

authored by my good friend and colleague, Representative BRETT GUTHRIE of Kentucky.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is the product of years of hard work by Members from both sides of the aisle. I am so glad to see it come before the House today.

This legislation presents a unique opportunity for the concrete masonry industry to join together for critical research and education. Not just that, it also empowers the industry to fairly and effectively promote the sale of their products. It will lead to better consumer awareness, higher quality and safer building materials, and more jobs.

The best part is that this legislation comes at no cost to the taxpayer. These zero-cost opportunities that empower the private sector to come together to do what they do best are just the solutions we need to spur job growth and economic development.

I thank Mr. GUTHRIE for his tireless work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it today.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank the bill sponsors, Representative GUTHRIE and Representative CASTOR, for working with us to improve this legislation.

I am proud to serve as the ranking Democrat on the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee, which Mr. BURGESS is the chair of. I also want to thank Chairman UPTON and Ranking Member PALONE on the full committee and Chairman BURGESS who serves with me, as I said, on the Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee.

This bill is the product of productive negotiations and it reflects the hard work of Members and staff to advance legislation through bipartisan cooperation.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 985.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 985, the Concrete Masonry Products Research, Education, and Promotion Act of 2015, because this bill makes great strides in promoting and supporting the concrete industry to allow for fair market competition.

By passing this legislation, we will reduce research and education costs while ensuring our infrastructure projects benefit from cost-effective market approaches and additional job growth.

Our country's most productive times were reflected in a robust infrastructure development effort that revolutionized the way we build things.

This bill ensures a forward-leaning approach to concrete masonry while doing so without any Federal funding. It creates an environment that encourages members of the industry to work together through a generic education

program, training and safety programs, and promotion of the market. This is all done by establishing an assessment rate on each concrete masonry unit sold.

I commend my colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee for their efforts to better the safety and research done in such a vital industry. With this bill, we can move our Nation forward while strengthening our workforce and promoting job growth.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 985, and I commend Congressman GUTHRIE on his hard work and diligence.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 985, 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. AMASH. 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.

OUTDOOR RECREATION JOBS AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ACT OF 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4665) to require the Secretary of Commerce to conduct an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4665

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 "Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS OF OUTDOOR RECREATION ECONOMY OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS.—The Secretary of Commerce shall enter into a joint memorandum with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct, acting through the Director of the Bureau of Economic Analysis, an assessment and analysis of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States and the effects attributable to such economy on the overall economy of the United States.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In conducting the assessment required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Commerce may consider employment, sales, and contributions to travel and tourism, and such other contributing components of the outdoor recreation economy of the United States as the Secretary considers appropriate.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the assessment required by subsection (a), the Secretary of Commerce shall consult with—

(1) the heads of such agencies and offices of the Federal Government as the Secretary considers appropriate, including the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, the Federal Recreation Council, the Director of the Bureau of the Census, and the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics; and

(2) representatives of businesses, including small business concerns, that engage in commerce in the outdoor recreation economy of the United States.

(d) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the findings of the Secretary with respect to the assessment conducted under subsection (a).

(2) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(D) the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate;

(E) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives; and

(F) the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives.

(e) SMALL BUSINESS CONCERN DEFINED.—In this section, the term "small business concern" has the meaning given such term under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632).

(f) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material in the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4665, the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016. The outdoor recreation industry encompasses activities and sports such as bicycling, camping, hunting, fishing, off-roading, and wildlife viewing, and is enjoyed by consumers of all ages, all ethnicities, all income levels.

This industry has become a significant engine for economic growth and job creation in the United States. Despite the growing contributions made by the outdoor recreation industry to the United States economy, the industry's full economic impact has not been measured and not accounted for like other economic sectors.

H.R. 4665 would ensure that the outdoor recreation economy is measured and is accounted for by the Federal Government as part of the country's gross domestic product, as it has done for many other economic sectors.

The work that is directed to be done by the Department of Commerce, in consultation with other Federal agencies, would not require new employees and would use existing funds within that agency.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4665.

I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 4665, the Outdoor REC Act, recognizes the important contributions of outdoor recreation to our economy. Outdoor recreation provides an estimated 6 million direct jobs, including an estimated 200,000 jobs in my home State of Illinois. It promotes travel and tourism. Ultimately, getting Americans outside to enjoy our Nation's natural wonders promotes an appreciation for our environment.

This bill would build on efforts at the Department of Commerce to understand the economic impact of outdoor recreation by directing a report to Congress, helping inform policy and industry.

I want to thank Representatives Beyer, Reichert, Welch, and McMorris Rodgers for their work to advance this bipartisan legislation.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4665, the Outdoor Recreation Jobs and Economic Impact Act of 2016.

The REC Act would allow for the first ever economic analysis of the outdoor recreation industry. Over 140 million Americans participate in outdoor activities each year, such as biking, hiking, hunting, fishing, and boating, to name just a few.

Studies have shown that outdoor recreation is a driving force in our economy and that the industry is continuing to grow. I have seen this firsthand in my district, which is home to 100 miles of coastline and beaches, a large tourism sector, and endless opportunities to go outside and enjoy our beautiful landscape.

Yet, despite the estimated billions in annual consumer spending on outdoor recreation and millions of jobs created, there is a lack of data on the full economic impact of the industry. For instance, there is a large manufacturing component that goes hand in hand with the outdoor recreation industry. Much of the gear and apparel used in outdoor activities is made and sold right here in the United States to the tune of millions of dollars.

The REC Act would ensure that this data and the entire outdoor recreation

industry is fully studied so that we can make informed policy and business decisions.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4665.

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Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER).

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4665 is indeed a bipartisan bill, which my colleagues Congressman DAVE REICHERT, Congresswoman CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS, Congressman PETER WELCH, and I introduced.

The bill would direct the Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis to measure, analyze, and report on the full economic impact attributable to the outdoor recreation economy. In the United States, this economy is a major driver of job creation and growth. Hiking, biking, fishing, hunting, kayaking, climbing, BASE jumping, you name the outdoor sport, it is generating revenue for our country.

In northern Virginia, we are blessed with great outdoor opportunities like the W&OD Trail and the Mount Vernon Trail, and we are very excited by the recent development of the Capital Trails Coalition, which is looking at how to foster increased interconnectedness of all the trails in the national capital region.

Mr. Speaker, as an avid hiker, this is very personal to me. I am now at 1,435 miles out of the 2,189 miles of the Appalachian Trail, and over those 1,435 miles, I often experience the outdoor economy firsthand with the number of backpacks, sleeping bags, stoves, water filters, diners, small motels, the many, many ways we find to spend money while on the trail.

Beyond the recharge of just being outside, I love getting to know the small towns and the forest communities along my hikes from Georgia to Maine. I know that my time spent there puts a lot more tax dollars back into these communities and into the local businesses, boosting the economy.

According to an estimate by the Outdoor Industry Association, the outdoor recreation economy generates more than \$646 billion in consumer spending and, we have already heard, more than 6 million jobs. Unlike other major sectors of the U.S. economy, however, the Federal Government, until this year, did not track the contributions of the outdoor recreation sector to economic growth, and that left policymakers and business leaders in the dark. This data is going to help quantify the economic importance of outdoor recreation and help inform the decisions that affect the businesses and the 142 million Americans who play and work outside each year.

We deeply believe that no child should be left inside, and H.R. 4665 will ensure that our policymakers, our decisionmakers have the data to under-

stand how we can best make this part of our economy flourish. I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

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

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BEYER) for his over 1,000 miles traveled on the trail, so he is clearly an expert on this topic.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote on the legislation, and 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. BURGESS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4665, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMPROVING RURAL CALL QUALITY AND RELIABILITY ACT OF 2016

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2566) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to ensure the integrity of voice communications and to prevent unjust or unreasonable discrimination among areas of the United States in the delivery of such communications, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2566

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 "Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2016".

SEC. 2. ENSURING THE INTEGRITY OF VOICE COMMUNICATIONS.

Part II of title II of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 262. ENSURING THE INTEGRITY OF VOICE COMMUNICATIONS.

"(a) REGISTRATION AND COMPLIANCE BY INTERMEDIATE PROVIDERS.—An intermediate provider that offers or holds itself out as offering the capability to transmit covered voice communications from one destination to another and that charges any rate to any other entity (including an affiliated entity) for the transmission shall—

"(1) register with the Commission; and

"(2) comply with the service quality standards for such transmission to be established by the Commission under subsection (c)(1)(B).

"(b) REQUIRED USE OF REGISTERED INTERMEDIATE PROVIDERS.—A covered provider may not use an intermediate provider to transmit covered voice communications unless such intermediate provider is registered under subsection (a)(1).

"(c) COMMISSION RULES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—

"(A) REGISTRY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, the Commission shall promulgate rules to establish a registry to record registrations under subsection (a)(1).