

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, well, there are only 4 days left until the Department of Homeland Security shuts down, so I urge all my GOP colleagues to please take up a clean funding bill for the Department of Homeland Security and take away the threat of another government shutdown. Take that threat off the table.

If you won't listen to us on the Democratic side of the aisle, listen to some of your own colleagues. Listen to Senator RON JOHNSON who said: "The political impasse on DHS funding must end."

Or listen to Representative MIKE McCaul, who is chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security. He said: "We should not be playing politics with the national security agency like DHS, particularly given the high threat environment we're in right now."

Let's stop the gamesmanship. Let's get back to governing the way the American people want us to. Bring a clean DHS funding bill to the floor.

IT IS TIME TO BE CONSTRUCTIVE, NOT OBSTRUCTIVE

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

Mr. RUPPERSBERGER. Mr. Speaker, as we saw from the horrific terrorist attack in Paris, now is not the time to be cutting funding for programs that protect Americans from enemies intent on doing us harm.

I am dismayed that some lawmakers are supporting punitive and ill-informed legislation to defund the Department of Homeland Security because they disagree with President Obama's recent executive action on the deportation of undocumented immigrants.

It is wrong to play political football with something as sacred as our national security. Even if you disagree with the President's immigration policy, it is irresponsible to withhold funding from the agencies that protect Americans from terrorists.

I know from my experience as ranking member of the House Intelligence Committee that this is a dangerous world. We must fully fund Homeland Security priorities—including Secret Service, the Coast Guard, and border security—through a Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill, while separately debating comprehensive immigration reform.

Let's stop the ideological partisan politics and do what the American people want us to do: protect our homeland, our communities, and our families. It is time to be constructive, not obstructive.

LET'S FUND DHS

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

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Speaker, I think just about every one of us in Congress went through security at an airport in our home State this week, and like millions of Americans who fly every day, we are protected by 40,000 TSA officers that we depend on to keep us safe.

But now, we are on the verge of stopping paychecks to all of those officers and 50,000 Border Patrol agents and 40,000 Active-Duty Coast Guard members who are needed to protect our shores. In my State and many others this winter, they are being called upon to break up the ice and keep our harbors open.

It is not just the people who keep us safe. It is FEMA. Just like much of the country, we have suffered from one of the hardest winters in memory in Maine, but if the Department of Homeland Security is shut down, then FEMA will not be able to process any new disaster relief applications from our States.

This winter has created a crisis for my State and for many local governments. Let's not add to that with a manufactured crisis of our own by forcing the Department of Homeland Security to shut down, just because some people don't like President Obama's immigration policies.

We have the votes right here in the House to pass a bill to fund DHS. Just let's take a vote on it.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF MURRAY KALISH

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Murray Kalish, a dear friend and constituent who, last week, celebrated his 97th birthday.

Through a lifetime of hard work and dedication to public service, Murray established himself as one of the most committed community leaders in south Florida. He has served on the boards of the county planning and zoning commission, his synagogue board, and the Lake Worth Drainage District Board.

Murray has shown a strong political acumen throughout his career, founding the important United South County Democratic Club, and possessing an uncanny ability to spot up-and-coming leaders and direct them into elected office.

A mentor to many, Murray has been the gatekeeper of the Palm Beach County political landscape. As an aspiring politician, you simply cannot hope to succeed without the guidance and insight that only Murray could provide.

It is a privilege, Mr. Speaker, to represent a district with so many citizens who work tirelessly to make a difference every day, and Florida's public servants have Murray Kalish to thank for their inspiration.

Thank you, Murray, for your friendship. To you and your dear late wife,

Roz, you have been a blessing to me, and I am so pleased to stand here representing our community on the House floor to say thank you for your remarkable achievements and our community that has been strengthened as a result.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Chief Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

Washington, DC, February 18, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives that I have been served with a grand jury subpoena for documents, issued by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,

ED CASSIDY,
Chief Administrative Officer.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 23, 2015.

Hon. JOHN A. BOEHNER,
The Speaker, U.S. Capitol,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on February 23, 2015 at 4:44 p.m.:

Appointments:

Commission on Care.

Senate National Security Working Group for the One Hundred Fourteenth Congress.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1603

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas) at 4 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

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

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

DRINKING WATER PROTECTION
ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 212) to amend the Safe Drinking Water Act to provide for the assessment and management of the risk of cyanotoxins in drinking water, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 212

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 “Drinking Water Protection Act”.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Part E of the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300j et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 1459. ALGAL TOXIN RISK ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT.

“(a) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

“(1) DEVELOPMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Administrator shall develop and submit to Congress a strategic plan for assessing and managing risks associated with algal toxins in drinking water provided by public water systems. The strategic plan shall include steps and timelines to—

“(A) evaluate the risk to human health from drinking water provided by public water systems contaminated with algal toxins;

“(B) establish, publish, and update a comprehensive list of algal toxins which the Administrator determines may have an adverse effect on human health when present in drinking water provided by public water systems, taking into account likely exposure levels;

“(C) summarize—

“(i) the known adverse human health effects of algal toxins included on the list published under subparagraph (B) when present in drinking water provided by public water systems; and

“(ii) factors that cause toxin-producing cyanobacteria and algae to proliferate and express toxins;

“(D) with respect to algal toxins included on the list published under subparagraph (B), determine whether to—

“(i) publish health advisories pursuant to section 1412(b)(1)(F) for such algal toxins in drinking water provided by public water systems;

“(ii) establish guidance regarding feasible analytical methods to quantify the presence of algal toxins; and

“(iii) establish guidance regarding the frequency of monitoring necessary to determine if such algal toxins are present in drinking water provided by public water systems;

“(E) recommend feasible treatment options, including procedures, equipment, and source water protection practices, to mitigate any adverse public health effects of algal toxins included on the list published under subparagraph (B); and

“(F) enter into cooperative agreements with, and provide technical assistance to, affected States and public water systems, as identified by the Administrator, for the purpose of managing risks associated with algal toxins included on the list published under subparagraph (B).

“(2) UPDATES.—The Administrator shall, as appropriate, update and submit to Congress the strategic plan developed under paragraph (1).

“(b) INFORMATION COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section the Administrator shall—

“(1) identify gaps in the Agency’s understanding of algal toxins, including—

“(A) the human health effects of algal toxins included on the list published under subsection (a)(1)(B); and

“(B) methods and means of testing and monitoring for the presence of harmful algal toxins in source water of, or drinking water provided by, public water systems;

“(2) as appropriate, consult with—

“(A) other Federal agencies that—

“(i) examine or analyze cyanobacteria or algal toxins; or

“(ii) address public health concerns related to harmful algal blooms;

“(B) States;

“(C) operators of public water systems;

“(D) multinational agencies;

“(E) foreign governments;

“(F) research and academic institutions; and

“(G) companies that provide relevant drinking water treatment options; and

“(3) assemble and publish information from each Federal agency that has—

“(A) examined or analyzed cyanobacteria or algal toxins; or

“(B) addressed public health concerns related to harmful algal blooms.

“(c) USE OF SCIENCE.—The Administrator shall carry out this section in accordance with the requirements described in section 1412(b)(3)(A), as applicable.

“(d) FEASIBLE.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘feasible’ has the meaning given such term in section 1412(b)(4)(D).”

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall prepare and submit to Congress a report that includes—

“(1) an inventory of funds—

(A) expended by the United States, for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014, to examine or analyze toxin-producing cyanobacteria and algae or address public health concerns related to harmful algal blooms; and

(B) that includes the specific purpose for which the funds were made available, the law under which the funds were authorized, and the Federal agency that received or spent the funds; and

(2) recommended steps to reduce any duplication, and improve interagency coordination, of such expenditures.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to re-

vise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 212, the Drinking Water Protection Act, which I reintroduced from last Congress in January. This important, bipartisan legislation requires the EPA to develop and submit a strategic plan to Congress for assessing and managing risks associated with algal toxins in drinking water provided by public water systems.

Unfortunately, from the Great Lakes to other surface freshwaters across the country, algal toxins, produced by harmful algal blooms, are presenting a serious concern to human health and safety.

Last August, half a million people in the Toledo, Ohio, area, including many of my constituents, weren’t able to utilize their public drinking water for over 2 days without risking potentially negative health effects due to a high level of algal toxins detected in the city’s public water supply. During that time, concerns and questions were and have since been raised about health effects data, testing protocols, treatment processes, and appropriate short- and long-term responses. Furthermore, during hearings in the House Energy and Commerce Committee, witnesses testified about the further complexity of this issue due to the numerous other algal toxins and variants that may have potential negative health effects when present in public drinking water.

I commend the work that the U.S. EPA, the State of Ohio, and others have done since the Toledo water emergency to ensure public safety; however, the situation demonstrated the need for a more strategic, comprehensive, and strong scientific approach to protect our citizens’ public drinking water. I believe H.R. 212 does just this.

Specifically, the legislation calls for the EPA’s strategic plan to include steps and timelines to: evaluate the risk to human health from drinking water provided by public water systems contaminated with algal toxins; establish, publish, and update a comprehensive list of algal toxins which the administrator determines may have an adverse effect on human health when present in public drinking water and provide a summary of those known adverse effects; publish health advisories and testing methods if the EPA determines it is warranted based on the published list; recommend feasible treatment options; enter into cooperative agreements and provide technical assistance to affected States and public water systems to manage risks associated with algal toxins; and identify gaps in the EPA’s understanding of algal toxins.

I want to thank all the cosponsors of this bill as well as Chairman UPTON,