

Yesterday I joined Senator FEINSTEIN, directing the agency to answer why these requirements have not been implemented to date to ensure we are improving pipeline safety.

□ 1230

SANCTUARY STATES

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend the leadership many California elected officials showed this week in coming to Washington, D.C. and sitting down with President Trump to talk about the problems and dangers as a result of actions taken by Sacramento Democrats in a sanctuary State and what it has done for the State of California. I commend them for bringing the truth and the clear danger this means for our communities in the State of California, and across the country.

One of the leaders in my own district, District Attorney Stacey Montgomery, as well as a friend of mine, Assemblywoman Melissa Mendez, and many others, stepped forward to bring a strong message of how this endangers Californians and sends the wrong signal to those who want to immigrate properly to this country. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that effort by those leaders.

A BETTER DEAL: INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago this June, President Trump announced that it was Infrastructure Week. He declared it again last August, and then again in February, when he rolled out a proposal that was about 15 percent the size of what he promised. And this week, well, you won't be surprised that it is Infrastructure Week again.

In a year and a half of the Trump Presidency, we have had four Infrastructure Weeks, but no real infrastructure bill, no solution, and no problem solving. Many of our roads, bridges, pipes, electric lines, railroads, ports and airports need our help. They are crumbling, structurally unsound, or simply out of date.

Instead of being bold and proposing a plan like President Eisenhower did, our current President proposed selling off these critical public systems to the highest bidder and sticking local taxpayers with the rest of the bill. That is a bad deal.

Democrats have A Better Deal to rebuild America by putting our money where our mouth is, investing \$1 trillion in helping to jump-start 16 million middle class construction jobs. That is a better deal. That is what America deserves.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

On May 28, 1918, Azerbaijan declared its independence following the Bolshevik victory in the Russian Revolution of 1917, and the withdrawal of Russian troops from the Caucasian Front during World War I. Just 2 years later, Azerbaijan fell to the Red Army and lost its independence to the Soviet Union.

While its initial independence was short, it laid the foundation for the country that exists today. Since ultimately gaining its independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has played an increasingly important role in the region and the world.

Azerbaijan is a key military ally to the United States. Its peacekeepers have served alongside American and NATO troops in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Today, Azerbaijan has 120 troops in Afghanistan supporting the NATO-led Resolute Support mission there.

Azerbaijan also became a leader in the energy sector. Since one of the world's first oil wells was drilled south of Baku in 1848, Azerbaijan has developed its natural resources and is helping to reduce Europe's reliance on Russian gas through the development of the Trans-Anatolian Pipeline.

The Baku Flame Towers, now a global city for the country, pays homage to Azerbaijan's nickname, "the land of fire," hailing from the rich deposits of natural gas.

The United States is grateful for Azerbaijan's friendship and we wish its people continued peace and prosperity.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JORDYN RIVERA

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

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Jordyn Rivera, who attended the Route 51 festival in Las Vegas on October 1.

Jordyn was looking forward to graduating from California State University with her bachelor's degree in healthcare management. She was set to graduate in the spring of 2018.

Jordyn was incredibly smart and was even a member of her school's National Health Education Honor Society. Her parents were always very proud of Jordyn and loved the close bond they had with her. She had a love for Jesus, her family, and country music. She had a gift that allowed her to reach out to others and bring people together.

Jordyn's parents remember her as being personable and adventurous. She

was warm, optimistic, and had an infectious energy.

I would like to extend my condolences to Jordyn Rivera's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

CHANGE IN TENNESSEE LAW

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

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, Tennessee has a law that is about 160 years old. The legislature changed it some, but the Governor needs to sign a bill to do it. It is a law that allows juveniles, before they are convicted, be sent for "safekeeping" in an adult penitentiary or prison.

This occurred recently in two cases. The Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights group took one of those cases. A girl was charged with a crime and had a \$30,000 bond assigned to her. She couldn't make that bond and the court sent her to an adult penitentiary where she and one other girl were isolated in a wing of the adult penitentiary for 40 days.

The Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights group got an attorney, Josh Spickler, who got the girl's bond set at a higher figure, but one that they were willing to make to get her out of jail.

Juveniles should not be put in adult facilities before they are convicted, and nobody should be put in safekeeping and put away like that when they don't need to be, and they can be incarcerated in a juvenile facility. I hope the Governor signs the bill and makes our Tennessee law more current.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE STABILIZATION OF IRAQ— MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 115-128)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GIANFORTE) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days before the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the

stabilization of Iraq that was declared in Executive Order 13303 of May 22, 2003, is to continue in effect beyond May 22, 2018.

Obstacles to the orderly reconstruction of Iraq, the restoration and maintenance of peace and security in the country, and the development of political, administrative, and economic institutions in Iraq continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency with respect to the stabilization of Iraq.

DONALD J. TRUMP.
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 18, 2018.

PROTECTING OUR NATION'S VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, I am honored to fight for the veterans in my district and throughout the Nation. In return for their service and sacrifice, we owe them the best medical care that can be provided.

I am proud that the House of Representatives has passed the VA MISSION Act to address these critical concerns. I commend Chairman ROE, Ranking Member WALZ, and the members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee for their work on this issue over the last year.

This legislation will provide better community-based care without detracting from the outstanding medical services provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities, such as the Central Texas Veterans Health Care Center in Temple, Texas, in my district.

While I believe veterans are best served by the VA, there are also those who live too far from a VA facility, cannot afford a long wait period, or have very specific medical services that are best provided outside the VA system.

The VA MISSION Act provides this community-based care option, and it pays for it with discretionary spending, which means Congress has more control, more oversight, and more responsibility.

The VA MISSION Act includes a provision for a bill I authored, the Veterans Transplant Coverage Act, to ensure that no other American hero is denied organ transplant coverage again through the VA.

This was inspired by the Nelson family of Leander, Texas. Mr. NELSON, a veteran, required a transplant. His son was a matching live donor. However, the VA would not cover medical costs

for the donor, Mr. NELSON's son, even though this was a lifesaving transplant for Mr. NELSON. I am sorry to say that Mr. NELSON had to liquidate almost everything he owned to pay for the medical expenses. We could not help Mr. NELSON's family, but his story inspired me to work towards changing the law.

When the VA MISSION Act is enacted, it will ensure future generations of veterans will have their transplant medical expenses, along with the donor's expenses, covered by the VA. We must do the right thing for our veterans who need these lifesaving procedures, and I am honored that the VA MISSION Act includes language I wrote to do just that.

I want to publicly thank several of my colleagues on the committee: Dr. NEAL DUNN, Dr. BRAD WENSTRUP, and GUS BILIRAKIS, my neighbor, all of whom championed transplant care for veterans and worked extremely hard to ensure this language was included in the bill.

The VA MISSION Act is a step forward towards the goal of caring for our veterans. The Senate must pass this legislation, and I urge President Trump to quickly sign it into law. I can think of no better way to celebrate Memorial Day than enact the VA MISSION Act, which will ensure our heroes receive the best medical care available.

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

□ 1245

FARM BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 30 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to address you here on the floor of the House of Representatives, and I always appreciate that opportunity.

It is a right and a privilege of any Member of Congress to come down here and address you from this floor about whatever issues might be on our minds, and I have a couple of them on my mind here this afternoon, Mr. Speaker. One of them is the circumstance that brought about the loss of the farm bill here on the floor.

I come from the Fourth Congressional District of Iowa, and I will make the case with anyone in this Congress, out of all 435 districts, that we produce more agricultural products in the Fourth District than any other. There are some folks in the San Joaquin Valley who we have an interesting discussion with, and I tip my hat to their progress but still stand in defense of the Fourth District of Iowa.

The corn we raise, the soybeans we raise, the pork that we produce, the eggs that come out of there, all of that sets the standard for the rest of the country. And I am giving the credit to the producers, the families that raised

the farmers that we have today who went off to school and came back with the technology in their brain and developed the technology to bring this kind of crop out of this ground.

I have two ears of corn down in my man cave, Mr. Speaker, and they are beside each other on a nail. I would say half the people in this Congress would guess wrong on which was which. One of them is an open-pollinated variety that they used to plant back in 1848, and the other one is a triple-stack hybrid that came out of the 2015 crop, neither one of them irrigated. God's rainfall raised them.

That one ear that is just as big as the other one and actually has got more rows around it is the open-pollinated from 1848, and it yielded between 15 and 25 bushels to the acre.

Then you look at the 2015 ear. It is roughly the same length, with fewer rows of kernels around it, and that yielded not 15 to 25 bushels, but 232 bushels to the acre, over the scales. That is how far we have come with agriculture technology.

You can divide your 15 or 20 to 25 bushels into the 230. It is almost 10 times. You might make the argument that we have got 10 times the yield today that we had back when the pioneers rolled across the prairie in their covered wagons and began to figure out how to bring crops out of this ground. That is an example of what has taken place.

We have tractors running around out in the field now. No markers. The markers used to always—there used to be planter wire and cross-checked. Then the markers would mark until we came back around, and you lined up on that mark from the last round so that all the rows were nice and beautiful and parallel and straight. Everybody took pride in having fields where they could look down those rows and see that wonderful crop of corn and soybeans and other crops coming out of the ground.

Now there are not markers on a lot of our planters, and some of the planters are running around with the markers folded up because we are being guided by GPS. That is just some of the technology.

We are applying fertilizer differently as the soil types change going across the field. We have got the ability to change and adjust the numbers of corn according to the soil type, too. We are using less fertilizer than we did. We are taking care of the water quality.

Lots of good things are coming up out of the ground, and that means food for America and Americans. This farm bill is designed to stabilize our family farm operations so that they can stay in business. It is not good enough just to be in business next year, but to be in business next generation. This is the center and the heart and soul of America.

This is the American Dream: the family farm on that land looking back through their generations and seeing