

be steadfast in our support and our investment. It is one of the most efficient we make, as I said. It leverages private, nonprofit, and corporate dollars.

In 2015 alone, for example, Federal NEH museum grants leveraged \$104 million in outside funding from only \$33 million in Federal funds. That is a pretty good return for the taxpayer.

They support millions of jobs, these endowments do, and the projects they fund, hundreds of millions of dollars in direct economic activity, and the American public loves them. Participation all over this country, in communities large and small, rural and urban, is widespread and enthusiastic.

So again, I thank the chairman for his attention to these important lines in the budget. I hope we can bolster our commitment to the arts and humanities and do even better as the appropriations process moves forward.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I want to also commend the chairman and working with the whole committee to make sure that the arts and humanities receive the funding that they did.

Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I want to quickly thank the gentlewoman from the great State of Minnesota, thank the gentleman from California, and just very quickly say that I come with my amendments, but I also come just to acknowledge the pending storm in Florida and Hurricane Harvey because our arts communities were underwater, and they are still underwater.

I offered amendments that deal with preservation of heritage areas, urban reforestation, and the Smithsonian outreach. I thank my colleagues for putting it in the en bloc.

But as I do so, I want to take note of, again, all of the debris and be able to say that, in the course of hurricanes, historic entities are impacted.

We are looking to establish an emancipation trail, and one of my most important amendments is to ensure that there is national policy to preserve, for public use, historic sites, buildings, and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of people of the United States.

My community is looking for that emancipation trail, but it starts from Galveston. We have not yet been able to assess whether any of those historic markers and places were destroyed by Hurricane Harvey. So the funding for the Interior Department and the aspects that come under the Interior Department, the jurisdictional issue is very important to us because we will have to look to see if our historic entities have been preserved.

In the midst of debris and danger that our constituents face, this is equally important, and it is equally important to restore the symphony, to restore the ballet and our theater, all of them underwater in my congressional district.

I hope, as we move forward, H.R. 3686, Hurricane Harvey supplemental appro-

priation that we have filed that will embrace all of these issues, will be considered.

I thank my colleagues for those amendments. And, again, in the course of a storm, the history of people is jeopardized, and my amendments deal with preserving the history of our people. Maybe, as we come out of this, we will create the emancipation trail that is part of my amendment.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. LANGEVIN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 27 printed in House Report 115-297.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 64, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 64, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

Page 67, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

Page 73, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, before I actually get to my amendment, I just want to say in reference to the previous discussion about properly funding the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, I commend the discussion on both sides and the commitment to properly fund those programs.

The National Endowment for the Arts and National Endowment for the Humanities holds a special place in Rhode Island in that both of those programs were championed by and helped to have been created by our late senior Senator Claiborne Pell. We understand the importance of the arts and humanities in Rhode Island, the jobs they create, the quality of life they enhance, and I wholeheartedly support properly funding both of those programs.

I had led a Special Order when the President's budget came out and those programs had been zeroed out in funding. Several of my colleagues and I got together and talked about the impact the arts and humanities have on our States, on our districts, and on the country as a whole. I just want to reiterate my support for the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities and all they do for the country.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment that we have before us would restore some funding to the southern New England estuaries program, which is currently zeroed out in the underlying bill.

This program, part of the EPA's geographic programs, has been a thriving success, and anyone who has been to

New England knows the beauty of where the ocean meets the land. Our estuaries are in South County, Rhode Island, and all along the Narragansett Bay; along Mount Hope Bay and Buzzards Bay and throughout Cape Cod.

These areas are the lungs of our coastal areas and sustain the diversity of plant and animal life. These funds are vital to conserving this wetland habitat which is frequently under attack by human and natural damage. So I implore the majority to support this program, as they have supported similar programs for Puget Sound, the Chesapeake Bay, and other areas.

I am proud to be joined by Representatives CICILLINE, KEATING, and KENNEDY as cosponsors of this amendment.

Mr. Chairman, finally, I just want to say that I intend to offer and withdraw this amendment provided that my colleague, Chairman CALVERT, is open to continuing the discussion on the importance of this program.

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

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CALVERT. While the amendment itself is drafted in order as a general increase to EPA geographic programs, the gentleman proposes to fund a program that was not requested in the budget and is not authorized.

Further, he proposes to reduce grants from DERA, the DERA program, which is a key program for improving air quality in areas like mine that are in a nonattainment area with existing standards.

For those reasons, I oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this amendment.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chairman, as I said, I have offered to withdraw the amendment as long as the chairman would continue discussion with me.

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I am sorry. I didn't hear the gentleman, and I happily accept his offer to withdraw the amendment. I will happily work with him to see if we can't work some time in the future to find room for this program that the gentleman is obviously supportive of.

Mr. LANGEVIN. I thank the chairman, and I am grateful for his consideration, and I look forward to working with him.

I yield back the balance of my time and withdraw my amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

The Committee will rise informally.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KATKO) assumed the chair.

FURTHER MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A further message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has agreed to

without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 69. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the District of Columbia Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 597. An act to increase Federal Pell Grants for the children of fallen public safety officers, and for other purposes.

S. 1165. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Huntington, West Virginia, as the Hershel "Woody" Williams VA Medical Center.

The message also announced that the Senate has agreed to a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 24. Concurrent resolution providing for a correction in the enrollment of H.R. 601.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Committee will resume its sitting.

□ 1845

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2018

The Committee resumed its sitting.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. TIPTON). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 29 printed in House Report 115-297.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 64, line 1, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$10,234,000)".

Page 141, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$10,234,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 504, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, earlier this year President Donald Trump submitted his budget request for fiscal year 2018 to Congress. The budget request included a 20 percent reduction in funding for the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance to \$419 million, \$129 million below the fiscal year 2017 level.

The underlying bill cuts roughly 15 percent of the EPA's enforcement budget, and my amendment would get us closer to meeting the President's request by cutting an additional \$10,234,000 from the EPA's programs and management account enforcement line item.

Reducing the EPA's enforcement budget will help rein in inappropriate

bureaucratic actions. It is necessary to revive the American economy and restore regulatory sanity to environmental regulations.

Make no mistake, Mr. Chairman, the American people cannot afford to continue to be burdened by an out-of-control EPA that overregulates and promulgates rules and then punishes the American by adjudicating unconstitutional penalties.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all Members to vote "yes" on my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I can't support an amendment taking money from an underfunded agency, reducing our bottom line, when it is already \$824 million below the FY17 enacted level. Let me give you two examples of why I think the gentleman's amendment should not be supported.

One is I have been talking to EPA officials because we have a surprise toxic dump site that is as close to a residential area as I am from the Chairman. Barrels. The owner just walked away. Too much for the city of St. Paul to handle. Too toxic. Too dangerous.

The State of Minnesota, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, had to call in the EPA for help. It is costing us as taxpayers millions of dollars to clean that up because the businessowner just walked away. Nothing that the EPA can do but clean it up, and clean it up they are, and the neighbors are ecstatic that the Federal Government is there to help them.

The EPA, by taking more money away from it and putting it in the spending reduction account at a time when I know that the EPA regions all across this country are sending men and women down to help cities and counties and communities out with the disaster that Harvey has created, this is all money that is being spent right now in an agency that is \$824 million below 2017.

I think it is important that we protect the air that we breathe and the water that we drink, and the consequences of further cuts to the EPA, I believe, will be felt in communities like mine, like Houston, like maybe what we will be hearing in Florida—we haven't had the assessment yet in the Virgin Islands—all across this Nation. That, to me, is just irresponsible.

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Chair, I won't take the 2 minutes. I just want to let the gentleman know I am prepared to accept the amendment, and I encourage adoption of the amendment.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, how much time do I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Arizona has 3¾ minutes remaining.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The EPA has no statutory duty to pursue or enforce regulation. My home State of Arizona, along with the States west of the Mississippi, are those who are most affected by the heavy hand of the enforcement arm of the EPA.

In my community, dust is the number one particulate. The EPA's response is to come to us in a desert and say: "Water it down. Water it down." Then they come after us because of misuse of water.

This is the inconsistency that we see in the EPA that is weighing down the economy of many of the areas within the West.

The more I meet with local and national natural resource leaders, their number one concern mostly deals with the EPA's burdensome regulations and its enforcement proceedings. Further reducing the EPA's enforcement budget will limit its ability to stifle the economy and enforce unconstitutional rules.

I also want to emphasize the need to restore fiscal sanity in our country. With the ever-growing national debt, my amendment will return \$10 million back to the United States Treasury.

I thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH) for partnering with me on this effort, and to all Members who support our effort to restore fiscal and regulatory sanity in our country.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, as I said earlier, this account has already been cut by \$240 million below the 2017 enacted level, another \$108 million tonight on the floor, but at least those dollars were going back into something, in my opinion, meaningful. This is just taking money away from the EPA, which is underfunded, which is undersourced, and being asked to do more for less at a time when, as I pointed out, we don't even know until there is an opportunity for the waters to subside what we are going to find at the Superfund sites from Harvey.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. KATKO

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 30 printed in House Report 115-297.

Mr. KATKO. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.