's service took him around the United States and the world in a variety of posts and positions. He is currently serving in the 3-393rd Brigade Engineer Battalion at Fort Cavazos, Texas.

Regardless of location, Command Sergeant Bell consistently provided leadership and guidance to his fellow soldiers.

Following his retirement, he will return to Kane, Pennsylvania, with his loving wife, Kristen, and three daughters.

Mr. Speaker, we owe Command Sergeant Bell a sincere debt of gratitude for his sacrifice, dedication, and courage to our country. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we thank him for his service to the United States of America. His dedication to our country is admirable. Enjoy retirement, you deserve it.

CRIMINALIZING REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, recently Speaker JOHNSON and most House Republicans cosponsored a bill that could ban IVF nationwide and criminalize reproductive healthcare. The Alabama Supreme Court's anti-IVF ruling is consistent with these extreme attempts to steal women's freedom to decide when, how, and if to have a family.

Trump and the MAGA extremists want a Federal abortion ban. Packing the Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade wasn't enough for them. Every State law and constitutional amend-

ment protecting women's reproductive freedoms from New Mexico to Kansas to Ohio could be overturned if Donald Trump and Republicans win in 2024.

Criminalizing pregnancies, outlawing IVF and birth control, and forcing pregnancies on children who have been raped—that is the nightmare we face unless women and those that love them act now to defeat this extremism. Women need healthcare, not handcuffs.

□ 1945

UNLEASHING FULL POTENTIAL OF DOMESTIC NUCLEAR ENERGY

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, nuclear energy development has made tremendous strides to become one of the most carbon-free, safe, and reliable sources of energy.

Beyond powering cities, the nuclear industry provides jobs to Americans and fuels the economy. For example, the Idaho National Laboratory, in my home State of Idaho, is a major economic driver, bringing an economic impact of nearly \$4 billion just last year.

The Atomic Energy Advancement Act provides a clear pathway for industry leaders such as INL to continue the production of affordable and sustainable energy by removing barriers that hinder the development of nuclear power, unleashing the full potential of our domestic nuclear energy, and taking away the need to rely on foreign adversaries.

This legislation will streamline the licensing process, accelerate the development of nuclear power, and expedite the regulatory process for advanced reactors while building the nuclear workforce at the NRC.

For this and many other reasons, I voted in support of H.R. 6544 to bolster our energy security and drive innovation through the atomic energy industry.

HONORING TOM SKILLING

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

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, as the only meteorologist in Congress, I rise today to honor one of the best in the history of local television: Tom Skilling of Chicago's Very Own WGN-TV. He retires tonight after 45 years in Chicago, tracking storms, blizzards, and tornadoes.

It wasn't just being a trusted resource on television. He mentored hundreds of interns, setting the bar high for generations of local meteorologists now serving all over the country.

For more than 20 years, I have known Tom to be a man of intense character with no limitation to his focus on perfecting the craft of analyzing, forecasting, and communicating.

I would not be standing here today without him sharing the belief that we are all just neighbors to one another, experiencing the same crazy weather together.

As the kids say, he is the GOAT. I am so proud to stand here and wish my friend the best in his retirement. He is the greatest.

RECOGNIZING JOHN MURPHY

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize an individual who has been a beacon of service and steadfast advocate for those in need, John Murphy.

John's service began in the Marine Corps before he ran for county legislature and served there for over 40 years.

John has also committed himself to helping veterans and the developmentally disabled community, serving on the board of Camp Venture in support of the Venture Foundation for over 40 years, as well.

His work in this space led to many services being provided for the IDD community in the Hudson Valley, and his efforts remind us that the true measure of a society is found in how it treats its most vulnerable members.

In late 2023, John's other venture, Homes for Heroes, unveiled its new Phase II residences at Camp Shanks. This organization, headed by John, houses homeless veterans, something all of us in this body must continue to focus on.

I applaud John Murphy, a true hero for heroes, for his decades of service and his undying commitment to improving lives.

His legacy is built on the lives he has changed and the futures he has secured. I thank him for his service.

BORDER FUNDING TIED TO UKRAINE FUNDING

(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, in Ukraine, the real battle for liberty grinds on. Vladimir Putin dines on caviar while Speaker JOHNSON and his majority House Conference paralyze our Nation. They refuse to bring up the Senate aid bill to provide Ukraine ammunition.

The Speaker pretends Congress won't fix our southern border so we shouldn't arm Ukraine's freedom fighters. Fixing our southern border requires Congress to vote for the funds to secure it, yet the Speaker refuses to bring up border funding while Ukraine's soldiers face the third largest military in the world.

Courageous freedom champion Alexei Navalny was tortured and imprisoned by Putin because he wanted a free nation. He was killed in a bitter, frigid, arctic prison colony.

What an awesome, heroic son of liberty for the future of his countrymen and -women. He died for liberty.

Meanwhile, this House is paralyzed. For shame. History will render harsh judgments against those elected officials who do not stand up for liberty at its time of severe testing on a continent where 500,000 American soldiers died in the last century so that our generation could be free.

The Speaker should bring up the Senate bill. Stand tall for liberty. Don't shrink from it.

HONORING JACK BODNER

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

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of an extraordinary serviceman from my district, my hometown, Jack "Pop-Eye" Bodner, who passed away at the age of 102 years old.

Mr. Speaker, Jack was a well-accomplished member of the United States Navy, having earned the European Theater Medal with four stars, the Good Conduct Medal, and the World War II Victory Medal.

Three years ago, our office had the honor to present Jack with his Combat Action Ribbon for his courageous service during World War II.

Jack enlisted with the U.S. Navy shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor. He served our Nation across the globe. He was involved in several military operations, such as the Battle of Gela, the landing in Salerno, Italy, and the landing at Omaha Beach on D-Day in a U.S. amphibious landing craft.

Mr. Speaker, his service abroad garnered him the status of knight within the Legion of Honour, the highest decoration given by the Honorary Consul of France, in recognition of his contribution to the liberation of France.

May Jack Bodner's memory inspire all of us to strive toward courage and remind us of the heroes living amongst us. May God bless him and his family.

HONORING CALE YARBOROUGH

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

Mr. FRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Timmonsville, South Carolina, native and American legend Cale Yarborough.

The NASCAR Hall of Famer started racing in Darlington at the soapbox derby. From there, he went on to win 83 cup races and became the sport's first driver to win three consecutive championships.

Cale's legacy is reflected not only in his record-breaking career but also his role in popularizing NASCAR. When Cale Yarborough was racing, America was watching.

Following his decorated career, Cale bought and operated a racing team of

his own. He also served the Pee Dee community in South Carolina on the Florence County Council.

We mourn the loss of a true legend, but we remember and celebrate a life that was well lived.

SERIOUS DEBATE ON IMMIGRATION

(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, sometime in the next month, there is going to finally be a serious debate on the number of people streaming across our border. It may be over an appropriations bill. It may be over an aid bill to Ukraine. There are going to be a lot of people who say there are other issues more important than this and to just wait a little longer to solve the problem at the border.

We have waited for 3 years to do something at the border as the Biden administration has watched the number of people who crossed the border every month go from 10,000 to 20,000 to 370,000 people. That is unacceptable.

We had testimony in my subcommittee last week that the people who are coming across the border are 3½ to 4 times as likely to commit a crime as the native-born, and we saw tragedy in Atlanta just on that topic.

We know very well, if you talk to people, that all of these people streaming across here have to live somewhere and are partly responsible for the increase in rental costs that we have across our country.

We don't want to shut down the government, and we don't want to say no more aid to Ukraine, but we have no choice. If it is not now, when? We have waited 3 years.

DIRECT VICTIMS OF BIDEN BORDER POLICY

(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, indeed, a very somber thought is that we have three young ladies who are direct victims of the wide-open Biden border policy. They are not getting much notoriety for that. They are not getting talked about a whole lot.

Kayla Hamilton, 1½ years ago, was taken by an illegal immigrant in this country. Lizbeth Medina, just this last December, was taken by somebody who had overstayed their visa and was here illegally. Now, most recently, Laken Riley, who we are starting to hear about a little bit, was taken by an illegal immigrant just a few days ago.

All of this is at the hands of the Biden border policy, which is endangering our citizens and causing them to lose their lives. What are we going to do about this? What are people doing? Are there protests out there? Are there

marches? Is there national outrage? Is there national media coverage?

I guess we are trying to do that here a little bit tonight because the media seems to not want to report this. They want to report other things. They don't seem to care about this issue that is affecting Americans so negatively.

Laken, Lizbeth, and Kayla are not forgotten. We are going to fix this border. These are not migrants. This is an illegal immigrant invasion hurting Americans.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

OATH OF OFFICE MEMBERS, RESIDENT COMMISSIONER, AND DELEGATES

The oath of office required by the sixth article of the Constitution of the United States, and as provided by section 2 of the act of May 13, 1884 (23 Stat. 22), to be administered to Members, Resident Commissioner, and Delegates of the House of Representatives, the text of which is carried in 5 U.S.C. 3331:

"I, AB, do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that I will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that I take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that I will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which I am about to enter. So help me God."

has been subscribed to in person and filed in duplicate with the Clerk of the House of Representatives by the following Member of the 118th Congress, pursuant to the provisions of 2 U.S.C. 25:

THOMAS R. SUOZZI, Third District of New York.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3247. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-395, "Certificate of Assurance Moratorium Second Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3248. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-396, "Medical Cannabis Program Enforcement Temporary Amendment Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3249. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-397, "School Improvement Temporary Amendment Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3250. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-398, "Protecting Adjacent and Adjoining Property Owners from Construction Damage Temporary Amendment Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3251. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-399, "Housing in Downtown Tax Abatement Temporary Amendment Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3252. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting D.C. Act 25-400, "Protecting Consumers from Unjust Debt Collection Practices Technical Clarification Temporary Amendment Act of 2024", pursuant to Public Law 93-198, Sec. 602(c)(1); (87 Stat. 814); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3253. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Management of Customs Ports of Entry and Customs Stations (RIN: 1651-AB44) received February 7, 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.

EC-3254. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General of the Intelligence Community, transmitting the biennial "Joint Report on the Implementation of the Cybersecurity Information Sharing Act of 2015", pursuant to 6 U.S.C. 1506(b)(1); Public Law 114-113, Sec. 107(b)(1); (129 Stat. 2952); to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

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 Ms. GRANGER:

H.R. 7463. A bill making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 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. YAKYM:

H.R. 7464. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for access standards with respect to the provision by the Department of Veterans Affairs of hospital care, medical services, or extended care services that are applicable to certain veterans with mental disorders; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. BICE (for herself, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. TORRES of New York):

H.R. 7465. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to index dependant care assistance programs to inflation; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 7466. A bill to amend the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1946 to reduce the

rates of pay of Members of Congress during a fiscal year if Congress has not agreed to a concurrent resolution on the budget for such fiscal year, to repeal the automatic appropriation of funds for the salaries of Members of Congress, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, 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. CISCOMANI (for himself and Ms. SHERRILL):

H.R. 7467. A bill to amend the Head Start Act to permit some teachers in Early Head Start programs to teach while earning a child development associate credential; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SELF, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. NEHLS, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. HUNT, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. MORAN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. BABIN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. FALLON, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. ROY, Mr. ELLZEY, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. VEASEY, and Ms. GRANGER):

H.R. 7468. A bill to ensure that United States diplomats and officials of the U.S. Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission are able to advance efforts seeking compliance by the United Mexican States with the 1944 Treaty on Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. SCANLON):

H.R. 7469. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 28 East Airy Street in Norristown, Pennsylvania, as the "Charles L. Blockson Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. DUNN of Florida (for himself, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. VASQUEZ, and Mr. GIMENEZ):

H.R. 7470. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat spaceports like airports for purposes of exempt facility bond rules; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 7471. A bill to provide firearm licenses an opportunity to correct statutory and regulatory violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself and Mr. BARR):

H.R. 7472. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 835 South 7th Street in Louisville, Kentucky, as the "Alberta Odell Jones Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. THANEDAR, Mrs. FOUSHEE, and Mr. CASTRO of Texas):

H.R. 7473. A bill to ensure continued appropriations for certain Small Business Administration programs during a Government shutdown in fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. IVEY, Mr. MFUME, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. SARBANES):

H.R. 7474. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to remove the Robert E. Lee Monument at Antietam National Battlefield, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. VAN DUYNNE:

H.R. 7475. A bill to require the GAO to conduct a study detailing the total cost of unused construction materials that were obtained for the construction of a border wall along the United States-Mexico border; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H. Res. 1033. A resolution expressing support for the designation of February 28, 2024, as Community Arts Education Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

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 Ms. GRANGER:

H.R. 7463.

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 further continuing appropriations.

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 7464.

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:

This legislation would decrease the VA community care access standards for mental healthcare to five days for veterans that are over 50 percent disabled for a mental health disorder.

By Mrs. BICE:

H.R. 7465.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

Modifying an existing provision in the Tax Code.

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 7466.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To reduce the pay of Members of Congress during a fiscal year if Congress fails to pass a budget for such fiscal year, and to repeal the automatic appropriation of funds for the salaries of Members of Congress.

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 7467.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Change requirements for Head Start teachers

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 7468.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Seeking water deliveries by Mexico.

By Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 7469.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:
Post Office naming

By Mr. DUNN of Florida:

H.R. 7470.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill will add spaceports to the Internal Revenue Code to ensure that local government investment in spaceports qualify as approved activities for municipal revenue bonds.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 7471.

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 provide firearm licensees an opportunity to correct statutory and regulatory violations, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MCGARVEY:

H.R. 7472.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Post Office

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 7473.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Small Business

By Mr. TRONE:

H.R. 7474.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To remove the Robert E. Lee Monument from Antietam National Battlefield

By Ms. VAN DUYNNE:

H.R. 7475.

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 the GAO to conduct a study detailing the total cost of unused construction materials that were obtained for the construction of a border wall along the United States-Mexico border.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 148: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 233: Ms. FOX.

H.R. 273: Mr. WITTMAN.

H.R. 307: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 354: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 470: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 543: Ms. SALINAS and Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 544: Mrs. TRAHAN and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 620: Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.

H.R. 661: Mr. MCCLINTOCK and Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 669: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 681: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 703: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 705: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 789: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 856: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 866: Ms. SALINAS and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 871: Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 880: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 884: Ms. PEREZ.

H.R. 894: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 926: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 936: Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 972: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 1002: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1008: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 1097: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HIMES, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. MANNING, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. VAN DUYNNE, and Mr. FEENSTRA.

H.R. 1117: Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 1179: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 1194: Mr. DUARTE.

H.R. 1199: Ms. ROSS and Mr. BALDERSON.

H.R. 1235: Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 1247: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 1255: Ms. TITUS and Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 1310: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 1315: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1359: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 1641: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 1697: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1699: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 1744: Mr. MAGAZINER and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 1770: Mr. SWALWELL and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 1788: Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. PORTER, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 1797: Mr. MEEKS and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 1833: Ms. ADAMS and Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 2381: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 2389: Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 2401: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 2413: Ms. DELBENE, Mr. POSEY, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 2447: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 2451: Mrs. HINSON.

H.R. 2630: Ms. MENG and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 2666: Ms. CARAVEO.

H.R. 2695: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 2708: Mr. IVEY and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 2756: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 2768: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 2827: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 2871: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 2909: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 3038: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 3039: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 3161: Mr. GROTHMAN.

H.R. 3199: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 3220: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 3269: Ms. VAN DUYNNE.

H.R. 3396: Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 3413: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 3433: Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.

H.R. 3435: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 3497: Ms. MALOY.

H.R. 3507: Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. SCHOLTEN, and Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 3538: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 3611: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 3646: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 3651: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 3654: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 3659: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 3730: Mr. BAIRD.

- H.R. 3811: Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 3852: Mr. MILLS.
H.R. 3916: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4031: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 4104: Mrs. STEEL.
H.R. 4138: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 4167: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.
H.R. 4184: Mr. RASKIN, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 4261: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 4273: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 4274: Ms. PORTER, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 4285: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 4315: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 4322: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 4333: Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4335: Mr. FLEISCHMANN and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.
H.R. 4340: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. POCAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. BUSH, Mr. TONKO, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. NADLER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. BEATTY, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. RYAN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. DELUZZIO, and Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 4343: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 4392: Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 4530: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 4583: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4602: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 4603: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4611: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 4663: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 4713: Mr. SABLAN and Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4721: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 4745: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
H.R. 4758: Mr. CAREY, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 4769: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 4818: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 4845: Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 4906: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 4972: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 4974: Ms. OMAR and Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 5008: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 5030: Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
H.R. 5064: Ms. MENG.
H.R. 5097: Mr. HOYER.
H.R. 5127: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 5159: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 5251: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 5256: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 5266: Mr. MOLINARO and Mr. DUNN of Florida.
H.R. 5353: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 5361: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 5403: Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mrs. BICE, Mr. FRY, Mr. BANKS, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. COLE, Mr. STRONG, and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 5456: Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 5463: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 5530: Mr. KILMER, Mr. MCCORMICK, and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
H.R. 5532: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 5535: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 5566: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 5601: Ms. MCCLELLAN and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 5611: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 5668: Mr. COSTA.
H.R. 5685: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 5717: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H.R. 5720: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 5728: Ms. NORTON, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 5799: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H.R. 5842: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 5851: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 5864: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 5909: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 5957: Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 5989: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 6031: Ms. LEE of California.
H.R. 6046: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 6049: Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 6089: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 6094: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 6202: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6203: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 6319: Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. PORTER, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. THANEDAR, and Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 6361: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
H.R. 6405: Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. THANEDAR, and Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 6414: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6416: Ms. WILD.
H.R. 6417: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 6425: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 6438: Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 6446: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6451: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. RASKIN.
H.R. 6455: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 6470: Mr. ALLRED, Mr. MORELLE, and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 6487: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 6515: Mr. BEYER and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 6542: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York and Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 6555: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 6592: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 6598: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 6600: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 6610: Mr. ALLRED and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.
H.R. 6654: Mr. FROST and Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 6720: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6744: Mr. BARR.
H.R. 6756: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 6770: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 6780: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 6805: Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 6831: Mr. SELF and Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 6832: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 6880: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 6887: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 6892: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 6938: Ms. BALINT and Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 6951: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 6952: Mr. GUTHRIE and Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 6963: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 6981: Ms. SCANLON.
H.R. 7037: Mr. FITZGERALD and Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 7039: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 7056: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BERA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. MENG, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LIEU, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. DELUZZIO, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. BROWN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. BALINT, Mr. RYAN, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 7108: Ms. SLOTKIN and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 7109: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
H.R. 7127: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 7131: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. WOMACK.
H.R. 7137: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 7143: Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 7156: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 7171: Mr. BURGESS and Mr. BUCK.
H.R. 7185: Mr. HARDER of California and Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 7203: Mr. KILMER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 7204: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 7218: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. KHANNA.
H.R. 7231: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 7244: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 7249: Mr. NORMAN and Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 7288: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MENG, Mr. DUARTE, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. MENENDEZ.
H.R. 7296: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 7297: Mr. FLOOD and Mr. MORAN.
H.R. 7300: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 7334: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 7346: Mr. MCGOVERN and Ms. STANSBURY.
H.R. 7349: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 7352: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 7361: Mr. CARTER of Georgia and Mr. ROSE.
H.R. 7365: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, and Mr. ROUZER.
H.R. 7377: Ms. HAGEMAN.
H.R. 7378: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 7382: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. STRONG.
H.R. 7384: Mr. HUDSON, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HUIZENGA, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 7412: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 7413: Ms. LEE of Florida.
H.R. 7428: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 7434: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 7438: Mr. NEHLS, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. LIEU, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 7442: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 7445: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 7450: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. CAMMACK, and Mr. GUEST.
H.R. 7455: Mr. BUCK, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. STRONG, and Mr. ROUZER.
H.J. Res. 107: Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.J. Res. 110: Mrs. HINSON.
H. Con. Res. 42: Mr. SCHIFF.
H. Con. Res. 74: Mr. MURPHY.
H. Con. Res. 76: Ms. PORTER.
H. Con. Res. 82: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, and Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H. Con. Res. 90: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
H. Con. Res. 92: Ms. TLAIB, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. BOWMAN.
H. Res. 82: Mr. POSEY and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H. Res. 733: Ms. PORTER.
H. Res. 736: Ms. PORTER.
H. Res. 753: Ms. PORTER.
H. Res. 881: Ms. PORTER.
H. Res. 882: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.
H. Res. 901: Mr. SARBANES, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. CASAR, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Ms. SHERRILL.

H. Res. 915: Mr. FINSTAD and Mr. VAN DREW.

H. Res. 983: Mr. HARDER of California.

H. Res. 990: Mr. SORENSEN.

H. Res. 1012: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H. Res. 1013: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H. Res. 1022: Mr. BEAN of Florida.

H. Res. 1026: Ms. SALINAS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H. Res. 1031: Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H. Res. 1032: Mr. EVANS, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. STANSBURY, and Mr. NADLER.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 7056: Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 7298: Mr. JAMES.