

for the government to take that work away.

Having the Department compete with local employers results in a loss of business for private geospatial firms under contract to other Federal mapping agencies. The government is actually getting a leg up on the private market by obtaining Certificates of Authorization, or COAs, and performing services with UAS that are otherwise commercial in nature.

Current law and regulation permits private citizens and firms to operate UAS for a hobby. However, there is no effective enforcement to prevent government abuse of such authority for commercial purposes.

The fact that government agencies can operate a UAS while the private sector cannot as freely or timely gain airspace access has created an uneven playing field. Allowing the Department of the Interior to compete with the free market use of UAS is not only poor stewardship of taxpayer money and inefficient use of resources, but results in the government duplicating and directly competing with private enterprise.

This is a \$73 million marketplace, Mr. Chairman. It drives more than \$1 trillion in economic activity. More than 500,000 American jobs are related to the collection, storage, and dissemination of imagery and geospatial data. Another 5.3 million citizens utilize such data. As much as 90 percent of the government information has a geospatial information component. Up to 80 percent of the information managed by business is connected to a specific location. The geospatial marketplace is identified by the Department of Labor as one of just 14 high gross sectors in the United States workforce.

With that, I urge support of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. The Department of the Interior and the U.S. Geological Survey have been using unmanned aircraft to complement conventional satellite-based remote sensing. Using remote sensing via unmanned aircraft did make sense. It allows for the rapid collection of data and allows for the Department to get a closer look at natural disasters as they develop.

The Department and the USGS are using unmanned aircraft to monitor the spread of wildfires, monitor riverbank erosion, detect and locate coal steam fires, conduct waterfall surveys, and inspect abandoned mines.

It is clearly evident to everyone that this technology offers a real public safety benefit. So it makes no sense to hamstring the Department when the technology can save lives and the survey can monitor dangerous natural events.

Now, the way that the amendment is written—and I am all for the private

sector being able to do things, and that is in your new amendment, that the private sector is not affected by this amendment—if the private sector currently isn't operating in this space looking at abandoned mines or looking at wildfires and we need to do something right away, your amendment would prohibit the Federal Government from using equipment it would have and be able to launch up and look at something in real time.

I don't think that was the total intention of your amendment. But because even though you worked in the redraft to make sure that you protected contractors—and I am glad you did that—I don't know where that leaves us in times of emergency when there isn't a contractor available, because you haven't allowed prohibition.

For that reason, Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. I appreciate the gentlewoman's comments.

First of all, I did state that fire observation would not be included. Indeed, it is not written in the amendment. It is very specific. So for emergency purposes, if need be, the Department of the Interior still can use, whether it uses its own or DHS' or one of the other myriad agencies that have the vehicles, it still has the ability to do that.

But I would also remind the gentlewoman that there are plenty of ambulance services and other emergency services for contract hire out there in our communities that perform emergency services every hour of the day, every day of the year. That fact notwithstanding, the private industry does provide all the other things that the agency is currently embarking on on its own and leaving the private sector out.

A friend just called me today and asked me, because I am a helicopter pilot in the Army, if we could put his air-conditioning unit on a roof. I said, "Absolutely not." The Army doesn't do what the civilian world does for good reason. We want the civilians out there doing those things. We don't want to compete as the Federal Government.

But in this case, the Department of the Interior is competing directly, and will continue to do if allowed to do so, unless prohibited. They can write contracts, and they can have somebody on call. If there is an emergency situation, they can have a contractor on call to do that, and they should.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. I thank the gentleman.

I think that this is a great discussion we are having, but I don't think the discussion necessarily belongs on the appropriations bill. It belongs in the policy committee so that all the questions that I have and the concerns that you have can be addressed and thoughtfully written into a piece of legislation.

There are just some places in rural parts of the United States—and I come

from a State that is both urban, suburban, and very rural, up on the north shore—where private contractors just don't go or the ability of getting a hold of one isn't there, and sometimes you have to have some Federal redundancy in the system to get out there and do that.

You also have used a couple of terms and descriptions that I don't have any statutory language in front of me. So where I think the gentleman might have a very good idea, bills that we are working on in the appropriations process, when we start getting into writing technical policy or trying to figure out the new wave of what new legislation should look like—and you have a great proponent; I hear him all the time in the Defense subcommittee—the chairman of the subcommittee says the Federal Government shouldn't be doing what the private sector can do. We should not be doing this legislation for the reasons I mentioned, that we just don't have all the facts in front of it, and it is not the role of the Interior Appropriations bill to do policy.

So I am going to continue to object to the amendment at this time, but I look forward to, in a policy situation, working with the gentleman.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Again, I appreciate the gentlewoman's reservations and opposition for the reasons so stated. I respect them, but I feel this is the correct place to limit in the appropriations, to make sure that the private sector can compete effectively and is allowed to do so and doesn't have to compete against the Federal Government with all the provisions it has at its hand to undermine their ability to be effective and competitive.

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 (Mr. PERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

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Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PERRY) having assumed the chair, Mr. LOUDERMILK, 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. 2822) making appropriations for the Department of the Interior, environment, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2016, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

HOUSE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

May 19, 2015:

H.R. 2252. An Act to clarify the effective date of certain provisions of the Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act of 2014, and for other purposes.

May 22, 2015:

H.R. 606. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain compensation received by public safety officers and their dependents from gross income.

H.R. 651. An Act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 820 Elmwood Avenue in Providence, Rhode Island, as the “Sister Ann Keefe Post Office”.

H.R. 1075. An Act to designate the United States Customs and Border Protection Port of Entry located at First Street and Pan American Avenue in Douglas, Arizona, as the “Raul Hector Castro Port of Entry”.

H.R. 1191. An Act to provide for congressional review and oversight of agreements relating to Iraq’s nuclear program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2496. An Act to extend the authorization for the replacement of the existing Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Denver, Colorado, to make certain improvements in the Veterans Access, Choice, and Accountability Act of 2014, and for other purposes.

May 29, 2015:

H.R. 1690. An Act to designate the United States courthouse located at 700 Grant Street in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, as the “Joseph F. Weis Jr. United States Courthouse”.

H.R. 2353. An Act to provide an extension of Federal-aid highway, highway safety, motor carrier safety, transit, and other programs funded out of the Highway Trust Fund, and for other purposes.

June 2, 2015:

H.R. 2048. An Act to reform the authorities of the Federal Government to require the production of certain business records, conduct electronic surveillance, use pen registers and trap and trace devices, and use other forms of information gathering for foreign intelligence, counterterrorism, and criminal purposes, and for other purposes.

June 29, 2015:

H.R. 1295. An Act to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2146. An Act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1966 to allow Federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, and air traffic controllers to make penalty-free withdrawals from governmental plans after age 50, and for other purposes.

SENATE BILLS APPROVED BY THE PRESIDENT

The President notified the Clerk of the House that on the following dates he had approved and signed bills of the following titles:

May 19, 2015:

S. 665. An Act to encourage, enhance, and integrate Blue Alert plans throughout the United States in order to disseminate information when a law enforcement officer is seriously injured or killed in the line of duty, is missing in connection with the officer’s official duties, or an imminent and credible threat that an individual intends to cause the serious injury or death of a law enforcement officer is received, and for other purposes.

May 22, 2015:

S. 1124. An Act to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to improve the Act.

May 29, 2015:

S. 178. An Act to provide justice for the victims of trafficking.

June 12, 2015:

S. 802. An Act to authorize the Secretary of State and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development to provide assistance to support the rights of women and girls in developing countries, and for other purposes.

June 15, 2015:

S. 1568. An Act to extend the authorization to carry out the replacement of the existing medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, Colorado, to authorize transfers of amounts to carry out the replacement of such medical center, and for other purposes.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. THORNBERRY, on Friday, June 26, 2015.

H.R. 893. An act to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1295. An act to extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, and preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on June 24, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 2146. To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal law enforcement officers, firefighters, and air traffic controllers to make penalty-free withdrawals from governmental plans after age 50, and for other purposes.

H.R. 615. To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security to take administrative action to achieve and maintain interoperable communications capabilities among the components of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on June 26, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 1295. To extend the African Growth and Opportunity Act, the Generalized System of Preferences, the preferential duty treatment program for Haiti, and for other purposes.

H.R. 893. To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the centennial of Boys Town, and for other purposes.

H.R. 533. To revoke the charter of incorporation of the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma at

the request of that tribe, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o’clock and 2 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until today, Wednesday, July 8, 2015, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker’s table and referred as follows:

1981. A letter from the Program Manager, BioPreferred Program, DM/OPPM/EMD, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Voluntary Labeling Program for Biobased Products (RIN: 0599-AA22) received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1982. A letter from the Under Secretary of Defense, Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the expected submission date of the report on inventory of activities performed during the preceding fiscal year pursuant to contracts for services for or on behalf of the Department of Defense, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2330a; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1983. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing three officers to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral or rear admiral (lower half), as indicated, in accordance with 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1984. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Ronnie D. Hawkins, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1985. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OUSD (AT&L) DPAP/DARS, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Defense Contractors Outside the United States — Subpart Relocation (DFARS Case 2015-D015) (RIN: 0750-AI55) received June 24, 2015, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1986. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Stephen L. Hoog, United States Air Force, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1987. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary, Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing three officers on an enclosed list to wear the insignia of the grade of major general, as indicated, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1988. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, OUSD (AT&L) DPAP/DARS, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department’s final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Clauses with Alternates-