



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

No. 50

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
March 21, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARY E. MILLER 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.

WESTERN ENERGY ALLIANCE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate a significant milestone: the 50th anniversary of Western Energy Alliance.

Oil and natural gas are affordable and reliable sources of energy that drive progress, power industries, and fuel innovation. The Alliance is a leader among the oil and gas associations

in understanding the complex Federal regulations surrounding production and development in the United States. They have been a strong voice for small- and mid-size companies in navigating Washington, D.C., and pulling together allies across the country.

Its members use responsible and innovative practices. Importantly, they have a demonstrated commitment to the environment. As a result, millions of Americans are able to heat their homes and power their vehicles.

The Alliance has been a catalyst for job creation, economic growth, and conservation across the country. Congratulations to Western Energy Alliance on 50 years of excellence. Here is to many more years of progress and partnership.

THE RUN FORESTER RUN TEAM

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I often say I am blessed to have incredible staff who always exceed expectations in each of their respective roles, but today I rise to recognize some of the talents that go well beyond just the office.

Members of my staff, including Isabel David, Miles Bolin, Cross Thompson, Colen Morrow, Will King, Lonnie Smith, and Ian Macari, also known as the Run Forester Run team, have shown exceptional dedication as they train for the upcoming D.C. Cherry Blossom 10 Mile Run, of which I am proud to be an honorary congressional co-chair.

One of the three key pillars that my staff and I follow is to compete to win. I have no doubt that the Run Forester Run team has worked hard to prepare for the opportunity that they will have in the upcoming race.

Godspeed in the race. I know they will make us proud.

RECOGNIZING THE ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY ROBOTICS TEAM

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, Arkansas Tech University in Russellville, Arkansas, is not only the alma

mater of two of our distinguished colleagues, Representatives STEVE WOMACK and KEVIN HERN, but I rise today to recognize the Arkansas Tech University Robotics team's outstanding performance at their tournament last month that earned them the distinction as the number one collegiate robotics team in the United States.

I am confident that with the exceptional talent they have already proven to possess, they will continue to represent ATU and Arkansas' Fourth Congressional District with distinction on the global stage at the upcoming world championship in Texas next month.

As a fellow engineer, I admire the dedication and exemplary skills necessary for these students to attain such accolades for their university, and I know the brotherhood they are gaining through this journey has been all the more valuable.

Again, I congratulate the ATU Robotics team for their incredible achievements thus far and wish each of the members continued success in all of their future endeavors. May you each continue to push the boundaries of innovation and uphold the legacy of excellence that defines Arkansas Tech University.

THE CLOCK IS TICKING

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

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, we have less than 25 hours until we adjourn for 2 weeks. We will go home. We will see our families. We will see our constituents. Nobody on the front lines of Ukraine will be going home in 25 hours. That is a privilege that our Ukrainian and Israeli allies do not have, and I would say those who are at risk in Gaza do not have.

If the Speaker agrees that we should move forward, that we need to secure

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

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



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the aid that Ukraine so desperately needs, why hesitate? Why put this off?

Putin won't in his quest to conquer Ukraine. Hamas won't in its mission to destroy Israel. We cannot afford to delay in our defense of freedom and democracy.

Madam Speaker, the clock is ticking. May it sound in our ears as loudly as the Russian salvos that batter the trenches in Ukraine, the missiles that slam against the Iron Dome in Israel, and yes, the bombs that fall on the helpless.

Madam Speaker, the tens of thousands of Ukrainian children abducted by Russia don't get to adjourn their captivity, neither do the 134 hostages held in captivity in Gaza, nor do those who are craving humanitarian relief in Gaza.

When Russian troops encircled the city of Avdiivka last month, the Ukrainian defenders within didn't get to pack up and head home for 2 weeks. No, the city fell so quickly that hundreds of Ukrainian soldiers were trapped even before they received the order to withdraw. Why? One soldier who made it out explained: It was the lack of ammunition, no question.

There are 435 of us that sit in this body that can send that ammunition today, or at the latest tomorrow, yet we fail to act. This is not a partisan issue. This is an American issue. The world relies on America to be its leader, to bring stability where stability can be accomplished, to bring safety and freedom where it is achievable.

Madam Speaker, let us act. Let us act together with the over 300 votes with respect to Ukraine and some 400 votes with respect to Israel. That is the American majority that we represent. Not Republicans and Democrats, but America that is willing to stand not only for its own freedom but for the freedom of others around the world.

I was at the Elton John concert last night. It was a wonderful concert by a wonderful musician. He stood and said to us at the end of that concert: As I was growing up as a teenager and in my early 20s, all of my heroes were American.

He was talking about the spreading of American music throughout the world and particularly to his home country of England.

America has been the hero in coming to the aid of those in Europe and other places in the world whose freedom was at risk. Yet we remain silent in the sense of voting to pass a bill that was passed by 70 Members of the United States Senate, Republican and Democrats, all Americans, saying: We are here, we are coming, and we will stay steadfast to defend you, your people, and your freedom against the aggressors who would undermine freedom's holy light.

We are America. We have a responsibility that no other nation has, and it is to be that city on the hill, to be that beacon, to be that torch of liberty, and to be that country that will respond in

a timely fashion to defend freedom here and around the world.

Let us act before we leave this town.

A TRIBUTE TO BEVERLY PINGERELLI

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

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an accomplished woman whose public service to Arizona has left a lasting impact on thousands of Arizonans.

Beverly Pingerelli began her career at Henry Ford Hospital after receiving her bachelor's degree from Wayne State University. From there, she went on to work in the molecular medicine laboratory at St. Joseph's Hospital.

Eventually, Ms. Pingerelli moved on to public service where she was elected to the Peoria Unified School District Governing Board from 2015 to 2019. After serving on the board, Pingerelli chose to continue her public service in the Arizona State Legislature.

While serving Arizona Legislative District 28, Beverly Pingerelli has put a focus on economic prosperity, student success, and parental rights. She even sponsored legislation to expand parental oversight of public school library books and materials and cosponsored legislation to require voter ID and prohibit human smuggling.

Beverly Pingerelli is truly a force to be reckoned with in the legislature, and Arizona is lucky to have her representation.

TRIBUTE TO KIMBERLY YEE

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a woman who has led our State with strength and helped to create one of the most prosperous economies in Arizona history: Arizona Treasurer Kimberly Yee.

Kimberly Yee was born and raised in Arizona and was the first Chinese-American Republican woman to be elected to a major statewide office in the history of the United States. She is the first Asian American elected to a statewide office in Arizona history.

Yee began her career in public service in 2010 when she was elected to the Arizona Legislature where she served for 8 years between the house and the senate. She was the second woman to serve as Senate majority leader since U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor served in Arizona in that same position.

□ 1015

During her time as treasurer of Arizona, the Permanent Land Endowment Trust Fund hit record highs. She also led the effort to pass a State law requiring financial education for high school students prior to graduation.

Treasurer Yee's service to Arizona has raised financial literacy rates, improved Arizona's economy, and helped show young women and girls across the State that anything is possible.

AMERICAN CONNECTIVITY PROGRAM

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

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, Congress needs to fully fund the American Connectivity Program, also known as ACP. This landmark initiative helps all Americans afford home internet access that is essential today to achieve work or education success.

In my district, Nancy Mendez said that one-half of the people in the United Palatine Coalition's beginning computer class relied on the ACP for their first-ever home internet access.

More broadly, Cook County estimates that more than 250,000 households in Cook County have been helped by the law. I want to congratulate and thank Toni Preckwinkle and Cook County for their successful implementation of the ACP.

Be that as it may, if the House doesn't act, those families in Cook County and elsewhere will lose their home internet access.

Let's pass the ACP reauthorization act now.

SEIU HEALTHCARE

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, in Illinois and across the country, America is in the midst of a childcare crisis. Today parents face a desert of childcare options, and the options available to them are increasingly unaffordable.

In addition, childcare workers face low wages and a lack of benefits that leave them unable to meet their own basic needs.

In Illinois, nearly 60 percent of parents live where there are not enough childcare providers. Parents and workers are shouldering the cost of care through massive enrollment fees, lower wages for care workers, and a steep decline in the number of licensed childcare providers. This situation is untenable and unacceptable.

SEIU Healthcare is fighting to create living wages and affordable services. Now it is our turn in Washington to meet the challenge. We must support the needs of parents and care workers alike by fully funding President Biden's request to stabilize childcare resources now.

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY. Madam Speaker, partisan gamesmanship over the southern border is causing this House to neglect the needs of thousands of legally admitted children and families for whom hunger and homelessness await.

Catholic Charities of Chicago estimates they now serve five to six times as many people at their pantries compared to 2020. These increases mirror those reported by other food banks, religious organizations, and not-for-profits nationwide, and they are all struggling to bridge the gap created by our inaction in Washington.

The blame game will not feed the hungry. We can and must do better now.

HONORING THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE VIRGIL MARCUS JONES, SR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Honorable Virgil Marcus Jones, Sr., who passed away peacefully at the age of 60.

Mr. Jones graduated from the Bradwell Institute in Liberty County where he played varsity basketball. After high school, he attended Morris Brown College as well as Georgia State University.

He served his community at the Liberty County Tax Commissioner's Office as a clerk before becoming the first African-American male to become Liberty County's tax commissioner in 2007.

Virgil was also a leader at St. James A.M.E. Church where he served as trustee, the finance steward, the youth adviser, and as a member of the gospel choir and male choir.

Georgia's resolution, H.R. 1302, was adopted to honor Virgil's memory as one of Georgia's most distinguished citizens.

Virgil Jones, Sr., will be remembered by all the lives that he touched.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF HERB CAMPBELL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my condolences to Herb Campbell, a World War II veteran, who passed away at the age of 98.

Born in Kirtland, Ohio, Herb enlisted in the U.S. Army to fight in World War II, proudly serving our country and earning three Bronze Stars.

Herb used the skills and expertise he gained while fighting in the Pacific theater to create his company, Campbell's Erosion Control, which dutifully served the people of the First Congressional District.

Herb was a member of Ohio Operating Engineers, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Christ Church.

Herb was a father to his 13 children and a grandfather to his many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Among many other hobbies, he liked to garden, dance, and, above all, spend time with his family.

Herb's legacy will live on as the prime example of what it means to serve and put others before yourself.

RECOGNIZING MANFRED "FRED" HARPOLE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Fred Harpole for his hard work and leadership as he retires from his position as assistant director for FLECT Core Training Operations Directorate.

In his position, Harpole is responsible for providing oversight of the firearms division, driver and marine division,

enforcement operations division, and physical techniques division. Additionally, he manages oversight of the FLETC Artesia, New Mexico, training delivery point.

Harpole became a member of the FLETC team in March of 2020 as the deputy assistant director for CTO. Shortly after, Harpole was promoted to the position of assistant director.

Prior to his service at the FLETC, Harpole served in multiple operations and training positions for both TSA and the Federal Air Marshal Service. His background, skills, and firsthand insight have made him a valuable source of information for public officials.

Mr. Harpole, who began his law enforcement career in 1987 with the Milwaukee Police Department, will be revered into the future for his dedication to public service and the protection of the American people.

REMEMBERING BOB COBLE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Bob Coble, a local Savannahian who positively impacted the lives of his families, friends, and others within the community.

Though born in North Carolina, Coble lived most of his life in Long and Liberty Counties. He served in various industries and accumulated multiple skills throughout his adult life. Before retiring as an electrical engineer, Coble was a bailiff for the Long County Probate and Superior Courts. He also demonstrated his devotion to his country by serving in the U.S. Army, during which he fought in Vietnam.

In addition to his other roles, Coble served the younger citizens of Georgia's First District as he repeatedly served as a helper for Santa Claus and Easter Bunny festivities along with supporting youth development at the Masonic Children's Home.

Coble's achievement and works of service for the community and the Nation have left a lasting mark that will be remembered far into the future.

SUPPORT UKRAINE'S EFFORT TO DEFEAT PUTIN'S ILLEGAL INVASION

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

Ms. HOULAHAN. Madam Speaker, I am really proud to say, in large part, thanks to the leadership of President Joe Biden, that when the U.S. has been called upon to help our allies, we have answered that call.

When I was standing with President Zelenskyy years ago, we warned him of the pending attack that was coming his way. We shared intelligence with him. Frankly, it was intelligence that he didn't believe. We shared that intelligence with the world as well, and we clearly demonstrated the clear and present threat that was coming his way.

When Ukraine then called us for help in the immediate aftermath of Russia's illegal attack on Ukraine, we, the United States, answered. When the Ukrainian people held off Putin's advance and called, again, for additional resources to sustain their defenses, we, the United States, again, answered.

When Ukraine's military offensive took back the Black Sea and asked, again, for more advanced weaponry for their battle-tested troops, we, the United States, answered.

Yet now, when the Russian military is retreating in some regions and on the brink of doing so in many more areas as well, we are not answering Ukraine's repeated attempts and calls for help again. When Ukraine is now literally running out of bullets, we are not answering their call for help.

This is why my pride in our leadership and in the United States has become overcome with anger because, yet again, this Chamber is about to recess without having provided aid to Ukraine.

Yesterday, in the House Armed Services Committee, I heard one of my Republican colleagues say not once, not twice, but three times that Putin is, indeed, a war criminal.

I am quoting him here: As we see the attacks from war criminal Putin on the democracy of Ukraine, we are so concerned by the efforts of war criminal Putin and their allies of Iran and China.

The question was: What is your assessment of China and Iran helping war criminal Putin?

Madam Speaker, I agree with my colleague. Putin is a war criminal, which is exactly why we must be providing aid to Ukraine.

The inaction of Congress, and specifically this House, this body, and specifically Speaker of the House, Mr. JOHNSON, to support Ukraine is putting the United States and the world in peril.

My dad was born in Lviv, which was then Poland and now Ukraine. He was born in 1942. His father, my grandfather, was murdered during the Holocaust along with nearly every member of his immediate family. We know what happens when the United States does not lead but rather turns a blind eye and turns inward.

My family tree is bare and hollowed out and is a stark reminder of what happens when we allow tyrants to invade other nations and to wage merciless and illegal wars. My family is not alone. Millions of lives were lost because of the United States' reticence to engage in 1939.

I would also like to remind my colleagues that this is not a handout. First, many of these munitions are developed by Americans, supporting U.S. businesses. Second, we are giving Ukraine our aging weaponry and purchasing new and more advanced technologies for our troops. Finally, we are supporting Ukraine and supporting our American way of life without a single loss of Americans.

Not a single American servicemember has been deployed to Ukraine, but there are American servicemembers in nearby NATO countries who will be in harm's way should Putin continue his illegal and expressed desire to put NATO on the warpath.

Americans should not need a history lesson about what happens to our way of life when Europe falls to the chaos of war, but, clearly, some of my colleagues do.

So what on Earth are we doing here?

We are called to D.C. for vote after vote on bill after bill that stand no chance of passing in the Senate when we should be using this valuable time doing our job and passing Ukraine aid.

If Ukraine aid were brought up today for a vote, it would pass. It would pass the House, supported by scores and scores of Republicans and Democrats alike, like the ones who have called Putin a war criminal. It also has already passed the Senate, and President Biden would sign it into law tomorrow.

I love this country. I have served this country in uniform. It is the greatest honor of my lifetime to serve my country and my community in Congress. It is because of this love for the same country that took my father and my grandmother as Holocaust refugees that I stand here today and express my deep and profound anger at the positively undemocratic way in which Speaker JOHNSON is withholding our vote on Ukraine.

The *deja vu* of giving these remarks is literally nauseating. I am apoplectic. It is 1939 again, and this is not an exaggeration. It is about our standing as a nation. It is about a lasting peace in a democratic world order.

In 24 hours this House will adjourn yet again, and if Democrats held the gavel, there would be no further delay. I will say that again: If Democrats held the gavel, then Ukraine would have the support they needed.

I do not want to be right. I really don't want Ukraine to fall. I just want to be able to vote on Ukraine and defeat Putin. I demand a vote.

□ 1030

ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND FOOD SECURITY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, many Americans are wondering: Why are food prices so high? What causes this? Why, even on occasions in the land of plenty, do we see food shortages of certain types on our shelves?

It really boils down to several factors. Energy independence is one of them. Food security and energy independence go hand-in-hand.

It is certainly time for President Biden and his administration to take action to renew our economic vitality. Instead of supporting our farmers and

ensuring a stable food supply, it appears agriculture and the industry itself have been turned into a partisan issue, leaving farmers to fend for themselves in a really hostile regulatory environment.

As we navigate these challenges facing our ag sector, it is crucial to recognize the far-reaching implications of the Biden administration's anti-American energy policy. The push to have everything convert to electric vehicles, whether it is our cars, pickups, tractors, trucks, let alone our appliances at home, is going to be, indeed, very costly and probably not even possible with the energy grid we currently have, especially with anti-energy policies.

They really play heck trying to get a new power plant sited, even a nuclear power plant. In my district right now, they are tearing down hydroelectric dams, which is clean, reliable, CO₂-free power.

If that is not enough, what we are looking at is, on the other side of the scale for farmers trying to provide food, water is not allocated, especially in my home State, that is due them for their water rights. We had almost record rain and snowpack last year, and it is pretty good this year. Yet, there are areas in the San Joaquin Valley that are only going to receive 15 percent of their normal allocated water rights.

Mr. Speaker, I remind my colleagues that my home State of California grows all of these crops here, somewhere between 100 percent or a little less, that the U.S. relies on. Otherwise, these would be imported crops. So many of them come from my home State of California, yet we can't get the water supply, even though we could store it. We are watching so much of it be washed out to the ocean through the delta for no good reason.

The Army Corps of Engineers uses 50-year-old manuals to decide how much water they should keep in their reservoirs up to that point where they stop their conservation mode for flood control. I get it. Flood control is needed, but we have 500,000 acre-feet of space still left in Lake Oroville, 600,000 acre-feet of space left in Shasta Lake, and it is not coming up fast enough to meet an April 1 mark, let alone get full by May or June.

What does that mean? Several hundred thousand acre-feet of water probably left on the table that aren't going to grow these crops right here—and people are wondering why their food is expensive.

Energy policy is driving up the cost of diesel. It doubled fuel for me and my farm and everybody else a couple of years ago, and it tripled the cost of fertilizer for farmers across the country, all because of bad energy policy.

When my colleagues on the other side of the aisle shut down pipelines, shut down exploration, shut down the ability to make our own energy in this country and have to rely on importing it from, a lot of times, adversarial

countries, what do citizens expect is going to happen to the cost of anything since everything is so energy dependent and energy based in our economy?

Indeed, if we are going to grow this food in California or in our own country, we are going to have a much more secure situation with our food supply and stability across the board. As we know, food security is national security, so Americans feel the cost of high energy, high food costs, high just about everything, and a lot of this has happened in the last 3 years. We had a lot more stability under the previous administration.

COVID was weaponized to try to shut down a lot of our country, a lot of our economy, and make people stay at home. Indeed, that had an effect we are still feeling. Even our kids in school are feeling that still because of an overbearing COVID policy that has also added trillions to our national debt.

What are we going to do? Are we going to have an energy policy that makes sense, or do we want to rely on China for imported food and other products and the Middle East for imported oil?

I personally think we are going to get a heck of a lot better product growing these crops in California or elsewhere in the United States than by relying upon others to send it to us because, when the chips are down, America is always there for other people, but they aren't necessarily going to be there for us if we have our own crisis.

We are the last bastion. We are the last beacon many times in the world. We have to hold our leaders accountable for an energy policy and putting our food policy up front as well. We need to pass a farm bill soon.

RECOGNIZING AMY GOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. EZELL). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I love recognizing our community mothers in Detroit.

Amy Good founded Alternatives for Girls, a nationally recognized organization serving at-risk youth women in southeast Michigan. For the past 37 years, Amy Good has led Alternatives for Girls with integrity and commitment to the organization's mission to ensure a better quality of life and future for girls and young women who have survived homelessness, violence, and trauma.

With their support, many young girls can go on to succeed in school, graduate, and become leaders in our communities by providing shelter, housing, mentorship programs, skills training, and much more.

With Amy's partnership, I am so proud to announce that our office was able to secure \$1.1 million for the Alternatives for Girls to construct the Dr. Maya Angelou Village that will create 45 units of affordable, integrated

permanent supportive housing for at-risk families.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Amy Good for her outstanding service to our residents in southeast Michigan as we wish her well in her next endeavor.

MOTHER PARKS FEDERAL BUILDING

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, Congress passed legislation to celebrate the mother of the civil rights movement and a beloved resident of our community, Mother Rosa Parks.

I thank Senator DEBBIE STABENOW, the McCauley Parks family, and everyone who supported this legislation. It was a privilege to lead this effort in the House to rename our Federal building downtown at 985 Michigan Avenue in Detroit the Rosa Parks Federal Building.

We honor Mother Rosa Parks today and every day for her bravery and unwavering commitment to justice. The Montgomery bus boycott showed the world the power of nonviolent resistance and collective action. Her strength resonated to millions across our Nation, inspiring a wave of protests, boycotts, and marches. Her protest challenged the status quo and paved the way for the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to outlaw racial segregation in our Nation.

As we reflect on Rosa Parks' legacy, let us not only remember her incredible courage but also recognize the work that still lies before us. Let us honor her memory by continuing to challenge inequality, by speaking out against injustice, and by standing up for what is right, even in the face of adversity.

STARVATION IN GAZA

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, over 1.5 million Palestinians are now displaced in Rafah without food, clean water, or medicine.

More than 13,000 children have already been killed by the Israeli Government. Another child is killed in Gaza every 15 minutes.

Many have witnessed family members literally dismembered before their eyes. They have witnessed their loved ones buried under the rubble while they were holding each other.

The trauma has led to children as young as 5, Mr. Speaker, saying that they would prefer to die.

Additionally, as if the threat from the bullets and bombs wasn't enough, Palestinians are now dying of starvation across Gaza. At least 27 children and 3 adults have already starved to death. They have been forced to eat grass and animal feed just to survive.

Let's be clear, this isn't a tragic accident. What we are witnessing, all of us across this world, is the Israeli Government using starvation as a weapon of war. The starvation is a result of the total siege on Gaza and the intentional targeting of local food production, infrastructure, and obstruction of aid convoys.

Recently, at least 112 Palestinians were killed after Israeli Government

forces opened fire on hundreds waiting to collect flour. The Israeli Government has been intentionally starving the Palestinian people, families. These are some of the most horrific crimes against humanity committed in this century. To target starving people seeking food is beyond belief.

Now, my colleagues are pushing legislation to send more American tax dollars to the apartheid government of Israel and stop funding UNRWA, the major organization that provides desperately needed food and humanitarian assistance to starving Palestinians.

Now, Members here, all of them, are going to be contributing to the starvation of Palestinian families.

This is Yazan. He was only 10 years old when he died due to severe malnutrition and lack of proper healthcare caused by the siege and blockade in Gaza. His family, originally from the north, was displaced several times and wanted to make it to Rafah in hopes of finding food and medicine for Yazan, who needed it to survive, but there was nothing they could do to help him.

This has to stop. What has happened to our shared humanity? Palestinians deserve to live. Palestinian children aren't disposable. They deserve to grow old.

Netanyahu has said he will move forward with an invasion of Rafah with or without a temporary cease-fire. He said it.

Let's be clear, though. A temporary cease-fire is not enough. There is nothing humanitarian about feeding starving children for 6 weeks before the bombing and killing resumes. A lasting, permanent cease-fire is what we need.

CONGRATULATING MARANA JUNIOR LEAGUE SOFTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Marana Junior Little League Softball team that made it to the Little League Junior Softball World Series quarterfinals. This team is the only team from Marana Little League Baseball and Softball to advance to a world series.

It was not an easy road for the team during the West Regional Junior League Tournament. They had to win five consecutive elimination games, and their final game was delayed for over 2 hours. Yet, they still came home with the win, and during the Junior League Softball World Series, the Marana Junior League Softball team made it all the way to the quarterfinals.

The team is coached by Head Coach Sam Mills, Coach Jason Angell, and Coach Chris Beck.

The 12 extraordinary players are Addison Angell, Addison Lee, Adelaide Bradshaw, Aubrianna Gray, Bella Brooks-Rojel, Bella Sayre, Brooke Beck, Cadence Beck, Emma Winter,

Kyla Layton, Malia Mills, and Mariah Moreno.

These young girls have a bright future ahead of them, and I am excited to see what the future holds for all of them.

Way to represent Marana and Arizona in the World Series, and congratulations.

CONGRATULATING COACH MISTY OPAT

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Misty Opat, the women's basketball coach at Cochise College, who recently achieved her 300th career win.

Misty has over two decades of collegiate coaching experience and is in her fourth year at Cochise College. Last week, under Misty's coaching, the women's basketball team clinched their seat in the NJCAA National Tournament.

Misty recently said she would rather impact 300 lives than get 300 wins, but I think it is safe to say that she has done both.

I congratulate Misty and the Apaches, the Cochise College Women's Basketball team. They have made Cochise County and southern Arizona very proud.

HONORING MICA MOUNTAIN'S KIM FARR

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kim Farr, a teacher of Mica Mountain High School and the Arizona Athletics 2023-2024 High School Teacher of the Year.

Kim Farr has been a teacher for over 17 years. Throughout her career, she has taught science classes of all levels, from biology to AP research.

Outside of the classroom, you can find Mrs. Farr coaching swimming and traveling the world with students in Costa Rica, Ecuador, the Galapagos Islands, and Belize.

I congratulate all the nominees from southern Arizona: Mark Calton from Marana High School, Jordan Castle from CDO High School, Abigail Francis from Mountain View High School, Bridget Montoya from Flowing Wells High School, Tiffany Newton from Andrada Polytechnic High School, Cristina Parks from Cienega High School, Shawn Smith from Amphi High School, and Michelle Tozer from Empire High School.

I am grateful for all the teachers and everything they do. I am proud to represent them in Congress, and I thank them for the work that they do for our next generation.

POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INSTABILITY IN AFRICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the time for dawdling, procrastinating, and pointless disputes has long expired.

This body has become consumed with self-serving ambition and such a manufactured divide that we have forgotten

that this Nation has and must continue to be a global defender of freedom and democracy.

Our failure to fulfill this vital role and turn a blind eye to systemic injustices around the world, particularly in the African Continent and the Caribbean region, is not only unethical, but it is un-American. It also has legal ramifications, not just for the people, economy, and stability of those nations, but lethal ramifications for our own safety and national security.

The African Continent and the Caribbean region have long suffered from a legacy of slavery and colonialism, symptoms of which have led many of these countries to be volatile and prone to political and economic instability.

For example, Haiti had to pay France for its freedom. After winning a revolution, they had imposed on them a debt to the French Government for that freedom, for the lost revenues of slavery, if you can believe that.

□ 1045

They have had to pay literally \$28 billion to France. Literally, as my 14 year old would say, literally.

Mr. Speaker, 40 percent of the Nation's economy went to debt services. The precarious state of these nations has positioned them to be prime targets for foreign influence. Now U.S. adversaries, such as China and Russia have been proliferating throughout the African Continent and China, particularly in the Caribbean Basin, exploiting those vulnerabilities for profit and to expand strategic interests.

The Chinese multinational Huawei has constructed roughly 70 percent of Africa's information technology infrastructure and continues to make similar investments in the Caribbean Basin in its Belt and Road Initiative. Over 10 nations have signed agreements to open their borders up to Chinese influence.

Russia has bolstered its ties and influence as well, primarily through mercenary groups such as the Wagner Group. Between 2015 and 2019, Moscow signed 19 military collaboration agreements with African Governments.

By exploiting the instability of those nations, Russia has established African reliance on military to secure access to resources, extracting minerals, such as cobalt, gold, and uranium from the continent.

Furthermore, Russia and China's involvement undermines the continent's democratic aspirations, driving conflict, worsening human rights abuses, and spurring growing militarization in governance: Niger in 2023, Mali in 2022, Sudan in 2021, Guinea in 2023, Burkina Faso in 2024. These were all coups in the last few years, displacing democratically elected governments with military juntas.

For years, the world has witnessed the Republic of Haiti face a profound political, security, and humanitarian crisis. The severity of the situation has far surpassed the usefulness of words.

We are operating on borrowed time. Our hands-off and apathetic approach to Haiti is an affront to our values. Following President Jovenel Moïse's assassination, gangs seized complete control, creating a humanitarian catastrophe.

Since February, 15,000 people have been displaced adding to the 362,000 already internally displaced in the country. The hunger crisis worsens as armed groups block food supply routes.

The approval of the State Department's funding request to support a Kenya-led multinational security support mission to Haiti is critical, as it will train and bolster the Haitian National Police, align with U.S. national security interests, and showcase decisive leadership.

Blocking \$40 million in aid by GOP leadership, despite the risk of a worsening humanitarian crisis and potential migration surge is unacceptable. Without the release of those funds, our borders will be overrun, and people will die. We must do better.

COMMEMORATING THE 36TH ANNIVERSARY OF GAS ATTACKS ON HALABJA-IRAQI KURDISTAN

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

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, 36 years ago this week, Saddam Hussein unleashed a nightmare upon the peaceful Kurdish town of Halabja, forever etching it into the annals of crimes against humanity. The atrocity perpetrated against the genocidal Anfal campaign stands as a stark reminder of the depths of cruelty that humanity is capable of.

The horrors inflicted upon the people of Halabja on that fateful day, as they were mercilessly attacked with mustard gas and nerve agents, resulted in the instantaneous loss of thousands of innocent lives.

Yet, the true extent of the devastation did not end there. For many survivors, the aftermath of the chemical onslaught continues to plague them, manifesting in debilitating health conditions, staggering rates of cancer, and haunting birth defects. The scars of Halabja run deep, both physically and emotionally, reverberating through the generations as a painful testament to the brutality of war.

But Halabja was not an isolated incident. It was but one chapter in the harrowing saga of the Anfal campaign. Over the course of 2 years, more than 180,000 civilians perished, their villages razed to the ground, and their way of life shattered beyond recognition.

The landscape of Kurdistan bears the indelible scars of this campaign of terror, a stark reminder of the price paid for silence in the face of evil.

As we gather today 36 years later to commemorate the victims of Halabja and the Anfal campaign, we must do more than mourn the loss. We must condemn unequivocally the genocide

that was perpetrated against the Kurds and reaffirm our commitment to upholding the sanctity of human life.

Let us pledge to never again allow such horrors to unfold unchecked, to stand as guardians of peace and justice in a world too often marred by violence and indifference.

In honoring the memory of those who perished in Halabja, let us also honor the resilience of the survivors, whose spirit remains unbroken despite the unimaginable sufferings they have endured. May their courage inspire us to redouble our efforts in the pursuit of a future where atrocities like those committed in Halabja are but distant memories, never to be repeated again.

Mr. Speaker, I will also take a moment to thank our Kurd allies for their friendship and their partnership in the fight against ISIS, al-Qaida in Iraq and Shia militias in Iraq. I deployed four times, and the Kurds were our great allies, and I always will remain grateful.

Finally, today is March 21, the Kurdish New Year. The rich cultural heritage, resilience, and determination of the Kurdish people continue to inspire us all. I wish to congratulate the Kurds around the world a happy new year. May this new year bring you abundant blessings, renewed hope, and countless opportunities for growth and success. "Happy New Year," in Kurdish, "Newroz Piroz Bit."

WE NEED TO ENHANCE SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to draw attention to the Nation's number one antipoverty program for the elderly and the Nation's number one antipoverty program for our children. It is something that everyone is familiar with: It is Social Security. This Congress and previous Congresses have not done anything to enhance Social Security, Mr. Speaker, in more than 50 years. Richard Nixon was the President of the United States the last time Congress enhanced benefits for what now amount to 70 million Americans.

Mr. Speaker, in your district alone, 176,794 Social Security recipients haven't received an enhancement in more than 50 years.

This is also the Nation's leading economic development program because in your district, \$300 million comes into your district monthly. Where do those people spend that money? Right back in your district at the local grocery store, at the pharmacy, at the gas station, pay off their rent, et cetera.

It is the Nation's number one antipoverty program for a reason because of the genius of Franklin Delano Roosevelt who saw in a capitalistic system like ours there needs to be a safety net and a balance.

For more than 40 percent of all Americans on Social Security, it is the only pension benefit that they have.

Speaker pro tempore MILLER was in the chair earlier, and there are over 160,000 of her constituents on Social Security. What Congress needs to do is vote.

Now, my good friend KEVIN HERN says that you have a plan on the other side to cut benefits. We see that President Trump has laid out his proposal that he would like to cut Social Security benefits. Cutting benefits is not the way to save Social Security.

The President and Democrats have a very specific plan: to enhance benefits across the board and extend the solvency of Social Security so that all of our constituents can receive the benefits they richly deserve.

Mr. Speaker, 10,000 baby boomers a day become eligible for Social Security, which is not an entitlement. With all the discussion about the debt and deficit, it doesn't contribute a single penny to the debt or deficit. It is a paid-for program.

The business community pays half and gets a full tax deduction for it and individuals pay the other half. How do they know? All they have to do is go to their pay stub and look at the word "FICA," that stands for Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

Whose contribution? Theirs.

Mr. Speaker, that is 176,794 people in your district who make these contributions. This is not an entitlement. This is a benefit that they have earned and the only body that can address this is the United States Congress. It is long overdue for us to take this up on behalf of our constituents. If there is a better idea or you think that further study is needed, put it on the floor and let's have a vote on it.

Everybody professes how much they love and respect Social Security. Where is the plan? Where is the vote that people can say this is what my Representative stands for and this is what we are going to receive?

We don't need to cut benefits for Social Security. We need to enhance them. We need to make sure that WEP and GPO get repealed. We have to make sure that people are no longer paying income tax on their Social Security. We have to make sure that that happens now.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR PAUL McDONALD OF AGANA HEIGHTS

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mayor Paul McDonald of Agana Heights as he serves his last term representing his beloved village.

Being born and raised in Agana Heights, Mayor McDonald has devoted himself to the betterment of his village over the course of eight consecutive terms in office. He has earned the respect of his constituents through his hard work and commitment to deterring crime in Agana Heights and

through his beautification efforts in his village.

Mayor McDonald serves as a unifying force within the community, spearheading numerous initiatives, services, and events that foster cohesion and progress. His impact extends beyond the confines of Agana Heights, as evidenced by the 19-year tenure as president of the Association of Pacific Island Local Government.

He attributes his accomplishments to the enduring influence of his late father, Charles McDonald. Beyond his civic duties, Mayor McDonald takes great pride in his role as a devoted father and a cherished grandfather.

It is with genuine appreciation that I express my gratitude to Mayor McDonald for his steadfast dedication to the people of Guam and the beautiful village of Agana Heights.

As he embarks upon his final term, I extend my sincerest wishes for continued success and blessings. I am confident his legacy will endure as a source of inspiration for generations to come.

CELEBRATING THE ENGINEERS OF TOMORROW

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the engineers of tomorrow coming from our very own Frederick Douglass Elementary School in Wilson County.

Under the guidance of Ms. Katherine Taylor, the school's media specialist, these talented students are learning to code, building LEGO robots, and completing challenges using visual arts and technology. All the hard work has paid off, as they won first place in Best Robotics Design and Overall Champion in the multicounty FIRST LEGO League Challenge.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. Taylor for using technology to prepare the next generation of leaders and I thank the Wilson County Schools for investing in North Carolina's future.

□ 1100

GREENE COUNTY ALL-STARS WIN EASTERN ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the young team of the Greene County all-star basketball program. These promising basketball stars of tomorrow just won the 2024 Eastern Athletic Conference Championship in the 10-12 age co-ed group. Greene County defeated Currituck County in a 55-45 victory.

Mr. Speaker, recreation sports are an excellent way to expose young athletes to the fundamentals of the game. These young basketball players experienced the wonders of competition, tested their skills and teamwork, and came out on top.

Hats off to the players, Coach Barry, and Coach LaVette for a fantastic sea-

son. Congratulations to our recreation departments across eastern North Carolina for making friendly competitions like this a reality. I particularly give a big shout-out to the Greene County Recreation Department and to the recreation director, Mike Anderson, for hosting this year's tournament.

COMMENDING IVELISSE DIAZ

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 Latina, a music prodigy, a cultural worker, a mother, and a constituent: La Bombera de Corazon, Ivelisse Diaz.

Born and raised in Humboldt Park to a Puerto Rican family, Ivelisse found her calling in life at the age of 5 when she started studying the traditional Afro-Puerto Rican Bomba.

Over her 24-year career, audiences in Seattle, California, Detroit, Puerto Rico, New York, Mexico, and Ghana have been moved, enthralled, and educated by Ivelisse's artistry and passion.

A trailblazer in so many ways, she is the recipient of the prestigious 2019 3Arts Award for her contribution to the arts.

La Bombera has gone on to ensure the preservation of Bomba by founding La Escuelita Bombera de Corazon, where she shares her knowledge of the history, the culture, and music of Afro-Indigenous culture.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my honor to commend Ivelisse Diaz for her work preserving culture and passing the torch to the next generation of Bomberas.

Mr. Speaker, I thank and congratulate Ivelisse.

COMMENDING DIANA MARTINEZ

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Diana Martinez, a powerful Latina voice for our art, culture, and community in Illinois' Third District.

The proud daughter of a Salvadoran immigrant single mother, Diana demonstrated an early passion for creativity and the arts.

A Glen Ellyn native, she started her young career by participating in the Park District's theater programs and then nurtured her love for theater at Glenbard West High School and the University of Illinois.

In her current leadership role directing the McAninch Arts Center, Diana curates culturally impactful art experiences in DuPage County, including bringing major exhibits to our region featuring renowned paintings from legends like Frida Kahlo and Andy Warhol.

As an active and engaged neighbor, Diana seeks to protect and preserve her community's cultural and historic character through her work with Protect Glen Ellyn and Save Main.

For her dedication to art as a powerful means of building community, on

behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my great honor to commend Diana Martinez for her dedication to service and leadership. Congratulations to Diana.

COMMENDING ELIZABETH "LISA" HERNANDEZ

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of a Latina trailblazer and champion for working-class individuals across my home State of Illinois, the one, the only, State representative Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez.

Representative Hernandez is the highest ranking and longest serving Latina in the Illinois State Assembly, and she was recently elected the chair of the Illinois Democratic Party where she continues to ensure that Latinas are represented and recognized across our State.

As the current deputy majority leader in the General Assembly, she has been an advocate for quality higher education accessibility, a leader for reproductive rights and liberties, a champion for climate justice and natural disaster relief, and a defender for healthcare for all.

Whether organizing food drives to support local families or spearheading grant workshops to help small businesses thrive, Representative Lisa Hernandez is an inspiration for all Latinas in Illinois.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, it is my greatest honor to commend "my friend," "mi amiga," my colleague for her commitment to public service and tireless work to make Illinois a safe and welcoming State for women, migrants, and everyone who desires to call it home.

It is my honor to congratulate Elizabeth "Lisa" Hernandez with this commendation.

HONORING MARGOT TAYLOR DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month, I stand here to celebrate a remarkable woman from my district whose dedication to equity and justice has made a profound impact: Margot Taylor.

Margot serves as vice president of strategy and advocacy at Planned Parenthood Los Angeles, where she has been and continues to be an integral part of the community since 2009.

Margot is a driving force for advancing reproductive health education, access to contraception, and defending the fundamental right to safe, legal abortion.

At the University of Houston, she witnessed firsthand disparities faced by Black and Brown communities. Motivated by these injustices, Margot is dedicated to dismantling systemic racism through advocacy and action. Margot's experiences fueled her passion to ensure equitable access to

healthcare and community services, especially for marginalized groups.

As the leader of Planned Parenthood's Black Health Initiative, she has championed successful approaches to address disparities in underserved communities.

With unwavering dedication to our community, Margot embodies the spirit of Women's History Month, a trailblazer dedicated to advancing reproductive rights and healthcare access for all.

HONORING DR. GABRIELA LOPEZ DURING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, this Women's History Month it is my honor to spotlight an exceptional woman from my district whose story embodies compassion and determination, Dr. Gabriela Lopez.

A San Pedro native, Dr. Lopez shattered barriers from the start. Born to immigrant parents, she became the first in her family to graduate from college and earn a doctorate in medicine.

During her time at UCLA, she recognized a critical need for inclusivity in healthcare for non-English speaking patients. She led efforts to provide translators for patients at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital so that language barriers did not prevent access to quality care. Her actions exemplify empathy and service.

Dr. Lopez remains deeply involved with our community. As a dance instructor for a local group in San Pedro, California, she celebrates her heritage and encourages unity and belonging.

Dr. Lopez' remarkable journey has been featured on platforms like UCLA Newsroom and La Opinion. Her story serves as a beacon of inspiration for women everywhere. Her story reminds us that with determination and heart, committed to service, women can overcome any obstacle and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Let us honor Dr. Gabriela Lopez and all the trailblazing women who continue to shape our world with their courage and compassion not just this month but every month.

SUPPORTING WATER AND SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE IN GASTON COUNTY

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

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to gratefully announce that our office has secured over \$4.5 million to support water and sewer infrastructure in Gaston County.

We need these funds to support new jobs and affordable housing, as Gaston continues to see remarkable growth. The town of Ranlo is going to double in population this decade. With new families and businesses moving to the county, it strains our utilities and you can't put an apartment or an office building on a septic tank.

When I have talked to local leaders in Gaston County, this has been one of their top priorities. This funding is desperately needed and will go directly to making Gaston a better place to live and work. I am very proud that our office was able to help.

SUPPORTING GASTONIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today proud to announce that our office secured nearly \$1 million to support the Gastonia Police Department.

The funding will support a project equipping the Gastonia Police Department with technology to reduce crime, allowing officers to act in real time and protect the safety of Gastonia residents.

It is vital that we give our law enforcement the tools they need to safely reduce crime and help the people in our communities. I am proud to stand with the Gastonia Police Department to help them get the funding and tools they need to keep us safe.

SUPPORTING AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN MECKLENBURG AND GASTON COUNTIES

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today proud to announce that our office has secured \$1.5 million to support affordable housing projects in Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties.

Our growth has made housing far too expensive, and it is making it even more difficult for working families to make ends meet.

The funding will support two projects in my district that will provide housing repair assistance and improve living conditions for families at risk of homelessness. It will also help the town of Matthews buy land and help with startup costs for new affordable housing developments. Having stable and affordable housing is the key to growing the middle class in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be able to support these projects in my district.

AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, last week we learned that the Jared Kushner grift continues to grow across the globe.

We already know that Donald Trump put his unqualified son-in-law, Jared Kushner, in charge of Middle East policy in the White House. We also know that Jared intervened and negotiated a \$110 billion arms deal with Saudi Arabia and pushed for Donald Trump's first state visit to be in Saudi Arabia, a huge change of policy and a huge gift to this foreign government.

We also know that months after Jared left the White House, the Saudi Prince went against his own advisers and gave \$2 billion to Jared Kushner's

hedge fund. Let's not forget that during the Trump Presidency, receipts also show that at least \$7.8 million in foreign cash went directly to Donald Trump's businesses.

Now, Jared is pushing new deals in Albania and Serbia, trading on the connections he made during his White House service. The Trump crime family grift never stops. I have said it before and I will say it again. It is time for investigations. This kind of influence peddling harms our national security.

Instead of wasting time on a sham impeachment against President Biden, we should be focused on stopping the real corruption that has been committed by the Trump family. The American people deserve better.

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 13 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Holy God, break into our lives this day and reveal the wonders that You alone perform. The heavens declare Your glory. The skies proclaim Your handiwork. They have no need for words, yet their praise goes out to the ends of the Earth. Your creation sings of Your greatness.

Ignite in our hearts the love that You impart to each one of us, through friends who love at all times and kin who are born to carry us in adversity. The earnest advice from close companions bears the sweetness of Your counsel. The people You have gathered around us, friends, family, and colleagues, are the reminders of Your loving provision.

Today, then, as we hear the echoes of Your voice around us, may we respond with the praise of creation and the love of neighbor, committing ourselves to careful conversation. Let us convey Your gifts of grace and mercy as we dedicate ourselves to respectful dialogue.

Refresh our souls with Your perfect law. Make the wise simple with the trustworthiness of Your statutes. Give joy to our hearts as we seek Your righteousness and give light to our eyes with the radiance of Your commands.

In Your most holy name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WEBER of Texas 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1332. An act 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.

S. 3648. An act to amend the Post-Katrina Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, and for other purposes.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WATER TREATY ISSUE

(Ms. DE LA CRUZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. DE LA CRUZ. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to address the dire consequences of Mexico's failure to meet its 1944 water treaty obligations. The recent closure of the Rio Grande Valley Sugar Growers, Texas' sole sugar operation, is a direct result of Mexico's non-compliance.

The water shortfall, which now exceeds 700,000 acre-feet, has devastated our sugarcane industry, a crucial industry for Texas, one of only three States that grow and mill sugarcane.

Mexico's breach has not just jeopardized our agricultural heritage and the livelihood of over 500 workers, it also threatens our region's economy and national food security.

The current situation is unsustainable. We urge the Biden administration to take immediate action and press Mexico on this critical issue. Time is of the essence.

FREE LUNCH TO EVERY CHILD

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

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, Art Ellison has one final wish: to provide free lunch to students in need.

Art, a Democrat from the New Hampshire State House, is currently in hospice and knows he doesn't have long to live. He is using his final time to try and pass a bill to increase eligibility for free lunch to all students at or below 350 percent of the Federal poverty line.

Making kids go hungry is cruel. That is why I am on a bill with Senator SANDERS to provide free lunch and free meals to every child. We can do it for \$3.30 a day.

Let us honor Art Ellison and get this done. He represents the best of politics.

ENERGY WEEK

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight Energy Week and how House Republicans are fighting back against the antienergy policies of the Biden administration. These policies threaten to undo years of innovation making our domestic production of natural resources the cleanest in the world.

It is clear the United States has an abundance of clean-burning natural gas, especially in Pennsylvania, which is the second largest producer of natural gas in the country.

By utilizing the Commonwealth's resources, we can provide jobs and invest directly into our communities that have suffered at the hand of the Biden administration's antienergy policies.

By revoking new oil and gas leases on Federal lands, canceling vital pipeline permits, and imposing politically motivated regulations on our energy producers, this administration is jeopardizing American jobs and risking our energy and national security.

Thankfully, House Republicans have not ignored the devastating impact these policies have on hardworking Americans.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and I know energy security is national security, and we have had enough of Biden's failed far-left anti-American energy agenda.

COFA RESIDENTS IN MAUI

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, fire and disaster does not discriminate based on legal status or citizenship. For far too long, the help and support following a disaster that is available to many has been withheld from a few.

I rise today to highlight the plight of our Compact of Free Association "family," "ohana." They come from the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the

Republic of Palau. While they experienced the same fear and loss of last August's fires, they were unable to claim any Federal disaster relief.

On March 8, Congress passed the Compact Fairness Act to restore eligibility for Federal benefits to citizens from the Freely Associated States residing in our country. COFA residents had been unfairly stripped of those benefits in the 1996 welfare reform law.

In correcting this decades-old error, we can begin making good on our commitment to our COFA residents, and at the urging of our congressional delegation, FEMA will allow COFA residents on Maui to apply retroactively for disaster assistance.

COFA residents are a part of our Maui family, and I am grateful to FEMA for taking this important step for them and ensuring they will get the help that they need and deserve.

VIRGINIA GOVERNOR'S FIRE SERVICE AWARDS

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, since 2002, the Virginia Governor's Fire Service Awards have recognized outstanding first responders in the Commonwealth.

Chief Monty Coleman of the Forest Volunteer Fire Department received the Virginia Fire Chief of the Year Award. For 35 years, he has served Bedford County, working diligently to meet the needs of their growing response area. I congratulate Chief Coleman on this award and thank him for his dedication.

The city of Lynchburg's fire department was recognized for its Excellence in Virginia Community Risk Reduction after launching Walk-About Wednesday, a project promoting community safety. This successful initiative involved going door to door to inform citizens about emergency preparedness and install critical safety components. I applaud the Lynchburg Fire Department for providing city residents with these important resources.

I also congratulate the Blairs Volunteer Fire and Rescue which received an Outstanding Fire Department Response Award for their quick actions in responding to a large apartment fire last November. With help from Pittsylvania County and Danville, they heroically prevented any life-threatening injuries or deaths.

I am proud of these outstanding individuals, and I am proud to represent all of the brave first responders of Virginia's Fifth District.

EXPRESSING GRATITUDE FOR BRIGID

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

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to one of the

most remarkable human beings whom I have ever met.

To be sure, Mr. Speaker, this is a sacred well, and I am here speaking on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, in part, because of her.

I am one of literally thousands of people who have been forever improved because of her. Those of us who have had the good fortune to know her could not possibly think of anyone else with her warmth, her kindness, or her joy.

She is the epitome of a public servant, serving the way she has lived her life: in total devotion to others.

No one has done it better.

Brigid is such an amazing and wonderful human being. We are forever grateful to her, and we love her so much.

UKRAINE AID

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address Russia's ongoing efforts to conquer portions of Ukraine.

While additional American financial support for Ukraine is on hold right now, it is imperative we remember why America has supplied military aid.

This isn't merely a territorial dispute. This is a repeated attempt by an imperialist Russia to build an ethnic empire.

You don't have to take my word for it. Vladimir Putin has compared himself to Tsar Peter the Great. For 21 years, Peter the Great waged the Great Northern War to defeat Sweden. His victory coincided with the beginning of the Russian Empire in 1721.

Today, Putin doesn't just want portions of Ukraine, he wants to end the post-World War II order that has underpinned freedom and economic prosperity in Europe and beyond.

While America shouldn't be on the hook to fund the everyday operations of Ukraine's Government, it is imperative that we give the Ukrainians the arms they need to beat back the reincarnation of what Reagan called the evil empire.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE POISONING

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the House to immediately take up S. 3853, the Radiation Exposure Compensation Reauthorization Act.

Missourians are terrified that radioactive waste is poisoning our communities. These innocent victims of the U.S. nuclear weapons program are relying on Congress for restitution.

I am outraged Senate and House negotiators left this urgently needed legislation out of the spending package.

Mr. Speaker, time is of the essence. RECA expires in less than 3 months, and that is the existing law which excludes St. Louis. Just extending the law won't help my constituents dying of cancer. Passing S. 3853 will.

We need to use every opportunity to sign this bill into law. That means scheduling a suspension vote as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I am calling on the House to vote on the bill immediately. The health of my constituents depends on it.

□ 1215

HONORING RAYFORD GUZARDO

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate a true American hero, World War II veteran, and former POW, Mr. Louis Rayford Guzardo, who will turn 100 on April 6.

Mr. Guzardo isn't just any ordinary Joe. He served as a B-24 gunner during World War II. His courage and dedication exemplified the finest tradition of our Armed Forces, inspiring us all to strive for excellence as well as selflessness. He is a part of the Greatest Generation.

Despite enduring the horrors of war and being held as a prisoner of war, Mr. Guzardo's spirit remained unbroken, fueled by his love of his country and his unwavering faith.

Mr. Guzardo, thank you for your service. Thank you for your sacrifice and unwavering dedication to your community in Nederland. Happy 100th birthday, and may your days be filled with joy and blessings. Know that your legacy will be in this CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for generations to come, and your love for the United States will always be remembered.

COUNTERING BIDEN'S WAR ON ENERGY

(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, on his first day in office, Biden launched a war on American fossil fuels when he killed the Keystone XL pipeline, destroying jobs and forcing dependency on Chinese batteries.

Gas prices have doubled since Biden began his war, creating the highest level of inflation in 40 years, with high energy costs accelerating the delivery prices of all products.

Biden is dictating regulations which are overly expensive. With conflicts of interest, Biden is forcing dependency on Chinese batteries, destroying American jobs.

Yesterday, Republicans continued to counter the energy war by passing two

bills for energy independence and to end the Biden push for Chinese batteries.

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.

Our prayers for the family of the late Richard Quinn.

PROTECTING AMERICAN ENERGY PRODUCTION

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

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, Americans are feeling the harsh impact of President Biden's assault on domestic energy production when they fill their gas tanks or pay their electricity bills.

Instead of relieving these costs and unleashing domestic energy production, President Biden is choosing to push the Green New Deal again by threatening to place a moratorium on fracking. Since 1947, fracking has been instrumental in safely unlocking vast reservoirs of oil and natural gas, lowering energy costs, providing jobs for hardworking Americans, and propelling our Nation toward energy independence.

Permitting the use of this technology is detrimental to our energy security and represents a significant Federal overreach of State sovereignty by undermining their authority to regulate production within their own borders.

It is time we put an end to President Biden's anti-American energy policy and pass legislation, such as H.R. 1121, to protect American energy production, preserve State regulatory authority, and lower energy costs for families around the country.

RECOGNIZING THE HONORABLE MARCIA FUDGE

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

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marcia Fudge, my friend, former colleague, and the current and soon-to-be-former Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. I recognize Secretary Fudge for her service to our Nation, to our great State of Ohio, and to her local community.

I had the privilege of working alongside Representative Fudge for 9 years in this Chamber, working together to tackle the issues that matter the most to Ohioans. She has been a tireless advocate for Ohioans, willing to reach across the aisle to find common ground on key issues, like advancing access to affordable housing.

While we, of course, didn't always see eye to eye on everything, Marcia and I shared the important goal of helping Americans have the opportunities and resources needed to achieve the American Dream.

I am grateful to have had a fellow Ohioan working as Secretary on behalf of so many of my constituents. Public servants like Secretary Fudge, always willing to roll up her sleeves and get to the business of the American people, are a credit to our community.

I wish Marcia the best on the next stage of her journey.

GETTING GOOD VALUE FOR TAX DOLLARS

(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, when people earn their paycheck, their wages, money off of stocks, whatever it is, they are going to spend their money on things that are a good value for them. Why isn't government, when they take their tax dollars involuntarily, getting a good value for them?

I am speaking, in California, of the high-speed rail system. I call it high-cost rail. The price has quadrupled over what the voters were sold back about 15 years ago when they were told a high-speed train from Los Angeles to San Francisco could be built for \$33 billion. The price tag is well over \$125 billion, and it is many years behind as well.

They are still about \$100 billion short of the funding it would take to complete this project. They don't even have the route mapped out.

Instead, why don't we invest tax dollars that are taken from the people involuntarily in things that can really benefit them, such as a water supply, a stable water supply, better communication systems, more rural broadband, things that can help people be connected in more ways besides a silly train, which is deemed the biggest boondoggle in a long time, connecting L.A. to San Francisco? Instead, it is connecting an orchard in Bakersfield to a place called Merced—not a good deal for taxpayers.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 51312(b), and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Member on the part of the House to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy:

Mr. SUOZZI, New York

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT A CARBON TAX WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1085, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 86) expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the concurrent resolution is considered read.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 86

Whereas a carbon tax is a Federal tax on carbon released from fossil fuels;

Whereas a carbon tax will increase energy prices, including the price of gasoline, electricity, natural gas, and home heating oil;

Whereas a carbon tax will mean that families and consumers will pay more for essentials like food, gasoline, and electricity;

Whereas a carbon tax will fall hardest on the poor, the elderly, and those on fixed incomes;

Whereas a carbon tax will lead to more jobs and businesses moving overseas;

Whereas a carbon tax will lead to less economic growth;

Whereas American families will be harmed the most from a carbon tax;

Whereas, according to the Energy Information Administration, the share of energy consumption during 2023 in the United States that was derived from fossil fuels was approximately 80 percent;

Whereas a carbon tax will increase the cost of every good manufactured in the United States;

Whereas a carbon tax will impose disproportionate burdens on certain industries, jobs, States, and geographic regions and would further restrict the global competitiveness of the United States;

Whereas American ingenuity has led to innovations in energy exploration and development and has increased production of domestic energy resources on private and State-owned land which has created significant job growth and private capital investment;

Whereas the energy policy of the United States should encourage continued private sector innovation and development and not increase the existing tax burden on manufacturers;

Whereas the production of American energy resources increases the ability of the United States to maintain a competitive advantage in today's global economy;

Whereas a carbon tax would reduce America's global competitiveness and would encourage development abroad in countries that do not impose this exorbitant tax burden; and

Whereas the Congress and the President should focus on pro-growth solutions that encourage increased development of domestic resources: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That it is the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to American families and businesses, and is not in the best interest of the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The concurrent resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways

and Means or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) and the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. 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 concurrent resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, working families are struggling to make ends meet, to afford to put food on their table, clothes on their backs, and gasoline in their cars, all because of the inflation crisis that has been fueled by Washington Democrats' runaway spending and President Biden's failed economic policies.

The last thing America needs is a carbon tax. It would raise energy prices and harm American competitiveness. It would put American workers and job creators at a disadvantage to appease the President's wealthy environmentalist donors and their far-left agenda.

The Biden administration is already giving billion-dollar corporations and big banks massive tax breaks under the so-called Inflation Reduction Act. This is the same administration that is celebrating spending over a trillion dollars and counting on special interest green energy handouts, including electric vehicle tax credits for wealthy households, while funneling American tax dollars to countries like China.

For working families, a carbon tax would not only raise prices at the pump but also at the grocery store. It would raise the cost of doing business on Main Street at a time when America's small businesses are struggling under the highest interest rates in over two decades. Those who can least afford to pay more, like seniors on fixed incomes, would suffer the most.

Today, Congress can send a loud and clear message to the American people and the Biden administration that says: Not on our watch. Not on our watch will there be an anti-American family, anti-American worker, pro-China carbon tax, while trillions of those same hardworking Americans' tax dollars go to line the pockets of the wealthy and well connected.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am listening to my dear friend from Missouri, and it is an

example of sort of being disconnected from reality.

My friends on the other side of the aisle, for instance, refuse to accept a compromise that is on a bipartisan basis that would make a difference in dealing with immigration. I think that will rank along with Speaker Boehner's refusal to accept the bipartisan Senate compromise for immigration and not even allow it to come to the floor to be voted on.

Today, we are having an exercise in futility. There is no carbon tax pending, and Republicans have nothing here that would be significant. It is a non-binding resolution, and as I say, it is disconnected from the reality.

The reality, for example, for those of us on the West Coast, is that the climate crisis is real. It becomes more apparent and urgent every day. This winter was the warmest winter on record in the United States, 5.4 degrees higher. 2023 was the world's warmest year on record. In fact, the 10 warmest years have occurred in the last 10 years.

What is the response from our Republican friends? They make stuff up and move away from solutions that would make a difference.

Every independent analyst, Republican and Democrat alike, agrees that the way that we are going to deal with carbon pollution, notwithstanding some of the climate deniers on the other side of the aisle, is a carbon tax. The rest of the world is moving in this direction.

Having a price on carbon is the most efficient, cost-effective, and fair way to deal with this crisis. However, the majority is having none of it. As I say, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are making stuff up in the face of things that have real consequences.

There are people dying in the Pacific Northwest from the unprecedented heat wave. We have had unprecedented events in California, extreme weather events. The costs of those extreme weather events dwarf the costs that my Republican colleagues are dreaming up in fantasy.

In 2022, the climate disasters totaled more than \$165 billion. The United States needs to double down on our investments in the Inflation Reduction Act to halt the worst and most expensive consequences of the climate crisis.

Instead, my Republican colleagues put forth a nonbinding resolution that doubles as a love letter to Big Oil. It paints a grim picture of the impacts of a tax on carbon, a picture that is, in fact, completely divorced from reality. Areas that have placed taxes on carbon have fostered innovation, and it is a preferred approach for most of the thoughtful business community.

The global cost of climate change is estimated to be over \$3 trillion per year by 2050. Further investments in oil and gas without accounting for the true costs of carbon will overly drag down our economy and increase this sum.

Moreover, this resolution purports to show concern about the costs to Amer-

ican families associated with a carbon tax, particularly the poor, the elderly, and those on fixed incomes. Those are the people who are going to pay the cost most dramatically from continued efforts to allow the climate crisis to move forward.

Every single Republican voted against the Inflation Reduction Act, a bill that has already saved households hundreds of dollars in energy costs, not to mention hundreds more on prescription drugs. The Republicans all voted against it, yet the majority's constituents are benefiting. My colleagues didn't care about reducing the costs back then, and we shouldn't fall victim to Republicans' attempts to pretend about reducing costs now.

The longer we fail to deal meaningfully with the climate crisis, the defining question of the 21st century, our answer will determine the lives of our children and grandchildren.

□ 1230

We have made already significant strides in lowering costs and investing in clean energy. This love letter to Big Oil is absolutely the wrong step, and it is one they will be unable to justify to their children and grandchildren. It is a wrongheaded, inaccurate approach, one that is sadly not where we should be now, not where they should be, and it defies reality.

I strongly urge—even though it is nonbinding and doesn't make a difference, we will go ahead and play this out—but I urge its rejection.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ZINKE).

Mr. ZINKE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to President Biden's planned carbon tax, which would, quite frankly, kill the American economy.

Now, nobody can dispute that America produces cleaner energy than our adversaries or allies. That is not a dispute.

When I was Secretary of the Interior, we were producing 8.3 million barrels a day and declining.

After 2 years of President Trump, we were the world's largest exporter of energy and, by the way, we reduced emissions. We had the record in safety because nobody produces energy more cost-effective and cleaner than we do.

So the answer is not to punish American producers or Americans for having a resource and using it wisely, but there are three absolutes on the carbon tax: first, the environment.

It is undisputed that it is better to produce energy in this country under reasonable regulation than watch it get produced overseas with no regulation. That is not in dispute.

Second: manufacturing and economy. My good friend from Oregon reminds us that perhaps hundreds have saved on their electric bills. I can tell you that millions have not.

When I was Secretary, gas was about \$2 a gallon. I think it is a little over

that. If anyone looked at their last year's heating bills or around the kitchen table at Thanksgiving, I think we have paid a price.

On our economy: What drives manufacturing? First of all, it is labor. We are not going to be competitive paying wages that China or India can pay. Second of all, it is resources. The cost of steel is about the same in South Korea as it is in Pittsburgh.

Where America has the edge are two things: innovation and energy. Today's energy is going to be different than tomorrow's energy needs. Data storage, robotics, all require more and more energy, and that energy is not going to come from pixie dust and hope.

National security is an area I am familiar with. I have lost a lot of friends and colleagues overseas, primarily fighting for other people's oil and energy. I think it is immoral to send our troops overseas to fight for a resource we have here.

A carbon tax makes America less competitive. It forces families to pay more for groceries that they are already struggling with. It also forces our allies, who now depend on low-cost American energy to do a transition, to where? EV in Chinaland?

Does anyone realize that 85 percent of the critical minerals that power EV—such as lithium and nickel—and the processing are all in China?

The very idea that we would make ourselves less competitive and give the advantage to our adversaries—and who is going to produce energy if it is not us? Who will? I can make a list: perhaps Iran, perhaps Venezuela, perhaps Russia.

We either produce the energy in this country under our regulations for the environment, for national security to run our country, or we cede. We retreat.

This carbon tax is a terrible idea.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I am listening to my dear friend from Montana and the University of Oregon, and I couldn't disagree more.

We have the opportunity to produce clean energy in the United States. The cost today of alternatives with wind and solar is cheaper than fossil fuel, and this is where the world is going. Having our technological edge to produce cleaner energy and not be susceptible to those international forces is absolutely essential.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ).

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, today, I stand in strong opposition to this foolish and useless resolution while my Republican colleagues rush to support Big Oil instead of America's seniors, children, and workers.

It is not rocket science. We all know that carbon-intensive industries harm our planet. It is also clear from air and water pollution, to floods, to wildfires that lower income communities face the greatest risks tied to climate change.

Families of color often have access to the fewest resources to prepare for or recover from extreme weather events and other environmental emergencies. So much for looking out for the costs of the little people.

As a mom and as a legislator, I will never stop fighting to help ensure that our Nation's children inherit a greener and healthier world.

My Republican colleagues want to choke this planet in carbon dioxide.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting against this GOP effort to prop up oil and gas companies who, by the way, make record profits year after year while American families continue to struggle.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. MILLER).

Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 86, which would express the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy.

This resolution makes it clear to the American people that we oppose policies that would drive up energy prices for families, businesses, and undermine U.S. energy security, and make Americans more dependent upon China.

A carbon tax would be a gift to our adversaries. It would restrict U.S. energy producers' ability to provide reliable energy to the grid and reduce exports to our allies. It further supports China's goal of dominating and profiting from Biden's green technologies and radical climate agenda.

In addition, the cost of this tax would be borne by the most vulnerable: the poor, the elderly, and those who are living on a fixed income.

Americans are already suffering from the effects of Bidenflation and the President's attack on U.S. energy. If this carbon tax took effect, Americans would feel the pain when they buy their gas for their cars, turn on their lights, or adjust the thermostats in their home.

The burden of a carbon tax would increase the price of everyday necessities, consumer goods, and anything that requires energy resources in their production, manufacturing, transport, or distribution.

This resolution makes it clear that we oppose policies that would drive up energy prices, damage the United States' economy, reduce the American GDP, and hurt American jobs.

I will fight tooth and nail to make sure that our God-given natural resources remain the foundation of America's energy economy, while promoting innovation and an all-of-the-above energy policy.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this love letter to Big Oil.

The Republicans' myopic focus on extreme policies has undermined our

ability to enact broader tax reforms to support Americans.

Rather than pushing this propaganda against green energy and climate change, Congress should be focused on advancing tax policies that support children, families, workers, and businesses.

Above all, Congress should be focused on restoring the 2021 child tax credit that halved child poverty in 1 year. The progress we made in 2021 shows that we can slash child poverty when we have the political will to do so.

Congress should restore the 2021 child and dependent care tax credit that gave up to \$8,000 to working parents for childcare costs for two or more children, which was much better than the current maximum of 2,100.

Congress should restore the 2021 earned income tax credit that helped foster and homeless youth, as well as single workers from being taxed into poverty.

Congress should remove income as a barrier to adoption, restore the above-the-line charitable deduction to help nonitemizers and support the amazing charities that support our communities, enact critical improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and help cost-burdened renters by implementing a refundable renter's tax credit.

Workers, families, and businesses need our help. Today's resolution represents hollow extremist talking points and lacks the political will to cut child poverty in half. Every day we delay action, poverty poisons the futures of millions of children.

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I just have to note that my dear friend from West Virginia, a woman I deeply respect, would have reliance on fossil fuel for energy security.

In her own State of West Virginia, the cheapest sources of power are renewable energy sources like wind and solar, which we incentivized with our policies and all of our Republican friends voted against.

The market has made a judgment that these are the most cost-effective ways to generate energy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Con. Res. 86, a disingenuous resolution that wastes our time while it misleadingly attacks a carbon tax.

Continuing with yesterday's shameless giveaways to Big Oil and Gas, Republicans' next energy week bill asserts that a carbon tax would raise food prices and the cost of every good in America, while ignoring the cost of climate change to communities hit hardest by flooding, wildfires, and other climate catastrophes, all while oil and gas executives maximize their profits. This is unacceptable.

The reality is that when Democrats controlled the House, Senate, and

White House, we did not pursue a carbon tax. Instead, we passed historic tax credits that are incentivizing and fueling the clean energy transition.

The Inflation Reduction Act was the largest climate investment in history and through it, we are powering economic growth, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs, and advancing environmental justice.

□ 1245

While asserting a carbon tax would raise food prices, Republican leadership refuses to disavow their own Members' proposals, like the FairTax Act, which would actually be a 30 percent sales tax on everything, including groceries, medical bills, tuition, insurance, and, yes, fossil fuel products like gas that you buy at the pump, hurting the very same people they are purporting to help.

Ultimately, this resolution represents yet another attempt by House Republicans to favor corporate interests, including Big Oil, over job-creating clean energy policies and climate solutions that benefit American families and our planet. They are trying to distract from the reality that the U.S. is hitting record levels of domestic energy production under President Biden.

We welcome Republican support in facilitating the transition to clean energy. Instead, they remain focused on doing everything they can do to undo this progress. I urge my colleagues to vote "no."

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, Republicans used to believe in market forces. They were part of a bipartisan effort to reduce acid rain, which had a cap, which in the short term increased price, but drove innovation. We solved that problem for a fraction of the alternative costs.

Denying the ability to price carbon is turning our back on innovation, turning our back on what the rest of the world is doing, and providing more opportunities for Americans.

I hope at some point they will rediscover the power of market forces and join us in efforts with the legislation that we have passed to harness those market forces and promote American innovation, as we are seeing now under the Inflation Reduction Act.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL).

Mr. CARBAJAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out just how out of step this House Republican majority is; not just with the American people, but with their own party.

This resolution denounces the free market, capitalist solution to lower carbon pollution that originally was introduced by Republicans. That is right, Republicans, the GOP.

Are we not for a free market anymore?

I am old enough to remember when it was Republicans in this Chamber who

came to the well, as I am doing today, to speak in support of carbon pricing, but now it is a radical idea.

Even today, there are bipartisan bills, including some that I am co-leading, that would put a price on carbon, protect our markets from pollution-intensive foreign goods, and put money back in the American people's pockets.

Americans support putting a price on carbon by a 3-1 margin, with twice as many Republicans supporting the idea than opposing it.

I urge you, Mr. Speaker, do not just take my word for it. Take the word of the vast majority of the American people. Hundreds of mayors from all over America, every single former Federal Reserve Chair, 28 Nobel Prize-winning economists, Republican Members of Congress, and veterans of the Ronald Reagan administration. If that is not enough, take Elon Musk's word for it: Carbon pricing is "the obvious move" and worthy of consideration, not condemnation.

What has happened to the Republican Party? I urge a "no" vote.

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

Mr. Speaker, I deeply appreciate the gentleman's tutorial on economics and history, and I could not agree with him more. I hope at some point our Republican colleagues rediscover the power of the market, like what would happen with the carbon tax, which we are seeing around the world moving in this direction.

There are two basic approaches we can take. One is to use market forces, like putting a price on carbon, or simply being the handmaiden to Big Oil.

I can't think of a more dramatic example of the fallacy of that approach than to look at the home State of our Speaker that has done the bidding of Big Oil for decades.

What is the result of that impact in Louisiana? It hasn't been a hotbed of economic development. To the contrary. But there are other consequences that are serious.

A recent study by the Environmental Integrity Project found that Louisiana is home to eight of the worst polluting refineries in the entire country. Their refineries make up half of the top 10 ammonia polluters. A region on the banks of the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge is known as Cancer Alley because of the negative consequences of the petroleum industry and the refusal of the State to provide regulation.

The untrammelled growth of the fossil fuel industry has resulted in cutting up the landscape, the loss of about one football field a day into the Gulf of Mexico. Parts of the State are sinking. Their low birth rates and preterm births are double the national average, and respiratory ailments are nearly triple. The vast majority of the residents who suffer are Black.

Look at New Orleans and the consequences of Louisiana to what hap-

pens when you just do the bidding of the oil companies. It is not better environmentally and it is not better economically. It has been, pure and simply, a disaster.

An alternative is to use market forces, to tax what we would like least of. A carbon tax would raise prices for some, but it would foster innovation. That is exactly what we did with our approach to acid rain. It sparked innovation and cured that problem much more cost effectively than other solutions.

It is time for the Republican Party to rediscover market forces and be able to do what the vast majority of economic experts—Republican and Democrat, conservative and liberal—agree is the best solution. Rather than lots of rules and regulations, use market forces. We have done that with our Inflation Reduction Act, sparking innovation and investment, even though all my Republican friends voted against it.

Mr. Speaker, there are two approaches: Give in to Big Oil, abandon your principles for environmental protection, market forces for innovation, or look at alternatives that will help us deal with the crisis of our age, the climate crisis.

I appreciate the opportunity to share those observations with you, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I would hope at a time when it looks like we are starting to see some adjustment on the other side of the aisle, we are starting to see some of the people in the governing wing of the Republican Party moving forward to try and rein in some of their more extreme elements, we may actually deal with what we should have done months ago, which is fund the government according to the agreement that 149 Republicans signed onto last spring.

I have had a little fun tweaking some of my Republican friends, but we know how this is ending up, and that is exactly what is happening. Some people in the more extreme elements of the Republican Party may feel a little pinched, but this is what we agreed to.

This is an approach that solves the problem. It is not a good solution. It is not the solution we would have done, but it is the only one that the extreme elements of the Republican Party will allow us to move forward with. It is better than having a collapse of the economy, our agreements moving forward.

I hope that we will have the governing wing of the Republican Party moving forward and that this might be a path forward because there are so many things that we ought to be able to agree upon: innovation; protecting the American public; lowering costs,

like we did with our legislation for prescription drugs, like we are doing now in terms of energy innovation.

The record is pretty strong. We have the lowest rate of inflation of any developed economy in the world. We have watched the inflation rate, which my Republican friends are focused on, and I think it is okay, but they deny reality. No major country has done a better job of controlling inflation.

It was 6 percent in 2021. It dropped to 5.6 percent, and this last year, 3.1 percent. Those are the facts; the best performance in the world. All the railing, yelling, and finger pointing don't change those facts.

We have opportunities that we could do on a bipartisan basis to help solve the immigration problem that was worked out on a bipartisan basis in the other Chamber. In fact, we were moving toward an agreement that would put more investment in border security, beefing up opportunities that could have bipartisan support that would help the public. It is not our solution. We would like to do better, but we thought it was the best we could do with our Republican allies.

As it was moving toward enactment, Donald Trump went gunnysack: We can't do that. It would not help my reelection campaign. Afterwards, we have seen Republicans retreat from a bipartisan solution on immigration.

I think this will be as shameful as my friend John Boehner's refusal to allow us to vote on a bipartisan solution from the Senate on immigration back in 2012. We can do better than that if the other side of the aisle will listen to some of the governing wing of the Republican Party, not be held hostage by the most extreme, and work with us on these elements that are already bearing fruit.

What will not bear fruit is tilting at an imaginary windmill of a carbon tax, misrelating what it is, and denying the reality of the costs for failure to deal with the climate crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge rejection of this proposal. It is not going anywhere. It is not real. It is a sad distraction and an opportunity to misrepresent what we could do.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, America's working families have paid more than their fair share for the failed economic policies of Washington Democrats and the Biden administration. Prices are up over 18 percent since President Biden took office.

Why is that?

I say it is because the President is willing to sacrifice the well-being of working families to reward the wealthy and well connected.

In the very first month of President Biden's term, inflation was 1.4 percent, and then Washington Democrats, under one-party control of the White House,

the House, and the Senate, added more than \$10 trillion of new spending, which fueled the inflation fire that has now caused inflation to rise almost 20 percent since Joe Biden took the oath of office.

That is why every American is paying more to put food on their table, clothes on their backs, and gasoline in their car, because of the failed economic policies of the Washington Democrats and the Biden administration.

This, a carbon tax, would simply add insult to that injury for so many Americans. It would raise the cost of raising a family and the cost of doing business. It would dull America's competitive edge and penalize American job creators and innovators against China.

The American people, Mr. Speaker, cannot afford, nor should they be forced to pay for, a liberal agenda that imposes a carbon tax on American families and American small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I am here today to speak in opposition to the proposed legislation, H. Con. Res. 86—Expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy.

Days away from a shutdown of their own making, my Republican colleagues are focused on their political agenda over the needs of the American people.

It is important for the American people to know and to be reminded that Democrats made significant strides in unlocking the clean energy economy with the Inflation Reduction Act, while House Republicans are only concerned with undoing that progress and blocking those achievements.

Year after year, research comes out supporting what we have known for years:

Climate change is one of the biggest threats to the survival of our nation and the welfare of our people.

Scientists have warned us about the devastating reality that would follow if we failed to act as a nation.

It is clear that some of us have heeded these warnings with great concern while others have taken them lightly.

My colleagues on the other side insist that a carbon tax would harm American families, specifically the poor, the elderly, and those on fixed incomes.

But what do they have to say about the impacts of emissions on those groups?

We know that the effects of climate change are not equally distributed, instead affecting the elderly, low-income communities, and people of color the most.

Climate change is no longer a distant threat—we are seeing the direct impacts of our inaction right now across the United States.

In countless neighborhoods throughout Texas and across the country we are already seeing the devastating effects of climate change on our coasts, our forests, our farmland, and through extreme weather patterns and ever-more destructive natural disasters.

Just last summer, Texas had the second hottest summer on record, with Texans being

asked to conserve power as the state grid struggled to keep up with the demand for air conditioning due to scorching temperatures.

Heat is deadly, often killing more people each year than hurricanes, tornadoes, or floods.

Last summer, at least 97 Texans died from heat-related illness, according to the Texas Department of State Health Services.

These record-breaking temperatures put the lives and livelihoods of Texans at risk.

As a representative from Houston, where millions of jobs are created from the fossil fuel industry, I understand the concerns my colleagues on the other side have about the economy.

However, I assure them that the economy will not be spared if we fail to act.

According to a 2023 study, the summer heat cost the Texas economy about \$24 billion dollars.

Texas is twice as vulnerable to heat-related economic slowdowns than the rest of the country.

Studies using data from the last two decades found that for every degree of higher temperature in summer, Texas sees a slowdown of 0.4 percent in economic growth.

Extreme heat hurts businesses as customers stay home rather than going out to shop or dine.

According to the Texas Tribune, industries whose workers are frequently outdoors—including the oil and gas industry and construction—I saw a notable slowdown in employment growth related to the heat, as construction projects became delayed.

When considering national disasters, the monetary burden grows even larger.

According to the Houston Chronicle, Texas has felt some of the most severe consequences of climate change than any U.S. state or territory, costing the state at least \$401 billion in hazard-related damage.

The cost estimates account for more than a dozen factors, including physical damage to buildings and infrastructure, decreases in earnings from interruptions to businesses and loss of agricultural assets.

Climate change is expected to impede the rate of economic growth of our Nation over this century.

To do absolutely nothing to counter climate change would have damning consequences for my district, my state, and the Nation.

Tackling climate change is looking out for wellbeing of our most vulnerable communities and our economy.

To do this, we must reduce carbon emissions in our atmosphere.

Carbon dioxide is the primary greenhouse gas contributing to this most recent climate change.

When large amounts of carbon dioxide are released into the air from man-made sources, our planet grows warmer, affecting the quality of every species on the planet, including us.

A carbon tax price provides the economic incentive for the quickest and most comprehensive emission reductions across the entire economy.

Democrats have continuously fought for climate solutions that would put our nation in the path of energy security, lower energy costs for Americans, and thousands of clean jobs.

It is time my Republican colleagues put political games aside and join Democrats in supporting environmentally conscious solutions.

The time calls for fresh determination and urgency.

We must work side-by-side with the American people to create a future of sustainability for our children and grandchildren, and prosperity and opportunity for our families and communities, for generations to come.

□ 1300

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

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

The question is on adoption of the concurrent resolution.

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. 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.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Avery M. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

DENOUNCING THE HARMFUL, ANTI-AMERICAN ENERGY POLICIES OF THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1085, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 987) denouncing the harmful, anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 987

Whereas President Joe Biden and his administration have proposed and finalized regulations that increase the cost of energy for domestic consumers, hamper domestic production of energy, and increase reliance on foreign adversaries for energy needs;

Whereas then-candidate Joe Biden is quoted as saying, "I will end fossil fuels.";

Whereas decreasing domestic production of fossil fuels does not prevent the fuels from being produced globally, but instead increases the United States reliance on other countries for its energy needs;

Whereas the United States is reliant on China and other foreign adversaries for many of the minerals necessary for renewable energy development;

Whereas the Biden administration has blocked domestic mineral development despite the massive increase in demand for these minerals;

Whereas the United States became the global leader in liquified natural gas exports for the first time in 2023;

Whereas, on January 26, 2024, the Biden administration announced guidance that would

prohibit liquified natural gas exports and permitting for export facilities under section 3 of the Natural Gas Act (15 U.S.C. 717b);

Whereas, under President Biden, gasoline prices reached a record-breaking high in 2022, with prices soaring to a nationwide average of over \$4 a gallon and nearly \$5 for diesel;

Whereas gas prices have increased due to President Biden's policies, affecting families and small businesses who struggle to make ends meet;

Whereas, in May 2023, it was calculated that nearly 20,000,000 households in the United States were behind on their utility bills because of rising energy prices;

Whereas energy prices increased roughly 37.2 percent in President Biden's first 26 months in office, which is the largest increase of any of the last 7 Presidents;

Whereas President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline on his first day in office, preventing over 11,000 jobs, hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil per day, and millions in revenue;

Whereas the Biden administration illegally canceled leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, even though the leases were mandated under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act;

Whereas the Biden administration added extraction restrictions to 13,000,000 acres of the National Petroleum Reserve-Alaska;

Whereas the Biden administration canceled 3 proposed lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico;

Whereas President Trump held 9 offshore lease sales and President Obama held 20;

Whereas the Biden administration has proposed numerous antifossil fuel policies that restrict Federal land development causing companies to cease investment in research, development, and exploration;

Whereas the Biden administration implemented a 20-year mining moratorium on 225,000 acres of the Superior National Forest in northern Minnesota;

Whereas the Biden administration continues to restrict mineral extraction in areas including Chaco Canyon, Black Hills National Forest, and the Thompson Divide;

Whereas, in 2022, more than one-third of Americans say they reduced or skipped basic expenses, such as medicine or food, to pay an energy bill;

Whereas President Biden issued Executive Order 14008 on his first day in office, which halted all new oil and natural gas leasing on Federal lands, violating the Mineral Leasing Act, which requires the Department of the Interior to hold quarterly lease sales;

Whereas the Biden administration did not hold an onshore lease sale until June 2022, and the first sale excluded nearly 80 percent of eligible lands while instituting a 50-percent royalty increase;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2022, the first full fiscal year of the Biden administration, the Bureau of Land Management approved an average of 233 drilling permits per month;

Whereas, in contrast, the Bureau of Land Management was approving nearly 400 drilling permits monthly in fiscal year 2020;

Whereas the Biden administration has held only 18 lease sales over 36 months in office;

Whereas the Biden administration has leased roughly 232,000 acres bringing in roughly \$180,000,000 in Federal funding, approximately one-tenth of the acreage and revenue secured by the Trump administration;

Whereas, over the same time period, the Trump administration had held 82 lease sales, leasing 3,700,000 acres and bringing in over \$1,700,000,000 for taxpayers.

Whereas the Bureau of Land Management proposed a rule titled "Waste Prevention, Production Subject to Royalties, and Resource Conservation" (87 Fed. Reg. 73588) which aims to further regulate natural gas

emissions from oil and natural gas production on Federal lands;

Whereas the Bureau of Land Management issued Instructional Memoranda that restrict the rights of existing leaseholders, ignore statutory mandates, and will limit acreage in future sales;

Whereas the Biden administration proposed the rule titled "Conservation and Landscape Health" (88 Fed. Reg. 19583) that would illegally elevate conservation as a multiple use under the Federal Land Management Policy Act of 1976;

Whereas the Biden administration has proposed a rule titled "Fluid Mineral Leases and Leasing Process" (88. Fed. Reg. 47562) that would establish preference criteria to limit oil and gas leasing on Federal lands, while increasing royalty and bonding rates for oil and gas producers on Federal lands; and

Whereas the Biden administration proposed numerous supplemental environmental impact statements for resource management plans across Western States that would lock up millions of acres of Federal lands from resource development: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) denounces the harmful anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration;

(2) denounces the irrational and unpredictable Federal lands policies of the Biden administration;

(3) condemns the energy crisis plaguing families, businesses, and Americans around the country that has been caused by the Biden administration; and

(4) encourages the domestic production of reliable and affordable energy generation sources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. 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. Res. 987.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 987 to denounce the harmful anti-American energy policies of the Biden administration, led by Congressional Western Caucus Chairman DAN NEWHOUSE.

From day one, the Biden administration has waged war on American energy. Their actions and policies have jeopardized our grid security, caused America to become more dependent on foreign adversaries like Iran, Russia, China, Venezuela, and others, and increased energy costs for everyday Americans.

Energy is foundational to everything in American life. American energy

powers our country, employs our workers, and drives our economy.

When the cost of energy goes up, so does everything else. Since President Biden took office, the administration has taken over 170 regulatory actions to make it harder to produce and deliver American energy.

President Biden and House Democrats are doing everything in their power to regulate American energy workers out of existence, and they don't care how it negatively impacts communities in South Carolina or any other State around the country. They are putting the needs of the radical climate lobby over hardworking Americans.

Americans know gas prices hit a 4-month high this week, with a national average of \$3.46 a gallon. In May 2023, it was calculated that nearly 20 million households in the United States were behind on their utility bills. That means they couldn't pay them or were having trouble paying them.

In President Biden's first 26 months in office, energy prices increased roughly 27.2 percent, the largest increase of any of the past seven administrations.

President Biden's policies have directly contributed to these unaffordable energy bills. He started his first day in office by canceling the Keystone pipeline, eliminating the potential for 11,000 energy sector jobs.

He continues to block domestic mineral development while simultaneously forcing a rush to green agenda, which makes the United States reliant on foreign countries like China that use child labor, have inhumane working conditions, and do their mining in a very environmentally insensitive way.

To distract from high energy prices, President Biden directed the largest drawdown of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in the Nation's history.

Now, the SPR, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, is there for national emergencies—in time of war, hurricane, and other natural disasters. He drew it down for political purposes.

Under Democratic control, the SPR has been drained to its lowest level since 1980 as an election year gimmick. It puts America at risk, though, not having that Strategic Petroleum Reserve available.

President Biden's anti-American energy policies know no end. They are taxing natural gas, blocking pipelines, banning LNG exports, which help American producers but also help our friends and allies around the globe, and imposing aggressive EPA regulations.

Just yesterday, the Biden administration announced a rule that would mandate that nearly two-thirds of new vehicles must be all-electric by 2032, regardless of cost, functionality, or consumer choice, which should drive the market for automobile production.

Congressman NEWHOUSE's resolution denounces these policies and encourages domestic energy production of reliable and affordable energy sources.

Republicans have solutions, and those solutions will reverse the Biden administration's war on energy. The House recently passed H.R. 7176, the Unlocking our Domestic LNG Potential Act, to reverse the Biden LNG export ban.

We also will be taking up this week H.R. 1023, the Cutting Green Corruption and Taxes Act, to repeal both the EPA greenhouse gas reduction fund and the EPA's recently proposed natural gas tax.

Republicans are leading to unleash American energy and deliver more affordable and reliable energy to all Americans.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a ridiculous waste of our time. It will do nothing to lower costs for the American people. It will do nothing to grow our economy. It will do nothing to help us continue our goal of leading the world in the clean energy transition. It will do nothing to combat the worsening climate crisis.

This resolution does absolutely nothing. It is nothing more than a long list of fabricated grievances against the Biden administration and against the important work that congressional Democrats have accomplished over the last few years.

It reads as if Republicans just fed their same old dirty energy talking points into ChatGPT and asked it to spit out a resolution.

Instead of focusing on real solutions to bring down energy costs for Americans, House Republicans are working to pass this meaningless resolution that falsely claims the Biden administration is anti-American energy, that that is what their policy is.

Let's look at the facts. The United States is currently producing more energy than ever before in its history. That includes energy from all sources—solar, wind, and, yes, more oil and gas than ever before.

While we are doing this, we are also making incredible progress in addressing carbon emissions and air pollution. Last year, emissions in the United States fell by 2 percent, even as the GDP grew by 2.4 percent.

Why are Republicans complaining? Why are they upset about the fact that we found a way to pursue energy security while also lowering energy costs for American families, boosting our economy, and tackling the worsening climate crisis, all at the same time?

I am going to tell you why—because Republicans don't want anything to stand in the way of their oil and gas friends. They refuse to deviate from their polluters over people agenda, and they are wasting floor time on meaningless resolutions and bills that won't go anywhere because they are simply not capable of governing.

This Republican Congress is the least productive of any Congress since the

Great Depression. They don't have any new ideas or solutions. Instead, they just continue to gravitate to their comfort zone, which is doing the bidding of the oil and gas industry.

President Biden and congressional Democrats have taken a drastically different approach. In stark contrast to Republicans' polluters over people agenda, Democrats are fighting to lower American energy bills, grow our middle class with new, good-paying clean energy jobs, and combat the worsening climate crisis.

Through the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act, we have seen clean energy projects growing all over the country. New manufacturing facilities are making EVs, batteries, and other clean energy technologies, and they are all booming because of crucial investments from these two bills.

This leads to emission reductions, energy production, and, of course, important new jobs. It is revitalizing communities across the country, with more than 271,000 clean energy jobs created since the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act.

In fact, the sponsor of this resolution will get to witness the power of these investments in his own district in Washington State. Two companies backed by bipartisan infrastructure law investments of \$100 million are building next-generation EV battery plants in Washington State, in his district, and are expected to create hundreds of new jobs.

It is not just the State of Washington that is benefiting. Over half of the Inflation Reduction Act's projects are located in congressional districts represented by Republicans, totaling more than 144,000 new jobs and over \$262 billion in investments.

We are growing the economies in their districts, yet Republicans continue to complain.

Republicans often talk about the Biden administration's so-called war on energy. They mentioned it today. I honestly have no idea what they are talking about. American energy production is breaking records. Gas prices have remained stable over the last year. The Energy Information Administration has forecasted that Americans are paying less for heating costs this year than they did last year.

Other countries—and often our competitors—are investing rapidly in clean energy. If we pause our important work, we will fall behind.

If Republicans have their way, we will stop competing, stop investing in the booming clean energy economy, and simply recommit to expensive, polluting fossil fuels as the way forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote against this do-nothing resolution, and I urge my colleagues across the aisle to come up with better things for all of us to do with our time, not waste our time.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the hardworking Americans, the taxpayers in this country, know that the rush to green policies of the Biden administration have made energy more expensive.

The Democrats are going to say: Well, oil and gas production is higher than it has ever been in this country.

Yes, it is, but it has nothing to do with the policies coming out of the Biden administration, which started a war on American energy on day one.

There is not a single policy you can point to that the Biden administration has put forward that would increase oil and gas production. In fact, they have done everything to harm oil and gas production in this country.

Oil and gas production increases are due to the policies of the last administration and policies that were set forth over the last decade—nothing to do with the Biden rush to green policies that have made energy more expensive.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), our majority leader.

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from South Carolina for yielding and for his leadership on energy.

We sure are going to miss your voice. We have a few more months left before you leave Congress, but you have been a great advocate for American energy and for so many other forms of energy like nuclear power.

Today, we are talking about how we can help those families who are struggling. I rise in strong support of H. Res. 987 by Mr. NEWHOUSE and a number of other colleagues because if the policies of the Biden administration were working so well, as some would try to claim, why are families furious that they are paying about 40 percent more when they go to the gas station to fill up their cars? Why are they furious that when they pay their household electricity bills—if they can afford to pay their household electricity bills—they are paying over 30 percent more?

It is because, from day one, when Joe Biden took the oath of office, he issued an all-out assault on American energy.

For anybody who forgot or wants to glaze over it or say it didn't happen or ask what they are talking about, the good news is we actually documented all of those specific actions in this resolution, Mr. Speaker, because it is President Biden who took these actions.

□ 1315

Day one, he canceled the Keystone Pipeline. Now, what does that mean? That would have been about 11,000 American jobs. You know what it also would have meant? It would have meant about 830,000 barrels of oil moving through the Keystone Pipeline.

Now, for the people that are trying to suggest that, oh, that is a good thing—because there are some people that want to just eviscerate American fossil

fuels, and President Biden has led that charge, but let's be very clear, Mr. Speaker, President Biden's war on fossil fuels doesn't cover all oil and gas, it only covers American oil and gas.

Maybe that is the most perplexing part of his failed policies that angers people. People have figured this out because they have watched the President get on Air Force One, which, by the way, still runs on jet fuel. They don't have solar panels on the wings of Air Force One. It is not a green plane. He got on Air Force One, and he flew to Saudi Arabia and begged them to produce more oil when he is shutting down production in America.

Do you know what Saudi told him? They said, no, because they are a cartel. They are a monopoly. They are part of OPEC. They want higher prices. It benefits them to have higher prices. So they told President Biden, no, but President Biden should have never even had to go to Saudi.

Again, if President Biden is so against fossil fuels, if they are so immoral as some on the left will suggest, then why is he getting on Air Force One, using fossil fuels, and begging Saudi to produce more when he is shutting it down here?

Again, he canceled lease sales in America. It is documented here in the resolution we are voting on today. We didn't do that. Nobody else did it but Joe Biden. He is the one who canceled lease sales.

President Obama actually had lease sales. President Trump had lease sales. As my colleague from South Carolina pointed out, production today—if you want to brag about production, that is great, because oil production today is a result of investments made 5 and 10 years ago.

I represent parts of the Gulf of Mexico, home to some of the best oil reserves in the deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico. Some of these rigs, if you go out to a platform in the Gulf, they can produce over 100,000 barrels a day, but you don't just plop one down and start producing 100,000 barrels today.

If you get a lease today, you have to pay millions of dollars for it. You can't because Joe Biden canceled lease sales, but if you got a lease, you then have the luxury of going out and finding private investment—because there is no government money like the solar panels and the car batteries. You have to find private money. You might have to find \$2 billion to go and fund the oil rig. You build the platform. It is a floating city. It is amazing American technology. And you put it out in the Gulf of Mexico 60 miles offshore maybe drilling 12,000 feet below the surface.

Then you have to go back to the Department and get more permits. You have to get permits for seismic, which you cannot get today, by the way. You have to get permits to put pipelines and subsurface infrastructure, which are almost impossible to get today because the Biden administration doesn't want production.

You do all of those things, and you invest all of those billions of dollars of private money, and if that well happens to produce, then maybe 5 to 10 years later it gets the first drop of oil that comes out of the ground and starts producing.

Well, again, that happened years ago, so I am glad people are taking credit for it today. It didn't happen today. It didn't happen when Joe Biden took the oath of office because Joe Biden took the steps to crush it, killing pipelines, killing leases on new production, killing the ability to get permits to go out and develop leases that you paid millions of dollars to the Federal Government for.

That is what Joe Biden did.

It is documented right here.

But what he did worse after he killed American production—if this was all about purity, and this was all about just protecting the world from fossil fuels, that would have been it. But that is not what it is about. It is a war on American energy because, again, he went to Saudi to beg them to produce more oil when he just did a virtual ban on LNG exports.

Do you know who that benefited? It crushed American jobs here. You already saw some decimated jobs and canceled major, major multibillion-dollar projects in America. Do you know who it emboldens, what Joe Biden did? It emboldens Vladimir Putin.

Putin is making billions of dollars a month—not a year, a month. Putin is making billions of dollars selling his oil and natural gas to world markets because of what Joe Biden has done. Because now he has crushed a lot more things like LNG exports, which we were using here in America to help our friends around the world in Europe. We can help our allies. But if Biden gets his way, which so far he has, we can't export here. They still need energy in those other countries.

So where is Europe getting it from? From Russia. So on one hand, Joe Biden is saying, oh, my God, Russia is evil, and he says we need to help Ukraine, but then he is funding Putin's war effort by giving Putin leverage and billions of dollars a month to finance the war against Ukraine.

This is insanity, and it is raising costs on families here at home. The hardworking families of America are sick and tired of Joe Biden's failed energy policies. And they get it. They know what he has done. People on this floor can sit here and deny that any of this stuff happened, but it did. It is well documented in the resolution point by point by point. I wish it was only one or two, and you can go focus on those, but it is over 60 actions he has taken to attack American energy—and, again, only American energy.

Venezuela is getting their ability to produce more.

Iran, the largest state sponsor of terrorism in the world, who funds Hamas—Hamas, who invaded and attacked barbarically our great friend

Israel, where did they get that money? From Iran. Joe Biden reduced sanctions against Iran, so they can sell their oil on world markets.

Again, if it was about purity and getting rid of oil, then it would be for everybody. He wouldn't have lowered the sanctions against Iran, but he did. Iran can go make billions of dollars a month like Putin is making because of Joe Biden's policies, but here in America you can't get new leases. It is almost impossible to get permits.

You can't do LNG exports because Joe Biden wants to attack American energy. We are sick and tired of it. The American people are sick and tired of it. It is hurting the people that can least afford it. The lowest income families are paying the price for this failed policy. It has got to end. The bills we are bringing to the floor point it out and end it. The Senate should take these bills up. Everybody should vote for it. These should be bipartisan exercises. Everybody should stand up for American energy.

When I look at that beautiful flag right behind you, Madam Speaker, I wonder why would we want to embolden Vladimir Putin with our energy policies when we have enough energy in America to crush Putin, to crush Iran, to crush Venezuela. OPEC would be irrelevant if we just produced more American energy, and the only person standing in the way right now is Joe Biden.

Let's end this madness.

Let's pass this legislation.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. CROCKETT).

Ms. CROCKETT. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this ridiculous Republican attempt to deny reality.

You know, I must first start off by making sure that I can respond to some things that were just said. As a member of the Agriculture Committee, you probably know just like I do that we have a thing that we have been fighting for called sustainable aviation fuels. This is something that we know in speaking to organizations such as Boeing, we know that we can actually operate planes off of something like sustainable aviation fuels, and they are ready to do the hard work, and guess what? Our farmers are ready to participate. Our farmers need to make sure that they are going to expand their options for earning a dollar because we have this thing called climate change that is taking place.

Right now, especially in the State of Texas, we are losing so much of our farmland because of this thing called climate change. We just had wildfires that destroyed land.

We know that right now when it comes to our sugar crops we are having issues because it takes 6 years just to raise a sugar crop. So guess what? We have got to be creative. Honestly, if we would allow the Republicans to continue to decide on what we are going to

do when it relates to energy, well, by gosh darn it, I think we would still be in a horse and buggy because it seems like advancements in technology are not what we are looking for.

No one is saying that it is either or. What we are saying is that we need to make progress instead of being regressive. Under this current administration, we know that we have a record amount of oil that is being produced, but that doesn't mean that we can't also be smart about our energy and move forward.

Now, let me get to my prepared remarks.

Instead of taking action to build on President Biden's progress, House Republicans would rather sit on the sidelines in the least productive Congress in modern history and ridicule rather than serve.

In this resolution, Republicans ridicule the President's energy supply chain policy, but while Republicans ridicule, Biden brings results.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DE LA CRUZ). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 2 minutes.

Ms. CROCKETT. Madam Speaker, President Biden and the Democratic Party brought billions of dollars in investment into the U.S. energy sector through the Inflation Reduction Act.

Republicans ridicule the President's record on jobs in the energy sector, but Biden is bringing over 1.4 million jobs to the U.S. through the IRA.

Republicans ridicule the President's record on gas prices. These are the same Republicans, by the way, who are refusing to lift a finger to get critical aid to Ukraine which would lower gas prices even more.

Nevertheless, despite Republican inaction by sharing intelligence and training with the Ukrainians, Biden, broke the blockade, lowering Americans' gas prices.

Republicans ridicule the President's record on home energy affordability, but Biden brought billions of dollars to help families in need to pay their energy bills in each and every one of our districts through the LIHEAP program, which Republicans refuse to fully fund.

The fact is we know what Republicans want to do with our energy sector. They showed us when they passed H.R. 1, which would put polluters over people.

Without a positive agenda of their own, they stand on the sidelines to ridicule President Biden's agenda. I appreciate this resolution, if for no other reason than it clarifies where my colleagues on the other side of the aisle stand.

I want the American people to know that Republicans ridicule President Biden's agenda to combat the climate crisis by lowering energy costs and investing in America.

While Republicans ridicule, Biden brings results.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, it is interesting that the gentlewoman across the aisle mentioned Ukraine because as the majority leader so succinctly pointed out, Joe Biden's policies of shutting down American energy production is actually funneling money to Vladimir Putin to help him pay for the war in Ukraine, to pay for the Russian Army to go in and kill Ukrainians.

It is hypocritical for them to talk about Ukraine in the light of American energy production.

The gentleman from Washington State, the chair of the Western Caucus has a great resolution that points out all of the things that the Biden administration has done to kill the American energy golden goose laying the golden egg, helping the economy.

Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for yielding.

I rise today in proud support of H. Res. 987. This resolution denounces the Biden administration's anti-American energy policies that are designed to slow and kill domestic production as a gift to extreme activists.

The result of this failed track record has been higher prices for consumers—we all know that—and increased dependency on our adversaries like Russia, China, and Venezuela for our energy needs.

The United States is blessed with an abundance of natural resources, and we have the ability to achieve energy dominance. We can produce affordable, reliable, and clean energy right here at home.

Instead, this administration is adamant on bending to the will of these extreme activists who push policies and increase global emissions.

□ 1330

Madam Speaker, make no mistake, this war on American energy is not one fought over science. It is being fought over ideology.

On his first day in office, President Biden canceled the Keystone XL pipeline, as you have heard. That has cost 11,000 potential jobs in the United States, hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil per day from our supply, and cost rural communities throughout the central United States millions of dollars in much-needed revenue.

President Biden illegally canceled oil and gas leases in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and added extraction restrictions to over 13 million acres of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, depriving Alaska Native communities of key resources in revenue.

President Biden has proposed regulation after regulation designed to end fossil fuel production, as he promised on the campaign trail, while limiting resource production on our Federal lands.

In January of this year, Joe Biden announced a pause in future liquefied

natural gas export terminal permits under the guise of climate change. This misguided decision will restrict future supply of LNG to our allies abroad who are seeking to end their reliance on Russian natural gas. I can only imagine Vladimir Putin smiled after reading this news.

In addition to these restrictions on oil and gas production, President Biden has also taken actions to make it harder to mine for critical minerals in the United States and forcing a reliance, again, on our adversary, the Chinese Communist Party.

By blocking mineral developments in northern Minnesota's Iron Range, New Mexico's Chaco Canyon, and Arizona's Rosemont Copper, the Biden administration is actively and persistently harming American industry.

As the chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus and a member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water, I am dedicated to restoring prosperity to rural communities across the country and fighting President Biden's anti-American energy agenda.

Madam Speaker, we have the capability to not only be energy independent but be a global leader in resource production. Our biggest obstacle to that goal is the President of the United States.

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

I heard the sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Washington State, mention and make reference to Ukraine and then to LNG exports. Let me say, the only thing that is holding up aid to Ukraine is the Republican leadership.

The Speaker at any time could bring up a bill providing funding for military purposes and supplies in Ukraine, and it would pass this House overwhelmingly. I don't know why he isn't doing it. However, for them to suggest on the other side of the aisle that somehow we are not helping Ukraine, that is their fault because they refuse to bring up the spending bill that will allow that to happen. It is not happening this week. Then we are going to go on a 2-week break, and it is still not happening. They are running out of ammunition in Ukraine to defend themselves against Putin.

I will also mention the gentleman's reference to LNG exports. Again, Republicans are ignoring the facts that don't conform with their narrative.

The U.S. has become the number one exporter of LNG worldwide in just a few short years, and there is enough already approved liquefied natural gas export permits for us to triple our export capacity without issuing a single additional permit.

This level of production, according to a letter sent by over 60 European Union lawmakers, will meet the energy needs of our allies in Europe for years to come. We are supporting our allies. It is those on the other side of the aisle,

the Republicans, who are not supporting our allies by not allowing legislation to come to the floor that will help Ukraine.

The White House has issued an LNG pause that serves as an opportunity to evaluate how the recent boom in LNG is contributing to greenhouse gas emissions, environmental pollution, and domestic energy price increases.

What we are saying here today—and this is what the Republicans ignore—is that this administration, the Biden administration, is increasing production, increasing production of oil and natural gas, addressing renewables, getting more solar out there, getting more wind out there, but at the same time making sure that our economy grows, that gas prices don't increase, and addressing the climate crisis.

The White House has this LNG pause because one study found that the rise in U.S. LNG exports over the past 3 years is contributing to higher energy bills for American families.

We also shouldn't ignore the public health impacts of unfettered fossil fuel development along our Gulf Coast. Study after study demonstrates a link between fossil fuel plants and adverse health outcomes. Louisiana's so-called Cancer Alley experiences low birth weights of three times the national average and preterm births at twice the national average.

I want to commend the administration for pausing new LNG permitting to examine these potential impacts. Again, the LNG exports are increasing. They are at a high. The European Union is benefiting from them.

Unfortunately, Ukraine is not benefiting at all because the House Republican leadership refuses to bring up legislation that would help Ukraine defend themselves.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, in World War II, we stopped the Germans in the Battle of the Bulge by running them out of fuel. We can influence the war in Ukraine by stopping the flow of money to Vladimir Putin through his sale of oil and gas by becoming an energy leader once again. America has the ability.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this denouncing of the harmful and anti-American energy policies of this administration.

On day one of his Presidency, Joe Biden declared war on American energy, and he has not stopped since then. To no one's surprise, this resulted in record inflation, destroying the purchasing power of hardworking Americans.

Just yesterday, the administration finalized a new rule to force more Americans to purchase electric vehicles, even if it isn't their best option.

Our government should not be choosing winners and losers, especially when it impacts their livelihoods.

Today, EVs are largely a luxury item for most Americans. Most Americans cannot afford one, and they also cannot afford a vehicle that may not serve them when they need it. Parts of my district are incredibly rural, and an EV is simply not practical for life there.

Other recent attacks on American energy by this administration include its decision to pause LNG export approvals. What is being called a pause now will last indefinitely and is a *de facto* ban.

This will cede our energy independence to countries like Iran and Russia and force manufacturing and businesses abroad. Sadly, the Biden administration is bowing to the far left's radical Green New Deal agenda by imposing a policy that will, in fact, not reduce emissions.

News flash: China's carbon dioxide emissions increased last year by twice as much as U.S. emissions declined. If we are concerned about emissions, then the Iranian and Russian gas that will replace us in the market is much dirtier and will lead to more emissions. Again, blocking new LNG export projects won't reduce global emissions, but it would be a gift to America's adversaries and show Europe that the U.S. isn't a reliable ally.

It is saddening to see this administration do everything it can to destroy our role as a global energy leader. These are things that should not happen. The world will no longer look to the U.S. as an energy leader, which inevitably will lead to a less stable world.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, years of work have gone into becoming the global leader in increasing energy production. Reducing energy prices through technological innovation, leading the world in reduction of emissions, and providing energy stability and security, these are strengths we should be embracing, not reversing.

The world will no longer look to the U.S. as an energy leader, which inevitably will lead to a less stable world.

It is no secret that my friends on the left look to countries like Germany as a role model for energy, which is the worst role model you can possibly use.

I must think the opposite. While German emissions have dropped significantly, it is largely due to manufacturing leaving the country. That means fewer opportunities and less economic prosperity. We cannot afford to follow that example.

Madam Speaker, I support the bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, since President Joe Biden's first

day in office, he has actively attacked our energy industry.

Joe Biden's blatant political ploys to satisfy his radical climate activists have directly impacted my energy-heavy district, which houses approximately 50 percent of Texas' daily refining output. It is home to seven of America's largest petroleum refineries, which processes 2.6 million barrels of oil every day. It is also home to three LNG facilities and 60 percent of the Nation's Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Our strategic reserve sites along the Gulf Coast are still dangerously low on oil, leaving America more vulnerable to a true energy supply disruption caused by a hurricane or natural disaster, not to mention our enemies.

Port Arthur LNG, in my district, is now in limbo because this President recklessly decided to ban LNG exports.

Do you know what that means for my district? This means that Texans will be without jobs and our community will suffer because these facilities typically invest heavily back into our community.

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

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

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Madam Speaker, our way of life in southeast Texas depends on the certainty of energy. The President's every move and decision to kill our energy security has only resulted in leaving America more reliant on foreign adversaries.

Madam Speaker, quite frankly, I am surprised the President has the energy to do this.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER).

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for his leadership and the gentleman from Washington for bringing the bill.

Madam Speaker, earlier today, the gentleman from Louisiana said it pretty well. President Biden's assault on domestic energy production has been nothing short of catastrophic for Americans.

Since he took office, we have witnessed staggering surges in energy costs: gasoline prices up 33 percent, home heating oil up 44 percent, electricity and natural gas up 29 percent.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration continues to threaten our energy infrastructure by refusing to unleash domestic energy production, so we have to buy from our enemies. That is the point I wanted to underscore that has been made before. We have to buy from our enemies as a function of not proliferating our own domestic supply.

From canceling the construction of the Keystone pipeline on his first day in office to revoking leases for oil, natural gas, and mining outfits across the West, and his most recent decision to ban U.S. exports of liquefied natural gas, the President has risked our na-

tional security, taken jobs from Americans, and caused energy prices to skyrocket, all in the name supposedly of climate change.

Enough is enough. I am proud to co-sponsor H. Res. 987 to put an end to the Biden administration's harmful anti-American energy policies. We have to stop this practice of supporting the people who hate us. We need to employ Americans and control our own destiny by proliferating American energy production.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER), a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H. Res. 987. I don't have enough time in these 3 minutes to go through all of the inaccuracies and misleading statements in this nonbinding resolution or that I just heard on the floor this afternoon. In the time I do have, I am going to cover some of the omissions in the resolution.

□ 1345

My friends on both sides of the aisle know that I am proud to represent the great State of Texas and the city of Houston, the energy capital of the world. We know a thing or two about energy production.

Here is what we know is happening right now under the Biden administration: One, the United States is producing today more crude oil than any other country at any other time in history; two, last December, 3 months ago, the United States' natural gas production reached an all-time high. 2023 also saw record growth in the solar industry. That is more than 50 percent more than in 2022. The same thing is true with wind energy which we produce a lot of in Texas.

After the last Congress passed and President Biden signed the Inflation Reduction Act, forecasts for land-based wind energy installed by 2026 increased by nearly 60 percent. That is enough to power an additional 2 million homes.

At CERAWeek in Houston this week, industry leaders are talking about other promising energy technologies: geothermal, hydrogen, and more. Moreover, they are talking about climate because we have to do both. We have to continue to lead the world in both production and ideas. That is American energy dominance.

Policy disagreements are to be expected around here. We are here to bring our diverse perspectives and experiences and engage constructively to solve real problems and to address real concerns.

However, resolutions like this do nothing. They do the opposite of facilitating dialogue and understanding, and they take up the time we could spend solving real problems. I am kind of a broken record on this, but I wish we were here right now doing permitting reform. That is what we should be spending our time doing.

Let's engage constructively and build on the momentum and the important steps that have been taken in the Biden administration to ensure our energy independence, which have led us to produce the most crude oil ever, to lead the world in natural gas production, to lower gas prices, to grow wind and solar in record amounts, and to develop new technologies and address emissions and climate change.

We can do all of those things and more if we do it together.

Madam Speaker, today I am voting "no," and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time, and I am prepared to close.

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

Madam Speaker, this resolution claims that the Biden administration has hampered the domestic production of energy and made the United States more reliant on other countries for its energy needs.

This could not be further from the truth. I want to be crystal clear to get this into the record: Under the Biden administration, the United States is producing more energy than it has at any other point in its history.

In fact, throughout the entirety of President Biden's term in office, the U.S. has produced more energy than it has consumed. He is the only President to have achieved that in my lifetime.

Last year, the United States added a record 33 gigawatts of solar capacity, fueled by the Inflation Reduction Act, which is lowering costs for Americans every day. We should be thanking President Biden for unleashing American energy.

Republicans can say whatever they want, but the facts don't lie. President Biden's energy policies are strengthening energy security and positioning us to compete globally all while reducing emissions. Please, I urge everyone to vote against the resolution.

Let me just say, this resolution is really flat out absurd in its attempt by extreme Republicans to mislead the American public.

The data shows that we are producing more energy. It is not just oil and gas. It is solar, it is more wind turbines, and it is exporting more gas and liquid fuels than ever before. Meanwhile, the administration is making significant progress in its effort to drive down planet warming air pollution.

Last year, U.S. emissions fell, as I said, by 2 percent even as the economy roared and GDP grew by 2.34 percent. These numbers are a clear indication that we can achieve a safer climate while bolstering energy security and job growth at the same time.

In the face of this climate crisis, the U.S. must continue to be a global leader in the clean energy transition and help our communities prevent further extreme weather and other climate impacts.

What we are seeing before us today with this resolution is the Republicans' polluters over people agenda. That is the reality. It is a policy that is outlined in this resolution that risks derailling the immense progress that President Biden has made since taking office.

In conclusion, Madam Speaker, I can't emphasize enough that what we are seeing with this President and this administration is an effort to increase energy production across the board and at the same time become a global leader on addressing the climate crisis.

Let us continue with that. Let us build on that. Don't take us back. That is what this resolution would do. It would take us back.

Madam Speaker, I encourage everyone to vote against this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, my friend and colleague from South Carolina, Trey Gowdy, when he served in Congress said this: There is a stubborn thing about facts. It is that they are facts. This resolution is facts.

Things the Biden administration has done to hurt American independence are costing Americans more of their hard-earned dollars to pay their basic utility bills and transportation fuels to go to work, take their kids to school, to ball games, or to go to their houses of worship.

It is costing them more today to fill their tanks than before the Biden administration took office. In fact, as we pointed out, on day one, the Joe Biden administration started a war on American energy by stopping the Keystone pipeline. He has had fewer lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico than any other President in decades. He had three. President Obama had 20 lease sales.

As the majority leader said, instead of President Biden getting on Air Force One after the invasion of Ukraine when energy prices were going up and we were approaching a congressional election cycle, President Biden, instead of getting on Air Force One and going to the OPEC cartel in Saudi Arabia and begging them to produce more fossil fuels—they claim to hate fossil fuels—but we are going to beg OPEC to produce more so that we can consume more.

Instead of going to Saudi Arabia in the Middle East, President Biden should have got on his plane and gone to North Dakota, or gone to Pennsylvania to the Marcellus shale, or gone to Louisiana, or gone to the Permian Basin in Texas and begged American producers to produce more so that Americans could use American-produced resources.

That is a winning strategy for America: to be energy independent.

I am glad the Democrats on the other side of the aisle are talking about energy production being up right now; it is, but it has nothing to do with the Biden administration policies. There is

not a single policy or regulation that the Biden administration has put forward that has done anything to help American producers produce more and increase that production.

All that production is the result of the Trump administration and past administrations that have leased more property and produced more resources. It takes years to produce a well. It takes years to go out and find the resources, develop that well, and get that oil and gas online.

That didn't happen overnight, and it didn't happen in the last 3 or 4 years. It has happened because of policies in the past.

I thank my friend for praising President Trump's ability to unleash American energy potential. That is a winning solution. Americans know it. They know what they were paying at the pump before the Biden administration, and they know what they are paying now. This bill points it out. These are the facts, and the facts are undisputed.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H. Res. 987, 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 resolution and the preamble.

The question is on adoption of the resolution.

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

Mr. PALLONE. Madam 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 adoption of H. Res. 987 will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

Adoption of H. Con. Res. 86; and

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1836.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 200, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 96]

YEAS—217

Aderholt	Burlison	Duncan
Alford	Calvert	Dunn (FL)
Allen	Cammack	Edwards
Amodei	Carey	Ellzey
Armstrong	Carl	Emmer
Arrington	Carter (GA)	Estes
Babin	Carter (TX)	Ezell
Bacon	Chavez-DeRemer	Fallon
Baird	Ciscomani	Feenstra
Balderson	Cline	Ferguson
Banks	Cloud	Finstad
Barr	Clyde	Fischbach
Bean (FL)	Cole	Fitzgerald
Bentz	Collins	Fitzpatrick
Bergman	Comer	Fleischmann
Bice	Crane	Flood
Biggs	Crawford	Foxx
Bilirakis	Crenshaw	Franklin, Scott
Bishop (NC)	Curtis	Fry
Boebert	D'Esposito	Fulcher
Bost	Davidson	Gaetz
Brecheen	Davis (NC)	Gallagher
Buchanan	De La Cruz	Garbarino
Buck	DesJarlais	Garcia, Mike
Bucshon	Diaz-Balart	Gimenez
Burchett	Donalds	Gonzales, Tony
Burgess	Duarte	

Gonzalez, Vicente	Lawler	Rodgers (WA)
Good (VA)	Lee (FL)	Rogers (AL)
Gooden (TX)	Lesko	Rogers (KY)
Granger	Letlow	Rosendale
Graves (LA)	Loudermilk	Rouzer
Graves (MO)	Lucas	Roy
Green (TN)	Luetkemeyer	Rutherford
Greene (GA)	Luna	Salazar
Griffith	Luttrell	Scalise
Grothman	Mace	Schweikert
Guest	Malliotakis	Scott, Austin
Guthrie	Maloy	Self
Hagaman	Mann	Sessions
Harris	Massie	Smith (MO)
Harsbarger	Mast	Smith (NE)
Hern	McCaul	Smith (NJ)
Higgins (LA)	McClain	Smucker
Hill	McClintock	Spartz
Hinson	McCormick	Staubert
Houchin	McHenry	Steel
Hudson	Meuser	Stefanik
Huizenga	Miller (IL)	Steil
Hunt	Miller (OH)	Steube
Issa	Miller (WV)	Strong
Jackson (TX)	Miller-Meeks	Tenney
James	Mills	Thompson (PA)
Johnson (LA)	Moolenaar	Tiffany
Johnson (SD)	Mooney	Timmons
Jordan	Moore (AL)	Turner
Joyce (OH)	Moore (UT)	Valadao
Joyce (PA)	Moran	Van Drew
Kean (NJ)	Murphy	Van Duyne
Kelly (MS)	Newhouse	Van Orden
Kelly (PA)	Norman	Wagner
Kiggans (VA)	Nunn (IA)	Walberg
Kiley	Obernolte	Waltz
Kim (CA)	Ogles	Weber (TX)
Kustoff	Owens	Webster (FL)
LaHood	Palmer	Wenstrup
LaLota	Peltola	Westerman
LaMalfa	Pence	Williams (NY)
Lamborn	Perez	Wilson (SC)
Langworthy	Perry	Wittman
Latta	Pfluger	Womack
LaTurner	Posey	Yakym
	Reschenthaler	Zinke

NAYS—200

Adams	DeLauro	Lee (PA)
Aguilar	DelBene	Leger Fernandez
Allred	Deluzio	Levin
Amo	DeSaulnier	Lieu
Auchincloss	Dingell	Lofgren
Balint	Doggett	Lynch
Barragan	Escobar	Magaziner
Beatty	Eshoo	Manning
Bera	Espallat	Matsui
Beyer	Evans	McBath
Bishop (GA)	Fletcher	McClellan
Blumenauer	Foster	McCollum
Blunt Rochester	Foushee	McGarvey
Bonamici	Frost	McGovern
Bowman	Galleo	Meeks
Boyle (PA)	Garamendi	Menendez
Brown	Garcia (IL)	Meng
Brownley	Garcia (TX)	Mfume
Budzinski	Garcia, Robert	Moore (WI)
Bush	Goldman (NY)	Morelle
Caraveo	Gomez	Moskowitz
Carbajal	Gottheimer	Moulton
Cárdenas	Hayes	Mrvan
Carson	Himes	Mullin
Carter (LA)	Horsford	Nadler
Cartwright	Houlihan	Napolitano
Casar	Hoyer	Neal
Case	Hoyle (OR)	Neguse
Casten	Huffman	Nickel
Castor (FL)	Ivey	Ocasio-Cortez
Castro (TX)	Jackson (IL)	Omar
Cherfilus-McCormick	Jackson (NC)	Pallone
	Jackson Lee	Panetta
	Jacobs	Pappas
	Clark (MA)	Pascarell
	Clarke (NY)	Payne
	Cleaver	Pelosi
	Clyburn	Peters
	Cohen	Pettersen
	Cannolly	Phillips
	Correa	Pingree
	Costa	Pocan
	Courtney	Porter
	Craig	Kim (NJ)
	Crockett	Krishnamoorthi
	Crow	Kuster
	Cuellar	Landsman
	Davids (KS)	Larsen (WA)
	Davis (IL)	Larson (CT)
	Dean (PA)	Lee (CA)
	DeGette	Lee (NV)

Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto

NOT VOTING—15

Frankel, Lois
Golden (ME)
Gosar
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva

□ 1422

Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. VARGAS, Mses. SEWELL, WEXTON, and Mr. FROST changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. DIAZ-BALART changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 96.

EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT A CARBON TAX WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE UNITED STATES ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 86) expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the United States economy, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the adoption of the concurrent resolution.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 196, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 97]

YEAS—222

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Allred
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis

Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)

Pressley
Rose
Simpson
Williams (TX)
Wilson (FL)
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxy
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Gallego
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
Huiuzenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan

NAYS—196

Adams
Aguilar
Amo
Auchincloss
Balint
Barragán
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Budzinski
Bush
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

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
Mooleenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Moskowitz
Murphy
Newhouse
Norman
Nunn (IA)
Obermolte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer

NAYS—196

Craig
Crockett
Jeffries
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio
DeSaulnier
Dingell
Doggett
Escobar
Eshoo
Español
Evans
Fitzpatrick
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frost
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Hayes
Himes
Horsford
Houlihan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson (NC)
Jackson Lee

Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peters
Petterson
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger

NOT VOTING—14

Frankel, Lois
Golden (ME)
Gosar
Grijalva
Harder (CA)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1429

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

OCEAN SHIPPING REFORM IMPLEMENTATION ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1836) to amend title 46, United States Code, to make technical corrections with respect to ocean shipping authorities, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) 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 393, nays 24, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 98]

YEAS—393

Adams
Aderholt
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Auchincloss
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr

Barragán
Bean (FL)
Beatty
Bentz
Bera
Bergman
Beyer
Bice
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NC)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Boebert
Bonamici
Bost
Bowman

Boyle (PA)
Brown
Brownley
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burgess
Burlison
Bush
Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Cárdenas
Carey
Carson

Carter (GA) Guthrie
 Carter (LA) Hageman
 Carter (TX) Harris
 Cartwright Harshbarger
 Casar Hayes
 Case Higgins (LA)
 Casten Hill
 Castor (FL) Himes
 Castro (TX) Hinson
 Chavez-DeRemer Horsford
 Cherfilus-McCormick Houchin
 Chu Houllahan
 Ciscomani Hoyer
 Clark (MA) Hoyle (OR)
 Clarke (NY) Hudson
 Cleaver Huffman
 Cloud HuiZENga
 Clyburn Hunt
 Cohen Issa
 Cole Ivey
 Comer Jackson (IL)
 Connolly Jackson (NC)
 Correa Jackson (TX)
 Costa Jackson Lee
 Courtney Jacobs
 Craig James
 Crawford Jayapal
 Crenshaw Jeffries
 Crockett Johnson (GA)
 Crow Johnson (SD)
 Cuellar Jordan
 Curtis Joyce (OH)
 D'Esposito Joyce (PA)
 Davids (KS) Kamlager-Dove
 Davis (IL) Kaptur
 Davis (NC) Kean (NJ)
 De La Cruz Keating
 Dean (PA) Kelly (IL)
 DeGette Kelly (MS)
 DeLauro Kelly (PA)
 DelBene Khanna
 Deluzio Kiggans (VA)
 DeSaulnier Kiley
 DesJarlais Kilmer
 Diaz-Balart Kim (CA)
 Dingell Kim (NJ)
 Doggett Krishnamoorthi
 Duarte Kuster
 Duncan Kustoff
 Dunn (FL) LaHood
 Edwards LaLota
 Ellzey LaMalfa
 Emmer Lamborn
 Escobar Landsman
 Eshoo Langworthy
 Espallat Larsen (WA)
 Evans Larson (CT)
 Ezell Latta
 Fallon LaTurner
 Feenstra Lawler
 Ferguson Lee (CA)
 Finstad Lee (FL)
 Fischbach Lee (NV)
 Fitzgerald Lee (PA)
 Fitzpatrick Leger Fernandez
 Fleischmann Lesko
 Fletcher Letlow
 Flood Levin
 Foster Lieu
 Foushee Lofgren
 Foxx Loudermilk
 Franklin, Scott Lucas
 Frost Luetkemeyer
 Fry Luna
 Fulcher Luttrell
 Gallagher Self
 Gallego Mace
 Garamendi Magaziner
 Garbarino Malliotakis
 Garcia (IL) Maloy
 Garcia (TX) Mann
 Garcia, Mike Manning
 Garcia, Robert Massie
 Gimenez Mast
 Goldman (NY) Matsui
 Gomez McBath
 Gonzales, Tony McCaul
 Gonzalez, Vicente McClain
 Gooden (TX) McClellan
 Gottheimer McCollum
 Granger McCormick
 Graves (LA) McGarvey
 Graves (MO) McGovern
 Green (TN) McHenry
 Green, Al (TX) Meeks
 Grothman Menendez
 Guest Meng
 Meuser
 Mfume

Miller (IL) Miller (OH)
 Miller (WV) Miller-Meeks
 Mills
 Moolenaar
 Mooney
 Moore (AL) Moore (AL)
 Moore (UT) Moore (WI)
 Moran
 Morelle
 Moskowitz
 Moulton
 Hudson Mullin
 Murphy
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Neguse
 Newhouse
 Nickel
 Nunn (IA)
 Obernolte
 Ocasio-Cortez
 Ogles
 Omar
 Owens
 Pallone
 Palmer
 Panetta
 Pappas
 Pascarell
 Payne
 Pelosi
 Peltola
 Pence
 Perez
 Peters
 Pettersen
 Pfluger
 Phillips
 Pingree
 Pocan
 Porter
 Posey
 Quigley
 Ramirez
 Raskin
 Reschenthaler
 Rodgers (WA)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Ross
 Rouzer
 Ruiz
 Ruppersberger
 Rutherford
 Ryan
 Salazar
 Salinas
 Sánchez
 Sarbanes
 Scalise
 Scanlon
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schneider
 Scholten
 Schrier
 Schweikert
 Scott (VA)
 Scott, Austin
 Scott, David
 Self
 Sessions
 Sewell
 Sherman
 Sherrill
 Slotkin
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (WA)
 Smucker
 Sorensen
 Soto
 Spanberger
 Spartz
 Stansbury
 Stanton
 Stauber
 Steel
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Stevens
 Strickland
 Strong

SuoZZi
 Swalwell
 Sykes
 Takano
 Tenney
 Thanedar
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thompson (PA)
 Tiffany
 Timmons
 Titus
 Tlaib
 Tokuda
 Tonko
 Torres (CA)

Torres (NY)
 Trahan
 Trone
 Turner
 Underwood
 Valadao
 Van Drew
 Van Dwyne
 Van Orden
 Vargas
 Vasquez
 Veasey
 Velázquez
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Waltz

Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Watson Coleman
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Wexton
 Wild
 Williams (GA)
 Williams (NY)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Yakym
 Zinke

NAYS—24

Babin
 Biggs
 Brechert
 Burchett
 Carl
 Cline
 Clyde
 Collins

Crane
 Davidson
 Donalds
 Estes
 Gaetz
 Good (VA)
 Greene (GA)
 Griffith

Hern
 McClintock
 Norman
 Perry
 Rosendale
 Roy
 Steube
 Weber (TX)

NOT VOTING—14

Frankel, Lois
 Golden (ME)
 Gosar
 Grijalva
 Harder (CA)

Kildee
 Molinaro
 Nehls
 Norcross
 Pressley

Rose
 Simpson
 Williams (TX)
 Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
 The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1437

Mr. CLINE changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, today I missed votes due to an illness. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 96, “nay” on rollcall No. 97, and “yes” on rollcall No. 98.

CREATING CONFIDENCE IN CLEAN WATER PERMITTING ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. 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. 7023.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARBARINO). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Missouri?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1085 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 7023.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1445

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole

House on the state of the Union for the 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, with Mr. MEUSER in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and amendments specified in section 6 of House Resolution 1085 and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

□ 1445

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am proud to rise in support of H.R. 7023, the Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act, which will make permitting processes under the Clean Water Act more efficient, consistent, and transparent while continuing to protect our Nation's water quality.

The Clean Water Act became law in 1972 with strong bipartisan support and an understanding that clean water supports healthy communities, as well as every industry across the United States, from farming to fishing to manufacturing.

Unfortunately, we have seen this important law become increasingly weaponized over the years to delay permits and prevent critical infrastructure and energy projects from moving forward without providing any additional environmental protection.

Ultimately, the weaponization harms the health and well-being of our Nation. This bill will address these problems and greatly benefit manufacturers, farmers, energy producers, road constructors, home builders, water treatment plants, and supply chain managers, among others, by providing clarity under the Clean Water Act.

Every person throughout the country relies on these industries and will also benefit from the regulatory flexibility and faster completion of these projects.

I emphasize that this bill does not overhaul or weaken the Clean Water Act. Instead, the Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act codifies longstanding, effective permitting practices and makes targeted, commonsense reforms.

Mr. Chairman, I thank all of my colleagues on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee who worked on various aspects of this legislation.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support for this commonsense legislation that is going

to provide clarity to the Clean Water Act permitting process, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 7023.

This bill significantly restricts the oversight and regulatory authorities of the EPA and Corps of Engineers under the Clean Water Act.

The Clean Water Act, enacted over 50 years ago, is the Nation's bedrock environmental law for restoring and maintaining the "chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters" and water resources.

However, the changes in H.R. 7023 defy the act's overarching intent and gut the independent authority of both agencies to ensure that projects and activities are carried out with only minimal impacts to water resources.

This partisan bill weakens clean water protections while providing exemptions, legal shields, and limited oversight to special interest polluters and large-scale projects that demand higher scrutiny.

The bill disregards congressional intent in establishing EPA's independent oversight authority over clean water permits, undermines permitting requirements, eliminates judicial review and public engagement, rolls back oversight of mining companies and industrial polluters, inadvertently slows down permit processing with increased bureaucracy, and complicates State-determined decisions.

Mr. Chairman, this bill would also significantly reduce remaining Clean Water Act protections over critical rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands that survived last year's Supreme Court ruling.

Not satisfied with the Court's Sackett decision that eliminated protections for more than 50 percent of the wetlands and up to 70 percent of the streams, this package of anti-clean water proposals would further hamstring the EPA's and Corps' abilities to operate independently to protect our Nation's waterways.

These proposals go in the wrong direction by giving even more to polluters and sacrificing the needs of communities that depend on clean water.

After Sackett, Congress should be working to restore the protections of the Clean Water Act that worked for over 50 years and to move H.R. 5983, the Clean Water Act of 2023, a bill that I have cosponsored with over 130 of my colleagues, to restore clean water protections over our waters, many of which serve as irreplaceable sources of water for families, our communities, our farms, our businesses, our industries, and our quality of life.

We have made too much progress in cleaning up the rivers and streams for Congress to give up now. Mr. Chairman, that is why I am opposed to the proposed changes in H.R. 7023 that weaken bedrock Clean Water Act protections.

The bill will add additional hurdles to EPA's ability to issue water quality

standards. It will reduce, if not eliminate, opportunities for the public to seek redress when they are harmed by violations of the Clean Water Act. It would effectively eliminate EPA's ability to oversee and block dangerous projects.

Communities will not benefit from these changes, but mining companies, the oil and gas industry, and other toxic polluters will.

My colleagues would like to approve projects faster, but we need to ensure that projects are built with full consideration of the impacts to human health and the environment. I support the EPA and the Corps working with local communities, Tribes, and States to make these important decisions.

Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD a copy of the minority views to H.R. 7023 that were cosigned by myself, Ranking Member LARSEN, and an overwhelming majority of Democrats on the committee.

MINORITY VIEWS

H.R. 7023

We oppose H.R. 7023. This bill significantly restricts U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) oversight and regulatory authorities under the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Clean Water Act, enacted over 50 years ago, is the nation's bedrock environmental law for "restoring and maintaining the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's waters" and water resources.

However, the changes in H.R. 7023 defy the overarching intent of the Clean Water Act and gut the independent authority of both agencies to ensure that projects and activities are carried out with only minimal impacts to water resources. This partisan bill weakens CWA protections while providing exemptions, legal shields, and limited oversight for special interests, polluters, and large-scale projects that demand higher scrutiny.

The bill disregards Congressional intent in establishing EPA's independent oversight authority over CWA permits; undermines permitting requirements; eliminates judicial review and public engagement; rolls back oversight of mining companies and industrial polluters; inadvertently slows down permit processing with increased bureaucracy and complicates state-determined decisions.

This legislation offers these anti-CWA changes as a salve to specific projects and grievances rather than a sustainable solution to permitting. Large-scale mining proposals, such as Pebble Mine in Alaska or Spruce Mine in West Virginia, or ecologically devastating flood control projects, such as the Yazoo Pumps in Mississippi, were blocked by bipartisan presidential administrations under the EPA's Section 404(c) authority once the impacts were thoroughly evaluated. Although EPA has utilized this authority very sparingly (only 14 times since its creation in 1972), H.R. 7023 will effectively eliminate the authority altogether.

H.R. 7023 also seeks to alter the review of "linear" projects, which includes oil and gas pipelines, electrical transmission lines, and similar projects. These projects often span hundreds of miles and cross multiple state lines; however, H.R. 7023 will limit the consideration of the environmental impacts of these projects, in apparent violation of the Clean Water Act requirement that such projects have only a minimal cumulative adverse impact on the environment. The bill

also prevents judicial review by vastly shortening the statute of limitations; limiting standing to file suit; and limiting the Court's options for recourse. In short, H.R. 7023 will greenlight large projects with minimal review while also limiting opportunities for legal challenges to ecologically damaging permits or projects.

If this sounds familiar, that is because it is. The changes proposed in H.R. 7023 will remove opportunities for local communities to review and, where appropriate, challenge the ecological, economic, and public health effects of projects with potentially significant local impacts. H.R. 7023 seeks to allow private industry and development to steamroll through towns and states, constructing projects with minimal review and disregard of local perspectives. If H.R. 7023 is enacted, the potential adverse impacts to waterbodies (such as reduced water quality or availability); to the environment (such as increased greenhouse gas emissions or other contamination); and to residents (such as perpetuating environmental justice concerns) will be borne by the local and surrounding communities without a voice or venue to have their concerns heard.

Lastly, H.R. 7023 contradicts itself by slowing down permitting processes, sowing uncertainty, and decreasing flexibility. As one example, Section 2 of H.R. 7023 will add a formal rulemaking process in place of an existing and more efficient guidance process. This will slow down the issuance of water quality standards without increasing transparency or public participation and remove flexibility for updates. It will also open the standards to judicial review.

The impacts of the CWA rollbacks in H.R. 7023 are exacerbated by the context in which this bill is considered. In May 2023, the U.S. Supreme Court's decision in *Sackett v. EPA* severely restricted the waters that are subject to CWA protections. It is estimated that the decision removed protection nationwide from at least 50% of wetlands, and at least 60% of streams. With a much smaller number of waters subject to permitting or CWA requirements, additional limitations, expediting, and loopholes to the process are the opposite of what Congress needs to be doing to protect our water resources. Exposing the waters and wetlands that remain under Clean Water Act protections to additional pollution or destruction will do nothing to restore and maintain water quality.

During consideration of H.R. 7023, Committee Democrats sought to lessen the negative impacts of this legislation and require EPA to verify that the changes in the bill would not have negative impacts to water quality and availability issues that communities currently face nationwide.

Representative Pat Ryan (NY) offered an amendment to delay the effective date of the bill until the EPA Administrator determines that the changes will not result in increased discharges of forever chemicals (such as PFAS) or nutrients that cause harmful algal blooms. Providing legal cover for chemicals in waste streams from mines or other industrial polluters and limiting technologies that could remove pollution could certainly lead to increased discharges and pollution levels. The amendment would have ensured that communities are not left with the environmental and economic burden of cleaning up and removing such pollutants.

Representative Greg Stanton (AZ) offered an amendment to prohibit changes made by the bill from taking effect until the EPA Administrator determines that the bill will not result in contamination of state-designated drinking water sources, reduce surface water availability or reduce water quality in drought-prone areas. Additional fill activities or pollutants could severely limit public

drinking water sources for communities in arid or drought-stricken areas.

Representative Chris Pappas (NH) offered an amendment to require permittees to conduct proactive monitoring for emerging contaminants and forever chemicals at wastewater treatment plants in order to receive the permit shield offered under the legislation. Industrial polluters should not be incentivized to hide potential discharges of forever chemicals, such as PFAS pollution. Instead, we must work to identify and measure these chemicals in our waste streams.

The Clean Water Act has been an effective tool for improving the health of our rivers, streams, lakes, and wetlands. Unfortunately, progress restoring impaired waterbodies has slowed and, in some areas, reversed. Communities face new challenges from emerging contaminants, impacts of climate change, and declines in Federal assistance. Waterbodies subject to the CWA have already shrunk significantly. H.R. 7023 ignores all these realities and provides additional loopholes for polluters, industry, and developers.

In our view, this legislation is unnecessary, unwarranted, and a further attack on clean water nationwide. For these reasons, we oppose H.R. 7023.

Rick Larsen, Ranking Member.

Grace F. Napolitano, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment.

Jared Huffman, Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr., Valerie Foushee, Frederica S. Wilson, André Carson, Julia Brownley, Dina Titus, Mark DeSaulnier, Donald M. Payne, Jr., Jesús "Chuy" García, Rob Menendez, Steve Cohen, Val Hoyle, Hillary Scholten, Pat Ryan, Seth Moulton, Marilyn Strickland, Salud O. Carbajal, Eleanor Holmes Norton, Chris Pappas.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues on both sides to vote "no" on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chair, our permitting system is a great burden to our Nation. It delays infrastructure projects indefinitely, stops us from bringing energy sources online, and deters investments in our communities. Let's make no mistake, permitting is holding back America.

H.R. 7023, the Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act, seeks to unleash the American economy. It is a package of commonsense reforms that will reduce regulatory burdens, establish certainty, and increase transparency in our permitting system.

This bill will, in turn, create opportunities for home builders, farmers, loggers, and small business owners alike, enticing them to invest in projects that help our local economies grow and our rural communities flourish.

I highlight section 5 of H.R. 7023. Section 5 is the language of my bill, the Reducing Permitting Uncertainty Act.

Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act allows the EPA to veto a dredge and fill permit. However, the EPA has taken it upon itself to proactively reject the permits and retroactively take away permits.

In a country of due process, it seems absurd that a Federal agency can dic-

tate whether a project is good or bad before an application is even filed.

If we reject ideas before they mature, we crush any chance of ingenuity, growth, and progress in this country. Do innovators no longer deserve the opportunity to make their case and share their creative solutions?

Further, the ability to take away permits when projects are well underway is outrageous, a constant threat that the government will waltz in and shut down years of hard work—talk about creating an unwelcoming atmosphere for our job creators.

This section of H.R. 7023 is not a dramatic departure from the status quo. It is clarifying a timeframe.

When an application is pending, the EPA can make a determination whether or not to veto. It does not change the process, nor does it take away the EPA's right to veto. It just makes things clearer for those who want to bring projects online and help unleash the American economy. It returns our process to one that is science- and fact-based, rather than politically motivated.

Mr. Chair, I thank Congressman ROUZER for his work on this package of reforms.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD a copy of the Statement of Administration Policy in opposition to H.R. 7023, which states that this legislation will "weaken the Clean Water Act, remove protections for waterways that are vital to the well-being of American families, and undermine ongoing, bipartisan efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of infrastructure permitting processes."

STATEMENT OF ADMINISTRATION POLICY

H.R. 7023—CREATING CONFIDENCE IN CLEAN WATER PERMITTING ACT—REP. ROUZER, R-NC

The Administration strongly opposes H.R. 7023, which would weaken the Clean Water Act, remove protections for waterways that are vital to the well-being of American families, and undermine ongoing, bipartisan efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of infrastructure permitting processes. The Administration is making historic investments and taking unprecedented action to modernize and accelerate permitting to ensure that infrastructure projects get designed and built swiftly and in a way that reflects community input and protects clean air, clean water, and public health. H.R. 7023 would create uncertainty, confusion, and conflict in permitting processes by: restricting community input and environmental analysis and information that is needed to inform Federal decisions to protect the public; curtailing the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to keep pollutants out of water supplies upon which communities rely; and, weakening bedrock environmental protections. H.R. 7023 is out of step with the type of bipartisan permitting reforms that the Administration supports and that Congress should pass.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Chair, our predecessors in Congress worked in a bipartisan manner to enact the Clean Water Act, one of the Na-

tion's bedrock environmental laws. The legislation before us today was not developed in that same bipartisan manner, and it undermines the Clean Water Act. I oppose this bill.

The pro-clean water bipartisan consensus has held firm for decades, allowing communities to enjoy cleaner water and giving businesses the certainty they need to create jobs and spur economic growth.

Thanks to historic investments like the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act, our economy is on the move. We have added nearly 15 million jobs since President Biden took office, and unemployment has been under 4 percent for the longest stretch in more than 50 years.

Wages are up; inflation is coming down; and we are growing the economy from the middle out and the bottom up. That is the context in which our colleagues are proposing to shatter this bipartisan consensus around clean water since the passage of the Clean Water Act.

This bill will not improve Clean Water Act project permitting or create certainty. In fact, it does the opposite.

According to the Statement of Administration Policy, this bill will "undermine ongoing, bipartisan efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of infrastructure permitting processes."

The SAP further confirms the bill will "create uncertainty, confusion, and conflict in permitting processes."

What will this bill achieve? It weakens clean water protections. It provides exemptions and legal shields for permit holders. It limits oversight for projects that demand higher scrutiny.

What does this bill do for communities? It closes the door for local communities seeking review of projects that are running through their neighborhoods and gives private developers the green light to ignore local perspectives on large-scale projects.

This legislation prioritizes the needs of polluters who want to fast-track questionable projects over the public's interest and concern.

What does this bill do for the permitting process? In some cases, it slows down the process. The bill adds bureaucratic steps to the process of establishing water quality standards that will slow the implementation of these standards while exposing them to increased litigation.

What does it do for clean water? Nothing good. The legislation eliminates EPA's oversight of ecologically devastating projects and makes it easier for industrial polluters to discharge potentially harmful or toxic chemicals into our rivers and streams with no accountability.

For example, my colleagues have criticized EPA's use of its Clean Water Act review or veto authority. Yet, the record shows EPA's use of this authority has been consistent with congressional intent. I see no reason for removing this authority.

Since enactment of the Clean Water Act in 1972, EPA has only exercised this authority 14 times—most recently in relation to large-scale mining proposals in Alaska and West Virginia. EPA's use of this authority has, in fact, been bipartisan. EPA used it 2 times during Democratic administrations and 12 times during Republican administrations.

Moving this legislation now is an assault on water quality. The adverse impacts of the provisions in this bill will be substantial on their own.

However, enacting rollbacks is an extreme choice in the wake of the 2023 Sackett ruling by the Supreme Court that restricted the waters subject to the Clean Water Act protections. It is estimated the Sackett ruling removed protection nationwide from at least 50 percent of wetlands and up to 70 percent of streams.

With a much smaller number of waters subject to the Clean Water Act, additional loopholes to the process like those proposed in the bill are the opposite of what Congress needs to do to protect our water resources.

Clean water is not an abstract concept. What is at stake in this legislation is whether people have reliable, drinkable, clean water with which to conduct business, recreate, carry out daily tasks, and sustain life.

During committee consideration of this bill, Democrats sought to lessen the negative impacts of this legislation and require the EPA to verify that the changes from this bill would not have negative impacts on water quality or availability. Unfortunately, those amendments were rejected on mostly a party-line vote.

Similarly, several Democrats offered amendments to the Rules Committee to ensure the bill did not harm local fisheries, rural and disadvantaged communities, multistate drinking water sources, or infants and children. Again, those amendments were blocked from consideration.

If thoughtful oversight of our Nation's waters and the permitting process that protects these waters is still a bipartisan goal, the House of Representatives can do far better than take up H.R. 7023.

Mr. Chair, I oppose H.R. 7023, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

□ 1500

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DUARTE).

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to support H.R. 7023, the Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act.

This bill provides relief to farmers, small businesses, and energy producers across the Central Valley and throughout the United States by cutting red tape, streamlining reviews, and providing greater regulatory certainty under the Clean Water Act.

I am proud that H.R. 7023 includes my initiative taking much-needed steps to fix inconsistencies in the per-

mitting process under the Clean Water Act. In particular, this bill ensures that EPA permit writers do their jobs in a clear and reliable manner, including clear, objective, concrete limits on specific pollutants or water body conditions that permittees can rely on.

Currently, the EPA's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit writers often include language in permits that provide loopholes for antidevelopment groups to sue and block permits needed for critical energy and other infrastructure improvements. My provision closes those loopholes and limits opportunities for unwarranted lawsuits.

This bill doesn't roll back the Clean Water Act. It codifies decades-old EPA policy to shield permit holders from activist lawsuits as long as they acted in good faith and according to the specific terms of their permit.

This type of regulatory certainty and legal protection for permit holders is necessary for improving our Nation's infrastructure, especially California's Central Valley water infrastructure.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, a commonsense reform that will strengthen the permitting process for permit seekers and holders, as well as provide greater clarity for permitting agencies.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD letters in opposition to H.R. 7023, including a letter from 49 organizations expressing concern that legislation containing several misguided attacks on clean water in the Clean Water Act puts polluter profits ahead of public health and would jeopardize the water that our families, communities, businesses, and wildlife depend on.

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 non-binding 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 Middle Fork Vermilion 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; National 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.

NATIONAL PARKS CONSERVATION
ASSOCIATION,

Washington, DC, March 19, 2024.

Re Vote no on bills that could result in harm to national parks

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 being considered by the House of Representatives the week of March 18, 2024.

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 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 auction processes more consistent while updating it 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.

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. We urge a No vote on H.R. 6009.

H.R. 1023—the Cutting Green Corruption and Taxes Act: NPCA opposes this legislation, which repeals implementation of the Methane Emissions Reduction Program (MERP). MERP is critical to ensuring the successful and efficient reduction of oil and gas methane emissions and spurring economic innovation in methane mitigation. Methane is a greenhouse gas that traps over 80 times more heat on our planet than carbon dioxide in the short term. Methane is often leaked and vented during oil and gas operations, degrading air quality around national parks, driving climate change, threatening public health, and harming unique resources that national parks protect, like dark night skies. We urge a No vote on H.R. 1023 to protect national parks, visitors and communities and our climate from harmful and wasteful methane emissions.

H.R. 7023—the Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act: NPCA opposes this legislation, which weakens or delays the protection of our waterways under the Clean Water Act. Over 220 national park units do not meet water quality standards for visitor health and park resources. Instead of creating more protections that help clean up park waterways, this bill slows down EPA's ability to set and revise water quality standards. It also creates new general permits for discharges under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System without the safeguards of a similar program. The bill essentially eliminates EPA's ability to apply a rarely used, but necessary authority under Sec. 404(c) to stop large, polluting projects like the Pebble Mine near Lake Clark National Park and Preserve in Alaska's Bristol Bay watershed. Finally, the bill prevents effective judicial review of projects that fill in wetlands, streams and other waters. We urge a No vote on H.R. 7023 to prevent rolling back clean water protections for our parks and communities.

Thank you for considering our views.

Sincerely,

KRISTEN BRENGEL,

Senior Vice President, Government Affairs.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SYKES).

Mrs. SYKES. Mr. Chair, as the vice chair of the House Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 7023.

This bill is a combination of attacks on the Clean Water Act that, all together, will threaten access to the clean, safe water our communities rely on.

This bill would protect polluters and make it easier for dangerous pollutants like lead, mercury, and arsenic to enter our waterways. The more pollutants that enter our source waters, the greater the cost to clean them up. The greater the cost it is to clean up our water, the more expensive it is for our constituents.

In my district, we have seen the rising costs of water, and plenty of communities are also struggling to afford their water bills. While I have been working throughout this Congress to improve access to affordable, quality water in my district and beyond, the majority has been undermining my efforts and others with bills like this.

For example, in committee, I offered an amendment that would have protected our drinking water from pes-

ticides and prevented water rate increases by passing the cleanup costs to the polluters. My Republican colleagues voted down this commonsense amendment and preferred to have my constituents and their constituents pay for bad actors.

Water is an essential resource, and people in Ohio's 13th Congressional District depend upon access to clean water for their lives and livelihoods.

We must protect our waters from dangerous pollutants and also prevent working people and families from having to foot the bill for pollution and discharges.

Finally, I would also like to discuss how this bill relates to last year's disaster in East Palestine, Ohio, which occurred just miles away from my district, and the ongoing issues we are seeing as a result.

Changes within H.R. 7023 would allow large projects like railways or pipelines to go forward without any consideration for the broader impact that they will have on the communities that they are constructed in.

The bill limits what is considered an impact, so when used for a new rail line, the Corps will not be able to consider a rail spill, toxic materials that may be transported on the railroad, or other disastrous scenarios, just like we saw in Ohio.

These secondary impacts can be huge for the nearby environment and the communities, and with the East Palestine derailment, they certainly were.

Worse yet, other parts of this bill will limit the ability to review, taking away the ability of a community to advocate for itself and be involved in the process of a major project in their own neighborhoods.

I will continue, Mr. Chair, advocating for sensible permitting reform that allows businesses to grow and considers the health and safety of consumers in adjacent communities, but, Mr. Chair, this bill is not it.

I firmly believe H.R. 7023 will only make ongoing issues worse in my State and district, as well as yours. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chair, I am speaking today in support of H.R. 7023. This bill includes language from my legislation, the Water Quality Criteria Development and Transparency Act.

As a Member of Congress, I value input from my constituents. The EPA, however, sees input from stakeholders differently, at least with regard to water quality criteria for National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permits.

EPA claims that these criteria are just guidance, not a final agency action that should require a proper regulatory review process. States can technically adopt different criteria, but the EPA makes this process so burdensome that most States are forced to adopt the

EPA guidances. In other words, guidances become regulations, and that is the goal and endgame of the EPA.

The EPA then voluntarily takes comments and feedback on these criteria. They have a body that reviews the criteria, an internal science board comprised of bureaucrats. An internal review from its own board is not a real robust review.

The language from my bill, the Water Quality Criteria Development and Transparency Act, ensures the development of these criteria would be treated with the same respect as any other regulations—that is, listening to stakeholder feedback. The stakeholders are constantly dealing with the new burdens from the EPA. As the true experts, they deserve consideration by the EPA.

Additionally, in the most limited way possible, the EPA needs to be held accountable through the judicial system. Activists have abused the judicial system for decades. Our stakeholders should have an opportunity to keep the EPA accountable. Personally, I would prefer no new onerous criteria, but career bureaucrats being solely in charge of this criteria should frighten everyone.

Feedback from stakeholders ensures that the criteria remain relevant, and the EPA must consider the opinions of industry pros and stakeholders in making these criteria relevant. All new criteria and new regulations should incorporate their input and expertise.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD two letters expressing opposition to H.R. 7023 and its efforts to reopen Federal protections of pristine salmon habitat within and around Bristol Bay, Alaska, including a letter from the Bristol Bay Defense Fund and the United Tribes of Bristol Bay.

JANUARY 30, 2024.

Re Oppose Anti-404(c) Clean Water Act Legislation

Hon. SAM GRAVES,

Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. RICK LARSEN,

Ranking Member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

TO THE HONORABLE MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE: On behalf of the Bristol Bay Defense Fund, we write in opposition to the "Reducing Permitting Uncertainty" language amending Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act, which would eviscerate the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to prohibit, restrict, deny, or withdraw permits for destructive projects that would pollute our nation's water resources. These changes to Section 404(c) are a direct attack on the nation's clean water, Clean Water Act, and the EPA. While purporting to streamline the permitting process for development projects, these changes to Section 404(c) would threaten the very foundation of environmental protection for our nation's wetlands and aquatic ecosystems, compro-

ming their ecological integrity and ultimately impacting water quality, public health, and economic stability.

The provisions of H.R. 7206, Amendment to H.R. 7023, or any similar anti-404(c) language would gut the EPA's ability under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to stop giant polluting projects that would have an unacceptable adverse effect on municipal water supplies, fisheries, wildlife, and recreational areas like the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska. By limiting the EPA to as little as 30 days to invoke its 404(c) authority, H.R. 7206 would eliminate any meaningful opportunity for review by the public (including the project proponent) and would preclude the EPA from conducting the type of careful analyses that have supported previous 404(c) determinations. H.R. 7023 would similarly eviscerate the EPA's authority.

These anti-404(c) provisions ignore the EPA's rare and judicious use of Section 404(c), invoked only 14 times in the Clean Water Act's 52-year history. They represent a blatant attempt to green light and fast track even the most egregious projects that would destroy our Nation's water resources.

The Clean Water Act stands as a testament to our Nation's commitment to protecting our precious water resources. Weakening Section 404(c) would be a detrimental step backward, compromising environmental health, public well-being, and economic stability. We urge you to oppose these provisions or any similar language that would hobble the EPA's ability under Section 404(c) to limit the most devastating projects from destroying our nation's fisheries, drinking water, and other natural resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you to safeguard our precious water resources for the benefit of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Bristol Bay Defense Fund.
United Tribes of Bristol Bay.
Commercial Fishermen for Bristol Bay.
Businesses for Bristol Bay.
SalmonState.
Wild Salmon Center.
Native American Rights Fund.
Natural Resources Defense Council.

Re Oppose Anti-404(c) Clean Water Act Legislation

Hon. SAM GRAVES,

Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

Hon. RICK LARSEN,

Ranking Member, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN GRAVES AND RANKING MEMBER LARSEN: On behalf of Trout Unlimited, we write in opposition to the "Reducing Permitting Uncertainty" language amending Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act, which would eviscerate the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to prohibit, restrict, deny, or withdraw permits that are exceptionally destructive to our nation's water, fish and recreational resources. These changes to Section 404(c) undermine our country's ability to maintain and protect clean for fish, wildlife, communities and businesses. The proposed changes to Section 404(c) would jeopardize important public resources critical to fish, wildlife, public health and recreation and while favoring private industries that often don't have the best interests of the public in mind.

The provisions of H.R. 7026, which is offered as an amendment to H.R. 7008, or any similar anti-404(c) language would restrict the EPA's ability under Section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act to restrict, prohibit or limit projects that would have an unacceptable adverse effect on municipal water supplies,

fisheries, wildlife, and recreational areas like the proposed Pebble Mine in Bristol Bay, Alaska. The 404(c) authority has only been used 14 times in the 52-history of the Clean Water Act, most often by Republican Administrations. The Clean Water Act 404(c) tool requires significant scientific, legal and public input and processes and cannot be considered a tool that is currently wielded injudiciously.

On behalf of our more than 130,000 members and supporters in Alaska and across the country, we urge you to oppose these provisions or any similar language that would weaken EPA's ability under Section 404(c) to limit the most egregious projects from destroying our nation's fisheries, drinking water, and other natural resources.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you to safeguard our clean water resources for the benefit of all Americans.

Sincerely,

NELLI WILLIAMS,

Alaska Director, Trout Unlimited.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN).

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7023.

Mr. Chair, despite meeting every stipulated requirement, my amendment to this dangerous bill to protect our children from pollutants in their water was not ruled in order.

Something is not right. This is unacceptable as a matter of parliamentary process, and it is unacceptable because our children's health is at risk.

Infants and children are among the most vulnerable to the negative health effects of pollutants in their water. They are often the closest to the source. They crawl on the floor and in the grass, and they put anything they find in their mouths, including their hands, which puts them at greater risk of exposure to toxins.

Their immune systems are the least prepared to handle this exposure. Children's internal organs are still developing and maturing. According to the National Institutes of Health, kids' immune systems may provide less natural protection against toxins than adults. Infants and children face more critical periods when exposure to toxic chemicals may alter their health for the rest of their lives.

The Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act would increase the risk to our children by limiting the tools and processes that the EPA utilizes for monitoring the health of our water, improving water quality, and limiting pollutants from entering our waters in the first place.

The amendment I submitted was simple. It would have paused the changes within the bill until the EPA could certify that they would not lead to increased discharges of pollutants that have adverse effects on infants and children from increased exposure.

Some of these pollutants we may see more of are linked to neurological disorders, behavioral changes, and certain forms of cancer, including breast cancer, leukemia, and brain tumors.

My colleagues and I across the aisle may not agree on the merits of the

Clean Water Act or the importance of protecting our local waters from contamination and degradation, but surely we can all agree that protecting our Nation's infants and children from toxic chemicals is our shared responsibility and that we simply need to know where there is poison in our water and whether we are giving it to our children.

For that reason, Mr. Chair, at the appropriate time I will offer my amendment as a motion to recommit because I will never stop fighting for our children.

This is not just a bad bill. It is dangerous for our kids.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD the text of my amendment, and I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for this motion to recommit for our children.

Ms. Scholten moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7023 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. —. DETERMINATION ON ADVERSE EFFECTS ON THE HEALTH OF CHILDREN AND INFANTS.

This Act, including the amendments made by this Act, shall not take effect until the date on which the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency issues a determination that the implementation of this Act, including the amendments made by this Act, will not result in discharges (within the meaning of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act) that may have adverse effects on the health of children or infants, including birth defects, learning disabilities, asthma, and cancer.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON).

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act, a bill that pushes back against the out-of-control EPA and ensures that important projects are approved in a timely manner.

The EPA has used the Clean Water Act to delay or block projects and ensure a radical climate agenda is fulfilled, all at the cost of projects that are critical for the United States.

The EPA is often inconsistent, not transparent, and unfair in its decisions to approve projects, even when those projects have no negative impact on the environment.

This bill will cut red tape, strengthen the permitting process in favor of those seeking the permits, provide clarity to the EPA to ensure that they are following what the law intends, and, most importantly, fight back against the militant climate agenda.

Look, we all know that the EPA can be a bad actor in the permitting process, but they are not the only ones that are standing in the way. We also have to deal with these environmental groups that continually sue to delay these projects from going through, claiming that the costs outweigh the benefits. Of course, we know what they really mean—these projects don't fur-

ther their climate agenda, so they must be stopped.

That is why this bill includes my legislation, the Judicial Review Timeline Clarity Act. The Judicial Review Timeline Clarity Act ensures that any lawsuit seeking judicial review of a section 404 general or individual permit must be filed within the first 60 days of the permit's issuance.

If the court decides that the Army Corps did not comply with the law in approving projects, it will be remanded back to the Secretary, where they have 180 days to take action that the court has ordered.

□ 1515

Businesses are busy. They are already buried under regulation after regulation which takes obscene amounts of time and resources to comply with. In this case, they already have to demonstrate that these projects will have basically no impact on the health of water or show that they have exhausted all alternatives to discharging.

Even with these strict regulations, environmental groups sue to stall these projects, claiming that they will have a negative impact on the environment. The goal is to keep them held up in court.

Our court system is already being attacked from every angle. Let's not let the environmentalists continue to manipulate the courts to push their climate religion. It should be an efficient and speedy process so businesses can build the infrastructure that our country depends on.

The Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act will bring needed reforms to litigation and ensure any challenge to these permits are efficient, fast, and fair.

In closing, I thank the work of Chairman GRAVES and Subcommittee Chairman DAVID ROUZER.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN), the ranking member of the Natural Resources Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7023, another example of team extreme's polluters over people agenda.

Folks may be wondering why we are talking about a bill that tries to gut the Clean Water Act in what is supposed to be energy week for House Republicans. The answer is pretty straightforward. This week actually has nothing to do with energy policy. It certainly has nothing to do with clean water policy.

The common thread is team extreme's bromance with polluting industries who want to dismantle our environmental laws so they can poison our air, water, and climate without any accountability. That is why we are debating this terrible bill that will roll back 50 years of clean water protections.

Now, in the Sackett decision, the Supreme Court severely limited Clean

Water Act protection for tributaries and headwaters. The decision was a disaster, and it is why Congress right now should be trying to move legislation that builds up and protects the Clean Water Act. We should be giving the EPA further tools to hold industry accountable, to safeguard the power of States and Tribes so that they can protect sensitive ecological areas and embolden our communities to have an active role in the permitting process for projects that will impact their livelihoods.

Republicans are doing the exact opposite here. In the aftermath of Sackett, they are trying to gut the Clean Water Act even further by removing the EPA's ability to deny Clean Water Act permits, by removing NEPA and ESA protections, as well as State consultation. Republicans are trying to eliminate judicial review, making it virtually impossible for a community to challenge a project that has been hastily approved through this new permitting process.

The bottom line: This makes it a lot easier for polluting industries to wreck our lakes and rivers and streams. It puts polluters over people.

It is worth remembering, in the face of these constant attacks on our environmental protections, why we created the Clean Water Act in the first place. The purpose was to protect communities and the environment.

Just 50 years ago, we had lakes and streams that you couldn't wade into, much less fish in. There were rivers that caught fire and couldn't be put out. Team extreme wants to take us back to that. In typical fashion, they try to hide the effects of this bill behind a euphemistic title: The Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act.

If Congress had a truth-in-labeling requirement for bills around here, this would be called the dirty water permitting act. Enough of the gaslighting. Enough of putting polluters over people.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairman GRAVES and Chairman ROUZER for working on this legislation.

Mr. Chair, the reality is that America has been wrapped in a bureaucratic morass. We have been wrapped in red tape. It is impossible to do things like build roads. It is impossible to deploy things like transmission that are critical to help to renew and update the electrical grid. This is because of what we have seen as an extreme agenda out of this White House.

Just yesterday we talked about the fact that the average American family is now spending an additional \$1,000 a month just complying with rules and regulations out of this administration.

Mr. Chair, I remind you, this is the administration that said they would

not impose additional costs upon any family making less than \$400,000 a year. That is exactly what their agenda is doing, whether it is blocking energy production and driving up energy costs or whether it is the shrinkflation you have seen with smaller products at the grocery store or higher utility bills. Every American family is facing this new hidden tax.

What Chairman GRAVES and Chairman ROUZER have done is they have brought together a bill that brings common sense to the Clean Water Act process.

I represent south Louisiana. We live at the bottom of one of the largest watersheds in the world and certainly the largest watershed in the United States. We go from Montana to New York to Canada and drain all of this area. Everybody's discharge, everybody's runoff, comes to our State.

Do you really think I would have an interest in dirtier water being at the bottom of the watershed, being in the area that has the greatest commercial fisheries in the continental United States and one of the biggest recreational fishing destinations in this country?

No, it doesn't make any sense.

What this legislation does is help to streamline the process. I thank the chairman for working with us to include a provision that codifies the general NPDES permits that would simply require notice if the general permit is not going to be revised. It simply lets the applicant know or the existing permit holder know if it is not going to be reissued or renewed. This is another one that helps to improve the legal process.

Mr. Chairman, I actually met with John Kerry and Brian Deese, White House officials under the Biden administration who have both left now, but who brought up to me, while they were working for the White House, they said that we have got to fix this judicial review thing. This bill does it.

What it does is something very simple that applies common sense to the situation. It says that it is fine, you can file a lawsuit if you have a problem with the decision that was made. However, first you have to try to participate and resolve your issue in the public comment process, in the public participation process, rather than waiting for the record of decision, by standing out there on the outside filing a lawsuit just as a delay tactic. These are not helpful tactics. On the contrary, these are malicious tactics. I appreciate the inclusion of that because that moves it in the right direction.

Look, in closing, Mr. Chairman, this entire bill builds upon the incredible work that was done in the revisions or the improvements in the modernization of the National Environmental Policy Act that President Biden signed into law back in June that simply tries to ensure that we shrink the amount of time and that we shrink the scope of work that is done in looking at envi-

ronmental assessments and environmental impact statements.

All of this bureaucratic morass, all of this additional cost that is being heaped upon American families, all it is doing is slowing down our economy and giving strategic advantage to countries like China, which is not in our interest.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this legislation.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I stand today in vehement opposition to H.R. 7023, the Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act.

It is amusing that we are having an energy week conducted by a majority that uses all of its energy to fight against the interests and well-being of the American people. This bill is emblematic of the Republican Party that shamelessly prioritizes the investments of their billionaire donors over the health of our children, our communities, and our environment, not to mention our economy.

Every Member of this body likes to claim to be here to advance the needs of our constituents, but it seems like every day the Republican Party tries to tear down the very laws that aim to protect their own constituents, as well as mine, from corporate polluters pumping toxins into our air and drinking water.

It seems like every day they fight to repeal the investments that are creating thousands of good-paying union jobs in districts like mine, lowering our energy bills, and creating a healthy, livable future for our kids.

Pittsburgh is the 22nd most polluted city in the Nation, and this year was the first year that we didn't get a failing grade from the American Lung Association. I know far too well what happens when corporate polluters are absolved of responsibility and accountability for their actions, which several portions of this bill seek to enable.

I am proud to fight against those who seek to endanger our communities, endanger our children, through polluted air and tainted water, just so they can give another handout to the billionaires and Big Oil CEOs who bankroll their campaigns. I am proud to represent western Pennsylvania and the city of Pittsburgh where we have worked hard to remove and replace over 10,000 lead service lines, largely thanks to Federal protections and investments these Republicans are trying to repeal.

The only confidence this bill gives me is that Republicans will take any opportunity to eliminate oversight and safeguards for our environment and to silence the voices of those in communities who are tired of unbreathable air and toxic water.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to oppose the passage of this legislation.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chair, I don't think I have ever heard so much nonsense in such a short period of time.

As a member of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 7023, the Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act, of which I am a sponsor.

In the five decades since its enactment, the Clean Water Act has helped improve the quality of water bodies throughout this country. H.R. 7023 is focused on improving sections 402 and 404 permitting processes under the Clean Water Act. The keyword here is "improve," not remove, not eliminate, not undermine, but improve.

Improving permitting under the Clean Water Act has been a priority of mine as chairman of the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee. I have heard over the course of a number of hearings about the successes and challenges of the Clean Water Act. Throughout these conversations, one theme has become clear: Years of weaponization of this law by various administrations and radical activists are hurting our economy without providing any meaningful environmental benefit.

Today, we have heard our colleagues from across the aisle say this legislation will gut the Clean Water Act by rolling back critical water protections, but the fact of the matter is that is just not so. This bill does not modify the scope of the Clean Water Act, nor does it change the current permitting requirements. Let me say that again. It does not change current permitting requirements. It simply closes loopholes to prevent the continued weaponization of the permitting process, all of which has nothing to do with water quality.

I firmly believe that regulations should be easy to understand and easy to follow, which has the added benefit, by the way, of making them easier to enforce. Our competitors across the globe often disregard any kind of regulatory structure or permitting. When they want to do something, when they want to build a canal, they just go do it.

We are better than that. We believe in environmental protection. However, this does not mean we should be forced to wait years to build a manufacturing plant, new infrastructure, or energy projects due to weaponization of the regulatory process. Such delays only give our international competitors a distinct advantage and harm our country's economy as well as our energy security, which also, by the way, directly affects our national security.

Mr. Chair, it is simple: Clear processes lead to good decisionmaking and more consistent outcomes. H.R. 7023 helps achieve that.

For example, this bill better ensures that section 402 NPDES permits are straightforward and developed in a more transparent way, from the data used to develop the permit to language

that is used within the permit. Currently, the EPA develops water quality standards through their own internal processes, routinely dismissing comments from outside stakeholders. This legislation would require the EPA to bring interested parties to the table when crafting water quality standards. It would also require NPDES permit writers to use clearer, more specific language when developing a permit and provide a liability shield for good faith actors who are adhering to their permit terms.

For section 404 dredge and fill permits, this legislation creates more consistency and provides more legal clarity. For example, it clarifies the EPA can only veto a permit when a 404 application is active, not before an application has been filed or after a permit has been issued. It also codifies many longstanding practices for the application of nationwide permits by the Corps and creates clearer standards for judicial review to protect against frivolous lawsuits.

Section 404 permits, particularly nationwide permits, are often targeted by radical environmentalists and get bogged down by litigation. This legislation helps to protect against these kinds of frivolous lawsuits.

□ 1530

Additionally, this bill requires the EPA and the Corps to, at long last, issue and make public post-Sackett decision implementation guidance for the definition of waters of the United States, WOTUS, so that we can finally get jurisdictional determinations moving and projects done.

This bill enjoys support from a wide range of stakeholders and constituencies, from water utilities to energy groups to farmers to Main Street businesses. This legislation will enable the law to be executed and enforced more effectively, save taxpayers money, and provide more consistency for permit holders, seekers, and writers.

I will also note this bill is a team effort representing the input of several of my T&I colleagues. In particular, I thank Congressmen OWENS, STAUBER, DUARTE, BURLISON, and GARRET GRAVES, all of whom have contributed provisions to this package.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, I encourage my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MOYLAN). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, this bill provides energy predictability and certainty that our utilities, energy, manufacturing, and agricultural industries need to succeed, which are so critical to American greatness in energy, food production, and the manufacturing necessary to improve the standard of living of every American.

That is what this is about, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. That was my last speaker, Mr. Chair, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, clean water was not always a partisan issue, and no issue has more support among American families than the protection of our Nation's waters.

Now is the worst time to lower our guard on protecting clean water, as recent years have shown major water challenges across the U.S. such as drought in the West, floods in the East, and water contamination in many States.

We need to be doing everything to ensure our cities, our businesses, and our farmers have sufficient, safe, and sustainable supplies of water to meet our economic and agricultural needs, our quality-of-life needs, and our day-to-day survival. I have dedicated much of my time in Congress to protecting our critical water supplies and making sure we capture, use, and reuse every available drop of water in our communities, and I do not plan to stop now.

Recent public surveys in the West have found that residents are more concerned than ever about inadequate water supplies. Almost 9 in 10 Westerners say that inadequate water supply is a serious problem in their State.

This is especially true in my home State of California. As the Metropolitan Water District commented to our subcommittee 1 year ago, a strong and clear Clean Water Act is important to the day-to-day operations of water agencies and source water protection efforts.

Congress should be reinstating protections to the Clean Water Act that the Supreme Court removed to continue to protect our streams and wetlands that have been protected since the inception of the act.

Streams, rivers, and wetlands are critical to capturing and storing rain and snowmelt to ensure a long-term supply of water and to recharge our underground aquifers; yet, this bill limits or eliminates protections over waters that provide the source of drinking water to over 117 million Americans.

Yes, there is a cost to protecting our communities, our sources of drinking water, and our environment. However, that cost should be borne by those seeking to pollute our waterways or fill our wetlands for their own personal gain, rather than transferring that cost to Americans or to downstream States.

This bill would increase levels of pollution in our water bodies, increase risk of downstream flooding, and increase certainty that communities like mine cannot maintain sustainable sources of drinking water.

Worst of all, hardworking American families would have to pay for the pollution caused by others.

Mr. Chairman, I oppose H.R. 7023, I urge my colleagues to vote against it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, in closing, H.R. 7023 is critical to achieving more efficient project completion by streamlining and improving permitting processes under the Clean Water Act.

As has been stated, this bill will support everyday Americans making targeted, commonsense reforms to the Clean Water Act, balancing the need for environmental protections along with energy and infrastructure improvements.

This bill is the product of hard work by many members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. In particular, I thank Subcommittee Chairman DAVID ROUZER for his leadership on this issue, and Representatives ERIC BURLISON, BURGESS OWENS, PETER STAUBER, JOHN DUARTE, and GARRET GRAVES for their work who all contributed legislative language to this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I am here today to speak in strong opposition to the proposed legislation, H.R. 7023, the Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act.

This bill would modify requirements under the well-established Clean Water Act, limiting the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) authority to regulate the discharge of pollutants into United States waters.

If passed, it would represent a significant regression from over 50 years of well-established precedent regarding pollution prevention.

Moreover, it would defy the overarching intent of the initial legislation, which was to provide for more agency oversight and accountability of industrial polluters, not less.

I offered for consideration to the Rules Committee, the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 21, which sought to help ensure that any harmful impact, which would inevitably result from the passage of this dangerous bill, is documented, and reported to Congress.

Specifically, the Jackson Lee Amendment No. 21 would have added the following language to the end of the bill text in H.R. 7023:

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall submit to Congress a report on any disparate impacts on minority and disadvantaged communities, and communities previously or currently designated as having cancer clusters, including impacts to human health, environmental quality, and local economies, that may result from the implementation of this Act, including the amendments made by this Act.

In my home-state of Texas and in my district particularly, there have been multiple revelations of cancer clusters in many of the underserved and minority communities.

For instance, the Fifth Ward, Kashmere Gardens, and the larger Northeast community along with other communities in the 18th Congressional District of Texas, are all regions with minority and underserved populations that have been disproportionately and gravely impacted by harmful environmental pollutants and toxins.

In a time where we are still seeking to combat the deadly and dangerous impacts of environmental injustice in my district, and across the country, we must be taking more vigilant steps to protect our communities and the environment for current and future generations.

Instead, this partisan package repeals, weakens, or otherwise erodes the oversight and regulatory powers of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Army Corps of Engineers established by the Clean Water Act (CWA) over 50 years ago.

While the CWA requires projects to minimize their impact on the environment, this bill hamstring EPA's oversight of large-scale projects and changes the process by which it reviews "linear" projects like oil and gas pipelines.

At the same time, the bill also significantly hampers the legal action the government can take against polluters, shortens the timeline for judicial review, and removes opportunities for local governments to give input on projects affecting their communities.

Coupled with the ruling in *Sackett v. EPA* last year that changed the definition of what qualifies as protected waters under the CWA, this bill is simply a shameful attempt to swing the door open for corporations to maximize their profits at the expense of the health of the general public.

Although the bill purports to "cut red tape" and speed up the permitting process, adding a formal rulemaking process instead of maintaining the system by which the EPA currently issues guidance will actually slow it down and open these permits up to judicial review.

It is time we stop playing these senseless and harmful political games that only put the health of the American people at risk.

It is time for my Republican colleagues to join me and my Democratic colleagues across the aisle in working towards common sense, bipartisan solutions for the advancement and protection of our Nation and the American people.

Yet, here we are again, instead of finding real solutions to real crises—such as providing aid to our allies abroad and providing long-term funding to yet again avert a government shutdown—House Republicans have instead chosen to once again waste precious floor time on political stunts on behalf of Big Polluters.

For these reasons, this Resolution providing consideration for this bill and the other anti-environment bills in this rule package should be voted down.

I urge my colleagues to vote no on this reckless and shortsighted bill.

The Acting CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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.

The bill, as amended, shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 7023

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 "Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act".

SEC. 2. WATER QUALITY CRITERIA DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPARENCY.

(a) **INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES.**—Section 304(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1314(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(10) **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE.**—After the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Administrator shall issue any new or revised water quality criteria under paragraph (1) or (9) by rule."

(b) **ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—Section 509(b)(1) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1369(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking "section 402, and" and inserting "section 402,"; and

(2) by inserting "and (H) in issuing any criteria for water quality pursuant to section 304(a)(10)," after "strategy under section 304(l)."

SEC. 3. FEDERAL GENERAL PERMITS.

Section 402(a) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(6)(A) The Administrator is authorized to issue general permits under this section for discharges of similar types from similar sources.

"(B) The Administrator may require submission of a notice of intent to be covered under a general permit issued under this section, including additional information that the Administrator determines necessary.

"(C) If a general permit issued under this section will expire and the Administrator decides not to issue a new general permit for discharges similar to those covered by the expiring general permit, the Administrator shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of such decision at least two years prior to the expiration of the general permit.

"(D) If a general permit issued under this section expires and the Administrator has not published a notice in accordance with subparagraph (C), until such time as the Administrator issues a new general permit for discharges similar to those covered by the expired general permit, the Administrator shall—

"(i) continue to apply the terms, conditions, and requirements of the expired general permit to any discharge that was covered by the expired general permit; and

"(ii) apply such terms, conditions, and requirements to any discharge that would have been covered by the expired general permit (in accordance with any relevant requirements for such coverage) if the discharge had occurred before such expiration."

SEC. 4. CONFIDENCE IN CLEAN WATER PERMITS.

(a) **COMPLIANCE WITH PERMITS.**—Section 402(k) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(k)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(k) Compliance with" and inserting the following:

"(k) **COMPLIANCE WITH PERMITS.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), compliance with"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) **SCOPE.**—For purposes of paragraph (1), compliance with the conditions of a permit issued under this section shall be considered compliance with respect to a discharge of—

"(A) any pollutant for which an effluent limitation is included in the permit; and

"(B) any pollutant for which an effluent limitation is not included in the permit that is—

"(i) specifically identified as controlled or monitored through indicator parameters in the

permit, the fact sheet for the permit, or the administrative record relating to the permit;

"(ii) specifically identified during the permit application process as present in discharges to which the permit will apply; or

"(iii) whether or not specifically identified in the permit or during the permit application process—

"(I) present in any waste streams or processes of the point source to which the permit applies, which waste streams or processes are specifically identified during the permit application process; or

"(II) otherwise within the scope of any operations of the point source to which the permit applies, which scope of operations is specifically identified during the permit application process."

(b) **EXPRESSION OF WATER QUALITY-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS.**—Section 402 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(t) **EXPRESSION OF WATER QUALITY-BASED EFFLUENT LIMITATIONS.**—If the Administrator (or a State, in the case of a permit program approved by the Administrator) determines that a water quality-based limitation on a discharge of a pollutant is necessary to include in a permit under this section in addition to any appropriate technology-based effluent limitations included in such permit, the Administrator (or the State) may include such water quality-based limitation in such permit only in the form of an effluent limitation that specifies—

"(1) the pollutant to which it applies; and

"(2) the numerical limit on the discharge of such pollutant, or the precise waterbody conditions to be attained with respect to such pollutant, required to comply with the permit."

SEC. 5. REDUCING PERMITTING UNCERTAINTY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 404(c) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344(c)) is amended—

(1) by striking "(c) The Administrator" and inserting the following:

"(c) **SPECIFICATION OR USE OF DEFINED AREA.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator";

(2) in paragraph (1), as so designated, by inserting "during the period described in paragraph (2) and" before "after notice and opportunity for public hearings"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) **PERIOD OF PROHIBITION.**—The period during which the Administrator may prohibit the specification (including the withdrawal of specification) of any defined area as a disposal site, or deny or restrict the use of any defined area for specification (including the withdrawal of specification) as a disposal site, under paragraph (1) shall—

"(A) begin on the date on which an applicant submits all the information required to complete an application for a permit under this section; and

"(B) end on the date on which the Secretary issues the permit."

(b) **APPLICABILITY.**—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to a permit application submitted under section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 6. NATIONWIDE PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 404(e) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended—

(1) by striking "(e)(1) In carrying" and inserting the following:

"(e) **GENERAL PERMITS ON STATE, REGIONAL, OR NATIONWIDE BASIS.**—

"(1) **PERMITS AUTHORIZED.**—In carrying";

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking "(2) No general" and inserting the following:

"(2) **TERM.**—No general"; and

(B) by striking “five years” and inserting “ten years”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining the environmental effects of an activity under paragraph (1) or (2), the Secretary shall consider only the effects of any discharge of dredged or fill material resulting from such activity.

“(4) NATIONWIDE PERMITS FOR LINEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Secretary shall maintain general permits on a nationwide basis for linear infrastructure projects that do not result in the loss of greater than ½-acre of waters of the United States for each single and complete project (as defined in section 330.2 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this paragraph)).

“(B) DEFINITION OF LINEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.—In this paragraph, the term ‘linear infrastructure project’ means a project to carry out any activity required for the construction, expansion, maintenance, modification, or removal of infrastructure and associated facility for the transmission from a point of origin to a terminal point of communications or electricity or the transportation from a point of origin to a terminal point of people, water, wastewater, carbon dioxide, or fuel or hydrocarbons (in the form of a liquid, liquescent, gaseous, or slurry substance or supercritical fluid), including oil and gas pipeline facilities.

“(5) REISSUANCE OF NATIONWIDE PERMITS.—In determining whether to reissue a general permit issued under this subsection on a nationwide basis—

“(A) no consultation with an applicable State pursuant to section 6(a) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1535(a)) is required;

“(B) no consultation with a Federal agency pursuant to section 7(a)(2) of such Act (16 U.S.C. 1536(a)(2)) is required; and

“(C) the requirements of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)) shall be satisfied by preparing an environmental assessment with respect to such general permit.”

(b) ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONWIDE PERMIT PROGRAM.—In carrying out section 404(e) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, may not finalize or implement any modification to—

(1) general condition 15 (relating to single and complete projects), as included in the final rule titled “Reissuance and Modification of Nationwide Permits” and published on January 13, 2021, by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers (86 Fed. Reg. 2868);

(2) the definition of single and complete linear project, as included in such final rule (86 Fed. Reg. 2877); or

(3) the definition of single and complete project, as included in section 330.2 of title 33, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act).

SEC. 7. JUDICIAL REVIEW TIMELINE CLARITY.

Section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (t) as subsection (u);

(2) in subsection (u), as so redesignated, by striking “Nothing in the section” and inserting “SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section”; and

(3) by inserting after subsection (s) the following:

“(t) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

“(1) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any applicable provision of law relating to statutes of limitations, an action seeking judicial review of—

“(i) an individual or general permit issued under this section shall be filed not later than the date that is 60 days after the date on which the permit was issued; and

“(ii) verification that an activity is authorized by a general permit issued under this section shall be filed not later than the date that is 60 days after the date on which such verification was issued.

“(B) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in subparagraph (A) may be construed to authorize an action seeking judicial review of the structure of, or authorization for, a State permit program approved pursuant to this section.

“(2) LIMITATION ON COMMENCEMENT OF CERTAIN ACTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no action described in paragraph (1)(A) may be commenced unless the action—

“(A) is filed by a party that submitted a comment, during the public comment period for the administrative proceedings related to the applicable action described in such paragraph, which comment was sufficiently detailed to put the Secretary or the State, as applicable, on notice of the issue upon which the party seeks judicial review; and

“(B) is related to such comment.

“(3) REMEDY.—If a court determines that the Secretary or the State, as applicable, did not comply with the requirements of this section in issuing an individual or general permit under this section, or in verifying that an activity is authorized by a general permit issued under this section, as applicable—

“(A) the court shall remand the matter to the Secretary or the State, as applicable, for further proceedings consistent with the court’s determination;

“(B) with respect to a determination regarding the issuance of an individual or general permit under this section, the court may not vacate, revoke, enjoin, or otherwise limit the permit, unless the court finds that activities authorized under the permit would present an imminent and substantial danger to human health or the environment for which there is no other equitable remedy available under the law; and

“(C) with respect to a determination regarding a verification that an activity is authorized by a general permit issued under this section, the court may not enjoin the activity, unless the court finds that the activity would present an imminent and substantial danger to human health or the environment for which there is no other equitable remedy available under the law.

“(4) TIMELINE TO ACT ON COURT ORDER.—If a court remands a matter under paragraph (2), the court shall set and enforce a reasonable schedule and deadline, which may not exceed 180 days from the date on which the court remands such matter, except as otherwise required by law, for the Secretary or the State, as applicable, to take such actions as the court may order.”

SEC. 8. IMPLEMENTATION GUIDANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall begin a process to issue guidance on the implementation of the final rule published on September 8, 2023, by the Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency and titled “Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’; Conforming” (88 Fed. Reg. 61964).

(b) PUBLIC COMMENT.—In issuing the guidance required under subsection (a), the Administrator and the Secretary shall—

(1) prior to such issuance, solicit comments from the public on such guidance; and

(2) ensure that such comments and any responses to such comments are made publicly available.

(c) COMPLIANCE.—Any guidance issued pursuant to this section shall comply with the decision of the Supreme Court in *Sackett v. EPA*, 598 U.S. 651 (2023).

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended,

shall be in order except those printed in House Report 118-428. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered 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.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BERGMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 118-428.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. ____ RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act, including the amendments made by this Act, may be construed as affecting the ban on oil and gas development in the Great Lakes described in section 386 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 15941).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chairman, I am here today to offer my amendment to H.R. 7023.

Michigan’s First District is home to more than 2,000 miles of Great Lakes coastline. It is by far the most of any congressional district, and it touches three of the five Great Lakes.

For those of us who call Michigan home, the Great Lakes play an invaluable role for our natural ecosystems, communities, economies, and our general way of life.

Protecting our lakes is a unifying goal that crosses all political lines.

My amendment is simple. It would clarify that nothing in this legislation would affect the longstanding ban on oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes under the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

To be clear, I don’t believe a reasonable reading of H.R. 7023 would directly lead to drilling activities in our Great Lakes. Nonetheless, if there is one thing I have learned in my years in the military and here in Congress, Mr. Chair, you can’t always trust the Federal bureaucracy to do the reasonable and right thing.

The vital importance of the Great Lakes to those of us who live near them demands certainty and security. This is a concrete assurance that these protections, which have wide bipartisan support, will stay in place.

This is especially true when we are discussing permitting under the Clean Water Act, including for energy producers.

With this protection included, H.R. 7023 will be able to properly balance

sound environmental stewardship with responsible infrastructure development and cut the amount of red tape.

Providing regulatory certainty and clarity while maintaining longstanding protections, like the ban on Great Lakes drilling, is not a zero-sum game. We can and must do both.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the underlying bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition, even though I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, this amendment clarifies that nothing in this act affects the existing ban on oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes.

Legislation banning the issuing of new drilling permits in the Great Lakes was passed in 2005 with support from both parties.

□ 1545

While legislation before us does undermine Clean Water Act protections, it does not affect the existing ban on drilling in the Great Lakes.

Republicans would like to call this week energy week, so let's look at the state of American energy today. Despite what you hear on the other side of the aisle, we are experiencing a record oil boom in the United States—a record oil boom.

There is no war on oil. The United States is the largest crude oil producer in the world, outpacing Russia, Saudi Arabia, and other OPEC countries.

Last fall, President Biden had approved more permits for oil and gas drilling on public lands than the previous President had at the same point in his Presidency.

Through passage of the bipartisan infrastructure law and the Inflation Reduction Act, President Biden and House Democrats are addressing both the immediate needs for affordable gas prices for consumers as well as the long-term investments in a clean energy future that will also tackle the climate crisis.

Already since the Inflation Reduction Act's passage, 292 major clean energy projects have been announced that would create over 100,000 jobs across the country.

Just like America can dominate both oil production and clean energy deployment, we can promote American energy while also ensuring protection of our environment.

I have no objection to the amendment or its adoption.

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

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chair, explicitly maintaining protections that prevent oil and gas drilling in the Great Lakes will provide certainty for the millions of Americans who call the region home

while we work to improve Federal permitting.

Mr. Chair, once again, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. GARAMENDI

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 118-428.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, after line 11, insert the following:
SEC. 4. NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM (NPDES) TERMS.

Section 402(b)(1)(B) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(b)(1)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) are for fixed terms—

“(i) not exceeding 10 years, for a permit issued to a State or municipality; and

“(ii) not exceeding 5 years, for a permit issued to any person not described in clause (i); and”.

Page 5, after line 4, insert the following:

(b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Section 402(l)(3) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1342(l)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B)—

(A) by striking “section 402” and inserting “this section”; and

(B) by striking “federal” and inserting “Federal”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking “Section” and inserting “section”; and

(B) by striking “402(p)(6)” and inserting “subsection (p)(6)”; and

(C) by striking “402(1)(3)(A),” and inserting “subparagraph (A),”; and

(D) by striking “402(1)(3)(A).” and inserting “such subparagraph.”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would allow the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and 47 States and U.S. territories with delegated authority under the Clean Water Act to issue permits for public works up to 10 years.

Under the Clean Water Act's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, NPDES, Federal, State, and territory regulators can issue permits for 5 years, and that is it. That arbitrary permit duration no longer matches the construction timeline for public works, like modernizing wastewater treatment plants and building new water recycling facilities.

When the Clean Water Act was signed into law in 1972, publicly owned wastewater treatment plants were being constructed principally to provide primary

or secondary treatment. Things have changed over the last five decades. Now, these plants are looking at tertiary and even higher standards, taking longer time for the engineering as well as the construction. Some of these plants are even installing fuel cells, such as in my district, Pittsburg, California.

Increasing the NPDES permit from 5 to 10 years ensures that the Federal permitting process accurately reflects the timeframes to construct a public water project, upholding the Clean Water Act protections.

U.S. EPA and many State Clean Water Act regulators, including the California State Water Resources Control Board, have a backlog of permits, some of these multiple, multiple years. That is why many, if not most, of these NPDES permits issued nationwide expire long before they can be renewed and remain in effect, sometimes for years.

Mr. Chair, this amendment, if adopted, would clear the backlog and provide the necessary time to plan, engineer, and build the facilities.

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, although I claimed the time in opposition, I did, of course, note that I am not opposed. I support this amendment offered by my colleague from California (Mr. GARAMENDI) as it furthers the purpose of the underlying legislation by offering more flexibility and regulatory certainty to permit holders.

This amendment will provide publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities with the ability to have their permits under section 402 of the Clean Water Act issued for 10 years, up from the current 5 years.

In doing so, the amendment will reduce administrative strains and bureaucracy, while giving communities more flexibility to take on important wastewater infrastructure projects with certainty.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to vote in favor of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the bipartisan support for this amendment. It makes a lot of sense to expand up to 10 years. It may be that an entity would like to have a permit for less than 10 years, and this amendment would allow that, but more importantly, it does allow a permit to go for a full 10 years.

The bipartisan support is much appreciated, even though it was presented in opposition, which I understand needed to be done to meet the rules.

Mr. Chairman, nevertheless, with that in mind, I urge my colleagues to vote “aye,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARAMENDI).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 118-428.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. ____ . REPORT ON CORPS STAFFING NEEDS.

Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of the Army, acting through the Chief of Engineers, shall submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the staffing needs of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers to process applications for, and issue, permits under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, based on the number of such applications submitted during the 5-year period preceding such date of enactment; and

(2) the impact that funding for additional full-time employees would have on processing timelines for such permits.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan and straightforward amendment to help pass the backlog of permits that have slowed down the development of infrastructure and energy projects across this country.

As the co-chair of the bipartisan Climate Solutions Caucus, I am very excited to be able to offer this amendment alongside my Republican co-chair, ANDREW GARBARINO, and caucus members DAVID VALADAO and MIKE LAWLER.

Our caucus has heard from businesses, experts, and agency officials that have all expressed the very same message: Permitting in our country takes too long, and our Nation’s climate and infrastructure goals are being diminished as a result.

Ensuring timely review processes is also critical as our Nation hopes to maximize the potential of recent historic legislation, including the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. In other words, slow permitting means slower progress for our economy.

In issuing permits, the Federal Government does their due diligence to ensure that these projects will not cause

undue harm to our communities, waters, and environment. That said, under no circumstances should issues with agency staffing hamstring the permitting of projects, costing us good-paying jobs, time, and money for our businesses.

Unfortunately, the EPA faces a significant backlog. At the end of fiscal year 2023, the Agency’s backlog of general permits under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System impacted 600 facilities nationwide. Further, in 2018, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cited that the average time to complete a standard individual permit is 329 days.

Every day that a permit is not issued, time, jobs, and the potential vitality of an entire project may be lost. The EPA and the Army Corps have a responsibility to meet their regulatory permitting deadlines so that we can get shovels in the ground and projects online and on time.

That is why I offered this very straightforward and bipartisan amendment that will help us to better understand how staffing shortfalls are impacting permitting timelines. This amendment does two major things. It requires the EPA and the Army Corps to issue a report on the staffing needs that they have to process and issue permits under the Clean Water Act based on data over the last 5 years. The amendment also requires the agencies to cite the impact that funding for additional full-time employees might have on processing timelines.

This will allow Congress to be able to take any requisite action to be able to support the hardworking public servants who process these applications and who help reduce that backlog moving forward.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues, both Democrats and Republicans alike, to support my bipartisan amendment. I thank those who have already supported this amendment, and I especially thank Ranking Member LARSEN for his leadership and support.

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

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment, although I am not opposed to it.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would help provide Congress with useful information on the staffing needs for processing Clean Water Act permits.

Ensuring the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers have the necessary resources to issue permits combined with the commonsense permitting reforms included in the underlying legislation will benefit energy and other infrastructure projects in communities across the country.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Chairman, I very much appreciate the bipartisan nature with which this amendment has been accepted and received. I urge my colleagues to vote “aye” on this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. JAMES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 118-428.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. ____ . SAVINGS CLAUSE RELATING TO PFAS.

Nothing in this Act, including the amendments made by this Act, shall affect the authority of the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to conduct research on perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Chairman, today, I stand before my colleagues with a grave concern that demands our immediate attention.

The Great Lakes, the lifeblood of our region, are under siege from a silent yet deadly threat, PFAS chemicals. These persistent, toxic substances pose a significant risk to both human health and our environment. Congress cannot afford to turn a blind eye to this pressing issue. The health and well-being of Michigan and Great Lakes communities depend on it.

That is why I have submitted an amendment that would bar any of the provisions in this bill from attempting to impede research into PFAS chemicals. Stopping PFAS research would be a disservice to the public and to millions of Americans who rely on the Great Lakes.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot allow political agendas to stand in the way of scientific progress and the health of our people. Our people are too important for that.

That is why I am similarly supporting an amendment from my friend, Representative JACK BERGMAN from Michigan, which would also ban gas and oil drilling in the Great Lakes.

This isn’t a left versus right issue. This is an issue that impacts all of us and future generations.

Congress must do all that it can to protect the Great Lakes, and one step is supporting comprehensive research initiatives to fully understand the extent of PFAS contamination and its potential impacts.

We owe it to future generations to safeguard the Great Lakes and ensure they remain a source of clean water and natural beauty for years to come. Let us unite in our commitment to protect our environment and the health of our citizens.

Mr. Chairman, I ask all of my colleagues to please support this very important amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition, though I am not opposed.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I support the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES).

Communities across the Nation have learned firsthand of the human health risks associated with forever chemicals such as PFAS, a pollutant that is found in wastewater of municipal treatment works as well as in industrial discharges.

EPA is actively addressing PFAS concerns both by pushing to identify and limit large-scale industrial discharges of PFAS to treatment systems as well as developing an enforcement discretion policy for municipalities that may simply have PFAS chemicals in their sewage through no fault of their own.

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While I share the gentleman's concern about the health risks of PFAS, I would point out that the underlying bill may create greater incentives for discharges to underreport or look the other way when it comes to PFAS discharges.

Since 1994, EPA has had in place a "permit shield" policy that provides dischargers with legal protection if they are applied for in good faith, and with honest disclosures of all pollutants potentially contained in the discharge.

However, the underlying bill codifies an expanded version of the permit shield, applicable to any discharger, whether a municipal treatment plant, a mining site, or industrial discharger regardless of whether they have made good-faith disclosures of all pollutants.

EPA has indicated that this expanded permit shield creates a disincentive for permittees to identify pollutants that are part of their waste stream during the development of their permit, including PFAS.

We should not be creating incentives for permittees to ignore the discharge of these chemicals.

I support the gentleman's amendment to ensure that nothing in the act affects the EPA's authority to research PFAS chemicals. However, I do not support the provisions in the underlying bill that will undermine EPA's ability to track ongoing discharges of PFAS making it more challenging to utilize this research to help the communities threatened by PFAS.

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

Mr. JAMES. Mr. Chair, once again, I thank my colleagues for supporting this very important bill. The Great Lakes is important to the entire United States of America and to Michigan especially.

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JAMES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. MOOLENAAR

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 118-428.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Insert after section 7 the following:

SEC. 8. LIMITATION ON PERMIT ISSUANCE.

Title IV of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 407. LIMITATION ON PERMIT ISSUANCE.

"(a) PROHIBITION.—No permit may be issued under this title for any discharge from a point source that is owned or operated by an entity that—

"(1) is subject to the jurisdiction of a foreign country of concern (as defined in section 9901(7) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (15 U.S.C. 4651(7)); or

"(2) is a subsidiary of an entity that is subject to the jurisdiction of a foreign country of concern (as so defined).

"(b) APPLICATION.—This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under applicable international agreements."

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Chair, my amendment is straightforward.

It prohibits the EPA from issuing a water permit to a company that is based in a foreign country of concern as well as any of its subsidiaries.

The countries of concern are China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea. This is common sense.

As a member of the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party, I have seen firsthand how the CCP is trying to disrupt American leadership around the world and replace it with their own authoritarian regime.

Here at home, Americans feel like China is constantly taking advantage of our country and our freedoms. They are sick and tired of seeing the CCP fly spy balloons over our country, bribe our servicemembers to spy on us, hack our computer systems, poison our com-

munities with fentanyl, and depress our children with secret social media algorithms based in Beijing.

Mr. Chair, if you talked to constituents in your hometown and asked them if we should allow CCP-affiliated companies to use 700,000 gallons of water a day, they would all say, of course not.

Unfortunately, in my district, the CCP-affiliated company called Gotion is trying to bully its way into town. The company was rejected in a recall election last November and now it is suing a rural township over its plans to build a factory and use 700,000 gallons of water a day.

The EPA should not be issuing permits to CCP-affiliated companies and their subsidiaries.

We cannot allow China to take advantage of our country's natural resources.

My amendment is necessary, and it is common sense.

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR).

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, for over 50 years, the Federal-State partnership created by the Clean Water Act has allowed communities to enjoy clean water and has given businesses the certainty they need to create jobs and spur economic growth.

Yet, if this amendment becomes law, both EPA and every State who has taken on responsibility for implementing the Clean Water Act would have to deny clean water permits for any—I underscore any—facility or activity associated with a foreign government of concern.

That means that any U.S. subsidiary of a company with economic ties to China, Russia, or any other foreign country of concern would, by statute, be denied the ability to operate and expand in this country if their activities trigger Clean Water Act review.

I know Representative MOOLENAAR is concerned about the announced \$2.3 billion investment in the State of Michigan that is likely to create an additional 2,350 good-paying jobs, and that Michigan Governor Whitman has called " . . . the biggest ever economic development project in northern Michigan. . . ."

However, this amendment is not limited to Michigan. How many other U.S. subsidiaries of foreign companies will also be caught up in this amendment?

How will the General Electric appliance manufacturing plants in Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, and South Carolina continue to operate if this amendment is adopted? GE Appliances is a subsidiary of a Chinese-owned company.

How will this amendment affect Smithfield Foods' operations in Maryland and Virginia if these facilities are

forever denied clean water permits because of their association with a Chinese owner?

Motorola is one of the world's leading manufacturers of smartphones; however, this Chinese-owned company has numerous offices and manufacturing facilities throughout the U.S., including a new 136,000-square-foot facility in Richardson, Texas.

Will the Moolenaar amendment make it logistically impossible for Motorola to continue to operate in the U.S.?

House Democrats have been leading the charge to ensure that the Clean Water Act continues to accomplish both goals—clean water and job creation.

House Democrats will continue to build a strong record of sustainable job creation and support of domestic manufacturing.

Prohibiting the issuance of Clean Water Act permits for projects that have investment from certain foreign entities is likely to be unimplementable, will increase the potential for litigation and delay, and ultimately only threatens clean water.

Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment and encourage my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Chair, again, I would just restate for the Members that we are talking about countries of concern—China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea.

When we consider that China and the CCP have been flying spy balloons, bribing our servicemembers, poisoning our communities with fentanyl, and the malign activities that they are engaging in around the globe, why would we submit ourselves and our greatest natural resources? To me it is just common sense. When we are funding projects, when we are developing the future of our country, why would we further our dependence on our adversaries?

Mr. Chair, just in closing, I would ask our colleagues to vote “yes,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MOOLENAAR).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 6 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. BEAN OF FLORIDA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in House Report 118-428.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 9. APPROVAL OF FLORIDA PERMIT PROGRAM.

The notice of the Environmental Protection Agency approving the State of Florida's

request to carry out a permit program for the discharge of dredged or fill material pursuant to section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1344), published on December 22, 2020, and titled “EPA's Approval of Florida's Clean Water Act Section 404 Assumption Request” (85 Fed. Reg. 83553) shall have the force and effect of law.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Chair, ERROR: 404 not found. It is the dreaded computer message that appears when you visit a website or access a file that no longer exists.

Unfortunately, it is also the message that more than 1,000 critical development projects throughout the free State of Florida may receive due to the uncertainty surrounding the Florida Department of Environmental Protection's continued ability to issue section 404 program permits.

Lake County, Florida, alone estimates a billion dollars of economic development that now faces uncertainty. This is due to a District of Columbia Federal judge's decision to vacate Florida's 404 permitting program, a decision that will have serious implications for the future of our environment and our economy.

The ability for States like Florida, Michigan, and New Jersey to take the lead in regulating their natural resources is vital, but it is especially important for a State like Florida where our growing economy is contingent on the continued protection of our environment.

That is why my amendment simply seeks to provide permitting certainty to the now more than 1,000 projects that are lined up in limbo by codifying Florida's successful 404 program. Our program has proven time and time again that Florida can do a much better job, more efficiently and effectively, issuing permits for necessary projects better than the Federal Government has.

Mr. Chair, as Floridians, we understand the important role our environment plays in our economy and in Floridians' way of life.

Florida, please, is asking everybody to join us because we need the flexibility to make decisions that are best suited for the Sunshine State's environmental and economic needs, reduce project costs, and save taxpayer dollars, all while improving responsiveness to applicants and the communities' projects they serve.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues for their support of this important amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN).

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, the Clean Water Act was specifically enacted as a Federal-State partnership.

Today, EPA has approved 47 States to implement the point source discharge program under section 402 of the Clean Water Act. Their status as coregulators makes comprehensive implementation of the programs possible.

However, far fewer States have sought approval to regulate the discharge of dredge and fill materials under section 404 of the act, with only New Jersey and Michigan currently approved to implement this authority.

This amendment is directly related to whether Florida followed the rules in seeking approval of its own section 404 program.

Recently, a Federal district court struck down the previous administration's approval of Florida's 404 permit authority on the grounds that both State and Federal agencies failed to follow the rules in approving the State's program.

I am not opposed to the State of Florida or any State seeking to manage 404 authority within its border. However, this amendment seeks to legislatively mandate approval of a program, without changes, that was adopted without proper oversight and review.

The State of Florida can pursue implementing a 404 program, but through the proper approval process, and Congress should not mandate a program that has been deemed deficient by the courts.

Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment and encourage my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

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

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Chair, the Environmental Protection Agency still maintains a strict permit-by-permit oversight of Florida's permitting decisions, but you have heard me say that thousands of projects are on hold.

You may ask: What are you talking about, Congressman BEAN? What projects are we talking about? What projects are on hold right now?

Let me tell you what is on hold, Mr. Chair: Projects to restore Florida's Everglades and prevent damaging discharges from Lake Okeechobee are on hold; public projects to build sidewalks, improving bridges, utilities, roads, highways across the Sunshine State are on hold. We can't do them. Solar energy projects, including solar power stations and other electric utility projects impacting our grid in the Sunshine State are on hold; stormwater infrastructure repairs at U.S. Naval Air Station Pensacola damaged due to Hurricane Sally, but the repairs are on hold because we can't get the Federal Government to act fast. We are ready to go. We are ready to go.

What else is on hold? We have a school in Jacksonville, a desperately needed school ready to be built. It is on hold because the Federal Government put everything on hold.

Give us the chance to continue this important work in the State of Florida. I ask my colleagues to reconsider their opposition. Join us and let's take the Sunshine State back on course to bring these projects to light.

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

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AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 118-428.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 8, strike lines 15 and 16, and insert the following:

“(B) LIMITATION.—A general permit issued under subparagraph (A) may not authorize an activity of an excluded project if the Comptroller General makes a determination—

“(i) during the period ending on September 30, 2026, that the total amount of covered credits claimed exceeds the amount of covered credits predicted to be claimed in the cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office for fiscal years 2022 through 2026; or

“(ii) during the period ending on September 30, 2031, that the total amount of covered credits claimed exceeds the amount of covered credits predicted to be claimed in the cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office for fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

“(C) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

“(i) COVERED CREDIT.—The term ‘covered credit’ means any tax credit under the amendments made by sections 13101, 13102, and 13103 of Public Law 117-169 (commonly known as the Inflation Reduction Act).

“(ii) EXCLUDED PROJECT.—The term ‘excluded project’ means a linear infrastructure project for the transmission of electricity with respect to which—

“(I) the taxpayer has received or expects to receive a covered credit; and

“(II) the Secretary has not verified that an activity of the project is authorized by the applicable general permit before the date on which the Comptroller General makes a determination described in subparagraph (B).

“(iii) LINEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECT.—The term

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1085, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First of all, Mr. Chairman, after listening to the gentleman from Florida, I would like a double dose of whatever he is taking.

Secondly, Mr. Chairman, what our amendment does is, it addresses some-

thing that I think both Conservatives and Liberals should be excited about. Let me explain.

Under the Inflation Reduction Act, this large, incredibly expensive energy bill, the Congressional Budget Office did an estimate to determine the total amount of subsidies that this legislation would cost the American taxpayers.

Then you have had folks like Goldman Sachs that have come in and done evaluations and determined that that assessment was likely off by a factor of three or even four. Let me say that again. The estimate was off by a factor of three or even four.

What the base text of this legislation does is it provides for an expedited processing or environmental review of Clean Water Act requirements. Our amendment simply says, once you hit that cap of how much the Congressional Budget Office said this bill was going to cost, said the Inflation Reduction Act was going to cost, you no longer get the expedited process strictly for linear infrastructure projects; otherwise, projects like transmission.

If you are a Conservative, you should be supportive because you are simply capping the cost of this project at what the Congressional Budget Office said. If you are a Liberal, you should be supporting this. You are beating up on the bill right now. This caps or stops the effect of that bill, the expedited process, once you hit the cap that you all thought you were voting for.

Mr. Chair, this should be a win-win. This should have bipartisan support. I think that this is an appropriate amendment. I think the amendment ensures that congressional intent is preserved by limiting the cost of these incredibly expensive subsidies at the rate that Members of Congress who supported this legislation believed they were spending.

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

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California). The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, House Democrats support including local input in the development of large-scale infrastructure projects directly affecting local communities. During committee consideration of this bill, we opposed attempts to curtail local input.

This amendment is another example of curtailing local input to push through large-scale projects. However, this amendment picks winners and losers for what types of projects get to be jammed through the process.

I proudly supported the investments in our infrastructure and clean energy future contained in the bipartisan infrastructure law, the Chips and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act last Congress. These critical bills were about creating jobs, advancing infrastructure investments, and accelerating the economy of the future.

House Democrats are committed to improving the quality of life for all Americans by building the economy from the middle out and bottom up. However, this amendment gives a fast lane for Clean Water Act permits to fossil fuel-related linear infrastructure projects.

It purposefully excludes renewable energy projects, including solar and wind, and other clean energy alternatives that benefited from the Inflation Reduction Act. It also excludes efforts to bolster energy reliability and resilience and nationwide efforts to upgrade the Nation's energy grid. I suspect this is why several energy companies, including the American Clean Power Association, Edison Electric, and the Chamber of Commerce are also opposed to this amendment.

Again, I remain concerned that under H.R. 7023, local voices are excluded from the development of linear projects generally. Adding Mr. GRAVES' amendment, which doubles down on the fast-tracking of fossil fuel-related energy infrastructure, only strengthens my opposition to the underlying bill.

Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, as well. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, I listened to the gentleman's response, and I guess I am confused. First of all, this amendment does absolutely nothing to affect public participation. It does nothing. It does nothing to affect local input.

This amendment does apply to linear infrastructure, as she noted, things like transmission, but I remind my friend across the aisle, the gentleman from California, you can't have your cake and eat it too.

The gentleman can't be opposed to the bill, opposed to the underlying bill, and then when this amendment actually stops the expedited authority under this legislation from applying to projects also say that she opposes that.

Does the gentleman support the expedited process or does she not? I am very baffled by the comments. Either you oppose the underlying bill or you support the underlying bill. I have heard the gentleman from California (Mrs. NAPOLITANO) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) both express opposition to the underlying bill.

Let me say it again: What this amendment does, it says that this expedited authority only for linear transmission projects, linear infrastructure projects, it no longer applies once you hit the financial cap that was estimated, the financial score that was estimated by the Congressional Budget Office.

I would think that my friend from California would actually be supportive of this legislation, of this amendment if she is opposed to the underlying bill. It caps, it curtails the use of this expedited authority that I believe Mr. HUFFMAN indicated he believed would result in trashing the environment.

Let me say it again, you can't have your cake and eat it too. If you are a fiscal conservative, you should support this amendment because it stops this runaway, excessive subsidy for technologies that have been around for 40, 50 years. It stops the expedited authority for those type of projects. Why we are subsidizing technologies that have been around for 40 or 50 years, I do not understand. Other countries don't in many cases.

Secondly, if you are a Liberal, if you are out there saying that this bill is extreme, you should support this amendment because it no longer allows for the expedited authority once you hit the financial cap.

I ask my friends across the aisle: Do you want to have your cake or do you want to eat it because you only get one choice?

Mr. Chair, I urge support of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 99, noes 323, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 99]

AYES—99

Armstrong	Hageman	Obernolte
Arrington	Hern	Ogles
Babin	Higgins (LA)	Palmer
Bacon	Hill	Perry
Barr	Hunt	Posey
Bean (FL)	Issa	Radewagen
Biggs	Jackson (TX)	Rogers (KY)
Bishop (NC)	Johnson (SD)	Rosendale
Boebert	Jordan	Roy
Bost	Kustoff	Scalise
Brecheen	LaMalfa	Scott, Austin
Buck	LaTurner	Self
Burlison	Lesko	Sessions
Carey	Letlow	Smith (MO)
Cline	Loudermilk	Smith (NE)
Cloud	Luna	Spartz
Clyde	Malliotakis	Stefanik
Collins	Mann	Steil
Crane	Massie	Steube
Davidson	McCaul	Tenney
Duncan	McClain	Thompson (PA)
Ellzey	McClintock	Tiffany
Fallon	McCormick	Timmons
Fry	McHenry	Van Drew
Good (VA)	Miller (IL)	Van Duyne
Gooden (TX)	Miller (OH)	Weber (TX)
Granger	Miller (WV)	Wenstrup
Graves (LA)	Mooney	Williams (NY)
Green (TN)	Moore (AL)	Wilson (SC)
Greene (GA)	Moran	Wittman
Griffith	Moylan	Womack
Grothman	Newhouse	Yakym
Guthrie	Norman	Zinke

NOES—323

Adams	Baird	Beyer
Aderholt	Balderson	Bice
Aguilar	Balint	Billirakis
Alford	Banks	Bishop (GA)
Allen	Barragán	Blumenauer
Allred	Beatty	Blunt Rochester
Amo	Bentz	Bonomici
Amodoi	Bera	Bowman
Auchincloss	Bergman	Boyle (PA)

Brown	Gomez	Neguse
Brownley	Gonzales, Tony	Nickel
Buchanan	Gonzalez,	Norcross
Buchson	Vicente	Norton
Budzinski	Gottheimer	Nunn (IA)
Burchett	Graves (MO)	Ocasio-Cortez
Burgess	Green, Al (TX)	Omar
Bush	Harris	Owens
Calvert	Harris	Pallone
Cammack	Harshbarger	Panetta
Caraveo	Hayes	Pappas
Carbajal	Himes	Pascrell
Cárdenas	Hinson	Payne
Carl	Horsford	Pelosi
Carson	Houchin	Peltola
Carter (GA)	Houlahan	Pence
Carter (LA)	Hoyer	Perez
Carter (TX)	Hoyle (OR)	Peters
Cartwright	Hudson	Petterson
Casar	Huffman	Pfluger
Case	Huizenga	Phillips
Casten	Ivey	Pingree
Castor (FL)	Jackson (IL)	Plaskett
Castro (TX)	Jackson (NC)	Pocan
Chavez-DeRemer	Jackson Lee	Porter
Cherfilus-	Jacobs	Quigley
McCormick	James	Ramirez
Chu	Jayapal	Raskin
Ciscomani	Jeffries	Reschenthaler
Clark (MA)	Johnson (GA)	Rodgers (WA)
Clarke (NY)	Joyce (OH)	Rogers (AL)
Cleaver	Joyce (PA)	Ross
Clyburn	Kamlager-Dove	Rouzer
Cohen	Kaptur	Ruiz
Comer	Kean (NJ)	Ruppersberger
Connolly	Keating	Rutherford
Correa	Kelly (IL)	Ryan
Costa	Kelly (MS)	Sablan
Courtney	Kelly (PA)	Salazar
Craig	Khanna	Salinas
Crawford	Kiggans (VA)	Sánchez
Crenshaw	Kiley	Sarbanes
Crockett	Kilmer	Scanlon
Crow	Kim (CA)	Schakowsky
Cuellar	Kim (NJ)	Schiff
Curtis	Krishnamoorthi	Schneider
D'Esposito	Kuster	Scholten
Davids (KS)	LaHood	Schrier
Davis (IL)	LaLota	Schweikert
Davis (NC)	Lamborn	Scott (VA)
De La Cruz	Landsman	Scott, David
Dean (PA)	Langworthy	Sewell
DeGette	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Sherrill
DelBene	Latta	Slotkin
Deluzio	Lawler	Smith (NJ)
DeSaulnier	Lee (CA)	Smith (WA)
DesJarlais	Lee (FL)	Smucker
Diaz-Balart	Lee (NV)	Sorensen
Dingell	Lee (PA)	Soto
Donalds	Leger Fernandez	Spanberger
Duarte	Levin	Stansbury
Dunn (FL)	Lieu	Stanton
Edwards	Lofgren	Stauber
Emmer	Lucas	Steel
Escobar	Luetkemeyer	Stevens
Eshoo	Luttrell	Strickland
Espallat	Lynch	Strong
Estes	Mace	Suoizzi
Evans	Magaziner	Swalwell
Ezell	Maloy	Sykes
Feenstra	Manning	Takano
Ferguson	Mast	Thanedar
Finstad	Matsui	Thompson (CA)
Fischbach	McBath	Thompson (MS)
Fitzgerald	McClellan	Titus
Fitzpatrick	McCollum	Tlaib
Fleischmann	McGarvey	Tokuda
Fletcher	McGovern	Tonko
Flood	Meeks	Torres (CA)
Foster	Menendez	Torres (NY)
Foushee	Meng	Trahan
Fox	Meuser	Trone
Franklin, Scott	Mfume	Turner
Frost	Miller-Meeks	Underwood
Fulcher	Mills	Valadao
Gaetz	Moolenaar	Van Orden
Gallagher	Moore (UT)	Vargas
Gallego	Moore (WI)	Vasquez
Garamendi	Morelle	Veasey
Garbarino	Moskowitz	Velázquez
García (IL)	Moulton	Wagner
García (TX)	Mrvan	Walberg
García, Mike	Mullin	Waltz
García, Robert	Murphy	Wasserman
Gimenez	Nadler	Schultz
Goldman (NY)	Napolitano	Waters
	Neal	

Watson Coleman	Westerman	Wild
Webster (FL)	Wexton	Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—15

Doggett	Grijalva	Pressley
Frankel, Lois	Harder (CA)	Rose
Golden (ME)	Kildee	Simpson
González-Colón	Molinaro	Williams (TX)
Gosar	Nehls	Wilson (FL)

□ 1651

Messrs. CARSON, GIMENEZ, JAMES, Ms. MALOY, Messrs. DUNN of Florida, RESCHENTHALER, EMMER, KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. STEEL, Messrs. MOOLENAAR, CARDENAS, LUTTRELL, Ms. OMAR, Messrs. COSTA, FULCHER and WEBSTER of Florida changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

Messrs. HUNT, FALLON, MOYLAN, and CLINE changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendment under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BERGMAN) having assumed the chair, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration 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, and, pursuant to House Resolution 1085, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any further amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to. The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California). The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows: Ms. Scholten of Michigan moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7023 to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered. The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 205, nays 213, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 100]

YEAS—205

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
Españillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee
Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (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)
Kim (NY)
Lee (CA)
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
Trone
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Nickel
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta

Pappas
Pascarell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Phillips
Pingree
Porter
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozi
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
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
Foxy
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Granger
Graskin
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 (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)
Oberholte
Ogles
Palmer
Pence

NOT VOTING—13

Frankel, Lois
Golden (ME)
Gosar
Grijalva
Harler (CA)
Kildee
Molinaro
Nehls
Pressley
Rose

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1701

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.

RECORDED VOTE

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.
A recorded vote was ordered.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 213, noes 205, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 101]

AYES—213

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr

Babin
Bacon
Baird
Bice
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
Guest
Curtis
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
Foxy
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)
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
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

NOES—205

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
Españillat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Foushee

Frost
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Garcia, Robert
Goldman (NY)
Gomez
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Griffith
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	Nickel	Sherrill
Kilmer	Norcross	Slotkin
Kim (NJ)	Ocasio-Cortez	Smith (WA)
Krishnamoorthi	Omar	Sorensen
Kuster	Pallone	Soto
Landsman	Panetta	Spanberger
Larsen (WA)	Pappas	Stansbury
Larson (CT)	Pascrell	Stanton
Lee (CA)	Payne	Stevens
Lee (NV)	Pelosi	Strickland
Lee (PA)	Peltola	Suozi
Leger Fernandez	Perez	Swalwell
Levin	Peters	Sykes
Lieu	Petterson	Takano
Lofgren	Phillips	Thanedar
Lynch	Pingree	Thompson (CA)
Magaziner	Pocan	Thompson (MS)
Manning	Porter	Titus
Matsui	Quigley	Tlaib
McBath	Ramirez	Tokuda
McClellan	Raskin	Tonko
McCollum	Ross	Torres (CA)
McGarvey	Ruiz	Torres (NY)
McGovern	Ruppersberger	Trahan
Meeks	Ryan	Trone
Menendez	Salinas	Underwood
Meng	Sánchez	Vargas
Mfume	Sarbanes	Vasquez
Moore (WI)	Scanlon	Veasey
Morelle	Schakowsky	Velázquez
Moskowitz	Schiff	Wasserman
Moulton	Schneider	Schultz
Mrvan	Scholten	Waters
Mullin	Schrier	Watson Coleman
Nadler	Scott (VA)	Wexton
Napolitano	Scott, David	Wild
Neal	Sewell	Williams (GA)
Neguse	Sherman	

□ 1715

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER
AS COSPONSOR OF H. RES. 1068

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove myself as a cosponsor of H. Res. 1068.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Alabama). The gentleman's request is granted.

HONORING HENRY BELL OF EAST
TEXAS

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate my friend, Henry Bell, on 35 years of service to the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce. This incredible milestone is a testament to his dedication, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the economic growth of the east Texas community.

Throughout Henry's tenure, he has been a driving force behind the chamber of commerce's success.

Henry's deep knowledge of the resources, traditions, and history of east Texas, combined with his natural ability to build strong relationships, have helped attract new businesses and create countless jobs in east Texas.

Under his guidance, the Tyler Area Chamber of Commerce has become a beacon of economic development, serving as a valuable resource and support system for businesses large and small.

The Tyler Area Chamber is a regional top five chamber boasting more than 2,000 member businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Beyond his professional contributions, Henry has sought to serve the Tyler community by dedicating his time and talents outside of work and in keeping with the traditions of five generations of Bells who have served before him.

Once again, I congratulate Henry Bell on this remarkable milestone. The east Texas community is proud to have him, and we have been blessed because of him.

HONORING EUGENE CORNACCHIA

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Eugene Cornacchia, the longest serving president of St. Peter's University in Jersey City, New Jersey.

President Cornacchia is retiring this year after 17 years leading this prestigious university.

During his tenure, President Cornacchia helped St. Peter's become a university and gain national recognition. He helped start the university's first doctoral programs and the new schools of business, nursing, and education. He oversaw the construction of

the new student center, Panepinto Hall, and the creation of the STEM empowerment center.

In addition, President Cornacchia secured more than \$134 million in funding and \$25 million in Federal grants for the school.

I enjoyed being there along with my two sons, Donald and Jack, to watch St. Peter's magical run during the 2022 NCAA tournament. Since then, they both have graduated from the school. I will be rooting for the Peacocks during tonight's tournament, as well.

Mr. Speaker, President Cornacchia is an exceptional leader and will be missed at St. Peter's University.

HONORING JOHN KRYGER,
REVERED FDNY VETERAN

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor John Kryger, a revered FDNY veteran and stalwart of Rockland County, who passed away on March 18, 2024, at the age of 81. John's work to improve fire safety and his service to our community exemplify a life dedicated to protecting others.

Serving with distinction in the FDNY from 1965 to 1986, he later became deputy fire coordinator for Rockland County, passionately advocating for fire safety and prevention since 2004.

John's impactful journalism, notably the "Fire's Deadly Rage" series, sparked significant community action, leading to a surge in smoke alarm installations across Rockland County. His dedication extended into education as a fire instructor and his leadership with the Rockland County Illegal Housing Task Force, tirelessly working to enforce fire safety and building codes.

Beyond his professional achievements, John's involvement in the West Haverstraw Volunteer Fire Department and numerous fire service associations highlighted his commitment to his community. His legacy as a firefighter, educator, and advocate leaves a lasting impact on Rockland County.

We extend our deepest sympathies to his family, his many friends, and his beloved colleagues in the fire service and remember John Kryger for the profound impact he had on making our community safer.

His legacy of dedication and service will continue to inspire future generations.

KULDEEP RAWAT AWARD

(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, I rise to recognize a hometown university and HBCU making a gigantic impact in northeastern North

NOT VOTING—14

D'Esposito	Harder (CA)	Rose
Frankel, Lois	Kildee	Simpson
Golden (ME)	Molinaro	Williams (TX)
Gosar	Nehls	Wilson (FL)
Grijalva	Pressley	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1709

So the bill 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 amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to provide regulatory and judicial certainty for regulated entities and communities, increase transparency, and promote water quality, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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. 96, "nay" on rollcall No. 97, "yea" on rollcall No. 98, "nay" on rollcall No. 99, "yea" on rollcall No. 100 and "nay" on rollcall No. 101.

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. 96, H. Res. 987; "nay" on rollcall No. 97, H. Con. Res. 86 "yea" on rollcall No. 98, H.R. 1836; "nay" on rollcall No. 99, Mr. Graves of Louisiana amendment No. 8; "yea" on rollcall No. 100, motion to recommit H.R. No. 7023; and "nay" on rollcall No. 101, H.R. 7023.

Carolina, Elizabeth City State University.

We are getting it done because of the distinguished faculty, such as Thorpe Endowed Professor and Dean, Dr. Kuldeep Rawat.

Dr. Rawat received the Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr. Award for Excellence in Public Service.

He is making a profound impact through his dedication to education and community engagement, as well.

Dr. Rawat has excelled in academia and has also significantly contributed to public service, particularly through initiatives like NASA Aerospace Academy and the Mobile STEM Lab, which have enriched the lives of thousands in our underserved and rural region.

His commitment extends well beyond the classroom. He works to ensure that students in the surrounding region can envision a brighter future.

We celebrate his well-deserved award, and I say: Viking Pride.

RECOGNIZING BOBBY CHRISTINE

(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 recognize Bobby Christine for being promoted to the rank of major general in U.S. Army National Guard.

His career began as a student at the University of Georgia and Samford Law. He also attended Georgia Military College where he was positioned as a second lieutenant in the Corps of Engineers.

During the 1990s, Major General Christine continued to serve in military affairs as a lawyer for the field. His responsibilities ranged from guiding commanders on rules of engagement to prosecuting and defending military personnel at trial.

For his skills and leadership, Major General Christine also served as the senior lawyer in the Georgia National Guard, brigadier general for a JAG in the National Guard, and U.S. Attorney for Georgia's Southern and Northern Districts.

Now, he has made history as the first Reserve component officer in the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps to achieve the status of major general. His hard work is recognized by his family, friends, others, and myself, and I look forward to witnessing his future accomplishments.

OBAMACARE'S 14TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this Saturday the Affordable Care Act is turning 14 years old.

Despite relentless challenges and efforts by MAGA Republicans to repeal it over 50 times in the last 14 years, the

Affordable Care Act remains in effect and continues to provide millions of individuals and families with access to affordable healthcare.

A record of more than 21 million Americans are enrolled in quality healthcare under the Affordable Care Act in 2023, including more than 3.5 million Texans.

Today, more Americans have health insurance than under any other President in history, for which I thank President Obama.

Democrats have made sure that more Americans than ever before are getting covered under the Affordable Care Act. We will continue to put people over politics, to lower healthcare costs, and to ensure that every American can get the care that they need.

Happy birthday to ACA ObamaCare.

HONORING FIRST SERGEANT WAYNE EDELEN

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor First Sergeant Wayne Edelen who served in both the Korean and Vietnam wars.

In 1952, he was deployed to Korea where he spent 8 months in combat and earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge. After that, he was sent back to the United States for a while, then re-enlisted and served in Japan for 1 year. Then he was deployed to Korea again for 1 year.

He then spent 3½ years in Germany before coming back to the United States where he served as the senior instructor of ROTC at the University of California, Santa Barbara. After that, he served as a drill instructor for new recruits at Fort Polk army base in Louisiana.

In 1968, he deployed to Vietnam where he participated in combat operations and earned his second Combat Infantryman's Badge. He also earned the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for heroism in ground combat.

Wayne left Vietnam in June of 1969 to return to Fort Polk as a drill instructor. He retired from the Army in October 1971, with the rank of first sergeant.

He eventually made the wise decision to move to Tennessee and has lived in Blount County since 2010. We are so glad to have him in our community. I am glad that he is a constituent of mine.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Edelen served and sacrificed for our country for many years, and I am pleased to honor him as Tennessee Second District's Veteran of the Month.

HOUSING ACTION PLAN

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, at its core, the American Dream is about owning a home. For far too many Americans, this has turned into a pipe dream.

Right now, there are more than 343,000 households in North Carolina who spend over one-half of their monthly income on rent, leaving too little for other expenses like healthcare, transportation, and nutritious food.

That is why I am proud to have worked on a commonsense action plan that outlines some of the work that we have done already and what we need to do to address the affordable housing crisis we are facing across the country.

This plan addresses our housing supply, reforms to land use policies, improves housing financing, and much more.

As a vice chair of the New Dem Affordable Housing Task Force, I will continue to put forward commonsense ideas and solutions to build more affordable housing, increase affordable housing access, and tackle this crisis.

RECOGNIZING SECRETARY MARCIA FUDGE

(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 recognize Secretary Marcia Fudge for her outstanding career and significant achievements as she prepares to retire from the President's Cabinet as Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

Secretary Fudge's steadfast career in public service, beginning as mayor of Warrensville Heights, Ohio, is an example for all of us who work to serve our communities and our Nation.

Before becoming HUD Secretary, Ms. Fudge served as part of the Ohio congressional delegation in the House for 12 years. Serving on the House Agriculture Committee, she championed food and nutrition policies that are valued in Ohio and throughout the Nation.

I thank and congratulate Secretary Fudge on her accomplishments and contributions that have led to a more prosperous Ohio and stronger America and wish her a happy and healthy retirement.

NATIONAL BLOOD CLOT AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. Speaker, March is National Blood Clot Awareness Month. One American every 6 minutes dies from a blood clot, which is why yesterday I unveiled a virtual toolkit to raise awareness, promote action, and inspire advocacy because blood clots don't discriminate.

As a Member of Congress and a member of the Health Subcommittee, this issue is a professional one for me and the 100,000 Americans who die, but, as LISA, this is personal.

Mr. Speaker, 10 years ago, I lost my husband Charles Rochester to blood clots. His death shook me to the core and inspired me to act. That is why I introduced the bipartisan Charles Rochester Blood Clot Prevention and Treatment Act.

Recently, my family was, again, impacted by blood clots. My dad was diagnosed with cancer. The second leading cause of death for people with cancer is blood clots. Dad contracted a blood clot in his leg and his arm, but because I knew the signs, we were able as a family to have 4 more months with him. He passed away in January.

Mr. Speaker, today for our loved ones and our constituents, let's raise awareness, and let's advocate. Let's act to stop the clot, spread the word, and save lives.

□ 1730

RECOGNIZING MAJOR JARED L. PERRY

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jared L. Perry, a major in the United States Marine Corps, an exemplary North Carolinian, and a proud native of Ashe County.

On April 5, Major Perry will officially retire after 16 years of service to our Nation, a record of service that is admirable and respected.

His service to our Nation has led him to travel to Central and South America on the USS *Iwo Jima*, to Afghanistan, where he served two combat tours, as well as to the Indo-Pacific. No matter where he has traveled to in service to our Nation, one thing has remained the same: his commitment to advancing and safeguarding the values and freedom that make America the greatest country in the world.

I congratulate Major Perry on his well-earned retirement. The entire Nation thanks him for his service and sacrifice, and we are forever grateful.

UKRAINE-ISRAEL AID

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

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call out the hypocrisy of Republicans who claim they want to support our democratic allies but won't put words to action.

The Speaker is leading a delegation to Normandy to commemorate the defeat of a destructive, brutal dictator by the United States and its Allies in World War II, yet he refuses to bring forward the Senate emergency aid bill

that would help our democratic ally Ukraine defeat one of today's most brutal dictators, Vladimir Putin.

That very same Senate bill would also provide much-needed support to our democratic ally Israel as it continues its battle against the terrorist group Hamas, which savagely attacked Israel on October 7 and continues to hold more than 100 hostages, including Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my good friends on the other side of the aisle: Will Republicans stand up to the far-right extremists and call for the Speaker to bring the Senate aid bill to the floor?

In the name of defending freedom and democracy, I urge my colleagues to do what the majority knows is right for our country and the future of the free world.

RECA EXCLUSION

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

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise to express our grave disappointment that neither the extension nor the expansion of the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act is included in this spending bill.

Decades ago, our government dumped radioactive waste in communities all across the country, including in my district. To this day, many of my constituents are sick and dying because of their exposure. World War II is still killing people in my district.

We were wronged by the Federal Government. Rather than taking responsibility to make it right, Congress couldn't spare a dime on this bipartisan issue, this bipartisan effort, to compensate the victims. Why is it that we always have money for endless war but never enough to repair the harm war has caused?

It is past time that this body gets its priorities straight, takes full responsibility, cleans up this waste, and compensates those who have been harmed. The majority has 78 days.

HONORING WARRANT OFFICERS CASEY FRANKOSKI AND JOHN GRASSIA

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to mourn the tragic loss of two soldiers of the National Guard who called our capital region in New York home.

On March 8, 2024, Chief Warrant Officers 2 Casey Frankoski of Rensselaer and John Grassia of Rotterdam tragically perished in a helicopter accident in Texas. They deeply embodied a commitment of service to others.

Chief Warrant Officer Frankoski was on the cusp of achieving a bachelor's degree in emergency management and

was connected to many community organizations, including serving as a volunteer firefighter and a member of the Environmental Conservation Corps.

Chief Warrant Officer Grassia served as a cybersecurity analyst with the New York State Department of Homeland Security and, most recently and proudly, as a New York State trooper.

This week, these heroes were brought home and met with the honors and recognitions deserving of their incredible bravery and sacrifice. My heart goes out to the vast universe of family, friends, and loved ones left behind and shattered by this truly terrible loss. They have left us too soon but will forever be remembered and treasured by all who loved them. Their memories and their service will serve as a beacon for all in our capital region community and beyond.

HONORING TERRENCE J. BOYLAN

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

Mr. MAGAZINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Terrence J. Boylan, who passed away last month at the age of 85.

Terry lived a life dedicated to public service and leaving the world in a better place than he found it. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, Terry was commissioned out of Newport, Rhode Island, and served as a weapons officer aboard the USS *Cromwell* and USS *DeLong* after graduating from St. John's University.

He proudly served our country in uniform and remembered the Navy fondly as one of the best times of his life. He even married his wife, Virginia E. Mahoney, from Cranston, Rhode Island, at the Newport Naval Station Chapel. They settled in Barrington, Rhode Island, where Terry served as principal of the Henry Barnard Lab School in Providence, and later moved to Marblehead, Massachusetts, where he served as an elementary school principal for nearly three decades.

During his years working in education, Terry left an indelible mark on the next generation. The Boylans retired to Cape Cod, and after the passing of his wife in 2015, Terry returned to Rhode Island to be closer to his children and grandchildren.

I join Terry's family—Terrence Jr., Jennifer, Terrence III, and Tanner—and his loved ones in celebrating his extraordinary life.

END CANCER CLUSTERS

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to give dignity and respect to the victims of pollution across America, those who have suffered from toxic catastrophes, like the train derailment in

Palestine, but, more importantly, the cancer clusters in Fifth Ward, Texas, in Kashmere Gardens and Settegast in the northeast part.

The legislation, H.R. 7023, Creating Confidence in Clean Water Permitting Act, does the complete opposite by limiting the Environmental Protection Agency's authority to regulate the discharge of pollutants into the United States' waters. Those waters then trickle into the soil.

That is what happened in Kashmere Gardens in Fifth Ward, where water pollution trickled into the soil and created cancer clusters in our neighborhoods. This area has the highest number of cancer clusters and cancer victims in the State and maybe the Nation.

I am trying to fight it. I have put in an amendment that will require the Administrator to submit a report to Congress.

I will not stop until we end the cancer clusters and stop the polluters that are over the people of this Nation. I will continue to fight.

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-95)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Joint Economic Committee and ordered to be printed:

ECONOMIC REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

To the Congress of the United States:

When I was elected President, a pandemic was raging and our economy was reeling, and trickle-down economics had undermined our nation's growth long-term. I was determined to rebuild from the middle out and bottom up, not the top down, because when the middle class does well, we all do well. We can give everyone a fair shot and leave no one behind. Our plan has brought transformational progress.

In the near term, my Administration moved quickly to help hard-working families and businesses make it through the pandemic, with a historic rescue plan that vaccinated the nation, delivered immediate economic relief to people in need, and sent funding to states and cities to keep essential services going. We worked with the private sector and labor unions to ease bottlenecks and shortages in our supply chains, getting goods flowing again and making our economy more resilient for the future. Today, America is in the midst of the strongest recovery of any advanced economy in the world.

Along the way, we've achieved one of the most successful legislative records in generations, bringing new opportunities to communities of all sizes nationwide. We're tackling years of

underinvestment in public infrastructure, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing, making sure the future is made in America by American workers. We're making the biggest investment in American infrastructure in generations, including over \$400 billion for 46,000 projects in 4,500 communities to date. These projects are rebuilding the nation's roads, bridges, railroads, ports, airports, public transit, water systems, high-speed internet, and more, in every part of the country. We're also making the most significant investment in fighting climate change in history—advancing breakthroughs in clean technology, boosting energy independence, lowering electricity costs for hardworking families, and revitalizing fence-line communities smothered by a legacy of pollution. At the same time, we're working with the private sector to strengthen America's semiconductor and advanced manufacturing industries as well, empowering workers and small businesses to share in the benefits.

Already, my Investing in America agenda has attracted \$650 billion in private investment from companies that are building factories here in America. We've ignited a manufacturing boom, a semiconductor boom, a battery boom, an electric-vehicle boom, and more. My agenda is creating hundreds of thousands of good-paying jobs, so folks never have to leave their hometowns to find work they can raise a family on. Today, America once again has the strongest economy in the world. A record 15 million jobs have been created on my watch, giving 15 million more Americans the dignity and peace of mind that comes with a steady paycheck. The unemployment rate has been below 4 percent for the longest stretch in over 50 years, and we've seen the lowest unemployment rate for Black Americans on record. Economic growth is strong. Wages are rising faster than prices. Inflation is down by two-thirds. We have more to do, but folks are starting to feel the results. Real income and household wealth are higher now than they were before the pandemic, and consumer sentiment has surged more in recent months than any time in decades. Americans have filed a record 16 million new business applications since I took office, and each one of them is an act of hope.

Importantly, we're paying for many of these historic investments by making our tax system fairer. We've cut the deficit by \$1 trillion since I took office, one of the biggest reductions in history, and I've signed legislation to cut it by \$1 trillion more over the next 10 years, in part by raising the corporate minimum tax to 15 percent and making the wealthy and big corporations start paying their fair share.

It's clear that we're making tremendous progress for the American people, but we have more to do to finish the job. My Administration is going to keep fighting to lower costs for hardworking families, on everything from

prescription drugs, to housing, childcare, and student loans. Folks in Washington have tried to reduce prescription drug costs for decades; our historic Inflation Reduction Act is getting it done. It for example caps the cost of insulin for seniors at \$35 a month, down from as much as \$400; and starting next year, no senior on Medicare will pay more than \$2,000 a year in total out-of-pocket drug costs, even for expensive medications that can cost many times more. It also protects and expands the Affordable Care Act; as a result, more Americans have health insurance today than ever.

We're also making real gains in expanding access to housing: More families own homes today than did before the pandemic, rents are easing, and a record of around 1.7 million housing units are under construction nationwide. We'll keep working to lower housing costs and boost supply, by expanding rental assistance; speeding builders' access to federal financing to build more affordable homes; and reducing mortgage payments for first-time homebuyers. Meanwhile, we're standing up for workers and consumers, and cracking down on unfair hidden "junk fees" that companies like airlines, banks, and insurers slip onto people's bills.

At the same time, we're working to get every child in America the strong start they need to thrive. The American Rescue Plan expanded the Child Tax Credit, cutting child poverty nearly in half in 2021. We'll keep fighting to restore it, and to guarantee the vast majority of American families access to high-quality childcare for no more than \$10 a day. Our rescue plan also made the biggest investment in public education in American history; today, we're pushing to further boost funding to schools in need, to expand tutoring and afterschool programs, and to ease teacher shortages. I'm keeping my promise to ease the crushing burden of student debt as well. Despite legal challenges, we've canceled \$138 billion in student loans for nearly 3.9 million Americans, including more than 750,000 teachers, nurses, firefighters, social workers, and other public servants. Such widespread debt cancellation is freeing people to finally consider buying a home, having a child, or starting the small business they always dreamed of. In all, our agenda is making the promise of America real for many millions more Americans than ever before.

The story of America is one of progress and resilience, of always moving forward and never giving up. It is a story unique among nations—we are the only country that has emerged from every crisis stronger than we went in. That is what's happening across America today. There is still work to do, but I've never been more optimistic about our future. We are the United States of America, and there is

nothing beyond our capacity when we do it together.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 21, 2024.

□ 1745

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIR OF
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY,
Washington, DC, March 21, 2024.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker, House of Representatives.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to Section 4(b) of House Resolution 917, I write to inform you and the House of Representatives that today the Committee on the Judiciary commenced litigation against Department of Justice employees Mark Daly and Jack Morgan to enforce duly authorized, issued, and served Congressional subpoenas. The Committee initiated a civil action, Committee on the Judiciary, U.S. House of Representatives v. Daly, No. 1:24-cv-00815 filed in the U.S. District Court of the District of Columbia on March 21, 2024.

Sincerely,

JIM JORDAN,
Chairman.

SWAMP BUS PART 2: MORE
ILLEGALS, LESS FREEDOM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I come here to the floor recognizing the state of affairs that we find ourselves in, given the extent to which the President of the United States and his radical progressive Democrat allies on the other side of the aisle here and in the Senate, are continuing an assault on the well-being of the American people with open borders, with inflationary spending, with radical environmental agenda policies that are regulating the economy to death, driving up the cost of goods sold, and overall diminishing America and the world. There is no other way to view it than intentional.

That kind of an assault on the well-being of the American people ought to be and deserves to be met with the kind of resistance that the American people who sent us here to represent them expect.

The American people, who sent at least Republicans here to be in the majority to stand athwart the radical policies of the Biden administration, supported by our radical progressive Democrats here in this House and in the Senate, they sent us here to stand athwart those policies. Therefore, it is our duty, it is incumbent upon us to actually do so.

Last year, when given the majority, a number of us set out to change the way the House of Representatives works, or should I say, was not working.

We set out to make sure that bills could be read, that you have 72 hours to review a bill.

We set out to ensure that you would have adequate and varied representation on the various committees.

We set out to ensure that there would be a process by which we could move appropriations bills out of committee on to the floor, from the floor to the Senate, so that we could pass individual bills, try to restore what we might call regular order.

We set out to do that last year. We passed seven appropriations bills out of the House, three more from the committees down to the floor, two others were ready to go. We passed H.R. 2, the strongest border security bill that has ever been moved off of the House floor. We passed the Limit, Save, Grow Act, which would elevate the debt responsibly while making policy changes to try to drive down the amount of debt that we are racking up on a daily and weekly basis.

Those are the things we are able to accomplish as Republicans when we were honoring the commitments that we made to our constituents, and we were not hiding.

Unfortunately, today, Republicans are hiding. They are hiding behind the fear of a so-called shutdown and hiding behind the so-called razor thin majority to pass a massive omnibus spending bill—the second part of a two-part omnibus spending bill that blows past the spending caps passed on a bipartisan basis, increases the spending over the very levels perpetuated by NANCY PELOSI that virtually every Republican in this Chamber opposed not 15 months ago.

They are about to pass legislation that will blow past those caps and spend more money, and they are going to do so knowing full well that we are not achieving the vast majority—barely any—of the policy changes that we fought for all last year in the appropriations process. That is the actual truth.

We are going to abandon the efforts that we set out to change this Chamber last year, and we are doing it violently.

We got a bill this morning that is over 1,000 pages long, \$1.2 trillion, and we are expected to pore over it in 1 day, in 24 hours. We are still uncovering ridiculous uses of taxpayer funds. The American people are about to learn what some of those are.

Not only are we abandoning what we accomplished last year to try to take the House back, make the House work again, but we are abandoning the people of this country, the hardworking American people, right now, today, who are looking at their Congress and saying: What are you doing?

The hardworking Americans who sent us here are seeing their country being taken away from them right before their very eyes and seeing their way of life being eviscerated.

This isn't about holding on to power. We are not sent here to accumulate

power. We are not sent here to run for re-election. We are sent here to do something. We are sent here to fight for the people who sent us here.

What we are doing right now is looking at a country that we love, a country that is being destroyed, throwing up our hands as Republicans, and saying that apparently it is just not worth the fight because we might have a poll that looks bad because of a shut down. That is what we are telling the American people.

Instead of using the power of the purse, the power of the purse to force change as was stated by James Madison in Federalist Paper 58: "The House of Representatives cannot only refuse, but they alone can propose the supplies requisite for the support of government. They, in a word, hold the purse, that powerful instrument . . . all the overgrown prerogatives of the other branches of government. This power over the purse may, in fact, be regarded as the most complete and effectual weapon with which any Constitution can arm the immediate representatives of the people, for obtaining a redress of every grievance, and for carrying into effect every just and salutary measure."

Those were the words of James Madison, the father of the United States Constitution. When he was arguing for the adoption of the Constitution, he was saying that this body, the one that I am standing in right now, the House of Representatives through the power of the purse is the only body in the world that can restrain the power of the executive branch, the President of the United States. We, this body, in concert with the Senate, of course, hold the power to check an out-of-control President.

Are the President of the United States and the people who work for him in this administration out of control? Yes.

How do we know this? Because the President of the United States goes to the microphone and says he is going to ignore the United States Supreme Court when the Supreme Court says you cannot do what you are doing, it is against the law, with respect to student loan bailouts.

The President of the United States is ignoring his duty and his oath of the Constitution to defend the border of the United States, using policies meant for very narrow exceptions for asylum and parole to blow open the border and endanger the American people.

That is tyrannical activity, an abuse of power endangering the people that we represent. That is what is happening. That is what the President is doing.

A President who has abused his power at the FBI and in the intelligence agencies. That is what is happening, and what is the response from Republicans? Crickets. It is beyond a whimper because they are afraid that someone might cry shut down. They are afraid that they might lose their

precious election certificate that I think apparently is what gives some people in this body their worth.

However, the election certificate is only as good as the people that we are here to represent, and they sent us here to do something, to change the place.

Today, in Texas, more than 100 illegal aliens charged past the Texas National Guard. The State I represent is on fire and trying to pick up the pieces as the Federal Government refuses to do its job, and we saw it unfold today in real time.

And what are my Republican colleagues going to do? Give the President and the Department of Homeland Security and the impeached Homeland Security Secretary more money.

Can someone explain that to me?

Can someone explain to me how any Republican can, over the next 6 months, go out and campaign against Joe Biden's open borders when they are writing the checks? They are going to do it tomorrow, right here on the floor of this body. They are going to write him the check and say, here you go, Mr. President. "Thank you, sir. May I have another?"

Yes, I inserted "Animal House."

This bill does not include one single policy necessary to secure the border. I am tired of hearing Republicans go to the microphone, whether they are in leadership or rank and file, and say otherwise because it is not true.

I have heard Republican leadership go down and talk about ICE beds. Oh, don't worry, CHIP, we increased the ICE beds.

Are you telling the American people that the ICE memos—that this administration has in full force—basically make it impossible for ICE to do their job, that those beds will, therefore, not be filled?

Oh, CHIP, that is for future President Trump to use. President Trump can increase the ICE beds to what he had when he was President before, which was as many as 57,000 beds.

□ 1800

This is nonsense. It is nothing. No, it is worse than nothing. It is actually worse than nothing because my same Republican colleagues go up to the microphone and say that we are going to increase Border Patrol.

First of all, good luck recruiting more Border Patrol agents right now. They can't even achieve the numbers that they are currently at, at 17,000 or 18,000. No, in our bill we say: Oh, don't worry, we will be at 22,000 Border Patrol agents.

Guess how our Democratic colleagues characterize that amazing feat of negotiation that Republicans carried out? They characterize it as expediting the processing of more illegals because, you know what, at least they are honest about it, that is exactly what it would do.

You are going to give more funding for more Border Patrol agents to process more illegal aliens who are over-

running our border, overrunning our cities, overrunning our hospitals, overrunning our jails, overrunning our schools, driving mass crime into our communities, resulting in the death of Laken Riley, resulting in the death of Kayla Hamilton, resulting in the death of too many people for me to sit here and mention, and Republicans are going to go cower in the corner tomorrow, wring their hands, and say we can't talk about a shutdown. That is what is going to happen.

Meanwhile, we are going to go out this summer and do what? It is the 80th anniversary of D-Day, let's go give some speeches over in Normandy. What? You are so proud of those young men who walked into a wall of bullets and went up a cliff so that you could give your country away with billions of dollars to an administration that is going to allow every single thing they fought for to get winnowed away? That is the truth.

Every Republican tomorrow—and Democrat—every Republican tomorrow who votes for this abomination of a bill will own, personally own the mass release of illegal aliens in violation of law because you are funding it, on top of 4.5 million releases so far and almost 2 million got-aways so far. You vote for this, you own it.

You own the release of illegal aliens with notices to appear in court as far out as 2035 and growing and limited knowledge as to where they even are. You own it.

You own the unlawful mass parole programs, the use of the CBP One app. The funding you are voting for tomorrow will fund that, the mass parole of over 1 million individuals, including the known member of a Venezuelan prison gang who violently murdered Laken Riley. You own that. It was not good enough to pass a bill last week named after Laken Riley and then come here and write the check to the very people who were responsible for allowing it to occur.

You own bringing the chaos in Haiti to the shores of America via the Cuban, Haitian, Nicaraguan, and Venezuelan parole program. You own that. The Haitian migrant who raped a 15-year-old disabled girl who was here as a migrant in Massachusetts. You are funding that.

The dismantling of the migrant protection protocols that were effective under the previous President, you are funding that.

You are funding the halt of the wall construction.

You are funding the legal attacks on the State of Texas for standing up to try to secure our border even as our National Guard gets overrun. You are funding that if you vote for this bill tomorrow.

Texas has had to spend over \$12 billion of its own money. I can tell you what you are not funding. You are not funding paying Texas back, and I am talking to my Texas delegation friends now. Are you literally going to go

home to Texas when your own National Guard are getting overrun, your own State is not getting paid back, we are not getting any policy changes, you are going to increase the debt, and you are going to go try to sell that garbage to the people of Texas?

Spare me when I see you campaigning this year on border security. It is a fraud. It is a fraud for Republicans to campaign on border security while you fund it. You fund the lawlessness. You fund the open borders. You fund the death of Laken Riley. You fund the fentanyl pouring into our communities and killing our kids.

You own the DHS memos policies and rules that restrict Border Patrol's ability to do their job. You own it. You own the continued exploitation of unaccompanied minors, little girls getting sold into the sex trafficking trade, the 85,000 children that were lost by the very Office of Refugee Resettlement that you will fund tomorrow. You own it. Don't campaign against it and then write the check.

You own the funding for the sanctuary cities that refuse to cooperate with immigration law enforcement which, by the way, are hamstrung in the first place by an administration that doesn't care about the law. You own it. Don't go complain about sanctuary cities. You are funding it.

It is worse, as I said before, because DHS gets more money. They get an increase in funding not to change the policies, but to give Border Patrol the ability to process more people quickly, which means more people come to the border.

The Defense Department is also attached to this total capitulation on our border. We continue to fund a woke Department of Defense in the wake of a weak National Defense Authorization Act passed in December which, by the way, we were promised by Republican leadership was just one step. Just get past that, don't worry, then we will fight on spending.

Well, if this is what fighting on spending looks like, I am not sure why you bother flying to Normandy to go regale those who had the courage to walk into a wall of bullets and scale a cliff to defend America and go fight against Nazi Germany. Is this what we do when our hour is before us?

We will be funding, and, therefore, own if you vote for this bill, Biden's illegal Department of Defense abortion travel fund. You own it. By the way, all you social conservative groups out there, all you so-called pro-life groups, where the hell are you? Crickets. Silence, because you care about political power more than the very thing you say you are for. You know who you are.

Transgender surgeries in the Pentagon. Where are the social conservative groups? Cowering in the corner.

Woke DEI offices across the Pentagon destroying the military morale. You can't even recruit anybody to the Pentagon anymore. You are funding it. Don't complain about it while you are funding it.

Biden's climate change executive orders undermining our warfighting capabilities. You are funding it.

The deputy inspector general for diversity and inclusion extremism in the military. You are funding it. You own it.

The Department of Defense's ability to classify Americans' communication as misinformation. You are funding it. You own it.

State and Foreign Operations are part of this bill. We are going to export the radical, progressive Democrats' woke agenda abroad, and you are going to pay for it while we rack up a trillion dollars of debt every 100 days. You are going to take that borrowing, undermine your own dollar, drive up your own inflation, funding the bureaucrats who are carrying out this agenda. Congratulations, America, that is what your House of Representatives is doing, and that is precisely what you will have Republicans campaigning against after they funded it, after they own it.

I will give credit where it is due. Republican leadership, led by the Speaker, negotiated to defund UNRWA. Well, it is about dang time. Some of us were calling for that 3 years ago when we introduced legislation to do it. We had eight Republicans who voted against defunding UNRWA in September in the appropriations package.

Guess what? October 7 was one of the most horrific attacks on one of our friends in history, and we realized what many of us already knew, UNRWA was right there involved. UNRWA was funding it. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency was funding it.

Congratulations. We defunded an entity that is funding terrorists against our friends in Israel. Good. Let's put one over here in the win column, this green check box. Congratulations, Republicans, you did it. You did something that you can actually go sell.

However, sorry to say, you are still funding the World Health Organization, which wants to take away our American sovereignty, that worked to force COVID tyranny on the American people, force it down the throats of the American people. In the process of negotiating a new pandemic treaty that would massively expand its reach, you funded it. Congratulations, you own it. You own the World Health Organization.

You own the dystopian United Nations Population Fund, targeted at basically exterminating people. Congratulations, you own it. Again, to all you social conservative groups out there, thanks.

The Gender Equity and Equality Action Fund and LGBTQ envoys. Border security for Jordan and Pakistan, you are funding border security for Jordan and Pakistan, but you are not doing anything to secure the border of the United States. You own it.

The climate czar office, formerly occupied by John Kerry, flitting around the planet in his private planes. You paid for it; you own it. You are funding it.

\$3.8 billion for the migration and refugee assistance programs while our southern border is not secure. Think about that.

Again, to my Republican colleagues, who vote for this bill, people are going to follow you around, you are going to campaign against all of these things. I know you are. I guess you are going to go all in, Texas Hold'Em style, on President Trump and say: Well, it is going to take President Trump to save us.

How is that separation of powers thing working out for you? Did you skip that part of civics, that we are a coequal branch of government? Oh, but CHIP, we can't do that. We need a President to save us. Why the hell are you in Congress? We are actually supposed to be more important than the President of the United States. That is why we are Article I. However, we are too chicken to use the power, the most powerful tool that we have.

These guys can't do what they are doing to the American people and to our country without the money to do it. Not only are we giving them the money, we are giving them more money, and we are borrowing to do it, at extraordinary rates.

Does anybody need to be reminded that we are now spending more on our interest on the debt than we are on defense this year? All of the hawks in here who are totally happy selling out our country vote by vote so they can go home and say they brought home a troop pay raise, great, but you are now spending more on interest than you are on the Pentagon. In 2 years you are cracking a trillion dollars in interest.

The President's budget that he just sent to us has us spending more on interest over the next decade every year than we do on defense. Congratulations, Republicans, you own it.

How about the FBI headquarters? Good job, Republicans, you went out and campaigned when we passed the last omnibus bill and said: We got cuts to the FBI. You went out and sold that. First of all, it was bogus. The vast majority of the cuts came from one earmark from a building in Alabama that Richard Shelby got in the last Congress. He is no longer here to defend it, so you axed it and then claimed you had some massive cut to the FBI. That is called swamp politics.

However, now in this omnibus spending bill, guess what? We go ahead and fund the new FBI headquarters. Who cares that the FBI just massively spied on the American people? By the way, we haven't done anything about that except for extend their powers through the continuation of FISA without actually putting in a warrant to protect warrantless searches. Oh, we haven't done that yet, put that over there as another thing Republicans own, continued spying on Americans without warrants to protect them. Good job. What, are you going to go check that campaign box this year? We are going to stop and make sure FISA is no longer

abused by the FBI. We are going to protect you, but we are not going to do it when we have the power to do it.

□ 1815

\$200 million to the FBI for its new headquarters.

We don't prohibit the Treasury from establishing a central bank digital currency, which we did in the House bill. Somebody tell me, how can you not negotiate to stop the formation of a central bank digital currency, one of the most pernicious assaults on freedom that you could possibly have?

We couldn't even stand up as Republicans to demand that that stop. We passed it here in the House. The Senate didn't want it, apparently, or the Biden administration didn't want it.

In our grand negotiation, we didn't even do that. Do you know what a central bank digital currency can do? It can totally shut your life down, based on whatever they choose to prioritize.

Using too much gas because you didn't get an electric vehicle? No. Sorry. We are shutting you down.

Buy too much ammo this month? No. Shutting you down.

The Chicoms do this on a regular basis. We are trying to get in front of that, thinking maybe the basic foundational principles in the Constitution matter, but no. We couldn't even negotiate that.

Congratulations, Republicans. You own the continued ability of the executive branch to work up the formation and creation of a central bank digital currency. Congratulations. You own it.

No prohibition on the funds to invest in so-called ESG in the Federal Thrift Savings Plan, which we had gotten adopted. It got punted.

No prohibition on funds for Federal employee health insurance plans to cover the cost of transgender-affirming care. Guess what, Republicans? You own it. You are paying for it. Go home to your colleagues or your constituents and explain to them how excited you are to take their tax dollars and then add to that a bunch of borrowing to fund transgender-affirming care. Good job. You own that.

No prohibition on implementing Biden's climate change EOs.

No governmentwide prohibition on vaccine mandates. A few partial ones—we always want to be fair.

There was a note in the bill that moderately defunded the COVID vax and mask mandates. There was some modest defunding of the Wuhan lab in the DOD bill, but in the vast majority of it over at HHS, all the stuff in there that was carried out, it is still there. Congratulations.

We shut down the biggest economy in the history of the world—racked up \$8 trillion in debt, put our kids behind—now to the tune of trillions of dollars of economic harm, all because we allowed the Wuhan lab to be abused, which we funded. Guess what? We are still funding it. Republicans own it.

Don't go out and campaign against the China virus or the Wuhan virus or

the Wuhan lab. You own it. You are funding it. Right now, today, you are doing it.

House Republicans had aggressive cuts to HHS last year, but now we are going to give a billion-dollar increase.

We are still funding the student loan Ponzi scheme. You go out and criticize President Biden and the student loan program, ignoring the Supreme Court. You are funding it.

Gender-affirming surgeries and drugs, you are funding it.

Research with aborted fetal tissue, you are funding it.

HHS and DOL DEI offices, you are funding it.

President Biden's radical antiworker agenda, you are funding it.

You are funding the Wuhan lab.

Again, I would like to give a shout-out to the social conservative groups out there for being so invested in life and DEI and all the issues involving, say, aborted fetal tissue that you are doing nothing about this bill because you like power.

We banned earmarks at one point. The previous omnibus spending bill had like 6,000 or something earmarks. I don't even know. It is hard to keep count. This one had a bunch more because it was Transportation. Everybody loves to get their little bridges and roads and stuff, but there are bike paths and all sorts of crazy stuff named after crazy people using your money. I am not sure where that is in Article I, Section 8, but whatever.

The bill contains 1,400 earmarks—this one does—for \$2 billion. My colleagues think: It is just an earmark. I am a Member of Congress. I don't want to let a bureaucrat decide this. I get to decide how this is spent. I get to bring home something to my district that is so critically important to the well-being of my constituents.

That is what they all say. That is what they say when they bring back earmarks.

CHIP, we know how to do this better than the bureaucrats. Why would you stand in the way of these all-knowing Congressmen to make the right decisions for their constituents rather than turning over that power to the bureaucrats?

Let's see how that is working out for you, America. \$156,000 for the Hartford Gay and Lesbian Health Collective, an organization self-described as champions of—I don't know how many letters I have to put here together—LGBTQIA+ equity and provides training on LGBTQ+ cultural competency and accessing healthcare for LGBTQ+ youth. Well, that is a good use of money.

\$1.1 million for an EV innovation hub while EVs pile up on all the car dealership lots around the country, while we fund the Chinese to make sure that they are enriched, and while we kill natural gas and kill energy in this country and make it harder for Americans to work, but I digress. We did a really cool bill today on energy, so everything is good.

\$2 million for an Oregon clinic that provides hormone therapy to kids.

\$850,000 for LGBTQ senior housing in Massachusetts. Yes, gay senior housing. Good job, Republicans. That is what you are funding.

\$400,000 for Briarpatch Youth Services in Wisconsin. One of their programs is called Teens Like Us, LGBTQIA2S, whatever that is, with a gender-affirming clothing program for ages 13 to 18. You are funding it. You own it.

\$400,000 to the Garden State Equality Education Fund in New Jersey that helps minors transition genders and promotes biological boys playing girl sports and using the same restrooms. Congratulations, Republicans. You own it.

\$5 million for Mary's Center for Maternal and Child Care in Maryland. It does transgender procedures. "Mary's Center can serve as your 'home base' during the transition process." Congratulations, Republicans. Again, a special shout-out to all you great social conservative groups out there just whistling Dixie while this is happening.

\$1 million for the Inner-City Muslim Network, which calls for the destruction of Israel. Guess what? We are going to go send an invitation for Bibi Netanyahu to come address a joint session right here in this body. I am sure we will get up, and everybody will wear a little Israel pin, and we will go, "Yay, Israel. We love Israel." Then we will give a million dollars to the Inner-City Muslim Network, which calls for the destruction of Israel. Good job, Republicans. You own it.

\$1.6 million for Cape Cod electric buses.

\$350,000 for theater programs.

\$567,000 for an inclusive playground. What is an inclusive playground? When I was kid, an inclusive playground was a bunch of bars that basically were about 150 degrees in the summer heat that you scalded yourself on where you are hanging up over a bunch of asphalt and taking your life into your own hands. It was equal—equal stupid but fun. This? I don't even know what an inclusive playground is, but there it is, \$567,000 of money printed right out of thin air. Here you go.

\$650,000 for Dartmouth-Hitchcock Nashua, New Hampshire, which also provides late-term abortions. Shout-out again to the social conservative groups—completely MIA.

\$740,000 for increasing diversity in State hiring for the State of Maryland. Maryland can't figure out how to fund its own diversity programs without getting a Federal grant out of printed money?

\$870,000 for a group that wants to defund the police in Connecticut. Republicans who get up and rant about police being defunded are going to fund the defunding of police in Connecticut. You can't make this stuff up. You can't.

\$655,000 for Massachusetts Women of Color Coalition Inc. I don't even know what that is.

I could keep going.

The American people did not send us to Washington to continue down the road of destruction for the greatest country in the history of the world for which so many men and women have died to defend and protect it.

The cherry blossoms are all exploding. When we go walk down by the Tidal Basin, when we walk by the Jefferson Memorial, we read all those words. We walk by the Lincoln Memorial and go across the Memorial Bridge to what? 400,000 tombstones on the other side of the Potomac for those who either actually gave the last full measure of devotion or were willing to do it and survived, came back, and were buried there.

What did those 400,000 give that last full measure of devotion for? It wasn't for this. Yet, Republicans campaign on it all the time and then fund it.

I don't know how to go back to the people who I represent in Texas and tell them that while the National Guard had 100 illegal aliens bum-rush them in El Paso, while we have young women like Laken Riley getting killed by somebody released on mass parole, while a 2-year-old right outside of the Nation's Capital gets killed by someone let out on mass parole by this administration ignoring the laws, endangering our people, undermining our sovereignty.

I want to know, for the life of me, how a single Republican can look with a straight face at the people who they represent and say that funding is consistent with their oath to the Constitution, consistent with their duty to the people they represent, consistent with the fiscal responsibility they campaign on, consistent with the border security that they campaign on.

I want to know how they do that. If any Republican votes for this omnibus spending bill tomorrow, he or she owns it, owns every one of those funding priorities, owns the open borders, owns the woke Pentagon, owns the recruiting chaos at the Pentagon, owns the World Health Organization continuing to be funded to undermine our sovereignty.

This omnibus bill is the anti-American sovereignty omnibus bill, and Republicans should not vote for it. We didn't come here for more of the same while our kids have to inherit \$34½ trillion of debt and another trillion dollars of debt every 100 days.

There will not be a country left to stand next to Israel. There will not be a country left to help Ukraine. There will not be a country left for our kids to inherit if you are borrowing, mortgaging their future, all to pay for open borders undermining our sovereignty, world organizations designed to undermine our sovereignty, all purposeful while my colleagues sit back and go: Gosh, I hope President Trump wins. I hope President Trump comes in, and then he will save us.

One individual was arguing with me here on the floor today. I said, "Why

are we doing this?" Well, we can't have a shutdown. We would lose.

Oh, boy. That is courageous, but okay. What if I accept your premise? What if I accept your premise that we can't do this because we have a thin majority in the House, don't have the Senate, and have a radical regime in the White House? Let me accept your premise. I have been around the block here in town a couple of times.

What happens next January? Say Republicans run the trifecta. Republicans win the White House, and President Trump is coming back in. We have the Senate with, say, 52 or 53 seats. We have a 10-seat majority or a 15-seat majority here in the House. Then what? Someone tell me then what because I have been there before.

We were there in 2017, and we didn't repeal ObamaCare and didn't pass healthcare reform.

We were there in 2018, and we didn't pass border security. Goodlatte 1, Goodlatte 2—we couldn't figure out what we were doing. We didn't do it.

What I said to this individual on the floor today was: Do you know what the excuse will be? We don't have 60 in the Senate.

That individual said: Well, we have to have a conversation about that.

That individual knows full well that the same excuses being levied right now to foist this monstrosity, this abomination, on the American people will be the same excuse in January: We can't shut down the government. You need 60 votes in the Senate, Chip. Don't you understand?

Yeah, I do understand. So do the American people, and they are tired of it.

They are tired of having their country traded away day by day, second by second, while our National Guard gets stormed at the border in El Paso, and we don't do anything about it.

We walk around wearing little pins, feeling good about ourselves as Members of Congress who refuse to stand up and defend the very Constitution that gave us the power to do something about it.

Instead of deferring to the President, we are supposed to use the Article I power under the Constitution to stop funding an executive branch that is at war with its own people.

□ 1830

We came here to change it. Last year we started to. We were working together to change this place, to vote bills off the floor, to have single-subject bills, and to have 72 hours—a mere 72 hours—to read a bill, and in just over a year, we have tossed all of that out the window, and we are back to business as usual. We jam a bill through in 24 hours. It is over a thousand pages. It is \$1.2 trillion. It is littered with all manners of sin and earmarks and spending and programs that are undermining the well-being of the American people. We are still figuring out what is in it.

Tomorrow, Republicans have a choice. You can choose to fund an executive branch at odds and at war with the American people that you represent or you can choose to say no. If you refuse to say no, if you go along to get along, you own it. You own every penny. You own every program. You own every American who gets harmed by open borders. Don't dare come looking for sympathy as you are trying to campaign all year trying to win votes when your constituents come up to you and say, why in the hell did you fund it? Because you did.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO), a colleague of mine, so that he can, I think, regale a basketball team or talk about some good stuff back home, which is always a good thing to do.

RECOGNIZING INCREDIBLE HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL PLAYERS ACROSS THE FOURTH DISTRICT

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, CHIP ROY from Texas, for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of some incredible high school athletes from across the Fourth Congressional District back on Long Island in New York.

I would like to congratulate both the Elmont Memorial High School boys' basketball team for winning the New York State championship in their class, as well as the Baldwin High School boys' team for being crowned Nassau County champions.

The girls' teams across the district had a remarkable season, as well, with East Meadow High School winning its first Nassau County championship in its history earlier this month.

I also must give a shoutout to the boys' basketball team from my alma mater, Chaminade High School, for a big win in double overtime to secure the CHSAA Class A New York State championship.

I am incredibly proud of these student athletes who represented our community with pride and made memories that will last a lifetime.

I wish these Nassau County neighbors nothing but success in their future academic and athletic endeavors, and we will continue to advocate to make sure that girls play girls' basketball and that boys play boys' basketball.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for the opportunity to speak.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York. I appreciate what he came to the floor to address. We all have these great stories back home in our districts, and it is worth regaling those things, and I am glad he got the ability to do that.

Mr. Speaker, I want to give a special shoutout to my daughter today. Today is my daughter's 13th birthday, and I just want to say happy birthday to my little girl, who is out in California of all places for this Texan—out in San Diego with her mama having a little fun for her 13th birthday.

Happy birthday to my wonderful daughter, Virginia.

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

HONORING INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, it is such an honor and a privilege to be a Member of the House of Representatives where we can come before this body and express what is in our heart and in our mind, and today I have the honor of speaking of individuals and organizations who have done wonderful work in my community, the San Fernando Valley.

On behalf of Women's History Month, I would like to honor these individuals and these organizations.

This celebration is not only a recognition of women's achievements, but, also, an acknowledgment of their pivotal role in shaping the fabric of our communities across our great Nation on this month of Women's History Month.

The San Fernando Valley is known for its multicultural communities and owes much of its richness to the relentless efforts of women who have built businesses, led community organizations, and spearheaded social justice movements across our community.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us remember and honor the trailblazers who fought for equity for women, the educators who inspired future generations, and the entrepreneurs who defied the odds to create lasting legacies in their businesses and other endeavors.

Their activism and achievements have laid the groundwork for a more inclusive and equitable community.

In recognizing the contributions of women in the San Fernando Valley, we celebrate not just their historical impact but also their ongoing role in shaping our future.

Let us continue to acknowledge and uplift their voices and acknowledge their lasting mark on our community's history and its unfolding story.

Our community's progress and prosperity are built in large part on their enduring spirit and achievements of women throughout the San Fernando Valley.

HONORING MARY HELEN PONCE

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mary Helen Ponce for Women's History Month, a distinguished author and professor whose contributions have significantly enriched Chicano literature and academia.

As we celebrate the women of our communities, it is fitting to recognize individuals like Mary Helen Ponce, whose work has left an indelible mark on our cultural landscape.

Mary Helen Ponce was born in Pacoima, California, amidst the vibrant tapestry of first- and second-generation Mexican immigrants in the San Fernando Valley.

From her early years, she exhibited a deep appreciation for her cultural heritage, a sentiment that has profoundly influenced her academic and literary pursuits and successes.

After completing her bachelor's degree in anthropology from California State University, Northridge in 1978, Mary Helen Ponce embarked on a journey of scholarly exploration.

She obtained master's degree in Chicano studies from the same institution in 1980, followed by another master's degree at the University of California, Los Angeles, where her academic prowess was recognized with the history department's prestigious Danforth Fellowship in 1984.

Mary Helen furthered her education by earning a Ph.D. from the University of New Mexico in 1995.

Throughout her illustrious career, Mary Helen Ponce held various teaching positions at esteemed institutions such as the University of California, Los Angeles; the University of New Mexico; and the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Her dedication to education and commitment to fostering understanding and appreciation for Chicano culture have left a lasting impact on her students and colleagues alike.

Mary Helen Ponce's influence in literature shines very bright to this day.

With three published books and numerous articles and short stories to her credit, she masterfully encapsulates the nuances of Chicano life and culture, exploring themes of bilingualism, biculturalism, and acculturation.

Her works serve not only as a testament to her literary prowess but also as representation for marginalized voices.

Beyond her professional endeavors, Mary Helen Ponce remains deeply committed to various organizations, including Comision Femenil San Fernando Valley, National Writers Union, and the California State University, Northridge Alumni Association.

Her unwavering dedication to preserving and celebrating Chicano heritage continues to inspire and resonate with readers worldwide.

In recognition of her outstanding achievements and enduring legacy, I commend Mary Helen Ponce for her invaluable contributions to literature, academia, and the advancement of Chicano culture in the San Fernando Valley and beyond.

May her remarkable journey serve as a source of inspiration for generations to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO RUBY FLORES

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Deputy Chief Ruby Flores, an exceptional leader whose illustrious career within the Los Angeles Police Department, otherwise known as LAPD, exemplifies dedica-

tion, service, and trailblazing leadership.

As we commemorate Women's History Month, it is only fitting to recognize Deputy Chief Flores for her outstanding contributions to public safety and her commitment to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Born and raised in Southern California as a proud first-generation Mexican American, Deputy Chief Ruby Flores embodies the spirit of resilience and determination.

Her journey with the LAPD began in 1994, and over the past two decades, she has ascended through the ranks with remarkable perseverance and excellence.

Throughout her distinguished career, Deputy Chief Flores has held many leadership positions within LAPD, demonstrating her commitment to community engagement, professional development, and innovative problem-solving approaches.

Her groundbreaking appointment as the first diversity, equity, and inclusion officer for the department underscores her dedication to fostering a more inclusive and equitable law enforcement environment.

In January of 2024, Deputy Chief Ruby Flores made history by becoming the first woman to receive command of the LAPD Operations-Valley Bureau and the first Latina promoted to deputy chief within the LAPD and its entire history.

Her visionary leadership, passion for service, and commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion serves as guiding principles in her mission to protect and serve the people of Los Angeles.

Beyond her professional achievements, Deputy Chief Flores remains an active member of various law enforcement associations and a proud ambassador for her alma mater, inspiring others to pursue their educational goals.

In recognition of her exemplary service, Deputy Chief Ruby Flores was honored with the Champion of Women Award by the Los Angeles Business Journal in 2022.

Her dedication to breaking barriers, promoting diversity, and upholding the values of integrity and justice embodies the very essence of Women's History Month.

I extend my heartfelt gratitude to Deputy Chief Ruby Flores for her outstanding contributions to public safety and her enduring commitment to making our communities safer and more equitable. May her leadership and legacy continue to inspire generations to come.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO IMELDA PADILLA

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary individual who has dedicated her life to public service and the betterment of her community beyond her immediate community and the entire San Fernando Valley: Los Angeles City Councilwoman Imelda Padilla who represents the Sixth District in the San

Fernando Valley on the L.A. City Council.

The Sixth Council District is in the heart of the San Fernando Valley, encompassing communities such as Arleta, Sun Valley, North Hollywood, Panorama City, North Hills, Van Nuys, and Lake Balboa.

This is the same Council District I had the honor to represent on the City Council just a few years ago.

Her story is one of resilience, dedication, and unwavering commitment to her constituents, embodying the spirit of leadership and community engagement that we celebrate during this special month.

Born in 1987 in Van Nuys, California, and raised in the working-class neighborhood of Sun Valley, Councilwoman Padilla's life has been a testament to the power of perseverance and the impact of community involvement.

As a first-generation Mexican American, she witnessed firsthand the challenges and opportunities that come with striving for a better life here in America.

Her mother worked as a factory worker, and her father was a gardener. She was inspired by her parents' spirit of service and the example they set for her family, and Imelda chose a path to advocacy and public service at a very young age.

As a child, she was diagnosed with rickets, a calcium deficiency, and in 2000, Imelda had surgery to address this issue at the Shriners Hospital in Los Angeles.

Imelda attended Roscoe Elementary School, Byrd Middle School, and John H. Francis Polytechnic High School. As a student, she was involved with the cheerleader team and joined the Los Angeles Youth Council.

This is when I first met Imelda, as she is one of the first recipients of the Andres and Maria Cardenas Family Foundation Scholarship and Program.

Councilwoman Padilla earned her bachelor's degree in political science from the University of California, Berkeley, with minors in philosophy and Chicano studies followed by a master's in public administration from the California State University, Northridge.

□ 1845

These academic achievements laid the foundation for her career in community advocacy and local governance.

Imelda's brother was incarcerated, and that experience inspired Imelda to come back home to advocate for young people and bring resources to the San Fernando Valley and the community that gave her and her family so much.

Imelda has taken on many leadership roles, such as a youth organizer for Pacoima Beautiful, a field deputy for then Council District 6 and a senior organizer for Raise the Wage.

Councilwoman Padilla's political journey reached a significant milestone in 2023 when she was elected to represent the Sixth District of the Los Angeles City Council.

Her platform, focused on equitable access to resources, enhancing the quality of life for all residents, and promoting social and economic justice reflects her lifelong commitment to serving others and advocating for positive change.

Beyond her political achievements, Councilwoman Padilla has made notable contributions to her community through various initiatives, including the Adelante Latino Youth Summit, designated to inspire local youth to pursue higher education and diverse career paths.

As president of the Valley College Foundation and former member of the Sun Valley Area Neighborhood Council, her leadership has facilitated countless opportunities for advancement and prosperity for many Angelenos.

In recognizing Councilwoman Imelda Padilla today, we recognize not only her accomplishments but also the enduring impact of her service to Los Angeles and its residents.

Her journey from a young advocate to a respected elected leader in city government exemplifies the values we hold dear during Women's History Month: courage, resilience, and the power of making a difference in the lives of others.

Let us draw inspiration from Councilwoman Padilla's story as we continue to advocate for equity, justice, and opportunity in our own communities throughout our Nation.

I extend my deepest respect and congratulations to Councilwoman Imelda Padilla for her ongoing dedication to public service and her remarkable contributions to the city of Los Angeles.

RECOGNIZING COMISION FEMENIL OF THE SAN FERNANDO VALLEY

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise with great respect and admiration for an organization that has been at the forefront of empowering Latina women and their communities, Comision Femenil of the San Fernando Valley.

For over five decades, Comision Femenil has dedicated itself to improving the quality of life for Latina women, their families, and communities through a commitment to education, leadership, development, and community involvement.

Founded in 1970, Comision Femenil is an all-volunteer 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that has tirelessly worked to provide opportunities for growth and advancement to Latinas in the San Fernando Valley and beyond.

Their mission is a beacon of hope and a testament to the power of dedicated community action in creating meaningful change.

One of Comision Femenil's cornerstone initiatives is the Dr. Karin Duran Memorial Youth Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded annually to Latina students in the northeastern San Fernando Valley who are pursuing higher education. It is a critical resource that opens doors for young women who dream of a future empowered by education.

Moreover, this year marks the 30th anniversary of Comision Femenil's Adelante Mujer Latina Career Conference, an annual event that has significantly impacted the lives of countless Latina high school students.

By exposing them to higher education and career options through workshops led by professional Latinas, Comision Femenil ensures these young women can envision and pursue their dreams with confidence and determination.

Comision Femenil also excels in providing professional development and networking opportunities as well. Their monthly presentations on local community issues not only foster professional growth but also strengthen the bonds within their community and encourage active participation and advocacy.

In recent years, Comision Femenil has expanded its mentorship programs, thanks to a generous \$25,000 grant from the county of Los Angeles.

These programs, including the High School Mentorship Program and Scholarship Recipient Mentor Program, which offers guidance, support, and encouragement to young Latinas, helps them navigate through academic and personal challenges and succeed in their endeavors.

The legacy and impact of Comision Femenil of the San Fernando Valley are very profound. Their work not only uplifts individuals but also fosters a stronger, more equitable community for generations to come.

As we honor the contributions of women and organizations making a difference in our communities, let us draw inspiration from the commitment and achievements of Comision Femenil.

Their dedication to empowering Latina women through education and leadership development is a shining example of how focused, community-based action can drive positive change in our society.

I extend my deepest gratitude and congratulations to Comision Femenil of the San Fernando Valley for their dedication and service.

HONORING NICOLE CHASE

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Nicole Chase for her outstanding contributions to the Boys & Girls Club of San Fernando Valley and her tireless dedication to the welfare of youth and families throughout Los Angeles.

Nicole's story is one of devotion, leadership, and transformative influence. Through a storied career that began after her graduation with distinction from the University of California, Berkeley, Nicole has devoted over four decades to serving the community, particularly focusing on youth empowerment and development.

She follows in the footsteps of her father, Leroy Chase, who was the president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Club for over 50 years.

Her leadership as the president and CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of San

Fernando Valley has been nothing short of remarkable. Under her guidance, the club has not only expanded its reach but also deepened its impact, offering comprehensive after-school programs that cover education and career development, health and life skills, arts, sports and wellness, and leadership and character development.

Nicole's approach to youth development is holistic and inclusive, ensuring that the programs under her leadership cater to the diverse needs of young people, nurturing their potential and preparing them for successful futures.

Her work extends beyond the confines of the Boys & Girls Club. As a certified facilitator for Motivating the Teen Spirit, she plays a critical role in fostering emotional literacy and integrity among teens.

Nicole's commitment to community service is evident in her extensive involvement in various city commissions and initiatives, including the Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks and the Los Angeles Zoo Commission. These roles underscore her dedication to enhancing the quality of life for all residents and her belief in the power of community engagement and development.

Moreover, Nicole's leadership extends into the areas of fundraising, mentorship, and advocacy, making her a beacon of hope and a role model for young people and her peers alike.

Her efforts in organizing teen summits, managing major sponsorships, and directing youth-focused programs have empowered thousands of young individuals, helping them to unlock their potential and aspire to greater achievements and heights.

Nicole Chase's contributions to the Boys & Girls Club of San Fernando Valley and the broader Los Angeles community reflect her commitment to making a difference in the lives of young people. Her visionary leadership, coupled with her passion for youth empowerment and community development, has left an indelible mark on countless individuals and organizations.

Therefore, it is with great respect and admiration that I commend Nicole Chase for her extraordinary service and dedication. Her work not only enhances the present well-being of our youth but also lays the foundation for a brighter, more inclusive future for generations to come.

Let us all recognize and celebrate Nicole Chase's achievements and contributions. Nicole is a great example of what it means to serve and lead within our communities.

HONORING NANCY TAKAYAMA

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an exceptional individual from the San Fernando Valley, Nancy Takayama.

Nancy has devoted her life to advocating for the Japanese-American community, promoting disability awareness, and tirelessly working toward the preservation of Japanese-American history and heritage.

Nancy's journey began with a simple yet profound act of kindness and inclusion, inspired by a coworker's effort to communicate in sign language. This experience ignited a passion for disability awareness, leading Nancy to advocate for the hearing impaired through education and public performances.

Her work aims to foster understanding and compassion, combating bullying and promoting inclusivity from a young age to all youth.

Upon returning to her roots in the San Fernando Valley, Nancy's focus shifted toward preserving the rich history and legacy of Japanese Americans in the region. Collaborating with elder community members, she embarked on a mission to capture oral histories, ensuring that future generations understand and appreciate their heritage.

Her dedication to this cause led her to pivotal roles within the community, including her presidency at the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Citizens League and her involvement with the San Fernando Valley Japanese American Community Center.

Under Nancy's leadership, the SFV JACL initiated the Katarou Histories Program, which bridges generations through the sharing of stories and experiences, enriching the community's collective memory.

Additionally, her volunteer work with the Grateful Crane Ensemble highlights her commitment to educating the public about the Japanese-American experience, utilizing the arts as a powerful medium for storytelling and awareness.

Nancy's advocacy extends beyond cultural preservation to encompass civil rights, as evidenced by her work with the Pacific Southwest District, PSWD, JACL.

Her efforts have significantly contributed to the protection of civil liberties and the promotion of Japanese-American heritage throughout southern California and the Southwest.

Moreover, Nancy's involvement in the Little Tokyo Business Association and the Little Tokyo Community Council underscores her commitment to preserving historical sites, including the Tuna Canyon Detention Station, a personal endeavor linked to her family's history.

Nancy Takayama's dedication to community engagement, her advocacy for the disabled, and her unwavering devotion to preserving Japanese-American history and heritage are inspirational to the people around her.

Her work not only enriches our understanding of the Japanese-American community's contributions but also serves as a beacon of inclusivity and understanding across diverse communities.

Her work is a testament to the power of community service and advocacy in shaping a more inclusive and aware society. Let us celebrate and recognize Nancy's extraordinary contributions to our Nation's culture.

Therefore, it is with great respect and admiration that I honor Nancy Takayama today.

HONORING GINNY HATFIELD

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and recognize a remarkable individual from Valley Village who has made a big impact on her community, and that is Ginny Hatfield.

Ginny's exemplary service and dedication to her community, her tireless advocacy for women's rights, and her commitment to public safety make her a distinguished figure worthy of celebrating.

Ginny Hatfield's journey began with the Neighborhood Council of Valley Village, where Ginny played a crucial role in writing the bylaws and obtaining certification with the city of Los Angeles.

As a founding board member and vice president for the last 16 years, Ginny's leadership has been instrumental in shaping the community's development and fostering a spirit of inclusivity and cooperation.

Beyond her local community, Ginny has been a dedicated member of the American Association of University Women for over 30 years.

Her contributions at both the State and local levels, especially in public policy and advocacy for women's rights, underscore her commitment to advancing equality and empowerment.

Ginny's leadership in chairing the annual Lobby Day and her role as the president of the San Fernando Valley AAUW branch demonstrate her ability to inspire action and drive meaningful change.

Ginny is also involved with the San Fernando Chapter of the United Nations Association, showing that her dedication to service extends beyond her local community and to global issues, particularly sustainable development goals.

Her efforts to educate the public about the U.N.'s work and to advocate for support of U.N. programs exemplify her dedication to fostering global citizenship and understanding.

Beyond her advocacy work, Ginny has served her community in many other roles, including her service as an elder at Faith Presbyterian Church of Valley Village and her participation in the International Citizen Diplomacy of Los Angeles.

□ 1900

Her efforts to promote person-to-person connections and her work with immigrants through the San Fernando Valley Interfaith Council are testaments to her compassion and commitment to service.

Ginny Hatfield's career experiences, including roles with Congressman Tom Rees, Congressman Tony Beilenson, Assemblymember Wally Knox, and former Assembly Speaker Bob Hertzberg, have equipped her with a deep understanding of public service and governance.

Her contributions to our community and our Nation reflect a life dedicated to service, advocacy, and leadership.

Her impact on Valley Village, the State of California, and the many lives she has touched through her work and career is immeasurable.

Let us recognize and celebrate Ginny Hatfield's outstanding contributions and her unwavering dedication to making a difference in her community and the world at large.

POLY PARROTS GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a group of extraordinary young women from Sun Valley. This high school in California recently accomplished a feat never seen in their school's long history.

Last month, the John H. Francis Polytechnic High School girls' basketball team captured its second straight Division 1 CIF-LACS championship in a convincing 54-47 victory over the Arleta Mustangs.

The Poly Parrots saw incredible all-around team play with critical contributions from their star players and incredible contributions from other key players throughout their team.

Led by the dynamic sister duo of Hannah and Heart Lising, and seniors Sofia Cruz, Andrea Hurtado, Unique Doroteo, the Poly Parrots beat some of the tournament's toughest basketball teams en route to their championship title.

The back-to-back City Champions delivered an incredible season, as the Poly Parrots went 10 and 1 in their league and finished the season with a 17 and 9 record overall.

These young women showcased their incredible drive and resilience and showed they were not complacent with last year's title. They were hungry for more, and they certainly prevailed.

I commend Head Coach Elton Feri and the rest of his staff, Kimberly Pulido, Gabriela Gallardo, and Eduardo Alcantar for building an incredible basketball program and making sure these student athletes are succeeding on and off the court.

Congratulations to the Polytechnic High School girls' basketball team. They are the champions.

I look forward to seeing what is in store for them next year. I truly believe they can make it three in a row.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, March 22, 2024, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3519. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a

six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Ethiopia that was declared in Executive Order 14046 of September 17, 2021, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3520. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the Threat of Foreign Interference in or Undermining Public Confidence in United States Elections that was declared in Executive Order 13848 of September 12, 2018, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3521. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual report detailing telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury licenses during the period from July 1 through December 31, 2023, as required by Section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6); Public Law 102-484, Sec. 1705(e)(6) (as amended by Public Law 104-114, Sec. 102(g)); (110 Stat. 792); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3522. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 14024 of April 15, 2021, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3523. A letter from the General Counsel, Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting the Conference's 2022 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, Sec. 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3524. A letter from the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's Annual Performance Report for Fiscal Years 2023-2025, including the Annual Performance Plan, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3525. A letter from the Office of General Counsel, Federal Transit Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting a notification of a federal vacancy and designation of acting officer, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3526. A letter from the Chairman, United States International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's combined Annual Performance Plan for Fiscal Year 2024-25 and Annual Performance Report for FY 2023, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867) and 5 U.S.C. 306(a); Public Law 103-62, Sec. 3 (as amended by Public Law 111-352, Sec. 2); (124 Stat. 3866); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-3527. A letter from the Board Chairman and CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Budget and Performance Plan, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1115(b); Public Law 111-352, Sec. 3; (124 Stat. 3867); jointly to

the Committees on Agriculture and Oversight and Accountability.

REPORT OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1792. A bill to amend the South Pacific Tuna Act of 1988, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-429). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1829. A bill to require the Secretary of Agriculture to convey the Pleasant Valley Ranger District Administrative Site to Gila County, Arizona; with an amendment (Rept. 118-430). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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. WILLIAMS of New York:
H.R. 7765. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to use weapon screening technology at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. ESHOO (for herself, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. BEYER, and Mrs. FOUSHEE):

H.R. 7766. A bill to require the National Institute of Standards and Technology to establish task forces to facilitate and inform the development of technical standards and guidelines relating to the identification of content created by generative artificial intelligence, to ensure that audio or visual content created or substantially modified by generative artificial intelligence includes a disclosure acknowledging the generative artificial intelligence origin of such content, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. LUTTRELL (for himself, Mr. DELUZIO, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. STRONG):

H.R. 7767. A bill to amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice to expand the definition of aiding the enemy to include the provision of military education, military training, and tactical advice; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BALDERSON (for himself, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. CAREY, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. LATTA, and Mr. JORDAN):

H.R. 7768. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 265 Main Street in Philo, Ohio, as the "Samuel J. Mitchell Jr. Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 7769. A bill to amend the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 to reauthorize the Commission on Farm Transitions-Needs for 2050, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 7770. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the women who contributed to the Home Front during World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GARAMENDI (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. DESAULNIER):

H.R. 7771. A bill to amend title 36, United States Code, to designate "National Rosie the Riveter Day" and request the President to issue an annual proclamation; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mr. BAIRD):

H.R. 7772. A bill to restrict certain Federal assistance benefits to individuals verified to be citizens of the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself, Mr. RASKIN, and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 7773. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide additional entitlement to Post-9/11 Educational Assistance to certain veterans and members of the Armed Forces who require extra time to complete remedial and deficiency courses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. JACOBS:

H.R. 7774. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Defense relating to the consideration of the human rights records of recipients of certain support, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LAWLER (for himself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. POSEY, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. PORTER, and Ms. STEVENS):

H.R. 7775. A bill to prohibit the procurement of certain items containing perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) or perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and prioritize the procurement of products not containing PFAS; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. TITUS, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. GOSAR, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. STANTON, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO):

H.R. 7776. A bill to amend the Boulder Canyon Project Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to expend amounts in the Colorado River Dam fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LUTTRELL (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 7777. A bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2024, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. MACE (for herself and Mr. TIFFANY):

H.R. 7778. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to expand the scope of the prohibition against video voyeurism; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MALOY (for herself, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. COSTA, and Mr. MOORE of Utah):

H.R. 7779. A bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to

the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Natural Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. TENNEY, and Ms. VAN DUYN):

H.R. 7780. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit certain retirement plans from making investment decisions on the basis of factors other than financial risk and return factors; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Ms. SPANBERGER):

H.R. 7781. A bill to require a report on the economic and national security risks posed by the use of artificial intelligence in the commission of financial crimes, including fraud and the dissemination of misinformation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. BUSH, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BALINT, Mr. TONKO, Ms. MENG, Mr. CASAR, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. FROST, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. OMAR, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. IVEY, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. TAKANO):

H.R. 7782. A bill to provide economic empowerment opportunities in the United States through the modernization of public housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. OGLES (for himself, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. TIMMONS):

H.R. 7783. A bill to nullify certain documents issued by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission relating to gender-based workplace discrimination; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 7784. A bill to amend the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of 1959 to clarify reporting requirements; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 7785. A bill to make additional Federal public land available for selection under the Alaska Native Vietnam era veterans land allotment program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 7786. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to authorize the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to issue permits for the construction and modification of national interest high-impact transmission facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. RASKIN (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. CONNOLLY):

H.R. 7787. A bill to establish the Federal Labor-Management Partnership Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, 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. SOTO:

H.R. 7788. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the Firefighter PFAS Injury Compensation Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, 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 Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 7789. A bill to prohibit the Department of Defense from offering services through, or maintaining a business relationship with, Tutor.com; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. STRICKLAND (for herself, Ms. BROWN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. EVANS, Ms. CHU, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SOTO, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ROSS, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 7790. A bill to increase the participation of historically underrepresented demographic groups in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and industry; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. MOONEY (for himself, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. HILL):

H.J. Res. 119. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission relating to "Private Fund Advisers; Documentation of Registered Investment Adviser Compliance Reviews"; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. FOUSHEE (for herself, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina, Ms. ROSS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. MANNING, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. PETERS):

H. Res. 1100. A resolution commending and congratulating the 100-year anniversary of Duke University, in Durham, North Carolina; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HORSFORD (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. IVEY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. JACKSON LEE, 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, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. JEFFRIES):

H. Res. 1101. 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.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 7744.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill creates a new tax credit program to support new or expanding small U.S. infant formula producers.

By Mr. WILLIAMS of New York:

H.R. 7765.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to use weapon screening technology at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

By Ms. ESHOO:

H.R. 7766.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clauses 1 and 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

To ensure that audio or visual content created or substantially modified by generative artificial intelligence includes a disclosure acknowledging the generative artificial intelligence origin of such content.

By Mr. LUTTRELL:

H.R. 7767.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power "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:

Armed Forces UCMJ

By Mr. BALDERSON:

H.R. 7768.

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 rename a Post Office.

By Ms. CARAVEO:

H.R. 7769.

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:
Reauthorize Commission on Farm Transi-
tion

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 7770.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8, clause 6 empowers
Congress to coin money.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require the Secretary of the Treasury
to mint coins in recognition and celebration
of the women who contributed to the Home
Front during World War II.

By Mr. GARAMENDI:

H.R. 7771.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article I, Section 8 of the United States
Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 36, United States Code, to
designate "National Rosie the Riveter Day"
and request the President to issue an annual
proclamation.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 7772.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8 of the United States
Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Protecting benefit programs

By Mr. HORSFORD:

H.R. 7773.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 38, United States Code, to
provide additional entitlement to Post-9/11
Educational Assistance to certain veterans
and members of the Armed Forces who re-
quire extra time to complete remedial and
deficiency courses, and for other purposes.

By Ms. JACOBS:

H.R. 7774.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 10, United States Code, to
make certain improvements in the laws ad-
ministered by the Secretary of Defense relat-
ing to the consideration of the human rights
records of recipients of certain support, and
for other purposes.

By Mr. LAWLER:

H.R. 7775.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United
States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the procurement of certain
items containing perfluorooctane sulfonate
(PFOS) or perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)
and prioritize the procurement of products
not containing PFAS.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 7776.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Con-
gress with the power to "lay and collect
Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order
to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of
the United States."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Boulder Canyon Project Act
to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to
expend amounts in the Colorado River Dam
fund, and for other purposes.

By Mr. LUTTRELL:

H.R. 7777.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitu-
tion, Congress has the power "To make all
Laws which shall be necessary and proper for
carrying into Execution the foregoing Pow-
ers, 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:
Veteran Affairs

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 7778.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To expand the scope of the prohibition
against video voyeurism

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 7779.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To promote remediation of abandoned
hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MURPHY:

H.R. 7780.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Retirement

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:

H.R. 7781.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States
Constitution To make all Laws which shall
be necessary and proper for carrying into
Execution the foregoing Powers, and all
other Powers vested by this Constitution in
the Government of the United States, or in
any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require a report on the economic and
national security risks posed by the use of
artificial intelligence in the commission of
financial crimes, including fraud and the dis-
semination of misinformation, and for other
purposes.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ:

H.R. 7782.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the
United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide economic empowerment oppor-
tunities in the United States through the
modernization of public housing, and for
other purposes.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 7783.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

The single subject of this legislation is:

To nullify certain documents issued by the
Equal Employment Opportunity Commission
relating to gender-based workplace discrimi-
nation.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 7784.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Labor

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 7785.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To make additional Federal public land
available for selection under the Alaska Na-
tive Vietnam era veterans land allotment
program, and for other purposes.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 7786.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Energy and Environment

By Mr. RASKIN:

H.R. 7787.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Clause 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would establish labor-manage-
ment councils in the federal government.

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 7788.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, of the United States
Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill would set up a Firefighter's Com-
pensation fund for firefighters or their fami-
lies to claim compensation for illness or
death caused by their exposure to PFAS
through their profession.

By Ms. STEFANIK:

H.R. 7789.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitu-
tion

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prohibit the Department of Defense
from contracting and working with Chinese-
controlled Tutor.com.

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 7790.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The Women and Underrepresented Minorities
in STEM Booster Act establishes a grant
program to increase the participation of
women and underrepresented minorities in
S.T.E.M fields.

By Mr. MOONEY:

H.J. Res. 119.

Congress has the power to enact this legis-
lation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Securities and Exchange Commission

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors
were added to public bills and resolu-
tions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. HARDER of
California.

H.R. 149: Mr. COLLINS.

H.R. 235: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 594: Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 595: Mr. CASTRO of Texas and Mr.
ALLRED.

H.R. 619: Mr. MOULTON, Ms. WILLIAMS of
Georgia, and Mrs. NAPOLITANO.

H.R. 704: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 763: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 807: Mr. VARGAS, Ms. ESCOBAR, and
Mr. MCCLEINTOCK.

H.R. 847: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 882: Mr. NICKEL.

H.R. 883: Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 969: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 982: Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 1002: Ms. BARRAGÁN and Mrs. NAPOLI-
TANO.

H.R. 1008: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 1015: Mr. MORAN.

H.R. 1088: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 1091: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1097: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr.
MULLIN, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MFUME,
and Mr. NICKEL.

- H.R. 1395: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 1403: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1514: Mr. WALTZ.
H.R. 1629: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 1668: Ms. MCCOLLUM and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 1694: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia and Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 1705: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.
H.R. 1721: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 1770: Mr. MCCORMICK and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 1815: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 1826: Mr. MILLER of Ohio.
H.R. 1833: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 1840: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.
H.R. 2367: Ms. SCHOLTEN.
H.R. 2369: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 2407: Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Mr. CARBAJAL.
H.R. 2422: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 2537: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 2630: Ms. BUSH.
H.R. 2700: Mr. STRONG.
H.R. 2723: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 2725: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 2730: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2742: Mr. BEAN of Florida.
H.R. 2923: Mr. MEUSER.
H.R. 3005: Ms. McCLELLAN, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. STAUBER.
H.R. 3012: Mr. MOORE of Utah.
H.R. 3031: Mr. CASTRO of Texas and Mr. SWALWELL.
H.R. 3127: Mr. CLINE and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 3131: Mr. CRENSHAW.
H.R. 3207: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 3270: Mr. CURTIS, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. ESTES.
H.R. 3303: Mrs. RAMIREZ and Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 3381: Ms. LEE of Nevada.
H.R. 3478: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3491: Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SABLAN, and Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 3507: Mr. BACON and Mr. EDWARDS.
H.R. 3591: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 3618: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 3724: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 3730: Ms. HAGEMAN.
H.R. 3781: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H.R. 3809: Mr. MOLINARO.
H.R. 4118: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.
H.R. 4175: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.
H.R. 4384: Mr. ARMSTRONG and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 4392: Ms. BROWNLEY.
H.R. 4442: Ms. WILD and Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 4736: Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 4848: Mr. WEBBER of Texas and Mr. BRECHEEN.
H.R. 4897: Ms. BUDZINSKI.
H.R. 4907: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 4974: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 5142: Mr. RUIZ and Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 5143: Mr. RUIZ and Mrs. DINGELL.
H.R. 5221: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5256: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 5403: Mr. LAMBORN.
H.R. 5513: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 5517: Mr. HORSFORD.
H.R. 5526: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 5547: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 5762: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 5871: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 5989: Mr. SORENSEN.
H.R. 5995: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 6077: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 6201: Mr. LALOTA, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. MRVAN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, and Mr. FINSTAD.
H.R. 6246: Mrs. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 6315: Mr. CISCOMANI.
H.R. 6348: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 6394: Mr. HARDER of California.
H.R. 6417: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 6418: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 6538: Mr. CISCOMANI and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 6541: Mr. BALDERSON.
H.R. 6727: Mr. MCCORMICK.
H.R. 6744: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 6929: Mr. MRVAN.
H.R. 6937: Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 6951: Mr. HUDSON and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.
H.R. 6961: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.
H.R. 6969: Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. IVEY, Mr. MCCAUL, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.R. 7007: Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 7020: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 7050: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 7082: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 7108: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 7127: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 7185: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 7187: Mrs. SPARTZ.
H.R. 7204: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 7218: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 7248: Ms. LOFGREN.
H.R. 7250: Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 7288: Mr. MULLIN.
H.R. 7314: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 7431: Mr. BERGMAN.
H.R. 7450: Mr. ADERHOLT.
H.R. 7563: Mr. CLINE and Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 7600: Mr. THANEDAR and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
H.R. 7625: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 7629: Ms. CRAIG and Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 7634: Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 7649: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. DUNN of Florida.
H.R. 7670: Ms. SALAZAR.
H.R. 7683: Mrs. HOUCHIN.
H.R. 7710: Mr. LAWLER.
H.R. 7714: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 7725: Mrs. McCLAIN and Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 7735: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 7738: Mr. SELF.
H.R. 7746: Mr. POCAN, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 7750: Mr. DAVIDSON.
H.R. 7752: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 7764: Mr. MORELLE.
H.J. Res. 8: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi and Mr. GREEN of Tennessee.
H.J. Res. 116: Mrs. HOUCHIN and Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.
H.J. Res. 117: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ESTES, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. WENSTRUP.
H. Con. Res. 49: Ms. PETTERSEN.
H. Res. 50: Mr. MASSIE and Mrs. SPARTZ.
H. Res. 561: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H. Res. 998: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H. Res. 1025: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. DUNCAN.
H. Res. 1050: Ms. PORTER.
H. Res. 1086: Mr. JACKSON of Texas and Mr. MILLS.

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. ESPAILLAT.