United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *118th* CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024 *No. 49*

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOLINARO).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 20, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARCUS J. MOLINARO 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 11:50 a.m.

LOOKING BEYOND OIL AND GAS

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

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, the majority is once again choosing to engage in a partisan, unproductive, and unserious messaging exercise that they have dubbed energy week.

In 2023, the United States produced more oil and gas than any other country ever and exported unprecedented amounts of liquefied natural gas to our allies across the world.

Simultaneously, 2023 was a record year for combined utility-scale solar, wind, and energy storage installations across the country. These clean energy projects can be found in nearly all congressional districts in all 50 States.

My friends on the other side of the aisle claim to be champions of an all-of-the-above energy strategy, but they are completely silent about these massive accomplishments that are not only driving significant investments to areas across the country but are producing cheap, clean, American energy.

This is probably because so many of these wins were made possible by the historic bills House Democrats passed last Congress, like the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

I was proud to include in those bills several of my priorities, including combating methane emissions and encouraging the development of transmission infrastructure by ensuring the Federal Government has the tools it needs to step in and stop excessive permitting delays.

However, the laws we passed last Congress will not be enough. We are facing extraordinary growth in energy demand from electric vehicles, AI, data centers, and the reshoring of domestic manufacturing, again thanks to the efforts and leadership of President Biden and his administration.

However, we are lagging far behind China, which is dwarfing us in manufacturing, construction of clean energy resources, and the extraction and refining of critical minerals like nickel and cobalt.

We need an unprecedented level of clean energy development and deployment to meet our climate goals and avoid catastrophe.

If the majority is interested in talking about a long-term energy strategy to maintain affordability and reliability, we need to finally talk about transmission and the grid.

We also need to work on speed. We will still fail if we let all the money we have set aside sit in the bank by making good energy projects wait years for permits to come through and further delays if bad actors and nervous neighbors take them to court again and again.

It is extremely frustrating that during energy week, we are actually taking the time to vote on whether strong regulations on methane emissions are even necessary or whether oil and gas producers should cover the cost of unplugged or abandoned wells.

Are you kidding me? Of course we need to regulate methane, and of course oil and gas companies should pay to clean up for the messes that they made.

How can Republicans say they support clean American energy while simultaneously fighting against commonsense regulations on methane and not even engaging on how to expand and upgrade the grid?

The bills we are considering this week take us farther away from the solutions to the problems we are facing, and I am proud to oppose every single one of them.

Our country prides itself on accomplishing big things together, whether it is winning world wars, constructing an interstate highway system, or discovering the next big medical breakthrough.

We should be voting on my FASTER Act, so transmission lines aren't stuck jumping between local, State, and Federal agencies for the permits they need.

We need to thoughtfully streamline the judicial review process for all energy projects so that developers, agencies, and petitioners aren't in limbo for years. We need certainty, not an unreliable and inefficient review process. Everything I have said about that today could and should be bipartisan.

Mr. Speaker, I will say to my Republican colleagues that we should look beyond just oil and gas and truly invest in an all-of-the-above energy

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strategy that looks to the future instead of clinging onto the past.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BILL CURRENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of Gaston County's leading citizens on the occasion of his passing. He is also the individual who succeeded me in the State House when I was elected to Congress in 2004. I am here to rise in honor of the life and legacy of the honorable Bill Current.

In so many ways, his service in the State House was counterintuitive. Dr. Current was already a leading Republican stalwart in Gaston County dating back to the 1960s. He had served two terms as the county GOP chairman and was instrumental in helping the Republican Party achieve dominance in our part of the State.

In 1976, when Ronald Reagan was running for President, he drove him around Gaston County and helped him win that great primary victory that year in North Carolina.

However, politics was only a fraction of Bill Current's prolific and incredible life. After his graduation from dental school at the University of North Carolina, Bill married the love of his life, Liz, and joined the Navy Dental Corps.

After his service, Bill and Liz returned to Gaston County and began a 40-year career in dentistry. In fact, dentistry became the family business. He was joined by his brother, A.C.; nephew Darrell; and his son Will, who still carries on that wonderful tradition today.

Dr. Current was a leader in the dental community in the State of North Carolina, serving on more boards and task forces than I can mention. He was also a great civic leader as well: American Red Cross, American Heart Association, First Presbyterian Church, and 27 years of perfect attendance at Rotary Club. I could go on and on. He did it all.

It would be fair to assume that in his seventies he would be ready to slow down and enjoy his retirement, but that wasn't Bill Current. That is instead when he ran for office and served four terms in the State House where he led on healthcare issues.

To the Current family, to Bill and Liz's children and grandchildren and extended family, I extend my condolences and gratitude for having known such a remarkable man.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF LEROY LAIL

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Leroy Lail.

Mr. Speaker, Catawba County and all of North Carolina recently lost a legend with the passing of Leroy Lail, a legend in the business community and in the civic community of Catawba County in North Carolina. I was honored to count Leroy as a mentor during my service in Congress.

Leroy was a native of Catawba County, a Navy officer, and a graduate of his beloved University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

It was during his time in the business world that he made his greatest impact. In the 1960s, Leroy and his wife, Lynn, opened the Hickory Furniture Mart, building an economic engine for the region. This, in turn, led to his involvement in the tourism and hospitality sectors, growing the family business substantially. Leroy later was a driving force behind the creation of the Hickory Metro Convention Center.

Education was also a cause near and dear to Leroy's heart. He spent 13 years on the Board of Governors of the University of North Carolina system. In fact, it was through Leroy's persistence that Appalachian State University established a campus in Hickory just last year.

To his beloved wife, Lynn, and the entire Lail family, I extend my condolences and gratitude for all of Leroy's contributions.

WE ARE SLEEPING WHILE UKRAINE IS BURNING

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, time is wasting. Time is running out. We are sleeping while Ukraine is burning, the victim of an international criminal.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, as I have too many times before, just 72 hours before Members return to their districts for weeks despite failing to secure aid for our allies in Ukraine and Israel. The men and women of Ukraine on the front lines will not sleep for those 2 weeks.

This past weekend, Vladimir Putin reminded the world that he isn't going anywhere. He celebrated ''victory'' in Russia's Presidential election, imposing his power until at least 2030.

Mr. Speaker, Putin knew that there was only one possible outcome of that election. He would like the world to think that Russian victory in Ukraine is inevitable as well.

Every day, however, Mr. Speaker, the brave men and women of Ukraine prove him wrong. Our NATO allies, who continue to supply Ukraine with vital military assistance, prove him wrong.

Now, this House, this week, in the next 72 hours, needs to stand up and give Ukraine the aid they desperately need. We must reject aggression and terror.

For 447 days, we have signaled reluctance over resolve, doubt over determination, and division over decisiveness. We have emboldened freedom's enemies while leaving its protectors defenseless. How sad for America to be in that position. How sad for the leadership of this House to leave us in that position.

We have failed to aid Ukraine in 447 days and Israel in 165.

Mr. Speaker, 2 weeks back in our districts may feel short for us, but that will be a very long time for our Ukrainian friends. They already must contend with the consequences of our inaction.

Thus far, Ukrainian air defenses have tried to shoot down four of every five Russian missiles fired at their cities. Hear that: four out of every five. Now, because of our negligence, because of our reluctance and ammunition shortages, they will soon be able to target only one in every five.

In Bakhmut, a Ukrainian artillery squad explained they are only shooting an average of 15 shells a week. My colleagues, they are shooting 15 shells a week to confront the Russian bear. Before American aid dried up, they were shooting 400 shells per week.

One Ukrainian soldier, shivering in his foxhole on the northern front line, recently said that because of these shortages: We are losing so many people. There are so many bodies we can't even bring them back.

How demoralizing is the inaction of this Congress. How irresponsible is the lack of action of this Congress to watch the Russian invader receive aid from North Korea, Iran, China, and the rest of the axis of evil while we fail to act. Have we lost our courage, our commitment to freedom?

Putin is a Russian invader who massacres civilians in Bucha, a dictator whose greatest political opponent is found dead in a Russian gulag, and a tyrant who forces occupied Ukrainians to vote at gunpoint in an election with but one choice: Vladimir Putin.

Putin wants this House to think his victory is inevitable because he knows that his victory is impossible if America stands with Ukraine.

□ 1015

Let us stand with Ukraine, not in 2 weeks but today. Let us stand with Israel in its effort to defeat Hamas and recover the 134 remaining hostages in Gaza.

Speaker Johnson says he is looking for a path forward to work with the Democrats on Ukraine and Israel.

Take it today. We will work with you in that path.

Mr. Speaker, the path has been clear for quite some time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we should not shut people up who are trying to defend freedom across this world.

Let us stop sleeping in this Congress.

Over 300 Members of this body have consistently voted to aid Ukraine. Even more wish to aid Israel.

Put the national security bill that received 70 votes in the Senate on the floor.

Give us a vote.

HONORING THE LIFE OF SAM LOIZZO

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

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of an amazing teacher, Sam Loizzo.

Born in Kenosha, Sam taught at Craig High School in my hometown for over three decades. Over his career, he taught thousands of students. I was lucky enough to be in his government class my junior year.

As a teacher, he taught about the institutions that make our country so great. He provided all of us an appreciation for the United States of America. He also provided an understanding that we are always working to form a more perfect Union.

Sam left a mark on everyone he met.

In addition to being a teacher, he was a talented photographer and sports enthusiast. Most importantly, he was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and a friend to many in my hometown of Janesville.

After he retired from teaching, he dove into photography. He was a constant presence in the community, always working hard to capture the moment.

While Sam may no longer be with us, his legacy lives on in Janesville and in the countless lives that he has touched.

I am proud that I have memories of Sam that I have captured. On behalf of the class of 1999 and Craig High School, and on behalf of the thousands that he touched, Sam will be missed.

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY TO GRANDMA STEIL

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, grandparents are a window to the past and teach us where we came from. They are also a window to the future of who we will become.

My Grandma Steil has been that for all of us: an inspiration and a guide.

In Wisconsin, there are those whose grandparents retire to warmer climates, but my Grandma Steil has called Wisconsin home for 100 years. She never minds the cold. Below zero and wind? It is a fine day for a walk.

Maybe her strength came from growing up on a farm outside of Darlington, Wisconsin, during the Great Depression. After graduation and after World War II, she would marry her junior high school prom date, George Steil.

As a mother of 4, a grandmother of 10, and a great grandmother of another 10, she is a constant and loving presence and an example to all of us of how to live a meaningful life.

What makes my grandmother so special and so wonderful?

She is an ever-present inspiration of how to live a life of faith and service to others.

Whether it was serving as president of the Janesville Catholic Women's Club in 1954 or, as I still marvel, waking up at 4:30 in the morning in 2014 to prepare breakfast at the homeless shelter in Janesville, she provides us a guide on how to give to others in our community.

Grandma, thank you. You are a constant reminder of what it means to live a loving and meaningful life. We are profoundly grateful to be a part of your life.

On this, your 100th birthday, I say to you, Grandma, happy birthday.

HONORING THE HONORABLE MARCIA FUDGE DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today during this month, Women's History Month, and it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor a woman who has made history and is making history: the Honorable Marcia Fudge, the 18th Secretary of HUD, former United States female Black-American Member of Congress, a lawyer, a prosecutor, and the very first female and Black person to be mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio.

She hailed as the 21st national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. She is a sojourner, she is a colleague, an adviser, and, more importantly, Mr. Speaker, a trusted friend.

Fudge never sat down and waited for an opportunity. She made opportunities. Mr. Speaker, I know that firsthand. I had known Marcia Fudge for decades prior to coming to the United States Congress. As a matter of fact, when I was a senior vice president at the Ohio State University, then-Congresswoman Marcia Fudge invited me to sit in the gallery as, again, she made history.

It was Congresswoman Marcia Fudge who honored the State of Ohio and my leadership for making Ohio the first State to honor Rosa Parks and what she did on December 1, 1955. Marcia Fudge entered it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD from this very spot. That was another history for the great State of Ohio.

A few years later, there I was, a candidate for the United States Congress, and, again, it was then-Congresswoman Marcia Fudge who stood by my side and elevated me to have the confidence and the assurance that I, too, one day would stand on this House floor.

Then as a freshman, she entrusted me to be the chair of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference. Never in the history of the CBC had a freshman been appointed some 40 days after being elected to chair such a massive event, but that is what Congresswoman Marcia Fudge did. She elevated people. She worked with people. She went out and mentored young students so they would know that they, too, could have opportunities.

It was no surprise to us that she became the seventh Black woman to chair the Congressional Black Caucus and the 21st national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. It was no surprise when the President tapped her to be the 18th United States HUD Secretary.

When she walked into that White House, she brought with her a whole village because she understood the depth and the importance of what it would mean to be United States HUD Secretary.

Marcia Fudge's tireless efforts have not only helped families keep their homes, but she has also made the American Dream of homeownership a reality. It is a reality for countless individuals, including returning citizens. Through her advocacy, she has opened doors of housing and business opportunities for Black and Brown communities, championing equity every step of the way.

Her stand against racial bias in the appraisal market is a testament to her commitment to justice and fairness. Marcia Fudge's impact on housing and racial equity will resonate for generations to come.

Ohioans know her as a leader, a fighter, and an advocate for justice. We know her here as Congresswoman and Secretary Marcia Fudge.

I wish her good luck on her journey.

HONORING THE PLANO EAST PANTHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) for 5 minutes.

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Plano East Panthers basketball team for their perfect season, going 40–0 and capturing the program's first-ever division 6A State championship. This was the Panthers' first State title in any team sport.

The Panthers, led by Head Coach Matt Wester, became the first men's basketball team to go unbeaten in 6A, the highest level, amassing 40 wins by an average 22.7 point differential across the season. Each of East's seven playoff wins came by double figures, amassing an average margin of victory by 23.4 points.

In the State championship game, the Panthers only gave up 41 points, which ranks as the eighth fewest points the team surrendered all season. As the top-ranked Texas team and number three team in most national polls, the Panthers claimed the first State championship in school history, led by D.J. Hall's 18 points and six rebounds. Hall was named the Conference Final Most Valuable Player.

In addition, Rachard Angton added 13 points and Jordan Mizell pitched in 8 points and eight rebounds.

Through their display of teamwork and dedication, the Panthers made both the city of Plano and the State of Texas proud. It will be exciting to watch them next year and see if they can run it back.

Madam Speaker, I congratulate the Panthers on a remarkable season. They were perfect.

HONORING SERGEANT NICHOLAS B. LOVREN

Mr. SELF. Madam Speaker, it is with great honor I rise today to recognize Sergeant Nicholas B. Lovren of the Fairview Police Department as he retires after 20 years of dedicated service in law enforcement.

Sergeant Lovren's steadfast dedication to serving and assisting those in

need has been a constant motivation throughout his career. His deep understanding of the noble responsibility entrusted to him as a guardian of the community was always evident.

Sergeant Lovren exemplified his commitment to protecting the community during the May 6, 2023, mass shooting at the Allen Premium Outlets, displaying exceptional bravery and professionalism in the face of intense adversity.

His passion for his profession was recognized not only by his colleagues but also by the community he served, as evidenced by commendations and accolades throughout his tenure.

Beyond the call of duty, Sergeant Lovren is active in various outreach programs in his community and is a devoted family man to his wife, Lendsie, and their three children, Alice, Hunter, and Libby.

As he embarks on this new chapter of his life, I commend Sergeant Lovren for his outstanding contributions to law enforcement and the community, and I want to extend my congratulations and best wishes for a well-deserved retirement.

CELEBRATE THE BICYCLE

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I am here this morning on the occasion of the 24th annual National Bike Summit to celebrate the bicycle. It was an honor to kick off the annual bicycle ride through the Capitol this morning with several hundred enthusiasts.

We had a lot to celebrate. The infrastructure bill, the Inflation Reduction Act, has unleashed unprecedented investments. We have $1 billion a year for the Safer Streets for All Act, and we have already $1.7 billion committed. There are over 1,000 communities that are dealing with plans for their bicycle network.

Madam Speaker, there is a lot of dissension here on Capitol Hill. You may have noticed that it is hard sometimes for people to agree, but we are celebrating bike partisanship.

The bicycle brings people together to be able to burn calories instead of fossil fuel. It is the most efficient form of transportation ever designed.

There are exciting programs internationally. The World Bicycle Relief program has distributed three-quarters of a million bicycles to developing countries. A health professional in sub-Saharan Africa with a bicycle can see three times as many patients and do so more safely.

We have opportunities in terms of being able to extend the range of activities for our children. Legislation I have been working on for years in terms of the Safe Routes to School Program has been extended to include high schools now.

I started the week watching grade school bike bus with young people surrounded by a rope moving as a bus on their way to school.

□ 1030

The bicycle helps eliminate the congestion around our schools in the morning, and it gives young people a sense of freedom while it encourages their health.

During the pandemic, people turned to the bicycle for recreation in a way that was safe, and it extended their recreational experience.

Bicycle tourism is having a profound effect in rural and small-town America as people discover the joy of looking at the countryside at 10 miles an hour instead of 70. It is also good for the economy because people on bicycles tend to actually spend more than people who are racing through neighborhoods.

This notion of burning calories instead of fossil fuel, I think, is profound. We are working to extend activities for e-bikes. Part of our legislation has more e-bike charging stations, and the e-bike makes any bicycle commuter into a regular, effective commuter, extending their range.

It has contributed here on Capitol Hill. When I first came, there were a few of us who were biking. You would see an occasional bike messenger, but now we are looking at massive investments even in our Nation's Capital.

One of the things I am most proud of is bicycle lanes in the center of perhaps America's most iconic street, Pennsylvania Avenue. There is a whole range of investments that have been made in our Nation's Capital to make it more livable.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to greet these bicycle warriors, welcome them to Capitol Hill, learn about the opportunities in this new legislation, and then work with them to implement it in their relationships. After all, the bicycle is the indicator species of livable communities.

HOUSE OF MEDICINE IS IN CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MURPHY. Madam Speaker, the house of medicine is crumbling down.

I have been a physician now for 35 years, and I spent 10 years prior to that training to become a surgeon. However, the house of medicine is in crisis.

Since the pandemic, medicine, a truly objective science, has become political. It has become a field of activism, not advocacy: believe the science, and then don't trust the science.

The record of preauthorizations now facing physicians and surgeons leads to poor patient care, burnout, early retirement, and massive administrative costs. Insurance companies are raking in record profits for their CEOs and shareholders by denying patients critical medicine or procedures and then not paying the doctors or hospitals, the ones who actually deliver the care.

The cost of medications is skyrocketing. One primary reason is something called PBMs, pharmacy benefit managers, that most people don't know anything about. These things are extortion artists driven by insurance companies to steal money from pharmaceutical companies and, most importantly, patients.

Madam Speaker, a pet peeve of mine is every other commercial seen on television is direct-to-consumer advertising. We are only one of two countries in the world, New Zealand being the other one, that allows this.

I have never once in my 35 years in medicine prescribed a medicine that was because somebody advertised it on television. Now, we have hospital closures in every district because we are restricting access to care because Medicare and Medicaid do not pay the bills. Yet, we have Democrats screaming: Medicare for All. That absolutely would lower the standard of medicine.

The express purpose of the ACA, ObamaCare, is to drive private practice out of business and for us all to be under one government-payer system.

What is happening? We are now employing more and more doctors and delivering a lower standard of care. These doctors, good people, really now have more ownership to a clock than their patient. We no longer have the work ethic that is seen in doctors as was seen before. It is 5 o'clock. It is time to leave. There is an absolute loss of patient ownership.

Madam Speaker, when I was seeing patients full time, if a physician called me to see a patient, my answer was: Do you want me to see them today or tomorrow?

It was not: Send them to the emergency room.

Now, it takes a year. I tried to get an appointment with a dermatologist for a patient. It took a year because of the severe doctor shortage. It is estimated that 40,000 to 120,000 more doctors are needed in a decade.

Sadly enough, our medical schools, while they are increasing in numbers, are failing in the doctors that they produce. We now have more identity politics in medical schools than excellence in care. Activism in so many schools now is the oath. DEI is the oath to get into medical school. This needs to stop.

It has now been shown that 63 percent of medical students now in medical school do not plan on practicing clinical medicine. There are medical students who come, take up a slot, and rarely practice. Why are medical schools allowing these individuals to get in?

There are increasing numbers of fellowships after residency programs because we have work-hour limitations, and the students are just not well-trained to come out and practice.

Burnout is at a record high, sadly, amongst physicians. I can understand that in a physician who has practiced until they are 65 or 70, but now we have

millennials coming out of medical school that have high burnout rates.

The AAMC, the Association of American Medical Colleges, is more concentrated on activism than excellence.

With doctors' pay being cut yet again, what do Senate Democrats and House Democrats want to do in a time of a critical doctor shortage? Cut physician pay yet again. There has been a 26 percent cut over the last 20 years. If you buy hammers for a store, how can you sell them at 40 cents and expect to stay in business?

I ran a surgical practice for many, many years. I knew where every paperclip went. You can't stay in business. We want to drive physicians out of private practice and into physician unemployment.

My colleagues can't do this to medicine. Why has physician pay become a partisan issue? We are destroying the trust in the patient-doctor relationship. Physicians are leaving because they can't get paid and physician burnout.

Madam Speaker, the house of medicine is in crisis.

REMEMBERING WASHINGTON STATE LANDSLIDE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. DELBENE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. DELBENE. Madam Speaker, I rise today on a solemn occasion.

A decade ago this week, Washington State confronted one of the worst natural disasters in its history. On the morning of March 22, a hillside near the communities of Oso and Darrington collapsed, creating a devastating landslide that killed 43 people in just seconds. It was and still remains the single deadliest landslide in U.S. history.

Karen Pszonka lost six members of her family, including her daughter, Katie, and grandsons, Wyatt and Hunter. Three generations of her family were wiped out in less than 2 minutes along with so many others.

In the aftermath of this landslide, I authored the National Landslide Preparedness Act, which was signed into law in 2021. It has been a vital resource for communities to better identify, plan for, and respond to landslides in the years since.

The law expands early warning systems, improves mapping technology, and provides States with grants to improve preparedness. The landslide law expires in a few months.

Madam Speaker, I recently introduced bipartisan legislation with Congresswomen SCHRIER and GLUESENKAMP PEREZ and Senators CANTWELL and MURKOWSKI to keep these programs going. This law passed with strong bipartisan support last time. We must do this again to ensure that the next natural disaster does not become the next national tragedy.

HONORING BENNY HAWKINS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Benny Hawkins for being named the 17th Annual PGA Tour Georgia Section Junior Tour Player of the Year.

The PGA Tour includes the greatest professional golfers of all time, and the Junior League showcases the golfers of tomorrow. Winning the 11–13 age division, Benny is well on his way to becoming an exceptional golfer.

This outstanding program helps to develop and equip young golfers ages 11 to 18 for success in collegiate programs and beyond. Opportunities such as these are incredibly important for molding well-rounded students like Benny. His success and commitment serve as an example to our younger generation.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to seeing what the future holds for this talented young golfer, and I congratulate Benny.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE PENNY HOUSTON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my friend, Representative Penny Houston, on her well-earned retirement.

Elected in 1997, Representative Houston has faithfully served Nashville, Georgia, as a State representative for 26 years. Representative Houston has been appointed to an extensive list of special committees, where she has helped ensure quality healthcare, agricultural prosperity, and a strong economy in her region of rural Georgia.

Additionally, she currently serves as the chair of the Georgia House of Representatives' Appropriations Subcommittee on Economic Development and as an active member of Nashville United Methodist Church, Nashville Women's Club, Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes, and more.

Representative Houston exemplifies what it means to be a public servant and to represent your community faithfully.

Ready to spend more time enjoying her family, which includes three children and six grandchildren, Representative Houston has decided not to run for reelection. Yet, even in retirement, she plans to find new ways to serve her community.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating my friend and former colleague, Representative Houston, on her upcoming retirement.

HONORING CAROL BELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ms. Carol Bell for being honored as Woman of the Year by the group United Way of the Coastal Empire.

Born in Selma, North Carolina, Carol Evelyn Hodges Bell received an M.P.A. from the University of Georgia along with a B.S. in mathematics and a master's in divinity and Christian education from Shaw University.

Ms. Bell's life of service began in 1976, when she was elected as the first African-American female manager for the city of Savannah.

Ms. Bell has held many other leadership roles serving Savannah as well, such as being on the Governor's Children and Youth Coordinating Council, UNCF's telethon, and Gamma Sigma Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority. Moreover, she has served as mayor pro tem and alderperson-at-large on the city council.

Presently, Ms. Bell serves as an alderperson at large, post 1, for the city of Savannah.

Mr. Speaker, Carol is a true public servant, someone who is very deserving of this award.

HONORING THE LIFE OF FRANK VANDE LINDE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Frank Vande Linde, who passed away at the age of 99.

Frank was a part of the Greatest Generation. He grew up during the Great Depression and graduated from Scott High School in 1943.

After graduation, he enlisted in the United States Navy, where he served on Liberty ships as a gunner, and he fought in the Allied invasion of Normandy and in the Pacific. His achievements earned him the rank of third-class petty officer.

After the war, he went on to earn a bachelor's degree in forestry from West Virginia University, followed by his master's degree from Duke University.

In 1950, Frank married Mona Kathleen Lynch and moved to Brunswick, Georgia, in Glynn County. Frank managed the nursery and genetics program at Brunswick Pulp and Paper as a senior research forester until retiring in 1989.

After retiring, Frank went on to serve his community. He was an elder at the First Presbyterian Church, chairman of the city park and tree commission, and a member of the Manna House.

Mr. Speaker, Frank will be remembered as a true patriot who served his country and community well.

□ 1045

PROTECTING AMERICANS FROM RAMPANT FORMS OF ONLINE SEXUAL HARASSMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to underscore the pressing need to protect Americans from rampant forms of online sexual harassment.

With the widespread adoption of social media, dating apps, and other technologies, we are seeing a concerning rise in inappropriate online behavior that impacts users, including our own children.

For too long, Congress has failed to pass legislation that keeps up with the

rapidly evolving digital landscape and the new challenges posed by these developments.

In particular, users—men, women, and children—are facing concerningly high rates of cyberflashing.

Cyberflashing can include transferal of sexually explicit images, videos, and pictures without consent via social media, messaging apps, WiFi, Bluetooth, and even AirDrop.

The rise in cyberflashing affects everyone, including everyday users, celebrities, and children.

Over half of women between the ages of 18 and 29 have received an explicit image they never asked for, and overall, 32 percent of women and 30 percent of men have received unsolicited explicit images. Celebrities including Keke Palmer and Chrishell Stause, have also dealt with cyberflashing.

Most concerning, cyberflashing is impacting our children, with a recent study estimating that 76 percent of girls aged 12 to 18 years old have been exposed to unsolicited nude images.

These issues are further exacerbated by the development of artificial intelligence and machine learning, which is giving rise to unregulated deepfakes, personal image hacking, and more.

The Stanford Internet Observatory and Thorn found that AI technologies exacerbate online sexual exploitation and contribute to the creation of child sexual abuse material.

As a mother of two children, I am fighting to address these issues and protect users from unwanted, nonconsensual, and inappropriate sexual behavior. If someone flashed you on the street, they would be arrested, but if they flash you through your phone, nothing happens.

Thanks to my work as a State legislator, it is illegal to send unsolicited nude photos in Virginia as of January 1, 2022. Now in Congress, I am continuing those efforts to make it illegal nationwide by introducing the Curbing Online Non-Consensual Sexually Explicit Nudity Transfers Act, or the CONSENT Act.

I am proud that this is a bipartisan, bicameral bill with Congressman NATHANIEL MORAN of Texas and Senators BRIAN SCHATZ of Hawaii and STEVE DAINES of Montana.

The CONSENT Act ensures a private right of action against individuals who knowingly send unsolicited, nonconsensual sexually explicit visual images, whether they are unaltered or manipulated by machine learning or AI.

It allows an individual to obtain either statutory damages of up to $500 or compensatory damages for emotional distress, reimbursement for reasonable attorney fees, and a temporary restraining order to cease receiving sexually explicit images from the sender. This legislation also safeguards the privacy of minors by empowering legal guardians to bring a civil action on their behalf and elect to use the plaintiff's initials in all further court proceedings.

I am grateful that the CONSENT Act enjoys a wide coalition of support. This bipartisan legislation is endorsed by the dating app Bumble, the National District Attorneys Association, the National Organization for Women, the Virginia chapter of the National Organization for Women, the National Women's Political Caucus, and the Richmond YWCA.

The CONSENT Act will address the privacy and safety concerns of users and help ensure individuals have legal recourse against these troubling situations.

I look forward to advocating for this legislation this Congress and urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it and protect America's online users and our children from cyberflashing.

CALIFORNIA NEEDS TO STORE EVERY DROP OF WATER WE CAN

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken often here about California's water situation and how that directly relates to agriculture and why California agriculture is important to the whole country. There are many, many crops California grows. Between 90 and 100 percent of them come from California that U.S. consumers use and enjoy. If they are not grown in California, they are going to have to come from some other country because they are not really found in other parts of this country.

Do we want to be an importer of even more things that we depend on? We are already dependent enough on China and others for 90 percent of our pharmaceuticals. We are becoming more and more dependent on foreign energy, foreign oil, and gas. Why? Why are we doing this?

I will narrow it back down to the water situation. Last year, we had near-record rainfall and snowpack. It hadn't been better in many decades, and we were blessed by that. This year is a pretty good water and snowpack year as well, but at the same time that that is happening, they are releasing water out to the ocean and telling certain water districts in the San Joaquin Valley you are only going to get 15 percent of your allocation.

Imagine having any kind of business where you only get 15 percent of your inputs to operate at the same time when there is plenty of water.

Now, in northern California where my district is, we have Lake Shasta and Lake Oroville. Today is March 20. We are getting to the end of the winter precipitation season, and they are still dumping water over the spillways at these facilities at a time when Lake Shasta still has 600,000 acre-feet of space. Lake Oroville has 500,000 acre-feet of space.

For those that don't know, an acre-foot is enough to sustain about two households for a year or about three acres of crops. That is a lot of water that is being lost, I think, due to shortsightedness on planning what the flood season would look like. Indeed, in many cases, they are still using 50-year-old manuals to dictate how they should manage the lake for flood control.

I get that. We need to have that aspect. You save the top percentage of the lake for unplanned water influxes due to a heavy rain or a massive snowmelt. However, as we get closer and closer to this April 1 deadline or we get to the spring season, they still have wide gaps of available space for water on top of Shasta and Oroville and other reservoirs around the State.

Do we really expect we are going to get this massive influx of rain and snow that is going to top those off? Time and again, they over dump and under plan and, therefore, these lake levels are not topped off at 100 percent.

That to me should be the goal every year; flood control and, obviously, have the water for the uses that we want up and down the State. However, if you are not topping off every lake at 100 percent at one point in the offseason, then you leave water on the table.

They say that we got within 5 percent. That ain't bad, right? Well, 5 percent of a combined 8 million acre-feet on just those two lakes I mentioned is 400,000 acre-feet. That is enough to do one heck of a lot of crops that are being left on the table, especially when you are telling people down in the valley you are only going to get 15 percent of what used to be your normal allocation.

Why is it that the government cannot plan with our assets, with our resources better than that? Why are we using 50-year-old manuals to tell people they might have to be curtailed?

They are actually moving forward with this, 42 gallons per day per person in your households. They are not just ripping agriculture; it is going to be a dictation to people in their households in the urban areas.

I am really greatly concerned that not enough people are paying attention to this because if urban users, in-town users find out you only get 42 gallons per day—and it is surprising how many gallons per person is used when you do bathing and laundry, yes, you can wash your car, and yes, you can have a yard; they are trying to dictate you can't have those things either—all because we are not managing the water supply. We are not short of water. We are just short of imagination on how to properly manage it, and, yes, store more.

We have opportunities to build Sites Reservoir, which has been hanging out there for decades. Fortunately, we were able to get another $200 million for planning and moving the ball forward on building Sites Reservoir, which should hold 1½ million acre-feet.

If we had that reservoir already, even in dry years, we would be saving water. We would probably have over a million

acre-feet in it right now this year—a million acre-feet that could be useable for something—environmental water, ag water, urban water.

People aren't used to being cut down to 42 gallons per person in a household. They are used to a number more like, maybe, 100 a day. Imagine what that is going to be like when folks are trying to do their normal business, and because we can't plan in government, we can't manage our supply. We can't manage to store more, so we just are going to make everybody conserve. There is nothing wrong with conservation, but you can't conserve what you don't have.

We have to count on record rainfall. We have to count on 125 percent every year and we can't do that every year. We have to plan, and we can plan. We don't have to be shortsighted.

AMERICA HAS A GUN PROBLEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because America has a gun problem.

Every week my constituents wake up to news of another shooting, another life cut short, another family torn apart.

Doing nothing about this crisis is not an option.

Year after year, the United States leads the developed world in gun deaths but lags far behind in meaningful policy solutions.

When I first came to Washington, I published the 2014 Kelly Report on Gun Violence in America. This first-of-its-kind report framed gun violence as a public health crisis and offered solutions that truly matched the scale of the epidemic.

Unfortunately, 10 years later, gun violence still claims tens of thousands of lives every year.

Since 2014, guns have become the number one cause of death for children and teens. Gun violence is killing a generation and robbing communities of future leaders, teachers, doctors, artists, and more.

Mr. Speaker, 10 years later, I am, once again, bringing together survivors, advocates, experts, and my fellow Members of Congress to say: Enough is enough.

I produced the 2024 Kelly Report to chart a path for the work yet to be done.

My wish is that this would be the last Kelly Report on gun violence I need to write. My wish is that our country will see a future where children can safely walk to the park, a high school student can safely pick up her friends, and a father can safely play basketball with his son in their driveway.

Americans should not have to live in constant fear of becoming another deadly statistic. Thoughts and prayers are not substitutes for policy and action.

I hope that this report not only sheds light on the public health crisis that is gun violence in America, but also provides a meaningful roadmap to create change and save lives.

RECOGNIZING MEAGAN THOMPSON

Ms. KELLY of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I also take this time to acknowledge Meagan Thompson.

Meagan has served in my office as senior health policy adviser and has done a remarkable job advancing health equity, access to care, and innovative treatment options during her time in this role.

Her contributions to my office have gone beyond policy expertise. Meagan's joy and enthusiasm brings light to our whole office. While we will miss Meagan in the office, I have no doubt that she will continue to excel in her next endeavor. I know that Meagan's work will continue to make a difference for years to come.

Last but not least, please fund Ukraine.

BRADLEY FREE CLINIC CELEBRATES 50 YEARS OF REMARKABLE SERVICE

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

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Bradley Free Clinic of Roanoke, Virginia, as it celebrates 50 years of remarkable service to the underserved members in our community. This institution embodies the enduring power of volunteerism and compassion, providing comprehensive healthcare to those in need, free of charge.

Founded on the vision of Henry Bell and led by the selfless efforts of Estelle Nichols Avner and countless volunteers, the Bradley Free Clinic has been a staple of hope and care in the Roanoke community. Its legacy is one of community solidarity, ensuring accessible healthcare, and underscored by the dedication of its volunteers and staff.

As we mark this significant anniversary, let us honor the Bradley Free Clinic's half-century of service. I commend the tireless dedication of everyone involved with the clinic and celebrate the impact of their work on the Roanoke Valley.

Mr. Speaker, I hope they have a great 50th celebration here next month, and I hope that it continues to flourish and serve as a testament to the power of community and care in the years to come.

□ 1100

WARM SPRINGS VALLEY GARDEN CLUB CELEBRATES 100 YEAR ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an institution that holds a cherished place in Bath County, Virginia, the Warm Springs Valley Garden Club. As they mark a century of dedication to the preservation of natural splendor in our community, we recognize their tireless efforts.

One hundred years ago, a group of 13 visionary women established a legacy in horticulture that endures to this day. The commitment of these women, bolstered by 30 to 50 members each year, has crafted a rich and vibrant culture of gardening throughout Bath County that continues to flourish.

It is their mission that truly embodies the spirit of the Warm Springs Valley Garden Club—cultivating a deep appreciation for gardening, championing conservation, and enhancing civic and natural allure.

As they celebrate 100 years of exceptional service in educating, nurturing, and community building, we salute the Warm Springs Valley Garden Club. Their continued efforts enhance not just our natural environment but also the very essence of our community.

Congratulations to the Warm Springs Valley Garden Club on their 100-year anniversary. I wish them another 100 years of success.

VIRGINIA ELKS YOUTH CAMP CELEBRATES 75TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Virginia Elks Youth Camp and recognize its remarkable journey to becoming a beacon of hope and joy for over 50,000 boys and girls aged 8 to 13.

Nestled in the Allegheny Mountains, near the Cowpasture River, this camp, fully funded through the generosity of the Virginia Elks Association, has not only offered a free outdoors experience but also fostered a sense of adventure and friendship among campers.

Thanks to the support of the 26 Elks Lodges across the Commonwealth and the tireless work of countless volunteers, the doors of this camp have remained open since the late 1940s.

As we look back on these 75 years, let us commend the Virginia Elks Association for its unwavering commitment to youth and veterans' needs.

I wish them all the best as they continue to ensure that the Virginia Elks Youth Camp remains a cornerstone of our community's investment in its youth for years to come.

JEFFERSON CENTER CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th anniversary of the Jefferson Center in Roanoke, Virginia. This institution stands not just as a building but as a place of education and culture that has profoundly touched our community over the past century.

Originally serving as Jefferson High School in the early 1920s, the auditorium was built larger than the high school so that it could be used by and for the community. From 1924 to 1974, the high school paved the way for the education of over 19,000 students, laying a strong foundation for our future generations.

By 1989, the building had evolved into a center for the arts, nonprofit activities, and civic engagement that has inspired and enriched the lives of the people of Roanoke.

Today, we celebrate a century-long legacy of community enrichment and unity. Let's honor this remarkable anniversary by commemorating the Jefferson Center's achievement, ensuring it remains a cornerstone of our community for generations to come.

FIGHTING BACK AGAINST PRESIDENT BIDEN'S WAR ON AMERICAN ENERGY

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address President Biden's war on American energy, which seeks to undermine our Nation's energy independence and impose the radical visions of the left's Green New Deal upon the American people.

Under the guise of environmental progress, the Biden administration has embarked on a campaign that has directly assaulted the backbone of our energy infrastructure. From day one, from the senseless restrictions on liquefied natural gas export terminals to the absurd proposals to ban gas stoves and target gas-powered vehicles, this administration has shown a reckless disregard for American energy dominance and the welfare of the American people.

Furthermore, in a misguided effort to cushion the blow of his own policies, President Biden has depleted our Strategic Petroleum Reserve to its lowest level since 1984. This depletion not only threatens our national security but weakens our position on the global stage.

The consequences of these actions are evident in rising gas prices, which continue to be a painful burden for the American family. In 2022, we witnessed the national average for a gallon of gas exceed $5 a gallon for the first time in history.

Almost exactly 1 year ago, I gave a speech on this floor in support of H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act. I urge us to continue to act in furtherance of this agenda.

HONORING YOLANDA PENA'S SERVICE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman who has fiercely worked to ensure Chicago lives up to its values as a welcoming city, my constituent, a driving force for good, Yolanda Pena.

Rooted in our community, Yolanda Pena exemplifies the spirit of service. Inspired by their personal experiences, Yolanda and her husband, Harry, cofounded Life Impacters to ensure everyone in our communities, no matter their past decisions, circumstances, or place of origin, have a chance to thrive.

As program director of Life Impacters, Yolanda sees, values, and cares for members in Illinois' Third Congressional District, and her commitment inspires the work I do in this Chamber.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my great honor to commend Yolanda Pena for her contributions to her community and her commitment to service and justice. I thank Yolanda.

HONORING HILDA FRONTANY

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent, Hilda Frontany, an inspiring woman at the forefront of representation and community in Illinois' Third Congressional District.

Since her family migrated from Puerto Rico, Hilda has called Chicago home. She has dedicated her life to ensuring that her neighbors have a safe roof over their heads, the care they need, and a voice in our democracy, regardless of immigration status.

For more than two decades, she has organized the community for the rights of Latinas, immigrants, and non-English speaking communities, bringing bilingual elections to the city of Chicago and addressing the housing crisis, displacing ''Latina families,'' ''familias Latinas,'' and low-income residents.

Currently, Hilda serves as the honorary chair of the board of directors for Rincon Family Services, providing high-quality and culturally competent healthcare and essential social services in my district.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my great honor to commend Hilda Frontany, who has inspired a generation of Latinas like me to lead and to fight for our community.

''Thank you,'' ''gracias,'' Hilda. We honor you on this House floor.

HONORING DIANHA ORTEGA-EHRETH

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Dianha Ortega-Ehreth for more than 30 years of service to communities, including 13 years in the great city of Elgin.

Ortega-Ehreth serves as executive director of Centro de Informacion, providing a safe, bilingual, and welcoming center in Elgin for the growing Latino community in my district. There, ''the Latina community,'' ''la comunidad Latina,'' and other migrants have found access to critical social services, help with government resources, assistance with their immigration cases, and much more.

Her personal experiences as an immigrant and a Latina leader have informed Dianha's commitment to developing Latina youth as leaders, which she fulfills through organizations like the Youth Leadership Academy, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and the Elgin Hispanic Network.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my great honor to commend Dianha Ortega-Ehreth for her leadership and service to our community.

CONGRATULATING NORTH PITT HIGH SCHOOL LADY PANTHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CLINE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the incredible Lady Panthers of North Pitt High School, who won the 2024 North Carolina High School Athletic Association 2A women's basketball championship.

North Pitt High School squared off against the undefeated Lady Cavaliers of East Burke and came out victorious, 76–66.

Senior Zamareya ''Zam'' Jones was crowned the most outstanding player, adding to her many achievements: 2,000 career points, 1 of just 17 players from the State to be a McDonald's all American, and finally leading her team to victory with 21 points against East Burke.

Next year, Jones is going to North Carolina State, but she will be leaving the North Pitt High School basketball team in great hands with freshman Jordan Speller, who scored an impressive 31 points and was the game's MVP.

Mr. Speaker, without any doubt, there is incredible talent and exciting basketball north of the river. I congratulate Coach Pittman, Principal Harris, and the entire North Pitt High School family.

To all of the Lady Panthers, your Congressman is mighty proud of you.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 8 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

Eternal and loving God, in boldness and confidence we find only in faith, we approach Your court of justice, Your throne of power, and Your mercy seat, with worries too deep for words and concerns beyond our control. Our words are insufficient when we try to express our apprehensions for the future of our country. Our prayers are inadequate in meeting the problems faced in our world, in this body, and by our families.

But You in Your infinite wisdom know our thoughts before we speak them and our needs before we utter them. This is the faith we claim today, that though we cannot see the answers, though we cannot possibly discern the future, You, O ruler of the universe, order our steps and guide us in Your abiding and steadfast love.

Grant us this day the power to comprehend what is the breadth and

length, height and depth of Your love which surpasses all knowledge.

Now to You, by whom the power at work within us, is able to do far more than we can ask or imagine, to You be the glory today and always.

Hear these our prayers and those unspoken as we offer them in the strength of Your sovereign name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. CARL. 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. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE WEEK

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and acknowledge National Agriculture Week. This week we take the opportunity to recognize the central role that agriculture plays in the economy across the country and my home in the State of Ohio.

Agriculture is one of Ohio's largest industries, supplying one out of every seven jobs. However, our Nation is experiencing a mounting agricultural trade deficit which has nearly doubled in the last year, according to the Department of Agriculture. This deficit has had a large impact on Ohio farm economies and American leadership in international agricultural trade.

We should be committed to delivering an updated farm bill that ensures long-term growth and addresses the unique needs of America's farmers, ranchers, and consumers.

As we celebrate National Agriculture Week, let's work together to create new markets for American agricultural products, drive rural economic development, and strengthen domestic energy resources.

VIRGIN ISLANDS' WOMEN FIGHTERS

(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, well before equality for women was discussed in the U.S. mainland, the Virgin Islands have lauded, uplifted, and seen women fighters and leaders.

All Virgin Islands' children know the stories of our queens, but our girls have a wealth of women who have sacrificed their time, privacy, and professions in elected leadership.

Most recently, women like my soul sisters Alicia Barnes and Diane Capehart; sorors Janette Millin Young and Allison DeGazon; Marise James; Donna Frett-Gregory; Genevieve Whitaker; Janelle Sarauw; Carla Joseph; Alma Heyliger; our recently departed Alicia ''Chucky'' Hansen; our first women elected in 1954: Lucinda Millin and Ruby Rouss; local Senate's first female president Cleone Creque in 1977, who won the first territorial-wide race; and, of course, Donna Christensen, my predecessor, the first female physician to serve in Congress; Lorraine Berry, Carol Burke; Carmen Wesselhoft; Lilliana Belardo; Anne Golden; and Norma Pickard. The list goes on of strong, fervent, and resilient women who shape our path and ignite our future.

They are VI strong.

HONORING SECRETARY MARCIA FUDGE ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a shining example of a public servant, a fierce advocate for northeast Ohio, my friend and colleague, Secretary Marcia Fudge. Secretary Fudge recently announced her retirement after more than 50 years of public service.

For decades, Secretary Fudge served our northeast Ohio community with passion, dedication, and determination. I can say that for a fact because Secretary Fudge used to be my Member of Congress. She represented Ohio's 11th Congressional District.

I have had the privilege of working alongside her as we both served the Akron community, including when I was in the statehouse where we worked to improve access to affordable housing, protecting our freedoms to vote, and advancing racial and gender equality.

Just last month I hosted Secretary Fudge back in Ohio's 13th district to highlight the Department of Housing and Urban Development's investments in affordable housing and support for first-time home buyers.

Secretary Fudge truly transformed HUD, leading the agency through unprecedented housing challenges during the pandemic, fighting housing discrimination, and ensuring no one was left out or left behind.

I am grateful for her and her leadership, and I wish her the best in her retirement. I thank Madam Secretary Marcia Fudge for being a dedicated and clear public servant.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1023, REPEALING OF GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1121, PROTECTING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6009, RESTORING AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 86, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT A CARBON TAX WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 987, DENOUNCING THE HARMFUL, ANTI-AMERICAN ENERGY POLICIES OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7023, CREATING CONFIDENCE IN CLEAN WATER PERMITTING ACT

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1085 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1085

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 1023) to repeal section 134 of the Clean Air Act, relating to the greenhouse gas reduction fund. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. An amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–26 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the

bill (H.R. 1121) to prohibit a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6009) to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the proposed rule relating to fluid mineral leases and leasing process, and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 4. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 86) expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy. All points of order against consideration of the concurrent resolution are waived. The concurrent resolution shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the concurrent resolution are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the concurrent resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees.

SEC. 5. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H. Res. 987) denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

SEC. 6. At any time after adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7023) to amend section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to codify certain regulatory provisions relating to nationwide permits for dredged or fill material, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in this section and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–25 shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the five-minute rule and shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such further amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill, as amended, to the House with such further amendments as may have been adopted. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARL). The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1215

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this rule and in support of the underlying legislation.

House Resolution 1085 provides for consideration of six measures: H.R. 1023, H.R. 1121, H.R. 6009, H. Con. Res. 86, H. Res. 987, and H.R. 7023.

The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1023, the Cutting Green Corruption and Taxes Act, under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees, and provides one motion to recommit.

Additionally, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 1121, the Protecting American Energy Production Act, that being under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees, and provides one motion to recommit.

Further, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 6009, the Restoring American Energy Dominance Act, under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees, and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule also provides for consideration of H. Con. Res. 86, expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy, that being under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees.

The rule provides for consideration of H. Res. 987, denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

Finally, the rule provides for consideration of H.R. 7023, the Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act, under a structured rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees, and provides one motion to recommit.

The rule makes in order eight amendments.

Mr. Speaker, since President Joe Biden took office, energy costs for Americans have risen by 28.6 percent. On January 20, 2021, a gallon of gasoline was—wait for it—$2.39.

During President Biden's Presidency, the average price has reached a record high of $5 a gallon. This is a direct result of the President's dangerous, extreme, far-left agenda, the Green New Deal agenda that spent trillions of dollars and enacted costly regulations on the American family.

The underlying legislation before us this week will help unlock and unleash American energy independence and block President Biden's war on the American worker and American energy.

For example, H.R. 1023 will eliminate $27 billion of Green New Deal slush funds for coastal elites and Chinese Communists. We know China dominates the extraction, processing, and production of rare earth elements and critical minerals. Solar panels, windmills, and EVs all rely heavily on these materials, which further deepens our dependency on Communist China.

This legislation will also repeal the proposed natural gas tax that will burden so many American energy producers in southwestern Pennsylvania and across this Nation.

In addition, H.R. 1121 will block the President from declaring a moratorium on hydraulic fracking. In 2019, then-candidate Joe Biden expressed his support to ban fracking. The President said: ''We would make sure it is eliminated,'' when asked about the future of coal and fracking. Then, in March 2020, he said: ''No more new fracking.''

That is why, this week, House Republicans will block his ability to ban fracking.

Lastly, H.R. 7023 will build upon the progress under H.R. 1 and the Fiscal Responsibility Act to help reform our permitting process. This bill will streamline the permitting process under the Clean Water Act, instructing the administration to issue guidance that complies with the Supreme Court ruling in Sackett v. EPA and protect permit holders from frivolous lawsuits.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHENTHALER) for yielding the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today's rule provides for the consideration of a partisan package of pro-polluter energy and environmental bills. Half of these bills have already been considered by the House last year, and the other half are toothless resolutions simply declaring a sense of Congress, albeit a partisan sense of Congress. A package like this is what we have come to expect from this Republican majority in the House.

In the 118th Congress, Republicans can rarely find agreement with each other, let alone negotiate bipartisan legislation capable of being passed by both Houses and signed into law by the President. Therefore, what we get week in and week out are old bills chopped up and repackaged to give Republicans something to talk about for the week while we all wait for the next budget crisis deadline.

Republicans have run the House for the past 15 months and have used that precious time not to lead but to pick fights and air grievances. As my Republican colleague on the Rules Committee, the gentleman from Texas, keeps reminding us, House Republicans have nothing to show for their majority. They haven't done anything to address the most important issues confronting America.

Let's look at the record of this feckless Republican majority thus far.

House Republicans spent a month fighting with each other to pick a Speaker, only to kick out Kevin McCarthy a few months later and spend another month selecting the current Speaker.

House Republicans brought the country to the brink of fiscal calamity to extort a budget deal that they then failed to honor.

House Republicans walked out of a bipartisan deal to overhaul the immigration system after claiming it was their number one priority.

House Republicans are blocking bipartisan legislation to provide military aid to Ukraine and our allies.

Also, House Republicans are blocking a funding package for increased border security.

Although we hope to finish the 2024 budget this week, it is already 6 months late.

All of which is to say, this majority has done nothing. My Republican colleagues have squandered their majority. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have squandered the country's time and taxpayer dollars and have nothing to show for it.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation in this rule, if enacted, would be disastrous for our environment and would set back much of the progress we have made to tackle the climate crisis.

Legislation in this rule would make it easier for companies to pollute our water. These bills roll back important Clean Water Act provisions that prevent companies from dumping waste and harmful chemicals into our public waterways.

This rule would also make it easier for oil and gas companies to avoid responsibility for cleaning up drilling sites after finishing production. The rule would block efforts by the Biden administration to make Big Oil companies pay their fair share to remediate the environmental damage they have caused.

The rule would cut billions of dollars in funding to help communities like mine mitigate the harmful effects of air pollution. Time and again, we see that the Republican energy agenda means putting polluters and their profits over regular people.

Bills like this make my colleagues wonder just who exactly House Republicans represent. The vast majority of Americans support making energy and mining companies financially responsible for site cleanup. The vast majority of Americans want clean air and clean water. They want to protect their health, and they want their kids to have a healthy future.

Yet, these partisan Republican policies would mean more pollution in our communities so that Exxon and Chevron can boost their stock prices. That doesn't seem like a fair trade for the American people. We need to solve the climate crisis, not enable it. We need to put people over profits and polluters.

Congressional Democrats and President Biden are united behind that goal. In stark contrast to our Republican colleagues, Democrats have passed landmark legislation to combat the climate crisis, grow domestic energy production, and bring our energy infrastructure into the 21st century.

Democrats passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act. Combined, these bills used tax credits, lending programs, and public-private partnerships to invest billions of dollars in electric vehicles, renewables, energy production, and improvements to the electric grid.

This investment is growing our economy, creating good-paying jobs in green manufacturing, and helping to lay the foundation for the mass adoption of renewable energy sources. Already, the Inflation Reduction Act has created over 170,000 jobs, and it is projected to create more than 1.5 million jobs over the next 10 years.

The Inflation Reduction Act puts America on pace to cut our carbon emissions by 50 percent by 2030 so that we can meet our obligations under the Paris Agreement. The Inflation Reduction Act also caps abandoned oil wells, cleans up Superfund sites, and provides funding to communities to mitigate the effects of industrial pollution.

In the long run, the Inflation Reduction Act and the infrastructure bill will save American families up to $38 billion on electricity bills, reduce industrial and manufacturing emissions, double the share of American electricity generated by renewables, and accelerate the adoption of electric vehicles.

That is what a real energy agenda looks like. It is not grandstanding, and it is not handouts to oil and gas companies.

The Democrats' energy initiatives and agenda have been wildly successful. Right now, the United States is the number one energy producer in the world. We produce more energy from both renewables and fossil fuels than any other country. This is directly translated into lower energy prices for Americans, more jobs, and higher economic growth, and it has allowed us to provide natural gas to our allies in Europe who have been squeezed by a belligerent Russia.

Under President Biden's leadership, the United States is more energy independent today than at any time in our history. This is an amazing achievement and one that should be celebrated by this Chamber.

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, it is nice to hear my colleague talk about all the wonderful things that Democrats have done for the oil and gas industry, but it is shocking because Democrats want to ban fracking. Don't believe me. Take their word for it.

Here is KAMALA HARRIS: ''There is no question I am in favor of banning fracking.''

Here is BERNIE SANDERS: ''The only safe and sane way to move forward is to ban fracking nationwide.'' He then literally introduced a bill banning fracking shortly after that comment.

There is also Pete Buttigieg. He said: ''I favor a ban on new fracking and a rapid end to existing fracking.''

Finally, here is Biden's Department of the Interior Secretary Deb Haaland:

''I am wholeheartedly against fracking and drilling on public lands.''

Those are some of the most influential Democrats in the country, and their goal is simple. They want to ban fracking.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), my good friend.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCHANTHALER), my colleague on the Rules Committee, for yielding me the time.

Contrary to what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle claim, this legislation before us today is about building a cleaner, more secure, more affordable energy future, where the United States is not dependent on foreign countries for its energy needs.

Let me be perfectly clear. The greatest beneficiary of the Biden administration's regulatory onslaught on our Nation's energy sector is China, the Communist country of China. The ones who will pay the biggest cost for President Biden and the left's asinine energy policies are the American people.

The climate agenda that the left is pushing onto this country through the Biden administration and through Democrats in my own State of New York will leave the American people poorer, less secure, and with fewer opportunities, full stop.

Who benefits the most from this administration's new rules on mineral leasing that make it more difficult for the United States to produce its energy and resource needs domestically? China, our biggest adversary and a country that cares little for the environmental health of our world.

When my Democratic colleagues claim that this legislation before us today will somehow loosen protections on our environment and keep our country away from reaching some arbitrary goals set by this administration, don't be fooled.

If this administration or the radical left actually cared about our global environment, my Democratic colleagues wouldn't be putting up roadblocks to safer, cleaner domestic energy production as Democrats are doing with the Bureau of Land Management's newest rules on mineral leasing.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle wouldn't be banning safe, job-creating hydraulic fracturing to produce cleaner, reliable natural gas as New York State Democrats have done, robbing communities across my district of incredible economic opportunities.

The left wouldn't be pushing Americans toward a battery-powered future while making it nearly impossible for our country to produce these very batteries, down to refining the rare earth minerals, domestically.

Democrats in Washington, Albany, and elsewhere, despite their talk of a cleaner future, are leaving us more dependent on foreign countries, including our biggest adversary, China, which has no qualms about pumping buckets of pollution into the air.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, energy future supported by my colleagues across the aisle is hypocritical, impossibly expensive for everyday Americans, and leaves this country at the mercy of foreign imports to satisfy our energy needs.

I strongly support this underlying legislation before us today because it will turn the ship around and ensure that our energy future is about economic opportunities, domestic security, and affordability for everyday Americans rather than satisfying the radical demands of a woke mob.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair encourages all Members, if you are going to have conversations with staff, please take them off the floor. It is getting a little disruptive.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, we keep being presented by a false choice here—a choice between being environmentally responsible and having economic opportunity, and that is just not true. We can do both.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a letter from nearly 50 organizations in opposition to H.R. 7023.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

MARCH 18, 2024.

Re: Oppose H.R. 7023, an attack on our clean water protections

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of our members and supporters, the undersigned organizations urge you to oppose H.R. 7023, the misleadingly named ''Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act.'' [This bill contains several misguided attacks on clean water and the Clean Water Act, puts polluter profits ahead of public health, and would jeopardize the waters that our families, communities, and wildlife depend on.]

Numerous provisions of H.R, 7023 shield industrial dischargers that would pollute or destroy our streams, lakes, wetlands, and other waters from responsibility, thereby imposing on downstream communities the burden of increased pollution and flooding, to say nothing of the costs of remedying those threats. In particular:

Section 2 would give polluters new ways to slow down the Environmental Protection Agency's process for updating water quality criteria. Criteria reflect EPA's assessment of the scientific evidence about how pollutants in our waterways adversely affect human health and aquatic life, and include nonbinding recommendations for water quality standards that states can adopt to prevent those harmful effects. By subjecting EPA's issuance of criteria to additional administrative processes and opening them up to industry lawsuits, this bill could delay improved protections reflective of scientific developments—which is particularly concerning for emerging contaminants.

Section 3 would authorize EPA to issue ''general'' permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program for industrial and municipal polluters. This new authority lacks safeguards that Congress included in the parallel general permitting program for ''dredge and fill'' activities, namely that the activities must have minimal adverse environmental impacts. It also would greatly limit EPA's ability to terminate such a permit if the agency determined it was causing unacceptable harm to the environment.

Section 4 would make it easier for industrial operations to dump PFAS, also known as ''forever chemicals,'' and other emerging contaminants into the nation's waters without accountability. Specifically, the bill would shield dischargers from Clean Water Act liability even if they are aware of certain pollutants in their waste streams but do not disclose it to pollution control officials who do not have reason to expect such contaminants.

Section 5 would virtually eliminate EPA's ability to stop mammoth polluting projects like the Pebble Mine in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. This rarely-used authority (invoked only 14 times in the Act's history) is crucial to prevent the most egregious projects from destroying precious fisheries, drinking water supplies, and other resources.

Section 6 would require the Army Corps of Engineers to permanently retain a fast-track permit for highly destructive and polluting oil and gas pipelines and greatly weaken the Corps' nationwide permitting program—a program that is already far too lax in preventing and mitigating the harm caused by projects that fill in the nation's waters. The bill would double the duration of general permits, such that advancements in best practices for the dozens of activities covered by such permits would not be required promptly. And it would excuse the Army Corps of Engineers from considering the full environmental consequences of permitted activities, as well as the effects of such activities on endangered species.

Section 7 would prevent effective judicial review of projects that fill in and destroy wetlands, streams, and other waters. The bill would impose an impractically short statute of limitations on court review of ''dredge and fill'' permits, which would likely force concerned citizens to file suit on more permits in order to preserve their rights, in many instances before the impacts of the permitted project are fully understood. The bill would also severely hamstring courts' authority to provide a remedy for illegal permits because permits found unlawful would ordinarily remain in effect and allow continued harm to water resources while the Army Corps of Engineers reexamines them.

In contrast to these provisions, polling continues to show that people actually want stronger federal protections for our nation's waters. Too many communities, especially Indigenous communities, communities of color, and low wealth communities, still lack clean water. Congress should be focused on putting people before polluters and working to ensure everyone, no matter their race, zip code, or income, has access to clean water, rather than attempting to undermine our critical clean water protections.

Again, we urge you to VOTE NO on H.R. 7023, an attack on our clean water safeguards that would endanger the waters our families and communities depend on and work against the Clean Water Act's objective ''to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters.''

Sincerely,

Alabama Rivers Alliance; Alliance for the Great Lakes; American Rivers; Amigos Bravos; Appalachian Trail Conservancy; Bayou City Waterkeeper; Center for Biological Diversity; Center for Food Safety; Children's Environmental Health Network; Clean Water Action; Clean Wisconsin; Committee on the Muddle Fork Vermiliom River; Community Water Center.

Earthjustice; Environmental Justice Health Alliance; Environment America; Environmental Law & Policy Center; Environmental Protection Network; Food & Water

Watch; For Love of Water (FLOW); Freshwater Future; GreenLatinos; Izaak Walton League of America; Kentucky Waterways Alliance; Latino Farmers & Ranchers International, Inc.

Lawyers for Good Government; League of Conservation Voters; Maryland Pesticide Education Network; Massachusetts Pollinator Network; Massachusetts Rivers Alliance; Mississippi River Collaborative; National Audubon Society; National Wildlife Federation; Natural Resources Defense Council; New Mexico Wild; Northwest Center for Alternatives to Pesticides; Ohio River Foundation.

People and Pollinators Action Network; PolicyLink; River Network; Sierra Club; Southern Environmental Law Center; Surfrider Foundation; The Water Collaborative of Greater New Orleans; Toxic Free North Carolina; Waterkeeper Alliance; Waterkeepers Chesapeake; WE ACT for Environmental Justice; We the People of Detroit.

Ms. SCANLON. They write, ''This bill contains several misguided attacks on clean water and the Clean Water Act, puts polluter profits ahead of public health, and would jeopardize the waters that our families, communities, and wildlife depend on.''

H.R. 7023 is clearly not the answer.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a letter signed by over 50 conservation, climate, and public lands organizations strongly opposing H.R. 6009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

MARCH 19, 2024.

SPEAKER JOHNSON, LEADER JEFFRIES, AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: On behalf of the undersigned conservation, climate, and public lands organizations, we write today in strong opposition to H.R. 6009, the Restoring American Energy Dominance Act. This legislation circumvents and undermines the administrative process, ignores significant public input across the West, and halts a long overdue update to the federal onshore oil and gas leasing program that protects taxpayers, public lands and the wildlife and communities who rely on then. More importantly, it would prevent Interior from undertaking any substantially similar rule, effectively prohibiting the agency from doing its job to oversee the federal leasing program. We therefore urge all members of the House of Representatives to vote no on this harmful legislation.

The Bureau of Land Management's proposed Onshore Oil and Gas Leasing Rule updates federal regulations to implement oil and gas program fiscal reforms enacted via the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA). These reforms included increasing the royalty rate for producing oil and gas on federal public lands, realigning rents and fees to account for decades of inflation, and reducing speculation by ending non-competitive leasing and implementing a new nomination fee.

Beyond the IRA, the proposed rule includes a host of other long-overdue protections, including language to penalize routine abusers; preference criteria to steer leasing decisions away from critical habitat, cultural resources, and reduce speculation; and urgent bonding reforms that help ensure that oil and gas operators—rather than taxpayers and surrounding communities—bear the cost of cleaning up drilling sites after production ends.

The reforms in the IRA and this proposed rule—taken together—implement the baseline recommendations outlined by the Department of the Interior, address dire shortcomings in the oil and gas bonding system identified by the Government Accountability Office and other nonpartisan watchdogs over many years, and ensure taxpayers are not subsidizing the oil industry and then paying to clean up drilling sites.

H.R. 6009 would require BLM to withdraw its proposed rule, scuttling many of these important fiscal reforms to protect taxpayers and complicating implementation of duly enacted statutes.

Moreover, the draft legislation runs contrary to the will of the general public. During the rule's 60-day comment period, over 260,000 Americans submitted public comments for the record—over 99 percent of which were supportive of the rule.

Lastly, prohibiting the BLM from moving forward a substantially similar rule is a legislative poison pill. If enacted, it would preclude the agency from administering the federal onshore oil and gas program in the public interest and acknowledging challenges like climate change, extinction, and the clean energy transition—instead requiring that it maintain a broken status quo that favors special interest profits.

For these reasons, we oppose H.R. 6009, and we urge all members of the House of Representatives to vote no on passage.

Sincerely,

Accountable.US; Archaeology Southwest; Citizens for Clean Air, Grand Junction, CO; Climate Action Campaign; Climate Law & Policy Project; Coalition to Protect America's National Parks; Colorado Fiscal Institute; Colorado Wildlands Project; Colorado Wildlife Federation; Conservation Colorado; Conservation Lands Foundation; Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship; Dakota Resource Council; Eagle Summit Wilderness Alliance; Earthjustice; Earthworks; EcoFlight; Endangered Species Coalition; Environmental Defense Fund.

Friends of the Earth US; Great Old Broads for Wilderness–Grand Junction Area Chapter; Great Old Broads for Wilderness–Northwest Colorado Chapter; Great Old Broads for Wilderness; HECHO; Interfaith Power & Light; League of Conservation Voters; Los Pedros ForestWatch; Montana Wildlife Federation; National Parks Conservation Association; National Wildlife Federation; Natural Resources Defense Council; Nevada Conservation League; Nevada Wildlife Federation; New Mexico Voices for Children; New Mexico Wildlife Federation; Northern Plains Resource Council.

Nuestra Tierra; Powder River Basin Resource Council; Public Citizen; Rocky Mountain Farmers Union; Rocky Mountain Wild; Sheep Mountain Alliance; Sierra Club; Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance; The Wilderness Society; Town of Nederland, CO; Union of Concerned Scientists; Western Colorado Alliance; Western Organization of Resource Councils; Western Slope Conservation Center; West Virginia Rivers Coalition; Wild Montana; Wilderness Workshop; Wyoming Outdoor Council.

Ms. SCANLON. This letter reads, in part, ''This legislation circumvents and undermines the administrative process, ignores significant public input across the West, and halts a long-overdue update to the Federal onshore oil and gas leasing program that protects taxpayers, public lands, and the wildlife and communities who rely on them.''

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a letter from the National Parks Conservation Association strongly opposing H.R. 6009.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION ASSOCIATION,

Washington, DC, December 6, 2023.

Re NPCA Position on Legislation before the Committee on Natural Resources.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: Since 1919, the National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA) has been the leading voice of the American people in protecting and enhancing our National Park System. On behalf of our 1.6 million members and supporters nationwide, I write to share NPCA's thoughts on select legislation ahead of a markup in the Committee on Natural Resources scheduled for December 6, 2023.

H.R. 6009—Restoring American Energy Dominance Act: NPCA opposes this legislation, which stops the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) from updating its onshore oil and gas program for the first time in 35 years. Not only does this legislation halt a public regulatory process partway through, it prohibits BLM from proposing any substantially similar rules. This effectively prohibits BLM from updating this program in the future, making it harder for the agency to oversee the federal onshore leasing program.

The proposed rule has been in the works for years. It follows recommendations by the Government Accountability Office and implements reforms already passed into law. In the rule, BLM makes the leasing process more straightforward and streamlines paperwork and filing requirements for industry, making the leasing and auctions processes more consistent and updated for the 21st century. The proposed rule also ensures that BLM considers proximity to national parks and other special places during the parcel selection process. By taking a holistic approach to parcel selection, BLM can avoid conflicts later in the leasing process and costly and time-consuming lawsuits while protecting irreplaceable cultural and natural treasures. This approach also ensures that lands used for conservation and recreation purposes by millions of Americans are not impeded by oil and gas development.

BLM's proposed rule goes a long way towards protecting national parks and their connected landscapes from oil and gas development. NPCA supports the proposed rule's common-sense reforms and believes BLM should be allowed to complete the regulatory process. During the comment period for the proposed rule, over 99% of all comments were supportive. [The current leasing system and onshore oil and gas program is antiquated and does not offer proper oversight or ensure protections and fair returns to American taxpayers. Passing this legislation would leave BLM unable to properly oversee this program and could cause unnecessary harm to our special places.]

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

CHRISTINA HAZARD,

Legislative Director, National Parks Conservation Association.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, this letter reads, in part, ''The current leasing system and onshore oil and gas program is antiquated and does not offer proper oversight or ensure protections and fair returns to American taxpayers. Passing this legislation would leave BLM unable to properly oversee this program and could cause unnecessary harm to our special places.''

Finally, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a Forbes article

entitled: ''U.S. Energy Independence Soars to Highest Level in Over 70 Years.''

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

[From Forbes, May 2, 2023]

U.S. ENERGY INDEPENDENCE SOARS TO HIGHEST LEVEL IN OVER 70 YEARS

(By Robert Rapier, Senior Contributor)

The topic of U.S. energy independence often sparks debate, with many believing that the country achieved this status under President Trump and lost it during President Biden's tenure.

I have addressed these beliefs previously using data from the Energy Information Administration (EIA). However, recent data from the EIA provides a clearer picture of the situation in 2022.

Before delving into the topic of energy independence, it's important to establish a common definition. There are two ways to think about energy independence. One definition is that we produce more energy than we consume. Based on that definition, even if we import some energy, the fact that we produce more than enough to satisfy our needs would mean the U.S. is energy independent.

If we produce more than we need, why would we import energy? There are a couple of reasons.

One is that the type of energy we import (e.g., crude oil) is a better fit for our energy systems than the energy we produce ourselves. For example, U.S. refineries are well-suited to process heavy, sour crude oils. But the oil produced from the shale oil boom is primarily lighter and sweeter. Thus, U.S. oil producers can export this oil, while refiners can import the heavy, sour crude that they prefer.

The second reason is that we may simply import crude oil to process it and export the finished products. In that scenario, we aren't importing oil because we need it, but rather because it is financially lucrative to do so.

This definition of energy independence—producing more than we consume—will be the definition I use here.

But another definition of energy independence is simply that we don't import energy at all.

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

Mr. RESCHENTHALER. Mr. Speaker, it is one thing that the Biden administration's extreme far-left positions on energy hurt the American economy and by extension the American worker and the American family, but the extremism also hurts our allies abroad.

President Biden has clearly weakened our position on the international stage. Shortly after canceling our own Keystone XL pipeline, which, by the way, crushed tens of thousands of union jobs, the Biden administration greenlit Nord Stream 2.

Before the 2022 midterm elections, the Biden administration released roughly 180 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, or roughly 40 percent of that Reserve, that included at least 2 million barrels from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to—are you ready for it?—China.

After pausing new LNG export approvals, the President then waived sanctions on Iranian energy imports into Iraq. I will talk about that momentarily, though.

It is clear from the administration's actions for these far-left extreme positions that President Biden favors Chairman Xi, Vladimir Putin, and the Ayatollah over the American worker.

Now, let's go back and talk about the Iraq-Iran waiver. After pausing the new LNG export approvals, the Biden administration waived sanctions on Iranian energy imports into Iraq. This unlocks $10 billion in frozen funds for the Iranian Government who helped fund the October 7 terrorist attack on our number one ally in the world, Israel.

It is clear to me that the White House's energy platform is the following: Yes to our enemies, no to America.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is a little bit difficult to believe these crocodile tears for our allies when the House Republicans are holding up the National Security Supplemental, which passed weeks ago in the Senate by a 70–30 vote, it is broadly bipartisan legislation that our allies deserve an up-or-down vote on, and we should see that on the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to energy, House Republicans are also presenting us with a false choice. They would have us believe that renewable energy and energy independence are at odds. They want us to think that sustainability and a strong economy are a tradeoff. It is simply not true, and we cannot afford to make this false choice.

As we have seen with the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act, we can have it both ways. We can lower emissions while creating jobs and growing the economy. We can make the transition to solar and wind without displacing businesses or workers.

The Inflation Reduction Act and the infrastructure bill demonstrate that not only does a green transition come hand in hand with economic growth, but also that that growth can be spurred from the middle out and the bottom up.

All over the country, new manufacturing facilities for batteries, solar panels, wind turbines, and electric vehicles are being built. These factories are offering long-term, good-paying jobs that will drive economic development for years to come. It is an American manufacturing renaissance that has been made possible by legislation passed by Democrats and President Biden.

It is a testament to what is possible when legislators roll up their sleeves and solve problems as opposed to playing to their most extreme Members. That is what real leadership looks like.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question and the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, today, the EPA released their tailpipe rule, which is a de facto ban on gas-powered vehicles.

President Biden is setting performance standards for tailpipe emissions that automakers can only meet by producing EVs. This will do serious damage to the American family and the American worker.

Through a series of rules, the Biden administration is eliminating gas-powered vehicles in less than 10 years. For example, the EPA is set to approve California's outright ban on the sale of new internal combustion engine vehicles by 2035.

Additionally, the Department of Transportation is proposing CAFE standards that force fleets to switch to EVs.

What does this mean?

For all the talk about building the middle class, this is an attack, a direct attack, on the middle class. Your average EV driver is making well over six figures a year.

Middle-class Americans will struggle to be able to purchase a family car that can't travel long distances, has limited access to reliable fuel sources, and has components that are predominantly sourced from China.

So there are the Democrats' priorities: harming the middle class while benefiting China.

Also, if you think that it is cute to talk about so-called reliable energy sources, do some research and look at the power grid in Texas. Tell me how well that worked out.

But under President Donald Trump's leadership as opposed to Joe Biden's extreme far-left leadership and agenda, under President Trump's leadership, our Nation actually became energy independent. This was thanks to the progrowth, projob, pro-American energy policies that facilitated an energy renaissance and lowered energy costs for hardworking American families.

Just in my home State of Pennsylvania, we are second in the Nation for natural gas production. The industry supports hundreds of thousands of jobs in the Commonwealth, including roughly 130,000 union jobs that the Democrats falsely claim to care about.

Our Commonwealth has such an abundance of natural resources that we lead the Nation in electricity exports to other States.

Last year, Pennsylvania's impact fee revenue reached an historic level at $278.9 million, which helps to alleviate tax burdens on our local communities.

When the Biden administration bends the knee to the climate change mob by stopping new LNG export approvals, by taxing natural gas production, by proposing bans on fracking, and placing a de facto ban on gas-powered vehicles, what are they doing?

These actions are hurting American families and American workers, and

local communities are being harmed in States like Pennsylvania.

That is why we must pass this underlying legislation, which will strengthen our position on the international stage and when the final votes are tallied this week, you are going to see on display the stark difference between Democrats and Republicans.

If you stand with the American worker, the American family, and the American job creator, vote ''yes'' on the rule and the underlying legislation.

If you support energy resources from Chairman Xi, Vladimir Putin, and the Ayatollah, then vote ''no'' on the rule and ''no'' on the underlying legislation.

The choice couldn't be any clearer, and you will see the stark difference between the Democrats and the Republicans on this vote.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on the previous question and ''yes'' on the rule.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. SCANLON. 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 question are postponed.

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 12 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEIL) at 1 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:

Ordering the previous question on House Resolution 1085;

Adoption of House Resolution 1085, if ordered; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 7520, as amended.

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

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1023, REPEALING OF GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1121, PROTECTING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6009, RESTORING AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. CON. RES. 86, EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT A CARBON TAX WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 987, DENOUNCING THE HARMFUL, ANTI-AMERICAN ENERGY POLICIES OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 7023, CREATING CONFIDENCE IN CLEAN WATER PERMITTING ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on ordering the previous question on the resolution (H. Res. 1085) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1023) to repeal section 134 of the Clean Air Act, relating to the greenhouse gas reduction fund; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1121) to prohibit a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6009) to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the proposed rule relating to fluid mineral leases and leasing process, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Con. Res. 86) expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy; providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 987) denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes; and providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 7023) to amend section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to codify certain regulatory provisions relating to nationwide permits for dredged or fill material, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on ordering the previous question.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 207, nays 192, not voting 33, as follows:

[Roll No. 89]

YEAS—207

Aderholt	Barr	Buchanan
Alford	Bean (FL)	Buck
Allen	Bentz	Bucshon
Amodei	Bergman	Burchett
Armstrong	Bice	Burgess
Arrington	Biggs	Burlison
Babin	Bilirakis	Calvert
Bacon	Bishop (NC)	Carey
Baird	Boebert	Carl
Balderson	Bost	Carter (GA)
Banks	Brecheen	Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer	Hern	Norman
Ciscomani	Hill	Nunn (IA)
Cline	Hinson	Obernolte
Cloud	Houchin	Ogles
Clyde	Hudson	Owens
Cole	Huizenga	Palmer
Collins	Hunt	Pence
Comer	Issa	Perry
Crane	Jackson (TX)	Pfluger
Crawford	James	Posey
Crenshaw	Johnson (LA)	Reschenthaler
Curtis	Johnson (SD)	Rodgers (WA)
D'Esposito	Jordan	Rogers (AL)
Davidson	Joyce (PA)	Rogers (KY)
De La Cruz	Kean (NJ)	Rose
DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	Rosendale
Diaz-Balart	Kelly (PA)	Rouzer
Donalds	Kiley	Roy
Duarte	Kim (CA)	Rutherford
Duncan	Kustoff	Salazar
Dunn (FL)	LaHood	Scalise
Edwards	LaLota	Schweikert
Ellzey	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin
Emmer	Lamborn	Self
Estes	Langworthy	Sessions
Ezell	Latta	Smith (MO)
Feenstra	LaTurner	Smith (NE)
Ferguson	Lawler	Smith (NJ)
Finstad	Lee (FL)	Smucker
Fischbach	Lesko	Spartz
Fitzgerald	Letlow	Stauber
Fitzpatrick	Lucas	Steel
Fleischmann	Luetkemeyer	Stefanik
Flood	Luna	Steil
Foxx	Luttrell	Steube
Franklin, Scott	Mace	Strong
Fry	Malliotakis	Tenney
Fulcher	Maloy	Thompson (PA)
Gaetz	Mann	Tiffany
Gallagher	Massie	Timmons
Garbarino	McCaul	Turner
Garcia, Mike	McClain	Valadao
Gimenez	McClintock	Van Drew
Gonzales, Tony	McCormick	Van Duyne
Good (VA)	McHenry	Van Orden
Gooden (TX)	Meuser	Wagner
Granger	Miller (IL)	Walberg
Graves (LA)	Miller (OH)	Waltz
Graves (MO)	Miller (WV)	Weber (TX)
Green (TN)	Miller-Meeks	Webster (FL)
Greene (GA)	Mills	Wenstrup
Griffith	Moolenaar	Westerman
Grothman	Mooney	Williams (NY)
Guest	Moore (AL)	Wilson (SC)
Guthrie	Moore (UT)	Wittman
Hageman	Moran	Womack
Harris	Murphy	Yakym
Harshbarger	Newhouse	Zinke

NAYS—192

Adams	Courtney	Ivey
Aguilar	Craig	Jackson (IL)
Allred	Crockett	Jackson (NC)
Amo	Crow	Jackson Lee
Auchincloss	Davids (KS)	Jacobs
Barragán	Davis (NC)	Jayapal
Beatty	Dean (PA)	Jeffries
Bera	DeGette	Johnson (GA)
Beyer	DeLauro	Kamlager-Dove
Bishop (GA)	DelBene	Kaptur
Blumenauer	Deluzio	Keating
Blunt Rochester	DeSaulnier	Kelly (IL)
Bonamici	Dingell	Khanna
Bowman	Doggett	Kilmer
Boyle (PA)	Escobar	Kim (NJ)
Brown	Eshoo	Krishnamoorthi
Budzinski	Espaillat	Kuster
Bush	Evans	Landsman
Caraveo	Fletcher	Larsen (WA)
Carbajal	Foushee	Larson (CT)
Cárdenas	Frost	Lee (NV)
Carson	Gallego	Lee (PA)
Carter (LA)	Garamendi	Leger Fernandez
Cartwright	Garcia (IL)	Levin
Casar	Garcia (TX)	Lieu
Case	Garcia, Robert	Lofgren
Casten	Goldman (NY)	Lynch
Castor (FL)	Gomez	Magaziner
Castro (TX)	Gonzalez, Vicente	Manning
Cherfilus-McCormick	Gottheimer	Matsui
Chu	Green, Al (TX)	McBath
Clark (MA)	Hayes	McClellan
Clarke (NY)	Himes	McCollum
Cleaver	Horsford	McGarvey
Cohen	Houlahan	McGovern
Connolly	Hoyer	Menendez
Correa	Hoyle (OR)	Meng
Costa	Huffman	Mfume
		Moore (WI)

Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—33

Balint
Brownley
Cammack
Clyburn
Cuellar
Davis (IL)
Fallon
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Golden (ME)
Gosar
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Higgins (LA)
Joyce (OH)
Kiggans (VA)
Kildee
Lee (CA)
Loudermilk
Mast
Meeks
Molinaro
Mullin
Nehls
Schakowsky
Sherman
Simpson
Stanton
Titus
Tlaib
Trone
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)

□ 1357

Messrs. LANDSMAN, JOHNSON of Georgia, THANEDAR, Mses. KELLY of Illinois, and STEVENS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Mrs. BICE changed her vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yea'' on rollcall No. 89.

Stated against:

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall No. 89.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from the floor and a rollcall vote. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall No. 89 on the Motion on Ordering the Previous Question to H. Res. 1085.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 214, noes 200, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 90]

AYES—214

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOES—200

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—18

Costa
Davis (IL)
Frankel, Lois
Golden (ME)
Gomez
Gosar
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Kildee
Lee (CA)
Nehls
Palmer
Simpson
Stanton
Trone
Waters
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1405

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was not recorded on rollcall vote No. 90. Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on rollcall No. 90.

PROTECTING AMERICANS' DATA FROM FOREIGN ADVERSARIES ACT OF 2024

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. 7520) to prohibit data brokers from transferring sensitive data of United States individuals to foreign adversaries, 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 gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS) 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 414, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 91]

YEAS—414

Adams	De La Cruz	Jeffries
Aderholt	Dean (PA)	Johnson (GA)
Aguilar	DeGette	Johnson (LA)
Alford	DeLauro	Johnson (SD)
Allen	DelBene	Jordan
Allred	Deluzio	Joyce (OH)
Amo	DeSaulnier	Joyce (PA)
Amodei	DesJarlais	Kamlager-Dove
Armstrong	Diaz-Balart	Kaptur
Arrington	Dingell	Kean (NJ)
Auchincloss	Doggett	Keating
Babin	Donalds	Kelly (IL)
Bacon	Duarte	Kelly (MS)
Baird	Duncan	Kelly (PA)
Balderson	Dunn (FL)	Khanna
Balint	Edwards	Kiggans (VA)
Banks	Ellzey	Kiley
Barr	Emmer	Kilmer
Barragán	Escobar	Kim (CA)
Bean (FL)	Eshoo	Kim (NJ)
Beatty	Espaillat	Krishnamoorthi
Bentz	Estes	Kuster
Bera	Evans	Kustoff
Bergman	Ezell	LaHood
Beyer	Fallon	LaLota
Bice	Feenstra	LaMalfa
Biggs	Ferguson	Lamborn
Bilirakis	Finstad	Landsman
Bishop (GA)	Fischbach	Langworthy
Bishop (NC)	Fitzgerald	Larsen (WA)
Blumenauer	Fitzpatrick	Larson (CT)
Blunt Rochester	Fleischmann	Latta
Boebert	Fletcher	LaTurner
Bonamici	Flood	Lawler
Bost	Foster	Lee (FL)
Bowman	Foushee	Lee (NV)
Boyle (PA)	Foxx	Lee (PA)
Brecheen	Franklin, Scott	Leger Fernandez
Brown	Frost	Letlow
Brownley	Fry	Levin
Buchanan	Fulcher	Lieu
Buck	Gaetz	Lofgren
Bucshon	Gallagher	Loudermilk
Budzinski	Gallego	Lucas
Burchett	Garamendi	Luetkemeyer
Burgess	Garbarino	Luna
Burlison	García (IL)	Luttrell
Bush	Garcia (TX)	Lynch
Calvert	Garcia, Mike	Mace
Cammack	Garcia, Robert	Magaziner
Caraveo	Gimenez	Malliotakis
Carbajal	Goldman (NY)	Maloy
Cárdenas	Gomez	Mann
Carey	Gonzales, Tony	Manning
Carl	Gonzalez, Vicente	Massie
Carson		Mast
Carter (GA)	Good (VA)	Matsui
Carter (LA)	Gooden (TX)	McBath
Carter (TX)	Gottheimer	McCaul
Cartwright	Granger	McClain
Casar	Graves (LA)	McClellan
Case	Graves (MO)	McClintock
Casten	Green (TN)	McCollum
Castor (FL)	Green, Al (TX)	McCormick
Castro (TX)	Greene (GA)	McGarvey
Chavez-DeRemer	Griffith	McGovern
Cherfilus-McCormick	Grothman	McHenry
	Guest	Meeks
Chu	Guthrie	Menendez
Ciscomani	Hageman	Meng
Clark (MA)	Harris	Meuser
Clarke (NY)	Harshbarger	Mfume
Cleaver	Hayes	Miller (IL)
Cline	Hern	Miller (OH)
Cloud	Higgins (LA)	Miller (WV)
Clyburn	Hill	Miller-Meeks
Clyde	Himes	Mills
Cohen	Hinson	Molinaro
Cole	Horsford	Moolenaar
Collins	Houchin	Mooney
Comer	Houlahan	Moore (AL)
Connolly	Hoyer	Moore (UT)
Correa	Hoyle (OR)	Moore (WI)
Costa	Hudson	Moran
Courtney	Huffman	Morelle
Craig	Huizenga	Moskowitz
Crane	Hunt	Moulton
Crawford	Issa	Mrvan
Crenshaw	Ivey	Mullin
Crockett	Jackson (IL)	Nadler
Crow	Jackson (NC)	Napolitano
Cuellar	Jackson (TX)	Neal
Curtis	Jackson Lee	Neguse
D'Esposito	Jacobs	Newhouse
Davids (KS)	James	Nickel
Davidson	Jayapal	Norcross
Norman	Salinas	Thanedar
Nunn (IA)	Sánchez	Thompson (CA)
Obernolte	Sarbanes	Thompson (MS)
Ocasio-Cortez	Scalise	Thompson (PA)
Ogles	Scanlon	Tiffany
Omar	Schakowsky	Timmons
Owens	Schiff	Titus
Pallone	Schneider	Tlaib
Palmer	Scholten	Tokuda
Panetta	Schrier	Tonko
Pappas	Schweikert	Torres (CA)
Pascrell	Scott (VA)	Torres (NY)
Payne	Scott, Austin	Trahan
Pelosi	Scott, David	Turner
Peltola	Self	Underwood
Pence	Sessions	Valadao
Perez	Sewell	Van Drew
Perry	Sherman	Van Duyne
Peters	Sherrill	Van Orden
Pettersen	Slotkin	Vargas
Pfluger	Smith (MO)	Vasquez
Phillips	Smith (NE)	Veasey
Pingree	Smith (NJ)	Velázquez
Pocan	Smith (WA)	Wagner
Porter	Smucker	Walberg
Posey	Sorensen	Waltz
Pressley	Soto	Wasserman Schultz
Quigley	Spanberger	
Ramirez	Spartz	Waters
Raskin	Stansbury	Watson Coleman
Reschenthaler	Stauber	Weber (TX)
Rodgers (WA)	Steel	Webster (FL)
Rogers (AL)	Stefanik	Wenstrup
Rogers (KY)	Steil	Westerman
Rose	Steube	Wexton
Rosendale	Stevens	Wild
Ross	Strickland	Williams (GA)
Rouzer	Strong	Williams (NY)
Roy	Suozzi	Wilson (SC)
Ruiz	Swalwell	Wittman
Ruppersberger	Sykes	Womack
Ryan	Takano	Yakym
Salazar	Tenney	Zinke

NOT VOTING—18

Davis (IL)	Harder (CA)	Rutherford
Davis (NC)	Kildee	Simpson
Frankel, Lois	Lee (CA)	Stanton
Golden (ME)	Lesko	Trone
Gosar	Murphy	Williams (TX)
Grijalva	Nehls	Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1411

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 prohibit data brokers from transferring personally identifiable sensitive data of United States individuals to foreign adversaries, and for other purposes.''.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent and missed three votes on the House Floor. Had I been present, I would have voted ''nay'' on rollcall No. 89, Motion on Ordering the Previous Question on H. Res. 1085. ''no'' on rollcall No. 90, H. Res. 1085 and ''yea'' on rollcall No. 91, H.R. 7520.

PROTECTING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION ACT

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1085, I call up the bill (H.R. 1121) to prohibit a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1121

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 ''Protecting American Energy Production Act''.

SEC. 2. PROTECTING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that States should maintain primacy for the regulation of hydraulic fracturing for oil and natural gas production on State and private lands.

(b) PROHIBITION ON DECLARATION OF A MORATORIUM ON HYDRAULIC FRACTURING.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President may not declare a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing unless such moratorium is authorized by an Act of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1121.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1121, the Protecting American Energy Production Act.

H.R. 1121, introduced by Congressman DUNCAN, would prevent any President from issuing a moratorium on hydraulic fracturing while also establishing a sense of Congress that States should regulate the practice on State and private land.

Hydraulic fracturing has been around for almost 100 years. The practice, combined with recent technological improvements and the advent of horizontal drilling, has propelled the United States to global energy superpower status.

This surge in supply has contributed to lower energy prices for consumers, stimulating economic growth, and improving the quality of life for all Americans.

In truth, a ban on hydraulic fracturing would cripple the American economy while surrendering world energy leadership to Russia, Iran, and China.

Federal efforts to regulate fracking, which is currently adequately regulated by the States, could have an equally devastating impact.

The 2005 Energy Policy Act clarified that Congress never intended the Federal Government to regulate fracking under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

In the Obama administration, the Bureau of Land Management attempted to regulate the practice for Federal lands and minerals, but the courts threw out that effort.

In the decision, the judge clearly stated, ''Congress has not delegated to the Department of the Interior the authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing. The BLM's effort to do so through the fracking rule is in excess of its statutory authority and contrary to law.''

Currently, States regulate fracking, and each has comprehensive laws and regulations to provide for safe operations, to protect drinking water sources, and to have trained personnel effectively regulating oil and gas exploration and production.

In addition to preventing the President from implementing a unilateral fracking ban, this bill would also express a sense of Congress that States should maintain regulatory authority over fracking on State and private lands.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 1121, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome everyone to the long-anticipated, endlessly rescheduled energy week.

Over the next 2 days, with only a matter of days until a partial shutdown, rather than a transparent discussion on how to fund the government, this Chamber will debate and vote on a number of energy-related bills, bills Republicans claim will boost so-called energy dominance.

It is not hard to see through their talking points.

The U.S. is producing more oil and gas than ever before, and what do we have to show for it? Everyday Americans still face volatile energy prices because oil and gas are global commodities and because we are exporting record amounts of fossil fuels.

The communities nearest to this record-breaking production are overburdened with pollution, and their health and well-being are suffering. The climate crisis, because it is real, is getting more dire each year.

The United States should be leading the way to a new, cleaner future, not drilling deeper into this catastrophe.

Rather than addressing these issues head-on and building a just future that generations to come can be proud of, House Republicans are instead choosing to lead us toward more of the same—stuffing the pockets of Big Oil executives who are hoping to make another quick yacht off the backs of hardworking Americans just as they have done for years.

We have seen these washed-up, has-been proposals before.

Last year, Republicans passed H.R. 1, the polluters over people act which contains some of these repeat proposals. It is like a bad boyfriend coming back who just needs to be gone.

This week is no different.

We are going to see the same tired handouts to the richest and most polluting megacorporations, all while leaving our most vulnerable communities in the toxic dust. It is polluters over people 2.0.

The first bill on the agenda is H.R. 1121, which would prevent the President from banning fracking unless authorized by Congress, even if there is a public health emergency, poisoned drinking water, or any other fracking crisis.

For my colleagues across the aisle, maybe this is just a messaging bill, but for folks on the ground, it is extremely dangerous. It ignores the very real consequences of fracking for impacted communities.

Fracking is a method of extracting oil and gas from deep underground. It involves blasting open rock at high pressure with a mixture of water, sand, and chemicals, many of which are undisclosed.

In areas where fracking is concentrated, it has been linked to preterm births, high-risk pregnancies, asthma, migraines, fatigue, respiratory symptoms, skin disorders, and the list goes on.

The fracking chemicals we do know about—things like benzene and ethylene glycol, are known to be hazardous to human health. Children living near fracking sites have lower birth weights and higher rates of cancer.

Fracking chemicals end up in our soil and in our groundwater. Fracking is known to contaminate air and drinking water, but this Republican sweetheart legislation would stop the President from banning or even pausing fracking on public lands and in Federal waters, even if it poses a clear, known, and present danger to drinking water and public health.

Here is something you are going to hear a lot from Democrats this week: Big Oil and Big Gas don't need any more favors right now. They don't need more tax breaks. They don't need more special loopholes. They don't need more handouts.

The President should have the full range of tools to protect the American people, especially when it comes to our public lands and resources.

Mr. Speaker, I urge opposition to the legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, one of the things my good friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle have stated is that the Big Oil and Gas companies are making record profits, and these bills are essentially tax cuts for Big Oil. That couldn't be further from the truth.

This President's anti-energy agenda has driven up energy prices for all Americans, which also has created greater revenues for Big Oil companies. If Democrats are really concerned about energy prices, the best thing they can do is mirror the energy dominance policies of the previous administration.

Doing so would create abundance, driving down energy prices for all Americans. Producers with no more than $5 million in retail sales of oil and gas in a year account for 83 percent of America's oil production, 90 percent of its natural gas, and natural gas liquids production.

These are small businesses, Mr. Speaker, often locally and independently owned with a handful of employees, but collectively they support 4.5 million American jobs.

Our Republican energy bills help ensure small businesses can continue to operate on Federal lands.

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to look at the balance sheets of all of these Big Oil executives. No one is waiting in a food line. No one is trying to cash an unemployment check. They have the money, and they will be getting more because of these loopholes.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN).

□ 1430

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 1121.

This extreme legislation would limit the President's ability to respond to public health, environmental, and climate risks. It is nothing more than a made-up solution in search of a problem.

To be clear, the President has made no indication that he will ban fracking, and yet H.R. 1121 would prohibit the President from ever banning fracking for any reason ever, despite the risks that it poses. Many of my colleagues aren't even in favor of sensible oversight or regulation of fracking.

It is my view that public lands managers ought to have access to a full range of tools to reduce harmful emissions, protect our environment, and safeguard public health. I am particularly concerned because we don't have adequate regulations and safeguards in place to ensure that if fracking is done, at the very least it is done in a way that reduces environmental and health risks.

There is a growing body of evidence that illustrates that fracking creates vast amounts of wastewater, emits greenhouse gases such as methane, and releases toxic pollutants such as potent carcinogens into the air.

Studies have also reported associations between residential proximity to fracking operations and increased adverse pregnancy outcomes, cancer incidence, hospitalizations, respiratory diseases, mental health problems, and more. Additionally, throughout the U.S., pregnant women, children, indigenous people, communities of color, and

low-income communities disproportionately bear the negative impacts of fracking.

Our understanding of fracking's risks just continues to grow. We can't let this pollution of our air, water, climate, and health continue unabated, especially if we remove a tool from the President's toolbox, as H.R. 1121 would do.

We need some regulations in place to protect the health of our environment and our communities, otherwise we risk unleashing the fossil fuel industry's unfettered pollution and damage to our environment and our health.

For these reasons, at the appropriate time I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill. My amendment would require the Bureau of Land Management to issue regulations around fracking that include baseline water testing and public disclosure of the chemicals that companies use in their fracking operations before the ban on fracking bans can go into place.

At the end of the debate, I will insert into the RECORD the text of this amendment. I hope my colleagues will join me for the motion to recommit.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle say that this bill, H.R. 1121, is unnecessary, as the President has not proposed a hydraulic fracturing moratorium. They say it sets a dangerous precedent for limiting the authority of the President and the Secretary of the Interior to manage energy resources on Federal lands.

The fact is, this President, on the campaign trail, said: ''No more, no new fracking.'' This was candidate Biden. We know from what he has done in his first 3-plus years in office, don't necessarily listen to his words, watch his actions. He has done it on mining. He said we were going to mine domestically for our critical minerals. Once he became President, he changed his tune. Now he wants memorandums of understanding with other countries that are adversarial to the United States.

After years of disastrous energy policies by this President, we know we cannot take him for just his word, which is exactly why this bill is necessary. This is especially true, Mr. Speaker, given that the Obama administration's Bureau of Land Management tried to regulate fracking.

The courts ultimately stopped this effort. In the decision, U.S. District Court Judge Skavdahl clearly stated: ''Congress has not delegated to the Department of the Interior the authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing. The BLM's effort to do so through the Fracking Rule is in excess of its statutory authority and contrary to law.''

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, in 2015 the Obama administration published a rule regulating fracking on public lands, and I should mention that the rule was not a ban on fracking, but a commonsense requirement that companies disclose what chemicals they are using.

It would also have required storage protocols for wastewater, barriers between wells and water zones, and the disclosure of the location of existing wells—additional commonsense protections for the public.

The rule was challenged, and the District Court of Wyoming struck down an appeal. The District Court of Wyoming read the Safe Drinking Water Act's exclusion of fracking from that law's underground injection program to mean that no Federal agency can regulate fracking.

This was a flimsy court case that has not been reviewed on appeal, and the Trump BLM rescinded the rule before the appeals court could rule on it. The case does not mean that the Federal Government should have no role in regulating fracking for oil and gas. This issue is too important for us to leave 100 percent to a patchwork of State laws. The President must have the full range of tools to protect our health, safety, and climate from the dangers of fracking.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, as one of the only few who doesn't take corporate PAC money in this institution, I am here to tell you the truth, per usual.

H.R. 1121 is a danger to all of our communities. The President must have a full range of tools to protect our health, safety, and climate from dangers of fracking.

We know this bill is nothing more than a waste of time. I would like to take a step back for a minute and remind people of the truth, why we are here in this situation right now, with fracking being practically unregulated at the Federal level.

Nearly 20 years ago, Mr. Speaker, then-Vice President Dick Cheney, the former CEO of Halliburton, managed to insert a loophole into the Energy Act of 2005 specifically exempting fracking chemicals from EPA regulation under the Safe Drinking Water Act.

Halliburton, of course, is one of the largest oil and gas companies in the world and also just happens to be behind most of the major fracking worldwide.

For the last 20 years, we have been dealing with the Halliburton loophole, a terrible reminder of the revolving door of oil, money, and politics, and how Big Oil buys its way into the Halls of Congress.

This bill is another step to enshrine fracking protections and polluter loopholes into law, and it is wrong. It says to people in our communities all across the country, the people who elected us—urban, rural communities—that corporate polluters' profits are more important than their health.

The mere fact that fracking is linked to childhood cancer should be enough for us to act. I merely ask for us, please, don't frack with our health.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this legislation.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, my good friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle make statements that fracking is mostly unregulated and the practice can consume millions of gallons of water. They say this is industry first and that the Republicans look to take away and protect public health and combat the climate crisis. That couldn't be further from the truth. Absolutely couldn't be further from the truth.

According to the Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, member States each have comprehensive laws and regulations to ensure safe operations and protect drinking water sources. They have trained personnel to effectively regulate oil and gas exploration and production.

Mr. Speaker, even President Obama's own EPA found that fracking has no widespread systemic impacts on drinking water resources in the United States of America. No evidence has arisen that this practice is dangerous, and to say anything else is simply fearmongering to the American people and pandering to the radical left that would rather have us rely on Iran, Russia, and Venezuela for our energy needs.

Mr. Speaker, one last thing. This President took the sanctions off Iran. Iran is now making $90 billion because those sanctions were taken off. Who do you think is funding the war against Israel? Iran, the top sponsor of terrorism. He took the sanctions off.

When we produce here in the United States of America, it is a win-win, Mr. Speaker. It is the safest, and the cleanest. It employs American technology, American resources, provides American jobs. It helps American families, American communities. We do it better than anybody else.

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD Mr. LEVIN's amendment immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from the Yale School of Public Health, published in ScienceDirect in response to the statements of my colleague on the other side of the aisle that fracking is safe and that it is safe for nearby communities.

[From Science of the Total Environment, Aug. 16, 2016]

UNCONVENTIONAL OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT AND RISK OF CHILDHOOD LEUKEMIA: ASSESSING THE EVIDENCE

(By Elise G. Elliott, Pauline Trinh, Xiaomei Ma, Brian P. Leaderer, Mary H. Ward, Nicole C. Deziel)

ABSTRACT

The widespread distribution of unconventional oil and gas (UO&G) wells and other facilities in the United States potentially exposes millions of people to air and water pollutants, including known or suspected carcinogens. Childhood leukemia is a particular concern because of the disease severity, vulnerable population, and short disease latency. A comprehensive review of carcinogens and leukemogens associated with UO&G development is not available and could inform future exposure monitoring studies and human health assessments. The objective of this analysis was to assess the evidence of carcinogenicity of water contaminants and air pollutants related to UO&G development. We obtained a list of 1177 chemicals in hydraulic fracturing fluids and wastewater from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and constructed a list of 143 UO&G-related air pollutants through a review of scientific papers published through 2015 using PubMed and ProQuest databases. We assessed carcinogenicity and evidence of increased risk for leukemia/lymphoma of these chemicals using International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) monographs. The majority of compounds (>80%) were not evaluated by IARC and therefore could not be reviewed. Of the 111 potential water contaminants and 29 potential air pollutants evaluated by IARC (119 unique compounds), 49 water and 20 air pollutants were known, probable, or possible human carcinogens (55 unique compounds). A total of 17 water and 11 air pollutants (20 unique compounds) had evidence of increased risk for leukemia/lymphoma, including benzene, 1,3-butadiene, cadmium, diesel exhaust, and several polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Though information on the carcinogenicity of compounds associated with UO&G development was limited, our assessment identified 20 known or suspected carcinogens that could be measured in future studies to advance exposure and risk assessments of cancer-causing agents. Our findings support the need for investigation into the relationship between UO&G development and risk of cancer in general and childhood leukemia in particular.

INTRODUCTION

Unconventional oil and gas (UO&G) development is a complex, multi-phase process of extracting oil and natural gas from low-permeable rock formations that were inaccessible prior to recent technological advances in hydraulic fracturing and directional drilling. It has expanded rapidly in the past decade and now occurs in as many as 30 states within the United States, with millions of people living within 1 mile of a hydraulically fractured well (US EPA, 2015). Concerns have been raised about the potential exposures to water and air pollutants and related health impacts (Adgate et al., 2014). Chemicals involved in or produced by UO&G development may include reproductive/developmental toxicants (Elliott et al., 2016; Kahrilas et al., 2015; Wattenberg et al., 2015), endocrine disruptors (Kassotis et al., 2014), or known or suspected carcinogenic agents (McKenzie et al., 2012). The limited epidemiologic studies of UO&G development have observed an increase in adverse perinatal outcomes (Casey et al., 2016: McKenzie et al., 2014; Stacy et al., 2015), asthma exacerbations (Rasmussen et al., 2016), dermal irritation (Rabinowitz et al., 2015), hospitalization rates Jemielita et al., 2015), and nasal, headache, and fatigue symptoms (Tustin et al., 2016).

Childhood leukemia in particular is a public health concern related to UO&G development, and it may be an early indicator of exposure to environmental carcinogens due to the relatively short disease latency and vulnerability of the exposed population (Rothwell et al., 1991; Shy et al., 1994). The age-adjusted incidence rate of leukemia in the United States for children under the age of 15 was 5.3 per 100,000 persons in 2011, the highest among all types of childhood cancer, and the peak age of incidence is 2–5 years (CDC. 2015). The U.S. incidence rates for acute lymphocytic leukemia, the most common subtype of childhood leukemia, increased annually by 1.4% from 2000 to 2010 (Gittleman et al., 2015). Environmental exposures, such as ionizing radiation, benzene, traffic exhaust, tobacco smoke, and pesticides, have been linked to childhood acute lymphoblastic leukemia, though evidence is generally limited or inconsistent (Bailey et al., 2015a; Bailey et al., 2015b; Tong et al., 2012: Ward et al., 2014; Wiemels, 2012; Zachek et al., 2015). A comprehensive review of the carcinogens and leukemogens associated with UO&G development is not available and could inform future environmental and biological monitoring and human health studies. In this analysis, we aimed to systematically assess the evidence for a possible carcinogenic/leukemogenic role of (1) water and (2) air pollutants associated with UO&G development.

1.1. Unconventional oil and gas development description of the process

In oil and gas extraction, a well pad must first be constructed. This involves the use of construction vehicles, heavy equipment, and diesel generators in continuous operation to create roads, clear and set up a well site, and transport materials to the site (Moore et al., 2014). After well pad construction is complete, drilling rigs drill vertically past the deepest freshwater aquifer down to the level of the source formation, such as shale rock, turn and drill horizontally for distances up to 3000 m (Laurenzi and Jersey, 2013). After drilling, the well is hydraulically fractured. In this step, large volumes of fracturing fluids consisting of water, chemicals, and proppants (sand or ceramic beads) are forced into wells under high pressure, creating fissures or fractures in the rock along the horizontal section of the wellbore to release oil or gas. Typically, about 15–100 million l of fluid are used for each well, of which approximately 1–2% are chemical additives, representing a substantial volume of chemicals used per well (estimated as upwards of 114,000 l) (US DOE, 2013; US EPA, 2012). Chemical additives in fracturing fluids include biocides, surfactants. and anti-corrosive agents (US EPA, 2015). After fracturing, wastewater flows up the wells. Within 1–4 weeks about 30% of injected fracturing fluids rapidly return to the surface through the well as ''flowback'' water; subsequently, ''produced'' water returns up the well more slowly. The produced water includes the injected fluids along with mobilized, naturally-occurring compounds (e.g., heavy metals, bromides, radionuclides) (Ferrar et al., 2013; Vidic et al., 2013). Flowback and produced wastewater are stored in large open pits or storage tanks until they can be treated, reused, or disposed of offsite, such as in injection wells. Oil, gas, and produced water flow up the well for years or decades during the production phase of the well (Barbot et al., 2013; Nicol et al., 2014). During production, diesel-power trucks may be used to maintain the wells or transport oil or gas off the well pad. This stage also includes the processing and distribution of the produced oil and gas at other facilities (NYS DEC, 2011).

1.2. Possible pathways of environmental exposure to carcinogenic agents

Possible pathways of water contamination during fracturing and production include faulty or deteriorating well casings, equipment failure, surface spills of fracturing fluids or wastewater on-site or from tanker trucks transporting these liquids, migration of chemicals from fractures to shallow aquifers, leakage from wastewater pits, and unauthorized discharge and release of inadequately treated wastewater into the environment (Adgate et al., 2014; Brantley et al., 2014; Ferrar et al., 2013; Gross et al., 2013; Jackson et al., 2013b; Osborn et al., 2011; Rozell and Reaven, 2012: Shonkoff et al., 2014: US EPA, 2015: Vengosh et al., 2014; Vengosh et al., 2013; Warner et al., 2012). Surface activities may pose the greater potential threat in the near-term (Drollette et al., 2015), with sub-surface activities potentially presenting a hazard over a longer period of time. Several water quality studies have measured total dissolved solids, isotopes, and other chemicals to characterize a geochemical fingerprint of UO&G development (Jackson et al., 2013a; Vengosh et al., 2013; Warner et al., 2013; Warner et al., 2012) ; these studies are not necessarily focused on compounds with evidence of toxicity to humans. Studies measuring concentrations of health-relevant chemicals in drinking water sources are emerging (Harkness et al., 2015; Hildenbrand et al., 2015; Llewellyn et al., 2015), but data are limited.

UO&G development activities that could generate air pollution include operation of diesel-powered equipment, use of vehicles to transport materials and waste to and from the site, addition of sand (silica) to the fracturing fluid mixture, volatilization of compounds from wastewater, and processing and distribution of the oil and gas (Moore et al., 2014). Air pollutants, such as diesel exhaust, fine and coarse air particulates, crystalline silica, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), are a few examples commonly cited as being generated as part of the various phases of UO&G development (Burnham et al., 2012; McCawley, 2015: Moore et al., 2014). To our knowledge, no comprehensive list of air pollutants potentially related to UO&G development is available in the published literature or government reports.

1.3. Epidemiologtc studies of unconventional oil and gas development

Knowledge of the the health risks of UO&C development is sparse though epidemiologic studies on this topic are emerging, Studies using proximity-based metrics observed associations between UO&G development and congenital heart defects in children (McKenzie et al., 2014), self-reported dermal irritation (Rabinowitz et al., 2015), decreased birth weight and increased incidence of small for gestational age (Stacy et al., 2015), increased preterm birth (Casey et al., 2016), increased in mild, moderate, and severe asthma exacerbations (Rasmussen et al., 2016), and increased chronic rhinosinusitis, migraine headache, and fatigue symptoms (Tustin et al., 2016). The number of wells per ZIP code was associated with increased hospitalization rates, particularly in the areas of dermatology, neurology, oncology, and urology (Jemielita et al., 2015).

The only epidemiologic analysis of the association between UO&C development and risk of cancer published in the scientific literature reported similar county-level standardized incidence ratios for childhood leukemia before and after drilling of any oil and gas wells in any Pennsylvania counties during 1990–2009 (Fryzek et al., 2013). Also in this

analysis, standardized incidence ratios were similar before and after drilling started in counties with unconventional wells, specifically. However, several important shortcomings of this study have been noted. For example, this ecologic study did not account for a latency period between exposure and cancer incidence. In addition, though the study objective was to examine risk associated with hydraulic fracturing, 98% of the wells included in the study were ''non-horizontal'' wells that likely did not involve the practice of hydraulic fracturing (Goldstein and Malone, 2013). Case-control studies of proximity to other petroleum-based sources provide some evidence of an association with childhood leukemia risk. Two case-control studies in France reported increased odds of childhood leukemia among those living in proximity to the petroleum-based sources of petrol stations and automotive repair garages (Brosselin et al., 2009; Steffen et al., 2004). Another case-control study reported elevated odds of childhood leukemia with proximity to petrol stations, but the relationship was not statistically significant, possibly due to small sample size (Harrison et al., 1999). Another study observed an association with proximity to petro-chemical plants and increased odds of leukemia in young adults (20–29 years), but not children ages 0–15 (Yu et al., 2006). Additionally, a human health risk assessment found an increased risk of cancer for residents living ≤0.5 versus >0.5 mile from a well, attributable primarily to benzene, a known human carcinogen associated with leukemia risk (McKenzie et al., 2012). Taken together, these findings support the plausibility of an increased risk of childhood leukemia related to oil and gas development. The current analysis investigates whether there is additional evidence for the plausibility of a carcinogenic risk from air or water contaminants and provides information to improve the specificity of exposure assessments and human health research of the potential adverse effects of UO&G development.

2. METHODS

2.1 Identification of potential water contaminants

We compiled a list of all chemicals used in hydraulic fracturing fluids, detected in hydraulic fracturing wastewater, or both from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) Appendices A of the progress report ''Study of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing on Drinking Water Resources'' and draft report ''Assessment of the Potential Impacts of Hydraulic Fracturing for Oil and Gas on Drinking Water Resources'' (US EPA, 2012; US EPA, 2015). We eliminated duplicate entries and combined the entries for xylene isomers. This yielded a total of 1177 distinct compounds or groups of compounds (1043 in fracturing fluids only, 98 in wastewater only, 36 in both). The U.S. EPA developed these chemical lists from federal and state databases of well permits and construction records, industry disclosures and monitoring reports, trade journals, the scientific literature, and governmental and non-governmental reports. The fracturing fluid list contains a greater number of substances because it reflects reported usage and includes disclosed substances used across varying companies, locations, and geological formations. The list of wastewater constituents is shorter because it is based on the limited wastewater measurement data available from industry, government reports, or the published literature.

2.2 Classification of carcinogenicity of potential water contaminants

We searched the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) monographs for evidence of carcinogenicity of the potential water contaminants. IARC is an internationally recognized authority on carcinogenicity of chemicals and other agents (Pearce et al., 2015). The monographs are written by working groups of international experts convened by IARC, and they provide detailed evaluations of the quality and strength of evidence of carcinogenicity of agents. The agents are selected for evaluation based on exposure prevalence and suggestive evidence of likelihood to pose a cancer hazard to humans (Tomatis, 1976). Other organizations evaluate environmental agents for carcinogenicity, such as the U.S. EPA through their Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) or the National Institutes of Health through their National Toxicology Program (NTP). Their lists of agents evaluated for their carcinogenicity contain much overlap with IARC and are less comprehensive; IARC, IRIS, and NTP have evaluated 1050, 264, and 243 compounds, respectively (IARC, 2016; IRIS, 2016; NTP, 2014).

Chemicals were designated as ''no information available'' if they were not evaluated in an IARC monograph. For chemicals that were evaluated, we indicated their IARC carcinogenicity classification: carcinogenic to humans (Group 1), probably carcinogenic to humans (Group 2A), possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B), not classifiable as to their carcinogenicity to humans (Group 3), and probably not carcinogenic to humans (Group 4). We calculated frequencies and percentages of the potential water contaminants in each carcinogenicity classification. For chemicals in Groups 1, 2A, or 2B, we assessed whether these chemicals had evidence linked to leukemia and/or lymphoma specifically, based on the available information on human and animal study data provided in the monograph summary or synthesis.

2.3. Identification of potential air pollutants

We constructed a list of potential air pollutants associated with UO&G development by conducting a comprehensive review of the scientific literature. First, we systematically searched the biomedical and health-oriented PubMed database for papers published through December 31, 2015 using the terms ''fracking air'', ''hydraulic fracturing air'', ''unconventional gas air'', ''shale gas air,'' ''unconventional oil air,'' and ''shale oil air.'' which yielded 136 unique publications. Next, we searched the ProQuest Environmental Science Collection database for papers published in environmental science-oriented journals through December 31, 2015 using the terms ''fracking'', ''hydraulic fracturing'', ''unconventional gas'', ''shale gas'', ''unconventional oil'', and ''shale oil'' with the term ''air pollution.'' This search yielded 42 publications (31 additional, unique publications and 11 previously identified through PubMed). We included three types of studies in this analysis: (1) studies that collected primary air pollutant measurements or presented air pollutant measurements from secondary data sources, such as a state or county dataset (''measurement'' studies), (2) studies that modeled air pollutant concentrations using inputs from primary or secondary measurements, emission rates from equipment or UO&G activities, and/or meteorological data (''modeling'' studies), and (3) studies with qualitative assessments of potential or expected air pollutants based on review of the scientific literature, government or non-governmental reports, and/or expert judgement about the types of pollutants likely to be generated from UO&G activities (''descriptive'' studies). We excluded papers not directly related to environmental air pollution associated with UO&G development (n = 86), papers describing generic chemical classes (e.g., volatile organic compounds (VOCs)) but not specific chemical names (e.g., benzene) (n = 25), publications that were not peer-reviewed original research or review papers or were corrected and updated after 2015 (n = 4), and papers written in foreign languages (n = 3). From the 49 publications meeting our criteria, we abstracted chemical names of air pollutants from tables, text, and figures, if explicitly reported as present or predicted to be present at UO&G sites. For example, we abstracted names of target analytes from tables and figures presenting measured or estimated concentrations of pollutants near UO&G sites. This approach is consistent with the U.S. EPA water list construction, which included any compounds reportedly used in hydraulic fracturing fluids or detected in wastewater. We combined individual chemicals into one category if these agents were evaluated as a group by IARC (e.g. xylenes, particulate matter).

2.4. Classification of carcinogenicity of potential air contaminants

We searched the IARC monographs for evidence of carcinogenicity using chemical names of the potential air pollutants. Following the same procedure as for potential water contaminants (Section 2.2), chemicals were designated as ''no information available'' if they were not present in the IARC monographs; or else were reported as Groups 1, 2A, 2B, 3, or 4. For the compounds in Groups 1, 2A, and 2B, we determined whether the monograph summary or synthesis indicated that there was sufficient evidence of increased risk of leukemia and/or lymphoma specifically, based on human or animal data.

3. RESULTS

3.1 Carcinogenicity of potential water contaminants

Of the 1177 potential water contaminants assessed, 1066 compounds (91%) had not been evaluated for carcinogenicity by IARC. The 111 potential water contaminants evaluated included 14 (13%) known human carcinogens (Group 1), 6 (5%) probable human carcinogens (Group 2A), and 29 (26%) possible human carcinogens (Group 2B), and 62 (56%) compounds were not classified with respect to their carcinogenicity (Group 3) (Fig. 1). None were designated as probably not carcinogenic to humans, though only one compound has ever been assigned this classification. The distribution of compounds among the carcinogenicity classifications was similar between the fracturing fluid compounds and wastewater compounds (Fig. 1). Of the 49 potential water contaminants classified as known, probable, or possible human carcinogens (Groups 1, 2A. 2B), 17 had evidence of an increased risk of leukemia and/or lymphoma (Table 1). This included 7 known human carcinogens (1,3-butadiene, benzene, cadmium, ethanol, ethylene oxide, formaldehyde, and quartz), 3 probable carcinogens (dibenz[*a*,*h*]anthracene, dichloromethane, tetrachloroethylene), and 7 possible carcinogens (1,2-propylene oxide, benzo[*b*]fluoranthene, benzo[*k*]fluoranthene, heptachlor, hydrazine, indeno[1,2,3-*cd*]pyrene, styrene). This list reflects petroleum-related volatile organic compounds (e.g., benzene), metals (e.g., cadmium), solvents (e.g., dichloromethane, tetrachloroethylene), and PAHs (benzo[*b*]fluoranthene, dibenz[*a*,*h*]anthracene, benzo[*k*]fluoranthene).

3.2 Identification of potential air pollutants

Our literature review yielded 143 distinct potential air pollutants or groups of pollutants related to UO&G development from 49 studies (Supplemental Table S1, Table 1). Of the 143 compounds, 97 had also been identified in water and 46 were unique to air. A

total of 27 studies included measurements, 19 used modeling, and 15 were descriptive in nature; some studies incorporated a combination of these approaches (Table 2). There were 31 studies of gas development, 1 of oil development, and 17 of both. Studies reporting primary measurements or modeled estimates of air pollutants were conducted mainly in Colorado, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Wyoming. Frequently reported air pollutants (reported in ≥5 studies) included benzene, ethylbenzene, hydrogen sulfide, methane, nitrogen oxides, ozone, particulate matter, toluene, and styrene (Supplemental Table S1). Sampling locations included perimeters of UO&G well sites, mobile monitoring stations, and fixed community sites. Sampling durations varied, such as one-time grab samples of 2 to 3 min (Macey et al., 2014) and weekly 24-hour integrated samples collected over a period of two years (McKenzie et al., 2012).

3.3. Carcinogenicity of potential air pollutants

Of the 143 potential air pollutants, 114 compounds (80%) had not been evaluated for carcinogenicity by IARC. Of the 29 potential air pollutants evaluated, 7 (24%) were considered carcinogenic to humans (Group 1), 2 (7%) were considered probably carcinogenic to humansons varied, such as one-time grab samples of 2 to 3 min (Macey et al., 2014) and weekly 24-hour integrated samples collected over a period of two years (McKenzie et al., 2012). (Group 2A), and 11 (38%) were considered possibly carcinogenic to humans (Group 2B) (Fig. 1). A total of 9 (31%) compounds were not classifiable with respect to their carcinogenicity (Group 3) (Fig. 1). None were designated as probably not carcinogenic to humans (Group 4).

Of the 20 known, probable, or possible carcinogens (Groups 1, 2A, 2B), 11 had evidence of an increased risk of leukemia and/or lymphoma (Table 3). This included 5 known human carcinogens (1,3-butadiene, benzene, ethanol, formaldehyde, diesel engine exhaust), 2 probable human carcinogens (dibenz[*a*,*h*]anthracene,
tetrachloroethylene), and 4 possible human carcinogens (carbon tetrachloroethylene, chrysene, indeno[1,2,3-cd]pyrene, styrene). This list includes constituents of oil and gas resources (e.g., benzene) and diesel exhaust (e.g., formaldehyde, PAHs, 1,3-butadiene).

4. DISCUSSION

We evaluated the evidence that potential exposures from UO&G development are risk factors for cancer in general and leukemia in particular. Our analysis of 1177 chemicals in hydraulic fracturing fluids or wastewater and 143 potential air pollutants identified 55 possible, probable, and known carcinogens related to UO&G development activities. However, the vast majority of chemicals (91% of potential water contaminants, 80% of potential air pollutants) were not evaluated for their carcinogenicity by IARC. Of the 55 known, probable, or possible human carcinogens, 20 had some evidence for increased risk of leukemia and/or lymphoma: 1,2-propylene oxide, 1,3-butadiene, benzene, benzo(b)fluoranthene, benzo(k)fluoranthene, cadmium, carbon tetrachloroethylene, chrysene, dibenz(a,h)anthracene, dichloromethane, engine exhaust (diesel), ethanol, ethylene oxide, formaldehyde, heptachlor, hydrazine, indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene, quartz, styrene, and tetrachloroethylene. These findings support the hypothesis that exposure to UO&G development could increase the risk of leukemia.

Our findings demonstrate the presence of known and suspected carcinogens surrounding UO&G facilities, but drawing conclusions about cancer or leukemia risk is challenging, due to the varied and limited water and air measurement data. With respect to water, for example, Fontenot et al. (2013) measured metals in private drinking water wells in a community proximate to UO&G activity and observed concentrations of the known carcinogen arsenic in exceedance of U.S. EPA Maximum Contaminant Levels, although possible sources included mobilization of natural constituents and hydrogeochemial changes in addition to UO&G activities. Drollette et al. (2015) detected trace levels of organic compounds, such as the known leukomogen benzene and possible carcinogen ethylbenzene, in private drinking water wells in areas with UO&G development in Pennsylvania, with highest observed concentrations within 1 km of active UO&G operations. Although the observed concentrations were below U.S. EPA Maximum Contaminant Levels, cancer risk is generally assumed not to have a threshold below which there is a safe level of exposure.

With respect to air, our literature review identified six studies measuring hazardous air pollutants associated with childhood leukemia (e.g., benzene, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons) near UO&G facilities (Bunch et al., 2014; Macey et al., 2014; McKenzie et al., 2012; Pekney et al., 2014; Rich and Crosby, 2013; Rutter et al., 2015). Differences in location, sampling duration, target agents, and sampling methodology in the air pollution literature hindered our ability to synthesize the air data and place it into context of human health risk. However, some individual studies used the air monitoring data to estimate cancer or health risk. Macey et al. (2014) identified concentrations of benzene, 1,3-butadiene, and formaldehyde in exceedance of EPA IRIS cancer risk levels; however, these were based on grab samples that represented high-exposure scenarios (e.g. ≤20 m of UO&G separator, compressor station, discharge canal, and well pad). McKenzie et al. (2012) estimated risk to communities based on Colorado measurement data collected over nearly three years from a fixed monitoring station in a rural community. They observed an excess risk of cancer for residents living <0.5 mile from the nearest well, mainly attributable to benzene and 1,3-butadiene. Bunch et al. (2014) used VOC measurements collected over ten years by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality from seven fixed-site monitors in the Dallas/Fort Worth area to conduct deterministic and probabilistic risk assessments and found that all but one of the cancer risk estimates were within the acceptable cancer risk range. Pekney et al. (2014) collected mobile measurements of ambient concentrations of pollutants in Pennsylvania and found no exceedances of National Ambient Air Quality Standards for criteria pollutants. These studies indicate that water and air pollution related to UO&G activities may pose a public health and potential cancer risk. More environmental measurements of health-relevant chemicals associated with UO&G development, particularly at residences in close proximity to these facilities, are needed to better characterize human exposures and determine whether confirmed or suspected carcinogens and toxicants are present and at what levels. In particular, studies with longer sampling durations or integrated over longer periods of time would be more relevant to chronic outcomes like cancer.

To our knowledge, our analysis represents the most expansive review of carcinogenicity of hydraulic fracturing-related chemicals in the published literature. Previous studies have examined the carcinogenicity of more selective lists of chemicals. For example, Kahrilas et al. (2015) reviewed the toxicological properties of biocide constituents of fracturing fluids and their degradation and reaction products and found that few had been evaluated by IARC. Compounds identified by Kahrilas et al. included formaldehyde (a known carcinogen associated with an increased risk of leukemia and lymphoma, identified in our analysis), dibromoacetonitrile (a possible carcinogen, identified in our analysis), nitrosamines (includes probable carcinogens, not identified in our analysis), and trihalomethanes (includes possible and probable carcinogens, four identified in our analysis: bromodichloromethane, chloroform, chlorodibromomethane, and bromoform). Stringfellow et al. (2014) assessed 81 common hydraulic fracturing fluid additives and identified five confirmed or suspected carcinogens using the U.S. NTP carcinogenicity evaluations (Stringfellow et al., 2014). Our analysis also identified four of these five chemicals: ethanol (known carcinogen associated with an increased risk of leukemia and lymphoma), acetaldehyde (possible carcinogen), diethanolamine (possible carcinogen), and naphthalene (possible carcinogen). The fifth compound, thiourea, was included in our analysis, but was considered not classifiable with respect to human carcinogenicity by IARC. Colborn et al., (2011) abstracted a list of chemical additives of hydraulic fracturing fluids using information on Material Safety Data Sheets provided by government and natural gas industry sources (Colborn et al., 2011). They found that 25% of the 353 chemicals evaluated could cause cancer and mutations. However, the inclusion criteria for this carcinogenicity evaluation were not provided to make a direct comparison with our findings.

An experimental study on the carcinogenicity of hydraulic fracturing wastewater observed that immortalized human bronchial epithelial cells exposed to flowback water collected from unconventional natural gas drilling of the Marcellus Shale underwent malignant transformation and exhibited altered morphology compared to parental cells (Yao et al., 2015). The flowback water sample contained relatively high concentrations of barium and strontium. However, these metals were not evaluated for carcinogenicity to humans by IARC and therefore were not included in our evaluation. Strontium was not evaluated by the NTP or U.S. EPA IRIS programs; barium was not evaluated by NTP, and it was deemed not classifiable with respect to carcinogenicity by the U.S. EPA.

Looking broadly at UO&G development and cancer risk, other risk factors should also be considered. For example, UO&G development could pose a risk for childhood leukemia through a phenomenon known as population mixing (Belson et al., 2007; Kinlen, 2012). This refers to the migration of new populations into previously contained rural areas, introducing new infectious agents. This could give rise to increasing underlying infections, for which childhood leukemia is a possible complication (Kinlen, 1988; Kinlen, 2012). An alternative hypothesis is that a delayed exposure to infectious agents among individueals who experienced an absence of exposure in very early life could increase the risk of an inapproriate immune response and lead to leukemia (Greaves, 2006; Greaves, 1997). UO&G development is a rapidly expanding industry that creates an influx of specialized, external workers into less populated areas to fill industry jobs (Brasier et al., 2011; Filteau, 2015b; Jacquet, 2014). Additionally, previous examples of resource extraction or energy development have reported population increases of up to 80% and worker influx-related impacts on public health and local communities (Ennis and Finlayson, 2015; Filteau, 2015a; Keough, 2015). More research would be needed to demonstrate risk to newly introduced infectious agents. Another possible risk factor for childhood leukemia is parental occupational exposures to agents such as benzene or PAHs from work in the

oil and gas industry during the pregnancy period, a critical window of vulnerability for childhood leukemia (Fusion et al., 2001). In addition, parents employed by oil and gas companies could introduce contaminants into the home environment through clothing, shoes, and skin (Newman et al., 2015; Sahmel et al., 2014). Also, the introduction of bromide constituents from hydraulic fracturing wastewater into drinking water sources could increase the subsequent, downstream formation of carcinogenic disinfection byproducts and increase the risk of cancer, such as bladder cancer (Regli et al., 2015). Further, agents released from other components of oil and gas infrastructure, such as petroleum storage tanks (Zusman et al., 2012), petrochemical plants (Yu et al., 2006), and petrol stations (Brosselin et al., 2009; Harrison et al., 1999; Steffen et al., 2004) could pose a leukemia risk.

This analysis has several limitations. The list of potential water contaminants from fracturing fluids is limited to non-proprietary chemicals that were reported to the U.S. EPA by oil and gas companies and included in the U.S. EPA reports on hydraulic fracturing (US EPA, 2012; US EPA, 2015). Our identification of potential air pollutants was based on information available in the PubMed and ProQuest Environmental Science databases and may not include all potential air pollutants associated with UO&G development. The published literature may be more likely to report air pollutants for which health data are available, which could explain why a greater percentage of chemicals in air were evaluated by IARC compared to chemicals that were potential water pollutants. Additionally, IARC only evaluates chemicals with suspected carcinogenicity. Therefore, the proportion of known, probable, and possible carcinogens among those compounds evaluated may not be representative of the proportion of carcinogens among those not evaluated. Although the IARC monographs are the most comprehensive, systematic carcinogenicity evaluations, a comprehensive literature review of all 1177 water contaminants and 143 air pollutants could identify additional compounds that pose an increased risk of cancer.

Conducting a well-designed sampling campaign for UO&G development is challenging, given the wide variety of potential target pollutants and the limited information available to identify which pollutants have the highest probability of exposure or health impact. Our list of 143 air pollutants associated with UO&G development (Supplemental Table S1) may serve as a useful resource for researchers designing future studies. Furthermore, our list of known, probable, and possible carcinogens linked to UO&G development can be used as a target analyte list for environmental or biological measurements in future exposure and health studies. Measurements of these compounds in air or water in residences proximate to this activity would provide insights into whether exposures are occuring and at what levels. Additionally, air pollution measurements corresponding to the different phases of UO&G development would provide critical information about the relative contribution of exposures from various aspects of the development activities and priorities for exposure mitigation. Furthermore, geographical and seasonal variations could influence release, concentration, and dispersion of potential air pollutants. Therefore, additional water and air measurement studies are urgently needed to investigate the potential for spatial and temporal variations in exposures.

This analysis could also inform design of exposure metrics for epidemiologic studies. Epidemiologic studies have generally used individual-level, geographic information systems-based inverse-distance weighted metrics to estimate exposure to UO&G development, which characterize UO&G development as a collective process. More specific metrics or measurements could offer improvements to the exposure assessment and potential insights into etiologic agents. Future studies could incorporate environmental and/or biological monitoring of health-relevant chemicals, such as the 55 known, probable, and possible carcinogens in water or air, and examine the relationshiop between chemical concentrations and proximity and density-based metrics, to determine the extent to which proximity is associated with exposure. Though more measurement data is needed to better understand whether exposures are occurring and at what concentrations, release of any carinogens from UO&G development shoudl be minimized.

5. CONCLUSIONS

There is a need to better understand the potential risks of UO&G development with carefully designed exposure and epidemiologic studies. We identified 55 known, probable, and possible carcinogens (20 compounds associated with leukemia and/or lymphoma specifically) that are potential water contaminants and/or air pollutants related to UO&G development. Our study provides some support for the hypothesis that exposure to UO&G development could increase the risk of leukemia. Because children are a vulnerable population, research efforts should first be directed toward investigating whether exposure to UO&G development is associated with an increased risk in childhood leukemia. Environmental and biological measurements of the compounds identified in this analysis in communities proximate to UO&G development would be critical for future research on the potential public health impact.

Supplementary data to this article can be found online at http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2016.10.072.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, this article shows that living within a mile of a fracked well directly increases the risks of children developing leukemia. They are not children from the radical left. They are children from across the country. The study warns that millions of people living within a mile of fracked wells may have been exposed to these cancer-causing chemicals.

In response to this study, several physicians are quoted as saying: ''This is like smoking in the 1950s. There was a lot of suggestive evidence, but the conclusive stuff came later. I think we're going to get it, maybe in 5 or 10 years, but it is a question of how much damage is going to be done in the meantime.''

''Too often, we look at the political environment before we look at the evidence, and I don't think that's serving our future.''

This is just one study looking at a couple dozen pollutants. There is ample evidence out there to be concerned with fracking's impact on public health, but there is still too much to learn. Yet, H.R. 1121 would ban restrictions on fracking before we know the full realm of impacts on public health. This is unacceptable. The bill is rooted in many falsehoods as it relates to public health.

I am so excited to hear my colleague talk about the fact that we should be hiring American workers, that we should be ensuring that we have great union jobs, that we should be invested in green energy infrastructure. I hope that is why my colleagues across the aisle woulda, shoulda, coulda supported the bipartisan infrastructure law—I know a couple of them did—as well as the Chips and Science Act, and also the Inflation Reduction Act. All of those bills are actually really focused on making sure that we are investing in our country, working on creating more clean, green energy that does not include fracking.

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, $9,600, that is how much the average American household is paying today in the higher cost of living in the United States as a direct result of policies of the Biden administration, $9,600.

Now, Mr. Speaker, compare that to what President Biden said on the campaign trail. He said, I will not raise costs, raise taxes on any American who earns less than $400,000. That is the average, $9,600. In fact, for some people it is more. Mr. Speaker, the cause of these higher costs is the regulatory agenda of this administration.

That is exactly what we are debating today. We are talking about energy prices. We are talking about energy policies of this administration that are having an adverse effect on Americans. We are watching right now as this administration, as this bill tries to fix, bans fracking.

You can go back, and you can look historically at the United States. We have led the world in reducing emissions. How have we done it? Do you know what the secret is? One of the most important tools that we have used to reduce emissions is actually natural gas. Natural gas, one of the biggest targets, the biggest victims of this fracking ban.

Let's take a look. Is this fracking ban legal? Well, there was a judge in Wyoming who actually looked at this under the Obama administration and said: ''Congress has not delegated to the Department of the Interior the authority to regulate hydraulic fracturing. The BLM's effort to do so through the Fracking Rule is in excess of its statutory authority and contrary to law.''

What does this administration do? The same exact thing.

□ 1445

It is not just a fracking ban, though. It is also banning the export of liquefied natural gas.

As my friend from Minnesota just said, what happens is that you don't have a decrease in demand for energy. It is simply that other countries provide it.

Countries like Iran that are profiting tens of billions of dollars love these policies. Russia loves these policies. This administration actually increased the importation of energy from Russia when they came in.

This is baffling energy policy. You are failing to address America's energy security. You are failing the affordability test.

Mr. Speaker, let's think about emissions. On the emissions side, are these policies resulting in lower emissions? Let's look at facts. The facts show that between 2005 and 2021, the United States has actually reduced emissions more than any other country in the world—not just more than any other country, more than the six next emissions-reducing countries combined.

How have we done it? It is by using natural gas. What happens? Other countries fill the void, countries like Russia.

Let's do a comparison there. When you take 1 year of liquefied natural gas supplied to the European Union from Russia, and if you were to supplant it with liquefied natural gas coming from the United States, it would reduce emissions by 218 million tons, but my friends across the aisle and at the White House have taken that off the table.

Let's go back and review. We have higher prices that Americans are paying—higher prices for utilities and higher prices for gasoline. We have more dependence upon countries like Iran, China, Venezuela, and Russia for energy. We are more dependent upon them, the globe is, and emissions are going up.

Which one of these is important? I mean, this is baffling to me. Higher prices, less energy security, and higher emissions are what this administration's energy policies have achieved. It makes no sense.

Let's talk about where these dollars are going. My friend talked about the tens of billions going to Iran. These dollars are being directly provided to Iranian terrorist proxies that have attacked and killed American troops in Syria and Iraq. These policies are funding this.

Coming back to us, we are now funding Ukraine, which is battling Russia, paid for with U.S. bad energy policy. We are funding Israel. That is paid for by bad energy policy that Iran is profiting from. This makes no sense. It makes absolutely no sense.

This bill, however, does make sense because it reverses the policies of this administration. It brings back common sense. It follows evidence, science, and math that show that we can actually reduce emissions, increase energy security, and have affordable energy in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the legislation.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague from across the aisle is right: This makes no sense.

If my colleagues across the aisle actually want to push back against Russia, Iran, and Venezuela, then pass the supplemental because that funding will do more to help support democracies around the world and help countries most in need than whatever is in H.R. 1121.

Listening to some of the arguments we have heard from Republicans over the last week and even now today, I have to say, I am confused.

Is oil and gas production higher than ever, or is there a war on energy? Are gas prices high because of Bidenomics, or are prices so low that we should continue exporting LNG? Should the government stop picking winners and losers through energy subsidies, or should we continue giving handouts to oil and gas and even expand those giveaways with the bills up today?

I suspect Republican messaging is so confusing because continuing to rig the system for Big Oil just doesn't make sense.

The U.S. is producing record amounts of oil and gas and is exporting more than ever before. I will say it again: The U.S. is producing record amounts of oil and gas and is exporting more than ever before.

Yet, the American people aren't seeing the benefits. Prices for consumers are still high while Big Oil and other big corporations rake in massive profits.

Reporting from the Groundwork Collaborative found that over half of recent U.S. inflation was caused by corporate price gouging, even as input costs decreased.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the Groundwork Collaborative report.

[From Groundwork Collaborative, Jan. 18, 2024]

INFLATION REVELATION: HOW OUTSIZED CORPORATE PROFITS DRIVE RISING COSTS

(By Liz Pancotti, Strategic Advisor, and Lindsay Owens, Executive Director)

As their cost of doing business comes down, corporations pad their bottom lines on the back of consumers.

Inflation has come down significantly from its peak over the past year, yet prices remain high for American consumers. From housing and groceries to car insurance and electric bills, families are still feeling the squeeze. In the wake of the pandemic, virtually every company in every industry faced rising costs to make products and stock shelves. Labor costs rose sharply, the cost of transporting goods across the country hit record highs, and raw materials became costly or impossible to get. Corporations were quick to pass rising costs—and a little extra—on to consumers, fueling rapid inflation. As supply chain snarls have receded and the economy has stabilized, businesses continue to pad their bottom lines, rather than passing these savings on to consumers.

CORPORATE PROFITS ARE DRIVING MORE THAN HALF OF INFLATION

Some economists and pundits have sought to discredit the link between inflation and corporate profiteering. A Washington Post columnist recently claimed that blaming inflation on corporate profiteering is like saying ''it's raining because water is falling from the sky.'' But this isn't true. Prices are simply the sum of costs and corporate profits. While rising costs or inputs can drive up Americans pay at the gas pump or the grocery store, corporate profits can just as easily.

As corporations have lamented supply chain woes and high labor costs over the past two years, their profits have skyrocketed, fueling inflation and exacerbating a longstanding affordability crisis.

Some economists suggested that markup growth in 2021 was primarily driven by corporations raising prices in anticipation of future costs increases. However, corporate profit margins have remained high—and even grown—as labor costs have stabilized, nonlabor input costs have come down, and supply chains snarls have eased.

While labor and nonlabor input costs have played a role in price increases, corporate profits drove 53 percent of inflation during the second and third quarters of 2023 and more than one-third since the start of the pandemic. Comparatively, over the 40 years prior to the pandemic, they drove just 11 percent of growth.

Corporate profits as a share of national income has skyrocketed by 29 percent since the start of the pandemic. While our economy has returned to or surpassed its pre-pandemic levels on many indicators, workers' share of corporate income has still not recovered.

As White House National Economic Council Director Lael Brainard has noted, ''Overall, the labor share of income has declined over the past two years and appears to be at or below pre-pandemic levels. While corporate profits as a share of GDP remain near postwar highs.''

Economist Isabella Weber has pointed out that corporations are keeping prices high even as post-pandemic and Ukraine War supply chain pressures ease and wage growth slows. Why? Because they can.

Weber argues that supply shocks allowed corporations to tacitly collude, hike prices, and rake in record profits. This type of inflation, where corporations raise prices to protect—and even increase—their profit margins, allows prices to rise faster than the costs to make goods or provide services. When corporations pursued this opportunistic pricing strategy, they found a lot of space to increase prices, drive up profits, and see very little dropoff in demand.

Though inflation has eased, prices remain tremendously elevated from their pre-pandemic levels. Housing costs, for example, are up 21 percent, grocery costs have risen by 25 percent.

CONSUMER PRICES ARE RISING MUCH FASTER THAN CORPORATIONS' INPUT COSTS

While prices for consumers have risen by 3.4 percent over the past year, input costs for producers have risen by just 1 percent. For many commodities and services, producers' prices have actually decreased.

Input costs for key goods and services have sharply decreased over the past year. For example, nearly 60 percent of the drop in input goods prices was driven by large declines in energy costs, such as jet fuel and diesel fuel. Transportation and warehousing costs, which many corporations have cited as a main driver of price increases, have come down by nearly 4 percent since peaking in June 2022.

These input costs are critically important for corporations' balance sheets. As costs go down but revenue stays high because of higher sticker prices, corporate profit margins expand on the backs of American consumers.

One prime example of this is the diaper industry, which is highly concentrated—Procter & Gamble Co. (P&G) and Kimberly-Clark Corp. control 70 percent of the domestic market. Diaper prices have increased by more

than 30 percent since 2019 from, on average, $16.50 to nearly $22. Wood pulp is a major input in diapers and other paper products, like toilet paper and paper towels. Wholesale wood pulp prices soared by 87 percent between January 2021 and January 2023. Yet between January and December 2023, prices declined by 25 percent.

Using their pricing power, P&G and Kimberly-Clark have kept diaper prices high for American families, allowing their profit margins to expand considerably. In P&G's October 2023 earnings call, its CFO, Andre Schulten, said that high prices were a big driver of profit margin expansion and 33 percent of their profits in the previous quarter were driven by lower input costs. During P&G's July 2023 earnings call, the company predicted $800 million in windfall profits because of declining input costs. In Kimberly-Clark's October 2023 earnings call, CEO Mike Hsu said the company ''finally saw inflation in the cost environment'' and admitted that he believes the company has ''a lot of opportunity to [expand margins over time] between what [they're] doing on the revenue side and also on the cost side.'' Despite these large input cost declines, Hsu said he thinks the company has ''priced appropriately'' and did not anticipate any price deflation.

The diaper industry is just one example of corporations exploiting their pricing power to expand margins as input costs normalize. The same is true for many consumer goods, including new and used cars, groceries, and housing.

CORPORATIONS HAVE BRAGGED ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO RAISE PRICES

Over the past two years, corporations have been explicit about how they've exploited their pricing power, and how they have and will continue to do so even as inflation comes down.

General Mills attributed their 16.5 percent increase in profits in FY 2022 to ''getting smart about how [they] look at pricing.''

PepsiCo raised its prices across snacks and beverages by roughly 15 percent during each of 2022Q4 and 2023Q1 as it increased its margin. CFO Hugh Johnson said they ''may, in fact, increase margins during the course of the year'' as costs decreases and prices remain elevated.

The CEO of Holcim, a construction materials manufacturer, said on recent earnings call, ''We are in that inflationary environment already for almost two years now...We have done the pricing in a very proactive way so that our results aren't suffering. On the contrary, they are improving the margins.''

Profit margins for AutoNation's finance and insurance segment have increased by 7 percent as they continue to hike margins with new fees and increased prices for consumers, even while products don't improve.

Carvana notes that it deceased its non-vehicle retail costs by nearly $1,000 per car, driving huge margin increases (30 percent) even as used car costs remain elevated. Used car prices remain elevated and are up nearly 40 percent.

CONCLUSION

In the wake of the pandemic, consumer demand rebounded and supply chains struggled to keep up as a result of decades of disinvestment and offshoring. Goods became more expensive to make and transport, and tighter labor markets delivered long-overdue wage increases for workers. As businesses' costs went up, they jumped on the opportunity to pass on rising costs to consumers and have continued squeezing American's pocketbooks for more. Now that their costs have stailized—or, in many cases, come down significantly—it's time for companies to stop gouging consumers.

The Biden administration is taking steps to strengthen global supply chains and onshore manufacturing, crack down on corporate concentration that has enabled corporations to put consumers through the wringer, and eliminate junk fees. President Biden said last month, ''To any corporation that has not brought their prices back down—even as inflation has come down, even [as] supply chains have been rebuilt—it's time to stop the price gouging.'' The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Department of Justice continue to dust off authorities not touched in decades to rein in corporate profiteering and concentration.

As Congress turns to expiring provisions from the 2017 Trump tax cuts over the next year, they must take a hard look at the corporate tax rate. Our tax code should support a robust and equitable economy, not incentivize profiteering.

The fundamental question we need to ask ourselves is whether we want an economy where corporations can exploit pandemics, supply chain crises, and wars at the expense of American workers and families, or an economy where corporations are put in check, allowing everyone to thrive?

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, communities living closest to oil and gas production, mostly low-income and people of color, are left paying the costs of constant pollution and public health crises. We are all paying for the record number of billion-dollar climate disasters in 2023, driven by the fossil fuel climate crisis.

These bills we are debating today would walk back important protections for taxpayers and local communities to keep funneling money into the pockets of Big Oil.

It does not make sense to keep doubling down on a bad deal. Big Oil does not need more favors right now. They don't need more tax breaks. They don't need more handouts—I am going to keep saying it—and they don't need more special loopholes.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have continuously said that oil production on Federal lands is at an all-time high. The fact of the matter is that the production is occurring on lands leased by the Trump administration and previous administrations.

I guess my colleagues now support the policies of the Trump administration as best they are trying to take credit for them.

My good friend, Ranking Member MCGOVERN, made this point in the Rules Committee just yesterday. After mentioning that America is a top energy producer, he said: ''Let me be very clear. I am not highlighting these facts because I like them. I find it very troubling that we are producing so much oil. . . . ''

How very sad it is to hear that from my colleagues. Why are they so ashamed that we produce energy here in America? Would they rather us be dependent on Russia, Iran, or Venezuela for oil and natural gas in the same way Democratic policies have made us dependent on China for critical minerals?

We should celebrate American energy independence where, again, we do it cleaner and safer than anybody else in the world with the best labor standards.

Mr. Speaker, let's celebrate the opportunity. Let's be happy the good Lord blessed the United States with these rich minerals and this opportunity to become energy independent and critical mineral dominant.

My friends and neighbors, I want the technology here in the United States. I do not want this country to depend on foreign adversarial nations for our livelihood.

We have learned so much during COVID, Mr. Speaker. We cannot rely on adversarial nations for our energy any longer, nor should our allies.

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I often hear my Republican colleagues say that more oil and gas production in the U.S. benefits consumers and that fracking has helped that production along. We should celebrate.

Then I did have to think about seeing this recent movie, ''Killers of the Flower Moon,'' and how that is probably not a really good thing to celebrate, but I digress. I don't want to do that.

The U.S. is already the number one producer of oil and gas in the world. We are exporting record amounts of fossil fuel across the globe. Yet, our communities are still not seeing the benefits.

That is because the benefits are going straight to Big Oil, which is seeing profits soar yet again. We cannot rely on the decades-old Republican agenda of ''drill, baby, drill,'' to lower prices for Americans.

This bill proposes to give yet another handout to oil and gas, supposedly in the hope that these corporations will be so thankful that they will lower their prices just to be nice. I mean, does anyone still believe this trickle-down nonsense?

Look, if we want better energy prices, then we need energy independence, which means a transition to clean energy, which is cheaper, safer, and generated entirely here at home instead of being at the mercy of global price shocks like oil and gas.

I am also so grateful to hear my colleagues talk about the things that we should have learned from COVID. I hope that means that at some point they will be willing to discuss universal healthcare and making sure we all have access to affordable, high-quality healthcare. I hope that means that they are going to admit that COVID is a real thing and that vaccinations and access to that kind of healthcare and information is important.

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I reiterate my good friend and colleague did reserve.

Listen, one of the things that we hear from my colleagues is that Big Oil is price gouging, which is why energy prices are higher. The fact is, this President's anti-energy agenda has created uncertainty for domestic energy producers and has driven up energy prices for all Americans.

Repeated in-depth investigations by the FTC have shown that changes in gasoline prices are based on market factors and are not due to any illegal behavior.

The price gouging argument is simply a red herring meant to distract the American public from the Biden administration's disastrous energy policies.

The fact of the matter is, when my friends and colleagues talk about transition, wind and solar, they don't want to produce those minerals for those solar panels or windmills here in the United States, Mr. Speaker.

Minnesota has the most mineral wealth of any State in the Nation with the exception of Alaska. Minnesota has the biggest untapped copper and nickel mine in the world, and this administration pulled the leases.

This administration, with support from the Secretary of the Interior, banned 225,000 acres of mining in northeastern Minnesota. Can you believe that? Yet, they will get the minerals from Congo, which uses child slave labor for their energy addiction.

Mr. Speaker, I submit that we have the opportunity today and now. I ask my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to join us to let the American worker succeed and energy dominance, critical mineral dominance in this country, be made here in America. We need it, this country needs it, and our allies are asking for it.

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is yet another shameless giveaway to Big Oil, even though Big Oil is still making earth-shattering, mineral-shattering profits by taking billions in taxpayer-funded subsidies, price gouging families, and leaving Americans with climate, health, safety, and financial consequences. This bill would enshrine Big Oil's exploitation of American taxpayers for the foreseeable future.

Big Oil does not need any favors right now. I know I sound like a broken record, but sometimes you have to say it more than once so people can hear it. They don't need more special loopholes. They don't need more handouts. They don't need more tax breaks.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 1121, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to cite a 2019 study by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Global Energy Institute. Their research shows a ban on fracking would eliminate 19 million jobs between 2021 and 2025 while simultaneously reducing the U.S. gross domestic product by $7.1 trillion over that same period.

The Global Energy Institute's research also shows that over the same 2021 through 2025 timeframe, energy prices would skyrocket, with natural gas prices rising by 324 percent, causing household energy bills for the average American to quadruple and the cost of living to increase by $5,600. Additionally, the price of gasoline would double, and government revenues would plummet by almost $2 trillion.

With these sobering facts in mind, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 1121 to prevent the worst case scenario from becoming our reality.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 1121 is postponed.

□ 1500

RESTORING AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE ACT

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1085, I call up the bill (H.R. 6009) to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the proposed rule relating to fluid mineral leases and leasing process, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources printed in the bill, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 6009

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 ''Restoring American Energy Dominance Act''.

SEC. 2. WITHDRAWAL OF BLM PROPOSED RULE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Land Management shall withdraw the proposed rule of the Bureau of Land Management entitled ''Fluid Mineral Leases and Leasing Process'' (88 Fed. Reg. 47562 (July 24, 2023)).

(b) NO FURTHER ACTION.—The Director of the Bureau of Land Management may not take any action to finalize, implement, or enforce the proposed rule described in subsection (a) or any substantially similar rule.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 6009.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 6009, the Restoring American Energy Dominance Act.

H.R. 6009, introduced by Congresswoman BOEBERT, would nullify the Bureau of Land Management's proposed onshore oil and gas leasing regulations.

While on the campaign trail, then-candidate Joe Biden said during a primary debate: ''No more drilling on Federal lands.'' That was candidate Biden.

The BLM's proposed regulations attempt to accomplish President Biden's campaign promise by limiting onshore leasing, reducing flexibility, and increasing fees.

The regulations propose eliminating nationwide bonds while increasing individual bonding requirements 15-fold and statewide bonding requirements 20-fold. The BLM's stated rationale for doing this is to protect taxpayers from having to clean up orphaned wells.

One would think that there is an orphaned well crisis on BLM lands, given the significant cost increases the rule proposes. However, the opposite is true, Mr. Speaker. According to the Department of the Interior, there are only 37 orphaned wells on BLM lands, and the Department has used bonds to plug wells on Federal lands just 40 times over this last decade.

The proposed regulations would also be extremely harmful to small businesses. Tom Kropatsch, the Wyoming State oil and gas supervisor, said: ''The bonding provisions will impact hundreds of small businesses in Wyoming, resulting in lost royalties, taxes, and other revenues to local and State government, and likely will create orphaned wells, not protect against them.''

While he is speaking of his home State of Wyoming, the impacts would be the same in energy-producing regions nationwide.

The regulations also introduce new and vague preference criteria for evaluating onshore oil and gas leasing. The

criteria seemingly intended to avoid conflict in areas with ''sensitive cultural, wildlife, and recreation resources.''

Don't be fooled. The criteria, which could be applied to any parcel of land, are meant to lock up lands from resource development and shut down future oil and gas production. President Biden is once again proactively taking steps to increase energy prices, reduce American energy production, and ultimately diminish our national security.

To continue using Wyoming as a case study, in 2022 and 2023, the Wyoming BLM had initially offered to sell 830 parcels covering 954,281 acres. However, through successive rounds of an environmental review that incorporated considerations of these preference criteria, the Wyoming BLM deferred 462 parcels encompassing 586,000 acres. That is 61 percent of the acreage that should have otherwise been available that was ultimately deferred due to these new criteria—and the regulations aren't even final yet.

BLM's proposed onshore oil and gas leasing regulations are an attack on domestic energy production that will further lock up our Federal lands and eliminate access to our natural resources. We will not stand idly by as the Biden administration increases our reliance on foreign adversarial nations. It diminishes our national security and inflates already unaffordable energy prices.

H.R. 6009 acknowledges the BLM statutory mission of managing our Federal lands for multiple use, including energy and mineral development. It will keep our country safe by ensuring continued domestic energy production. It will benefit American families, American communities, American jobs, and our small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Representative BOEBERT's so-called Restoring American Energy Dominance Act would have only one effect: furthering Big Oil's dominance over our public lands.

This bill, H.R. 6009, would force the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw its proposed oil and gas rule. This rule will implement reforms that Democrats enacted in our historic climate law, the Inflation Reduction Act, along with other long-overdue reforms to the onshore oil and gas program. The rule will help hold Big Oil accountable for cleaning up after itself, provide a fair return for the use of taxpayer-owned resources, and end speculative leasing of our public lands.

This is important but also very basic stuff. If you make a mess, you should be responsible for cleaning it up. If a public company extracts a publicly owned resource for profit, taxpayers should get a fair return.

It makes sense to me. Those are not difficult concepts to understand.

It is for these reasons that BLM's rule has broad support across Western voters. Mr. Speaker, 92 percent of comments provided from all 50 States in response to BLM's proposed rulemaking were in favor of the rule. That is listening to the people.

What we are seeing here is out-of-touch House Republicans attempting to block this rule as a giveaway to the fossil fuel industry. It is a blatant effort by Big Oil and corporate lobbyists to game the system in their favor.

The proposed rule is common sense. The reforms have long been recommended by the Government Accountability Office and nonpartisan entities like Taxpayers for Common Sense.

Republicans call it Biden's war on American energy, but with domestic oil and gas production and profits soaring, it is hard to see how Big Oil is suffering. As I said, their pockets are not on life support at all, but our public health is.

It is past time to commit to reforms to protect taxpayers and the environment. We are talking about modest increases in royalty rates, going from 12½ percent to 16⅔ percent. Texas royalty rates are up to 25 percent. In the bill sponsor's home State of Colorado, they are at 20 percent.

To repeat, these rates have not impeded domestic production. Domestic oil and gas production and profits are at record highs. No one is disputing that.

As if that were not enough, these companies continue price gouging the consumer. It is obscene that these polluters, these extremely profitable corporations, are now pushing for more tax handouts. They are the last industry that needs it.

We must vote down this out-of-touch giveaway.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 6009, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, my good friend and colleague talked about making a mess. Joe Biden and his administration have made a mess for American energy—higher energy prices throughout our country. The middle class is getting squeezed because of his energy policies and, dare I say, his anti-mining agenda. We will clean up this mess.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 10 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. Boebert), the sponsor of this bill.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, on day one of his administration, Joe Biden declared an all-out war on American energy production and exploration. He has made it clear that he cares more about appeasing the radical climate change activists than protecting the millions of oil and gas workers and producers in America.

I was disappointed but not surprised when the Biden administration filed this proposed rule titled ''Fluid Mineral Leases and Leasing Process,'' which mandates provisions from the partisan so-called Inflation Reduction Act—we know that it didn't reduce inflation; it expanded it—which increased the royalty rate for production on Federal lands while also increasing and creating new fees for domestic energy producers.

This fluid mineral leasing rule is further proof that Joe Biden is using every tool in his administration to dismantle American energy production. It codifies pieces of the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which is really the Green New Deal, and makes major nonstatutory changes to the BLM's onshore leasing program.

It increases bonding levels for production on Federal lands and proposes ending nationwide bonding and increasing the minimum bond amounts for individual lease bonds and Statewide lease bonds from $10,000 to $150,000 and from $25,000 to $500,000, respectively. This significant increase will tie up capital that would otherwise be put back into production and is unjustifiable as there are only 37 orphaned oil and gas wells on BLM-managed land.

These increases will impact smaller producers that can't afford to operate in the market. These additional fees will ultimately harm returns and reduce revenues to State and local governments by disincentivizing development on Federal lands.

When environmental extremists create rules like this that are grossly restrictive, they can hinder the development and availability of energy resources that are fundamental to human progress and prosperity. It is important to remember that energy is not just another commodity; it is the lifeblood of modern civilization.

Any regulation in this domain must be evaluated through the lens of its impact on human life and prosperity. This means considering not just the environmental aspects but also how these rules affect energy affordability, reliability, and scalability.

Not-in-my-backyard extremists have regulated States like Colorado into poverty with their reckless and extremely flawed policies.

The proposed rule also introduces the idea of using preference criteria to inform the BLM's selection of lands for lease sales. BLM's rationale for this change is to avoid conflict in areas with ''sensitive cultural, wildlife, and recreation resources.''

I think the people who occupy these lands most—our farmers, our ranchers, and our energy producers—understand the land better than BLM agents in Washington, D.C., in some concrete building or maybe even still working remotely from their homes. These are stewards of our lands, and they do a darn good job at it.

This means that the BLM field office could avoid leasing in all areas with endangered or threatened species, critical habitat, or nearby recreation areas, a move that would greatly limit leasing on Federal lands.

□ 1515

With the wars happening in the Middle East and in Europe and with OPEC

significantly lowering oil production, we cannot rely on foreign nations, especially our adversaries, to control our energy supply. That is why I introduced the Restoring American Dominance Act, to terminate this proposed rule and protect American energy producers.

America makes the cleanest energy in the world. American innovation, in particular, fracking, has allowed America to be the global leader in reducing emissions since the year 2000.

We need to stop buying oil and gas from Russia and stop begging Venezuela and Iran, our adversaries, to produce energy for us. We need to start producing more energy responsibly right here in the United States of America. Rather than begging OPEC, let's bring back the American roughneck.

American energy security is paramount for our Nation's economic stability and national security. When we produce our own energy, we control our destiny. We are not at the mercy of international politics, conflicts, or the whims of foreign governments that may not always have our best interests at heart.

Remember, energy is the industry that powers every other industry. The more control we have over our energy sources, the more competitive and secure our economy is. The concept of American energy dominance is not only desirable, it is essential for both national security and global human flourishing. We can literally be exporting freedom around the globe.

Relying on countries like Russia and others for energy is problematic not just from a security standpoint but also from a moral one. Many of these countries have questionable human rights records, to put it mildly. By producing our own energy, we are not just securing our future, we are also not indirectly supporting or enabling regimes that do not align with our values of freedom and human rights.

In essence, producing energy in America is about taking control of our future, ensuring our economic stability, and standing by our principles. It is about ensuring that we can continue to innovate, grow, and flourish, without being beholden to anyone. Frankly, given our vast resources and technological capabilities, there is no good reason not to.

I thank Chairman WESTERMAN and the committee for working with me on this bill to rein in Joe Biden's out-of-control, rogue bureaucrats. I urge my colleagues to support my bill to stop BLM's proposed regulations before they increase energy costs and threaten American energy production even further. American jobs and our national security depend on us taking a stand against this regime.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I am so relieved to hear my colleagues from across the aisle continue to talk about national security concerns. It makes me question why they want to support isolationist values.

If we are so concerned about Russia and our adversaries, then why are we not voting on a supplemental to help Ukraine?

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER).

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, our country needs energy to flourish, and Democrats know that this means authorizing energy projects. If we are going to authorize energy projects, then we need to require any energy developer, including Big Oil, to fully cover the cost of cleanup and reclamation of their extraction.

H.R. 6009 negates that principle, which I feel strongly about as a single mom, of cleaning up your messes, and instead gives Big Oil carte blanche to drill with little or no regulation. With this bill, Republicans are endeavoring to undo all of my work and the work of my colleagues to hold Big Oil accountable and to protect taxpayers.

Last Congress, my bill to protect public lands and recover taxpayer dollars by raising the Federal royalty rate for oil and gas extraction was passed into law.

Since 1920, Big Oil had paid the same 12.5 percent royalty rate for the extraction of minerals on public lands, which was considerably lower than rates charged by States. This allowed Big Oil to exploit our public resources and pay the American taxpayers pennies. My bill ended this corporate giveaway to Big Oil and made sure the American people would get fair benefits for our public lands.

I also had a bill that would increase, for the first time in 60 years, the amount of money Big Oil would put down to promise to clean up its oil wells. Last year, that reform was included in the Bureau of Land Management's onshore oil and gas proposed rule.

Previously, the bond amount that Big Oil paid covered just a fraction of their cleanup costs, leaving taxpayers to foot the bill. Oil and gas companies have abandoned thousands of wells nationwide without undertaking reclamation efforts to make those polluted areas environmentally safe, actions that could now cost all of us, as taxpayers, up to $333 million. My bill, for the first time in decades, put Big Oil on notice: You pollute, you pay.

My proposal had popular support, including across the West, which is home to much extraction. Ninety-one percent of western voters want oil and gas companies, not taxpayers, to pay for cleaning up and reclaiming public lands after drilling.

However, Republicans don't care about protecting the American people from environmental and economic harm. They would rather prop up Big Oil's profits and exploit the American taxpayer, upending real progress to finally hold Big Oil accountable.

H.R. 6009 would prevent the Biden administration from implementing the Bureau of Land Management's oil and gas rule. It would bar current and future administrations from increasing bonding requirements or implementing other fiscal reforms to protect taxpayers. It also prevents any administration from future updates to the Federal royalty rate.

It is hypocritical that Republicans, who drape themselves in the mantle of lowering taxes during campaign time, stand here today advocating for a bill that would force taxpayers to pay for sweetheart deals to Big Oil that boost their profits even further.

My Republican colleagues have the opportunity to prove me wrong. At the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to the Committee on Natural Resources. If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill, and that amendment would prevent H.R. 6009 from going into effect until the Comptroller General of the United States certified that this bill would, in fact, result in reduced energy costs for American consumers and would not result in increased, record profits for the oil and gas industry.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include the text of the amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues across the aisle if they have the bravery to show that they are not beholden to Big Oil's bidding and will stand up for consumers and taxpayers to lower costs? This vote will show where your allegiance is.

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

The Biden administration told Congress just last summer that there are only 37 orphaned wells on BLM lands, and they have called in bonds only four times per year over the last decade. This number is low because the BLM has a process for dealing with at-risk wells.

There are very few, if any, Federal leases that don't have multiple companies with multiple record title interests and working interests. Multiple companies may have equities in the leases and will sell those equities to other companies that want to develop at different depths, for example.

BLM maintains the full chain of ownership. If BLM identifies a well on a lease at risk for abandonment, the agency will go to the companies in that chain of ownership and require them to take care of the well.

Increasing bonds at these levels will also have a disproportionate impact on the small producers and the small businesses and therefore could actually result in more bankruptcies and thus more orphaned wells. Crushing small businesses and limiting production on Federal lands, which is what this regulation would do, would simply reduce

production, driving up prices for American families and driving down revenues paid to the States and the Federal Government.

Federal onshore oil and gas production brought in roughly $7.7 billion in revenue in fiscal year 2023 alone. That is almost six times more than the BLM's entire fiscal year budget.

We have the opportunity to help the American people who are struggling under this administration's policies and procedures. The time is now. The American people are hurting with energy prices. Inflation is still on the rise. The CPI is almost 20 percent. This is real for blue-collar, working Americans.

The energy policies, Mr. Speaker, of this President have been devastating to the middle and lower class. I have the privilege of representing Minnesota's Eighth Congressional District. It is the oldest and poorest congressional district in our great State. I hear it every single day about the cost of energy. We can change it, and this is our opportunity.

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

There is so much to fact check and so little time. My colleagues have mentioned bonding proposals, but the BLM's bonding proposal would help ensure that oil and gas foot the bill for cleaning up their messes, not the American people. By requiring them to post adequate bond money before they drill, we can help avoid them shirking that duty later on by selling off their exhausted wells to shell companies and similar tactics.

My colleagues across the aisle have said this proposal is unnecessary; no need to post bond ahead of time. Trust Big Oil. They are good for it.

Pardon me if I am skeptical. We have been hearing so much about posting bonds over the last week or so. It is often the same story: A company or an individual will brag and brag about supposed wealth, but when it comes time to put that money up, suddenly they come up short. Sometimes they even have to file for bankruptcy.

Many oil and gas companies operate in the same way. They benefit from resources but are afraid of regulations that would set bond amounts that ensure that they actually clean up after themselves instead of skipping town. The proposed BLM rule would require fossil fuel companies to provide reasonable collateral to ensure they pay to clean up after themselves.

I have another fact check for you before I yield. We have heard Republicans say that bonding reform isn't needed to make sure the oil and gas companies clean up after their messes, supposedly because BLM has identified only 37 orphaned wells on Federal land.

Well, let's widen the land to show the truth. An unplugged well can sit idle or even abandoned for many, many years before a Federal agency seeks to enforce reclamation requirements and finally have it declared officially orphaned. That process eats up valuable staff time and resources. In that time, these unplugged wells can leak oil and gas, creating environmental and public health hazards, regardless of whether or not they have been officially deemed orphaned yet.

□ 1530

We are talking huge numbers here. In 2019, a nonpartisan GAO identified 2,294 unplugged wells that had not been produced in over 10 years. That is 2,294 wells specifically on BLM Federal land. The oil and gas industry should pay to plug and remediate those wells, not the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), who is the most illustrious Congressman.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman who is bringing the receipts today, and I appreciate this conversation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 6009, the Republicans' polluters over people act 2.0.

For anyone following the work of team extreme, the Republican majority, in the 118th Congress, Mr. Speaker, you have probably figured out the pattern by now. Things like governing are really hard for team extreme: funding the government, avoiding a catastrophic debt default, and having an orderly legislative process so you are not continuously improvising and keeping the whole world in limbo while Congress sputters.

Team extreme has failed miserably at the basics of governing because they are too busy sowing chaos, fighting with each other, and competing for who gets the most bookings on FOX News and Newsmax.

Passing serious legislation that tackles pressing issues and solves problems is definitely out of favor in this Congress. I suppose to look busy for the C–SPAN audience, they give us warmed over versions of their polluters over people act every few weeks.

When you can't govern and you can't legislate, Mr. Speaker, this performative stuff is what you do over and over. It is rinse, lather, and repeat with team extreme in this Congress.

It is reminiscent, really, of how they operated when Donald Trump was President and they had a Republican majority in both Houses of Congress. We kept hearing about infrastructure week every few months without any serious proposals and certainly without any serious legislation. However, when Democrats took back Congress and the White House, we showed them how to do it. We delivered results: an historic bipartisan infrastructure law that is making transformative differences in communities all over America.

Nonetheless, we have swung back now with team extreme back in charge here in the House, and it is the old performative playbook again. In this Congress, it is usually involving cheerleading for Big Oil and Gas. That was H.R. 1. That is clearly what this spin-off bill before us today is all about. It is political performance art for the fossil fuel industry.

Since we have seen all of this several times before and since these bills, thankfully, will go nowhere, let's just take a moment to remind those who get all their news from rightwing media that team extreme's entire energy narrative, that this poor fossil fuel industry is struggling under the oppressive burden of environmental regulations, and that unless we provide even more financial and regulatory giveaways to this industry, America will fall behind in the competition for global energy dominance. All of this is a complete fiction.

America is already the world's dominant producer of oil and gas. We are the top exporter of oil and gas. We are awash in oil and gas, and those poor fossil fuel companies are awash in record profits thanks to price gouging the American consumers. They are rolling in so much money that they are giving massive executive bonuses and dividends, and they are doing stock buybacks. In addition, of course, they continue to lobby to protect their Federal subsidies and to oppose climate action.

This is not an industry that needs more of our help. Nonetheless, American consumers who are paying at the pump for all of these profits and stock buybacks do need our help. They need an alternative to the fossil fuel roller coaster and to the tyranny of the pump. They also need a planet that their children and grandchildren can live on, and so they need Congress to get serious about tackling the climate crisis and accelerating the clean energy transition.

With these bills today, and, frankly, with all of the stunts and antics that we have seen from team extreme in its dysfunctional Congress, Republicans are saying that they don't care about any of that.

With H.R. 6009, they are trying, once again, to repeal parts of the historic climate actions we took in the last Congress and take us back. They want to repeal the modest fossil fuel royalty reforms we enacted in the Inflation Reduction Act to protect taxpayers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 45 seconds to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUFFMAN. They are trying to repeal a very modest royalty reform and claw that back, and all that this reform would do is give taxpayers a fair return on the public resources on public land that this industry has been extracting on royalty rates that hadn't been touched for a century.

Mr. Speaker, the reason that we increased those royalties was to finally

confront the problem of fossil fuel companies with their subsidies extracting these public resources and sticking taxpayers with the bill to clean up their messes.

This is not controversial. It is popular. Ninety-one percent of Western voters want to see oil and gas companies, not taxpayers, paying the bill for this cleanup.

With these performative bills we are back at it again: a fake narrative that exalts the fossil fuel industry above everything and everyone else.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote ''no.''

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, my friends and colleagues on the other side of the aisle brought up the Inflation Reduction Act. The fact is, that is law, and 90 percent of that money goes to billion-dollar companies in subsidies.

This bill we are talking about today is about small businesses. Under this administration, the average American household is paying $11,400 per year under these policies and these regulations. That is a lot of money.

Mr. Speaker, that may not be a lot of money for a President who has spent 53 years of his life in Washington, D.C. Just maybe he has forgotten what it is like to struggle in our Midwestern States. Mr. Speaker, $11,400 is the average, and I just stated that I represent the oldest and the poorest Congressional District in the State of Minnesota. That is a lot of money for my constituents and almost every American.

Fifty-three years President Biden has been bloviating on Capitol Hill trying to change things and make it better.

On his energy policies and his mining policies, he has failed the American people, and we all know it. We all know it. We feel it. We see it. Our pocketbooks are shrinking, and our paychecks aren't rising as fast as we want them to, and they are not keeping up with inflation.

This is about small businesses. This is about not letting the unelected bureaucrats in Washington, D.C., dictate production of our natural resources. We, in Congress, have a responsibility to write legislation that will benefit all Americans. Today we are talking about legislation, Mr. Speaker, about energy prices. There is nobody in this country who feels as if this administration has reduced the cost of energy for them.

Mr. Speaker, $11,400, that is a lot of money for this retired police officer. That is a lot of money for my wife who served 24 years in the military and is an Iraq war veteran. That is a lot of money for her, for me, and for many other Americans who are trying to just feed their families, keep up, and try and live the American Dream.

Mr. Speaker, this President has failed the American people on his energy policies.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I have sat in this Chamber, and I have listened to folks debate and raise concerns and problems about the legislation that is before us right now. I have heard people talking about how this is extreme, about how it is a gift to oil and gas production, and how it is going to trash the environment. There has been a poster that is up over there—and I am sad I don't have it right now—that said: polluters over people.

Mr. Speaker, we take an oath of office to stand up for this country and to defend the Constitution. We make a commitment to represent about 700,000 people each, 700,000 people, to represent their best interest.

So, Mr. Speaker, if the things that my friend from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) was saying were accurate, then I would be outraged too, but the facts show a very different story.

I am from south Louisiana.

When President Biden took office, Mr. Speaker, do you know what gasoline prices were?

The lowest prices in our State were $1.74 per gallon on the day he took office.

Mr. Speaker, where do you find $1.74 per gallon anywhere?

If I can find it at $2.74, then I am going to fill up extra gas cans. Prices are outrageous.

Does somebody want to call AAA a partisan organization?

AAA says that the average gasoline prices in America today are $3.52 a gallon. This is outrageous. It is absolutely outrageous.

This has the biggest impact on those who can least afford it. People can't afford to fill up their vehicles. With higher energy prices, they can't afford to pay their utility bills. We have watched as food prices have skyrocketed and as housing prices have skyrocketed. Much of this is attributable to energy policy because everybody has got to drive, and everybody has got to air-condition their homes and heat their businesses.

Mr. Speaker, so what is the cause of all this?

The cause of this is exactly what this administration's policies are doing. We just heard my friend from Minnesota say that the average American family is spending about $1,000 a month more now than they were when Biden took office.

Everything we are hearing this administration say and my friends across the aisle talk about is that this is trashing the environment.

Let's look at the facts. The facts show that the United States, even under the Trump administration, actually led the world in reducing emissions, in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Under the Biden administration, they have gone up, not down. They are going up.

What problem is the administration solving?

They are charging people higher prices. They are more dependent on foreign countries, and emissions are going up. They are having more of an adverse impact on the environment. I don't understand.

Mr. Speaker, it is interesting. I noted that the folks who have been speaking on this bill are from California. Let's take a look at the performance of California. Let's take a look at the performance.

Electricity rates in California are almost triple those in my home State. They are almost triple. Gasoline prices are approaching double. Emissions, they have the eighth worst emissions growth in America. California is the most dependent State upon oil from the Amazon rainforest. It is the most dependent State on imported energy, and it has the least reliable grid in America.

Mr. Speaker, who in the hell would want to thrust that upon their citizens?

This is a complete record of failure. Yet, it is the exact blueprint that this administration is following. It doesn't make sense.

This isn't about Republican, Democrat, Conservative, or Liberal. This is about math. It doesn't make sense.

All we are doing is we are creating a void that Iran is filling, that Russia is filling, and that Venezuela is filling.

Are they taking those dollars and doing things that are in America's interests?

No.

We have got to look at this globally. We have got to follow the math and the science as America has led the world in reducing emissions. We have led the world more than the next six emission-reducing countries combined, and we have ceded all of this energy void to China.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what has happened?

China has increased emissions five tons for every one ton we have reduced. It doesn't make sense.

I am not asking for Republican or Democrat policies. I am not asking for Conservative or Liberal policies. I am simply saying: Let's follow the math and follow the science and do what makes sense.

Folks are wondering: Why are my prices higher?

For one reason, this bill right here actually repeals higher royalty rates. Royalties are a percentage. They are not a hard dollar figure per barrel of oil or cubic foot of gas. It is a percentage. So as prices go up, so do the royalties. They have raised the percentage.

People are wondering why they are paying more money?

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. It is a percentage, yet this bill tries to come in and create a level playing field, create certainty, and create economic conditions that make sense.

My friends are sitting here saying: Oh, Big Oil is profiting.

They are profiting because the policies that the Biden administration is putting forth is resulting in conditions that cause prices to skyrocket. The thing that is so frustrating is that we had evidence that this is exactly what was going to happen. During the Obama administration the exact same thing happened, and I noted in the State of California the exact same thing happened.

I am just asking that we follow the math and the science. Let's support this legislation. Let's stop doing things that charge people unaffordable energy prices and trash the environment at the same time.

□ 1545

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues always want to bash California, and then they find ways to sneak into the State to visit. California is bringing it today as it relates to H.R. 6009.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MULLIN).

Mr. MULLIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 6009.

This bill is yet another shameless Republican handout to Big Oil companies. Two years ago, House Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act, a landmark climate bill that includes reforms for taxpayers to get a fair financial return for oil and gas produced on public lands. H.R. 6009 would block hardworking American taxpayers from receiving the financial benefits in the Inflation Reduction Act.

If energy dominance and independence are the true goals of this bill, let's talk about how we transition to clean energy, which is cheaper, safer, and can be produced right here in the U.S.

My aforementioned home State of California consistently experiences the impacts of climate change. We know that wildfires, sea level rise, flooding, and extreme weather are dangerous and costly. In 2022 alone, extreme weather events cost the United States $165 billion in damages.

Rather than jamming shameless giveaways to Big Oil through Congress, I invite my Republican colleagues to work with House Democrats as a unified Chamber investing in a shared vision of American prosperity and building the next generation of renewable energy.

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

Mr. Speaker, this is an easy concept for us all to understand. This really isn't about the left or the right, Democrat or Republican. We move either forward or backward.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle just talked about the Inflation Reduction Act. It was voted and put into law almost 2 years ago, so I ask the American people: Has it increased your energy prices, or has it lowered your energy prices? The American people know that their energy prices have skyrocketed.

We have many great energy producing States, including the great State of Alaska. This administration has put 54 sanctions on energy production in Alaska. That is more sanctions than this administration has put on Iran. That is unconscionable.

Mr. Speaker, earlier, at a Federal Lands Subcommittee hearing, there was a witness exchange. Representative TIFFANY chairs it. They talked about where they are going to source their electric vehicles, their critical minerals for the vehicles, and they were talking about child slave labor. The Democrat witness said that it is unfortunate that people are exploited around the world, but it is a reality. He said that is a controversial issue.

Child slave labor should never be controversial. We should never allow that, and this administration has gone with memorandums of understanding with Congo, where 15 of the 19 industrial mines use child slave labor.

Mr. Speaker, that is a fact, and this administration doesn't want to admit it. They want to ignore the human rights atrocities to get to their so-called green agenda. That is not acceptable, Mr. Speaker, when we have the mineral resources here in the United States of America.

As I said earlier, we are blessed with an abundance of natural resources that we can extract using the best environmental labor standards. Again, we can move either backward or forward. I submit to you that the Republicans want to move forward on energy production.

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can stay focused on the issue. We keep talking about foreign policy issues, and I think we should just, then, pass the supplementals to support Ukraine and our other allies rather than supporting isolationist foreign policies that actually encourage the kinds of human rights violations that my colleague keeps talking about.

I am also very grateful that my colleague mentioned helping the military. I have to say that Republicans voting for H.R. 6009 doesn't, in fact, do that. It doesn't do that at all. Republicans could actually help our military personnel if they voted to support them with housing supports and making sure that our military personnel have access to quality healthcare, especially our female military personnel. Instead, they want to vote for tax breaks for oil and gas.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 6009, the so-called Restoring America's Energy Dominance Act.

This legislation would gut critical provisions that I secured in the Inflation Reduction Act to ensure a fair return for American taxpayers as fossil fuel companies that extract on our public lands make record profits.

This bill undermines the Bureau of Land Management's current proposed rule that follows commonsense recommendations by the Government Accountability Office to protect taxpayers, including a change in royalty rates for the first time since they were established over a century ago.

For my colleagues who care so much about fiscal responsibility, the majority should be aware that, if this bill becomes law, Federal and State governments will lose out on billions of dollars of revenue.

This bill would also allow fossil fuel companies to completely disregard their responsibility to clean up after they cease drilling operations, potentially leaving the American people on the hook for over $6 billion in cleanup costs.

When oil and gas producers ignore their reclamation responsibilities, they leave their abandoned wells to contaminate our water supplies, degrade our ecosystems, and leave climate-warming methane emissions.

This is personal to me. My wife and I have two young kids at home. As many parents know, one of the first lessons we teach our kids is to clean up after themselves when they make a mess. Why on Earth would we give fossil fuel companies a free pass on this core responsibility?

Additionally, this bill would prevent BLM from directing oil and gas drilling away from areas that don't have a high potential for extraction to begin with. When fossil fuel companies stockpile cheap, unproductive leases, they unnecessarily put these lands and the important wildlife habitats they support at risk of development. It can also complicate any other use for these lands when appropriate, such as renewable energy projects.

H.R. 6009 would block BLM from balancing the extraction of oil and gas with the multitude of uses for our public lands, including the conservation of wildlife habitat, the preservation of landscapes sacred to indigenous peoples, outdoor recreation opportunities, and the list goes on.

My friends across the aisle will say this bill is necessary to increase American energy independence. I have heard that, in fact, several times this afternoon, but if we really want to talk about energy independence, we must focus on the transition to cleaner, cheaper, and safer domestic renewable energy, including modernizing our electric grid and making it easier to build transmission lines.

H.R. 6009 does absolutely none of that. This bill is a shameless giveaway of our public lands to Big Oil companies, which are raking in record profits and enjoying billions in taxpayer-funded subsidies while still charging working families high prices. It is long past

time that fossil fuel companies pay their fair share and do their part to clean up after their actions.

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Republicans have claimed that H.R. 1, their polluters over people bill, would solve all of our Nation's energy problems and that it is their number one priority for this Congress.

Lately, some of them have even started saying that Senate Democrats and Leader SCHUMER are letting this legislation gather dust on the other side of the Capitol. Let's just fact-check. I love doing it. It is false.

The truth is that the do-nothing Republican House hasn't even sent H.R. 1 to the Senate. Despite passing in the House a year ago, this bill has never been transmitted to the Senate and has languished in limbo with Republican leadership, gathering dust first on Speaker McCarthy's desk, then on nobody's desk, and now on Speaker JOHNSON'S desk.

If Republicans are so proud of their energy policies for the American people, why are they burying their landmark legislation and trying to blame Democrats? Why are we here passing sections of H.R. 1 for the second time? It is because it is all show.

The do-nothing Republican House has no real solution. Instead of taking real action to invest in a cleaner and safer energy future for every American, House Republicans are just repeating the same stale, tired arguments and passing the same washed-up bills over and over again, fully knowing that these messaging bills aren't going anywhere.

The American people deserve better.

I reiterate that this Republican legislation is a messaging bill that, fortunately, is going nowhere. House Republicans should be doing the bare minimum work this week of funding the government and keeping the lights on. Instead, they are trying to win political points with people's lives and livelihoods on the line.

This legislation creates unacceptable risk, and the President should have every single tool to protect public health and the environment.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the American people just have to ask themselves whether they are paying more or less for energy and groceries under this administration. It is clear the American people are suffering under the Biden policies.

The Biden administration's proposed rule would eliminate the opportunity for exploration of newly discovered energy producing areas and shrink future oil and gas production, even on sites where it already exists, all while drastically driving up costs for Americans.

We will not stand by idly as this administration locks up our Federal lands and prohibits Americans from accessing their abundant natural resources. We will support American families, jobs, communities, our economy, and our national security through safe, clean, and efficient domestic energy production.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in support of H.R. 6009, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Porter of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 6009 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

The material previously referred to by Ms. PORTER is as follows:

Ms. Porter of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 6009 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

On page 3, line 8, strike ''date of enactment'' and insert ''effective date''.

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall not take effect until the Comptroller General of the United States certifies that this Act would result in reduced energy costs for American consumers and would not result in increased record profits for the oil and gas industry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. STAUBER. 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 question are postponed.

□ 1600

PROTECTING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1121) to prohibit a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Levin of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1121 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

The material previously referred to by Mr. LEVIN is as follows:

Mr. Levin of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 1121 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

At the end, add the following:

SEC. 3. REGULATION OF FRACKING ON FEDERAL LANDS.

Section 2(b) shall not take effect until the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Land Management, finalizes regulations governing the use of hydraulic fracturing under oil and gas leases for Federal lands, which shall require—

(1) baseline water testing, the results of which shall be posted on an appropriate internet website; and

(2) public disclosure of each chemical used for hydraulic fracturing on an appropriate internet website.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to recommit H.R. 1121 will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

Passage of H.R. 1121, if ordered;

The motion to recommit H.R. 6009;

Passage of H.R. 6009, if ordered; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 202, nays 213, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 92]

YEAS—202

Adams	Blunt Rochester	Carter (LA)
Aguilar	Bonamici	Cartwright
Allred	Bowman	Casar
Amo	Boyle (PA)	Case
Auchincloss	Brown	Casten
Balint	Brownley	Castor (FL)
Barragán	Budzinski	Castro (TX)
Beatty	Bush	Cherfilus-McCormick
Bera	Caraveo	Chu
Beyer	Carbajal	Clark (MA)
Bishop (GA)	Cárdenas	Clarke (NY)
Blumenauer	Carson	

Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stevens
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)

NAYS—213

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—17

Doggett
Frankel, Lois
Golden (ME)
Gosar
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Kildee
Lee (CA)
Molinaro
Nehls
Scalise
Simpson
Stanton
Strickland
Trone
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)

□ 1634

Messrs. JOYCE of Ohio, CARTER of Texas, LUTTRELL, HUIZENGA, NUNN of Iowa, NEWHOUSE, MOONEY, LAWLER, POSEY, WILLIAMS of New York, DONALDS, LALOTA, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

Messrs. CLYBURN, GARCIA of Illinois, and NADLER changed their vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ALFORD). The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 229, nays 188, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 93]

YEAS—229

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Collins
Comer
Costa
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Houlahan
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kaptur
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Peltola
Pence
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Vasquez
Veasey
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—188

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Foster
Foushee
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz

Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stevens
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—15

Frankel, Lois
Golden (ME)
Gosar
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Kildee
Lee (CA)
Nehls
Scalise
Simpson
Stanton
Strickland
Trone
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1641

Mr. FITZPATRICK changed his vote from ''nay'' to ''yea.''

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESTORING AMERICAN ENERGY DOMINANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 6009) to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the proposed rule relating to fluid mineral leases and leasing process, and for other purposes, offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 204, nays 211, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]

YEAS—204

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Davis (NC)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez, Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)

NAYS—211

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Newhouse
Norman
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—17

Frankel, Lois
Golden (ME)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hudson
Kildee
Lee (CA)
Nehls
Nunn (IA)
Scalise
Simpson
Stanton
Trone
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1647

Mr. MEUSER changed his vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 216, nays 200, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 95]

YEAS—216

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxx
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher

Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez, Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Murphy
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—200

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
Caraveo
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Espaillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kuster
Landsman
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (NV)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lofgren
Lynch
Magaziner
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moskowitz
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stevens
Strickland
Suozzi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—16

Frankel, Lois
Golden (ME)
Gosar
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Kildee
Krishnamoorthi
Lee (CA)
Loudermilk
Nehls
Scalise
Simpson
Stanton
Trone
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1655

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent and missed four votes on the House Floor. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 92, Motion to Recommit on H.R. 1121, "nay" on rollcall No. 93, H.R. 1121, "yea" on rollcall No. 94, Motion to Recommit on H.R. 6009, and "nay" on rollcall No. 95, H.R. 6009.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to attend votes due to a death in the family. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 89 (Previous Question on H. Res. 1085), "no" on rollcall No. 90 (H. Res. 1085), "yea" on rollcall No. 91 (H.R. 7520), "yea" on rollcall No. 92 (Motion to Recommit on H.R. 1121), "nay" on rollcall No. 93 (H.R. 1121), "yea" on rollcall No. 94 (Motion to Recommit on H.R. 6009) and "nay" on rollcall No. 95 (H.R. 6009).

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 89, "no" on rollcall No. 90, "yea" on rollcall No. 91, "yea" on rollcall No. 92, "nay" on rollcall No. 93, "yea" on rollcall No. 94 and "nay" on rollcall No. 95.

□ 1700

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 1068

Mr. THANEDAR. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H. Res. 1068.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is granted.

INVESTING IN OUR FOOD AND NATIONAL SECURITY

(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 on National Agriculture Day to highlight bipartisan legislation I introduced with five of my colleagues to invest in our food and national security.

The Growing Opportunities in Agriculture, or the GO Ag Act, will improve agriculture educational opportunities in our schools.

Mr. Speaker, the most recent Census of Agriculture showed the average age of the U.S. farmer is over 58 years old, underscoring the importance of investing in programs to promote agriculture at an early age.

The GO Ag Act would create a $5 million grant program to help high schools cover the startup costs associated with agriculture education programs. Schools can apply for competitive grants to cover classroom and laboratory instruction, teacher salaries, and curriculum development.

I have seen firsthand the impact agricultural education has on our communities. In my district, FAA and 4–H programs provide students with the opportunity to discover different careers across the agricultural industry. I hear directly from these students and educators how valuable these programs are and the role they play in shaping our next generation of leaders.

Mr. Speaker, investing in education is the most commonsense way to prepare individuals who are passionate about a career in agriculture, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

SOLUTION TO McDONALD'S ICE CREAM MACHINE PROBLEM

(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 present a solution to McDonald's ice cream machine problem.

Angry customers have flooded social media with posts about broken machines. McDonald's even jokes about it, but it is not a joke. It is a problem McDonald's refuses to fix.

The company limits franchise owners regarding who can repair their machines and denies them the right to find local repair workers to save them time and money.

Now, President Biden wants to give the American small business owners

more repair freedom. It is called the right to repair, and it would loosen copyright laws to permit small business owners to repair their own machines.

If successful, the move would save customers and small business owners millions of dollars per year, and McDonald's customers could finally get their ice cream consistently again. It is another way President Biden is fighting for the American people and for the right to have ice cream.

HOUSE REPUBLICAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

(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, the House Republican majority is delivering on behalf of American families. We are fighting to tackle inflation, create jobs, defend national security, make America energy independent again, secure the southern border, preserve our constitutional freedoms, restore the voice of people, and more.

Highlights of Republican accomplishments include passing: the Secure the Border Act, the Fiscal Responsibility Act, the Lower Energy Costs Act, the Parents Bill of Rights, the condemn war criminal Putin kidnapping act, the Protection of Women in Sports, the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act, and the Born Alive Act.

House Republicans will continue with the leadership of Speaker MIKE JOHNSON to reduce inflation, create jobs, and keep American families safe.

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 existing laws. Biden shamefully opens borders for dictators, as more 9/11 attacks across America are imminent as warned by the FBI.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF DERALYN RILES DAVIS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life and legacy of the amazing Deralyn Riles Davis. She was born in Corsicana, Texas, graduated from college in Tyler as valedictorian, and made her way to Fort Worth where she became a legend in education.

While she was in college, she joined the Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, and she rose over the years to the position of south central regional director, which is a very prestigious position.

Deralyn did so much throughout her life and activism. She helped found the Texas Coalition of Black Democrats. She was an entrepreneur. She did so much, and I will tell you one of the most amazing things that Deralyn did, which makes me sad that she passed when she did, was when the AKAs had their annual convention in Dallas back in 2000, Deralyn said the AKAs are going to come and see Fort Worth, too. She pulled together three or four busses full of AKAs and brought them to the Stockyards and historical Black communities in Fort Worth. As someone said, Deralyn was a doer and knew how to get things done.

I give my deepest condolences to her daughter, Jefflyn, and all of her friends and family that loved her so much. We are going to miss Deralyn. I thank her for all of her greatness in everything that she did.

CONGRATULATING ALLEN BURNS

(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 Mr. Allen Burns, who is retiring after 16 years as the executive director on the Coastal Regional Commission.

Mr. Burns obtained a bachelor of science in sociology from Georgia Southern University and master of science in regional planning from Clemson. He started his career in the city of Clemson as a community development specialist in 1980.

He served South Carolina for 28 years specializing in economic development and planning. For his work, he obtained numerous awards for community development statewide.

In 2008, Burns became executive director of the Coastal Regional Commission, the CRC, where for the next 16 years he led growth of coastal Georgia. The CRC developed successful plans that improved transportation, local growth, military preparedness, and efficiency.

As Mr. Burns enters retirement, I would like to thank him for all he has done for the First Congressional District of Georgia.

SEYMOUR JOHNSON AIR FORCE BASE ECONOMIC IMPACT

(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, Seymour Johnson Air Force Base is an economic engine for Wayne County and the surrounding community. Even so, there is discussion the Air Force may dissolve an entire fighter squadron at the base, consisting of 26 F–15E aircraft.

Doing so would rip away about 520 jobs from Wayne County, one of the most economically distressed counties in our State, in a congressional district that ranks 422 of 441 in median income. Adding insult to injury is the potential job loss of another 6,000 jobs from a menthol ban with no plans to replace them.

As a former Air Force officer who grew up working in the fields, I must admit I am left scratching my head right now. These decisions will hamper us, a part of the State that is already struggling. I urge the administration to reconsider these positions.

MANDATING THE TRANSITION TO ELECTRIC VEHICLES

(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, the Biden administration has released yet another round of extreme regulations that are going to hurt consumers and the American economy. This one is an extreme climate regulation plan that will mandate auto manufacturers to transition to electric vehicles, all in order to get rid of carbon dioxide, which I remind you is only 0.04 percent of our atmosphere, the little skinny piece right there. Its increase is a rounding error.

In many rural areas, like I have in northern California, the power grid already isn't that strong. We suffer with what is called public safety power shutoffs where when the wind blows, they shut the power off because they are afraid it might blow a tree or a branch into a power line and cause another million-acre fire from our unmanaged forests that the Forest Service is not taking care of.

What do we have? People are told not to charge their EVs during peak times, yet the Biden administration is pushing forward. By 2032, 67 percent of vehicles sold have to be electric, and 46 percent of medium trucks have to be electric, just by a stroke of a pen. These guys are not on your side.

HONORING JOE BELMAN ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Joe Belman of Joliet, Illinois, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday.

Making it to the century mark is an accomplishment, but it is not just about how many years you live, it is about how you live them, and Joe has packed a lot in since 1924.

Early in life, Joe worked on a farm, on the railroad, and on a steamboat in the Mississippi River. In 1943, Joe enlisted in the Army and served as a B–17 turret gunner during World War II where he flew 35 combat missions.

Joe became a decorated soldier and fought in a number of major battles in the European theater, including the Battle of the Bulge. Two years after returning from the war, he married his

wife, Irene, and they were together for 59 years.

Joe has continued to serve our communities as a labor leader, through his involvement in civic and veteran organizations, and as a youth sports coach.

Joe's dedication to our communities has earned him many awards and honors, and he continues to inspire the younger generations.

Happy birthday to Joe Belman.

CONGRATULATING THE PRESBYTERIAN COLLEGE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Presbyterian College Women's Basketball team and Coach Alaura Sharp.

The Blue Hose, as they are known, made history after beating the third-seeded Radford Highlanders to claim the Big South Championship title for the first time ever.

Now, they are in the Big Dance. They play tonight, and I wish them the best of luck in their game tonight.

HUD SECRETARY MARCIA FUDGE'S RETIREMENT

(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, during this Women's History Month, I rise in recognition and celebration of our Ohio colleague and esteemed friend, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Marcia Fudge, as she retires from her Cabinet position at the end of this week.

We all are honored to have worked closely alongside Secretary Fudge during her tenure in Congress and her service as Secretary of one of the largest departments in the Government of the United States.

Her deep commitment to northern Ohio and to our Nation has been evident throughout her career, and we are all honored to call her a dear and valued friend. Her insights and her acumen have been invaluable as we sought housing and community development solutions across America.

She never forgot the neighborhoods that she came from in Cleveland nor all the rest of Ohio. Like every other American, she wants neighborhoods that are safe and vibrant.

Last spring, I had an opportunity to work with Secretary Fudge again in her new role when she visited Toledo. She never forgot Toledo. It has always been a pleasure to share with a good friend who shares our dedication to the people of America and Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Secretary Fudge the very best as she leaves her role at HUD. May she and her mother enjoy many, many months and years together. No matter what role she takes on in her next chapter, I know she will never stop fighting for the people of our country and the people of northern Ohio.

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

□1715

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Ohio). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. 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 topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to be joined tonight by several of my colleagues who are doing excellent work to counter many of the misguided policy decisions made by the Biden administration that are costing American families.

From pushing legislation that fights back against the Biden administration's war on energy to creating a more sustainable Federal budgeting process, House Republicans are looking out for the American family and the American worker.

This is energy week. It is an opportunity for us to be able to highlight two different philosophies, and that is what you are going to hear a lot from my colleagues on, Mr. Speaker. We have also heard from other folks on the other side of the aisle who have literally put up a sign that says: polluters over people.

It is clear that there are two different philosophies about addressing this, Mr. Speaker. You can showcase that as American energy organizations we are going to do it better and we are going to do it cleaner than the rest of the world. By signaling that, we are able to effectively lower costs for American families.

What they have gone through over the last 3 years with historic prices and costs in the energy world is not putting people first. That is just categorically and completely disingenuous. There is a much more productive way to address this.

We harp on this a lot, but when we indicate and we showcase we are going to invest and that we are going to continue to embrace our ability to lead on this and bring our allies along with us, then we are able to weaken other adversaries across the world.

There are so many angles to this, from national security to domestic policy. It makes so much sense. I am thrilled to be able to hear from many of my colleagues on this issue.

I strongly believe that winning the future will take an optimistic and conservative approach, and we are committed to righting wrongs of the Biden administration and will continue to champion policies that allow American families to thrive.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank him for doing this Special Order hour on energy.

Mr. Speaker, there is no national security without energy security. I didn't come up with that. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said that, and Americans know it.

Energy is foundation to everything in American life. Americans really take our energy for granted. They expect the lights to come on when they flip the switch, they expect their refrigerator to have a cold beverage in it, and they demand that they have affordable energy.

Whether it is power generation or transportation fuels, the gas and diesel fuel that they put in their cars to travel to work to earn the income that is taxed by this government or to take their kids to school or attend a ball game or go to their house of worship, they know now that they are paying more for their transportation fuels than they were before the Biden administration. They know now that they are paying higher utility rates than they were before the Biden administration.

So, Mr. Speaker, you have to ask yourself: Why?

It is because President Biden on day one declared war on energy. Actually, before day one, on the campaign trail, he was going to end fracking. He was going to target the fossil fuel industry, and he did.

On day one, they canceled the Keystone pipeline that would bring Canadian oil down to the refineries in the United States to be refined into all of the miraculous products that come out of a barrel of oil or hydrocarbons. It is not just gasoline and diesel fuel, but it is all sorts of miraculous products that help us have items like these glasses. These are things that help make our homes safer and things we utilize to make our lives better.

He ended the oil and gas leases on Federal land both offshore and onshore.

Just recently, because he was required by law to do so, they issued a 5-year drilling plan on Federal lands offshore on the OCS. In that 5-year plan they issued a plan that will only have three lease cells, the fewest lease cells on the OCS, the Outer Continental Shelf, and the Gulf of Mexico in the history of the country.

There is no leasing off the coast of Alaska. They don't want us to go after the National Petroleum Reserve, the oil and gas that is in Alaska in a small sliver of property set aside for energy production to help Americans lower their energy costs.

Before Biden came into office, America was a net exporter of oil. We have so much natural gas in this country that it is immeasurable. That means we can't really tell you how much it is, Mr. Speaker, because it is so much. America could be, once again, a leader of exporting oil and natural gas.

Now, the Democrats are going to say that it was Putin's price hike. When gas prices went up it was because Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine. Yes, that caused some volatility in the world that affected gas prices, but gas prices and energy prices in general already were on the rise before Putin invaded Ukraine because of the Biden policies and their attack on American energy production.

There are four things we have to think about when we think about energy production and energy in this country, and that is production. Let's produce the resources that we have in oil and gas in the Marcellus shale formation, the Permian Basin, off the coast of Alaska, onshore in Alaska, other Federal lands, and in the Gulf of Mexico. Anywhere we can find those resources, let's produce those but then we have to deliver those resources, and that is where pipelines come in.

Pipelines deliver resources in the safest mode and manner, whether it is liquid fuel or gas, than any other mode of transportation of those resources. We can produce those resources and deliver those resources either to the refinery to be refined into the miraculous products that we have in oil and gasoline, but then utilize those resources to produce that electricity that we talked about 1 minute ago that Americans expect.

We don't have intermittent power here in this country. They do in South Africa, and they do in many places in Europe where at certain times during the day the power is not on. It goes off. They have a brownout and a blackout.

The Democrats' policies are doing away with reliable and dispatchable energy such as oil and gas and natural gas-fired generators. They are moving more toward renewables. I don't know a Republican on our side of the aisle who doesn't like renewable energy.

I like the fact we can harness the sun and harness the wind and create energy. I think it is groovy. Nonetheless, I also know that in South Carolina we have renewables. We have solar generation in South Carolina.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker?

It starts at zero every day, but when the sun comes up it starts generating power.

Guess what, Mr. Speaker?

When the sun goes down, then it goes back to zero. It starts at zero and ends at zero every day so that at least one-half of the day, solar isn't producing any energy, and the utilities need to provide that energy that we expect, so they need to have dispatchable energy, stuff that they can ramp up and down and draw on when it is needed. That is why natural gas-fired power plants are so important in this Nation as a supplemental to the renewables or renewable is supplemental to gas to save money.

Nonetheless, we need to produce more resources here in this country. We need to deliver those through pipelines. We have a tremendous need to build our pipeline infrastructure in this country to send those resources to where they can be utilized by the utilities or the refineries for the products that we need; produce, deliver, and utilize.

Be that as it may, then we have such an abundance of natural gas that we could help improve the quality of lives of folks all around the globe by exporting American-produced and cleaner burning natural gas to help folks in Africa finally have stable and reliable electric generation. There is energy poverty in this world, and we could help solve that by exporting cleaner burning, American-produced natural gas that burns cleaner than any other natural gas.

It definitely burns cleaner than Russian gas. When Vladimir Putin invaded Ukraine, Europe looked West to the United States and said: Send us your gas. Send us your LNG so we can lessen our dependence on a foreign adversary, Russia.

Actually, Mr. Speaker, U.S. gas burns cleaner so you are helping your carbon emissions as well, if you approach it that way. However, because of the Biden policies, they couldn't count on the United States. We just saw a pause in LNG terminal permitting.

What did they do?

They looked to Norway, and Norway built a pipeline across the ocean to Poland in 1 year's time.

Mr. Speaker, imagine building a pipeline in this country in 1 year's time that length and that magnitude.

We need to export more LNG. We need to help our friends and allies around the globe, help American energy producers create American jobs, and help the climate because American gas has actually helped us lower our carbon emissions in this country. We can continue to do that through cleaner burning natural gas and something that is dispatchable that will always be there and always be on.

This is energy week, and we have approached a number of things. We just had a big markup on the Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act where we can actually start building out pipelines and improving pipelines that are in existing rights-of-way and providing that resource to the utilities that much need it.

In energy week, we just passed a no fracking bill so that future Presidents and this President can't ban fracking in this country because fracking has actually helped our energy revolution.

There is so much we can do, and I can tell you, Mr. Speaker, Republicans are focused on returning America to energy dominance to lower your prices at the pump, to lower your utility bills, and provide reliable, affordable, and cleaner energy in this country for moms, dads, and businesses so that America can be successful.

We do it starting with energy, because if we don't have low energy prices, then I promise you, Mr. Speaker, you are paying more at the grocery store and at other retailers because most goods around this country are transported by something that runs on diesel fuel.

Diesel fuel is a product of refining that fossil fuel we produce here. However, when diesel fuel goes up, that cost is passed on to the consumer. That is why we are paying higher prices. It is because the Biden administration has driven up energy prices in this country and limited our production in this country.

This has hurt us on the global stage because countries are going to get energy from somewhere, and they will get it from adversarial countries like China, Russia, Iran, or Venezuela when they can get energy from the United States.

We can be a global leader again. We will be, and I look forward to the day that America reasserts its dominance in the energy sector.

I appreciate the gentleman for yielding to me today, and we are going to continue to focus on American energy.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. I appreciate the gentleman from South Carolina. Good energy policy is groovy, so I thank the gentleman for bringing that up.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the first district of California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MOORE for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, energy really is the cornerstone of a modern economy and a modern country, and the United States has been able to be a great innovator for so many decades on improving our lot with energy, and, indeed, exporting civilization to the rest of the world. Energy modernizes us and makes people more easily able to feed themselves, clothe themselves, withstand disaster and not have to have every heat wave or cold wave be a disastrous loss of life due to our ability to harness and produce energy that works for us.

Energy independence is something that just a few short years ago we were largely achieving finally under President Trump. Over the last 3 years, that has unraveled. That independence along with our food security is, indeed, what makes us strong so we can withstand outside threats. Those two items really go hand in hand.

I wish President Biden would realize that and not have the cabal behind him that is doing everything it can to unwind all the progress and all the good things that have been made in recent decades to make the country so strong previously.

We need to have decisive action to renew our economic vitality instead of more damage. Instead of supporting

our farmers and ensuring a stable food supply, it appears agriculture and its industry of feeding our Nation has turned into a partisan issue somehow leaving farmers and ranchers to fend for themselves in an increasingly hostile business and regulatory atmosphere.

□ 1730

Costs of inputs—just a couple of years ago, we saw the cost of fertilizer triple and the cost of fuel triple. In my real life, I am a farmer at home. I saw it firsthand.

That has to be passed along. Otherwise, there is no longer a farmer there to produce those items if they do not make at least some level of profit.

As we work through these challenges to the agriculture sector, hopefully with a farm bill here that we can get heard next month and passed along to the Senate, we need to understand the far-reaching implications of Biden anti-American energy policies because that ties right back in. Agriculture in this country is really dependent on a good source of energy: diesel for our tractors and trucks and the ability to dry and process our products with electricity that is readily available at reasonable prices.

What do we get out of this lately? A brand-new push for more electric vehicles, a stroke of the pen by the President and his administration. We are going to be forced—if these things stand, in just 8 short years, the fleet will have to be two-thirds electric for our cars and pickups and about 46 percent on more medium-duty trucks, just by whim.

What are we finding? That our electricity supply in this country is already sometimes in peril, like in my home district. I was mentioning earlier that sometimes the power gets shut off in northern California because the wind blows and maybe they are afraid that a tree or a branch will blow into a power line and cause an outage and a massive forest fire like we see. How are you supposed to charge your vehicle at night when they have a 2- or 3-day power shutoff?

Even more so, we are going backward on energy production. They are tearing out the dams on the Klamath River that make CO_2-free, reliable, 24–7 hydroelectric power. Instead, they want more solar panels. They want more windmills.

Windmills are extremely inefficient for the amount of energy and effort it takes to put one up versus what their output is. Solar is fine and dandy, but it is only a tiny percent, a niche of production currently in this country.

We need the mainstays. We need hydroelectric. We need to expand nuclear power because that is a good 24–7 baseload power supply. A small plant can produce a mass amount of power. You don't need thousands of acres of solar fields covering up good land, like they are trying to do.

Even in the San Joaquin Valley, some of the most productive farmland in the world right there in central California, their big idea is to have solar farms cover up this good land instead of the concentrated power plants that you have with nuclear, hydro, natural gas—yes—and the other forms.

I also want to talk about biomass. We don't get to talk about that a lot around here. Our forests are already way undermanaged. They have way too much material out there in them. We need to take more biomass and put it to work in power plants on a controlled basis. That is a 24–7 fuel also. It is baseload power that is available. You don't have to rely on the wind to blow, the Sun to come up, the clouds to blow away, or the rain to stop. You have the ability to run that 24–7 whenever you want.

Additionally, putting forest products to work means it is not going to be out there burning in the woods. You are going to have a 99.9 percent cleaner output burning that material in a power plant.

One of the other side effects of ignoring our forests and the dead trees is that they are still going to give off carbon dioxide as trees decay, so you could either control it in a power plant more efficiently or have it just release out there. A tree grows, dies, and gives off the CO_2 it absorbed.

One of the by-products not talked about much is methane gas released from a decomposing tree or other plant matter. My colleagues will talk about methane gas being much more volatile in the upper atmosphere than CO_2 by manyfold, so why don't we take this methane gas that is contained in this dead tree, put it in this power plant, and actually make it be a plus on making energy and control that and not release it in the atmosphere?

We need to talk more about that. That is a highlight that hasn't been exposed much, what good forestry means to the energy grid and also to cleaning up the forests, making them less fire-prone with all of that ash and all of that particulate matter that gets into the air and fogs out hundreds of square miles of a region there with really foul air.

The pluses on biomass just outstrip any of the negatives, other than it is not cheap to move the material. That is something we need to assess. The Forest Service is going to have to do more with their lands, and this is a way of harnessing power to the good. It means jobs in those communities. It means safer, healthier forests. It means electricity you can depend on 24–7 with what is burning in those power plants.

We see so many implications of high costs of energy, with groceries, with what it means for normal families, and this doesn't have to be happening. These high costs of electricity and fuel do not need to be happening to the American people. We need the Biden administration to go in the right direction, help farmers, ranchers, consumers, and the producers of energy to actually produce in this country and not rely on imports from somewhere else. Let's get cracking on that and do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), especially as he brings up some of the forestry issues, massive amounts of invasive, very noxious trees, juniper trees, things like that that can be put to much better use, saving water, at the same time replacing that with a more productive forest option.

Those type of solutions exist out there, and we are working hard to identify that and actually do a productive job, instead of just allowing for the rhetoric to exist with regard to this energy narrative.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Commonwealth of Virginia (Mr. CLINE), my good friend and colleague.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for scheduling this Special Order and for taking the lead on addressing the challenges that are facing us with regard to the Biden energy policy in addition to a number of other areas where the Biden administration is doing so much to harm to the average American family.

At this critical juncture in our country's history, when our country is facing enormous challenges, it is becoming increasingly clear that President Biden and his administration are firmly unwilling to confront the stark realities of our Nation's fiscal path. Instead, the path we are on is marked by reckless, unnecessary spending and failed energy and economic policies, a direct result of years of out-of-control spending by Biden and the left.

This trajectory has not only jeopardized our economy but also significantly increased the daily costs burdening the American people, and not just with regard to their energy costs.

Just look at the tax-and-spend budget released by the Biden White House last week. We have all heard the promises that folks earning less than $400,000 won't see their taxes go up, but what we are actually seeing with inflation hidden in this budget is a hidden tax hitting every American.

Biden wants to increase Federal spending by $325 billion right away, on day one, pushing our national spending to over $86 trillion over the next decade. This means higher prices for everyday things, making life harder for all hardworking Americans.

Now, as March Madness begins, President Biden's budget talks a good game about fighting inflation, but his plan does the opposite. It is small ball set to make things more expensive for families across the country.

Here is the technical. Even with massive tax increases, his budget doesn't ever balance. It will keep adding to our national debt. The President plans to spend $7.3 trillion in just 1 year and push up our debt to $45 trillion by 2034.

To cover this spending spree, the President is pitching $4.9 trillion in new taxes—not just on the rich but on every American.

In stark contrast, I proudly stand here today to commend my Budget Committee colleagues and my colleagues on the Republican Study Committee for releasing and approving balanced budgets for fiscal year 2025 weeks ahead of Biden's too little, too late proposal.

The budget approved by the House Budget Committee and the budget approved by the Republican Study Committee are testaments to the House's commitment to rein in unsustainable spending and get our Nation back on track. Compared to Biden's budget, our budgets propose no new taxes, balance the budget, and spend trillions less throughout the budget window.

For far too long, House Republicans have been sounding the alarm bells over the looming fiscal cliff that our Nation is facing. The RSC budget plan and the House Budget Committee budget are roadmaps to restoring fiscal responsibility and ensuring the prosperity of future generations.

It is not surprising to see the release of Biden's budget, which can only be described as a compilation of leftwing fantasies filled with wasteful spending that will undoubtedly add trillions more to the already $34 trillion debt burdening our country.

This is not the future that Americans deserve, nor is it a legacy that we should ever leave behind for our children and grandchildren. The American people demand and rightly deserve a budget plan that protects them from the looming debt disaster, and I am proud to highlight House Republicans' efforts to work toward delivering budgets that exemplify fiscal responsibility.

The House budget plan and the RSC budget are not just plans filled with numbers and forecasts. They are pledges to the American people to reinstate the fiscal sanity our country needs. We can either continue down the path of fiscal irresponsibility, saddling our Nation with debt and economic instability, or we can choose a new direction, one of prudence, accountability, and prosperity.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the fiscally responsible budgets proposed by the House Republican Budget Committee and the Republican Study Committee, and I urge leadership to bring both to the floor for a vote alongside the false hopes of the Biden budget.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I sit on the same committee as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE). We call one of those opportunities reverse the curse, the budget resolution. I do my best to show my constituents this is the hope that we have, that we didn't get here overnight, but we can build back toward fiscal responsibility, building a 10-year balanced budget and finding all those opportunities to extract waste out of our system so we can thrive and operate.

I thank the gentleman for culling out all of those differences. I appreciate it.

Now to my good friend from the greatest State—we call it the great State of Utah, but we both know that it is the greatest State—to share some of his thoughts for this important week.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6009, the Restoring American Energy Dominance Act, and H.R. 1121, the Protecting American Energy Production Act.

Just a few years ago, American energy was booming. We were energy independent, creating more than we used for the first time since the 1940s. We moved the government out of the way for hardworking Americans and watched as domestic production, net exports, and energy innovation exploded.

In Utah, the impact was incredible. The price to go on a road trip, to heat a family's home, to run an A/C in the summer were all at record lows.

On Biden's first day in office, he teamed up with the most radical wing of his party and waged a war on American energy. Day one, he killed the Keystone XL pipeline. Already under construction with over 1,500 workers, it was projected by 2021 to provide approximately 11,000 jobs. This was thousands of real middle-class union jobs, approximately $800 million in wages.

President Biden wasn't finished. He then paused all liquefied natural gas exports and spent so much on the Democrats' Green New Deal pipe dream that inflation has for years ravaged every sector of our economy.

Again, Utahns felt the impact. Today, we are spending 33 percent more to heat our homes and 40 percent more to fill up our tanks as we did in 2021.

The American people are tired of paying for the President's war on American energy. One year ago, the people's House passed H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Cost Act, to begin reversing President Biden's misguided energy agenda. This week, we will continue to fight by passing legislation to boost American energy production, cut green project slush funds, and lower the costs for families. We know how to make this work because we have done it before.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the American people, the President, and my colleagues across the aisle to join us in delivering affordable, clean, and reliable energy for every American.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS) for his sentiments on this important Energy Week. Solutions can be very common sense, and we hope to be able to beat that drum continually.

For our last speaker tonight, we get the pleasure of hearing from a Representative from the great State of Tennessee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), a man of congenial disposition.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

President Biden's $7.3 trillion budget proposal for fiscal year 2025 is full of costly woke policies that will end up hurting the Americans who elected us to office.

Here are some of the things he wants. Mr. Speaker, $895 billion for defense—it comes as no secret in the history of audits that our Pentagon has never passed an audit. How did we punish them this last budgetary cycle? With $20 billion more. Of course, that is $9 billion more for defense than we spent this year. For the American Climate Corps—we are not sure what that is—there is $8 billion, and $3 billion for the State Department to advance gender equity and equality worldwide. Worldwide, Mr. Speaker.

President Trump asked for $4 billion to help secure the border, and we said he couldn't have it because, as our friends across the aisle said, that would bust the budget.

There is $1.5 billion for the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights.

□ 1745

There is so much more, but we don't have all day to go over every item.

President Biden also claims this budget would lower the deficit. We all know that is a lie but think about how that happens. If he is spending more money in lowering the deficit, it means he plans to significantly increase the government's revenue. How does he do that? He will do that by taking in more taxes.

His plan would raise taxes by nearly $5 trillion. Of course, he claims no one making less than $400,000 per year will pay more taxes, but we have seen what this promise has done so far in the past. If he is making companies pay more in taxes, these companies, of course, need to make up for the lost profit, so they charge us more for gas, food, energy, and other essentials we use every day.

To put it better, Mr. Speaker, companies collect taxes. That is what they do. Corporations collect taxes, and they pass it on to us.

Even if Americans don't pay more in taxes, they will pay for this plan somehow. It won't do them any good unless they want to get one of these new government jobs that will focus on climate change or diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for his remarks.

I will wrap up here briefly, but as I started my remarks tonight about how this affects the family, I have the pleasure of having one of those families here today in the gallery watching this debate go on.

This is our focus. This is what we are completely focused on. This is not some nonsensical argument about polluters over people. That is just disingenuous.

The U.S. has made incredible gains. In my home State of Utah, air quality is one of our most important aspects, and we have been able to experience strong growth, but maintain and even lessen the impact that we have on particles per million, tier 3 gasoline.

If you embrace and you create opportunities for innovation, you can actually do better. You can actually engage allies better. We can be a net exporter. We can create a stronger America and lower prices.

Our entire focus here is to make sure that families have an opportunity to thrive. We put so much burden with the unnecessary costs from Biden's energy policies on the backs of the American workers and the American family.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time for this Special Order.

THE ILLEGAL ALIEN INVASION AT OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, tonight, I will be joined by a number of my colleagues to talk about the illegal alien invasion at our southern border and how it is victimizing our citizens.

Last month, a grievous event tragically reminded the American people that every State is a border State.

On February 22, Laken Riley, pictured here, a 22-year-old nursing student was murdered by an illegal alien in Athens, Georgia, on the campus of the University of Georgia.

Laken's murderer was an illegal alien who should never, ever, ever have even been here. He illegally entered El Paso, Texas, in September 2022 and was then released into the country via President Biden's significantly expanded parole program, an expansion that is illegitimate.

He then took a young, beautiful life, Laken's life, in a brutal and violent way. Laken's father, John, described her as an amazing daughter, sister, friend, who was selfless and considerate of others, with a laugh that was infectious and lit up a room.

He also highlighted her faith to me and noted that her love for the Lord guided her steps and shaped the way she lived her life.

Mr. Speaker, Laken should be alive today, running, laughing with her friends, studying for nursing school, and spending time with her parents and siblings, but she is not, and this tragedy was completely avoidable.

Her murderer is a dangerous criminal alien who took advantage of weak and bad Biden administration border policies. This horrific story has truly shaken our State and our entire Nation, and for good reason.

Laken's young life and bright future were cut short at the hands of an illegal alien. Her murder was 100 percent preventable because her murderer should never have ever been in our country. Yet radical, dangerous policies failed both her and her family.

Athens-Clarke County, the county where I have my business, the county where I have lived for 30 years, the county where as a Navy officer I taught when the Navy Supply Course School was in Athens-Clarke County.

This county is one of four sanctuary cities in the Peach State. This sanctuary jurisdiction undoubtedly incentivized illegal immigration, putting families, small businesses, and students in greater danger. Yet Athens' Democrat mayor shamelessly claimed that there is no connection between crime and immigration.

This is a flat-out lie, but it is a lie the mayor would rather tell than admit the truth: that his own policies played a role in Laken's murder.

But the buck doesn't stop with the failed leadership in Athens-Clarke County. This goes all the way to 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue.

As a candidate, Joe Biden instructed illegals to ''surge to the border.'' As President, he has ignored immigration law, destroyed our border security, and incentivized illegal immigration.

Notably, Secretary Mayorkas has unabashedly carried out the President's marching orders, willfully establishing a wide-open border agenda that has violated our laws and emboldened dangerous criminals like Laken Riley's murderer to illegally enter the United States.

Once aliens from across the world accept Biden's invitation, they are immediately released into our communities. In fact, Laken's murderer was released into the country due to the President's abuse of parole authority, which the Biden administration has weaponized to funnel millions of illegal aliens into the United States.

For 3 years now, these open-border policies have been in effect. The result has been the Biden administration's intentional illegal invasion. According to recent estimates, nearly 7.3 million illegal aliens have entered the country under the Biden administration's watch, a number greater than the individual population of 36 States. That is a stunning and unsustainable figure.

Clearly, we need to do more than secure the southern border. It is imperative that we also deport every solitary illegal alien who accepted the Biden administration's invitation to enter and reside in our Nation unlawfully.

If we do not deport them, more Americans will suffer the tragic consequences of President Biden's open-border policies.

The list of victims extends far beyond Laken Riley. In fact, a 32-year-old illegal alien was recently arrested for sexually assaulting a 14-year-old girl in Virginia. Another illegal alien was recently charged with first- and second-degree murder for a shooting that killed a 2-year-old child and injured his mother in Maryland. In Louisiana, an illegal alien was recently arrested for a series of violent crimes, including raping a 14-year-old girl at knifepoint and stabbing a man multiple times while robbing him. In Massachusetts, an illegal Haitian immigrant was recently charged with raping a 15-year-old girl in a hotel that housed asylum seekers.

Now, let's go back a couple years. Honestly, what I just said happened just the last few weeks, and yet the Biden administration has done nothing.

Let's go back a year or so.

In July 2022, Kayla Hamilton, an American, was sexually assaulted and murdered in Maryland by a 16-year-old alien and MS–13 gang member from El Salvador who was allowed to enter the U.S. through the unaccompanied alien program.

This 16-year-old illegal alien was initially apprehended by Border Patrol in Texas on March 23, 2022, and then referred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

According to the alien, members of his family paid $4,000 to a guide who smuggled them to the southwest border. On May 3, 2022, the Office of Refugee Resettlement placed the alien with a sponsor, his alleged first cousin in Maryland.

As revealed in his case file, the alien had been arrested by police in El Salvador on January 21, 2020, for illicit association with the MS–13 gang. The illegal alien's case file also included information from law enforcement officials dated August 2022, noting that the alien had tattoos affiliated with gang activity.

So how did he get here? Through the Biden administration's abuse and weaponization of the immigrant parole program. This 16-year-old murderer should never, ever have been allowed in this country.

How many times do I need to say that? How many more Americans have to be murdered or raped or assaulted by an illegal alien for the President to act? How many more Americans have to be killed by fentanyl? How many more innocent Americans have to suffer?

Right now, the President has the executive authority, the power to do everything, yet he continues to do nothing because this is all by design. So it is up to Congress to stop this madness by using our leverage, the power of the purse, to force the White House to do

the right thing for the American people, yet Republican leadership has failed to do so.

Two weeks ago, this body passed the first half of the swamp's omnibus. While this horrendous, backroom negotiated bill had many flaws, one thing stood out to me more than the rest: My policy rider to defund sanctuary jurisdictions like Athens-Clarke County where Laken Riley was murdered was removed from the bill. It was surrendered by our leadership.

Yet the bill passed under suspension with more Democrat votes supporting it than Republicans, but 132 Republicans still voted for it. They voted to keep funding sanctuary cities.

Americans are sick and tired of all talk and no action. Members continue messaging against the border crisis, then turn around and fund the Biden administration's policies that are creating this madness.

If we are going to truly secure the border and deport every illegal alien residing in our great Nation, then we have to fight. We need more Republicans willing to fight for the American people. I hope to see more of my colleagues join the fight when we consider the second piece of the swamp's omnibus, which includes funding for the Department of Homeland Security later this week.

Despite still not having the bill text, we have a pretty good idea that this massive government funding package fails to secure our southern border. Key border security provisions were surrendered, yet leadership is touting more resources, such as more detention beds for ICE as a win.

I disagree. Simply adding more resources without actually changing the Biden administration's open-border policies allows President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas to simply process and release more illegal aliens into the country. We don't need more Border Patrol agents that will simply be used as processing clerks.

Let me be clear: Any Republican who votes for the swamp's second spending package that doesn't secure our border owns the border crisis just as much as President Biden.

I am proud to have several of my colleagues here tonight to condemn President Biden's intentional illegal invasion as well as to discuss the power that Congress has to put a stop to this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS), my friend.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

It is my pleasure to join him in this Special Order to talk about one of the most important existential crises that we face in the country today, and that is our border crisis.

Let's rephrase that. It is the Biden border crisis.

So we have 9 sectors along the southwest border, each one 100 to 150 miles wide and they cover many tens of thousands of miles into the interior.

The Tucson sector, which is now the hot spot in the last 5 months, has had more than 312,000 encounters. In that small area, you have more than 2,000 a day who are being interdicted, and those are the people who surrender. It might be one of the most remote border areas on the southwest border on the Tohono O'odham Reservation at the San Miguel gate.

It might be in Lukeville where, if you were paying attention, Bill Melugin sent to the world video footage from just a few days ago where the cartels had cut a hole in the fence and dozens and dozens of illegal aliens were coming in through that hole.

That is what is happening. What are the numbers? Those are the numbers. The numbers reach into the millions every year.

□ 1800

That doesn't include the got-aways, both known and unknown. What countries are they coming from?

I remember well being down in Yuma, and 25 men of military age came across. I said: Where are you from?

Well, we are from Russia.

We got the Russian interpreter on the phone, those of us from Congress.

Then they said: No, no, we are from Ukraine.

We actually happened to have access to a Ukrainian interpreter.

Then they said: Oh, well, actually we really are from Russia.

I have met them from Mali, Mauritania, Guinea, Burkina Faso. Every country, 180 countries are represented in that pool of people coming into our country illegally.

What are the results? My good friend from Georgia has given you a litany of people who have been basically injured, killed, maimed, robbed, raped by people who have come into this country illegally.

If you were to hear the left, they would tell you, oh, wait a second, you are saying everybody coming across, you are stigmatizing everyone.

No, we are not stigmatizing everyone. What I am telling you is, if these people weren't here who aren't supposed to be here, none of this would have happened. I have friends who have lost children, killed by illegal aliens.

What do Americans think of this? What do Americans think of this? Eighty-five percent of them said this is the most important issue. What do the left do on their little TV shows that few people watch? They laugh. They laugh that anyone would say that that is an issue in Virginia or in Georgia or in Montana or anywhere because they simply don't care about American life.

Mr. Speaker, I join Representative CLYDE in calling upon my colleagues, the Republican colleagues, to understand that we have got to demand enforcement from this regime. The way you get it is you actually leverage spending. That is what the Founders gave us.

I call on my colleagues to leverage this minibus, this DHS CR to make sure we get enforcement. I also call upon the Speaker to bring up our border security bills every day, bring one up every day. Let's vote on one every day. Let's give these guys an opportunity to show that they really care about the border.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Arizona for those inspiring words. I agree with him absolutely, we need to bring up our border legislation every solitary week.

Now, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address the disaster at our southern border. The grief that has been brought upon the American people in the past 3 years is unspeakable. It was brought on strictly by policy change.

It is the exact same 1,954 miles of border that we had under President Trump. We have the same equipment, the same men, the same women. We are spending more money. We spent $20 billion more last year than we did 3 years ago.

It is not about money. It is not about men or equipment. There is no enhanced desire by the cartels to make money. They traffic human beings and drugs. They have been doing it quite successfully for a long time. We had backed the cartels up very effectively by the time we hit 2019 and 2020 under the Trump administration, under Trump policies.

President Biden, once inaugurated, immediately began flipping those policies. This is what has happened. This is why you have had 12 million illegal crossings in 3 years. This is why you have 300,000 Americans dead, from opioids smuggled into our country across the southern border in the past 3 years. It is the number one cause of death for Americans 18–45 years old. We have never had that in the history of our country. It is drug poisoning. Our sovereignty has disintegrated at the southern border.

This body, the people's House, acted last year. H.R. 2, the strongest border security measure in the history of Congress, was passed in May of last year with Republican votes and delivered to the Senate. There it gathers dust. What we demand of our colleagues in the Senate that are run by the Democratic Party, what we demand from the Democratic-controlled White House is a clean vote on H.R. 2, the border security bill that was passed by the people's House in May of last year, delivered to the Senate in May of last year. We demand a clean vote. Let America see where does the Senate stand on border security. H.R. 2 is the answer for the crisis that we face, the heartache, wave upon wave of human misery that our Nation has suffered for the last 3 years at the southern border. I appreciate this opportunity to address this ongoing disaster, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana. Those are strong words, and those are correct words.

Now I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia for yielding to me. I appreciate him getting this time on the floor for us to address such a pressing matter as the national security of the United States and the well-being of her citizens.

The truth of the matter is, the national security of the United States and the well-being of her citizens in terms of safety and security is not well. We are in danger in our country, on our streets, in our homes from people who are being let into the United States under the not just misguided but purposeful policies of radical progressive Democrats led by Joe Biden and as exemplified by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in this body and in the Senate purposely releasing people in the United States they know to be a danger to our people.

They are using parole policies and asylum policies that we put in place out of the goodness of our heart to help people around the world, they are using those very narrow exceptions to the rules that secure our border to release thousands of people without vetting them or, frankly, without even caring, into the United States. The result has been the murder, death, rape, assault of American citizens.

My friend from Georgia mentions Laken Riley. I hate to politicize one family's devastation in the last month. She has obviously gained notoriety and caught the attention of the American people, but there are hundreds, thousands of examples of devastated families, whether you are talking about from fentanyl poisoning or the absolute disaster that is a mom in Texas finding her cheerleader daughter dead in the bathtub in her own home when she went to go see her perform cheerleading in Texas. That happened in December. Where is the bill named after Lizbeth? Where is the bill named after Kayla Hamilton, who was raped and murdered in her own home in Maryland, just up the road from here in the Nation's Capital. What about the 2-year-old who was murdered in Montgomery County, Maryland, just outside of the Nation's Capital, by somebody let out on mass parole by radical, progressive Democrats who don't give a rip about our Nation's security or the well-being of our citizens. That is the truth.

However, there is a worse truth, in my opinion. In the face of the observable endangerment of the American people by radical, progressive Democrats, Republicans who campaign against it are going to vote tomorrow—or the next day or whenever they decide to jam us with a bill that we have not yet read—to fund this. Republican colleagues who will spend this year campaigning against open borders and campaigning against the destruction of the lives of Americans at the hands of open borders led by Democrats—I want to be very clear, it is led and being carried out by radical, progressive Democrats—but my Republican colleagues will campaign against it, yet tomorrow they will fund it. Tomorrow or Friday or Saturday, whenever we get the bill—we haven't seen it yet—they will spend $1.2 trillion funding Defense which, by the way, is woke; funding State and Foreign Operations which, by the way, includes the United Nations and the World Health Organization; funding all manner of programs that are not good for this country, but notably the Department of Homeland Security carrying out these mass paroles, carrying out these mass asylums, carrying out the release of people into the United States, issuing memoranda saying that ICE should not actually pull these people up and then deport them from the United States. We will be funding that.

Now, not all of us. My friend from Georgia, my friend from Virginia who has joined us, my friend from Louisiana who spoke a minute ago, we won't vote for it. Republicans could stop it. We could stop it. Some are choosing not to. Why? Why? I think that is a question that should be asked.

When Republicans hold the House Chamber, why would they take the power of the purse and provide funding, hundreds of billions of dollars, why would they give this administration funding to carry out policies that release dangerous criminals onto the streets of the United States, including the known dangerous Venezuelan gang member, a prison gang member released into this country who killed Laken Riley? In my own district in New Braunfels, they found just last week a drug lord who is on the terrorist watch list or the most dangerous watch list for the FBI, 10 Most Wanted, found in New Braunfels, Texas, which I represent. I take my family there all the time. This drug lord was just found and arrested.

This administration is endangering America. My Democratic colleagues are all too happy to do it, but my Republican colleagues are all too happy to campaign against it, and then not do a dang thing about it when they write the check to fund it. Not one Republican should vote to fund this atrocity. Not one Republican.

I would debate any Republican who wants to come to the floor right now and debate me on it. You know what? Not one of them will. Not one Republican will take me up on debating the issue of using the power of the purse to fund the endangerment of the American people.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative ROY. I thank him for his work in the fight to secure our border.

I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friends, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for speaking so effectively on this issue.

We cannot talk enough about the border. In my district, we just did a survey asking my constituents what is the most important issue, what is the number one issue facing the country, and the southern border was the overwhelming response. They realize that is hundreds of miles from them geographically, but it is coming home to them in my very district in Bedford and Campbell Counties, just outside greater Lynchburg. They are otherwise as peaceful and as safe places to live as anyplace in the country. Both of these counties have recently had sexual assaults committed by illegal aliens allowed into this country. Wait, let me check myself: helped into this country, purposely helped into this country by this President and his open-border policies.

It gets worse every day. We have spoken many times, and we need to continue to speak about Laken Riley, the young lady from Mr. CLYDE's area of Georgia, brutally murdered by an illegal alien helped into this country by this President's open-border policies.

To what lengths will this administration go to keep the borders open? They are fighting the very State of Texas, which is trying to secure their own border, trying to defend their own citizens, and the administration is literally suing and fighting and challenging them and prohibiting them from securing their border and defending their citizens and trying to keep them safe.

Just in the last couple of days, we had a Lebanese illegal who worked for Hezbollah for 7 years, who thankfully was apprehended. He said that he was coming to go to New York City to make a bomb. How many like that individual might be among the 2 million got-aways? Not the 8 million who come and surrender to Border Patrol to take advantage of the generous Biden policies: the free housing, the free travel, the free healthcare, the free social services, the free education, and all the rest. The Biden administration takes the ones who surrender in with open arms at taxpayer expense, provides them with benefits that American citizens do not receive, makes sure, by the way, that they have their Second Amendment rights in place, as we saw in the State of Illinois just recently.

However, then there are the 2 million who don't want that and actually pay the cartels more to evade apprehension, to evade encounter with Border Patrol because these are the criminals. These are the gang members; these are the traffickers of drugs and children and sex trafficking and the ones with the criminal backgrounds. How many more among that 2 million are like that individual from Lebanon, the Hezbollah member who said he wanted to go to New York to make a bomb?

□ 1815

What is going to happen this Friday? We think it is going to be Friday. We don't have bill text yet. We are going to vote—not myself and my friend from Georgia—but we are going to vote to

fund this government, to give this administration billions of dollars more to continue facilitating this very border invasion that we have talked about for these past 3 years.

We even heard in a meeting of our own Republican Conference this morning that some of our members didn't care when we got the bill text. They didn't care if it was 72 minutes, they said, or 72 hours. They were going to vote for it anyway, irrespective of what the contents might be.

They didn't care what was in it. They didn't care how that estimated $1.2 trillion was going to be spent. They didn't care what the policies were going to be.

They just wanted it passed by Friday, I guess so they could go home, so they could go to their fundraisers. Yet, we are going to fund this government and these policies that we campaigned against.

I don't need 72 hours to vote ''no'' against a bad bill that doesn't reverse the Biden-Pelosi-Schumer policies under which the American people are suffering.

I don't need 72 hours to evaluate that and vote ''no.'' If I was going to vote ''yes'' like some of my colleagues, I might want to actually have 72 hours to know what policies I was owning and that I was responsible for funding before I cast my ''yes'' vote.

The last thing I will say to my good friend from Georgia: Why should we not attach H.R. 2, the border security bill?

If we are going to fund CHUCK SCHUMER's and Joe Biden's spending bill with the policies that we stand against and spending levels that are $60 billion higher this year, why not at least attach border security to it, H.R. 2, and demand that the Democrats choose between shutting down the border or shutting down the government because they don't care about the border invasion?

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. CLYDE for yielding time.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks, and I applaud his efforts to stop President Biden's illegal invasion. He is right. We need to attach H.R. 2, the border security bill, to this particular funding legislation.

I thank all of my colleagues who participated tonight in this Special Order. We can and we must do more in the fight to protect Americans from Joe Biden's open border policies.

The most powerful way we can do this is through the power of the purse. We have an opportunity to take a stand against the Biden administration's intentional illegal invasion through the funding fight, and I urge my colleagues to do so. Otherwise, more avoidable tragedies like Laken Riley's murder will continue to devastate our Nation, and we will create more victims of our citizens.

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

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, which was read and referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: On March 20, 2024, pursuant to section 3307 of Title 40, United States Code, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure met in open session and adopted, by a vote of 53 yeas to 2 nays, two resolutions included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs with a quorum present.

The Committee continues to work to reduce the cost of federal property and leases. The two resolutions considered for leased space will result in $35 million in savings from avoided lease costs.

I have enclosed copies of the resolutions adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on March 20, 2024.

Sincerely,

SAM GRAVES,
Chairman, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, SEATTLE, WA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. §3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 139,000 rentable square feet of space, including 21 official parking spaces, for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) located at 2725 Montlake Boulevard East in Seattle, Washington, at a proposed total annual cost of $7,718,670 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 342 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 342 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, the tenant agency agrees to maintain an actual occupancy rate for office space of 60% or more.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services disposes of the existing owned building after the tenant agency reports the property excess.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services shall require tenant agency(ies) to agree to reporting actual utilization data on at least an annual basis during occupancy and such reports are transmitted to the Committee.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
SEATTLE, WA

Prospectus Number: PWA-01-SE23
Congressional District: 07, 09

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 139,000 rentable square feet (RSF) for the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), currently located at 2725 Montlake Boulevard East in Seattle, WA. NOAA has occupied space in this Government-owned building in the NOAA portfolio of owned assets since 1931.

The lease will provide continued housing for NOAA and will change the office and overall space utilization from 127 to 111 and 307 to 342 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively, with the inclusion of additional personnel in this larger facility.

Description

Occupant:	NOAA
Current RSF:	112,996 (Current RSF/USF = 1.16)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:[1]	139,000 (Proposed RSF/USF = 1.20)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	26,004 RSF Expansion
Current USF/Person:	307
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	342
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	NA
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	20 years
Delineated Area:	North: Aurora Ave. N to NE 45th St. to 25th Ave. NE; East: 25th Ave. NE to Montlake Blvd. E to 24th Ave. E to 23rd Ave. E to I-90; South: I-90 to Edgar Martinez Dr. S to S Atlantic St. to Elliot Bay; West: Elliot Bay to 15th Ave. W to W Ewing St. to Ship Canal Trail to Aurora Ave. N
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	21
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$5,423,808
Estimated Rental Rate:[2]	$55.53 / RSF

[1] The RSF/USF at the current location is approximately 1.16; however, to maximize competition, a RSF/USF ratio of 1.20 is used for the estimated proposed maximum RSF as indicated in the housing plan.

[2] This estimate is for fiscal year 2026 and may be escalated by 2 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
SEATTLE, WA

Prospectus Number: PWA-01-SE23
Congressional District: 07, 09

Estimated Total Annual Cost[3]: $7,718,670

Background

NOAA's mission is science, service, and stewardship. It has three goals: 1) to understand and predict changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts; 2) to share that knowledge and information with others; and 3) to conserve and manage coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.

The Seattle office houses the Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC). NWFSC's mission is to conduct research to support sustainable fisheries and aquaculture; to protect and recover endangered species; to guide restoration of habitat; and to maintain healthy communities and the ecosystems they rely on. The NWFSC is dedicated to the study of living marine resources on the west coast; and scientific work includes chemical testing of seafood following oil spills, assessing and modeling west coast Federal fisheries, and genetic testing to determine the population structure of Pacific salmon and west coast ground fish. The NWFSC also responds to emerging research needs such as climate change and ocean acidification, integrated ecosystem modeling, socio-economic connections, and biological effects of emerging toxins.

The administrative functions housed in the current location support two additional research locations: the Manchester Research Station and the Mukilteo Research Station.

Justification

NOAA is currently housed at 2725 Montlake Boulevard East, Seattle, WA, in a federally owned building. NOAA requires continued housing to carry out its mission. Washington State highway construction projects and long-term adjacency to multi-lane highways negatively impact the scientific operations of the NOAA lab, compromising mission performance, particularly as it relates to controlled environment experiments and analysis. NOAA intends to dispose of the current location. NOAA determined that a GSA-executed lease would meet the requirements for a replacement space.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus.

benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

[3] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
SEATTLE, WA

Prospectus Number: PWA-01-SE23
Congressional District: 07, 09

GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

OMB Memorandum M-21-25 Implementations and Long-Term Space Requirements

The requirements within this prospectus reflect the known space needs prior to its submission to Congress. Agencies continue to develop their return to physical workplaces strategies consistent with OMB Memorandum M-21-25, incorporate lessons learned while working both in-person and under maximum telework during the COVID-19 pandemic, and determine each agency's long-term space posture. Accordingly, the requirements outlined in this prospectus may change prior to award of a lease. In the event that a change results in a revised requirement that makes a material change and does not fit within the acceptable parameters of the congressional resolutions, GSA will submit an amended prospectus for consideration by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION
SEATTLE, WA

Prospectus Number: PWA-01-SE23
Congressional District: 07, 09

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on 12/22/2022

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

December 2021

Housing Plan
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

PWA-01-SE23
Seattle, WA

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
2725 Montlake Blvd E	316	316	51,484	20,785	24,846	97,115						
Estimated/Proposed Lease							336	336	47,820	6,825	60,429	115,074
Total	**316**	**316**	**51,484**	**20,785**	**24,846**	**97,115**	**336**	**336**	**47,820**	**6,825**	**60,429**	**115,074**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	127	111

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 11,326 USF of office support space.
Proposed UR excludes 10,520 USF of office support space.

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	307	342

R/U Factor [4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF
Current	97,115	1.16	112,996
Estimated/Proposed	115,074	1.2	139,000

Special Space [6]	USF
ADP Space	1,690
Conference/Training	9,923
Copy Center	913
Food Service	1,764
Health Units	70
Laboratory	40,818
Loading Docks	560
Locker Rooms	1,075
Lactation Room	420
Debrief Room	182
Special Storage	2,524
Security/Reception	280
Video/Photographic Analysis	210
Total	**60,429**

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes the judiciary, Congress and agencies with fewer than 10 people.
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of special space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposals (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

LEASE—DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, ARLINGTON, VA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, that pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 3307, appropriations are authorized for a lease of up to 354,020 rentable square feet of space, including 515 official parking spaces, for the Department of Defense (DoD), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) located at 675 N. Randolph Street, Arlington, Virginia, at a proposed total annual cost of $13,806,780 for a lease term of up to 20 years, a prospectus for which is attached to and included in this resolution.

Approval of this prospectus constitutes authority to execute an interim lease for all tenants, if necessary, prior to the execution of the new lease.

Provided that, the Administrator of General Services and tenant agency(ies) agree to apply an overall utilization rate of 226 square feet or less per person, except that, if the Administrator determines that the overall utilization rate cannot be achieved, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided that, except for interim leases as described above, the Administrator may not enter into any leases that are below prospectus level for the purposes of meeting any of the requirements, or portions thereof, included in the prospectus that would result in an overall utilization rate of 226 square feet or higher per person.

Provided that, to the maximum extent practicable, the Administrator shall include in the lease contract(s) a purchase option that can be exercised at the conclusion of the firm term of the lease.

Provided further, that the General Services Administration shall not delegate to any other agency the authority granted by this resolution.

Provided further, that the Administrator shall require that the delineated area of the procurement is identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, except that, if the Administrator determines that the delineated area of the procurement should not be identical to the delineated area included in the prospectus, the Administrator shall provide an explanatory statement to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives prior to exercising any lease authority provided in this resolution.

Provided further, not later than 30 calendar days after the date on which a request from the Chairman or Ranking Member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives is received by the Administrator of General Services, the Administrator shall provide such Member a response in writing that provides any information requested regarding the project.

Provided further, prior to entering into this lease or approving a novation agreement involving a change of ownership under this lease, the Administrator of General Services shall require the offeror or the parties requesting the novation, as applicable, to identify and disclose whether the owner of the leased space, including an entity involved in the financing thereof, is a foreign person or a foreign-owned entity; provided further, in such an instance, the Administrator of General Services shall notify the occupant agency(ies) in writing, and consult with such occupant agency(ies) regarding security concerns and necessary mitigation measures (if any) prior to award of the lease or approval of the novation agreement.

Provided further, the Administrator of General Services shall require tenant agency(ies) to agree to reporting actual utilization data on at least an annual basis during occupancy and such reports are transmitted to the Committee.

GSA **PBS**

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ARLINGTON, VA

Prospectus Number: PVA-03-WA23
Congressional District: 8

Executive Summary

The General Services Administration (GSA) proposes a lease of approximately 354,020[3] rentable square feet (RSF) for the Department of Defense (DoD), Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), currently located at 675 N. Randolph Street, Arlington, VA. DARPA has occupied space in the building since 2011, under a lease that expires on December 22, 2026.

The lease will provide continued housing for DoD and will maintain the office and overall space utilization rates at 50 and 226 usable square feet (USF) per person, respectively.

Description

Occupant:	DoD
Current RSF:	354,020[3] (Current RSF/USF 1.17)
Estimated/Proposed Maximum RSF:	354,020[3] (Proposed RSF/USF 1.17)
Expansion/Reduction RSF:	None
Current USF/Person:	226
Estimated/Proposed USF/Person:	226
Expiration Dates of Current Lease(s):	12/22/2026
Proposed Maximum Lease Term:	20 years
Delineated Area:	Arlington, VA
Number of Official Parking Spaces:	515
Scoring:	Operating
Current Total Annual Cost:	$15,569,599 (lease effective12/23/2011)
Estimated Rental Rate:[1]	$39.00 / RSF
Estimated Total Annual Cost:[2]	$13,806,780

Acquisition Strategy

In order to maximize the flexibility and competition in acquiring space for the DARPA, GSA may issue a single, multiple-award solicitation that will allow offerors to provide

[1] This estimate is for fiscal year 2027 and may be escalated by 2.20 percent annually to the effective date of the lease to account for inflation. The proposed rental rate is fully serviced including all operating expenses, whether paid by the lessor or directly by the Government. GSA will conduct the procurement using prevailing market rental rates as a benchmark for the evaluation of competitive offers and as the basis for negotiating with offerors to ensure that lease award is made in the best interest of the Government.

[2] New leases may contain an escalation clause to provide for annual changes in real estate taxes and operating costs.

[3] 354,020 RSF represents the corrected square footage from 352,740 RSF to 354,020 RSF.

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ARLINGTON, VA

Prospectus Number: PVA-03-WA23
Congressional District: 8

blocks of space able to meet requirements in whole or in part. All offers must provide space consistent with the delineated area defined by this prospectus.

Background

DARPA's sole mission is to make pivotal investments in breakthrough technologies for national security. By collaborating with academia, industry, and government partners, DARPA formulates and executes research and development projects to expand the frontiers of technology and science, often beyond immediate U.S. military requirements.

DARPA comprises six technical offices, which together oversee approximately 250 research and development programs at any given time. Those office include, The Adaptive Execution Office (AEO), Defense Sciences Office (DSO), Information Innovation Office (I2O), Microsystems Technology Office (MTO), Strategic Technology Office (STO), Tactical Technology Office (TTO), and the Biological Technologies Office (BTO).

Justification

DARPA is currently housed at 675 N. Randolph Street, Arlington, VA, in a lease that expires December 22, 2026. DARPA requires continued housing to carry out its mission.

GSA will consider whether the Department of Defense's continued housing needs should be satisfied in the existing location based on an analysis of other potential locations within the delineated area. If other potential locations are identified, GSA will conduct a cost-benefit analysis to ensure that award to any other lessor would result in substantial relocation costs or duplication costs of real and personal property needed for the Department of Defense to accomplish its mission that the Government would not recover through competition.

Summary of Energy Compliance

GSA will incorporate energy efficiency requirements into the Request for Lease Proposals and other documents related to the procurement of space based on the approved prospectus. GSA encourages offerors to exceed minimum requirements set forth in the procurement and to achieve an Energy Star performance rating of 75 or higher.

Resolutions of Approval

GSA PBS

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ARLINGTON, VA

Prospectus Number: PVA-03-WA23
Congressional District: 8

Resolutions adopted by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approving this prospectus will constitute approval to make appropriations to lease space in a facility that will yield the required rentable area.

Interim Leasing

GSA will execute such interim leasing actions as are necessary to ensure continued housing of the tenant agency prior to the effective date of the new lease. It is in the best interest of the Government to avert the financial risk of holdover tenancy.

OMB Memorandum M-21-25 Implementations and Long-Term Space Requirements

The requirements within this prospectus reflect the known space needs prior to its submission to Congress. Agencies continue to develop their return to physical workplaces strategies consistent with OMB Memorandum M-21-25, incorporate lessons learned while working both in person and under maximum telework during the COVID-19 pandemic, and determine each agency's long-term space posture. Accordingly, the requirements outlined in this prospectus may change prior to award of a lease. In the event that a change results in a revised requirement that makes a material change and does not fit within the acceptable parameters of the congressional resolutions, GSA will submit an amended prospectus for consideration by the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works.

GSA **PBS**

PROSPECTUS – LEASE
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
ARLINGTON, VA

Prospectus Number: PVA-03-WA23
Congressional District: 8

Certification of Need

The proposed project is the best solution to meet a validated Government need.

Submitted at Washington, DC, on Feb 27, 2024

Recommended: _____
Commissioner, Public Buildings Service

Approved: _____
Administrator, General Services Administration

Janurary 2023

Department of Defense
Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
(DARPA)

PVA-03-WA23
Arlington, VA

Leased Locations	CURRENT						ESTIMATED/PROPOSED					
	Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)[1]				Personnel		Usable Square Feet (USF)			
	Office	Total	Office	Storage	Special	Total	Office	Total	Office	Storage[5]	Special[6]	Total
	1,340	1,340	86,031	5,802	211,022	302,855	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Estimated/Proposed Lease							1,340	1,340	86,031	5,802	211,022	302,855
Total	**1,340**	**1,340**	**86,031**	**5,802**	**211,022**	**302,855**	**1,340**	**1,340**	**86,031**	**5,802**	**211,022**	**302,855**

Office Utilization Rate (UR)[2]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	50	50

UR = average amount of office space per person
Current UR excludes 18,927 USF of office support space.
Proposed UR excludes 18,927 USF of office support space.

Overall UR[3]		
	Current	Proposed
Rate	226	226

R/U Factor [4]			
	Total USF	RSF/USF	Max RSF [7]
Current	302,855	1.17	354,020
Estimated/Proposed	302,855	1.17	354,020

Special Space [6]	USF
ADP Space	4,507
Conference/Training	9,794
Copy Center	4,548
Fitness Center	-
Food Service	4,313
Health Units	1,355
High Density File Rooms	
Laboratory	
Loading Docks	-
Locker Rooms	-
Mail Rooms	3,813
Restrooms	-
Warehouse	-
SCIF	98,939
Security Control Center	422
IT Help Desk	1,533
Reasearch Services	786
Pantry/Meeting Rooms	4,728
Guard Facilities	1,609
Facilities and Logistics	3,117
Travel Services DTS	151
Visitor Screening Registration	4,303
Collaboration Rooms	58,568
Security (Badging etc)	8,536

NOTES:
[1] USF means the portion of the building available for use by a tenant's personnel and furnishings and space available jointly to the occupants of the building.
[2] Calculation excludes the judiciary, Congress and agencies with fewer than 10 people.
[3] USF/Person = housing plan total USF divided by total personnel
[4] R/U Factor (R/U) = Max RSF divided by total USF
[5] Storage excludes warehouse, which is part of special space.
[6] Special spaces listed are examples of such spaces and may be subject to change at the time a Request for Lease Proposals (RLP) is issued to meet specific agency requirements.
[7] 354,020 RSF represents the corrected square footage from 352,740 RSF to 354,020 RSF

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1278.—An act to designate the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the ''Rosa Parks Federal Building'', and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 19 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC–3505. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Consumer Clothes Dryers [EERE-2014-BT-STD-0058] (RIN: 1904-AF59) received March 14, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3506. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class VI Well Program Grants Implementation Document received March 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3507. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling (SWIFR) Grant Program; Program Guidance for States and Territories received Marc 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3508. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Kola and Waimea, Hawaii [MB Docket No.: 23-198; RM-11950; RM-11972] received March 13, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC–3509. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of justification for the exercise of Authority under section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–3510. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination under section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC–3511. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit and Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's 2023 Annual Report, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 1827(a)(2); Sept. 21, 1950, ch. 967, Sec. 2(17)(a) (as amended by Public Law 101-73, Sec. 220(a)); (103 Stat. 263) and 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–3512. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of the Northeastern Arizona and Utah Appropriated Fund Federal Wage System Wage Areas [Docket ID: OPM-2023-0018] (RIN: 3206-AO61) received March 12, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC–3513. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Healthy and Resilient Gulf of Mexico 2023 BIL [EPA-I-R4-GM-2023] received March 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–3514. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Chesapeake Bay Program Office Fiscal Year 2023 Request for Applications for: Small watershed Grants Program and Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Program Funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act [EPA-I-R3-CBP-23-13] received March 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC–3515. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting a report titled: ''US-Mexico-Canada Agreement Section 821: Tijuana River Watershed and Adjacent Coastal Transboundary Wastewater Flows'', pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 4731(b); Public Law 116-113, Sec. 821(b); (134 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC–3516. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's FY 2020 Competitive Acquisition Ombudsman Report to Congress, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395w-3(f); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1847 (as amended by Public Law 110-275, title I, Sec. 154); (122 Stat. 2565); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC–3517. A letter from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting the Commission's March 2024 Report to Congress: Medicare Payment Policy, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395b-6(b)(1)(C); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1805(b)(1)(c) (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2801(b)(1)); (124 Stat. 332); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC–3518. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Gulf Hypoxia Program FY 22 Guidance for State Cooperative Agreements received March 6, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Science, Space, and Technology.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida:

H.R. 7734. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to require a notation in the personnel record file of certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who resign from Government employment under certain circumstances; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MANNING (for herself and Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER):

H.R. 7735. A bill to require institutions of higher education participating in Federal student aid programs to share information about title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including a link to the webpage of the Office for Civil Rights where an individual can submit a complaint regarding discrimination in violation of such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN (for herself and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 7736. A bill to establish a private right of action against a person who sends unsolicited visual depictions of sexually explicit conduct; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CLINE (for himself, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mr. ARMSTRONG):

H.R. 7737. A bill to transfer antitrust enforcement from the Federal Trade Commission to the Attorney General, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BOST (for himself, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida):

H.R. 7738. A bill to establish the Toxic Exposure Fund of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and 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. BABIN (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. OGLES, Mr. POSEY, Mr. SELF, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CLINE, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 7739. A bill to require the implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols at the northern border of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. PETERS):

H.R. 7740. A bill to establish the use of ranked choice voting in elections for Senators and Representatives in Congress, to require each State with more than one Representative to establish multi-member congressional districts, to require States to conduct congressional redistricting according to nonpartisan criteria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. BURCHETT (for himself, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. RUTHERFORD):

H.R. 7741. A bill to direct the President to oppose any waiver of obligations of members of the World Trade Organization under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights unless a statute is enacted expressly authorizing such a waiver; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 7742. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to establish a 2-year

demonstration program for hospitals to provide outpatient observation services to Medicare beneficiaries at home; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. FULCHER):

H.R. 7743. A bill to direct the Secretary of Energy to establish the ''Department of Energy Experienced Worker Program''; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 7744. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an investment credit for certain domestic infant formula manufacturing projects and to allow a domestic production credit for certain infant formula; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 7745. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in basic science research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and 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. FROST (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. AMO, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. IVEY, Mr. LIEU, Mr. SOTO, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. NORTON, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mr. RYAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois):

H.R. 7746. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to improve firearm destruction practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. LIEU, Mr. MORAN, and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 7747. A bill to provide for the permanent appointment of certain temporary district judgeships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 7748. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a pilot program promoting scratch cooking in school meal programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. JAYAPAL (for herself, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. BUSH, Ms. CHU, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. IVEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PORTER, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TRONE, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILD):

H.R. 7749. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose a tax on the net value of assets of a taxpayer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Mr. JORDAN, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. VAN DREW):

H.R. 7750. A bill to amend section 2303 of title 5, United States Code, to require the Inspector General of the Department of Justice to investigate allegations of prohibited against employees of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for whistleblowing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey):

H.R. 7751. A bill to require the Secretary of State to report annually on adverse security clearance adjudications, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MAGAZINER (for himself, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CASAR, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. AMO, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.R. 7752. A bill to require employers to provide paid annual leave to employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Accountability, House Administration, Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Mr. PAYNE):

H.R. 7753. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to conduct a study on the operation of helicopters within a 15 mile radius of the Statue of Liberty National Monument, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 7754. A bill to amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 7755. A bill to protect stateless persons in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 7756. A bill to expand the scope of the Do Not Call rules under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act to include all telephone subscribers, and to expand the private right of action for calls in violation of those rules; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself and Mrs. SPARTZ):

H.R. 7757. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require disclosures with respect to certain financial risks relating to the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself and Mrs. SPARTZ):

H.R. 7758. A bill to prohibit index funds from investing in Chinese companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself and Mrs. SPARTZ):

H.R. 7759. A bill to prohibit the purchase of certain securities from covered entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SHERMAN (for himself, Mrs. SPARTZ, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 7760. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain gains and dividends derived from counties of concern as ordinary income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. STANSBURY (for herself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ):

H.R. 7761. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to create evidence-based student success programs designed to increase participation, retention, and completion rates of high-need students; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. SYKES (for herself and Ms. MCCLELLAN):

H.R. 7762. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a new tax credit and grant program to stimulate investment and healthy nutrition options in food deserts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. TLAIB (for herself, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ):

H.R. 7763. A bill to establish the Artist Compensation Royalty Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Mr. TURNER, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. MILLER of Ohio):

H.R. 7764. A bill to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MFUME, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. WATERS, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. BUSH, Ms. OMAR, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. BROWN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FROST, Mr. ALLRED, Mr. AMO, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mr. CARSON):

H. Res. 1096. A resolution expressing support for the House of Representatives to work alongside the Congressional Black Caucus to build the Black Wealth Agenda and

outline the legislative priorities to achieve the Black Wealth Agenda; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, and Ways and Means, 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. MOYLAN:

H. Res. 1097. A resolution supporting the designation of March as National CHamoru Heritage and Culture Month; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. CASE, and Mr. BUCK):

H. Res. 1098. A resolution supporting the designation of April 2024 as ''National Native Plant Month''; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. RAMIREZ:

H. Res. 1099. A resolution recognizing and commemorating the contributions of contemporary Latinas in the State of Illinois; 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 Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida:

H.R. 7734.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 38, United States Code, to require a notation in the personnel record file of certain employees of the Department of Veterans Affairs who resign from Government employment under certain circumstances.

By Ms. MANNING:

H.R. 7735.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require institutions of higher education participating in Federal student aid programs to share information about title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

By Ms. MCCLELLAN:

H.R. 7736.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish a private right of action against a person who sends unsolicited visual depictions of sexually explicit conduct.

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 7737.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill transfers antitrust enforcement from the Federal Trade Commission to the Attorney General.

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 7738.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, which states ''[t]he Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States''

The single subject of this legislation is:

The structure of the Department of Veterans Affairs budget.

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 7739.

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 prevent illegal immigration at the northern border.

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 7740.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Electoral Reform

By Mr. BURCHETT:

H.R. 7741.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the President to oppose any waiver of obligations of members of the World Trade Organization under the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights unless a statute is enacted expressly authorizing such a waiver.

By Ms. CASTOR of Florida:

H.R. 7742.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the Constitution provides Congress with the authority to ''provide for the common Defense and general Welfare'' of Americans.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Expand Hospital at Home Program

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 7743.

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:

Experienced Worker Program

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 7745.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Funding Federal Science.

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 7746.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is.

To amend title 18, United States Code, to improve firearm destruction practices, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GOODEN of Texas:

H.R. 7747.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority on which this bill rests is the power of Congress to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts, and excises to pay the debts and provide for the common Defense and general welfare of the United States, as enumerated in Article I, Section 8, Clause 1. Thus, Congress has the authority not only to increase taxes, but also, to reduce taxes to promote the general welfare of the United States of America and her citizens. Additionally, Congress has the

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would transition the current ten temporary district judgeships in the United States to a permanent appointment status.

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 7748.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, ''To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to establish a pilot program promoting scratch cooking in school meal programs.

By Ms. JAYAPAL:

H.R. 7749.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I of the United States Constitution and its subsequent amendments, and further clarified and interpreted by the Supreme Court of the United States.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Taxes

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 7750.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

protect whistleblowers at the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Department of Justice (DOJ) from retaliation.

By Mr. LIEU

H.R. 7751.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Foreign Affairs

By Mr. MAGAZINER:

H.R. 7752.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require employers to provide paid annual leave to employees

By Mr. MENENDEZ:

H.R. 7753.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Clause 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

helicopter noise

By Mr. NEGUSE:

H.R. 7754.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Expand the Sarvis Creek Wilderness.

By Mr. RASKIN:

H.R. 7755.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

to protect stateless persons in the United States.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 7756.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce

with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To expand the scope of the Do Not Call rules under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act to include all telephone subscribers, and to expand the private right of action for calls in violation of those rules.

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 7757.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Corporate disclosure of risks relating to China

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 7758.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Regulation of foreign securities in capital markets, index funds

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 7759.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Regulation of capital markets, purchases of certain foreign securities

By Mr. SHERMAN:

H.R. 7760.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 provides Congress with the power to ''lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises.'' The Sixteenth Amendment provides Congress the power to ''lay and collect taxes on incomes.'' Article I, Section 8, clause 3 provides Congress with the power to ''regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.''

The single subject of this legislation is:

Taxation of foreign capital gains income

By Ms. STANSBURY:

H.R. 7761.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Postsecondary Student Success Act of 2024 will award colleges and universities with the funds for a variety of evidence-based practices that support student retention, completion, and success.

By Mrs. SYKES:

H.R. 7762.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill amends the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a new tax credit and grant program to stimulate investment and healthy nutrition options in food deserts.

By Ms. TLAIB:

H.R. 7763.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill establishes the Artist Compensation Royalty Fund, creating a new streaming royalty, with the aim to compensate artists and musicians more fairly when their music plays on streaming services.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 7764.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill establishes a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman Naitonal Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 45: Mrs. HAYES and Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 167: Mr. CLINE.
H.R. 307: Mr. GOMEZ.
H.R. 435: Mr. CLINE and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 537: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Mr. STRONG.
H.R. 669: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 709: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 732: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 743: Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 802: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 807: Ms. TLAIB and Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 871: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 907: Mr. SARBANES.
H.R. 927: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 957: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 1010: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 1083: Mr. AMO, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, and Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1097: Mr. FOSTER and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 1184: Mr. FEENSTRA.
H.R. 1213: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 1230: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 1263: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1276: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 1382: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H.R. 1460: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 1477: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 1510: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.
H.R. 1572: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 1668: Mr. MULLIN and Mr. DOGGETT.
H.R. 1671: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 1679: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 1750: Mr. VAN ORDEN.
H.R. 1763: Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 1785: Mr. GOTTHEIMER and Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 1787: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI and Mr. MAST.
H.R. 1806: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 1815: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 2537: Ms. NORTON and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 2706: Ms. JAYAPAL and Ms. WILD.
H.R. 2708: Mrs. PELTOLA and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 2846: Mr. GOMEZ.
H.R. 2852: Mr. NORCROSS.
H.R. 2871: Mr. VASQUEZ and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 2923: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 2953: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 2955: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 2987: Ms. PETTERSEN and Mr. CORREA.
H.R. 3024: Mr. SORENSEN and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 3161: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
H.R. 3184: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 3205: Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 3245: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 3269: Mr. ALLRED and Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 3347: Mr. OWENS and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 3364: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 3416: Mr. IVEY and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 3444: Mrs. FLETCHER.
H.R. 3478: Mr. QUIGLEY.
H.R. 3582: Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 3591: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. BURCHETT.
H.R. 3698: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 3726: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 3759: Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 3949: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 4118: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H.R. 4167: Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 4175: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 4184: Ms. MATSUI, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 4221: Mr. JAMES.
H.R. 4249: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4263: Ms. CRAIG, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mrs. TRAHAN, and Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 4273: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 4334: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 4432: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.
H.R. 4534: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
H.R. 4551: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 4566: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 4571: Mr. CÁRDENAS and Ms. CARAVEO.
H.R. 4758: Mr. EVANS and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.
H.R. 4844: Ms. TLAIB and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 4856: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 4867: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 4893: Ms. WILD, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 4971: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 5012: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 5030: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H.R. 5074: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 5082: Ms. JACKSON LEE and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 5248: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 5251: Ms. VAN DUYNE.
H.R. 5456: Mrs. MCBATH.
H.R. 5492: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 5566: Mr. LIEU and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 5669: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 5748: Mr. TORRES of New York.
H.R. 5757: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 5785: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CARSON, and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 5834: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.
H.R. 5865: Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 5934: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 5940: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 5970: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.
H.R. 6030: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 6049: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
H.R. 6072: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana and Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 6086: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 6111: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 6140: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 6157: Ms. TLAIB.
H.R. 6179: Ms. NORTON and Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 6201: Mr. POSEY, Mr. KILEY, and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 6203: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. SCHIFF, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 6205: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 6300: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 6319: Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mr. POCAN.
H.R. 6368: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
H.R. 6416: Mr. KIM of New Jersey and Ms. CROCKETT.
H.R. 6541: Mrs. BEATTY.
H.R. 6641: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 6654: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 6672: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6727: Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. ISSA.
H.R. 6763: Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H.R. 6783: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 6805: Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 6814: Mr. CUELLAR.
H.R. 6892: Mr. MOULTON.
H.R. 6929: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Ms. OMAR, and Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 6951: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 7039: Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. CASTEN.
H.R. 7050: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. BACON.
H.R. 7056: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 7075: Mr. GOMEZ and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 7108: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 7158: Ms. SÁNCHEZ and Ms. JACOBS.
H.R. 7171: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 7203: Mr. MAGAZINER.
H.R. 7208: Ms. SEWELL.
H.R. 7227: Ms. OMAR and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 7242: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 7291: Ms. PEREZ.
H.R. 7297: Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mr. TIFFANY.
H.R. 7314: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 7325: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHI.
H.R. 7438: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
H.R. 7464: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 7471: Ms. STEFANIK.
H.R. 7508: Mr. BEYER.
H.R. 7514: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 7551: Mr. POSEY.
H.R. 7566: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.
H.R. 7570: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 7613: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 7631: Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 7636: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York.
H.R. 7638: Mrs. DINGELL and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.R. 7659: Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
H.R. 7668: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 7670: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 7683: Mr. KILEY, Mrs. MCCLAIN, and Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 7687: Mr. BABIN.
H.R. 7700: Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 7701: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 7702: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 7714: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. PELTOLA, and Mr. THANEDAR.
H.R. 7725: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
H.J. Res. 82: Mr. CORREA and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.J. Res. 116: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Mr. SMUCKER.
H.J. Res. 117: Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. BABIN, Mr. TIMMONS, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H. Con. Res. 99: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. PRESSLEY.
H. Res. 302: Mr. FLOOD.
H. Res. 509: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H. Res. 561: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H. Res. 942: Ms. PRESSLEY.
H. Res. 946: Mr. MANN.
H. Res. 1014: Mr. LAWLER.
H. Res. 1053: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H. Res. 1072: Ms. OMAR.
H. Res. 1084: Mr. SHERMAN.

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. Res. 1068: Mr. THANEDAR.

United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2024 *No. 49*

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O merciful Lord, answer our cry. Enlighten our lawmakers with a shining inward light and remove the shadows from their hearts. Control their thoughts and prepare them to face the inevitable challenges that invade our Nation and world. Give them the peace of knowing that their times are in Your hands and that You are willing to fight the battles of all who trust in the power of Your Name. Fill their hearts with courage, and may they take time throughout the day to remember Your direct involvement in the details of their lives.

Lord, help us all to maintain a pure conscience, a love for truth, and a passion for peace on Earth.

We pray in Your mighty Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, March 20, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, now, if Republicans and Democrats keep working in good faith to fund the government, then I hope we are just days away from completing the appropriations process. The job is not done, but we are very close.

A few days ago, Congressional leaders announced an agreement on the last six funding bills. These bills will make significant investments for our national defense, for the well-being of our servicemembers, for keeping the United States competitive against the Chinese Communist Party, and so much more.

Today, appropriators continue working on the legislative text, and, despite the tight deadline, they continue to make very good progress. They are very diligent. They work through the night. And we salute them on both sides of the aisle—my staff, PATTY MURRAY's staff, SUSAN COLLINS' staff, and Leader MCCONNELL's staff—for trying to get this done, as well as all of the other members of the appropriations subcommittees.

We don't yet know precisely when the House will act, but, as soon as they send us the funding package, I will put it on the Senate floor. And from there, as we all know, it will take cooperation to get on the bill and consent from every Senator to keep this process moving quickly.

Even with bipartisanship, it is going to be a tight squeeze to get this funding package passed before the weekend deadline. I ask my colleagues to be flexible, to be prepared to act quickly, and to prioritize working together in good faith so we can finish the appropriations process.

If we proceed like we did 2 weeks ago with the first six funding bills, then the odds are good that we can get this done without excessive delay or headaches.

Again, I want to thank my Senate colleagues, Chair MURRAY, Vice Chair COLLINS, Leader MCCONNELL, the Speaker, and all the appropriators for working in good faith to finish the job.

CHIPS AND SCIENCE ACT

Mr. President, now on something near and dear to my heart, chips—chips in America. Today, President Biden

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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will be in Phoenix, AZ, to roll out a colossal $8.5 billion grant to Intel to expand its chip production here in America, a historic sum made possible by the Chips and Science Act, something I was proud to author and push.

Today's ''Chips'' announcement lands like a thunderclap: $8.5 billion; 10,000 manufacturing jobs; 20,000 construction jobs; thousands upon thousands of indirect jobs; $100 billion in private investment. And the ripple effects will be felt across a huge swath of the country: from Oregon to Arizona, to New Mexico, to Ohio. These are just some of the places where a golden new age of American chip production will manifest itself.

And today's announcement comes about a month after GlobalFoundries in New York received its own billion-and-a-half-dollar award to expand their legacy chip production and further make New York State a global hub for chip manufacturing. And we expect more soon for companies like Micron in central New York. You will hear good announcements about that, I believe, soon enough.

One announcement at a time, we are keeping our promise of bringing manufacturing back to America and making the United States the leader in microchip production once again.

And let me be clear. This isn't the tech revolution of yesterday. This is something entirely different and entirely new. When people in the future think ''tech,'' it won't be just enough to mention places like Silicon Valley anymore. They will think of the Silicon Heartland.

Because of Chips and Science, the story of American innovation will now happen in places like New Albany, OH, where Intel is building its Ohio One facility. This one facility will create 3,000 new jobs and 7,000 union construction jobs. These jobs will pay exceedingly well, and not all are going to require college degrees.

Along with Senators CANTWELL, KELLY, WARNER, WYDEN, and so many of my Republican colleagues, too, I want to take a moment to applaud Senator BROWN for making Chips and Science happen. Thanks to my good friend SHERROD BROWN, these jobs in New Albany will be good-paying union jobs. Because SHERROD BROWN worked with the administration and worked with Intel, Intel is using a project labor agreement for the deal, which makes sure the workers building this fab are well prepared and well compensated.

It is not just that Intel will directly hire thousands of new workers. The benefits will also extend to universities across the region, especially HBCUs. It will benefit other industries, like the auto industry. This investment will help generate a pipeline of highly skilled tech workers right in the heart of Ohio, as well as Arizona, New Mexico, and Oregon. And the benefits will spread across communities that have long been overlooked and have long been waiting for a second chance. And this is what so many of us here in the Senate envisioned when we wrote Chips and Science. I thought of this years ago. I worked with Senator YOUNG. It took us a long time to convince people how important this was. But today's announcement by Intel, the one that was announced last month in Upstate New York—and many others to come—our faith in this bill is being vindicated in terms of jobs and in terms of leadership, not only in chip manufacturing but in science.

So many of us envisioned this when we wrote Chips and Science—a cascade of public investment that in turn creates a fountain of private sector activity. Today's announcement is perhaps the clearest signal yet that Chips and Science is delivering. In the long run, these are the investments we need to keep America safe, keep America competitive, keep America a world leader for innovation in manufacturing in the future.

America was the envy of the world for much of the 20th century precisely because of our ambitions in technological innovation and manufacturing.

When I started working on what I then called endless frontiers a few years back—we retitled it ''CHIPS and Science'' because too many people thought endless frontiers had something to do with covered wagons—I did it because I knew we had to keep America competitive, and it would take an immense investment by the Federal Government. Other countries were investing. If we didn't, we would have fallen way, way behind, much to the detriment of industries across America because so many depend on chips and much to the detriment of our national security because not only does our defense industry depend on chips, but if they are made overseas, foreign countries might have sway over us economically and foreign policy-wise.

It has taken a while to get here, but the results are truly, truly paying off, and I am excited and feel vindicated about all the work we put into this. So I want to thank President Biden for his leadership in making today's announcement possible. President Biden understood the need to do this immediately when we talked to him about it, and his administration—particularly Commerce Secretary Raimondo—has done a great job negotiating with the companies, as today's announcement shows.

Finally, another shout out to SHERROD BROWN, who understood the importance of bringing chip manufacturing to Ohio for its auto industry and for so much else in projecting a future for a strong manufacturing base in Ohio.

UKRAINE

Mr. President, now on the supplemental, the longer that the national security supplemental sits on Speaker Johnson's desk, the more desperate the situation in Ukraine becomes. The war in Ukraine is devastating entire cities and towns and villages, not just reducing their buildings to rubble but also decimating their populations. As a result, Ukraine is beginning to run out of soldiers. One Ukrainian village is even reported to have practically no men left because so many were drafted to fight, and many, sadly, will not return.

A few weeks ago, I visited Ukraine with a group of Senators, and I will never forget the moment when they took us, in Lviv, to a cemetery. It was a parking lot 4 months earlier, but they needed more room to bury their dead. Half the cemetery was already filled with graves, and you saw the pictures on each grave site of the young men and young women whose lives were taken so soon in their lives. But right across the way, there were workers working, as we were looking at those who were already buried, building new graves because they knew there would be so many more dead. This was a sad sight, but it never saps the vitality and strength of President Zelenskyy and of the Ukrainian people, so we need to help them.

What does Ukraine need? Ukraine is running out of munitions. Russia is now making three times—three times—as much artillery and munitions as the United States and Europe, and Ukrainian forces are suffering the consequences on the ground.

The supplemental package will provide Ukraine the resources it lacks: military equipment, munitions, intelligence support, weaponry, more. Making sure Ukraine has the resources it needs is one of the best ways we can help them compensate for being outnumbered on the battlefield.

Speaker JOHNSON knows this as well as I do. If he puts the supplemental on the floor of the House for a vote, it will pass with the same kind of bipartisan support we saw in the Senate. So my question for the Speaker is this: Why delay providing Ukraine the critical aid it needs to defend itself against Vladimir Putin?

The supplemental package is Ukraine's best chance to win this war. The aid being supplied to Ukraine by our European allies—they are generous, but it is not enough. Ukraine needs more help, and our allies around the world are looking at the House of Representatives, are looking at Speaker JOHNSON to step up.

The choice for Speaker JOHNSON is clear: Put the supplemental on the floor of the House for a vote and help deliver Ukraine the aid it desperately needs or kowtow to President Trump and the MAGA hard right who seem to want a victorious Putin.

History will remember what we do here in this time of great consequence for democracy. The Senate answered the call by passing the national security supplemental with a large, bipartisan majority. Now it is time for the House to do the same. The clock is ticking.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

ISRAEL

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, more than 5 months after the butchery of October 7, Israelis are overwhelmingly united behind their government's unity war Cabinet in support of ongoing military operations against Hamas. By contrast, some prominent American Democrats are increasingly vocal in their belief that Israel's unity government and Israeli voters are wrong.

That is, after all, what we are talking about here. As much as some of our colleagues might like them to be, Democrats' egregious and hypocritical attempts to influence Israeli domestic politics aren't some simple or narrow critique of a particular Prime Minister; they are an affront to the very independence of the State of Israel—a sovereign nation, a robust democracy, and one of America's closest allies and friends; not a colony, not a vassal state, not some appendage of our own domestic politics.

As I said last week, our Democratic colleagues don't have an anti-Bibi problem; they have an anti-Israel problem. What else are we supposed to make of the way Democrats have fallen in line behind the position the Democratic leader expressed here on the floor last week? It is absurd enough for American Senators to masquerade as duly-elected members of the Knesset, as if their views should have any bearing on how Israel conducts its domestic politics. But unfortunately it now seems important to remind our President that he is America's Commander in Chief, not some supreme allied commander with authority over Israel's war operations.

I was worried to see the U.S. intelligence community opine publicly last week on the stability of the Israeli Government. It seems to me we should ask our intelligence professionals to keep their assessments of our closest partners a bit closer to their chest.

Think about just how embarrassing our colleagues would find this behavior if it was directed toward any other democratic U.S. ally. Think about how we might be received if the DNI or the CIA Director publicly commented on political tensions within Germany's coalition government or on the decision-making processes of President Macron or on the declining public support for the Trudeau government in Canada.

America is best served when our intelligence professionals refrain from public comments on politics—both our own and our allies.

The war thrust upon Israel by Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad has already brought a host of profoundly embarrassing revelations to light.

It has exposed the United Nations Relief and Works Agency as irredeemably corrupt and appallingly complicit in both the violent kidnapping of Israelis and the indoctrination of Palestinians in a culture of hate, violence, and terror.

It has exposed the rank anti-Semitism that America's most elite universities have allowed to fester on their campuses and some of these institutions' weakening grasp on moral resolve.

Now it is exposing Democrats as unwilling or incapable of resisting the political pressures of their radical base. Just look how our colleagues have staked out bizarrely vocal support for policies for which even the Israeli left has said it has no time.

So membership in the U.S. Senate does not come with voting rights in the Knesset or the Bundestag. It certainly doesn't entitle colleagues who spent years decrying foreign interference in American politics to decide one day to flip the script on our allies.

Let's get one thing straight: This violence and this humanitarian crisis rest entirely on the shoulders of Hamas. This entire conflict would end if the cowardly terrorists who rule Gaza from beneath schools and hospitals released their innocent hostages.

And the people they oppress every day—the people of Gaza—have a say in the matter. They can turn on Hamas, turn in terrorist leaders like Yahya Sinwar, and turn over the hostages whose seizure by Palestinian terrorists started this conflict in the first place. Until then, the Israeli government ought to do what the overwhelming majority of Israelis expect of it: bring the innocents home; bring the terrorists to justice; and bring peace and security to its citizens.

And, I might add, pay the peanut gallery no mind.

EPA REGULATIONS

Mr. President, on a different matter, this week the Biden administration's radical EPA is finalizing yet another regulation that will force ordinary Americans to conform their lifestyles to coastal elite sensibilities. This latest rule would use strict emissions requirements on auto manufacturers to effectively ban gas-powered vehicles.

The President's energy agenda just keeps on putting climate activists in the driver's seat and leaves American workers in the dust. From canceling new oil leases and clean energy projects like LNG to threatening to ban gas stoves, the Biden administration has made it abundantly clear that they are willing to trade working families' livelihoods for kudos from their radical base.

But this week, the House Republican majority is actually fighting back. Our colleagues have dedicated this week to considering commonsense legislation to undo some of the worst offenses of the Biden administration's regulatory state. They will take up bills to clear radical roadblocks that are preventing the completion of so many urgent energy infrastructure projects, to protect energy sector jobs against freezes on fracking and other energy development, to repeal a multibillion-dollar taxpayer slush fund for green energy projects, and to warn about the disastrous effects of a carbon tax on the U.S. economy.

The Biden administration keeps trying to sell working families on electric vehicles, but the American people aren't buying the hype. The average EV costs over $14,000 more than the average gas-powered vehicle. Auto dealers around the country have noticed that demand for electric vehicles is stagnant. And at least one rental company is selling off its stock due to a lack of interest.

Meanwhile, State utilities are growing concerned that their power grids are already straining under soaring demand for electricity. Just imagine what would happen to our fragile electrical grids if we forced people to drive electric cars. Now, that doesn't seem to concern the Biden administration; neither does the fact that the supply chains for the critical minerals in EV batteries run straight through the People's Republic of China.

The EPA's new emissions standards are so stringent that they would require electric vehicles make up two of every three vehicles on the consumer market within 8 years, regardless of whether charging infrastructure is ever available. Apparently, rolling blackouts are just one of the many costs of admission to the Biden administration's green future.

So I would like to commend our House Republican colleagues for putting serious solutions on the table, and I hope Washington Democrats will snap out of their climate daydream before it becomes a nightmare for working families.

JUDICIAL CONFERENCE

Mr. President, on one final matter, here on the floor yesterday, the Democratic leader defended his efforts to restrict rural Americans' access to justice. And he laid plain some rather partisan goals.

Apparently, our colleague is upset that he still has not managed to bully the Judicial Conference into embracing his vision of unequal justice.

During the course of his speech, he invited me ''to find ways to restore trust in the judiciary.'' Well, I have one. It is the bill from Senator COTTON to end nationwide injunctions. The Federal bench, in places like Texas and Louisiana, as an entity, isn't what erodes trust in the judicial branch. What erodes trust is the ability of individual district judges everywhere to apply their orders nationwide. I think we should end this practice—in Amarillo and San Francisco, in Lubbock and Seattle, in Dayton and in Baltimore.

If the Democratic leader wants to restore trust in our judiciary, he can join

me in supporting this commonsense nonpartisan reform. Or perhaps he would rather have a DHS Secretary in Oakland who just wears a robe.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ISRAEL

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, we have heard some concerning statements on Israel in recent days from leading Democrats.

Last Thursday, the Democratic leader came to the floor to deliver a speech in which he took the extraordinary step of calling for a regime change in Israel. That is right. The Democratic leader of the U.S. Senate, who has, in the past, fiercely decried the prospect of foreign interference in U.S. elections, decided to insert himself into the internal electoral politics of a sovereign nation and a close U.S. ally. It was an incredibly troubling moment.

As I said, it wasn't the only troubling statement lately from a Democrat leader. The President has also recently inserted himself into Israeli decision making by criticizing Israel's war plan and saying it would be a ''red line'' for Israel to go after Hamas strongholds in Rafah on the southern border of Gaza—in effect telling Israel that Hamas should be allowed to continue to hold this region.

Both the President and the Democrat leader are entitled to their personal strategic opinions and their personal opinions on Israel's leadership. What they are not entitled to is to attempt to dictate the election process or the strategic planning of a sovereign nation.

There would be justifiable outrage if one of our allies attempted to dictate to our country when we should hold elections and whom we should choose to lead us. It is equally offensive for U.S. leaders to attempt to dictate war planning or election outcomes to one of our allies.

I also have to wonder where the similar statements are on, for example, Iran. Iran has been fomenting terror across the Middle East for decades—Hezbollah, the Houthis, Shia militias in Iraq and Syria, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and, of course, Hamas.

Hamas gets approximately 90 percent of its military budget from Iran. There is reason to wonder whether Hamas would even have had the capability to carry out its October 7 attack without its history of support from Iran. There is certainly reason to wonder what the Middle East would look like today if Iran hadn't spent decades funding and arming terrorist organizations.

Yet, in his entire State of the Union Address, the President mentioned Iran only once. The same goes for last week's speech from the Democrat leader. Where are the redlines for Iran, the calls for regime change? For that matter, where are the redlines for Hamas? Because, let's remember, that is how we ended up here. Israel didn't attack Hamas; Hamas attacked Israel.

President Biden himself has noted that October 7's brutal attack against Israeli civilians was the deadliest day for the Jewish people literally since the Holocaust. More than 1,100 individuals were killed. More than 240 hostages were taken, and 130 of those hostages still—still—remain in Gaza, including 5 American citizens. This was not a war of Israel's making; the current war is the responsibility of Hamas.

Hamas has pulled its own citizens into the war zone because that is what they do. It has woven its terrorist infrastructure all through Gaza so that its fighters can easily slip into and outright hide behind the civilian population. The Israeli military has continued to discover Hamas tunnels networked beneath schools, hospitals, and the United Nations' headquarters in Gaza, UNRWA. The lives of its own citizens seem to mean as little to Hamas as do the lives of Israelis.

The world has seen the evil of Hamas and its indifference to life, and that is precisely why Israel must succeed in removing the threat of Hamas from its borders.

When Democrats do things like set redlines around an offensive operation into Rafah, they are supporting the conditions that will perpetuate this terror. No other nation would accept this threat just miles over its border, and we must not ask our longstanding ally Israel to make such a dangerous exception.

I hope and pray that Israel will succeed in permanently disabling Hamas and paving the way to a more peaceful future for Israelis and—and—for Palestinians.

In an age in which the Democratic Party is increasingly surrendering to its most extreme-left wing, perhaps the President and the Democrat leader's comments should not have been unexpected, but, expected or not, they were inappropriate and troubling.

There is an old adage that when you find yourself in a hole, stop digging. Yet Democrats are out with a letter this morning that sets forth a new laundry list of conditions for Israel to meet.

Our focus should be on supporting our ally Israel and working for a future where both Israelis and Palestinians can live free from terror like Hamas's, and that requires clear-eyed focus on the task at hand of helping our allies defeat these terrorists, bring the hostages home, and restore peace.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Alabama.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, here we go again. I cannot believe I am here today on the Senate floor talking about Americans dying at the hands of illegal aliens.

I said I would do this every week and give an update on the young people and people of our country who are dying at the hands of illegal aliens—specifically young people. Our kids are dying because of Joe Biden's immigration policies.

I was on the floor last week talking about the death of Laken Riley, a young woman who was running around the University of Georgia, minding her own business, when she was abducted and brutally beaten—unrecognizable—by an illegal alien from Venezuela.

Just a week ago, I came to the floor to talk about the death of Washington State Trooper Chris Gadd. He was on duty at a DUI checkpoint when Raul Benitez Santana, an illegal alien from Mexico, drunk behind the wheel, crashed into Trooper Gadd's police cruiser. Trooper Gadd was 27 years old.

There are so many other young people who need and deserve to be recognized and remembered, so many sad examples of the deadly impact this administration's open border policies have had in this country. It is a shame.

In December, Travis Wolfe, a 12-year-old boy from Missouri, was riding with his parents when their car was struck head-on by another vehicle driving down the wrong side of the road, 70 miles per hour—the wrong side of the road, 70 miles per hour. Court documents reveal that the driver of the other car that crashed into Travis Wolfe was an illegal alien from Venezuela.

Twelve-year-old Travis spent the last 3 months on life support. He died on March 6. His family hasn't received an apology from Joe Biden. They are not going to get an apology from Secretary Mayorkas. They just buried their 12-year-old son. Do my colleagues care? Do they care?

Last August in Ohio, a minivan driven by Hermanio Joseph, an illegal alien from Haiti, collided with a bus that was carrying 52 kids and was headed to school for the very first day. Although he was from Haiti, Joseph illegally entered the country through the southern border. Twenty-six kids were hospitalized—26.

One child, 11-year-old Aiden Clark, was ejected from the bus and pronounced dead at the scene. In Aiden's obituary, his family wrote that he loved daily vegetable gardening with his dad, trampoline jumping with his sister, and snuggling with his mom. Eleven years old.

Aiden's life was taken far too soon. Travis Wolfe will not get to grow up. Trooper Gadd had a wife and a 2-year-old daughter. His daughter will never see her father again. Laken Riley will never become a nurse. She will never hang out with her friends again or celebrate a victory at the University of Georgia with friends and family.

Losing a child is a parent's worst nightmare. We can't possibly imagine what their families are going through, but we can work to prevent more deaths from occurring. We know what needs to be done. People in this body know what needs to be done. People on the other end of the building in the House know what needs to be done. People in the White House know what needs to be done to protect these lives.

President Biden can use the authorities given to him by Congress to secure the border. He can do that. He doesn't need more laws; he can use the laws that have already been written.

He can finish the border wall, which he stopped and now is selling all the materials that are at the border to build this wall, that the American taxpayers have paid for—they are selling it for 10 cents on the dollar. You can't make this up.

He can stop exploiting the Department of Homeland Security's parole authority by letting in millions of people without screening or processing.

President Biden can stop supporting sanctuary cities where law enforcement officers are blocked from working with Federal officers to get criminal aliens off the streets and out of our communities.

President Biden can bring back order to our country. We are losing it daily. He can do all these things right now. He doesn't need another law. The laws are there—just go for the laws.

He himself suspended the border wall. He authorized Homeland Security to continue paroling people without consequences. He and his blue State supporters set up shelters in the middle of cities and suburbs to house illegal aliens indefinitely, costing you, the American citizens and taxpayers, billions of dollars, when we have homeless and veterans on the streets not being taken care of.

Hospitals, schools, and other community resources have been depleted—depleted—by being forced to provide for both U.S. citizens and the millions of illegal aliens crossing the border. U.S. citizens are paying for all of this, not the Biden administration—the U.S. citizens. It is their right.

It is embarrassing. Our country's leadership must be reminded of their greatest responsibility: the safety and security of Americans. No. 1 responsibility. This administration could care less.

Let's look at a recent example of a country's prioritizing safety for its citizens. What has the Dominican Republic been doing in response to gang violence and unrest in Haiti because Haitians are coming to the Dominican Republic? What are they doing? They secured their border.

The Biden administration established a parole program specifically for Haitians. Our immigration policy priorities are completely misaligned and totally opposite of what they are doing in the Dominican Republic. With our duty to support and defend the Constitution against all enemies, foreign and domestic, they are letting our guard down.

So States are taking matters into their own hands. Yesterday, the Supreme Court ruled that a new Texas law, which allows State and local law enforcement to arrest and detain and deport illegal aliens, could go into effect while under review at the lower court level, but late last night, the Fifth Circuit Court again blocked enforcement of the new Texas law ahead of oral arguments. This is a crime. The Supreme Court has spoken. While the Biden administration won't arrest, detain, or deport illegal aliens, Texas would have been doing so. It is shameful that a State had to take matters into their own hands like this.

It is embarrassing that President Biden's Department of Homeland Security sued Texas for implementing immigration laws which they should have been implementing themselves. But they have a different agenda. They want more people in this country to vote for this administration.

Americans are being killed by illegal aliens, and the President simply cannot be bothered. The blood of Laken Riley, Trooper Gadd, Travis Wolfe, Aiden Clark, and so many other Americans is on his hands—the blood of Laken Riley, Trooper Gadd, Travis Wolfe, and so many others. They won't be forgotten.

Democrats say their open border policies are motivated by compassion: We have compassion for people coming into this country.

Whose compassion? Democrats have plenty of compassion for illegals. What about American citizens? taxpayers? the young people in this country who are dying at the hands of these illegal aliens that should not be here but only are here because of this administration?

They don't seem to have compassion for victims of crime.

Joe Biden, last week, apologized that he called an illegal alien ''illegal'' in the State of the Union Address. That sets the scene for everything. They couldn't care less about the American citizen. They care more about people from other countries.

This is madness. This madness must end. We can't wait until an election. We can't let 4 or 5 million more people in. We can't let hundreds of people die at the hands of these illegal aliens. Our children's lives are at stake, and our country is at stake.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

RUSSIA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, over the weekend, the Russian Federation held a Presidential election. And surprise, surprise, officials declared a landslide victory for President Vladimir Putin. By their account, Putin won a fifth term in office with a whopping 87 percent of the vote—the highest level of support in any previous elections.

This reminded me of a story—I think maybe true, maybe apocryphal—of a reporter who was traveling with a driver in Iraq in the run-up to the Iraq war. And as was typically the case in dictatorships, the report was that Saddam Hussein won 100 percent of the vote. And the reporter asked the driver, he said: Well, you have been with me; clearly, you haven't been able to go and cast your ballot. To which the driver responded: Well, I guess Saddam knew what was in my heart.

As implausible as that result was and as implausible as this result is, it is entirely predictable. After all, elections in Russia are unlike elections here in the United States or any other democracy.

In Russia, elections are carefully orchestrated by the Kremlin. The candidates are hand-selected. The results are predetermined. And the opportunity for change is nonexistent.

In short: Russia's elections are a sham. They are neither free nor fair, and it is no surprise that Vladimir Putin will continue to lead the corrupt and morally bankrupt Kremlin.

The result of this election was always guaranteed. And the only real question is: What comes next? What, if anything, will change with the start of Putin's new term in office?

Well, there is widespread speculation this could signal the beginning of a new military mobilization into Ukraine. The Kremlin has made a habit out of rolling out unpopular policies in the period after a Presidential election.

Following 2018, for example, the Kremlin raised the retirement age—a move that was deeply unpopular among the Russian people.

Putin even alluded to this new strategy when speaking to reporters in Moscow. He said:

> All the plans we have created to develop Russia will certainly be carried out and their goals achieved.

He added:

> We have come up with grandiose plans and will do everything to carry them out.

Well, this should be an additional warning sign that cannot be ignored by the United States or our allies. We are at a critical juncture in Russia's war against Ukraine, and more support is desperately needed.

It is in America's national security interest to help Ukraine because Vladimir Putin will not stop in Ukraine, just as he did not stop with the invasion and annexation of Crimea in 2014.

He will keep coming and coming and coming. And he doesn't have very far to go after Ukraine to encounter NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. And we have a treaty obligation with those countries under article 5 to come to the defense of any one

of those countries that are attacked. So this is very close and near and dear to the United States' national security interests.

Over the past few months, the United States has provided Ukraine with unprecedented defense aid: Javelins, Stingers, grenade launchers, small arms, ammunition, and more.

A few weeks ago, the Senate passed a security supplemental that, among other things, provided additional support for Ukraine as it battles Russian forces. That legislation passed the Senate with overwhelming bipartisan support. But it awaits action in the House of Representatives.

The Senate, as we know, is not a rubberstamp for the House, and the House is not a rubberstamp for the Senate. Neither Chamber is under any obligation to take up bills that originated in the other Chamber and pass them as is. But we also have a duty to address the biggest threats that our country is facing—one posed by Russia's aggression in Ukraine and in Europe, generally.

I am glad that our friends in the House are working on their own security supplemental. I appreciate the comments being made by the Speaker that we will not leave Ukraine hanging out to dry.

We know that the House is working on ideas that include a number of policies that were not part of the Senate's legislation. One of them is called the REPO Act—REPO for Ukrainians Act—which would repurpose seized Russian assets to help finance aid for Ukraine. It would shift some of the financial burden of supporting Ukraine from U.S. taxpayers to Putin and the Russian oligarchs, whose assets have been seized.

This is a bipartisan bill introduced by Senator RISCH, the ranking member on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and it has been cosponsored by a quarter of all Senators, myself included.

Now, the House version of the bill was introduced by my friend and fellow Texan, Chairman MICHAEL MCCAUL, chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee. And it has more than 75 bipartisan cosponsors. This is a smart and effective way to continue supporting Ukraine without sticking American taxpayers with the bill.

I am disappointed that these measures weren't included in the Senate supplemental, but I hope our colleagues in the House will pass this bill—the REPO Act—as part of their security supplemental.

I am also encouraged to hear that the House is likely to include language to extend the lend-lease authority. This authority was created, as pertains to Ukraine, by legislation I introduced with Senator CARDIN, the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called the Ukraine Democracy Defense Lend-Lease Act, which became the law nearly 2 years ago.

It was rooted in the same principle as President Roosevelt's Lend-Lease Act in World War II, which allowed the United States to supply Great Britain and other allies with military resources.

President Roosevelt recognized how critical it was to support Great Britain, which lacked what it needed to protect its people and to fend off German aggression. He famously vowed to transform the United States into the arsenal of democracy and worked with Congress to get the Lend-Lease Act passed to achieve that goal.

The original Lend-Lease Act was signed into law in March of 1941 and allowed the United States to supply its allies with resources at a critical moment during World War II.

Later that year, Winston Churchill said the bill ''must be regarded without question as the most unsordid act in the whole of recorded history.''

The circumstances we find ourselves in today are not the equal of March 1941, thank goodness. But they could be. In fact, the circumstances today look eerily similar to the circumstances in 1939 when Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia for many of the similar reasons that Putin claims he has a right to invade Ukraine.

If the world had stood up to Germany then, we may have avoided global calamity and prevented the loss of millions of innocent lives.

The lessons of the past must inform the present. And I believe we have a duty to exercise our role—America's unique role—as the arsenal of democracy to help Ukraine defend its sovereignty and to prevent further spread of military aggression and Russian desires to restore the Soviet Union, which is what Vladimir Putin said: The failure of the Soviet Union in 1991 was the greatest geopolitical tragedy of the last 100 years.

You know, I have thought about that and contrasted that statement with the fact that Russia lost between 20 and 30 million people in World War II. Putin says the failure of the Soviet Union was the greatest geopolitical tragedy in the last 100 years; and he must mean a greater tragedy than the loss of 20 to 30 million Russians.

That is how he thinks. And he wants to restore that golden age for the Soviet Union. And so he will not stop with Ukraine.

Given the aid provided by Congress over the past couple of years, the Biden administration hasn't relied on the lend-lease authority to aid Ukraine, but that doesn't mean it isn't needed now.

Ukraine is willing to fight. President Zelenskyy is willing to lead the Ukrainian people in that fight. But it needs additional assistance from the United States and our NATO allies to fend off this Russian invasion.

Ukraine's arsenal is shrinking by the day. It is rationing its artillery shells and its other ammunition, and it has asked the United States for additional help.

Now, there are different points of view, but there is broad bipartisan agreement that America should continue to support Ukraine. But there is also a growing concern over the cost of that assistance. I understand that. That is a concern that I share, which is why I introduced the modern Lend-Lease Act in the first place. Because lend-lease is not a blank check, it gives the administration the option to lease or rent defense articles to Ukraine. It would allow us to answer Ukraine's call to provide more of what they need and ensure it is done in a more fiscally responsible way.

The weapons the United States and our allies have provided thus far have allowed Ukraine to punch above its weight against the Russian Army. But one thing the Russian Army is capable of doing is to engage in a war of attrition, simply to wear down the opposition, both militarily and politically.

But Ukraine has punched above its weight against the Russian Army, but it can't do so without ammunition and without defense articles. Additional American assistance is vital to Ukraine's success in this war, and we need to reauthorize the lend-lease authority as soon as possible.

This legislation was attempted to be added to our security supplemental, and, for some reason, it didn't make the cut. But I hope now that our colleagues in the House will pass a security bill that includes both the lend-lease extension and the REPO Act and send that bill back here to the Senate without further delay.

The future of Ukraine is at stake, but that is not all. The rest of the world is watching to see how the United States and our NATO allies respond to a power-hungry dictator. If the United States fails to support Ukraine in this pivotal moment, other authoritarian governments will take note. America's response to this war will likely affect Iran's calculations when it comes to Israel and its other proxies that it supports throughout the Middle East, being the No. 1 state sponsor of terrorism. And it will also figure into China's calculations when it comes to Taiwan. If they see the United States respond with passivity, they can expect to be met with the same level of weakness when these other autocrats and dictators act.

We cannot allow America's global leadership to be diminished in this way because it is dangerous. This isn't a status symbol or something that we want to be able to brag about. This is about our own safety and our own national security, and that comes from strength. As Ronald Reagan said, peace comes through strength.

The tyrants and the madmen around the world must see the United States and our allies with strength, and a strong security supplemental is one key to demonstrating that strength and that commitment.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes, followed by Senator MENENDEZ for up to 5 minutes, prior to the scheduled vote.

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

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, it is a familiar headline: ''Congress announces a deal to avoid a shutdown.''

It is currently midday on Wednesday, March 20, and, on Friday at midnight, just the day after tomorrow, the government will run out of funding for more than half of the 12 budget categories, and most of the government's funding is found within this section that will shut down, absent legislation by Congress.

We are told that the only way we can avoid a shutdown is to vote for what we expect to be a monstrous spending plan, a bill written in secret by a small handful of appropriators and ultimately given the blessing of the ''Law Firm of Schumer, McConnell, Johnson & Jeffries.''

It should be noted that not one Member of this body has had the opportunity to fully review the legislative text or, in the case of nearly all Members of Congress, to see any of it. We have not seen it. We can't see it. We are not allowed to see it.

We don't know much about the particular details of the bill, what will be in it and what won't be in it. But if history is any indicator, as it has been proven to be reliably in the past, there are a few things about the bill of which we can now be certain, even before laying eyes on it.

It will, among other things, be full of earmarks, these special-interest giveaways handed out as sweeteners, as if to make the medicine go down. It won't force President Biden to secure the border. It will perpetuate massive deficits, approaching or possibly even exceeding $2 trillion. To add insult to injury, we can be sure that, when the text is finally released, there will be, alas, insufficient time to read, comprehend the text, air it with the public, debate the bill, and offer and consider amendments.

You see, these bills—massive legislative undertakings that, in many instances, bundle all Federal spending or, in this instance, most Federal spending into one single package—have become synonymous with legislative excess and manipulation.

You see, the firm's modus operandi involves drafting these omnibus bills behind closed doors, with only a select group of appropriators contributing to their formulation. By design, and not by any coincidence, these bills are unveiled to the public and most Members of Congress with barely any time to spare before a potential government shutdown.

This strategic timing, which often unfolds strategically right before a long, scheduled recess, ensures that the bill passes, with minimal scrutiny and little or no opportunity for debate—any meaningful debate, certainly—or for amendments.

In other words, it becomes a ''take it or leave it'' package. It is a charade, occasionally softened by allowing a few votes on just a few amendments. But make no mistake, the firm wields its influence to make sure that no substantial changes are made—certainly, nothing that could threaten the supposed sanctity of their original draft.

Members are thus cornered into a false dichotomy in which their votes for the measure are extracted—extorted, if you will. We are told to pass the bill unread, not understood, undebated, or, alternatively, face the chaos and inevitable public vitriol associated with a government shutdown.

Thus, the individual voices of our elected representatives—our elected lawmakers here in Congress, in both Houses, of both political parties—and, by extension, the will of the American people are diluted in a process dominated by a few at the expense of the many.

It is not that these bills are bad in every circumstance. There are a lot of things that are within them that the government needs, that most—perhaps all—of this body, in some cases, would find unobjectionable. The problem is not that the bill is rotten from one end to the other. It is, instead, that it has been written by a select few, and the many are not allowed to have any say in it.

And when it is brought forward without any timely, meaningful, fulsome opportunity for debate, discussion, public airing, and amendment, Congress, as a whole, becomes a rubberstamp to the firm.

The will of the people is thwarted, and, ultimately, millions—hundreds of millions—of Americans are effectively disenfranchised from the entire process.

Tonight, with just a few days before the government runs out of funding in these areas covered by this bill, this body, once more, throws American taxpayers under the bus and forsakes fiscal responsibility, if, in fact, we pursue this course once again.

In so doing, they oppose measures that the vast majority of Americans would support—measures like stopping an invasion happening right now at our southern border, resulting in a wave of crime, death, and destruction that we haven't seen in the past.

This is, rather, entirely the result of the whole system of government funding being designed not to benefit the vast majority of Americans but, rather, to benefit the very architects of these bills: the appropriators, earmarks, lobbyists, and special interests—and, of course, all at the direction of the firm.

These entities thrive in the shadows of this process, influencing legislation in ways that serve the architects themselves, often at the expense of the general public.

Americans are bearing the cost of decisions made without their consent or their knowledge, manifesting in, among other things, skyrocketing costs of living and staggering national debt, now exceeding $34 trillion.

It is time to dismantle this corrupt process and restore transparency and accountability to the way we fund our government. The process behind what we fully expect to be a wasteful, insulting, minibus bill is a disgrace. And let history show that a few of us stood up and said so.

This is not the way. Once we get this bill, we shouldn't be forced to rush to judgment on it without debate, discussion, or amendment. We should, instead, adopt a short-term continuing resolution that would take us to April 12, to give lawmakers adequate time to review and understand the bill, to air it to the public, to offer amendments to the bill to improve it, and, finally, vote on it. That is the order in which it should occur, not the opposite.

Instead, the firm would take us down yet another road of ''fire, ready, aim.''

Voting for this minibus is voting in favor of massive deficits, corrupting earmarks, and funding Joe Biden's border invasion. So I invite my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in fighting for fiscal responsibility, for the best interests of American families—the same families we are supposed to represent in Washington.

This proposal, this short-term continuing resolution, is neither Democratic nor Republican. It is neither liberal nor conservative. This is just common sense. Give people's elected lawmakers the chance to be involved in the lawmaking process because we are certainly not doing that now.

To that end, Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of my bill, which is at the desk. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, we have a clear and straightforward path ahead of us. We have at long last a bicameral, bipartisan agreement on all of our full-year bills. It is time to get them passed and close out fiscal year 2024. After all, we are now 6 months into the fiscal year. We have to get a move on.

So let's stay focused on the deadline in front of us right now. We are working as fast as possible to release the bill, the text of the minibus, as soon as

possible, and if there is bipartisan cooperation, we can get this package passed by the deadline.

This minibus is a carefully negotiated, bipartisan package that reflects the input of nearly every Senator and the priorities of every State in America. We need to turn the page on fiscal year 2024, take the government off of autopilot, and focus on passing these bills before Friday at midnight.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, in wrapping up my remarks, I just want to say this is unfortunate. We owe it to each other and we owe it to those we represent to actually discuss and debate the merits of legislation before being forced to pass it.

The fact that there is bipartisan agreement as to final numbers doesn't mean that most Senators have even seen the bill. They have not. They have kept it secret from us and from those we represent. It is simply disingenuous to suggest that this has been agreed upon long ago.

We need at least a few days to do this. That is why I am asking that we extend the spending period out to April 12. That would give us time to do that. It is unfortunate we didn't get that agreement today. We will be back.

Thank you.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

NOMINATION OF EDWARD SUNYOL KIEL

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to support the confirmation of Mr. Edward Sunyol Kiel to the U.S. district court of New Jersey.

Mr. Kiel, whom Senator BOOKER and I proudly recommended to President Biden, is eminently qualified for this position. Mr. Kiel has spent the entirety of his career demonstrating an even temperament and an unshakable commitment to equal justice under the law.

With 27 years as a practicing attorney in New Jersey, he has amassed an abundance of trial experience and an objectively impressive record of pro bono work for numerous organizations and church groups.

Atop his outstanding credentials, Mr. Kiel is already quite familiar with the District of New Jersey and the Newark courthouse. In fact, he currently serves as a magistrate judge on that very same court. During his time on the bench, he has again and again proven himself a capable and even-keeled jurist, a sharp legal mind with a deep reverence for precedent and the rule of law.

Beyond his regular duties to the court, Judge Kiel has also devoted generous amounts of time to Newark vicinage's Pretrial Opportunity Program, an important initiative that offers treatment alternatives and noncustodial sentences for eligible individuals—once again proving his commitment not just to the law but to human beings impacted by our justice system.

I would be remiss to discuss Judge Kiel's qualifications without also touching on his incredible personal story. Judge Kiel was born in Daegu, South Korea, to parents who fled North Korea as refugees during the war, on foot.

While his parents did not have much in terms of material wealth, they were rich in faith and in love. With just $40 in their pockets—a gift pooled together by their relatives before the journey—his family made a decision to come to the United States and bet it all on the American dream. On their very first Sunday in the United States, Judge Kiel's mother placed that $40 in the church's offering plate—a symbol of her undying optimism for her family's new life in America.

Today, Judge Kiel works every day in the same exact courthouse where his parents became U.S. citizens in the 1970s. If that is not a shining example of the American dream, I don't know what is.

Judge Kiel's story is one that is familiar to so many in the Garden State and across America. His confirmation will be another important step towards achieving the ideal of an independent judiciary that reflects the best of America and mirrors our Nation's rich cultural tapestry. To this end, I commend President Biden for nominating the most racially and ethnically diverse group of qualified Federal judges of any President so far in our Nation's history.

In all branches and at all levels of our government, our democracy and institutions are made stronger by public servants whose lived experiences are as unique and colorful as America itself.

This is a cause to which I have dedicated my Senate career—ensuring that the governed see themselves in their own government, to ensure that our democracy is generally a government of, by, and for the people. It is therefore my sincere pleasure to vote today in favor of confirming Judge Kiel to the district court of New Jersey. I urge my colleagues to do the same. I have no doubt that he will continue to be an asset to New Jersey's Federal bench, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in swiftly confirming him today.

With that, I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 465, Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R. Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

Further, if present and voting: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) would have voted ''nay.''

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 48, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 95 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Luján	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NAYS—48

Barrasso	Fischer	Murkowski
Blackburn	Graham	Paul
Boozman	Grassley	Ricketts
Braun	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeven	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Vance
Ernst	Moran	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Mullin	Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 48.

The motion is agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m. today.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:10 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

NOMINATION OF EDWARD SUNYOL KIEL

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Edward Kiel to the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey.

Born in Daegu, South Korea, Judge Kiel received both his B.S.E.E. and B.A. from Rutgers University, and his J.D. from Notre Dame Law School.

After clerking for Judge Michael R. Imbriani of the Superior Court of New Jersey in Somerset County, Judge Kiel worked at Jamieson, Moore, Peskin & Spicer as an associate, where he worked on a variety of matters, including insurance regulatory and commercial litigation cases.

He then went on to work at Beattie Padovano as an associate, where he handled various civil matters for a range of clients, from individuals to large corporations. Following his tenure at Beattie Padovano, Judge Kiel became a partner at Cole, Schotz, Meisel, Forman & Leonard, where he litigated matters before the Federal and State courts of New Jersey.

In 2019, Judge Kiel was appointed to be U.S. magistrate judge on the same district to which he is nominated. Since his appointment to the bench, he has issued more than 1,000 orders, reports and recommendations, opinions, and memorandum orders—only two of which have been reversed by a reviewing district court judge.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Kiel ''well qualified'' to serve on the district court, and he has the strong support of Senators MENENDEZ and BOOKER.

Judge Kiel's two decades of litigation experience combined with his distinguished career on the bench prove he is ready to handle the demands of the District of New Jersey from day one.

I thank my colleagues for supporting his nomination.

VOTE ON KIEL NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kiel nomination?

Ms. DUCKWORTH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 96 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Butler	Coons
Bennet	Cantwell	Cortez Masto
Blumenthal	Cardin	Duckworth
Booker	Carper	Durbin
Brown	Casey	Fetterman
Gillibrand	Merkley	Sinema
Hassan	Murphy	Smith
Heinrich	Murray	Stabenow
Hickenlooper	Ossoff	Tester
Hirono	Padilla	Van Hollen
Kaine	Peters	Warner
Kelly	Reed	Warnock
King	Rosen	Warren
Klobuchar	Sanders	Welch
Luján	Schatz	Whitehouse
Markey	Schumer	Wyden
Menendez	Shaheen	

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Mullin

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 463, Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Mazie K. Hirono, Alex Padilla, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tim Kaine, Tammy Duckworth, Thomas R. Carper, Tina Smith, Jeff Merkley, Catherine Cortez Masto, Martin Heinrich, Christopher Murphy, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz, Chris Van Hollen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 97 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Cardin	Luján	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Mullin

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, on a cold January morning, less than a year after being elected our Nation's first President, George Washington set out in a carriage drawn by six horses, headed to Federal Hall to fulfill his duty under our new Constitution, which read:

The President shall from time to time give to Congress information of the state of the Union.

One of the few firsthand accounts of that speech came from Senator Maclay, who said:

The President was dressed in second morning, and read his speech well.

Not exactly a hot take, but Senator Maclay wasn't one for glowing praise.

More than two centuries later, I had the privilege of watching, from a few rows back, as President Biden delivered the State of the Union Address earlier this month. And I must tell you: Joe Biden didn't just ''read his speech well''; he was electrifying. Despite the tremendous challenges we face around the world today, I came away feeling optimistic about our Nation's future,

and as chair of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, I came away strongly supportive of many of the administration's foreign policy priorities.

To appreciate what this President has accomplished, we need to remember where he started. We need to remember the uncertainty and isolation of the COVID pandemic—a pandemic that experts estimate killed almost 30 million people worldwide.

We need to remember how the global economy was on the brink of collapse—supply chains failed; unemployment surged; there were fears that we were headed for a repeat of the Great Depression.

And we need to remember, from ASEAN to NATO, the disenchantment of our allies. One senior European diplomat said back in 2020:

> The transatlantic relationship has never been this bad. The trust between the U.S. and Europe is not there anymore.

Now, I am not going to sugarcoat the world we face today. The Hamas attacks against Israel were one of the worst days in Jewish history, and it has led to a terrible humanitarian crisis for the Palestinians in Gaza. China's efforts to expand its authoritarian influence stretch from the smallest Pacific Island nation to the largest continent in the world—Africa. And Putin continues to wage a campaign to restore the former Soviet empire and annihilate the Ukrainian nation.

These are serious threats. To counter them, we need serious American leadership around the world, leadership that is rooted in values that promote human rights, that defend democracy, and that are driven by something I know Joe Biden has—basic decency.

Sitting and watching the State of the Union, I was struck by the strength of President Biden's moral compass. This is not a President who stands only for himself; he stands for all of us. This is not a President who stands idly by as our climate is destroyed; he has passed landmark legislation like the Inflation Reduction Act. This is not a President who seeks revenge against public servants for their personal views; he revitalizes our foreign policy and national security workforce. This is not a President who invites the Russians to do ''whatever the hell they want'' or threatens to pull out of NATO; he brings our allies together to stand up for Ukraine's independence. This is not a President who idolizes dictators and encourages autocrats; he prioritizes human rights and civil society movements around the world.

President Biden's foreign policy is focused on the future—a future for Europe, whole and free; a future for an Indo-Pacific that is thriving and at peace; a future with a two-state solution that gives security and dignity for Israelis and Palestinians for generations to come.

This will not be easy, but sitting at the State of the Union, I was encouraged by the bipartisan support I felt in the room when it came to foreign policy. Even Speaker JOHNSON seemed to be nodding his head as the President talked about Ukraine.

There have been many State of the Union speeches since George Washington spoke more than 200 years ago. They have been printed on paper, broadcasted over the radio and on television, and shared on clips across the internet; but throughout history, Presidents' speeches to Congress have given us hope.

In 1947, at the dawn of the Cold War, President Truman said in his State of the Union Address:

> If we maintain and strengthen our cherished ideals, and if we share our great bounty with war-stricken people over the world, then the faith of our citizens in freedom and democracy will be spread over the whole earth.

This is still true today.

To the political prisoners in Putin's jails, do not give up hope on freedom.

To the human rights defenders uncovering violence and assassinations, do not give up hope for justice.

To the war-stricken people of the world who are hungry and forced to flee their homes, do not give up your hope for democracy.

To our allies and partners across the globe, know that the United States stands with you.

And remember that if we come together and stand up for each other, we can build a world that is safe and peaceful and prosperous.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, last month, an illegal alien from Venezuela was arrested for allegedly murdering Laken Riley, a 22-year-old nursing student, while she went for a run on the University of Georgia campus. The suspected murderer, 26-year-old Jose Ibarra, should have never been allowed to set foot in our country. But the Biden administration paroled him into America after he illegally crossed the southern border, along with more than 2 million other migrants who are now eligible for work authorizations and benefits from the Federal Government.

That is the difference. When someone gets paroled, they get benefits. They get work permits. And while President Obama and President Trump each paroled only about 5,600 people a year, President Biden paroled 800,000 in 2022 and 1.2 million in 2023.

When you look at this, what you can say is that this administration failed Laken Riley. They failed her more than once.

Also, when you look at sanctuary city policies, what you know is this: that New York City, with their sanctuary city policies, failed Laken Riley. Athens, GA, another sanctuary city, failed Laken Riley.

Last year, in New York City, Ibarra was arrested for reckless endangerment of a child. But instead of working with Federal law enforcement to get him deported for his heinous crime, city officials there, in New York City, released him before Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or ICE, could request his custody.

A month later, police in Athens, GA—whose city government passed a resolution in 2019 welcoming illegal immigrants ''of all statuses''—released Ibarra after he shoplifted hundreds of dollars in goods.

It is no coincidence that both New York City and Athens, GA, are sanctuary cities. In sanctuary cities across the country, we have seen illegal aliens commit crimes with impunity, as local governments refuse to work with law enforcement to deport criminal illegal aliens.

Just last month, the New York Post reported that the violent Venezuelan gang is directing its members to come to our southern border, apply for asylum, and, once waved into the country, establish robbery rings in major U.S. cities. I couldn't believe this.

Then, as I talked to law enforcement in Tennessee, I found out that those gangs are there. They are moving in. And I was so surprised that we had gangs, in addition to MS–13, that have come in on parole status and also as asylum seekers.

Gang members are recruiting migrants in New York City shelters to join their operations in which they steal phones from innocent bystanders so they can resell those phones in Colombia.

In Chicago, another sanctuary city, authorities are tracking the gang's growing crime network, which includes human trafficking, drug smuggling, and sexual exploitation.

No city in America should be allowed to make illegal immigration legal and harbor criminal illegal aliens. They ought not be able to do it. It makes our communities less safe.

That is why, earlier this month, I reintroduced the Clear Law Enforcement for Criminal Alien Removal Act, or CLEAR Act, which would ensure State and local law enforcement officials can work with Federal law enforcement to deport criminal illegal aliens who are in their communities.

Under the provisions in this legislation, it would require States and localities to provide the Department of Homeland Security with information about every alien apprehended in their State, including the name, address, physical description, and the reason for their arrest. At the same time, the bill would ensure their compliance by denying Federal funds to any jurisdiction that refuses to work with Federal immigration law enforcement.

It would also require the Department of Homeland Security to take illegal

aliens into custody within 48 hours after receiving a request from a State and local government, provide essential information about illegal immigrants to the Justice Department, and supply resources to help localities enforce immigration law, including grants and increased space for detention facilities.

Do you see what is happening with all of this? When you have got entities that say, ''We are just not going to enforce the law; we are going to do something different, and we are going to ignore immigration law,'' what happens is every town becomes a border town, and every State becomes a border State.

This is one of the reasons that crime and the border are two of the top issues that people talk about.

Any person who is in this country illegally and committing a crime that endangers our communities should be immediately removed and barred from coming back.

Unfortunately, our Nation's crime issues go beyond the criminal illegal aliens. Across the country, from New York and Washington to L.A. and Chicago, we have seen far-left DAs and soft-on-crime judges push radical bail policies, including easing cash bail requirements or prohibiting cash bail altogether. Far from improving public safety, these so-called bail reforms put criminals back on the streets and place law-abiding citizens in danger.

After the Shelby County District Attorney's Office spearheaded bail reform and made it easier for criminals to avoid pretrial detention, homicides in Memphis last year reached a record-breaking number—398 homicides in Memphis, TN. Many of these were committed by criminals who were out on bail.

Just last month, a violent criminal who was out on bail for attempted murder set off a city-wide manhunt after going on a horrific rampage through the city of Memphis. Across his 5-hour-long crime spree, the offender carjacked a woman in a church parking lot, shot two people after breaking into a hair salon, and killed an innocent teenager outside of a strip mall.

In May, a repeat criminal posted bail after shooting and injuring an off-duty Memphis Police Department officer while attempting to break into a parked vehicle.

One month later, a gunman—while out on bail for carjacking and employing a firearm with intent to commit a dangerous felony—shot and killed a man during an attempted carjacking.

In November, a Memphis judge released the suspected murderer of a 15-year-old boy who was shot and killed outside his grandmother's house on Thanksgiving morning.

And just this month, a Memphis judge set just a $175,000 bond for a man charged with attempted first-degree murder against a police officer.

These tragedies should never happen to anyone, but far-left bail policies continue to prioritize criminals over law enforcement, families, and hard-working taxpayers. I can tell you, Tennesseans are tired of this. They are tired of seeing criminals being prioritized over hard-working taxpayers and families.

While addressing crime is the primary responsibility of local governments, there are important steps the Federal Government can take to ensure public safety. That is why I am introducing the Keep Violent Criminals Off Our Streets Act. It would deter States and localities from pushing pro-crime policies that make cities like Memphis less safe.

This legislation would block any State or local government from receiving Federal funds if they have a policy that prohibits the use of cash bail for offenders. It would also block Federal funds if they refuse to employ pretrial detention practices for every violent offender, including juvenile offenders.

With crimes spiking in Memphis and other cities across the country, it is essential that local governments protect their residents and put violent criminals behind bars where they belong.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DEBT AS A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I come to the floor this evening to talk about our national debt, and I will be introducing a resolution here in a moment.

Our national debt, to put it in perspective, had never been much before the year 2000. Cumulatively, it was $5 trillion. That is a lot of zeroes behind a 5. That is a lot. But that is what it took from the beginning of the country—most of it did occur from the 1960s to 1980. That is when we started doing deficits, but it really started to get to where they became entrenched in standard operating procedure in the year 2000.

We did put two wars on the credit card. In 2000 to 2008, we went up to $10 trillion—all of a sudden, a lot more zeroes, with an extra zero and a 1. From 2008 to 2016, we went from $10 trillion to $16 trillion.

Now it gets to be a little more repetitive. I got here—elected—in 2018. By 2018, we are adding $1 trillion a year. Stick with me here. That is $16 trillion, 17, 18. So I get here as a Senator, alarmed by that when you come from a place like Indiana and you ran a business for 37 years, and if you even did anything close to that, I guarantee you your line of credit wasn't going to get renewed.

Since then—and we had a pandemic in there—it has gotten to where we have put a burden on future generations that I never imagined. I didn't think we would see it in this short a period. Well, we did roughly put $4 trillion more on the books through the worst pandemic we ever had. I think many of us question whether that was necessary or not. We probably could have done better. But we had already gotten into the routine of maybe erring on the side of doing more rather than less.

Well, since then, we have gone into enterprising through government. When we were borrowing just a few years ago $1 trillion annually, now we are doing it every 6 months. If you are good at math out there, try taking interest rates, which now are around 5, 6, 7 percent, depending on how the government is borrowing it, start applying that to $34 trillion or $35 trillion, and the only blueprint we have for us would be from the Biden administration that puts us $52 trillion in debt in 10 years.

That is a burden on our kids and grandkids. They will have to figure out how to pay it off. All of us here seem to be unconcerned about it. I think it would be a little different if we were knocking things out of the park.

So those numbers never go away. Sooner or later, interest is going to—well, it is going to be sooner. I think next year, we are going to spend as much on our entire defense industry and budget as we will on interest. It doesn't take long to where that is going to amount to—in 3 to 4 years, 5—what we spend on all discretionary spending here, domestic and defense.

The government has grown from never being more than 20 percent of our GDP to now the new baseline is 25 percent of our GDP. Our economy has only grown maybe a couple percent a year. That is digging a hole deeper and deeper that—anyone who is in the category of being kids and grandkids out there, look out.

It is not going to be easy to get back to where you are actually paying your bills as you accumulate them. If we don't, it will be the same thing Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Spain had to go through when they fell off the wagon as small economies. We are the largest economy in the world. There is no good ending to it.

It is no more difficult than just not spending more than we take in. Any good manager would figure out really quickly how to get back in line. Your banker would never allow you to renew a line of credit if you didn't. Here, we have the printing press in the basement, and the credit card gets renewed each year. That is no excuse that you should keep performing poorly when you know what the end result is going to be.

It is even a threat to our national security. For instance, we spend $850 billion, roughly, on defense. China, our

main geopolitical foe, spends less than a third of that. Russia, which causes all that trouble around the world, spends about $90 billion. It begs the question, why can't we do better when we are spending all that money? It is because we don't have any of the safeguards. We are not running it like the biggest business in the world; we are running it like kids with their hands in the cookie jar, and that is not a good business plan. It is unsustainable.

I am not going to repeat the numbers, but if you take this out 10 years, that is going to be a mountain that is so high to climb and so hard to tear down that it will be tough to do. We could do it easily by just not digging the hole any deeper, meaning freezing our spending and allocating our resources better, just like all States do. We choose not to do it. We need to start.

I am on the Budget Committee. We haven't done a budget in the Federal Government that we have adhered to in over two decades. Finally, we are going to have to start knuckling down and having discipline like everyone else does or it will end up like a chapter 11 does in the real world when you have not paid attention to the details, you borrow too much money, and you have a couple years to work it out with your creditors. Hopefully, we will never get to that.

I am introducing this resolution called Recognizing the National Debt as a Threat to National Security.

As in legislative session, and notwithstanding rule XXII, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 600, which is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 600) recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BRAUN. I know of no further debate on the measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 600) was agreed to.

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to complete my remarks, which I have done, followed by Senator PADILLA, for up to 5 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

NOMINATION OF EUMI K. LEE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Eumi K. Lee to the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

Judge Lee received her B.A. from Pomona College and her J.D., cum laude, from the Georgetown University Law Center. After law school, she clerked for Judge Jerome Turner on the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, and she later clerked for Judge Warren J. Ferguson on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. During her time in private practice in San Francisco, Judge Lee worked on complex civil litigation, white-collar criminal defense, and appellate matters, and she tried approximately 21 cases to final decision.

She later served on the faculty of the University of California College of the Law, San Francisco, where she taught primarily within the clinical programs and wrote about criminal justice issues. In 2018, Judge Lee was appointed to the Superior Court of California in Alameda County by then-Governor Jerry Brown. She won election to a 6-year term in 2020. During her time on the bench, Judge Lee has handled a wide range of civil and criminal cases at both the trial and appellate levels, and she has presided over 70 trials since joining the bench.

The American Bar Association rated Judge Lee ''well qualified'' to serve on the Northern District of California. She has strong ties to the district, and she is strongly supported by both of her home State Senators, Mr. PADILLA and Ms. BUTLER. Her litigation background, her academic career, and her invaluable experience as a State court judge will serve her well on the Federal bench.

Judge Lee was the final judicial nominee from California who had the honor of being introduced at her hearing by my late friend and colleague Senator Feinstein. When Senator Feinstein introduced Judge Lee, she noted Judge Lee's ''multitude of experience,'' and Senator PADILLA praised Judge Lee's ''wealth of legal expertise.'' Those remarks highlight what Judge Lee will bring to the district court. I strongly support this nominee, and I urge my colleagues to join me.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, the Senate will soon consider the nomination of Judge Eumi Lee to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California.

I rise today to share, briefly, more about this dedicated public servant and to encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting her nomination.

The proud daughter of parents who survived the Korean war before emigrating to the United States, Judge Eumi Lee was born in Wisconsin and raised in Tennessee. She earned her bachelor's degree from Pomona College and her law degree from the Georgetown University Law Center.

After law school, Judge Lee clerked for several judges on the Federal bench—first, for the Western District of Tennessee, then in the San Francisco Bay area clerking on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Now, those early days also included time working on complex litigation and white-collar defense matters in private practice, as well as developing a strong pro bono practice.

After a number of years of developing core litigation skills, she began teaching as a professor at UC Hastings College of law, supervising clinical students in direct representation and appearing alongside her students in State court.

It is there that Judge Lee also cofounded the Hastings Institute for Criminal Justice. Recognizing her remarkable record and diverse experience practicing law, in 2018, then-California Governor Jerry Brown appointed Judge Lee to the Alameda County Superior Court, where she became the first Korean American ever appointed to serve on that bench.

In the more than two decades that she has spent learning, teaching, and practicing law, Judge Lee has not only gained a wealth of legal expertise, but she has constantly reached out to support others on their path as well.

She has consistently worked to mentor women, people of color, and those typically underrepresented in the legal profession, because Judge Lee knows that public service doesn't stop at the courthouse doors.

In private practice, in the classroom, and in the courtroom, she has demonstrated the intellect and independent mind needed to serve on the Northern District with distinction. And I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her confirmation.

Madam President, I yield the floor.

VOTE ON LEE NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Lee nomination?

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 98 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Cantwell	Duckworth
Bennet	Cardin	Durbin
Blumenthal	Carper	Fetterman
Booker	Casey	Gillibrand
Brown	Coons	Hassan
Butler	Cortez Masto	Heinrich

Hickenlooper	Murray	Smith
Hirono	Ossoff	Stabenow
Kaine	Padilla	Tester
Kelly	Peters	Van Hollen
King	Reed	Warner
Klobuchar	Rosen	Warnock
Luján	Sanders	Warren
Markey	Schatz	Welch
Menendez	Schumer	Whitehouse
Merkley	Shaheen	Wyden
Murphy	Sinema	

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Manchin	Tuberville
Crapo	Marshall	Vance
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Mullin

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The Senator from Maryland.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23–90, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Bahrain for defense articles and services estimated to cost $2.2 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MIKE MILLER,
(For James A. Hursch, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23–90

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Bahrain.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:
Major Defense Equipment * $1.6 billion.
Other $0.6 billion.
Total $2.2 billion.
Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Fifty (50) M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Main Battle Tanks.

Four (4) M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicles.

Eight (8) M1110 Joint Assault Bridges.

Eight (8) M1150 Assault Breacher Vehicles.

Eight (8) Heavy Assault Scissor Bridge (HASB).

One hundred (100) M240 Coaxial 7.62mm Machine Guns.

Three (3) AGT1500 Gas Turbine Engines.

Six thousand (6,000) 120mm M1002 Target Practice Multipurpose Tracer (TPMP–T) Projectiles.

Five thousand seven hundred sixty (5,760) 120mm M1147 High Explosive Multipurpose Tracers.

Non-MDE: Also included are M2A1.50 caliber machine guns; Common Remote Operated Weapons Station Low Profile (CROWS–LP); Forward Repair System; M250 smoke grenade launchers; service and training ammunition; M1300/M1302 Enhanced Heavy Equipment Transporter System (EHETS); M978A4 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) tanker and Load Handling System (LHS); M074A1 Palletized Load Systems and trailers and flat racks; support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE); communications equipment; Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM)-based Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers; software delivery and support; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; publications and technical manuals; maintenance trainers; training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; Next Generation Automatic Test System (NGATS); and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (BA–B–ULL).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 19, 2024.

* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Bahrain—M1A2 Abrams Main Battle Tanks

The Government of Bahrain has requested to buy fifty (50) M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Main Battle Tanks; four (4) M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicles; eight (8) M1110 Joint Assault Bridges; eight (8) M1150 Assault Breacher Vehicles; eight (8) Heavy Assault Scissor Bridge (HASB); one hundred (100) M240 Coaxial 7.62mm machine guns; three (3) AGT1500 Gas Turbine engines; six thousand (6,000) 120mm M1002 Target Practice Multipurpose Tracer (TPMP–T) projectiles; and five thousand seven hundred sixty (5,760) 120mm M1147 High Explosive Multipurpose Tracers. Also included are M2A1 .50 caliber machine guns; Common Remote Operated Weapons Station Low Profile (CROWS–LP); Forward Repair System; M250 smoke grenade launchers; service and training ammunition; M1300/M1302 Enhanced Heavy Equipment Transporter System (EHETS); M978A4 Heavy Expanded Mobility Tactical Truck (HEMTT) tanker and Load Handling System (LHS); M074A1 Palletized Load Systems and trailers and flat racks; support and test equipment; integration and test support; spare and repair parts; Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE); communications equipment; Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM)-based Global Positioning System (GPS) receivers; software delivery and support; Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) equipment; publications and technical manuals; maintenance trainers; training equipment; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; Next Generation Automatic Test System (NGATS); and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is $2.2 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Bahrain's capability to meet current and future threats by providing a credible force that can deter adversaries and provide the capability to participate in regional operations with the United States and other U.S. partner nations. Bahrain will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be General Dynamics Land Systems, Sterling Heights, MI; BAE Systems, York, PA; Leonardo DRS, Arlington, VA; Honeywell Aerospace, Phoenix, AZ; RTX Corporation, McKinney, TX; and Lockheed Martin, Orlando, FL. The purchaser typically requests offsets. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will require the assignment of one (1) U.S. Government and thirty (30) U.S. contractor representatives to travel to Bahrain for a duration of up to five years to support equipment fielding and training.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23–90

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Tank is a third-generation American Main Battle Tank produced by General Dynamics Land Systems and named for General Creighton Abrams. The M1A2 SEPv3 (System Enhancement Package version 3) features include a multi-fuel turbine engine, composite armor, an advanced computer fire control system, separate ammunition storage in a blow-out compartment, and 120mm main gun. Extensive improvements have been integrated into the latest M1A2 SEPv3 configuration. These improvements include improved digital systems, increased electrical power margin to support demands of future technologies, line replaceable modules (LRM) to reduce operational support costs, ammunition data link to support new tank main gun rounds, and an auxiliary power unit (APU). M1A2 SEPv3 Abrams Tank components considered to contain sensitive technology in the proposed sale are as follows:

a. Export Thermal Imaging System (TIS) and Export Commander's Independent Thermal Viewer (CITV): The TIS and CITV constitute a target acquisition system which, when operated with other tank systems, gives the tank crew a substantial battlefield advantage over adversary. The TIS provides the Abrams M1A2 crew with the ability to effectively aim and fire the tank main armament system under a broad range of adverse conditions. The TIS can be operated and viewed by the tank gunner or tank commander and is the main sighting system for the tank or main gun (cannon). The CITV provides the same target acquisition system as the TIS but through a separate system that can be controlled and operated independent of the TIS.

b. Special Armor (FMS-released version of special armor): Major components of special armor are fabricated in sealed modules and in serialized removable subassemblies.

c. 120 millimeter (mm) Main Gun (Cannon) and M256 Gun Barrel: The Abrams 120mm main gun system is composed of a 120mm smoothbore gun (cannon), also referred to as the M256 gun barrel, manufactured at Watervliet Arsenal. It can fire armor-piercing fin-stabilized discarding sabot (APFSDS), other warheads, and combustible cartridge case ammunition.

d. AGT–1500 Gas Turbine Propulsion System: The use of AGT–1500 gas turbine propulsion system in the M1A2 is a unique application of armored vehicle power pack technology. The hardware is composed of the AGT–1500 engine and transmission.

e. Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station—Low Profile (CROWS–LP) (M153A2E1): The CROWS–LP allows for remote operation of the M2HB, M2A1, M240B, and M240 machine gun systems.

f. Ammunition Data Link (ADL): The ADL consists of hardware, electronics, and software. The ADL is required to effectively fire the latest generation of ''smart'' 120mm main gun ammunition. The ADL transmits data to main gun smart ammunition to increase its capability and effectiveness.

g. Driver Vision Enhancer: The AN/VAS–5 Driver Vision Enhancer—Abrams (DVE–A)and Rear-View Sensor System (RVSS), M88 (DVE–CV), and JAB (DVE & RVSS) are uncooled thermal imaging systems. The DVE–A (CV) and RVSS allow for tactical vehicle movement in support of operational missions in all environmental conditions (day/night and all weather) and provides enhanced driving capability during limited visibility conditions (darkness, smoke, dust, fog, etc.).

h. AN/PSN–13 Defense Advanced Global Positioning System (GPS) Receiver (DAGR): The DAGR is a handheld GPS receiver used by the U.S. Army and select foreign military services. DAGR is a military-grade, dual-frequency receiver and has the security hardware necessary to decode GPS band signals. The DAGR is a handheld GPS receiver which utilizes Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) security. It is used for the Abrams Tank, the M88A2 Heavy Equipment Recovery Combat Utility Lifting Extraction System (HERCULES) Combat Recovery Vehicle, and the Joint Assault Bridge.

i. GPS with M-Code capability: M–Code is designed to enhance military position, navigation, and timing capabilities. M–Code is designed with improved resistance to existing and emerging threats to GPS, such as jamming and spoofing (i.e., detecting and rejecting false signals).

j. AN/PRC–158: The AN/PRC–158 is a multiband handheld radio. It is a portable, compact, tactical, software-defined combat-net radio manufactured by L3/Harris Corporation. It is used for the Abrams Tank and the M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicle.

k. PVS–14 Night Vision Monocular: The PVS–14 Night Vision Monocular is a rugged, lightweight, multi-purpose night vision device that has repeatedly proven itself in combat. The PVS–14 can be used as a handheld device or mounted on a head harness.

2. M88A2 HERCULES Combat Recovery Vehicle: The M88A2 HERCULES is designed to recover damaged Abrams M1 Main Battle Tanks from the battlefield. The vehicle can extricate M1s and other combat vehicles that have become bogged down or entangled and can additionally repair or replace damaged parts under fire. The M88A2 main winch is capable of 70-ton single line recovery and a 140-ton 2:1 recovery when used with a 140-ton pulley. The A-frame boom of the M88A2 can lift 35 tons when used in conjunction with the spade down. The spade can be used for light earth moving and to anchor the vehicle when using the main winch. The M88A2 employs an Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) to provide auxiliary electrical and hydraulic power when the main engine is not in operation; the APU can also be used to start other vehicles.

3. M1110 Joint Assault Bridge (JAB): The M1110 JAB is a fully tracked armored Combat Engineer System designed to provide assault bridging capabilities to armored forces. The JAB System consists of an M1A1 Abrams chassis (with A2 heavy suspension) and a hydraulic bridge launch mechanism that will launch and retrieve the Heavy Assault Scissor Bridge (HASB).

4. M1150 Assault Breacher Vehicle: The M1150 is a tracked, Combat Engineer System designed to breach mine fields and complex obstacles and provide in-stride breaching capability. It provides crew protection and vehicle survivability while having the speed and mobility to keep pace with the maneuver force.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Bahrain can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Bahrain.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(5)(A) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), as amended, we are forwarding Transmittal No. 0S–23. This notification relates to enhancements or upgrades from the level of sensitivity of technology or capability described in the Section 36(b)(1) AECA certification 09–53 of October 26, 2009.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 0S–23

Report of Enhancement or Upgrade of Sensitivity of Technology or Capability (Sec. 36(b)(5)(A)), (AECA)

(i) Purchaser: Government of Morocco.

(ii) Sec. 36(b)(1), AECA Transmittal No.: 09–53; Date: October 26, 2009; Military Department: Army.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description: On October 26, 2009, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 09–53, of the possible sale, under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, of three CH–47D CHINOOK Helicopters with 6 (2 per helicopter) T55–GA–714A Turbine engines, 2 spare T–55–GA–714A Turbine engines, 4 AN/ARC–201E Single Channel Ground and Airborne Radio Systems (SINCGARS), mission equipment, communication and navigation equipment, ground support equipment, spare and repair parts, special tools and test equipment, technical data and publications, site survey, U.S. government and contractor technical and logistics personnel services, and other related elements of logistics support. The estimated total case value was $134 million. Major Defense Equipment (MDE) constituted $63 million of this total.

On February 8, 2022, Congress was notified by Congressional certification transmittal number 0L–21 of the inclusion of one (1) additional T–55–GA–714A engine (spare) (MDE). The estimated total value of the new items

was $.95 million but did not cause an increase in the estimated total program cost. The estimated total case value remained $134 million with MDE remaining $63 million of this total.

This transmittal reports the inclusion of an additional three (3) T–55–GA–714A engines (spares) (MDE). The estimated total value of the new items is $4.2 million but will not cause an increase in the estimated total program cost. The estimated total case value will remain $134 million with MDE remaining $63 million of this total.

(iv) Significance: This notification is being provided as the additional MDE items were not enumerated in the original notification. The proposed sale will support Morocco's ongoing effort to sustain its current fleet of CH–47D aircraft, enabling its armed forces' ability to maintain regional stability and security.

(v) Justification: This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in North Africa.

(vi) Sensitivity of Technology:

The Sensitivity of Technology statement contained in the original notification applies to items reported here.

The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

(vii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 19, 2024.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD–423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations, U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 23–56, concerning the Army's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Morocco for defense articles and services estimated to cost $260 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

JAMES A. HURSCH,
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23–56

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Morocco.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment * $180 million.

Other $80 million.

Total $260 million.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Six hundred twelve (612) Javelin FGM–148F Missiles (includes twelve (12) Fly-to-Buy Missiles).

Two hundred (200) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LWCLUs).

Non-MDE: Also included are missile simulation rounds; Javelin support equipment; hand and measuring tools; books and publications; power plus distribution equipment; component parts and support equipment; life cycle support and other technical assistance; gunner training; ammunition officer's training; System Integration and Check Out (SICO); maintenance training; Tactical Aviation and Ground Munitions (TAGM); and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Army (MO–B–UUG).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 19, 2024.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Morocco—Javelin Missiles

The Government of Morocco has requested to buy six hundred twelve (612) Javelin FGM–148F missiles (includes twelve (12) fly-to-buy missiles) and two hundred (200) Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units (LWCLUs). Also included are missile simulation rounds; Javelin support equipment; hand and measuring tools; books and publications; power plus distribution equipment; component parts and support equipment; life cycle support and other technical assistance; gunner training; ammunition officer's training; System Integration and Checkout (SICO); maintenance training; Tactical Aviation and Ground Munitions (TAGM); and other related elements of logistics and program support. The total estimated cost is $260 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security of the United States by helping to improve the security of a Major Non-NATO Ally that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in North Africa.

The proposed sale will improve Morocco's long-term defense capacity to defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity and to meet its national defense requirements. Morocco will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The prime contractors will be the Javelin Joint Venture between Lockheed Martin in Orlando, FL, and RTX Corporation in Tucson, AZ. There are no known offset agreements in connection with this potential sale.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Morocco.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 23–56

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Javelin Weapon System is a medium-range, man portable, shoulder-launched, fire and forget, anti-tank system for infantry, scouts, and combat engineers. It may also be mounted on a variety of platforms including vehicles, aircraft, and watercraft. The system weighs 49.5 pounds and has a maximum range in excess of 2,500 meters. The system is highly lethal against tanks and other systems with conventional and reactive armors. The system possesses a secondary capability against bunkers.

2. Javelin's key technical feature is the use of fire-and-forget technology which allows the gunner to fire and immediately relocate or take cover. Additional special features are the top attack and direct fire modes, an advanced tandem warhead and imaging infrared seeker, target lock-on before launch, and soft launch from enclosures or covered fighting positions. The Javelin missile also has a minimum smoke motor that decreases the chance of it being detected on the battlefield.

3. The Javelin Weapon System is comprised of two major tactical components, a reusable Light Weight Command Launch Unit (LWCLU) and a round contained in a disposable launch tube assembly. The LWCLU incorporates an integrated day/night sight that provides target engagement capability in adverse weather and countermeasure environments. The LWCLU may also be used in a stand-alone mode for battlefield surveillance and target detection. The LWCLU's thermal sight includes an advanced Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) sensor. To facilitate initial loading and subsequent updating of software, all on-board missile software is uploaded via the LWCLU after mating and prior to launch.

4. The missile is autonomously guided to the target using an imaging infrared seeker and adaptive correlation tracking algorithms. This allows the gunner to take cover or reload and engage another target after firing a missile. The missile has an advanced tandem warhead and can be used in either the top attack or direct fire modes (for target under cover). An onboard flight computer guides the missile to the selected target.

5. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

6. If a technologically advanced adversary obtains knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures or equivalent systems that might reduce weapon system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

7. A determination has been made that Morocco can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This proposed sale is necessary to further the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

8. All defense articles and services listed on this transmittal are authorized for release and export to the Government of Morocco.

HARRIET TUBMAN DAY 2024

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, as we celebrate the history and contributions of women this month, I rise today to commemorate the legacy of one of our Nation's—and my beloved State of Maryland's—most iconic figures, Harriet Tubman.

Congress began officially recognizing March 10 as Harriet Tubman Day in 1990, and I am always grateful to speak to her accomplishments. Throughout her life, she served as an abolitionist, solider, spy, and most famously, as a conductor on the Underground Railroad.

I would like to reflect on her contributions to human rights, civil rights, and women's rights in our Nation and to renew my commitment to addressing the shameful legacy of slavery in Maryland and across the U.S.

Harriet Tubman was born Araminta Ross to enslaved parents in Bucktown, MD, in 1822. After emancipating herself, she dedicated her life to the advancement of freedom and the fight against slavery. Araminta adopted the name ''Harriet'' at the time of her marriage to John Tubman, a free Black man, around the year 1844.

Tubman and her husband continued to live in Dorchester County until her escape from slavery in 1849, at the age of 27. She would courageously return to make over 13 dangerous trips to lead nearly 70 enslaved people seeking freedom, repeatedly risking her life in pursuit of our Nation's highest aspirational ideal.

Tubman became known as the ''Moses of her people'' by African-Americans and White abolitionists. She was perhaps the most famous and most important conductor in the network of resistance known as the Underground Railroad.

Harriet Tubman's legacy extends past the Underground Railroad.

During the Civil War, Harriet Tubman served the Union Army, tending to wounded soldiers as a nurse and scouting into Confederate territory as a spy. She helped orchestrate the Combahee River raid in South Carolina that freed over 700 enslaved men, women, and children. After the war's end, Harriet focused her efforts on women's suffrage. In 1896, she was one of the first guest speakers for the National Association of Colored Women. She also established one of the first incorporated homes for aged African-Americans. In 1903, she bequeathed the home to the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Auburn, NY.

Harriet Tubman made an indelible impact on my State and our Nation's history, and I am proud to have played a role in memorializing her story to future generations. I worked to secure the authorities and funding for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway, which tells the story of her life in Dorchester and Caroline Counties, and for the Harriet Tubman Underground National Historical Park.

The National Park Service administers the national historical park created by Congress in December 2014 and the national monument authorized by President Obama in 2013 as a single unit and works in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which manages the Blackwater National Wildlife Refuge, and the State of Maryland, which owns and comanages the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, to commemorate and interpret Tubman's remarkable story. Visitors can access the marshlands, largely preserved since her time, at the visitor center and nearby refuge.

This year commemorates the seventh anniversary of the opening of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Visitor Center, which welcomed its first visitors in 2017. In its inaugural year, it surpassed expectations by attracting nearly 100,000 visitors from across the United States and over 70 countries. Within the visitor center, visitors encounter exhibits recounting Tubman's remarkable journey, set amidst landscapes and waterways meticulously preserved to reflect the environment she experienced over two centuries ago as an enslaved child, young woman, and seeker of freedom. The visitor center serves as an orientation hub to the national monument and historical park and an entry point to the expansive Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway.

Along this route lie significant sites such as the Brodess Farm, where Tubman spent her childhood, the Bucktown General Store, where she defiantly resisted her captors as a young girl, and various other locations integral to the Underground Railroad in Dorchester, Talbot, and Caroline Counties.

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad National Historical Park centers her life's work not in physical structures, but instead through the landscape in Tubman's native Dorchester County, which we must defend against the social and ecological hazards of climate change. While climate change is a global issue, it is felt on a local scale. Dorchester County's low-lying landscape of tidal marshes, narrow peninsulas, and country roads linking isolated communities is threatened by sea level rise and land subsidence.

Over half of the county lies in the 100-year floodplain, much of it in the tidal floodplain; even minor storms and routine high-tide events can flood vast portions of the county. In addition to flooding, saltwater intrusion threatens the failure of rural septic systems and damage to roads, bridges, and other critical infrastructure.

Climate-driven changes to the coastal ecosystem are also making it harder to earn a living through the primary local sources of income: agriculture, forestry, and the seafood industry. Local communities are at the frontline of adaptation, and initial social inequality causes the disadvantaged groups in those communities to suffer disproportionately from the adverse effects of climate change, resulting in greater subsequent inequality. Dorchester County is no exception. After the Civil War, freedmen and women settled the land, which was often less arable and, therefore, more affordable. Today, the county has a population of 32,000, 26 percent of whom are Black. Black individuals are almost twice as likely to be unemployed or live below the Federal poverty level as their White neighbors, attributable to systemic racism that has roots in Harriet Tubman's time of enslavement.

The Union of Concerned Scientists developed a Climate Equity Tool to identify communities that face conditions that heighten their vulnerability to harm and are therefore high-risk environmental justice areas, including Dorchester County. UCS projects that the county will see a 6-inch rise in sea level by 2030 and 13-inch rise by 2045.

Cities and towns on the Eastern Shore and around the world have been focusing on solving their climate problems. They are working to build flood defenses, plan for heatwaves and higher temperatures, install water-permeable pavements to better deal with floods and stormwater, and improve water storage and use. Dorchester County has a flood mitigation plan that identifies projects to protect resources at risk of being lost, including historic and cultural sites. However, implementation of such plans requires significant funding.

It is essential that Congress enhances the resilience of vulnerable communities in Dorchester County and across the Eastern Shore—and the Nation—whose residents have been forced to manage periodic flooding and other climate impacts in relative social and political isolation.

Frontline communities in Dorchester and neighboring Eastern Shore counties with strong historical and cultural ties require sufficient Federal financial and technical assistance now to help plan for the future and make choices about how best to protect themselves from tidal flooding, saltwater intrusion, and coastal disasters. Environmental justice is an essential component to carry on the anti-racist work that Harriet Tubman pioneered. The Inflation Reduction Act includes over $125 million in debt relief and assistance to socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers who have faced disproportionate impacts from the pandemic as a result of longstanding discrimination. These provisions present only a small down payment on the types investments needed to address inequality and have yet to squarely address climate change.

The local communities on the Eastern Shore that served as Harriet Tubman's training ground in resistance are rarely credited for their outsized influence on Maryland's maritime industry, culture, and environment. We must do better to enshrine their place in our historical consciousness and provide their local communities with the tools

necessary to prepare for climate change.

I am grateful for the opportunity to showcase the exceptional efforts of one particular Marylander and honor her by pursuing climate and environmental justice policies. Harriet Tubman held steadfast to her convictions, daring to envision a nation where freedom was truly universal. Her unwavering bravery led her to risk her life for the betterment of our Nation. Her courage, conviction, and determination serve as a profound source of inspiration for us all.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING DANIEL NOLAN

● Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Daniel ''Dan'' Nolan, a courageous firefighter and dedicated public servant, inspiring community leader, and dear friend to so many—including myself. Reflecting the enormous loyalty and love felt for him across the community—indeed, our State—thousands of mourners attended calling hours last Friday in Wethersfield, where I joined in thanking his beautiful family for sharing him with us.

Born in Hartford, CT, on July 29, 1962, Dan joined the military upon graduating from Windsor High School in 1980 and served in the Army National Guard for 38 years. Dan quickly rose to the rank of captain and was deployed three times—to Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. In Iraq, Dan was detached to the 130th Combat Engineer Battalion from Puerto Rico, where he performed route clearance missions to clear improvised explosive devices—IEDs—from the streets of Baghdad. While in Afghanistan, Dan served as commander of the 246th Fire Fighting Detachment at Forward Operating Base—FOB—in Zabul. Dan led over 300 outside the wire missions and was the recipient of many commendations including the Combat Action Badge and the Bronze Star. Always looking to help others, Dan also developed his own community outreach programs in Afghanistan to provide food, clothing, shoes, and toys to needy local villagers.

Dan was a second-generation firefighter, first joining the Hartford Fire Department in 1984. He rose to become deputy chief of training and was one of the many Hartford firefighters who served at Ground Zero following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Dan is remembered with deep affection by his fellow firefighters for his leadership, bravery, and encyclopedic knowledge and expertise in the firefighting profession.

Dan was a longstanding active member of his local community. He was a lifelong member of the Irish American Home Society in Glastonbury and was a prominent leader of the Irish History Committee and the annual Hartford St. Patrick's Day Parade. He was also involved in countless charitable organizations, most notably Amy's Angels, as well as Lea's Foundation for Leukemia Research, where he served on the board of directors since its inception in 1998.

So many of the remembrances offered by people close to Dan reflect a common theme: ''He was always trying to help people.'' One friend recalls working as a server at a local restaurant where Dan was a regular and always asked to put someone else's bill on his tab. A barber who cut Dan's hair every few months shared that he always arrived with advice about scholarships or access to veteran benefits. A neighbor remembered Dan helping her move into her new house amid frigid temperatures and snowfall.

My friendship with Dan deepened when I worked closely with him during his years-long effort to bring his translator Mohammad and his Afghanistan family to the United States. Dan showed boundless, tireless compassion and persistence in this endeavor. Every week, or even more often, Dan would check on Mohammad's case. Dan refused to relent, and Mohammad and his family arrived in Connecticut at the end of last Veterans' Day weekend. Dan's determination and resolve are an enduring tribute to the difference that one person can make in the lives of others.

Dan was truly an extraordinary man who touched so many lives so positively and enduringly. He was also a deeply humble man, who delighted in crediting others for his own contributions. His good deeds speak more eloquently than my words. I treasured my friendship with Dan and will forever admire his incomparable compassion and courage. My wife Cynthia and I extend our deepest sympathies to his family during this difficult time, particularly to his wife Jill, his stepdaughter Raven, his siblings and aunt, as well as his many nieces, nephews, cousins, and loyal friends. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Dan's life and legacy, both large and lasting.●

RECOGNIZING LACLEDE COUNTY, MISSOURI, AND THE CITY OF LEBANON, MISSOURI, ON 175TH ANNIVERSARY

● Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor the 175th anniversary of the organization of Laclede County, MO, and its county seat, Lebanon.

As America expanded westward in the 1800s, Laclede County and Lebanon served as a crossroads. On February 24, 1849, the city and county were established. Pierre Laclede, a French fur trader and the founder of St. Louis, MO, is the county's namesake. The region witnessed the rapid change ushered by innovated modes of transportation like the railroad and later the highway system, including the famous Route 66 in the 1920s. Today, I–44 traces a similar route in this area and Laclede County continues as an intersection between time periods of history.

The citizens in Laclede County, which include the cities and villages of Conway, Lebanon, Richland, Evergreen, Phillipsburg, and Stoutland, maintain their commitment to preserve the community's history for future generations. The county is proud to be the hometown of prominent figures like Jim Bohannon, a renowned radio news and talk show host, Michael S. Hopkins, an esteemed NASA astronaut and Air Force colonel, and Betty Wagoner, a professional baseball player for the South Bend Blue Sox. Today, Laclede County is home to more than 36,000 proud Missourians, and more than 14,000 of that number reside in the city of Lebanon.

Both Laclede County and Lebanon hold great significance to the State of Missouri, and I hope the region continues to thrive for many years to come.●

RECOGNIZING EMBRY-RIDDLE AERONAUTICAL UNIVERSITY, THE EAGLECAM CUBESAT CAMERA SYSTEM, AND THE STUDENTS AND FACULTY

● Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, the EagleCam CubeSat Camera System, and the students and faculty who are tirelessly working on this project. EagleCam is a camera attached to the Odysseus Lunar Lander with the goal of capturing the world's first third-person views of a spacecraft landing on the Moon and is the first university-built payload on the Moon.

The Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University EagleCam Roster includes:

Shania Melton, Vikas Patel, Emelia Kelly, Sam Horine, Daniel Posada, Daniel Lopez, Roberto Cuellar, Chris Hays, Alex Sholl, Bella Ruiz, Adrian Moraga, Taylor Yow, Joe Nicolich, Andrew Ankeny, Mohammed Effendi, Jarred Jordan.

Jayaprakash Shivakumar, Grace Robertson, Hudson Merrick, Aryslan Malik, Madhur Tiwari, Tim Cole, David Zuehlke, Dalton Korczyk, Noemi Miguelez, Kevin Pepin, Justin Parkhurst, Sabrina Yepez, Dr. Troy Henderson, Dr. Eduardo Rojas, Dr. llhan Akbas, Dr. Jennifer Smith.

I congratulate everyone involved in this project and encourage them to continue building on their success as the United States continues its mission to once again put men on the Moon.●

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:58 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 766. An act to amend the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 respecting the scoring of preventive health savings.

H.R. 4723. An act to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons undermining the Dayton Peace Agreement or threatening the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6260. An act to provide for certain reviews of the use and safety of Federal buildings, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6261. An act to direct the Comptroller General to conduct a review on the impact of crime on public building usage, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6306. An act to direct the Secretary of State to avoid or minimize the acquisition or lease of a consular or diplomatic post built or owned by an entity owned or controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6602. An act to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to the review of the interagency dispute resolution process.

H.R. 6610. An act to provide for the modernization of the passport issuance process, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 12:20 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 1278. An act to designate the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the ''Rosa Parks Federal Building'', and for other purposes.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 4723. An act to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons undermining the Dayton Peace Agreement or threatening the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 6260. An act to provide for certain reviews of the use and safety of Federal buildings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 6261. An act to direct the Comptroller General to conduct a review on the impact of crime on public building usage, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 6306. An act to direct the Secretary of State to avoid or minimize the acquisition or lease of a consular or diplomatic post built or owned by an entity owned or controlled by the Government of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H.R. 6602. An act to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to the review of the interagency dispute resolution process; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 6610. An act to provide for the modernization of the passport issuance process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 7024. An act to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, March 20, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 1278. An act to designate the Federal building located at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the ''Rosa Parks Federal Building'', and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–3777. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Regulatory Guide (RG) 4.7 Rev 4, 'General Site Suitability Criteria for Nuclear Power Stations''' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3778. A communication from the Supervisor, Human Resources Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3779. A communication from the Chair of the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Congressional Budget Justification for fiscal year 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3780. A communication from the Director of the U.S. Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled, ''Integrated Science Strategy for Assessing and Monitoring Water Availability and Migratory Birds for Terminal Lakes Across the Great Basin, United States''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3781. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''FY24 Brownfields Job Training (JT) Grants''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3782. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''FY24 Guidelines for Brownfield Assessment Grants (Community-Wide Assessment Grants for States and Tribes)''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3783. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''FY24 Guidelines for Brownfield Cleanup Grants''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3784. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''FY24 Guidelines for Technical Assistance to Existing and Potential Brownfields Revolving Loan Fund Grant Recipients''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3785. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Consumer Recycling Education and Outreach Grant Program''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3786. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''South Carolina; Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Control of Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills'' (FRL No. 10507–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3787. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Determination to Defer Sanctions; California; South Coast Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 11558–03–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3788. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Revisions; California; Sacramento Air Quality Management District'' (FRL No. 11585–02–R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3789. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; 2015 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment New Source Review Permit Program Requirements and Rule Revision for Jefferson County'' (FRL No. 11644–02–R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3790. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Air Plan Approval; New Hampshire; Single Source Order for PAK Solutions'' (FRL No. 11679–02–R1) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3791. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Priorities List'' (FRL No. 11725–02–OLEM) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3792. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants: Gasoline Distribution Technology Reviews and New Source Performance Standards Review for Bulk Gasoline Terminals'' (FRL No. 8202–02–OAR) received in the Office of the President of the

Senate on March 12, 2024; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3793. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grant Program; Program Guidance for States and Territories''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3794. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Underground Injection Control Class VI Wells Program Grant Implementation Document''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3795. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Bipartisan Infrastructure Law: Gulf Hypoxia Program FY 22 Guidance for State Cooperative Agreements''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3796. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Chesapeake Bay Program Office Fiscal Year 2023 Request for Applications for Small Watershed Grants Program and Innovative Nutrient and Sediment Reduction Program Funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3797. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Healthy and Resilient Gulf of Mexico 2023 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law''; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC–3798. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Elective Payment of Advanced Manufacturing Investment Credit'' (RIN1545–BQ75) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3799. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Elective Payment of Applicable Credits'' (RIN1545–BQ63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3800. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Public Utility Storm Remediation'' (Rev. Proc. 2024–15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 19, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3801. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Early Alert: Part B Payment Amount for Tezspire Included a Noncovered Self-Administered Version in 2023''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3802. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Medicare Part B Spending on Clinical Diagnostic Laboratory Tests in 2022''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3803. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''Finalizing Medicare Rules under Section 902 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 for Calendar Year 2023''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3804. A communication from the Supervisory Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''New York 1332 Waiver Approval and Specific Terms and Conditions'' received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 11, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3805. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Modifications to Performance Standards During Natural Disasters and Other Calamities'' (RIN0970–AC95) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 5, 2024; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3806. A communication from the Chairman of the United States International Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Performance Report for fiscal year 2023 and Annual Performance Plan for fiscal year 2024–2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3807. A communication from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled ''March 2024 Report to the Congress: Medicare Payment Policy''; to the Committee on Finance.

EC–3808. A communication from the President of the United States to the President pro tempore of the United States Senate, transmitting, consistent with the War Powers Act, a report relative to deploying a security force of military personnel to Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to strengthen United States embassy security; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3809. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, a semi-annual report relative to telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba during the period from July 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3810. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13694 with respect to significant malicious cyber-enabled activities; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3811. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''International Traffic in Arms Regulations: Addition to List of Proscribed Countries'' (RIN1400–AF80) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 18, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3812. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Qatar and the UK in the amount of $50,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23–055); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3813. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data and defense services to Norway in the amount of $100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23–058); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3814. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms, parts, and components under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Timor-Leste in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23–050); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3815. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms, parts, and components under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Mexico in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23–059); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3816. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of firearms abroad controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Mexico in the amount of $1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 22–003); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC–3817. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Canada and the UK in the amount of $100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 23–065); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. CARDIN for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Erik John Woodhouse, of Virginia, to be Head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination, with the rank of Ambassador.

Nominee: Erik John Woodhouse.

Post: Head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination, State Department.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Self (most donations made via ActBlue): $250, Oct. 20, 2020, Biden Victory Fund; $250, Oct. 20, 2020, Biden Victory Fund; $1,000, July 13, 2020, Biden Action Fund; $250, June 23, 2020, Biden for President; $25, May 20, 2020, Biden for President; $25, May 13, 2020, Biden for President; $25, May 6, 2020, Biden for President; $25, Apr. 29, 2020, Biden for President; $250, Apr. 28, 2020, Biden for President; $25, Apr. 22, 2020, Biden for President; $25, Apr. 15, 2020, Biden for President; $25, Apr. 8, 2020, Biden for President; $25, Apr. 1, 2020, Biden for President; $25, Mar. 25, 2020, Biden for President; $25, Mar. 18, 2020, Biden for President; $25, Mar. 11, 2020, Biden for President; $25, Mar. 4, 2020, Biden for President;

$50, Mar. 4, 2020, Biden for President; $50, Feb. 17, 2020, Pete for America (Win the Era PAC); $100, May 24, 2020, All Your Friends and Neighbors Who Support John Blair; $100, May 21, 2020, All Your Friends and Neighbors Who Support John Blair; $100, Mar. 4, 2020, All Your Friends and Neighbors Who Support John Blair; $100, Oct. 20, 2020, Montanans for Bullock; $100, Oct. 20, 2020, Jaime Harrison for US Senate; $100, Oct. 20, 2020, Katie Porter for Congress; $100, May 21, 2020, Evelyn for NY; $25, Oct. 4, 2020, Sister District Project; $25, Sept. 4, 2020, Sister District Project; $25, Aug. 4, 2020, Sister District Project; $25, July 4, 2020, Sister District Project; $25, June 4, 2020, Sister District Project; $25, May 4, 2020, Sister District Project; $25, Apr. 4, 2020, Sister District Project; $25, Mar. 4, 2020, Sister District Project.

Spouse (most donations made via ActBlue): Evagelia Tavoulareas, $28, Feb. 2, 2020, Warren for President; $50, Aug. 29, 2022, Josh Riley for Congress.

Robert William Forden, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Cambodia.

Nominee: Robert William Forden.

Post: Cambodia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them, To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Self: None.

Spouse: None.

Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs.

Nominee; Michael Francis Sfraga.

Post: Ambassador-at-Large for Arctic Affairs.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Mike Sfraga: $2,900, June 6, 2022, Lisa Murkowski.

Evelyn Sfraga: None.

Margaret L. Taylor, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3982. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish the Expanding Access to Local Foods Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WELCH, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 3983. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a grant program to increase capacity for providing abortion services and other sexual and reproductive health care, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3984. A bill to amend the State Justice Institute Act of 1984 to authorize the State Justice Institute to provide awards to certain organizations to establish a State judicial threat intelligence and resource center; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3985. A bill to amend the Colorado Wilderness Act of 1993 to add certain land to the Sarvis Creek Wilderness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. DAINES):

S. 3986. A bill to establish a private right of action against a person who sends unsolicited visual depictions of sexually explicit conduct; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WELCH, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 3987. A bill to protect stateless persons in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself and Mr. KING):

S. 3988. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify rules for grantor trusts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3989. A bill to prohibit defense contracting with companies that employ lobbyists who represent Chinese military companies or human rights abusers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself and Ms. BUTLER):

S. 3990. A bill to provide subsidized summer and year-round employment for youth who face systemic barriers to employment and viable career options and to assist local community partnerships in improving high school graduation and youth employment rates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3991. A bill to expand the scope of the Do Not Call rules under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act to include all telephone subscribers , and to expand the private right of action for calls in violation of those rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. DAINES, Mr. LANKFORD, Ms. ERNST, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. BUDD, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. CRAPO):

S. 3992. A bill to prohibit the Administrator of the Small Business Administration from directly making loans under the 7(a) loan program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 3993. A bill to require the Bureau of Prisons to issue identification documents to prisoners being released from Federal custody, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. KAINE, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 3994. A bill to authorize and encourage the United States Agency for International Development to pursue a model of locally led development and humanitarian response and expanded engagement with local partners and to increase its local partner base; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 3995. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to create evidence-based student success programs designed to increase participation, retention, and completion rates of high-need students; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3996. A bill to enhance the work of the North Pacific Research Board; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3997. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in basic science research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 3998. A bill to provide for the permanent appointment of certain temporary district judgeships; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 3999. A bill to require mandatory review of performance improvement plans during tenure and promotion appraisal process; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4000. A bill to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. FETTERMAN, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 4001. A bill to establish a commission to study the potential transfer of the Weitzman National Museum of American Jewish History to the Smithsonian Institution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. REED, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4002. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to improve the child and adult care food program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 4003. A bill to require employers to provide paid annual leave to employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. WARNER, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KAINE, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Ms. BUTLER, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. COONS,

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. REED, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHATZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. SMITH, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WELCH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 4004. A bill to amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional unlawful acts under the Act, strengthen penalties for violations of the Act, improve Department of Agriculture enforcement of the Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 4005. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an investment credit for certain domestic infant formula manufacturing projects and to allow a domestic production credit for certain infant formula; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. KELLY):

S. 4006. A bill to reauthorize programs of the Economic Development Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. HAWLEY):

S. 4007. A bill to direct the Attorney General to study issues relating to human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BENNET:

S. 4008. A bill to authorize workforce development innovation grants for the implementation, expansion, and evaluation of evidence-based workforce programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. BUTLER (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 598. A resolution expressing support for the Senate to work alongside the Congressional Black Caucus to build the Black Wealth Agenda and outline the legislative priorities to achieve the Black Wealth Agenda; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. Res. 599. A resolution protecting the Iranian political refugees, including female former political prisoners, in Ashraf-3 in Albania; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BUDD):

S. Res. 600. A resolution recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. Res. 601. A resolution honoring the life, bravery, and memory of Sergeant Rose Ida Lubin; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 602. A resolution designating March 16, 2024, as ''National Osceola Turkey Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO):

S. Res. 603. A resolution designating April 2024 as ''National Native Plant Month''; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 604. A resolution designating March 21, 2024, as ''National Women in Agriculture Day''; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 605. A resolution recognizing the 75th anniversary of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and its critical role in improving the dental, oral, and craniofacial health of the United States through research, training, and the dissemination of health information; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 120

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 120, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students.

S. 160

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) were added as cosponsors of S. 160, a bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes.

S. 618

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 618, a bill to establish the United States Foundation for International Conservation to promote long-term management of protected and conserved areas, and for other purposes.

S. 697

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 697, a bill to amend the Agricultural Act of 2014 to modify the treatment of revenue from timber sale contracts and certain payments made by counties to the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior under good neighbor agreements, and for other purposes.

S. 912

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 912, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

S. 1008

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1008, a bill to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a consumer product safety standard with respect to rechargeable lithium-ion batteries used in micromobility devices, and for other purposes.

S. 1252

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1252, a bill to support the human rights of Uyghurs and members of other ethnic groups residing primarily in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region and safeguard their distinct civilization and identity, and for other purposes.

S. 1400

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1400, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the delivery of technical assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 1631

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1631, a bill to enhance the authority granted to the Department of Homeland Security and Department of Justice with respect to unmanned aircraft systems and unmanned aircraft, and for other purposes.

S. 2023

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2023, a bill to amend the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act and the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to further plant cultivar and animal breed research, development, and commercialization, and for other purposes.

S. 2036

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2036, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Energy from changing energy conservation standards for distribution transformers for a certain period, and for other purposes.

S. 2180

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2180, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a small farm EQIP subprogram under the environmental quality incentives program, and for other purposes.

S. 2515

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. RICKETTS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2515, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Small Business Act to expand the availability of employee stock ownership plans in S corporations, and for other purposes.

S. 2825

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. CARPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2825, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the United States Army Dustoff crews of the Vietnam War, collectively, in recognition of their extraordinary heroism and lifesaving actions in Vietnam.

S. 2861

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2861, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

S. 3047

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3047, a bill to award payments to employees of Air America who provided support to the United States from 1950 to 1976, and for other purposes.

S. 3126

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3126, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish or replace a headstone, marker, or medallion for the grave of an eligible Medal of Honor recipient regardless of the recipient's dates of service in the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

S. 3152

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3152, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require that annual State report cards reflect the same race groups as the decennial census of population.

S. 3194

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3194, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes.

S. 3207

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3207, a bill to establish the Foundation for International Food Security to leverage private sector investments in order to improve agricultural productivity, build food systems to mitigate food shock, help alleviate poverty, reduce malnutrition, and drive economic growth in developing countries, and for other purposes.

S. 3629

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3629, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to revise recidivist penalty provisions for child sexual exploitation offenses to uniformly account for prior military convictions, thereby ensuring parity among Federal, State, and military convictions, and for other purposes.

S. 3692

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3692, a bill to prohibit the use of algorithmic systems to artificially inflate the price or reduce the supply of leased or rented residential dwelling units in the United States.

S. 3722

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3722, a bill to require a report on access to maternal health care within the military health system, and for other purposes.

S. 3751

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3751, a bill to expand and modify the grant program of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide innovative transportation options to veterans in highly rural areas, and for other purposes.

S. 3883

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3883, a bill to appropriate funds for the Office for Civil Rights of the Department of Education.

S. 3930

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3930, a bill to provide downpayment assistance to first-generation homebuyers to address multigenerational inequities in access to homeownership and to narrow and ultimately close the racial homeownership gap in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3933

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3933, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes.

S. 3943

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3943, a bill to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, and for other purposes.

S. 3961

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3961, a bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to reform certain authorities and to provide greater transparency and oversight.

S.J. RES. 63

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mrs. BRITT) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 63, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Labor relating to ''Employee or Independent Contractor Classification Under the Fair Labor Standards Act''.

S.J. RES. 65

At the request of Mr. MCCONNELL, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 65, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency relating to ''Reconsideration of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particulate Matter''.

S. RES. 591

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 591, a resolution reaffirming the deep and steadfast partnership between, and the ties that bind, the United States and Canada in support of economic and national security.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. REED (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. KING, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3982. A bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish the Expanding Access to Local Foods Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. REED. Madam President, today I am introducing the Expanding Access to EAT Local Foods Act with Senators BROWN, BOOKER, WYDEN, BUTLER, WHITEHOUSE, KING, BLUMENTHAL, SMITH, SHAHEEN, WARREN, FETTERMAN, and WELCH. This bill would create a permanent grant program for State and Tribal governments to procure local foods for distribution to nearby hunger relief programs.

The COVID–19 pandemic disrupted national supply chains and highlighted the importance of resilient, local food systems. In response, the U.S. Department of Agriculture created the Local Food Purchase Cooperative Agreement, LFPA, Program, using nearly $900 million in one-time funds. Through LFPA, USDA has awarded grants to State and Tribal governments to buy local foods for distribution to nearby feeding programs. LFPA provides as access to food for those in need, creates economic opportunity for local and underserved producers, farmers, and fishermen, and strengthens our food supply chains.

This program is making a positive impact in communities across the country. In my home State of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management has worked with the nonprofit Farm Fresh Rhode Island to purchase food from 95 local producers, distributing that nutritious, local food to over 65,000 Rhode Islanders.

However, unless codified in law, this program will end when the one-time LFPA dollars are fully expended. And without sustained investment, we will lose the resilient local food systems that the LFPA program has been able to create.

The EAT Local Foods Act prevents us from losing ground by creating a permanent program for States and Tribes to purchase food from producers within their State's geographic bounds or within 400 miles of the final delivery destination for distribution through the hunger relief system.

This is a win-win-win. First, the bill supports local economic development by providing local producers with access to the hunger relief market. By establishing a new, reliable stream of orders for small, beginning, and underserved farmers, ranchers, and fishers, the bill will give these businesses the financial security to invest and further expand. Second, the bill would strengthen our domestic agriculture supply chain. By investing in local food distribution, the bill would help build local businesses that support durable and resilient local food systems. Third, the EAT Local Foods Act would help combat food insecurity by providing fresh, nutritious, local food to underserved communities, feeding more families and helping ease the strain on the hunger relief system.

I am pleased that the bill is supported by farmers, food hubs, coalitions, and business networks from across the country, including the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, the National Center for Frontier Communities, and the Wallace Center at Winrock International. In Rhode Island, the bill is supported by the Rhode Island Community Food Bank, Farm Fresh Rhode Island, the Commercial Fisheries Center of Rhode Island, the Rhode Island Food Policy Council, and Southside Community Land Trust. I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting this legislation and in working to include it in the farm bill.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 3991. A bill to expand the scope of the Do Not Call rules under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act to include all telephone subscribers, and to expand the private right of action for calls in violation of those rules; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3991

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 ''Protecting American Consumers from Robocalls Act''.

SEC. 2. EXPANDING SCOPE OF DO NOT CALL RULES AND PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 227(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(c)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''residential'';

(2) in paragraph (3)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''residential''; and

(B) in subparagraph (E), by striking ''residential''; and

(3) in paragraph (5)—

(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking ''more than one telephone call within any 12-month period by or on behalf of the same entity'' and inserting ''a telephone call by or on behalf of an entity''; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''up to''.

(b) REVISED REGULATIONS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall revise the regulations prescribed under section 227(c) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(c)) as necessary to implement the amendments made by subsection (a) of this section.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3997. A bill to prioritize funding for an expanded and sustained national investment in basic science research; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3997

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 ''American Innovation Act''.

SEC. 2. APPROPRIATIONS FOR INNOVATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are hereby authorized to be appropriated, and appropriated, out of any monies in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the following:

(1) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—For the National Science Foundation—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, $9,741,000,000;
(B) for fiscal year 2026, $10,460,00,000;
(C) for fiscal year 2027, $11,213,000,000;
(D) for fiscal year 2028, $12,019,000,000;
(E) for fiscal year 2029, $12,886,000,000;
(F) for fiscal year 2030, $13,817,000,000;
(G) for fiscal year 2031, $14,817,000,000;
(H) for fiscal year 2032, $15,891,000,000;
(I) for fiscal year 2033, $17,043,000,000;
(J) for fiscal year 2034, $18,280,000,000; and
(K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(2) DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF SCIENCE.—For the Office of Science at the Department of Energy—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, $8,859,000,000;
(B) for fiscal year 2026, $9,513,000,000;
(C) for fiscal year 2027, $10,199,000,000;
(D) for fiscal year 2028, $10,931,000,000;
(E) for fiscal year 2029, $11,720,000,000;
(F) for fiscal year 2030, $12,566,000,000;
(G) for fiscal year 2031, $13,476,000,000;
(H) for fiscal year 2032, $14,452,000,000;
(I) for fiscal year 2033, $15,501,000,000;
(J) for fiscal year 2034, $16,625,000,000; and
(K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(3) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—For the Department of Defense science and technology programs—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, $21,897,000,000;
(B) for fiscal year 2026, $23,512,000,000;
(C) for fiscal year 2027, $25,207,000,000;
(D) for fiscal year 2028, $27,018,000,000;
(E) for fiscal year 2029, $28,966,000,000;
(F) for fiscal year 2030, $31,059,000,000;
(G) for fiscal year 2031, $33,307,000,000;
(H) for fiscal year 2032, $35,721,000,000;
(I) for fiscal year 2033, $38,312,000,000;
(J) for fiscal year 2034, $41,091,000,000; and
(K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under

this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(4) NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES.—For the scientific and technical research and services of the National Institute of Standards and Technology at the Department of Commerce—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, $1,161,000,000;
(B) for fiscal year 2026, $1,247,000,000;
(C) for fiscal year 2027, $1,337,000,000;
(D) for fiscal year 2028, $1,433,000,000;
(E) for fiscal year 2029, $1,536,000,000;
(F) for fiscal year 2030, $1,647,000,000;
(G) for fiscal year 2031, $1,766,000,000;
(H) for fiscal year 2032, $1,894,000,000;
(I) for fiscal year 2033, $2,032,000,000;
(J) for fiscal year 2034, $2,179,000,000; and
(K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(5) NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE.—For the Science Mission Directorate at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration—

(A) for fiscal year 2025, $7,885,000,000;
(B) for fiscal year 2026, $8,467,000,000;
(C) for fiscal year 2027, $9,077,000,000;
(D) for fiscal year 2028, $9,729,000,000;
(E) for fiscal year 2029, $10,431,000,000;
(F) for fiscal year 2030, $11,185,000,000;
(G) for fiscal year 2031, $11,994,000,000;
(H) for fiscal year 2032, $12,863,000,000;
(I) for fiscal year 2033, $13,796,000,000;
(J) for fiscal year 2034, $14,797,000,000; and
(K) for fiscal year 2035 and each fiscal year thereafter, the amount appropriated under this paragraph for the previous fiscal year, increased by the percentage increase (if any), during the previous fiscal year, in the Consumer Price Index for all urban consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated under subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PROGRAMS.—The term ''Department of Defense science and technology programs'' means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Department of Defense science and technology programs.

(2) NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION.—The term ''National Science Foundation'' means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Science Foundation.

(3) OFFICE OF SCIENCE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY.—The term ''Office of Science at the Department of Energy'' means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the Department of Energy Office of Science.

(4) SCIENCE MISSION DIRECTORATE AT THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION.—The term ''Science Mission Directorate at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration'' means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Aeronautics and Space Administration Science Mission Directorate.

(5) SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY.—The term ''scientific and technical research and services of the National Institute of Standards and Technology'' means the appropriations accounts that support the various institutes, offices, and centers that make up the National Institute of Standards and Technology scientific and technical research and services.

(d) EXEMPTION OF CERTAIN APPROPRIATIONS FROM SEQUESTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 255(g)(1)(A) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act (2 U.S.C. 905(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after ''Advances to the Unemployment Trust Fund and Other Funds (16–0327–0–1–600).'' the following:

''Appropriations under the American Innovation Act.''.

(2) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to any sequestration order issued under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 900 et seq.) on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—

(1) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay As-You-Go Act of 2010 (2 U.S.C. 933(d)).

(2) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this section shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 4000. A bill to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce legislation to reaffirm the applicability of the Indian Reorganization Act to the Lytton Rancheria of California.

This legislation would provide clarity that the Lytton Rancheria of California is able to place land into trust via the Department of the Interior's standard land-to-trust process, 25 CFR part 151.

The Lytton Rancheria would like to place additional land into trust in order to build a proper homeland and provide housing for their members. The bill is needed to clarify that Lytton Rancheria is subject to the Indian Reorganization Act and, just like other Tribal governments, is able to put land into trust through the administrative process.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 598—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE SENATE TO WORK ALONGSIDE THE CONGRESSIONAL BLACK CAUCUS TO BUILD THE BLACK WEALTH AGENDA AND OUTLINE THE LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES TO ACHIEVE THE BLACK WEALTH AGENDA

Ms. BUTLER (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 598

Whereas 2022 data from the Federal Reserve System has showed that the racial wealth gap in the United States has persisted into the 21st century, as the average per capita wealth for White people in the United States was $284,310 compared to only $44,100 for Black people in the United States;

Whereas access to high-quality education has been identified as a key factor in narrowing the racial wealth gap in the United States, yet extraordinary income inequality has diminished opportunities for families from low-income backgrounds;

Whereas educational segregation by income poses a threat to the promise of equal opportunities in education;

Whereas the failure of the Federal Government to effectively address growing inequality has resulted in decreased economic mobility rates in the United States and made the American dream more elusive, as evidenced by a decline in the fraction of children who earn more than their parents, primarily due to the growth in inequality;

Whereas the enduring legacy of Jim Crow laws, which aimed to lower economic progress of Black people in the United States through racial segregation, disenfranchisement, and limitation of geographic mobility, has left a lasting imprint on the socioeconomic standing of Black people in the United States;

Whereas Jim Crow laws directly targeted education and other areas of life, significantly hindering the pursuit of prosperity by Black people in the United States and contributing to the persistent economic divide;

Whereas homeownership in the United States, a critical avenue for wealth building, remains significantly less attainable for Black people compared to White people, with disparities in homeownership rates exceeding 30 percent in some cities, exacerbating the racial wealth gap and hindering the ability of Black families to accumulate and pass down wealth across generations;

Whereas homes in majority-Black neighborhoods in the United States are systematically undervalued compared to those in predominantly White areas, with the devaluation contributing to underfunded public services, including education, and perpetuating a cycle of economic disadvantage and inequality for Black people residing in these communities;

Whereas employment discrimination has resulted in higher unemployment rates and lower wages for Black people in the United States compared to their White counterparts, with Black workers being disproportionately represented in low-wage positions and underrepresented in high-wage executive roles;

Whereas the war on drugs and discriminatory criminal justice policies in the United States have led to mass incarceration of Black people at rates significantly higher than White people, disrupting families, limiting employment opportunities, and imposing financial burdens that hinder wealth accumulation;

Whereas systemic racism in healthcare has created disparities in access to quality care and outcomes for Black people in the United States, leading to higher healthcare costs and economic instability for affected families, further widening the racial wealth gap;

Whereas Black people in the United States face significant barriers in accessing financial services and capital, with a lower likelihood of loan approval and higher interest rates compared to White applicants, limiting opportunities for business ownership and investment;

Whereas, according to an analysis by Citi Group, disparities for Black people across the economic system of the United States from 2004 to 2024 have cost the economy $16,000,000,000,000;

Whereas 14.4 percent of the population in the United States is Black, yet Black households hold only 4 percent of total household wealth compared to 84 percent held by White households;

Whereas unions significantly reduce racial wage gaps, and racial wealth gaps are generally smaller among union members as a result of the enhanced job protections that workers covered by a union contract enjoy;

Whereas the median non-union White family has more than $7 in wealth for every $1 held by the median non-union Black family, but that ratio is roughly half as large among union families where the median union White family has $3.70 in wealth for every $1 held by the median union Black family;

Whereas, in 2022, the median income for Black households in the United States was $52,860 compared to a median income of $81,060 for White households;

Whereas, according to economic data from the Federal Reserve—

(1) only 46 percent of Black households in the United States owned their home, compared to 75 percent of White households, a disparity on par with the 1960's; and

(2) the unemployment rate for Black workers in the United States is consistently twice as high as it is for White workers;

Whereas addressing economic disparities for Black people in the United States requires reimagining governmental and societal policies and practices, which have been rooted in discriminatory intent since the founding of the United States;

Whereas addressing the racial wealth gap in the United States must be a holistic effort concentrated across several policy principles, including entrepreneurship, financial services, affordable housing, workforce development, protecting and promoting civic participation, and reforming tax policy;

Whereas we must commit to growing the economy of the United States by creating legislative solutions that deconstruct barriers to economic opportunities for Black people and that build Black intergenerational wealth;

Whereas the Congressional Black Caucus believes it is of the utmost importance—

(1) to enact legislation that boosts equitable outcomes; and

(2) to coordinate a legislative agenda that cements positive changes and reinforces a commitment to preserving Black economic prosperity in the United States;

Whereas the Black Wealth Agenda will have an amplified impact on all policy areas where existing oppressive regulation prevents progress; and

Whereas, from removing barriers to quality healthcare for Black people in the United States, to addressing environmental justice issues for Black communities that continue to be on the frontlines of the climate crisis, it is clear that a holistic approach is critical to closing the economic divide: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commits—

(A) to promoting Black entrepreneurship by expanding funding solutions, strengthening outreach to educate communities in the United States; and

(B) to reforming policies that have created obstacles to success for Black businesses;

(2) supports establishing forward-looking entrepreneurial goals and driving communities to the center of innovation in the 21st century by—

(A) creating opportunities in sectors such as—

(i) green energy;

(ii) technology; and

(iii) healthcare; and

(B) building a workforce to be an investment in a better future;

(3) asserts that systemic discrimination in the housing market in the United States has greatly contributed to the widening of the racial wealth gap and must be rectified;

(4) will create solutions to address the affordable housing crisis in the United States by increasing the supply of available housing, reducing housing costs generally, enhancing programs to support and protect renters, and enforcing anti-discrimination laws;

(5) supports initiatives to build the Black workforce and equip the Black community in the United States with the necessary tools to compete for stable jobs in every career and at every career level, including the ability to join a union and collectively bargain;

(6) recognizes that as Black people in the United States are overrepresented in minimum wage jobs, the Federal minimum wage must be updated to reflect inflation;

(7) acknowledges that additional necessary reforms addressing the economic disparity in the United States include improvements to career pathways programs, investing in historically Black colleges and universities, increasing the affordability of post high-school education, expanding access to apprenticeship and job skills training programs, and other solutions that maximize the potential of the Black workforce;

(8) supports the goal of expanding economic opportunity, equity, and wealth creation for Black people in the United States at every socioeconomic level, in every industry, and in every residential setting, with progress toward this goal—

(A) being monitored, evaluated, and enhanced by Federal agencies that have relevant programs and initiatives; and

(B) requiring that Black people in the United States be able to build a financially secure retirement;

(9) must support tax reform initiatives for Black families in the United States that—

(A) help secure retirement, end poverty, and increase homeownership affordability;

(B) sustain students, families, and the economy; and

(C) facilitate the accumulation of generational wealth; and

(10) must commit to creating equitable and balanced tax policy in the United States that levels the economic playing field, addresses wealth concentration, and advances opportunities for economic gain.

SENATE RESOLUTION 599—PROTECTING THE IRANIAN POLITICAL REFUGEES, INCLUDING FEMALE FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS, IN ASHRAF–3 IN ALBANIA

Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. COONS, and Mr. BOOKER) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 599

Whereas, since October 2023, the Iranian regime has increasingly acted as the epicenter of terrorism in the region, from supporting proxies that vehemently oppose peace in the Middle East, to threatening commercial shipping and free trade in the Red Sea and from targeting American forces in the region, to providing missile and drones to rogue actors, all of which pose serious risks to regional peace and security and endanger the vital interests of the United States;

Whereas Iran remains the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism today;

Whereas the Iranian people have rejected the regime ruling Iran through several rounds of major demonstrations, engulfing all 31 provinces of Iran calling for change;

Whereas the Iranian regime has resorted to killing, torture, sexual violence, and imprisonment of protesters, and several thousand protesters since 2017 have been killed, and many more have been imprisoned;

Whereas the Iranian regime has been intent on eliminating the Iranian political refugees who survived Tehran's repression and were first based in Camp Ashraf, Iraq, in the mid-1980s;

Whereas, starting in 2012, the United States Government and the United Nations initiated the relocation of nearly 3,000 Iranian dissidents from Camp Ashraf, Iraq, where they were repeatedly attacked by the Iranian regime's proxies, and facilitated their gradual relocation in 2013, 2014, and 2015 to Albania;

Whereas the relocation of these Iranian political refugees to Albania from Iraq was completed in September 2016, and the refugees, a third of them women, are now residing in Ashraf–3 near Tirana in Albania;

Whereas, on April 19, 2016, before the relocation of the majority of the residents to Albania, in a letter to a European Parliament Vice-President, the Prime Minister of Albania wrote, ''Albania is fully engaged and committed to ensure for the Iranian refugees all rights stipulated in the Geneva Convention 1951, in the European Human Rights Convention and in the whole international legislation.'';

Whereas over 900 women and men of Ashraf–3 are former political prisoners who endured torture while in prisons and many of them are witnesses of the 1988 massacre of political prisoners and other political killings in Iran, among them eyewitnesses of crimes committed by Ebrahim Raisi;

Whereas these witnesses must be fully protected for potential testimonies before international courts investigating the 1988 massacre and other grave human rights violations in Iran;

Whereas, in November 2021, the Swedish Judiciary moved the whole court in Stockholm to Albania for two weeks to facilitate hearing testimonies of seven former Iranian political prisoners now residing in Ashraf–3, whose testimony was characterized as critical for a trial related to the 1988 massacre;

Whereas, in December 2023, a Swedish court confirmed the earlier ruling by the lower court of a life sentence for Hamid Noury, implicated in the 1988 massacre where he was an official in Gohardasht Prison;

Whereas the Iranian regime has stepped up terrorist attacks against its opponents and has used blackmail, terror threats, hostage-taking, sham judicial proceedings, and other means of intimidation against western nations to compel them to silence Iranian opponents living abroad;

Whereas, on several occasions, including in the last week of December 2023, the Iranian regime carried out large-scale cyberattacks against Albania to pressure the Government of Albania to undermine or end its hosting of Iranian political refugees;

Whereas experience has shown that any lack of decisiveness or concessions to Tehran only emboldens the Iranian regime for its destructive actions;

Whereas the Iranian regime has, over the past few months, stepped up threats against Ashraf–3, and given what the regime has done since October 7, 2023, far more vigilance on the part of the United States is required to ensure the complete protection and rights of Ashraf–3 residents in Albania;

Whereas, on December 12, 2023, the Iranian regime started sham trials in absentia for 104 veteran members of the Iranian Resistance, who, since years ago, have been primarily

based in Europe, including in Albania, to create a phony legal precedent against them and secure their extradition to Iran by misusing INTERPOL Red Notices, impose limitations, or set the stage for terror attacks against them;

Whereas the Iranian regime is doing its utmost through any means to prevent Ashraf–3 residents from speaking up against the regime;

Whereas the leadership role of women in Ashraf–3 has doubly heightened the Iranian regime's misogynous hysteria against the political refugees in Ashraf–3;

Whereas over 3,600 parliamentarians around the world and 125 former world leaders have expressed their support for Mrs. Maryam Rajavi's Ten-Point Plan for the Future of Iran, which calls for the universal right to vote, free elections, a market economy, separation of religion and state, and advocates for gender, religious, and ethnic equality, a foreign policy based on peaceful coexistence, peace in the Middle East, and a nonnuclear republic Iran; and

Whereas, in sharp contrast to Iran's institutionalized misogyny, this Ten-Point platform has adequately addressed women's equality, including ''complete gender equality in the realms of political, social, cultural and economic rights. An equal participation of women in political leadership, abolishment of any form of discrimination. The right to choose one's own clothing freely, the right to freely marry and divorce, and to obtain education and employment. Prohibition of all forms of exploitation against women under any pretext.'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is sense of the Senate that—

(1) the Iranian political refugees in Ashraf–3, in rejection of the Iranian regime's demands, must be afforded their fundamental rights of freedom of expression and assembly and legal political activities in Albania;

(2) the United States Government condemns the Iranian regime's threats and nefarious actions against the Government of Albania, including cyberattacks and threats against the Iranian dissidents in Ashraf–3 in Albania;

(3) the United States Government should take prompt and appropriate steps in accordance with international law, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the European Convention on Human Rights, and the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, to help the Government of Albania ensure and uphold all fundamental rights of Ashraf–3 residents within the framework of the above conventions, including the right to life, liberty, security, protection of property, and freedom of expression and assembly;

(4) the United States Government strongly opposes Iran's misuse of the INTERPOL Red Notices to impose restrictions or limitations or set in motion the extradition of Iranian dissidents to Iran; and

(5) the United States Government must continue close and regular cooperation with the Government of Albania and the residents of Ashraf–3 to ensure the complete protection and fundamental rights of Ashraf–3 residents.

SENATE RESOLUTION 600—RECOGNIZING THE NATIONAL DEBT AS A THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. BRAUN (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BUDD) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 600

Whereas, in January 2024, the total public debt outstanding was more than $34,000,000,000,000, resulting in a total interest expense of more than $659,000,000,000 on debt held by the public for fiscal year 2023;

Whereas, in January 2024, the total public debt as a percentage of gross domestic product was more than 123 percent;

Whereas, in January 2024, the debt owed per citizen was $102,147 and $265,582 per taxpayer;

Whereas the last Federal budget surplus occurred in 2001;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2023, Federal tax receipts totaled $4,400,000,000,000, but Federal outlays totaled $6,100,000,000,000, leaving the Federal Government with a 1-year deficit of $1,700,000,000,000;

Whereas the Senate failed to pass a balanced budget for fiscal year 2024 and failed to restore regular order to the legislative process by not allowing Senators to offer and debate amendments;

Whereas the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the Federal Hospital Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2031;

Whereas the Social Security and Medicare Boards of Trustees project that the combined Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance Trust Fund and the Federal Disability Insurance Trust Fund will be depleted in 2034;

Whereas improvements in the business climate in populous countries, and aging populations around the world, will likely contribute to higher global interest rates;

Whereas more than $8,056,100,000,000 of Federal debt is owned by individuals not located in the United States, including more than $1,050,000,000,000 of which is owned by individuals in China;

Whereas China and the European Union are developing alternative payment systems to weaken the dominant position of the United States dollar as a reserve currency;

Whereas rapidly increasing interest rates would squeeze all policy priorities of the United States, including defense policy and foreign policy priorities;

Whereas Federal spending on interest to service the national debt is now projected to exceed Federal spending on national defense in 2024 according to the Congressional Budget Office's Budget and Economic Outlook: 2024 to 2034 report;

Whereas, on April 12, 2018, former Secretary of Defense James Mattis warned that ''any Nation that can't keep its fiscal house in order eventually cannot maintain its military power'';

Whereas, on March 6, 2018, Director of National Intelligence Dan Coats warned: ''Our continued plunge into debt is unsustainable and represents a dire future threat to our economy and to our national security'';

Whereas, on November 15, 2017, former Secretaries of Defense Leon Panetta, Ash Carter, and Chuck Hagel warned: ''Increase in the debt will, in the absence of a comprehensive budget that addresses both entitlements and revenues, force even deeper reductions in our national security capabilities''; and

Whereas, on September 22, 2011, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Michael Mullen warned: ''I believe the single, biggest threat to our national security is debt'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes that the national debt is a threat to the national security of the United States;

(2) realizes that deficits are unsustainable, irresponsible, and dangerous;

(3) commits to restoring regular order in the appropriations process; and

(4) commits to preventing the looming fiscal crisis faced by the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 601—HONORING THE LIFE, BRAVERY, AND MEMORY OF SERGEANT ROSE IDA LUBIN

Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 601

Whereas Rose Ida Lubin (referred to in this preamble as ''Rose'') was born on December 1, 2002, in Atlanta, Georgia;

Whereas Rose grew up in Dunwoody, Georgia, attending Vanderlyn Elementary School, Peachtree Middle School, and Dunwoody High School;

Whereas Rose was a talented and dedicated performer, artist, writer, athlete, and the only student of her graduating class of 2021 with varsity letters in both wrestling and cheerleading;

Whereas, at 12 years of age in her bat mitzvah speech, Rose spoke of the obligation to ''do something great for the world'' and not simply ''wait for the world to do something great'';

Whereas Rose's peers said they saw her as a steadfast leader—someone they trusted and relied on as they became adults;

Whereas, according to Rose's family, Rose consistently extended a welcoming hand to those who felt isolated or alone;

Whereas Rose's brother Alec described Rose as ''the most free-spirited person I know'';

Whereas Rose's family and friends described that her sense of community, her drive to excel, and her want to do more for others carried her to Israel to make aliyah in 2021;

Whereas Rose demonstrated her bravery by becoming a soldier in Israel after making aliyah;

Whereas Rose joined the Israeli border police, Magav, and graduated at the top of her class;

Whereas Rose served in the Old City of Jerusalem;

Whereas Rose found an adopted family at Kibbutz Sa'ad;

Whereas, in the midst of the terrorist attacks on kibbutzim across Israel on October 7, 2023, Rose fought heroically to protect her neighbors;

Whereas it is reported that in part because of Rose's efforts, no life was lost at Kibbutz Sa'ad on October 7;

Whereas, after surviving and protecting others during the terrorist attack of October 7, Rose was killed in a knife attack while she stood guard in Jerusalem, and Rose passed away on November 6, 2023, from wounds sustained in the line of duty;

Whereas thousands gathered on November 9, 2023, at Mount Herzl National Cemetery to honor the life and legacy of Rose Ida Lubin of Atlanta, Georgia, who from her earliest years as an athlete, scholar, soldier, friend, sister, and beloved daughter, was dedicated to selfless service and self-improvement; and

Whereas Rose is survived by her parents, Robin and David, her stepmother, Stephanie, her brothers, Alec, Joseph, and Isaac, her sister, Lily, and her grandparents and stepgrandparents: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) honors the life and legacy of Sergeant Rose Ida Lubin for her contributions to her community, the State of Georgia, and the United States, and for her service to our ally the State of Israel;

(2) extends its heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Sergeant Lubin; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the family of Sergeant Lubin as a

demonstration of the respect and admiration that the United States Senate has for her memory.

SENATE RESOLUTION 602—DESIGNATING MARCH 16, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL OSCEOLA TURKEY DAY''

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 602

Whereas wild turkey has been an important part of the history and family traditions of the United States;

Whereas wild turkey was on the table at the very first Thanksgiving, and turkey continues to be a mainstay during many holiday traditions;

Whereas wild turkey is a healthy, organic, and delicious source of lean protein;

Whereas, in the United States, turkey hunters have spent approximately $76,900,000 per year since 1985 with an economic impact of $128,700,000 annually;

Whereas Florida has a rich history of wild turkey hunting, management, and research;

Whereas Florida is home to the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program, which is the largest public-private partnership program in the United States for the maintenance of wild turkey habitat on wildlife management areas and other public lands open to hunting;

Whereas, since the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program began in 1994, upwards of 1,000,000 acres of upland habitat have received funding for turkey habitat management efforts;

Whereas, in the 2023 Florida spring wild turkey season, 25,056 hunters participated in turkey hunting, including 4,761 non residents of the Sunshine State;

Whereas, in Florida, revenue generated from the sale of wild turkey permits is used for conservation, research, and management of wild turkeys or promoting the cultural heritage of hunting;

Whereas turkey hunters are an important part of the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program, and the money generated from the sale of turkey permits, which are a requirement for hunting wild turkeys in Florida unless exempt, allows the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to make significant contributions to the Wild Turkey Cost Share Program each year;

Whereas Florida is home to 2 subspecies of wild turkey, the eastern wild turkey and the Osceola or Florida wild turkey;

Whereas the Osceola is 1 of 5 subspecies of wild turkey in North America;

Whereas the Osceola turkey exists only in peninsular Florida;

Whereas the Osceola subspecies of wild turkey is often perceived as mysterious and the most difficult to harvest because of its small geographic range and the often swampy habitat where it is found;

Whereas hunters in pursuit of all 4 subspecies of turkey in the United States, known as a ''Grand Slam'', are required to hunt in Florida; and

Whereas March 2, 2024, is the opening day of turkey harvesting season in part of Florida, and March 16, 2024, is the opening day for the entire State of Florida: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 16, 2024, as ''National Osceola Turkey Day''; and

(2) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Osceola Turkey Day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 603—DESIGNATING APRIL 2024 AS ''NATIONAL NATIVE PLANT MONTH''

Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. HIRONO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 603

Whereas native plants are indigenous species that have evolved and occur naturally in a particular region, ecosystem, and habitat;

Whereas there are more than 17,000 native plant species in the United States, which include trees, shrubs, vines, grasses, and wildflowers;

Whereas native plants help prevent flooding, drought, and erosion and can help restore damaged ecosystems;

Whereas native plants provide shelter as well as nectar, pollen, and seeds that serve as food for native butterflies, insects, birds, and other wildlife in ways that non-native plants cannot;

Whereas more than 200 of the native plant species in the United States are estimated to have been lost since the early 19th century;

Whereas habitat loss and degradation, extreme weather events, and invasive species have contributed to the decline of native plants in the United States; and

Whereas native plants are essential components of resilient ecosystems and the natural heritage of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates April 2024 as ''National Native Plant Month''; and

(2) recognizes the benefits of native plants to the environment and economy of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 604—DESIGNATING MARCH 21, 2024, AS ''NATIONAL WOMEN IN AGRICULTURE DAY''

Ms. ERNST (for herself, Ms. SMITH, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DAINES, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BRITT, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. ROUNDS, Ms. SINEMA, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. RUBIO, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. COONS, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BARRASSO, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. TESTER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MANCHIN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MORAN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. WELCH, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Ms. BUTLER, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 604

Whereas the United States proudly recognizes agriculture as one of the most impactful industries of the United States and acknowledges the countless women who help agriculture prosper both in the United States and abroad;

Whereas there are more than 1,200,000 female agricultural producers in the United States, making up more than ⅓ of the agricultural producers in the United States;

Whereas, in 2022, farms operated by women in the United States sold $222,000,000,000 in agricultural products, accounting for 36 percent of the total agriculture sales in the United States for that year;

Whereas, in addition to leading farming operations, women working in agriculture make a difference across the United States in various commodity and industry fields, including research and development, manufacturing, sales and distribution, agricultural education, agribusiness, and advocacy, which extend benefits to individuals across the globe through the international trade of the United States;

Whereas the United States recognizes that women are vital in fostering the next generation of the agricultural workforce by promoting science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and agricultural education and entrepreneurial and community initiatives by serving as mentors for the 4-H Program, the National FFA Organization, the Cooperative Extension System, and numerous postsecondary agricultural science educator programs;

Whereas March is National Women's History Month; and

Whereas female professionals, instructors, and leaders in the agricultural field should be celebrated for their efforts during National Ag Week, which takes place between March 17 and March 23, 2024: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates March 21, 2024, as ''National Women in Agriculture Day'';

(2) recognizes the important role of women in agriculture as producers, educators, leaders, mentors, and more; and

(3) encourages all citizens to—

(A) recognize women working in agriculture; and

(B) praise the significant positive impact those women have on the food resources and the agricultural workforce of the United States by encouraging and empowering women to—

(i) enter the agricultural field, which is a high-demand field of work;

(ii) cultivate opportunities to lead; and

(iii) feed a hungry world.

SENATE RESOLUTION 605—RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DENTAL AND CRANIOFACIAL RESEARCH AND ITS CRITICAL ROLE IN IMPROVING THE DENTAL, ORAL, AND CRANIOFACIAL HEALTH OF THE UNITED STATES THROUGH RESEARCH, TRAINING, AND THE DISSEMINATION OF HEALTH INFORMATION

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 605

Whereas, in 1948, Congress and President Harry S. Truman created the National Institute of Dental Research as a component of the National Institutes of Health (referred to in this preamble as ''NIH''), in response to an epidemic of tooth decay that adversely affected the oral health, overall health, and military readiness of the United States;

Whereas, on October 21, 1998, Congress changed the name of the National Institute of Dental Research to the National Institute

of Dental and Craniofacial Research (referred to in this preamble as ''NIDCR'') to accurately reflect the support of NIDCR for both dental and craniofacial research;

Whereas NIDCR is the primary dental, oral, and craniofacial biomedical and behavioral research and research training organization in the United States, advancing fundamental knowledge about dental, oral, and craniofacial health and disease, disease prevention, early detection, and treatment strategies to improve overall health for all individuals and communities across the lifespan;

Whereas NIDCR is recognized by Congress, the NIH, oral health stakeholders, and the biomedical research community as a leader of the oral health research enterprise of the United States that supports research funding, management, and scientific training across the United States;

Whereas NIDCR performs interdisciplinary research and translates results from the laboratory to the clinic, by means of scientific excellence in laboratory, clinical, behavioral, translational, and population-based programs in support of the mission of the NIH, which is the premier biomedical research agency in the world;

Whereas NIDCR responds urgently to critical public health needs such as the COVID–19 pandemic, providing over $4,000,000 in fiscal year 2020 in grant supplements to study SARS–CoV–2, develop novel viral detection systems, and address critical needs of patients and oral health practitioners;

Whereas NIDCR collaborates with academic institutions, industry partners, and government agencies to disseminate information about discoveries to the public;

Whereas the researchers at NIDCR pioneered the use of epidemiology and preventive approaches to demonstrate that dental caries is an epidemic disease and community water fluoridation is a safe, effective, and economical way to prevent and reduce tooth decay;

Whereas NIDCR established—

(1) the Laboratory of Oral Medicine and the Laboratory of Microbiology and Immunology to conduct research on the causes, prevention, and treatment of periodontitis and other diseases of the soft tissues of the oral cavity;

(2) the Laboratory of Oral Biology and Physiology to conduct research on the cell biology of secretory tissues and proteins;

(3) the Mineralized Tissue Research Branch to investigate skeletal development and disorders;

(4) the Center for Integrative Biology and Infectious Diseases to investigate pain, tissue regeneration, oral cancers, autoimmune illnesses, salivary gland biology, and oral microbiota;

(5) the Center for Clinical Research to conduct clinical trials and practice-based research and to investigate clinical technologies, oral health disparities, and oral health for those with HIV/AIDS; and

(6) the National Oral Health Information Clearinghouse as a centralized public resource on oral health topics;

Whereas, in 2000, NIDCR established the NIDCR Patient Advocates Forum to enhance communication among patient groups and incorporate patient perspectives in research planning, and continues to maintain active engagement with the group;

Whereas NIDCR—

(1) launched the National Caries Program to prevent and reduce dental caries;

(2) created the Epidemiology and Oral Disease Prevention Program to investigate the national distribution of dental caries, periodontal diseases, and other oral diseases and disorders;

(3) launched the Research and Action Program to Improve the Oral Health of Older Americans and Other Adults at High Risk;

(4) established the first regional Dental Practice-Based Research Network, to investigate pressing clinical issues, including the association between bisphosphonates and osteonecrosis of the jaw, and methods for treating cracked teeth and tooth hypersensitivity; and

(5) launched the FaceBase Consortium to compile the biological instructions to build the human face and define the genetics underlying developmental disorders such as cleft lip and palate;

Whereas NIDCR—

(1) opened the first multidisciplinary pain clinic devoted exclusively to research;

(2) established major initiatives to support cutting-edge research on temporomandibular disorders (referred to in this preamble as ''TMDs'');

(3) sponsored a technology assessment conference on the management of TMDs;

(4) launched the Orofacial Pain: Prospective Evaluation and Risk Assessment clinical study to examine risk factors that contribute to the development of TMDs;

(5) cosponsored the consensus study entitled ''Temporomandibular Disorders: Priorities for Research and Care'' to help inform approaches to advancing TMDs research and guide the development of evidence-based treatment and clinical management of patients with TMDs;

(6) established a TMD Multi-Council Working Group to develop a roadmap to strengthen the understanding of TMDs; and

(7) launched the national TMD Collaborative for Improving Patient-Centered Translational Research to advance research, training, and improved clinical care;

Whereas NIDCR sponsored a variety of scientific conferences, including Face of a Child, the first national, multidisciplinary meeting on children and oral health, and a consensus development conference, Dental Implants—Benefit and Risk, to examine available data, suggest future research, and draft guidelines for implant therapy;

Whereas NIDCR has made strategic investments in all areas of dental, oral, and craniofacial research, which has led to many scientific advances, including development of novel nanocomposites and self-healing dental restorative materials, the Dental, Oral, and Craniofacial Tissue Regenerative Consortium, which was launched to develop methods for regenerating functional tissues of the human dental, oral, and craniofacial complex, and a NIDCR-sponsored symposium focusing on the Science and Development of Autotherapies;

Whereas, in 1999, NIDCR introduced its Strategic Plan to Reduce Racial and Ethnic Health Disparities, supporting research to end oral health disparities and increase research and clinical workforce diversity, then funded 5 Centers for Research to Reduce Oral Health Disparities, which were among the first NIH centers focused on reducing health disparities;

Whereas, in collaboration with the Office of the Surgeon General, NIDCR supported the 2000 Oral Health In America: A Report of the Surgeon General, the first Surgeon General report dedicated solely to oral health, and, in 2021, released the Oral Health in America: Advances and Challenges report, examining progress on the oral health of the United States and serving as a national call to action;

Whereas NIDCR released the NIDCR Strategic Plan: 2021–2026, which—

(1) articulates the vision of the NIH and identifies investments designed to diminish disparities and yield the greatest impact for those with dental and oral diseases;

(2) expanded collaborations and partnerships to accelerate new discoveries, including examining the nerves in the jaw and temporomandibular joint as part of the Restoring Joint Health and Function to Reduce Pain Consortium;

(3) launched the Practice-based Research Integrating Multidisciplinary Experiences in Dental Schools, to expand research training into dental school clinics equipping future oral health practitioners with the knowledge to carry out research; and

(4) released the Advancement of Head and Neck Cancer Early Detection Research initiative to develop biomarkers and novel technologies for early detection of malignant cells in order to halt oral cancer progression; and

Whereas NIDCR looks to the future of biomedical science by continuing to support, discover, and develop cutting-edge approaches to improve the dental, oral, craniofacial, and overall health of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 75th anniversary of the founding of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research (referred to in this resolution as ''NIDCR'') and the critical role of NIDCR in advancing biomedical and behavioral research and the mission of the National Institutes of Health, the premier biomedical research agency in the world;

(2) commends NIDCR for its work to address the COVID–19 pandemic by investigating the transmissibility of SARS–CoV–2 in dental settings, studying oral viral entry and infection, methods to prevent transmission, replication, and shedding, and supporting the development of the most promising treatments and vaccines; and

(3) declares that NIDCR is a vital, venerable, and essential component of the National Institutes of Health and the overall public health and science strategy of the United States.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam President, I have 13 requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a subcommittee hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the

Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

The Special Committee on Aging is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGING THREATS AND SPENDING OVERSIGHT

The Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

The Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 20, 2024, at 2 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 7024

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I understand that there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 7024) to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I now ask for a second reading, and, in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

RECOGNIZING THE ROLE OF DIRECT SUPPORT PROFESSIONALS ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 253, S. 1332.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1332) to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Direct support professionals play a critical role in the care provided to individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing a wide range of supportive services on a day-to-day basis to promote independence, including—

(A) enhancing independence and community inclusion of these individuals, including through travel and recreation, visiting friends and family, shopping, or socializing;

(B) coaching and supporting individuals in communicating needs, achieving self-expression, pursuing personal goals, living independently, and participating actively in employment or voluntary roles in the community;

(C) providing assistance with activities of independent daily living (such as feeding, bathing, toileting, and ambulation) and with tasks such as meal preparation, shopping, light housekeeping, laundry, and home management; or

(D) supporting individuals at home, work, school, or any other community setting.

(2) Through the support of direct support professionals, individuals are able to lead self-directed lives within their own communities.

(3) Providers of home- and community-based services are experiencing difficulty hiring and retaining direct support professionals, with a national turnover rate of 43 percent, as identified in a 2021 study by the National Core Indicators, and full-time vacancy rates increasing by 94 percent between 2019 and 2021.

(4) High turnover rates can lead to instability for individuals receiving services, and this may result in individuals not receiving enough personalized care to help them reach their goals for independent living.

(5) A discrete occupational category for direct support professionals will help States and the Federal Government—

(A) better interpret the shortage in the labor market of direct support professionals; and

(B) collect data on the high turnover rate of direct support professionals.

(6) The Standard Occupational Classification system is designed and maintained solely for statistical purposes, and is used by Federal statistical agencies to classify workers and jobs into occupational categories for the purpose of collecting, calculating, analyzing, or disseminating data.

(7) Occupations in the Standard Occupational Classification system are classified based on work performed and, in some cases, on the skills, education, or training needed to perform the work.

(8) Establishing a discrete occupational category for direct support professionals will—

(A) correct an inaccurate representation in the Standard Occupational Classification system;

(B) recognize these professionals for the critical and often overlooked work that they perform for the disabled community, which work is different than the work of a home health aide or a personal care aide; and

(C) better align the Standard Occupational Classification system with related classification systems.

SEC. 3. REVISION OF STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM.

The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall, as part of the first revision of the Standard Occupational Classification system occurring after the date of enactment of this Act, consider revising the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals as a healthcare support occupation.

SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

If, after carrying out section 3, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget decides not to establish a separate code for direct support professionals in the Standard Occupational Classification system, the Director shall, by not later than 30 days after the first revision of the Standard Occupational Classification system occurring after the date of enactment of this Act, submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives explaining the Office of Management and Budget's decision.

SEC. 5. NO NEW FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; that the committee-reported title amendment be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 1332), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

The committee-reported amendment to the title was agreed to as follows:

Amend the title so as to read: ''A bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to consider revising the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a

separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes.''.

HELPING ELIMINATE LIMITATIONS FOR PROMPT RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 348, S. 3648.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3648) to amend the Post-Katrina Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 3648

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 ''Helping Eliminate Limitations for Prompt Response and Recovery Act'' or the ''HELP Response and Recovery Act''.

SEC. 2. REPEAL OF OBSOLETE DHS CONTRACTING REQUIREMENTS.

The Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (Public Law 109–295; 120 Stat. 1394) is amended by striking section 695 (6 U.S.C. 794).

SEC. 3. REPORTS.

(a) COVERED PERIOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''covered period'' means—

(1) with respect to an initial report required under subsection (b), the period between the date of enactment of this Act and the date of the report; and

(2) with respect to any succeeding report required under subsection (b), the period between the date of the most recent report and the succeeding report.

(b) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 540 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter until the date that is 5 years thereafter, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that—

(1) reviews how the repeal under section 2 has—

(A) prevented waste, fraud, and abuse; and

(B) promoted taxpayer savings; and

(2) includes, with respect to a contract entered into or extended by the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency under urgent and compelling circumstances during the covered period for which the Administrator did not solicit bids—

(A) the number of those contracts;

(B) the subject of each contract;

(C) the amounts obligated by the Administrator for each contract;

(D) if applicable, the State benefitted by each contract; and

(E) if applicable, the name of the major disaster or emergency for which each contract was entered into or extended.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I further ask that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3648), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RECOGNIZING THE SERIOUSNESS OF WIDESPREAD HEALTH CARE WORKER BURNOUT IN THE UNITED STATES AND THE NEED TO STRENGTHEN HEALTH WORKFORCE WELL-BEING, AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 18, 2024, AS THE INAUGURAL ''HEALTH WORKFORCE WELL-BEING DAY OF AWARENESS''

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 567.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 567) recognizing the seriousness of widespread health care worker burnout in the United States and the need to strengthen health workforce well-being, and expressing support for the designation of March 18, 2024, as the inaugural ''Health Workforce Well-Being Day of Awareness''.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 567) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of February 28, 2024, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES AND THE SUPPORT IT PROVIDES TO MUNICIPALITIES ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 583.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 583) recognizing the 100th anniversary of the National League of Cities and the support it provides to municipalities across the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I know of no further debate on the resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing no further debate, the question is on adoption of the resolution.

The resolution (S. Res. 583) was agreed to.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask unanimous consent that the preamble be agreed to and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 7, 2024, under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 601, S. Res. 602, S. Res. 603, S. Res. 604, and S. Res. 605.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

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

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under ''Submitted Resolutions.'')

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 21; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 117, Jose Rodriguez, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor; further, that at 11:30 a.m. the motion to proceed to the vote by which cloture was not agreed to on the Rodriguez nomination be agreed to, the motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote be

agreed to, and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Rodriguez nomination, upon reconsideration; further, that if cloture is invoked, all time be considered expired at 2 p.m.; that following the confirmation vote, the Senate resume legislative session for the consideration of Calendar No. 340, S.J. Res. 62, that the motion to proceed be agreed to and the Senate immediately vote on passage of the joint resolution; that upon disposition of the joint resolution, the Senate resume executive session and resume consideration of the Schydlower nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senator SANDERS.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

ISRAEL

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, we are currently witnessing one of the worst humanitarian disasters in modern history, and the United States is complicit. Anyone who turns on the television or opens a newspaper can see the unbelievable devastation now taking place in Gaza. We can see—if we choose to see—the images of starving, emaciated children. And that is because one of our closest allies, Israel—a country we have poured tens of billions of dollars into—has created a situation in which hundreds of thousands of people are slowly starving to death.

The United States of America cannot—and must not—be complicit in this unspeakable tragedy. We cannot be complicit in starvation as a military strategy. We cannot be complicit in the physical and emotional destruction of an entire generation of beautiful Palestinian children.

For months, the United Nations and other aid organizations have warned about imminent starvation and possible famine in Gaza. And now that is exactly what is happening.

How did we get to this point? How have we—the Congress of the United States—allowed this situation to reach this point?

Nobody disputes that Hamas—a terrorist organization—started this war with its barbaric, brutal attack against Israel on October 7, which killed 1,200 innocent people and took more than 250 hostages.

And as I have consistently said, Israel had the right to respond to that attack and go to war against Hamas. But it did not—and it does not—have the right to go to war against the entire Palestinian people, which is exactly what it has done and what it is doing right now.

Almost 32,000 Palestinians have been killed, and almost 74,000 have been wounded, two-thirds of whom are women and children. So 1.8 million Palestinians—80 percent of the population of Gaza—have been driven from their homes. Nearly 70 percent of the housing units and more than half of all buildings in Gaza have been damaged or destroyed. Nothing has been spared—not refugee camps, not schools, not hospitals, not U.N. facilities. All have been bombed.

In the wake of the Hamas attack, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant declared a total siege of Gaza. He said:

> We are fighting human animals and we are acting accordingly . . . There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed.

Well, he has kept his word. In many parts of Gaza today, there is no electricity or fuel. Hospitals have been destroyed, and water infrastructure has been made inoperable.

Israel has also blocked communications networks, making it impossible for humanitarian organizations to safely coordinate aid deliveries.

In this context, over 4 months ago in November, the U.N. first began to warn of severe shortages of food and water in Gaza—4 months ago—and of the imminent risk of starvation and possible famine. And aside from a brief pause in the fighting in late November which allowed aid to come in, very little has changed.

In December, the U.N. reported that Israel's blockade of food and water meant that a quarter of the population of Gaza—over half a million people—were one step away from famine.

In January, Senators VAN HOLLEN and MERKLEY went to the Rafah Crossing from Egypt to learn what was preventing humanitarian aid from getting into Gaza. They saw miles of trucks waiting, often for weeks, to be cleared by the Israelis.

They reported that trucks are unloaded and reloaded repeatedly. And if a single item is rejected, the entire cargo must start the weekslong process all over again.

And they heard about items being rejected for no reason, such as tents, medical kits, and water filters. In other words, our colleagues saw a process that was completely broken and no Israeli interest in fixing it, despite the profound humanitarian crisis that was developing.

It is difficult to look at these facts and not see, at worst, an intentional Israeli effort to starve the people of Gaza of what they need to survive and, at best—at best—a complete disregard for Palestinian lives.

And sure enough, in January, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said at a press conference that ''we provide minimal humanitarian aid. . . . If we want to achieve our war goals, we give the minimal aid.''

The situation, as a result, has continued to get worse and worse and worse. In the north, almost no humanitarian aid has gotten through in February. The Israelis rejected most U.N. attempts to deliver aid to the north and then began actually targeting the police who escort U.N. aid trucks. Amid the desperation of north Gaza, this has led to incidents in which hundreds of starving Palestinians, desperate to secure food, were shot by Israeli troops or trampled in the chaos.

For 3 weeks now, reports have emerged of people eating leaves and animal feed to try to stay alive, and the first long-feared reports are coming in of children dying from malnutrition and dehydration.

A few aid convoys are now getting through to the north. Under intense U.S. pressure, Israel has allowed about half—half—of the requested humanitarian missions to proceed in recent weeks. But that is still nowhere near enough to reverse months of starvation and stave off a wave of deaths from malnutrition, dehydration, and preventable diseases.

Earlier this week, the U.N. and other humanitarian NGOs released a new version of their most comprehensive assessment of the food crisis, called the IPC. I would just like to read the headline here.

> Famine is imminent as 1.1 million people, half of Gaza, experience catastrophic food insecurity.

That is the headline. The report goes on to say that ''extremely critical levels of acute malnutrition and mortality [are] imminent for more than two-thirds of the people in the north.'' And that is a technical way of saying that more than 200,000 people are now starving to death and that if nothing changes, more than a million people could starve.

At least 31 people, including 27 children, have already died of starvation and dehydration. And the real total is much likely higher, as aid organizations and medical teams are unable to reach the hardest hit areas.

UNICEF said on Friday that nearly one in three children under 2 years of age in northern Gaza suffers from acute malnutrition.

We put billions and billions of dollars into Israel year after year. And today, nearly one in three children under 2 years of age in northern Gaza suffer from acute malnutrition.

Once a young child reaches that point, it is very difficult to reverse the process. The child's body consumes itself from within, and only through careful medical treatment can they be saved—treatment that is impossible without a functioning healthcare system, a system that certainly does not exist in Gaza today.

Let me repeat. We can hide our eyes. We can talk about a million other things. We can talk about this and that and everything else. But right now, the

reality is that tens of thousands of children are dying slow, painful deaths. And we are complicit in that reality.

All of this is preventable. As of yesterday, 1,200 trucks were waiting to enter Gaza—more than 800 of which were carrying food supplies. Hundreds and hundreds of trucks carrying food is sitting just a short distance from starving children. And yet the United States and other countries have had to resort to airdropping supplies. They are trying to find ways to deliver aid by sea. In other words, we have put billions of dollars of aid—military aid—into Israel, and we are now trying to figure out a way to get beyond Israel's blocking at the borders by dropping food in the air or coming in through the sea, all of which is very expensive and very inefficient.

These contortions are absurd. There is no reason as to why trucks should not be able to drive across the border into Gaza, including through crossings in the north.

Looking at the situation this week, the U.N. senior human rights official said that ''Israel's continued restrictions on entry of aid into Gaza . . . may amount to the use of starvation as a method of war''—starvation as a method of war—''which is a war crime.''

The President of the United States, the Secretary of State, the National Security Advisor—the whole U.S. Government—has been begging the Israeli government to change their approach for months now. Aside from opening one border crossing, there is nothing to show for all of that begging.

Prime Minister Netanyahu has taken the billions of dollars in military aid that American taxpayers have given him. He has taken our bombs and military equipment, and he has done exactly what he wants to do. We give him the money. We tell them what we think is right. He ignores us. He does what he wants to do.

Far from flooding the zone with aid—which has been the United States' position. We want to flood the zone with humanitarian aid, as is, in fact, necessary to avert mass death from starvation, dehydration and disease. The Israelis, this week, denied entry to Gaza for the head of UNRWA, the backbone of the humanitarian aid operation there.

Indeed, attacking UNRWA seems to be a primary concern of the Israeli Government. Tens of thousands of people are starving. UNRWA is trying to feed them, and the Israeli Government and its allies, like AIPAC, spend much of their time lobbying to defund UNRWA, the major organization which is feeding starving people.

Sadly, tragically, many Members of Congress seem to be happy to be part of this starvation caucus, happy to cut funding for UNRWA and make it harder to get aid to Palestinians in the midst this crisis.

Mr. President, as you know, the Senate passed a supplemental bill prohibiting funding to UNRWA against my vote, and it seems likely that the House will soon pass an appropriations bill containing additional provisions to defund this agency.

Israel has said that 12 UNRWA employees were involved in the October 7 attack. These are serious charges, and they are being investigated in a serious way. UNRWA immediately fired the accused employees, and the U.N. launched an investigation, as it should. I should note, by the way, that Israel has refused to cooperate with the U.N. investigation.

UNRWA plays a critical role in getting desperately needed humanitarian aid to millions of Gazans, and it is essential to regional stability, not only in Gaza but in Jordan and in neighboring countries. Whatever the outcome of this investigation, you do not starve millions of people and hundreds of thousands of children because of the alleged actions of 12 UNRWA employees out of a workforce of 30,000.

We should remember, by the way, that the Israeli military has killed 171 U.N. staff since this war began. But somehow my colleagues here in Congress—or many of them—seem not to pay much attention to that.

I think that all over this country, there is a lot of anguish in the hearts and the souls of American people. Whether you are a conservative Republican, whether you are an Independent, whether you are a progressive, you do not want to see hundreds of thousands of children starve to death while food trucks sit a few miles away. I don't think there are many Americans who want to see that.

The American people do not want to see a situation in which a longtime American ally, Israel, is using U.S. weapons and equipment to block the delivery of U.S. humanitarian aid, which, by the way, is against the law. Any country that blocks American humanitarian aid, by law, should have its funding ended.

The American people, in my view, no matter what your politics may be, do not want to be complicit in the slaughter of small kids who are bombed to death while they sleep.

The American people, in my view, do not want us to continue funding Netanyahu's cruel war.

I think maybe it is time we start listening to the American people. In my view, when we listen to the American people, what we have to do is stop begging the Israeli Government to end this humanitarian disaster. We have to stop begging them, and we have to start telling them that if they want U.S. aid, they are going to have to fundamentally change what they are doing.

The fact of the matter is—and no one disagrees with this—that if you want the kind of aid that is needed to prevent the starvation that is taking place, what you need is a massive process of sustained ground deliveries. That means many, many, many hundreds of trucks every single day getting into Gaza and going into the most desperate areas. If you want to feed people, that is the only way you can do it efficiently.

Israel must open the borders and allow the U.N. to deliver supplies in sufficient quantities throughout all of Gaza. Israel must stop military operations—cease fire—to allow that to happen.

The bottom line here is that the United States must make it absolutely clear to the rightwing, extremist Israeli Government led by Netanyahu that failure to open up access immediately, failure to allow starving children to get the food they need and the medical equipment they need will result in the complete shutoff of the full range of American assistance to Israel.

The American people are not stupid. They understand that you can't go around criticizing Netanyahu, attacking Netanyahu, doing this and doing that and then say: Oh, by the way, we were just kidding, because here is your check for $10 billion to continue your military assault against the Palestinian people.

History will judge what we do right now. History will judge whether we stand with starving children, whether we uphold American values or we provide massive aid to a war machine that is operating in an unbelievably barbaric way.

Mr. President, the United States must make it clear: not another nickel for Netanyahu's war machine.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 6:59 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 21, 2024, at 10 a.m.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 20, 2024:

THE JUDICIARY

EUMI K. LEE, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA.

EDWARD SUNYOL KIEL, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING ALYSSA QUINN FOR TWO YEARS OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE

HON. SUZAN K. DelBENE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Ms. DELBENE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank Alyssa Quinn for her two years of invaluable service to my office and the constituents in Washington's 1st Congressional District. Alyssa joined my office as an intern in January 2022 and then became our Legislative Correspondent in July 2022. She has worked tirelessly to ensure our constituents have received timely and thoughtful responses to their correspondence with my office. Alyssa is a very strong and reliable writer who excels at communicating complex and sensitive issues. She has also run our internship program in the D.C. office and has been a dedicated mentor to all those she has managed, helping countless interns find full-time employment. Alyssa has brought to our office the spirit of the Pacific Northwest and a deep love for all things Washington. Her enthusiasm for farm animals, dairy, and staying hydrated has been infectious to all in our office. Alyssa has been an incredible staffer and a wonderful friend to all in the office, and we will sorely miss her positive spirit.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Alyssa Quinn and wishing her the best in all of her future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THOMAS GARY WARD

HON. ROBERT B. ADERHOLT

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the U.S. Military Academy at West Point is not just one of our Nation's elite military institutions of higher learning, it is one of our national treasures. West Point counts many of our Nation's heroes, including generals, astronauts, and Presidents, as alumni.

Throughout my tenure in Congress, I've had the privilege to nominate many of my constituents to our Nation's military academies. Today I honor one of them, Thomas Gary Ward, for being chosen as the President of his Senior Class at West Point.

Thomas grew up in Jasper, Alabama where he graduated from Jasper High School. After first attending the University of Mississippi, Thomas decided that he wanted to attend West Point. I nominated him in 2019 and he was accepted.

During his time at West Point, Thomas has had the opportunity to pursue his passions in public policy, problem-solving, and leadership. In addition to serving as the President of the Class of 2024, he is also a leader on West Point's premier military skills team.

Thomas works with government leaders to encourage and inspire young adults to help solve community issues. He also helps lead various outreach programs that teach high school and college students about the importance of character and ethics in leadership.

Thomas is on schedule to graduate in May with a bachelor's degree in political science and then be commissioned as an Infantry Officer. His first assignment will be with the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Carson, Colorado.

The motto of the 4th Division is ''Steadfast and Loyal''—a calling and a creed to those who serve in this division, a combat-ready expeditionary force. From what I know of Thomas, ''steadfast and loyal'' seems a fitting motto for his life as well as his Division.

Thomas is the son of Caroline Ivey and Tom Ward and grandson of Gary and Betty Ward and Elizabeth Rodgers.

I want to congratulate Thomas on his many achievements. Not only is he serving our Nation as a member of our armed forces, but he is also educating a new generation of Americans about how to be the best versions of themselves so they too can serve their communities and our Nation. We all wish Thomas the best from a grateful Nation.

RECOGNIZING OPAL JUBA

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding artistry of Salida High School's Opal Juba and congratulate her on winning the Regional Gold Key Award.

The Regional Gold Key Award is a part of the National Art Education Association's Scholastic Awards competition, and Opal's entry was selected as one of the most accomplished pieces out of 20,000 submissions. The regional award is given to the top 5 percent of entries and awarded to artwork which demonstrates the ''highest level of achievement in originality, personal voice and technical skill.'' Opal's piece, entitled ''Jackson'', was created using the technique of ''stippling,'' or small dots, to recreate a photo with intricate shading and depth. It was showcased at the Denver Art Museum and now goes on to the national competition. Opal plans to attend the Minneapolis College of Art and Design, focusing on illustrating and minoring in art education.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Opal Juba for receiving a Gold Key Award. We wish her the best of luck in her future artistic endeavors.

HONORING THE TOWN OF NEWFANE BICENTENNIAL

HON. CLAUDIA TENNEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the Town of Newfane, New York for its bicentennial anniversary.

It was on a spring day in April of 1824 in the Town of Newfane in Niagara County, New York that the vision of businessmen and political leaders came to fruition. At the residence of Mr. James Van Horn the town held its first meeting where they determined the outline of its boundaries, administrative officers and the honor of giving it the name 'Newfane'. Although the origin of the name of the Town of Newfane is a matter not yet settled, it is generally understood by the citizens of Niagara that it was suggested to commemorate the beauty of this town's prospect and likeness to the Town of Fane in Vermont.

In celebrating Newfane's legacy, it is important to recognize the varied economic life that supported its growth during the previous two centuries. The viability of Newfane's early commerce depended in large part on the creation of the Erie Canal and the impact of its diverted waters. On Main Street a few decades later, it boasted bustling mills, taverns, and clothing shops, which continued with a general store and thriving lumber yard. Due to the robust economic activity in Newfane, the community strengthened and saw the emergence of schools, a diverse number of churches opened their doors, and more public buildings emerged consistent with main street, small-town America.

Today, Newfane is known and loved for its rural landscapes and scenic shores of Lake Ontario. Its nature trails and picturesque sunsets over Lake Ontario attract visitors from all over the country. The town is home to a robust, generational farming community with apple orchards, livestock, horticulture, wineries, and commercial crop farms that provide essential goods to residents and surrounding commnunities. Located on Lake Ontario, the town offers several miles of scenic coastline. Residents enjoy the town's numerous parks and beaches, as well as Olcott Harbor which serves as a safe harbor to boaters and home to marinas and fishermen on the lake.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize the Town of Newfane for its thriving sport fishing industry. Men and women come from all directions to enjoy the town's world class fisheries for salmon and trout. The Town of Newfane is proud to be a key contributor to Niagara County's $30 million a year sport fishing industry.

I applaud the Town of Newfane for their commitment to preserving 200 years of history. Throughout the past 200 years, Newfane has proven that America's heartland has never lost its spirit. Sincerest congratulations once

● This ''bullet'' symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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

again to the Town of Newfane on their bicentennial.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SUSIE LEE

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I was necessarily absent from votes on Tuesday, March 19, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: Yea on Roll Call No. 87 and YEA on Roll Call No. 88.

HONORING THE O'NEAL SCHOOL ON WINNING THEIR FIRST GIRLS BASKETBALL STATE TITLE

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the O'Neal School's varsity girls basketball team on winning their first ever state basketball title.

Last month, for the first time in school history, the women of the O'Neal School won the North Carolina Independent Schools Athletic Association (NCISAA) 2A basketball state championship. The Falcons won this year's championship by a final score of 48–32 over Wayne County Day School. This victory caps off what was an incredible year for the Falcons, who finished the season with a 30–1 record. This is a momentous and well-deserved achievement.

The coaches and players of the O'Neal School's girls basketball team have brought great pride to both their school and the whole of Moore County. I wish them all the best and hope to see them continue their great success next season. Go Falcons.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating the coaches and athletes of the O'Neal School on their victory in this season's NCISAA 2A basketball state championship.

RECOGNIZING SUSIE BELL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Susie Bell of Cañon City for being inducted into the Fremont Hall of Fame.

Susie was a pillar in Fremont County and spent decades improving the community before her passing in November of 2023. Her many philanthropic contributions and hours of volunteer work continue to have a transformative impact on students and so many others in Fremont County.

Susie was committed to advancing education—she built several scholarships for current and future learners, supported early childhood development programs, and donated and volunteered for many events to promote the arts. Her tireless work and dedication to Fremont County did not go unnoticed. She will be missed, but her contributions will last for generations.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Susie Bell for being inducted into Fremont Hall of Fame and thank her for her contribution and commitment to our community.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF JOHN KELLEY

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the distinguished career and public service of Police Chief John Kelley from the town of Vernon, Connecticut that is drawing to an honorable end on March 22, 2024. Chief Kelley's devotion to duty in the U.S. Army Reserve and the Vernon Police Department focused on defending our nation and ensuring public safety has always been about caring for and serving others. As a resident of Vernon for over forty years, I have had the privilege to personally witness the positive impact he has had on our town, which is deep and meaningful.

A Vernon native, Chief Kelly grew up in a family whose patriarch Robert Kelley served in town fire service for 42 years, 21 of which as Fire Chief. I also knew Bob Kelley and worked with him on fire department issues during my time as town attorney and state representative. Bob was a true gentleman who led his department by example, a trait that his son followed, with great success. John Kelley attended Vernon schools and graduated from Rockville High School. After high school, he then enrolled at the University of Connecticut in Storrs, where he studied Criminal Justice and Sociology, which obviously signaled the direction he would follow later in life. After graduation his journey of public service began. He enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve, where he honorably served for 6 years.

Chief Kelley began his career in public safety when he was hired by his hometown police department on January 29, 1996. His diligent work resulted in a cascade of training awards and frequent promotions. He excelled in all aspects of his work. For example, he received the Samuel J. Luciano award for graduating first in his class and the TFC Allan J. Tuskowski award for overall excellence in training. In his career he took on a vast expanse of roles, including serving as a Patrol Division, a K–9 handler, Detective Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Captain of the Vernon Police Department, all before 2015. Additionally, he graduated from the FBI National Academy (273rd session) and the Command Training Series, Executive Development program at Roger Williams University.

Given the respect and high regard he earned through the ranks of the Police department, he was the ideal candidate for Chief of Police upon the retirement of his predecessor, Chief James Kenny. As Chief, Kelley made major contributions to the improvement of the Police Department. He oversaw the implementation of technological advancements, the upgrade of body and dash cameras, upgraded duty handguns and rifles, formed a peer support team, and played a key role in the POSTC accreditation assessment. He was so proactive that the POSTC accreditation was accomplished over two years ahead of schedule. Chief Kelley uniquely understands the value of teamwork in public service. Most recently in his tenure, Chief Kelley implemented hundreds of thousands of COVID–19 Federal American Rescue Plan dollars in Vernon PD projects, increasing the town's emergency response capability and upgrading its technology.

Not only did Chief Kelley dedicate immense portions of his time and effort to helping his town, but he also equipped these individuals with the tools and resources to help themselves in times of need. As Kelley put it himself, ''The Vernon Police Department is committed to excellence and the delivery of professional police services while providing its members with the equipment and training needed to successfully complete the mission''. He educated many community members and in turn increased their self-sufficiency in moments of need. The impact of Chief Kelley's career will live on for many years after his departure. His legacy will instill a confident and prepared police force that will carry out its mission to foster a safe community that he and his family supported throughout many decades.

Although John Kelley is retiring from his role as Police Chief on March 22, 2024, his involvement in the region will continue as he transitions to working as an armed school security officer in Ellington Public Schools on March 25. Not one to be idle, Mr. Kelley has allotted himself a mere three days of rest between retirement and the return to work. From his experience and education, one can easily see Chief Kelley's promising future as a school security officer. His pleasant demeanor and commitment to the wellbeing of other Vernon residents will surely inspire the future generations of Americans to follow in his footsteps. It will be an honor to continue to serve alongside John Kelley in his new role, protecting and educating Northeastern Connecticut students who benefit from his example of how to treat other individuals with respect and achieve academic success.

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize and immortalize the career and accomplishments of John Kelley. From the U.S. Army Reserve to the Vernon Police Department, to his future role as an armed school security officer in Ellington, Chief Kelley has always put his life on the line for the safety of others. He is a reliable and amiable individual whose devotion to his community shines through in every aspect of his being. One may hope that his humility and thoughtfulness are emulated by future generations of Americans. As Chief Kelley caps off 28 years of consummate service to Vernon, we should acknowledge his wife, Kellie, and daughters Grace and Abby. I ask my colleagues in the House to join me in commending and thanking John Kelley for his endless service to the United States.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL JOSEPH WOODS

HON. PATRICK RYAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize and honor Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Woods' impressive record of service to our country.

Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Woods, the son of a career Army Officer, graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, N.Y. He earned his Bachelor of Science and was commissioned as a Field Artillery officer upon graduation in May 2007.

He has served in various capacities across the Army, including deployments to Iraq, Afghanistan, Bahrain, and Jordan. The units he served with include the 1ST Infantry Division, 82ND Airborne Division, 5TH Special Forces Group, West Points Corps of Cadets, and the 25TH Infantry Division in Alaska. Most recently, he served as the Chief of Staff of the Joint Interagency Task Force—National Capital Region.

In addition to his dedication to service, Lieutenant Colonel Woods has dedicated himself to lifelong learning. He holds two Master's degrees: one in Organizational Psychology from Teacher's College, Columbia University (2016) and the other in Defense Studies from the Royal Military College of Canada (2018).

Lieutenant Colonel Woods has received numerous awards and decorations for his service including: the Bronze Star Medal (1 OLC), Defense Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), Meritorious Service Medal (1 OLC), Joint Service Commendation Medal, Army Commendation Medal (2 OLC), Army Achievement Medal, and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. He has earned the Senior Parachutist Badge, Air Assault Badge, and the Combat Action Badge. Lt. Col. Woods also holds Chilean, Italian, and British airborne wings.

In June, Lieutenant Colonel Woods will take Command of the 2nd Battalion, 15th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 10TH Mountain Division. I wish Lieutenant Colonel Woods, his wife Brianna, and their four children, Collin, Luke, Evan, and Emma, the best of luck in the future. Their dedication to this country is truly inspiring and honorable.

HONORING THE HAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL TEAM ON THEIR STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Hampton High School Men's Basketball Team from Hampton, Virginia on becoming the Virginia High School League's Class 4 State Champions.

On Friday, March 8, 2024, the Hampton Crabbers won the championship game against the Tuscarora Huskies with a score of 66–63. Led by Coach Eric Brown, the Crabbers won this title for the sixth time, the first since 2012. Hampton High School closed their season with a record of 26 wins and 2 losses, maintaining a 16-game winning streak.

Throughout the game, the Crabbers and Huskies fought for control of the court, with the Crabbers maintaining the lead. But victory for the Crabbers would not come easily, as the Huskies consistently chipped away at their lead. With 20 seconds left on the clock, senior Daron Baugh sank two free-throws to give the Crabbers the final 66–63 lead. The Crabbers fought hard and stayed determined until the game was over, and because of that, they were able to secure the championship.

Mr. Speaker, I want to again congratulate the Hampton High School Basketball Team and thank Coach Brown, the parents, and the entire Hampton High School community for supporting these students throughout the season. They have all made their community proud. I wish them the best in their future endeavors, and I wish the program continued success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LORI TRAHAN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mrs. TRAHAN. Mr. Speaker, on March 19, 2024, I missed a Roll Call vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 88.

RECOGNIZING DELORES COMSTOCK

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding service of Delores Comstock and congratulate her for being inducted into the Fremont Hall of Fame.

Delores' commitment to education and volunteerism has made her a beloved figure in the community, particularly her involvement with the Fremont County 4–H programs. With over 60 years of service, her work as an educator, Special Education volunteer, and Four Mile 4–H Club leader, has enriched the lives of countless individuals and exemplifies the spirit of community service. Delores' ongoing altruism has made a significant difference across Fremont County and makes her a fitting recipient for a spot in their Hall of Fame.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Delores Comstock for her Fremont Hall of Fame induction and thank her for her service to our community.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALEXEI NAVALNY

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Alexei Navalny, who made the ultimate sacrifice in his fight for freedom, democracy, and basic human rights.

For more than a decade, Navalny courageously led the unflinching opposition against Russian President Vladimir Putin and his evil cronies.

Determined to create a truly democratic Russia, Navalny exposed Putin for who he truly is: a murderous, corrupt dictator.

In August of 2020, officers of the Russian government attempted to kill Navalny by poison, forcing him to be evacuated and hospitalized in Germany.

Despite this attempt on his life, Navalny never wavered and, after miraculously recovering from this attempted murder, insisted on returning to Russia to continue his mission of bringing freedom to his countrymen.

Upon his return home, Navalny was wrongfully imprisoned by Russian authorities for the remainder of his life and, tragically, to his death.

His only crime was his determination to speak out in the face of oppression and advocate for a Russia free from Putin's control.

Throughout his imprisonment, Navalny never lost his sense of optimism and hope for the future. He remained positive, even telling jokes in court less than 24 hours before his death.

While in prison in the Arctic Circle, Navalny continued being a strong voice for freedom, relying on his family, lawyers, and other supporters to speak out on his behalf and stand defiant against Putin's evil regime.

He was a man of deep conviction who never faltered in his mission, no matter the cost.

He was one of the bravest, most principled men I have ever met, and his memory will never be forgotten. The United States must continue Navalny's legacy and stand up against Putin's efforts to trample freedom in Europe and around the world.

May we never stop fighting to secure peace and democracy for all those who seek it, just as Navalny so courageously did.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 87, and YEA on Roll Call No. 88.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR OLIVIA TRUJILLO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Mayor Olivia Trujillo, who passed away on March 3, 2024, surrounded by loved ones. She was 67 years old. Mayor Trujillo was born in Guadalajara, Mexico, and at the age of five, her family immigrated to Arvin, California. During her summers, she worked alongside her family harvesting fruits and vegetables in the fields of the San Joaquin Valley, learning the values of hard work and perseverance from a young age. Mayor

Trujillo attended Sierra Vista Elementary, Haven Drive Middle School, and Arvin High School, and was involved in numerous activities in the Arvin community during her childhood. Mayor Trujillo dedicated her life to serving the Arvin community for more than 60 years. She served as the Vice-President of the Arvin Chamber of Commerce from 2013 to 2018, Chair of the Arvin City Planning Commission from 2015 to 2018, and was a member of the Arvin City Council from 2016 to 2018. In 2020, she was elected as the Mayor of the City of Arvin. As the first woman, Latina, and immigrant in this position, her election represented a significant milestone in our community's history. During her tenure, Mayor Trujillo was deeply committed to serving the community's most vulnerable, including the youth, senior, and homeless populations. She was instrumental in bringing new jobs to the city, improving resources for the homeless population, and leading domestic violence awareness campaigns. She significantly expanded various services for Arvin residents, including the new Bakersfield College Arvin Campus, the first Urgent Care Center and food bank, and the Arvin Kiwanis Club for youth leadership development. Mayor Trujillo was a trailblazing leader, passionate about the well-being of all residents of the community. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring the incredible life of Mayor Olivia Trujillo. Her service to the Arvin community will be felt for generations to come. My thoughts and prayers are with her family during this difficult time.

TRIBUTE TO DEBORAH KALLICK

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend Deborah Kallick, who is retiring from her role as Vice President of Government and Industry Relations at Cedars-Sinai Health System after 24 years of service to our Southern California community.

Deborah grew up in Beverly Hills, California, as a first-generation American, with her mother coming from Odesa, Ukraine, and her father from Munich, Germany. She earned her B.A. from Pitzer College in 1978 and her M.B.A. from USC in 1983. Before joining Cedars-Sinai, she served as UCLA's Executive Director of Federal and Health Sciences Government Relations from 1985 to 2000.

A dedicated advocate at all levels of government for the health care delivery system, Deborah has served as Cedars-Sinai's legislative steward in Los Angeles, Sacramento, and Washington, D.C. Cedars-Sinai is a leading provider of care to Californians on Medi-Cal, the state's Medicaid program, and Deborah has played a major role in expanding this program so that the most vulnerable in our community have access to health care services.

Deborah led efforts to improve hospital financing and successfully advocated for funding to expand medical research and graduate medical education while playing a paramount role in establishing joint research efforts between Cedars-Sinai and the Uniform Services University at the Department of Defense. She was also instrumental in securing entitlements to build the new Cedars-Sinai Marina del Rey Hospital, contributing to the development of the institution's new campus. This initiative allowed Cedars-Sinai to expand its services and further its mission of education, research, and patient care.

Beyond her work in the health care sphere, Deborah is also active in numerous civic and community organizations. She currently is the Board Vice President for Hillel International and the past Board Chair of USC Hillel and Hillel 818. Additionally, Deborah serves on the Boards of Directors of the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce, the Los Angeles Business Council, the West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce, Hillel 818, Hillel at the Claremont Colleges, Pitzer College, the Maple Counseling Center, and the Getty House Foundation.

Deborah has received numerous accolades for her tireless service to our community. She received the West Hollywood Women's Leadership Award in 2006 and the Thomas Crail Lifetime Achievement Award from the Beverly Hills Chamber of Commerce in 2008. She also earned the 2006 American Hospital Association's Grass Roots Champion Award and The Maple Counseling Center's Community Spirit Award in 2012.

I am proud to have worked alongside Deborah to deliver better health outcomes to Southern Californians. Her tireless advocacy and relentless activism have had a profound impact on the lives of millions of patients—in Los Angeles, in California, and across the nation. Her presence as a stalwart of working toward enhancing health care access, quality, and affordability will be missed.

I thank Deborah for a lifetime of service and wish her the best of luck in this next chapter of her life. I ask all Members to join me in congratulating Deborah for 24 years of service.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR FOREIGN STUDY 60TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the American Institute For Foreign Study (AIFS) in Stamford, Connecticut, as they celebrate their 60th anniversary. Since their inception in 1964, AIFS has pioneered cultural exchange and educational enrichment, having impacted the lives of over 1.8 million individuals and deepened relationships across international borders.

In partnership with the U.S. Department of State, AIFS continues to operate a diverse selection of programs for their nearly 40,000 annual participants, including study and travel abroad, high school exchange, camp counselor, and intern/trainee programs, which epitomize the Administration's dedication to diverse partnerships. It is my unique honor to recognize the American Institute For Foreign Study for their 60th anniversary.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating AIFS and their dedication to cross-cultural exchange.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 79, and YEA on Roll Call No. 80.

RECOGNIZING KELLY ALBRECHT

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kelly Albrecht of Cañon City for being inducted into the Fremont Hall of Fame.

Throughout her distinguished 32-year career, Kelly has exemplified innovation in education. Over her tenure, Kelly taught fifth grade and elementary music and took on leadership roles, including serving as Cañon Exploratory School middle school principal. After retiring, Kelly continued to shape the future of education in Fremont County as the Induction Coordinator and Teacher Development Coach for the Cañon City School District. Her creative and innovative style of leadership has touched the lives of countless students and new teachers starting on their professional journeys.

Kelly's legacy is a testament to her passion for education and her impact on creating a culture of learning and excellence within the community.

On behalf of the people of Colorado's Seventh Congressional District, it is my honor to congratulate Kelly Albrecht for her accomplishment and thank her for her contribution to our community.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 21, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2449–S2480

Measures Introduced: Twenty-seven bills and eight resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3982–4008, and S. Res. 598–605. **Pages S2468–69**

Measures Passed:

National Debt: Senate agreed to S. Res. 600, recognizing the national debt as a threat to national security. **Pages S2459–60**

Recognizing the Role of Direct Support Professionals Act: Senate passed S. 1332, to require the Office of Management and Budget to consider revising the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and the committee reported title amendment. **Pages S2477–78**

HELP Response and Recovery Act: Senate passed S. 3648, to amend the Post-Katrina Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2478**

Health Workforce Well-Being Day of Awareness: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 567, recognizing the seriousness of widespread health care worker burnout in the United States and the need to strengthen health workforce well-being, and expressing support for the designation of March 18, 2024, as the inaugural ''Health Workforce Well-Being Day of Awareness'', and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S2478**

100th Anniversary of the National League of Cities: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 583, recognizing the 100th anniversary of the National League of Cities and the support it provides to municipalities across the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S2478**

Honoring Sergeant Rose Ida Lubin: Senate agreed to S. Res. 601, honoring the life, bravery, and memory of Sergeant Rose Ida Lubin. **Page S2478**

National Osceola Turkey Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 602, designating March 16, 2024, as ''National Osceola Turkey Day''. **Page S2478**

National Native Plant Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 603, designating April 2024 as ''National Native Plant Month''. **Page S2478**

National Women in Agriculture Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 604, designating March 21, 2024 as ''National Women in Agriculture Day''. **Page S2478**

National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research 75th Anniversary: Senate agreed to S. Res. 605, recognizing the 75th anniversary of the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research and its critical role in improving the dental, oral, and craniofacial health of the United States through research, training, and the dissemination of health information. **Page S2478**

Rodriguez and Schydlower Nominations, and S.J. Res. 62—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, March 21, 2024, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor; that at 11:30 a.m., the motion to proceed to the vote by which cloture was not agreed to on the nomination be agreed to; the motion to reconsider the failed cloture vote be agreed to; and Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination, upon reconsideration; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, all time be considered expired at 2 p.m.; that following the vote on confirmation of the nomination, Senate resume legislative session for the consideration of S.J. Res. 62, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relating to ''Importation of Fresh Beef From Paraguay''; that the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution be agreed to and Senate immediately vote on passage of the joint resolution; and that upon disposition of the joint resolution, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of

Leon Schydlower, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Pages S2478–79

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 96), Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Pages S2449–56, S2457

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 48 nays (Vote No. EX. 95), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S2449–56**

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 98), Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Pages S2457–59, S2460–61

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. EX. 97), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2457**

Messages from the House: **Pages S2465–66**

Measures Referred: **Page S2466**

Measures Read the First Time: **Pages S2466, S2477**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S2466**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2466–67**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S2467–68**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2469–70**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2471–76**

Additional Statements: **Page S2465**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Pages S2476–77**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—98) **Pages S2456–57, S2460–61**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:59 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 21, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on pages S2478–79.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGETING, AND EXECUTION REFORM COMMISSION REPORT

Committee on Armed Services: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the final report of the Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform Commission, after receiving testimony from Robert F. Hale, Chair, Ellen M. Lord, Vice Chair, and Lara C. Sayer, Executive Director, all of the Commission on Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution Reform.

DEFENSE ACQUISITION SYSTEM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine an update on the state of the Department of Defense acquisition system, after receiving testimony from Peter K. Levine, Institute for Defense Analyses; Moshe Schwartz, National Defense Industrial Association; and William C. Greenwalt, American Enterprise Institute.

CLIMATE COSTS

Committee on the Budget: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nature of climate costs, after receiving testimony from Theresa McKenney, NEMO Equipment, Inc., Dover, New Hampshire; Joao Gomes, University of Pennsylvania Wharton School, Philadelphia; Scott Walter, Capital Research Center, Washington, D.C.; Hilary Hutcheson, Columbia Falls, Montana; and Gus Schumacher, Anchorage, Alaska.

U.S. ATHLETICS

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security concluded a hearing to examine promoting a safe environment in United States athletics, after receiving testimony from Ju'Riese Colon, U.S. Center for SafeSport, Denver, Colorado; Dionne Koller, Commission on the State of U.S. Olympics and Paralympics, Baltimore, Maryland; Grace French, The Army of Survivors, Lansing, Michigan; and Pat Kelleher, USA Hockey, Colorado Springs, Colorado.

PFAS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine PFAS as hazardous substances, after receiving testimony from Kate R. Bowers, Legislative Attorney, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; James C. Kenney, New Mexico Environment Department Cabinet Secretary, Santa Fe; Scott Faber, Environmental Working Group, Washington, D.C.; Michael Witt, Passaic Valley Sewerage Commission, Newark, New Jersey; and Robert D. Fox, Solid Waste Association of North America, and the National Waste Recycling Association, Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania.

SOCIAL SECURITY BUDGET

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Social Security Administration, after receiving testimony from Martin O'Malley, Commissioner, Social Security Administration.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Margaret L. Taylor, of Maryland, to be Legal Adviser, Robert William Forden, of California, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Cambodia, Erik John Woodhouse, of Virginia, to be Head of the Office of Sanctions Coordination, with the rank of Ambassador, and Michael Sfraga, of Alaska, to be Ambassador at Large for Arctic Affairs, all of the Department of State.

REFORMING FEDERAL RECORDS MANAGEMENT

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reforming Federal records management to improve transparency and accountability, after receiving testimony from Anne L. Weismann, George Washington University Law School, Bethesda, Maryland; and Gary Ruskin, U.S. Right to Know, Oakland, California.

FENTANYL

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight concluded a hearing to examine strengthening international cooperation to stop the flow of fentanyl into the United States, after receiving testimony from Vanda Felbab-Brown, The Brookings Institution, Celina B. Realuyo, National Defense University William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, and Christopher J. Urben, Nardello and Co., all of Washington, D.C.

PUBLIC SAFETY AND JUSTICE RESOURCES IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee received a briefing on public safety and justice resources in Native communities from public witnesses.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Nancy L. Maldonado, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Georgia N. Alexakis, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Illinois, Krissa M. Lanham, and Angela M. Martinez, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, who were introduced by Senator Sinema, and Sparkle L. Sooknanan, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

REPRODUCTIVE FREEDOMS

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine post *Dobbs* America and reproductive freedoms, after receiving testimony from Representative Fischbach; Senator Duckworth; O. Carter Snead, and Monique C. Wubbenhorst, both of the University of Notre Dame de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture, South Bend, Indiana; Lourdes A. Rivera, Pregnancy Justice, New York, New York; Jamie Heard, Birmingham, Alabama; and Austin Dennard, Dallas, Texas.

SBA BUDGET

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025 for the Small Business Administration, including S. 673, to allow nonprofit child care providers to participate in certain loan programs of the Small Business Administration, and S. 3971, to amend the Small Business Act to require reporting on additional information with respect to small business concerns owned and controlled by women, qualified HUBZone small business concerns, and small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans, after receiving testimony from Isabella Guzman, Administrator, Small Business Administration.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

SOCIAL SECURITY

Special Committee on Aging: Committee concluded a hearing to examine keeping our promise to older adults and people with disabilities, focusing on the status of Social Security today, after receiving testimony from Martin O'Malley, Commissioner, Social Security Administration.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 31 public bills, H.R. 7734–7764; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 1096–1099, were introduced. **Pages H1294–96**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1297–98**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Molinaro to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1239**

Journal: The House agreed to the Speaker's approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Page H1247**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:08 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H1246**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:41 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. **Page H1253**

Protecting American Energy Production Act: The House passed H.R. 1121, to prohibit a moratorium on the use of hydraulic fracturing, by a yea-and-nay vote of 229 yeas to 188 nays, Roll No. 93. **Pages H1255–64, H1270–72**

Rejected the Lewis (CA) motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources, by a yea-and-nay vote of 202 yeas to 213 nays, Roll No. 92. **Pages H1255–64, H1270–71**

H. Res. 1085, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1023), (H.R. 1121), (H.R. 6009), (H.R. 7023), the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 86), and the resolution (H. Res. 987) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 214 ayes to 200 noes, Roll No. 90, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 207 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 89. **Pages H1247–53, H1253–54**

Suspension—Proceedings Resumed: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure. Consideration began Tuesday, March 19th.

Protecting Americans' Data from Foreign Adversaries Act: H.R. 7520, amended, to prohibit data brokers from transferring sensitive data of United States individuals to foreign adversaries, by a ⅔ yea-and-nay vote of 414 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 91. **Pages H1254–55**

Restoring American Energy Dominance Act: The House passed H.R. 6009, to require the Director of the Bureau of Land Management to withdraw the proposed rule relating to fluid mineral leases and leasing process, by a yea-and-nay vote of 216 yeas to 200 nays, Roll No. 95. **Pages H1264–70, H1272–73**

Rejected the Porter motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources, by a yea-and-nay vote of 204 yeas to 211 nays, Roll No. 94. **Page H1272**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Page H1264**

H. Res. 1085, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 1023), (H.R. 1121), (H.R. 6009), (H.R. 7023), the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 86), and the resolution (H. Res. 987) was agreed to by a recorded vote of 214 ayes to 200 noes, Roll No. 90, after the previous question was ordered by a yea-and-nay vote of 207 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 89. **Pages H1247–53, H1253–54**

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure—Communication: Read a letter from Chairman Graves wherein he transmitted copies of two resolutions included in the General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Programs. The resolutions were adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on March 20, 2024. **Pages H1282–93**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yea-and-nay votes and one recorded vote developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1253–54, H1254, H1255, H1270–71, H1271–72, H1272, and H1272–73.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:19 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE DANGER CHINA POSES TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The Danger China Poses to American Agriculture". Testimony was heard from Kristi Noem, Governor, South Dakota; Chairman Gallagher and Representative Krishnamoorthi; and public witnesses.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Energy. Testimony was heard from Jennifer M. Granholm, Secretary, Department of Energy.

APPROPRIATIONS—DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a budget hearing on the Department of Health and Human Services. Testimony was heard from Xavier Becerra, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

QUALITY OF LIFE IN THE MILITARY

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing entitled ''Quality of Life in the Military''. Testimony was heard from Chief Master Sergeant John F. Bentivenga, Chief Master Sergeant of the Space Force, U.S. Space Force; Chief Master Sergeant David A. Flosi, Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force, U.S. Air Force; Master Chief Petty Officer James M. Honea, Master Chief Petty Officer of the Navy, U.S. Department of the Navy; Sergeant Major Carlos A. Ruiz, Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, U.S. Marine Corps; and Sergeant Major Michael R. Weimer, Sergeant Major of the Army, Department of Army.

U.S. MILITARY POSTURE AND NATIONAL SECURITY CHALLENGES IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

Committee on Armed Services: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''U.S. Military Posture and National Security Challenges in the Indo-Pacific Region''. Testimony was heard from Ely Ratner, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs, Department of Defense; Admiral John Aquilino, Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command; and General Paul LaCamera, Commander, United Nations Command, ROK/US Combined Forces Command, and U.S. Forces Korea.

U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES AND COMMAND—CHALLENGES AND RESOURCE PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations held a hearing entitled ''U.S. Special Operations Forces and Command—Challenges and Resource Priorities for Fiscal Year 2025''. Testimony was heard from Christopher P. Maier, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict (SOLIC), Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Department of Defense; and General Bryan P. Fenton, U.S. Army, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command, Department of Defense.

EXAMINING THE POLICIES AND PRIORITIES OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION

Committee on Education and Workforce: Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation''. Testimony was heard from Gordon Hartogensis, Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 2864, the ''Countering CCP Drones Act''; H.R. 820, the ''Foreign Adversary Communications Transparency Act''; H.R. 619, the ''NAPA Reauthorization Act''; H.R. 4581, the ''Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act of 2024''; H.R. 2706, the ''Charlotte Woodward Organ Transplant Discrimination Prevention Act''; H.R. 4646, the ''SIREN Reauthorization Act''; H.R. 6160, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize a lifespan respite care program; H.R. 7251, the ''Poison Control Centers Reauthorization Act of 2024''; H.R. 7208, the ''Dennis John Beningo Traumatic Brain Injury Program Reauthorization Act of 2024''; H.R. 6829, the ''Cardiomyopathy Health Education, Awareness, and Research, and ED Training in the Schools Act of 2024''; H.R. 7189, the ''Congenital Heart Futures Reauthorization Act of 2024''; H.R. 7406, the ''DeOndra Dixon INCLUDE Project Act of 2024''; H.R. 3916, the ''SCREENS for Cancer Act of 2024''; H.R. 5074, the ''Kidney PATIENT Act''; H.R. 7655, the ''Pipeline Safety, Modernization, and Expansion Act of 2024''; H.R. 1513, the ''FUTURE Networks Act''; H.R. 7589, the ''ROUTERS Act''; H.R. 620, the ''Alzheimer's Accountability and Investment Act''; H.R. 7218, the ''Building Our Largest Dementia Infrastructure for Alzheimer's Act of 2024''; H.R. 6960, the ''Emergency Medical Services for Children Reauthorization Act of 2024''; H.R. 7153, the ''Dr. Lorna Breen Health Care Provider Protection Reauthorization Act''; H.R. 7224, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program; H.R. 7673, the ''Liberty in Laundry Act''; H.R. 7645, the ''Clothes Dryers Reliability Act''; H.R. 7637, the ''Refrigerator Freedom Act''; H.R. 7626, the ''Affordable Air Conditioning Act''; H.R. 7700, the ''Stop Unaffordable Dishwasher Standards Act''; and H.R. 7650, the ''Air Quality Standards Implementation Act of 2024''. H.R. 2864, H.R. 820, H.R. 619, H.R. 4581, H.R. 2706, H.R. 4646, H.R. 6160, H.R. 7251, H.R. 7208, H.R. 6829, H.R. 7189, H.R. 7406, H.R. 3916, H.R. 5074, and H.R. 7655 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R.

1513, H.R. 7589, H.R. 620, H.R. 7218, H.R. 6960, H.R. 7153, H.R. 7224, H.R. 7673, H.R. 7645, H.R. 7637, H.R. 7626, H.R. 7700, H.R. 7650 were ordered reported, without amendment.

SEC OVERREACH: EXAMINING THE NEED FOR REFORM

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets held a hearing entitled ''SEC Overreach: Examining the Need for Reform''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

THE CHARACTERISTICS AND CHALLENGES OF TODAY'S HOMEBUYERS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance held a hearing entitled ''The Characteristics and Challenges of Today's Homebuyers''. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

PAKISTAN AFTER THE ELECTIONS: EXAMINING THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY IN PAKISTAN AND THE U.S.-PAKISTAN RELATIONSHIP

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia held a hearing entitled ''Pakistan After the Elections: Examining the Future of Democracy in Pakistan and the U.S.-Pakistan Relationship''. Testimony was heard from Donald Lu, Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau for South and Central Asian Affairs, Department of State.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Full Committee began a markup on H.R. 6727, to establish the United States Foundation for International Conservation to promote long-term management of protected and conserved areas, and for other purposes; H.R. 7256, to require a full review of the bilateral relationship between the United States and South Africa; H.R. 7701, to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person that knowingly participates in the construction, maintenance, or repair of a tunnel or bridge that connects the Russian mainland with the Crimean peninsula; H. Res. 901, expressing support for democracy and human rights in Pakistan; H.R. 3334, to provide for the imposition of sanctions on members of the National Communist Party Congress of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; H. Res. 1084, condemning the killing of Alexei Navalny and calling for the release of all political prisoners in the Russian Federation; H.R. 5245, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to require certain congressional notification prior to entering into, renewing, or extending a science and technology agreement with the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; H.R. 6831, to reauthorize the Venezuela Emergency Relief, Democracy Assistance, and Development Act of 2019, and for other purposes; and H.R. 7710, to authorize and encourage the United States Agency for International Development to pursue a model of locally led development and humanitarian response and expand engagement with local partners and increase its local partner base.

EXAMINING THE CURRENT STATUS OF IRAN'S AXIS OF RESISTANCE AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR HOMELAND SECURITY AND U.S. INTERESTS

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''Examining the Current Status of Iran's Axis of Resistance and the Implications for Homeland Security and U.S. Interests''. Testimony was heard from James Dunlap, Deputy Under Secretary for Analysis, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security; Robert R. Wells, Assistant Director, Counterterrorism Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; Carrie Thompson, Chief of Intelligence, Drug Enforcement Administration, Department of Justice; and Elizabeth Richard, Ambassador-at-Large, Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Bureau of Counterterrorism, Department of State. Part of this hearing was closed.

SECURING OUR NATION FROM WMDS: A REVIEW OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY'S COUNTERING WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OFFICE

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Emergency Management and Technology held a hearing entitled ''Securing our Nation from WMDs: A Review of the Department of Homeland Security's Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office''. Testimony was heard from Mary Ellen Callahan, Assistant Secretary, Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office, Department of Homeland Security; Tina Won Sherman, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office; and Herbert Wolfe, Acting Chief Medical Officer and Acting Director, Office of Health Security, Department of Homeland Security.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS TO SUPPORT MODERNIZING THE CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE AND THE USE OF FEDERAL DATA

Committee on House Administration: Subcommittee on Modernization held a hearing entitled ''Legislative Proposals to Support Modernizing the Congressional Research Service and the Use of Federal Data''. Testimony was heard from Robert Randolph Newlen,

Interim Director, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress.

REINING IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE: AGENCY ADJUDICATION AND OTHER AGENCY ACTION

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on the Administrative State, Regulatory Reform, and Antitrust held a hearing entitled "Reining in the Administrative State: Agency Adjudication and Other Agency Action". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on H.R. 5015, the "Seedlings for Sustainable Habitat Restoration Act of 2023"; H.R. 5499, the "Congressional Oversight of the Antiquities Act"; H.R. 6085, to prohibit the implementation of the Draft Resource Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for the Rock Springs RMP Revision, Wyoming; H.R. 6209, the "Sloan Canyon Conservation and Lateral Pipeline Act"; H.R. 6547, the "Colorado Energy Prosperity Act"; and H.R. 7006, to prohibit natural asset companies from entering into any agreement with respect to land in the State of Utah or natural assets on or in such land. Testimony was heard from Representatives Boebert, Hageman, Titus, Miller-Meeks, and Leger Fernandez; Nada Wolff Culver, Principal Deputy Director, Bureau of Land Management, Department of the Interior; Chris French, Deputy Chief, National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; Eric Bingham, Land Use Director, Sweetwater County, Wyoming; Greg Poschman, Commissioner, Board of County Commissioners, Pitkin County, Colorado; and public witnesses.

ADVANCING TRIBAL SELF-DETERMINATION: EXAMINING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES OF THE 477 PROGRAM

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs held a hearing entitled "Advancing Tribal Self-Determination: Examining the Opportunities and Challenges of the 477 Program". Testimony was heard from Bryan Newland, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

ASSESSING DOMESTIC OFFSHORE ENERGY RESERVES AND ENSURING U.S. ENERGY DOMINANCE

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources held a hearing entitled "Assessing Domestic Offshore Energy Reserves and Ensuring U.S. Energy Dominance". Testimony was heard from Walter Cruickshank, Deputy Director, U.S. Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

INFLUENCE PEDDLING: EXAMINING JOE BIDEN'S ABUSE OF PUBLIC OFFICE

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Influence Peddling: Examining Joe Biden's Abuse of Public Office". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 272, the "ASTRO Act"; H.R. 6219, the "ASCEND Act"; H.R. 7687, the "NASA Streamlining Partnerships"; H.R. 4152, the "Space Resources Institute Act"; H.R. 7630, the "ANCHOR Act"; H.R. 7686, the "Malign Foreign Talent Recruitment Program Definition Clarification"; H.R. 7073, the "Next Generation Pipelines R&D Act"; and H.R. 7685, the "IMPACT Act". H.R. 272, H.R. 7687, and H.R. 7630 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 6219, H.R. 4152, H.R. 7686, H.R. 7073, and H.R. 7685 were ordered reported, as amended.

CONDUCTING OVERSIGHT: TESTIMONY FROM THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR

Committee on Small Business: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Conducting Oversight: Testimony from the Small Business Administrator". Testimony was heard from Isabella Casillas Guzman, Administrator, U.S. Small Business Administration.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 7659, the "Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2024"; H.R. 6140, the "Facilitating Access to Swiftly Transport Goods during a Publicly Announced State of Emergency Situation Act"; and two General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions. H.R. 7659 and H.R. 6140 were ordered reported, as amended. Two General Services Administration Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions were adopted.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on H.R. 6656, the "Stuck on Hold Act"; H.R. 7323, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to disapprove courses of education offered by a public institution of higher learning that does not charge the in-State tuition rate to a veteran using certain educational assistance under

title 10 of such Code; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a limitation on the amount of entitlement to educational assistance payable for flight training under the Post-9/11 Educational Assistance Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for the restoration of entitlement of individuals entitled to educational assistance under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs who use such entitlement to pursue a course or program of education at an educational institution found to have violated certain prohibitions on advertising, sales, and enrollment practices, and for other purposes; legislation to amend titles 10 and 38, United States Code, to make improvements to certain programs for a member nearing separation, or for a veteran who recently separated, from the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; H.R. 6225, the ''Expanding Home Loans for Guard and Reservists Act''; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the use of Department of Veterans Affairs work-study allowance to carry out casework, policy making, and oversight related to the activities of the Department at certain congressional offices; legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to update certain terminology regarding veteran employment; and legislation on the Fair Access to Co-ops for Veterans Act of 2024. Testimony was heard from Melissa Cohen, Executive Director of Outreach, Transition, and Economic Development, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; James Rodriguez, Assistant Secretary for Veterans' Employment and Training Service, Department of Labor; and public witnesses.

LOST IN TRANSLATION: HOW VA'S DISABILITY CLAIMS AND APPEALS LETTERS SHOULD BE SIMPLIFIED

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing entitled ''Lost in Translation: How VA's Disability Claims and Appeals Letters Should be Simplified''. Testimony was heard from Beth Murphy, Executive Director, Compensation Service, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET REQUEST WITH HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES SECRETARY XAVIER BECERRA

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled ''President's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request with Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra''. Testimony was heard from Xavier Becerra, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine the posture of United States Indo-Pacific Command and United States Forces Korea in review of the Defense Authorization Request for Fiscal Year 2025 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 9:30 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine spectrum and national security, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of David Rosner, of Massachusetts, Lindsay S. See, of West Virginia, and Judy W. Chang, of Massachusetts, each to be a Member of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2025, 10 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine implementation of the U.S. anti-corruption strategy, 10:30 a.m., SD–419.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., 2362–A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, hearing entitled ''President Biden's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request and Economic Outlook'', 2:30 p.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''U.S. Military Posture and National Security Challenges in the Greater Middle East and Africa'', 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled ''FY25 Strategic Forces Posture'', 3:30 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on the Budget, Full Committee, hearing entitled ''The President's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget Request'', 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

Committee on Education and Workforce, Full Committee, markup on H.J. Res. 116, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of the Labor relating to ''Employee or Independent Contractor Classification Under the Fair Labor Standards Act''; H.R. 6418, the ''Empower Charter School Educators to Lead Act''; H.R. 3724, the ''Accreditation for College Excellence Act of 2023''; and H.R. 7683, the ''Respecting the

First Amendment on Campus Act", 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Evaluating Approaches to Diagnostic Test Regulation and the Impact of the FDA's Proposed Rule", 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation, hearing entitled "Timeout: Evaluating Safety Measures Implemented to Protect Athletes", 10:30 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Importing Global Governance: Examining the Dangers of Ceding Authority Over American Financial Regulation", 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Full Committee, continue markup on H.R. 6727, to establish the United States Foundation for International Conservation to promote long-term management of protected and conserved areas, and for other purposes; H.R. 7256, to require a full review of the bilateral relationship between the United States and South Africa; H.R. 7701, to require the imposition of sanctions with respect to any foreign person that knowingly participates in the construction, maintenance, or repair of a tunnel or bridge that connects the Russian mainland with the Crimean peninsula; H. Res. 901, expressing support for democracy and human rights in Pakistan; H.R. 3334, to provide for the imposition of sanctions on members of the National Communist Party Congress of the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; H. Res. 1084, condemning the killing of Alexei Navalny and calling for the release of all political prisoners in the Russian Federation; H.R. 5245, to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 to require certain congressional notification prior to entering into, renewing, or extending a science and technology agreement with the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; H.R. 6831, to reauthorize the Venezuela Emergency Relief, Democracy Assistance, and Development Act of 2019, and for other purposes; and H.R. 7710, to authorize and encourage the United States Agency for International Development to pursue a model of locally led development and humanitarian response and expand engagement with local partners and increase its local partner base, 9:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Full Committee, hearing entitled "Countering China on the World Stage: Empowering American Businesses and Denying Chinese Military Our Technology", 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Accountability, hearing entitled "Assessing State Department Compliance with Oversight", 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Indo-Pacific, hearing entitled "Commerce as Statecraft: Better Leveraging U.S. Business to Advance our Economic and National Security Goals in the Indo-Pacific", 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement; and Subcommittee on Oversight, Investigations, and Accountability, joint hearing entitled "Examining CBP One: Functions, Features, Expansion, and Risks", 2 p.m., 310 Cannon.

Committee on House Administration, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Safety on Capitol Hill: DC Crime's Impact on Congressional Operations and Visitors", 10:30 a.m., 1310 Longworth.

Committee on the Judiciary, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 7737, the "One Agency Act"; H.R. 7198, the "Prove It Act of 2024"; H.R. 5082, the "Revising Existing Procedures On Reporting via Technology Act"; H.R. 7187, the "Protection of Women in Olympic and Amateurs Sports Act"; H.R. 1631, the "Protecting and Enhancing Public Access to Codes Act"; H.R. 661, "Sarah's Law"; and H.R. 3591, the "Asylum Accountability Act", 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 1395, the "Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2023"; H.R. 5487, the "Help Our Kelp Act"; H.R. 6814, the "Marine Fisheries Habitat Protection Act"; and H.R. 7020, the "Great Lakes Mapping Act", 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Oversight and Accountability, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation, hearing entitled "White House Overreach on AI", 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic, hearing entitled "Assessing America's Vaccine Safety Systems, Part 2", 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on National Security, the Border, and Foreign Affairs, hearing entitled "Accountable Assistance: Reviewing Controls to Prevent Mismanagement of Foreign Aid", 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled "Advancing Scientific Discovery: Assessing the Status of NASA's Science Mission Directorate", 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled "Rural Transportation Challenges: Stakeholder Perspectives", 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Full Committee, hearing entitled "Legislative Hearing on: Toxic Exposure Fund Improvement Act of 2024", 10:30 a.m., 360 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Health, hearing on H.R. 3584, the "Veterans Care Act"; H.R. 3644, the "Act for Veterans Act"; H.R. 3649, the "Veterans National Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act"; H.R. 4424, the "Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act"; H.R. 5530, the "VA Emergency Transportation Access Act"; H.R. 6324, the "FY24 VA Major Medical Facility Authorization Act"; H.R. 6373, the "Veterans STAND Act"; H.R. 7347, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report on whether the Secretary will include certain psychedelic drugs in the formulary of the Department of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 3225, the "BUILD for Veterans Act"; H.R. 5794, the "VA Peer Review Neutrality Act"; H.R. 3303, the "Maternal Health for Veterans Act"; and H.R. 5247, the "Expedited Hiring for VA Trained Psychiatrists Act of 2023", 2 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on H.R. 6452, the "Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Act"; H.R. 6531, the "TRAIN VA Employees Act"; H.R. 6538, the "VA Correct Compensation Act"; H.R.

6874, the ''VA WEB Act''; H.R. 6947, the ''Veterans Affairs Centennial and Heritage Act''; H.R. 7342, the ''Veterans Accessibility Advisory Committee Act''; legislation on the VA Security Screening Pilot Program Act; legislation on the Required Notation of Investigation in Personnel Record File Act; and legislation on the Reporting Performance Plans for VA Political Appointees Act, 4:30 p.m., 360 Cannon.

Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Social Security; and Subcommittee on Work and Welfare, joint hearing entitled ''Hearing with the Commissioner of Social Security, Martin O'Malley'', 2 p.m., 1100 Longworth.

Next Meeting of the **SENATE**

10 a.m., Thursday, March 21

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon, upon reconsideration, at 11:30 a.m.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation thereon at 2 p.m. Following disposition of the nomination, Senate will vote on passage of S.J. Res. 62, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service relating to ''Importation of Fresh Beef From Paraguay''.

Following disposition of the joint resolution, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Leon Schydlower, of Texas, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Texas.

Next Meeting of the **HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

10 a.m., Thursday, March 21

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: To be announced.

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