

threatening U.S. agriculture or food production systems.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1238.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support to H.R. 1238, the Securing Our Agriculture and Food Act of 2017.

Our nation's agricultural sector comprises a substantial portion of our economy. In my home state of Georgia, eggs, beef, poultry, peanuts, onions, and many other agricultural commodities allow for agriculture to be an almost \$14 billion industry. Furthermore, the food and fiber industry directly and indirectly results in a total economic impact of tens of billions of dollars annually and the creation of hundreds of thousands of jobs in Georgia. Moreover, agricultural industries serve as a vital backbone to the nutrition and nourishment of both America's citizens and consumers abroad.

Naturally, an industry as critical to the United States' stability as the country's food production must not be compromised by threats of sabotage or acts of terrorism.

Passing this bill will amend portions of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (HSA) to allow the Department of Homeland Security to better protect America's agricultural sector. The reorganization of DHS resources outlined in this bill ensure that proper oversight and management of our nation's agriculture necessary to prevent a devastating attack on our agricultural sector.

The level of bipartisan cooperation and support for the Securing our Agricultural and Food Act reflects the importance of this bill to security and economic interests of American's citizens. The security of our nation's food supplies is not an issue defined by political party, nor is the concern only relevant to rural populations. All American's will suffer if we are unable to ensure the safety of the country's agricultural sector.

This bill provides security to a fundamental and often overlooked area of our economy and existence. We as lawmakers must ensure the preparedness of our Federal government to react to events of ecological sabotage and terrorism.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote YES on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1238.

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. DONOVAN. 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.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ACQUISITION INNOVATION ACT

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1365) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require certain acquisition innovation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1365

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 "Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Innovation Act".

SEC. 2. ACQUISITION INNOVATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 710. ACQUISITION INNOVATION.

"The Under Secretary for Management may—

"(1) designate an individual within the Department to manage acquisition innovation efforts of the Department;

"(2) test emerging acquisition best practices to carrying out acquisitions, consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation and Department acquisition management directives, as appropriate;

"(3) develop and distribute best practices and lessons learned regarding acquisition innovation throughout the Department;

"(4) establish metrics to measure the effectiveness of acquisition innovation efforts with respect to cost, operational efficiency of the acquisition program (including time-frame for executing contracts), and collaboration with the private sector, including small businesses; and

"(5) determine impacts of acquisition innovation efforts on the private sector by—

"(A) engaging with the private sector, including small businesses, to provide information and obtain feedback on procurement practices and acquisition innovation efforts of the Department;

"(B) obtaining feedback from the private sector on the impact of acquisition innovation efforts of the Department; and

"(C) incorporating such feedback, as appropriate, into future acquisition innovation efforts of the Department."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 709 the following new item:

"Sec. 710. Acquisition innovation."

(c) INFORMATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security submits the annual budget justification for the Department of Homeland Security for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022, the Secretary shall, if appropriate, provide information to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the activities undertaken in the previous fiscal year in furtherance of section 710 of the Homeland Security Act, as added by subsection (a) of this Act, on the following:

(1) Emerging acquisition best practices that were tested within the Department during such year.

(2) Efforts to distribute best practices and lessons learned within the Department, including through web-based seminars, training, and forums, during such year.

(3) Utilization by components throughout the Department of best practices distributed by the Under Secretary of Management pursuant to paragraph (3) of such section 710.

(4) Performance as measured by the metrics established under paragraph (4) of such section 710.

(5) Outcomes of efforts to distribute best practices and lessons learned within the De-

partment, including through web-based seminars, training, and forums.

(6) Any impacts of the utilization of innovative acquisition mechanisms by the Department on the private sector, including small businesses.

(7) The criteria used to identify specific acquisition programs or activities to be included in acquisition innovation efforts and the outcomes of such programs or activities.

(8) Recommendations, as necessary, to enhance acquisition innovation in the Department.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous materials on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1365, the Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Innovation Act.

The bill allows DHS to designate a senior official to manage acquisition innovation efforts; test, develop, and distribute acquisition best practices throughout the Department; and establish performance metrics to evaluate the effectiveness of these efforts. Republican amendments at the committee markup strengthened the underlying bill by encouraging DHS to obtain feedback from the private sector and incorporate this feedback into future efforts.

As we have seen from numerous watchdog reports, the Federal Government's acquisition and contracting process is broken, cumbersome, and bureaucratic. DHS must continue to innovate to ensure the private sector can best support our critical homeland security needs. The Department has recently taken positive steps in using new contracting tools and collaborating with industry. This legislation supports those efforts and encourages their continued use.

I commend Oversight and Management Efficiency Subcommittee Ranking Member CORREA for all of his hard work on this legislation.

I urge all Members to join me in supporting this bill.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1365, the Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Innovation Act.

When the Department of Homeland Security was established in 2002, it was understood that the mission of safeguarding the American people would be

a complex one. Today, 15 years later, the ever-changing nature of the terrorist threat and its landscape has demanded that DHS be more innovative. In the past 3 years, the Department has actively worked to carry out its procurement process in new and innovative ways.

The Acquisition Innovations in Motion program, launched in 2015, is a framework for coordinated industry engagement in which opportunities, challenges, and strategies are discussed to identify acquisition solutions and foster greater efficiency and effectiveness.

A key component of this program is a Procurement Innovation Lab called PIL. PIL is a virtual testing environment that experiments with innovative techniques to assess whether they can be effectively integrated into DHS' procurement process. To date, PIL is credited with reducing award times, the integration of existing flexibilities that are in use in other portions of the Federal Government, and improved acquisition training.

Results, case studies, and lessons learned from the PIL process are regularly shared throughout DHS through webinars and the internal web portal. These activities facilitate a continuous learning culture that enhances the DHS mission of support.

I introduced this bill, H.R. 1365, to institutionalize DHS' acquisition innovation efforts by authorizing such activity by the Under Secretary of Management. Specifically, my legislation authorizes robust testing, development, and distribution of best practices and acquisitions throughout the Department, as well as performance metrics to measure the effectiveness of such efforts.

Enactment of this bill will help ensure that this successful acquisition management technique continues. This bill was unanimously approved by the Committee on Homeland Security earlier this month.

Mr. Speaker, DHS' approach to acquisitions not only accommodates the Department's unique mission, but it supports our responsibility to the management of taxpayer dollars.

This bill codifies a pathway to developing and implementing innovative approaches that serve the Department's acquisition challenges through collaboration and efficiency. To that end, it is vital that DHS continue to drive towards a more effective procurement process in support of its vital mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1365, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I once again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1365, as amended.

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

Mr. McCaul. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the cost estimate on H.R. 1365:

MARCH 22, 2017.

Hon. MICHAEL McCaul,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.
DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost

estimate for H.R. 1365, the Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Innovation Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Mark Grabowicz.

Sincerely,

KEITH HALL.

Enclosure.

H.R. 1365

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
ACQUISITION INNOVATION ACT

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security on March 8, 2017

H.R. 1365 would authorize the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to promote the use of innovation in its acquisition programs. The legislation would direct DHS to provide information annually to the Congress on activities related to innovative acquisition practices. Based on information from DHS, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1365 would cost less than \$500,000 annually; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

Enacting the legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply. CBO estimates that enacting H.R. 1365 would not increase net direct spending or on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2028.

H.R. 1365 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would not affect the budgets of state, local, or tribal governments.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Mark Grabowicz. The estimate was approved by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, as a senior member of the Homeland Security Committee, I rise in support of H.R. 1365, the "Department of Homeland Security Acquisition Innovation Act" which authorizes the DHS to expand the use of acquisition innovation.

This bipartisan bill will guarantee new acquisition methods and practices are considered to ensure taxpayers get the most for their money.

This bill would permit DHS's undersecretary for management to:

1. Designate an official to manage acquisition innovation;
2. Test and develop best practices that are consistent with acquisition rules and directives;
3. Measure how innovation in acquisition processes have affected cost, operational efficiency, the timeframe for executing contracts, and collaboration with small businesses and other private-sector companies; and
4. Obtain and incorporate feedback from the private sector.

From fiscal 2018 through 2022, DHS would provide Congress with information on acquisition innovation activities during the previous fiscal year, including:

1. Best practices that were tested, used and distributed, including through web-based seminars, trainings and forums;
2. Effects on the private sector, including small businesses;
3. Criteria to indemnify acquisition programs that would be appropriate for innovation; and
4. Recommendations for enhancing innovation at DHS.

Innovation is the American way and this bill makes sure the Department of Homeland Security finds new ways to do its job effectively and efficiently.

At the Tenth Annual Border Security Expo in Texas, officials from the Department of Homeland Security observed some of the latest innovations that can help to protect our border. This included 3D holographic images, portable biometric testing kits, and underground seismic signal detectors.

In Texas, U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents deter, detect, and interdict smuggling along the Texas/Mexico border through the deployment of an integrated network of detection and communication technologies.

In 2016, the Texas Department of Public Safety provided direct assistance to U.S. Customs and Border Protection in the arrest of over 37,000 criminals deemed a high threat risk.

Frontline personnel securing our borders, protecting our airports, and defending our shores must have the tools to successfully accomplish their mission.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1365.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. DONOVAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1365, 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. DONOVAN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

□ 1300

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. POLIS. Mr. Speaker, I have a privileged resolution at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

Whereas, in the United States' system of checks and balances, Congress has a responsibility to hold the executive branch of government to the highest standard of transparency to ensure the public interest is placed first;

Whereas, according to the Tax History Project, every President since Gerald Ford has disclosed their tax return information to the public;

Whereas, tax returns provide an important baseline disclosure because they contain highly instructive information including whether the candidate can be influenced by foreign entities and reveal any conflicts of interest;

Whereas, Article I, section 9 of the Constitution states that no person holding any office of profit or trust under them, shall, without the consent of Congress, accept any present, emolument, Office or Title, of any kind whatever from any King, Prince, or foreign State;