

regulation and also consumer protections.

Finally, this legislation would not—as was just pointed out—create a brand new Federal insurance regulator in its place. By law, NARAB would not be a regulator or a part of any Federal agency. It would have no regulatory authority.

With 56—56—different approaches to life insurance, this bipartisan bill would reduce needless red tape and complexity that is out there, and it would help insurance agents better serve their clients.

I urge this House to adopt this legislation today.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FINCHER).

Mr. FINCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor in support of H.R. 1155, the National Association of Registered Agents and Brokers Reform Act of 2013.

As mentioned, this important legislation strikes the appropriate balance between easing the licensing requirements for insurance agents and preserving State authority to supervise and discipline insurance producers for their actions.

Through this legislation, I hope all consumers, especially the citizens of Tennessee, will benefit from a more competitive insurance market. NARAB is supported by all insurance industry stakeholders, including State insurance regulators, regional and national insurance companies, and trade associations.

H.R. 1155 is seen as the most effective, efficient way to enable insurance agents and brokers to be licensed on a multistate basis while retaining State regulatory authority.

While today's legislation speaks to insurance agents and brokers, similar issues exist for claims adjusters. To address these issues when consumers present a claim, I have introduced the CLAIM Act, H.R. 2156, to streamline the licensing requirements for insurance adjusters operating outside their home States.

My bill would preserve State authority to supervise and discipline adjusters for their actions, while streamlining State licensing regulations.

As we join together today to support H.R. 1155, I call upon my colleagues to similarly support and enact the CLAIM Act to ensure consumers receive the same excellent service when they need their insurance.

I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) for his hard work on this very well-thought-out legislation. I hope it will help the citizens of this country receive excellent insurance products and services.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RADEL).

Mr. RADEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill introduced by my colleague Representative NEUGEBAUER.

This bill reduces costs for homeowners and renters not only in my home State of Florida, but for everyone throughout the entire country.

Today, insurance brokers and agents face hurdles when they try to work across State lines. What this bill does is make it easier and less expensive for them to get licensed in multiple States. The best part about this is ultimately it saves you, the consumer, money.

This legislation streamlines the Federal role in real estate licensing while allowing States to continue setting standards for the work that best fits their States because, after all, we know what's best for our States and our communities.

Lowering costs for insurance agents and brokers means more options and lower prices for consumers. I am glad to support this bipartisan legislation.

I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for the NARAB Reform Act.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. If the gentleman has no more speakers, I will close and then yield back the balance of my time.

I just want to say what a distinguished pleasure it has been to work with the gentleman from Texas, my good friend on both the Financial Services Committee and the Ag Committee. We do a lot of great work together. It is a great pleasure.

I commend this bill to the full House of Representatives and hope we have a unanimous vote.

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

□ 1245

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. I yield myself the balance of my time.

I also want to thank the gentleman from Georgia. He has worked tirelessly on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, what I think is nice about this issue is that it's bipartisan. It's a good piece of legislation in that it doesn't expand government, and it doesn't cost the taxpayers any money. Ultimately, I think it's going to bring better choices for consumers and, I hope, for our small business people across the country. For example, in my congressional district, it is closer to three or four other States than it is to some of the cities that are within my State, for example, from Walipp to within a hundred miles of Colorado and within 100 miles of Oklahoma and Colorado and these other States. Basically, we have a lot of insurance agencies and agents who now will have the ability to do business in multiple States in a less cumbersome way, so I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEUGEBAUER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1155, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### STREAMLINING CLAIMS PROCESSING FOR FEDERAL CONTRACTOR EMPLOYEES ACT

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2747) to amend title 40, United States Code, to transfer certain functions from the Government Accountability Office to the Department of Labor relating to the processing of claims for the payment of workers who were not paid appropriate wages under certain provisions of such title.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2747

*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 "Streamlining Claims Processing for Federal Contractor Employees Act".

#### SEC. 2. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

(a) AUTHORITY OF COMPTROLLER GENERAL TO PAY WAGES AND LIST CONTRACTORS VIOLATING CONTRACTS.—Section 3144 of title 40, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking "of Comptroller General"; and

(2) in subsection (a)(1), by striking "Comptroller General" and inserting "Secretary of Labor".

(b) REPORT OF VIOLATIONS AND WITHHOLDING OF AMOUNTS FOR UNPAID CONTRACTS AND LIQUIDATED DAMAGES.—Section 3703(b)(3) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by striking "Comptroller General" both places it appears and inserting "Secretary of Labor".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2747.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2747,

and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

With our Nation facing difficult challenges at home and abroad, it is important we continue the work the American people sent us here to do. That includes pursuing commonsense reforms that will make the Federal Government more efficient and a better steward of taxpayer dollars. The legislation we are considering today is a small, yet important, part of that effort.

Approximately one out of every five workers is employed by a Federal contractor. Drawing on the strength and expertise of the private sector workforce to complete Federal projects has helped deliver better results at a more competitive price for taxpayers.

A number of laws govern the wages workers on Federal projects receive. For example, the Davis-Bacon Act requires Federal contractors to pay workers the local prevailing wage. Additionally, the Contract Work Hours and Safety Standards Act ensures these workers receive 1½ times their basic rate of pay for hours worked in excess of 40 hours a week. Both laws have played a central role in Federal contracting for decades. However, both are plagued by inefficiencies. The Department is responsible for enforcing these laws; yet the Government Accountability Office has long been a middleman in an overly bureaucratic claims process.

Here is how the current process works:

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Labor first determines whether workers have failed to receive their proper wages, and it calculates the amount of pay they are due. Next, the Department forwards to GAO a report that states the names of underpaid employees and the amounts they are each owed. Funds from the relevant contracting agencies are delivered to GAO, which then deposits the money into an account at the Treasury Department. Based upon claims forms submitted by affected workers, GAO transmits payment requests to Treasury, which disburses directly to workers their unpaid wages. It should be noted that GAO has no authority to overturn or to even challenge the Department's judgment in this area.

As a result of this lengthy back and forth between numerous Federal entities, workers can experience delays in receiving their correct wages, and taxpayers are forced to support an unnecessarily complex process. I think we can all agree we can do better.

H.R. 2747 is commonsense and bipartisan legislation that would transfer GAO's administrative duties under these two laws to the proper Federal agency, which is the Department of Labor. GAO has requested this relief and believes it will encourage more efficiency within the Federal Government. Furthermore, it will free up time and resources at GAO that can be better spent fulfilling its central mission of investigating waste and abuse in the Federal Government.

By moving wage claims adjustments for federally contracted workers to the Department of Labor, we can ensure workers receive their pay in a timelier manner while providing greater efficiency. Quite simply, Mr. Speaker, this legislation is a win for workers and for taxpayers.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2747, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of the pending legislation, H.R. 2747, the Streamlining Claims Processing for Federal Contractor Employees Act, which will transfer the authority for processing claims under the Davis-Bacon Act from the Government Accountability Office to the Department of Labor. As the Department of Labor is already responsible for many aspects of Davis-Bacon, this change will help streamline the process and ensure that workers receive their hard-earned pay in a timelier and more efficient manner.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Michigan for introducing this commonsense fix, which I am pleased to cosponsor. It is time that we transfer this administrative responsibility to the agency that enforces the law, and I hope that this bill will be the first step in a larger effort to allow the Department of Labor to engage in further enforcement actions under the Davis-Bacon Act, including the GAO's current debarment authority.

As a strong supporter of Davis-Bacon and of the protections it provides our contracted workers, I am pleased to see that this bill will help streamline the process and allow our workers access to the prevailing wages they have rightly earned. That's why I rise in support of H.R. 2747, and I thank the gentleman from Michigan for introducing the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense proposal, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time on this issue, and I would be glad to close.

I want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. COURTNEY) as well, not only for his support of the legislation, but for his leadership on this issue. As members of the House Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, we are privileged to oversee a number of Federal laws and agencies that directly affect the lives of workers and their families—the basis for this country's greatness.

The Davis-Bacon Act is one law in particular that I believe is in need of additional reform. Independent reports have highlighted administrative challenges facing the law that result in workers being shortchanged and taxpayers being overcharged on Federal construction projects.

I know there are sharp differences over what, if any, Davis-Bacon reform would look like, but I believe we've demonstrated today, Mr. Speaker, how

incremental, yet important, change can occur when we work together in good faith on behalf of the American people. At the very least, I hope we can continue to discuss these issues with one another, thereby bringing us closer to the common ground that is necessary to move this country forward.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2747, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2747.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1300

#### POWELL SHOOTING RANGE LAND CONVEYANCE ACT

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 130) to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land to the Powell Recreation District in the State of Wyoming.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 130

*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 "Powell Shooting Range Land Conveyance Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) DISTRICT.—The term "District" means the Powell Recreation District in the State of Wyoming.

(2) MAP.—The term "map" means the map entitled "Powell, Wyoming Land Conveyance Act" and dated May 12, 2011.

#### SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE OF LAND TO THE POWELL RECREATION DISTRICT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, subject to valid existing rights, the Secretary shall convey to the District, without consideration, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the land described in subsection (b).

(b) DESCRIPTION OF LAND.—The land referred to in subsection (a) consists of approximately 322 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management, Wind River District, Wyoming, as generally depicted on the map as "Powell Gun Club".

(c) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTION.—

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

(2) MINOR ERRORS.—The Secretary may correct any minor error in—

- (A) the map; or
- (B) the legal description.

(3) AVAILABILITY.—The map and legal description shall be on file and available for