the right balance with this new FIRRMA legislation.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, again, I think this is a very important piece of legislation that has come before the body. I also want to acknowledge that, yes, it is very challenging for this body to engage in bipartisan legislation. But we have clearly achieved it today. I think we have achieved it because we know that as Americans we must rally around when it comes to issues of national security.

So, again, I want to thank the ranking member. I want to thank the gentleman from Washington and all other Members on the other side of the aisle for coming together. And as the gentleman from Washington said, perhaps not getting exactly the bill that they wanted—I assure the gentleman from Washington I didn't get exactly the bill I wanted—but we have a very strong bill that I think balances our critical need to safeguard our technology and at the same time recognizes how important foreign direct investment is in growing our economy and being able to afford the type of defense structures that we need so that our national security is never second to none.

Again, Mr. Speaker, we could not have done this first without the leadership, the expertise, and the drive of the gentleman from North Carolina. I believe that some form of this bill will soon end up on the President's desk and we will all thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his leadership in getting America to this point.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote for this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. MAXINE WATERS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I think that all of our speakers have been eloquent in the way that they have described the work that was done on the bill. I am very pleased and proud that on this issue of national security that we were able to come together. I think that what we have done is certainly in the best interests of our country.

As the chairman said, some did not get everything that they would like to have in the bill, but we were able to work through the various concerns, I think, in a very honest and open way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "aye" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I would like to thank several of my colleagues, the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. ENGEL, as well as, of course, Chairman HENSARLING, Ranking Member WATERS, and Mr. PITTENGER.

I want to thank them for incorporating as title VIII the text that I authored as H.R. 5040, this is the Ex-

port Control Reform Act of 2018. This is the measure we put out of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

This title modernizes and reforms outdated export controls designed to impose trade controls on the old Soviet bloc. It was long past due that we update these controls to reflect the realities of modern international commerce and the national security threats of the century we are in right now.

I would urge my colleagues to join us in modernizing both the CFIUS and export controls process which we do now in this combined bill. A "yes" vote will ensure continued U.S. leadership in high technology industries essential to the health of our economy and essential to our national security.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5841, 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. HENSARLING. 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.

ENDANGERED SALMON AND FISHERIES PREDATION PREVENTION ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on H.R. 2083.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DA-VIDSON). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 961 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2083.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Poe) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1429

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2083) to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and other non-listed species, and for other purposes, with Mr. Poe of Texas in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time. The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

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

H.R. 2083, a bipartisan effort by Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Mr. SCHRADER, aims to cut red tape by updating Federal law to provide a temporary, expedited process to give States and Tribes the ability to address California sea lion predation of endangered salmon and other species on a limited basis.

Right now, ratepayers in the Pacific Northwest invest hundreds of millions of dollars each year to help recovering salmon populations, only to have them end up in the stomachs of sea lions. Federal law provides conflicting mandates to protect each species but does not provide the flexibility to account for broader ecological interactions.

California sea lion populations on the West Coast have exploded, yet salmon runs continue to decline. According to the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, the sea lion population has grown to a level of roughly 300,000 individuals, and marine biologists conclude that their population is currently at carrying capacity.

Historically, California sea lions have foraged at the mouth of the Columbia River, but they have recently continued to move inland. As the sea lions move further upstream to feed, their diet exists increasingly more of endangered salmon.

H.R. 2083 will authorize the Secretary of Commerce to provide to State and local Tribes the tools necessary to humanely manage sea lions that have migrated outside their historic range and pose an imminent threat to fish species listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Federal permits authorized under H.R. 2083 would be limited to State and Tribal fishery managers who have a direct stake in a healthy regional ecosystem. It is absolutely imperative that we give local stakeholders the tools they need for a balanced ecosystem where both fish and sea lions can thrive.

This bipartisan bill has broad support from States, Tribes, public utility districts, advocacy groups, and hundreds of local businesses across the Pacific Northwest. It is a win for not only the endangered fish of the Pacific Northwest, but the ratepayers who are heavily invested in keeping these fish stocks flourishing and healthy.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan, commonsense bill.

And that is just the way it is.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2083. This legislation claims to

protect salmon in the Columbia River by authorizing an increase in the annual permits to kill California sea lions, Steller sea lions, and harbor seals.

It is true that many of our salmon and steelhead runs are not doing well. In 2017, runs of wild salmon and steelhead were the fourth lowest since 1979, and the most recent 3-year trend is steadily downward. It is devastating, I agree, but we should be legislating to address the real threats facing salmon recovery. Impacts to salmon caused by seals and sea lions pale in comparison to the harm caused by so many other threats.

Let's take a minute to go over some of the significant threats facing salmon: habitat loss and degradation, pesticides and toxic contaminants polluting tributary habitats, hydropower, invasive species, hatcheries, overfishing, by-catch, human population growth, climate change, and the bill the House Republicans pushed today to block court-mandated water releases from Federal dams to aid in salmon recovery.

I cannot support this bill. It does not address the root causes of salmon population decline and, instead, unfairly scapegoats sea lions.

Mr. Chairman, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER).

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Chairman, thanks to Kurt Schrader, who has been a partner with me on this legislation for a while—actually, since before I was here, he has been working on this bill—and today is a good day.

"I would like to think that there might still be salmon and steelhead to fish for when my great-grandkids try fishing." That is from Bob, who lives in Brush Prairie in my district. I have heard Bob's sentiments echoed literally from thousands of folks across southwest Washington.

Unfortunately, our salmon runs are now fighting for survival. It is practically a miracle when a fish can make it upstream without getting caught between a sea lion's teeth. They certainly don't get caught unscathed.

Mr. Chairman, what we currently have on the Columbia River is an ecosystem seriously out of balance. I recently met with local fishing guides who, with despair in their voices, told me between 70 and 100 percent of the fish they land show visible signs of a struggle with a sea lion, barely escaping becoming a meal for the already engorged sea lions. We are seeing fewer and fewer salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon make it past this gauntlet of sea lions as the fish make their way upstream.

Donald from Vancouver told me the other day he reeled in a salmon—half of a salmon. A sea lion was fighting him for the other half.

Look, we are not anti-sea lion. Oh, my goodness, no. We are just for protecting our native fish, a Pacific Northwest icon, and in order to do that, we have got to make it easier to remove some of the most egregious offenders, problematic pinnipeds.

Sea lions aren't endangered anymore. In fact, they are doing really, really well. They weigh a ton. Literally, a Steller sea lion can weigh up to 1 ton. Between the California and the Steller sea lions, their populations have increased by hundreds of thousands, and now they are overindulging on an all-you-can-eat buffet of salmon at numbers that are totally unnatural on the Columbia River system. The sea lions are winning this battle.

Forty-five percent of spring Chinook adult salmon disappear between the mouth of the Columbia River and the Bonneville Dam. Oregon's fish and wildlife agency has concluded after much study that the Willamette River steelhead runs are facing a 90 percent chance of extinction due to predation.

That is why we are here today, Mr. Chairman, in a bipartisan effort to save our wild fish from being decimated by animals that have migrated out of their natural habitat and whose population is ever increasing.

My bill, the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act, provides Tribal and government resource managers with the means to rapidly respond and remove California and Steller sea lions from specific areas where they are posing the most harm to our salmon restoration efforts.

The Columbia River makes up the entire southern border of my district. The river is a lifeline for clean, affordable energy and brings economic benefit through both recreational and commercial fishing.

While the lethal take of sea lions is a last resort, it is necessary to protect the hundreds of millions of dollars in investments that the Northwest residents have made to protect and enhance salmon and other ESA-listed species on the Columbia River.

Nonlethal solutions like hazing and, literally, transporting sea lions hundreds of miles away and releasing them have not worked. The sea lions come right back.

In Washington State, we are forced to live with a cautionary tale of failing to take strong action. In the 1980s and 1990s, Federal officials failed to grant the same authority that we are asking for today to halt the salmon slaughter in Seattle at the Ballard Locks. By the time Congress acted, a whole run of steelhead was decimated.

Let's not allow history to repeat itself. H.R. 2083 is a much-needed solution. The bill would amend section 120 of the Marine Mammal Protection Act to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to provide States and local Tribes with the tools necessary to humanely manage sea lions on the waters of the Columbia River and its tributaries as long as the sea lions are not

part of an ESA-listed species. This is common sense, Mr. Chairman.

Additionally, this legislation allows not only the Northwest State wildlife agencies, but also qualified Tribes to obtain permits to help protect the recovery of ESA-listed salmon, authority not granted currently under the law.

Simply put, my bill cuts through the bureaucratic red tape, streamlines the permitting process, and allows States and Tribes to rapidly respond to remove sea lions from areas they pose the most threat to salmon recovery. Mr. Chairman, this is the last line of defense against fish runs bordering on extinction.

This bill enjoys bipartisan support both here in Congress and at home. As I mentioned, my friend and neighbor to the south, KURT SCHRADER, has been an invaluable partner in getting this bill to the floor today.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentle-woman has expired.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chair, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 1 minute.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Chairman, this legislation is supported by the Governors of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho; the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission; the Washington, Idaho, and Oregon State Department of Fish and Wildlife; the Ilwaco Charter Association; the Coalition of Coastal Fisheries; and the Coastal Conservation Association of Oregon and Washington. Public utilities are among the bill's supporters.

I am also pleased a companion bill is moving through the Senate now, with bipartisan support, underscoring the urgency of this issue.

I ask my colleagues to join me today in supporting H.R. 2083. Let's make sure our kids and our grandkids and great-grandkids can experience the thrill of reeling in their first salmon on the Columbia River.

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

Mr. Chairman, I am disappointed to be standing here today to debate a bill that has become quite familiar to the House Natural Resources Committee over the past three Congresses.

I must point out the obvious fact, Mr. Chairman, that killing of sea lions is not a silver bullet for a salmon recovery. This bill is a five-cent solution to a \$10 problem.

The fact is the sea lion predation pales in comparison to the harm caused to endangered salmon runs by habitat loss, dam operation, pesticides, invasive species, and several other human activities. The bill does absolutely nothing to address any of these major causes of salmon decline.

For example, NOAA Fisheries has found that the estimated salmon and steelhead production in the Columbia River basin is over 10 million fish below historic levels, with 8 million of that loss attributable to hydropower development and operation.

I must also point out the hypocrisy here. The bill before us today is described as a salmon protection act, but it follows a series of House Republican priority bills that would push the West Coast salmon population to the brink of extinction.

Just this April, my Republican colleagues pushed through the House H.R. 3144, known in the fishing community as the "Salmon Extinction Act," intended to block protection measures that experts tell us are necessary for salmon survival

Last year, we saw similar attacks on salmon, Tribes, and the salmon fishing industry when House leadership rushed H.R. 23, also known as the GROW Act, through the House. This bill sought to eliminate protections for wild California salmon and put California's native fisheries and the thousands of jobs it supported on the path to extinction, meaning thousands of job losses across California, Oregon, and Washington State. House leadership pushed that bill even though estimates showed that 78 percent of California's native salmon will be extinct this century under current trends.

The congressional war on salmon has continued with riders in this year's appropriations bills. For example, the House Energy and Water Appropriations bill, approved by this Chamber earlier this month, will block the restoration of salmon runs in the Columbia River and California's San Joaquin River.

As if that were not enough, the Interior and CJS Appropriations bills also include riders that are being supported by the Republican majority. Yet here we are talking about killing hundreds of seals and sea lions because my Republican colleagues claim they want to recover salmon.

Let's be clear: The anti-salmon legislation and riders coming out of Congress are far bigger threats to salmon recovery than the sea lions' snacking habits. Restoring wild salmon that are under threat requires a sophisticated response that tackles the most pressing issues impacting salmon populations.

Instead, we are here today scapegoating marine mammals that are themselves under threat from this House's effort to roll back the Marine Mammal Protection Act in order to help oil and gas companies.

Marine mammals and salmon have coexisted together for millennia. Unfortunately, neither one has enough defenses against the agenda of the Republican Congress. We don't have to pick and choose which creatures are worthy of survival. I would encourage my colleagues to get serious about addressing the whole range of stressors that are driving salmon to extinction: dam operations, pesticides, invasive species, and human activities that are preventing full salmon recovery.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to reject today's effort to force Congress to pick and choose between wildlife, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I would only say that, when there is a

population of 300,000 sea lions, I would not call that endangered. They are protected under a Federal law, but they are not found to be endangered or threatened, as far as I know.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. SCHRADER), who is also a bipartisan cosponsor of this bill.

□ 1445

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Chair, this is what our cuddly sea lions do to our iconic salmon in the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

Salmon are an important part of the culture, the identity, and the economy of the people and Tribes of the Pacific Northwest. It is one of the reasons why we, as a region, have put so much time, energy, and resources into protecting and recovering these iconic fish.

Along with my good friend and colleague from the other side of the Columbia River, Representative HERRERA BEUTLER, we have worked very hard with the three States in our region, our Tribes, our wildlife agencies, and our colleagues here in Congress to find common ground and to craft a bill that meets our needs to protect endangered salmon, but also addresses concerns about what happens to the sea lions.

Today's consideration of H.R. 2083 marks nearly 9 years that I have been working on this legislation with my colleague from Washington. During that time, sea lion predation on endangered salmon and steelhead runs has increased exponentially, and the results have been dramatic.

Much like the Ballard Locks in Seattle that my colleague referred to earlier, we are facing our own imminent extinction threat with the Willamette winter steelhead run if we don't act immediately. That is just a fact.

In the case of the Ballard Locks, we didn't act soon enough. The pinniped predation drove that steelhead run to extinction.

We cannot repeat the same mistake. It is important to note that nothing in this bill will harm sea lion populations. They are thriving—thanks to the Marine Mammal Protection Act—with a population that now hovers in the 300,000 range.

NOAA has concluded that the California sea lions have reached their maximum carrying capacity. It is a remarkable success story. We want that to continue. But with this success, we also need to recognize that these sea lions no longer need the same level of protections that they did when they first passed the Marine Mammal Protection Act in the early 1970s, when their numbers were only in the 70,000 range.

Now they are threatening, in non-historic areas, to move up the rivers, where they have no history, and eliminate our salmon. There is a 20 to 25 percent predation on these salmon.

Our bill would allow the selective removal of problematic sea lions that are congregating at the Bonneville Dam,

Willamette Falls, and some of the tributaries of kev estuaries.

Research has shown that removing these sea lions before they habituate to these areas prevents additional animals recruiting to these areas and would result in having to remove fewer sea lions over time.

We have heard some arguments that we shouldn't focus on sea lions, that we should take a comprehensive approach. My good colleague from Arizona said there is no silver bullet here. I agree. I agree.

We have been doing nonlethal hazing for more than 15 years that has been totally ineffective. Transport these sea lions to the coast from the middle of Oregon, and they are back in 5 days at the Willamette Falls.

Every entity involved in salmon management, from Tribes to fishermen to dam operators, has altered their behavior to protect salmon. Pacific Northwest ratepayers, through their electric bills, contribute nearly \$1 billion a year, the biggest fish recovery program in America, a third of their electric bill, to help fund the largest fish mitigation program.

This money goes toward the habitat restoration that was alluded to; improvements to fish ladders, fish screens, turbines; improving hatcheries. It is our responsibility as Members of Congress to safeguard the public investment in improving these salmon runs.

This is not a radical bill. This is a thoughtful, narrow approach that is based on sound science, brought to us by the Departments of Fish and Wildlife of the three States in question and supported by Jay Inslee of Washington and Kate Brown of Oregon, Democratic Governors; Butch Otter of Idaho, a Republican Governor; Tribes; wildlife agencies; and biologists. Senators Cantwell and RISCH have introduced a companion bill in the Senate.

Most importantly, the process will require the following: NOAA still will review the permit application and issue a request for public comment. NOAA will form a task force to review the application and make recommendations. NOAA will conduct a NEPA review.

We have a great many people doing incredible work.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chair, I yield the gentleman an additional 1 minute.

Mr. SCHRADER. Mr. Chair, I just want to thank everyone for their strong effort in this area: the Tribes; Liz Hamilton, Bob Rees, and our conservation community; Curt Melcher and his team at ODF&W, Shaun Clements and Ed Bowles; and our friends on the other side of the river at WDFW also. All these folks have been tremendous partners. I can't thank them enough.

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague from across the river, JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER. It has been a great partnership.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support our region and our efforts to protect and support our salmon. I ask for your help and to support this legislation today.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chairman, for many, this is an emotional debate. I would concede the point that this is not a silver bullet.

What we are talking about in particular are a few species of salmon that are on the verge of extinction, and whether or not this bill passes will determine their future. It already extirpated a run at Ballard Locks.

We have a place in Oregon called Willamette Falls, 120 miles from the mouth of the Columbia River. Historically, there have been no sea lions there. There have been no changes in that structure in 100 years.

Yet, the passage of wild salmon, which was normally 5,000 to 8,000, has dropped down to 500 because of the predation with 40 sea lions hanging out, munching, basically, at the fish ladder.

Here is where sea lions are at. The optimal population is between this red line and this blue line. They actually have exceeded that blue line, which means they have recently exceeded and now are maybe dropping back to the maximum sustainable population.

We are talking about a few hundred problem animals, which then teach other animals where they can get a free lunch. That is really the key here. This is based in science. We have a probability of 89 percent of extinction of the Willamette winter steelhead that go over Willamette Falls because of the sea lions that hang out there.

They have tried everything: sonic guns, harassment, removal. They took them 300 miles away. They swim pretty good; they are back in 5 days. And they tell other sea lions along the way: Hey, come on, follow me. I know a great place to go.

If we were to remove just a few of these problem sea lions, it is very likely that it will be a long time before another set of sea lions learns to go 120 miles up the river to the Willamette Falls.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Chair, so the conditions are that these would have to be problem sea lions that have been marked; they have been removed; they have been harassed; they have come back; and they have to be 112 miles up the river. This is not a normal condition, that sea creatures are 112 miles up a freshwater river.

There are critical areas on the Columbia, up by the dams, up by the Willamette Falls, and in some of the tributaries, which are the most productive salmon grounds in the country where they are starting to hang out. And they

are eating almost exclusively salmon, steelhead, and now sturgeon, which are also a threatened species.

As my colleague from Oregon said, NOAA will review the permit. We will have public comment. They will have a task force to review the application and make recommendations or modifications.

There will be a NEPA review. That was one of the critical elements. It was a problem with the earlier bill, and a number of us insisted upon a NEPA review. NOAA will approve or deny the permit with conditions, and that will be monitored on an annual basis.

Again, the argument that, well, other sea lions are just going to take their place, has not been proven by science. In fact, there are only a couple of hundred that are these problem creatures and are going upstream. Ultimately, others will follow them and become habituated. If we can remove the worst of the problem ones, then perhaps we won't drop down. In fact, the recent estimates are we are down to a 6 percent chance of survival—this is a little out of date—of the winter steelhead because of this year's predation.

There is another chart. I don't have it here. It shows, yes, the structures were built 100 years ago. That impeded the winter steelhead. There has been a fish ladder. Locks were built there for navigation. That hasn't changed in 100 years. So the populations were healthy at 5,000 to 8,000. Suddenly, now we are down to 512.

Something is happening. It is the sea lions.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chair, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER).

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of H.R. 2083, which would provide targeted relief to endangered salmon and steelhead stocks in the Columbia River and its tributaries from the threat of predation by non-native sea lions.

Mr. Chair, I thank my colleague Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER for her work on this bill, and Mr. Schrader from Oregon, and take this opportunity to highlight the many weeks of bipartisan negotiations, which included revisions from the National Marine Fisheries Service, our State and Tribal wildlife comanagers, and other key stakeholders that resulted in this compromise bill text.

It is because of that consensus that I am able to voice my support for this bill today. I am thankful for that because I care about salmon and protecting salmon. I care about fishing jobs, and I care about Tribal treaty rights. And I care about the other animals in our ecosystem that rely on a healthy salmon stock, like the endangered Southern Resident orca population, of which there are few in our oceans, fewer than the number of people who serve in this Chamber.

We have heard from our State and Tribal wildlife managers that, if salmon predation at the Willamette Falls

choke point is not addressed immediately, there is a 90 percent probability that at least one of the winter steelhead populations will go extinct.

Enhanced management of the sea lion predators at this site would make a difference immediately. I also want to underscore that we already have years of data to show that nonlethal hazing and relocation measures currently employed by our wildlife managers have not been effective at controlling the predators. In fact, the problem has only gotten worse.

A decade ago, these predators used to congregate only at distinct choke points created by the Bonneville Dam and Willamette Falls. Today, they are moving further inland into the narrow tributaries of the Columbia basin.

But there is good news. Research from Oregon State University suggests that only a small portion of the sea lion population will ever exhibit this behavior and removing these animals before they acclimate to these areas prevents additional animals from learning this behavior.

So, the sooner we act, the fewer animals that will ultimately be affected.

To put this in perspective, of the 4,000 California sea lions in the Columbia River estuary, only about 200 ever swim upriver past the 112-mile mark. It is these animals that are having the greatest effect on the most vulnerable stocks in the watershed.

I will tell you what is at stake: Jobs. It is the livelihood of our commercial, recreational, and Tribal fishermen who are counting on us to rebuild these stocks. It is the future of our Southern Resident orca population that depends on spring chinook as a key food source. It is the identity of the Pacific Northwest that, in many ways, is defined by these iconic fish.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan compromise so that our State and Tribal wildlife comanagers have the tools they need to address this threat in the most responsible and targeted way possible.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chair, I include the RECORD letters of support for this legislation from Trout Unlimited, the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, and an additional list of supporters.

TROUT UNLIMITED,

June 26, 2018.

Re Trout Unlimited Support for H.R. 2083, Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act.

House of Representatives,

Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: We, the undersigned represent the nearly 10,000 members of Trout Unlimited in the states of Washington, Oregon and Idaho. Trout Unlimited is the country's largest and oldest, coldwater conservation organization with over 300,000 members and supporters nationwide.

TU has been deeply engaged in wild salmon and steelhead recovery efforts in the Columbia Basin for several decades, and it is our goal to restore healthy, fishable, naturally reproducing salmon and steelhead popu-

lations.

Many issues impact salmon and steelhead recovery efforts in the Columbia Basin.

Habitat degradation, hydropower operations, harvest and hatchery management issues are all significant factors. This legislation will help to provide resource managers with the necessary tools to help reduce predation by pinnipeds, a problem which has become increasingly significant over the last decade, and is particularly impactful at key locations, such as Willamette Falls.

Pinniped predation rates in the basin are significant. NMFS marine mammal biologists believe that sea lion predation accounts for 20% of Spring Chinook Salmon losses in the Columbia. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has completed a risk analysis that place the likelihood of extinction for wild winter steelhead in the Willamette river at 90% due in part to pinniped predation at the falls in Oregon City.

H.R. 2083 would amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow NOAA to issue permits allowing state agency representatives in Washington, Oregon and Idaho, as well as several area tribes to use lethal take of sea lions in a portion of the Columbia river or certain tributaries in order to protect fish from sea lion predation.

While we support a targeted approach to culling individual sea lions in specific areas to help reduce the impact to wild salmon and steelhead populations, we recognize that this action is necessary, but not at all sufficient, to help recover salmon and steelhead populations. To rebuild wild salmon and steelhead we need to take a comprehensive, science-based approach that addresses other major factors in their decline. Restoring their habitat, improving hatchery operations and fine-tuning angling regulations must be part of the long-term solution. Many of these actions are underway, and we need to redouble these efforts.

We urge you to vote yes on H.R. 2083. Sincerely.

> TERRY TURNER, Oregon Council Chair. ED NORTHERN, Idaho Council Chair. BRAD THROSSEL, Washington Chair.

PACIFIC COAST FEDERATION OF FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATIONS.

June 25, 2018. DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: The Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations (PCFFA) is the largest organization of commercial fishermen on the West Coast, representing the interests of hundreds of family-owned commercial fishing operations who harvest and deliver fresh seafood to American consumers and for export. Collectively, we represent many thousands of family wage jobs and a West Coast commercial fishing industry that contributes billions of dollars to the U.S. economy.

On behalf of the hundreds of hard working commercial fishermen we represent, we write to request your SUPPORT for H.R. 2083, the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act. This bill would allow state and tribal wildlife managers to apply for a permit to humanely euthanize individual marine mammals in the Columbia River that are known to prey on endangered salmon as they line up at fish ladders attempting to return to their natal streams to spawn.

This bill provides an immediate, surgical solution to a significant problem in a highly impacted western river, the Columbia. Impediments to fish passage and severe flow curtailment from hydropower dams have resulted in severe depletion of the Pacific Northwest's most productive salmon river. These impacts have cost commercial fishing families billions of dollars in lost oppor-

tunity. While long-term solutions including dam removal and robust instream flow requirements will ultimately be required, immediate-term approaches like this bill are desperately needed. The limited, targeted culling of salmon predators on the Columbia is one such solution that will yield immediate results while long-term approached can be designed. We therefore urge your support for this bill.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely.

NOAH OPPENHEIM. Executive Director.

American Sport Fishing Association; Association of Northwest Steelheaders; Coastal Conservation Association of Washington; State of Idaho; State of Oregon; State of Washington; Chelan PUD; Douglas PUD; Grant PUD: Northwest RiverPartners: Yakima Bait co : Leisure Sales: North Point Personalized Wealth: Northwest Sportsman Magazine: O'Loughlin Trade Shows: Island Creative Printing & Publishing: Active Outdoors; Stevens Marine; Day One Outdoors. LLC & CK; Eagle Cap Fishing Guides.

Skylen Freet Guided Sportfishing, LLC; Dick Nite Spoons, Inc.; Poulsen Cascade Tackle, LLC; Western Fishing Adventures Ltd.: Bill Monroe Outdoors, LLC: Angler Innovations, Inc.; Smokehouse Products, LLC; D & G Bait, Inc.: Oregon, Rod, Reel & Tackle; Total Fisherman Guide Service; BPG Wealth: It's All Good Guide Service: Luhr Jensen & Son's: McKenzie River Guides Association; The Merifield Company; FISHENG PRODUCTS; Seasonal Marketing; Team Hookup Guide Services; OLLIE DAMON'S: Maxima Fishing Line; Three Rivers Marine; Oregon Tackle Mfg; Northwest Guides and Anglers Assocation: Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association; Public Power Council; Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission: Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Association; Bayside Guided Adventures; BS Fish Tales Inc-Brad's; Pro-Cure Inc.; NW Fish Quest; Silver Horde Fishing Supplies, Inc.; Harry Bresnahans's Guide Service; Fisherman's Marine and Outdoor; Jeff Robles & Associates; Hawken Fishing LLC: Morton and Associates: Ancient Mariner Guide Service: Robin Daft: Bob's Sport-

Anderson & Anderson Engineering, LLC; Big Rock Sports; Big C Tackle; Fish-Field Inc.; Fish Marketing; LEO Flashers; On Target Outdoors, LLC; Gunarama Wholesale; Elbe Mall; Lamiglas; Maschmedt & Associates; Jemama Dreams; Trucke's 1-Stop; Tillamook Sporting Goods; Renaissance Marine Group, Inc.; North River Boats; Coho Steel; S&C Rod Racks; Baxter Industrial Analysis; Twisted Waters Guide Service.

Anderson's Outdoors LLC; Jewell School District #8; Bob Rees' Fishing Guide Service; Rubber Resource, Inc.; United States Gypsum; Peck's Guide Service; Winter Run Guide Service; Paradise Guide Service; Township Properties; Northwest Angling Experience; Metro Aviation; Astoria Fishing Charters; The Guide's Forecast; Grant's Outdoors Adventures; Fish It All Guide Service LLC; Oregon River Trails Outfitter; Brandon's Guide Service; Anglers Obsession; Austin's Northwest Adventures; Fishhouse Outdoor Company Guide.

Ocks Fishing Adventures; Land and Wildlife, Bill Meyer Fishing; CT Sport Fishing; Brookings Fishing Charters; Sharkys Charters; BC Angling Supply; Frank Amato Publications; Pat Abel's Guide Service; River Trail Outfitters; Coho Design; NW Rods; Wild Salmon Center; Coastal Coalition of Fisheries; Ilwaco Charter Association; Westport Charter Boat Association; Salmon For All; Puget Sound Anglers; Coastal Trollers Association; Ilwaco Fish Company; Englund Ma-

rine Inc.; Sheldon Oyster Company; Excel Fishing and Charters.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE).

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Chair. I am proud to be able to rise and speak on this bill. I am a proud cosponsor of H.R. 2083, the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act. and I encourage all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation.

This bill was introduced on a bipartisan basis by members of the Pacific Northwest delegation to address the matter of predatory sea lions that are consuming alarming numbers of endangered salmon, steelhead, and other fish species in the Columbia River and its tributaries.

□ 1500

Over the past few decades, sea lion populations have increased tenfold, causing sea lions to expand their search for food. There is just too many of them for their traditional food sources.

Well, Mr. Chairman, they have found that source. Sea lions swimming up to the Bonneville Dam are gorging themselves on endangered salmon not only for food, but, Mr. Chairman, there are so many of them, they are also doing it for sport. I have seen this myself while visiting a dam, where I saw what scientists and river managers regularly see: fish passing by-through those windows that you can watch the migrating salmon—with massive bite marks through their bodies. Most of the time, that leads to fatality for these fish.

A recent NOAA study found that sea lions consumed up to 45 percent of several stocks of returning adult salmon last year. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife found that winter steelhead will go extinct if sea lion populations are not managed, placing the likelihood of extinction at 90 percent.

This bill would stop this severe problem by amending the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow NOAA to issue permits allowing State agencies and regional Tribes to use lethal take of sea lions in certain portions of the Columbia River and its tributaries. This legislation will help protect fish from sea lion predation and is desperately needed in order to save an endangered fish species.

Unfortunately, Ranking Member GRI-JALVA and the minority of the House Natural Resources Committee have once again reverted to fear-mongering, just as they have done on other issues facing the Pacific Northwest. I have heard this legislation called the "Slaughter Seals and Sea Lions Act," and it claimed the legislation will authorize a "massive increase in annual permits to kill sea lions and seals." Nothing could be further from the truth.

This legislation demonstrates a targeted approach and a bipartisan, concerted effort over many years to come to a consensus on this serious issue. In fact, the bill places strict limits on sea lion removal that are one-tenth the amount NOAA states would have no impact on sea lion population.

I am disappointed in these outlandish and false claims that the minority has propagated. The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation state: "We are saddened to see such an inaccurate, emotional, and nonscientific attack on legislation our region is desperate to see enacted." And, Mr. Chairman, I could not agree more.

Fortunately, the wide-ranging coalition and bipartisan support behind this legislation speaks for itself: from the three respective Governors of the three States of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho; to the Yakama, Nez Perce, Warm Springs, and Umatilla Tribes; to groups like the Pacific Power Council. Northwest River Partners, Trout Unlimited, and Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, this legislation is supported by environmental organizations, the fishing industry, power and utility interests, State and Tribal governments, and both Democrats and Republicans alike right here in the House and in the Senate.

The ranking member earlier stated that this bill is not a silver bullet, and, Mr. Chairman, I don't disagree. I certainly acknowledge that this is just one tool to continue the tremendous eforts and significant resources our region has devoted to fish protection and mitigation, but it is an important one.

I continue to advocate for sound science approaches to managing our Columbia River system, including speaking out against the recklessly mandated spill order currently placed upon the Federal river system. That is why I supported H.R. 3144 earlier this year to stop this spill and to provide the experts who manage our river system with the ability to do so in a manner that is best for our fish species.

For the record, the minority of the House Natural Resources Committee called the bill the "Salmon Extinction Act"—more disappointing hyperbole. I would encourage the ranking member and his staff to focus more on the science and less on the radical rhetoric.

Mr. Chairman, just as my bipartisan colleagues support this legislation we consider today, I continue to plead for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and in the Senate to recognize the science showing how dangerous spilling to the gas caps is.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2083.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. HECK).

Mr. HECK. Mr. Chairman, I sincerely thank the ranking member for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 2083.

You have heard a good number of arguments in favor of this bill today: the urgent threat posed by sea lions to endangered salmon and steelhead; the

fundamental importance of salmon to the economy and culture of the Pacific Northwest and, especially, the native peoples who have depended on these stocks since time immemorial.

But I want to talk about another reason, which was alluded to earlier, and that is the issue of the orca. June happens to be National Orca Month in Washington State. The southern resident orcas are an iconic species for us. They reside principally in the Puget Sound, and they are dying. The very fish that are taken by these sea lions migrate there and are an important part of their food stock.

There are 75 resident orcas left, less than when they were put on the endangered species list, fewer orcas today than when they were listed. A large part of it is that they don't have enough Chinook salmon to eat, and the reason for that is because the sea lions are eating them first.

I want to remind the Chamber these sea lions are not even indigenous to the Columbia River. They have only been here a little more than three decades. They came here and found lunch and, along with it, put our orca at risk.

Our State resource managers estimate sea lions consume about 20 percent of the Columbia's spring Chinook run—20 percent, one in five.

We all recognize saving these iconic orcas will take a comprehensive solution. I don't deny that. And, of course, it isn't a silver bullet, but it will help. It is something this body can do today to save our orcas.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, with my compliments to the gentlewoman from the Third Congressional District and all who have worked so tirelessly on behalf of H.R. 2083.

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

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

H.R. 2083 authorizes the lethal taking of over 1,000 sea lions and an unknown amount of seals annually. Counter to what we have heard, the bill will not significantly aid in the recovery of salmon populations but needlessly targets seals and sea lions.

I think we have to put this piece of legislation in context to what this House has done and what the Natural Resources Committee has done: a pattern. It is another example of how my Republican colleagues view wildlife management policy in the 21st century. We have too many attacks on wildlife in this Congress.

Last year, Republicans released a bill to overturn a 2016 judicial decision to allow the shooting of cormorants without ever considering nonlethal management. The claimed rationale is to protect sports fishing and aquaculture, although scant science, evidence, or fact exists to prove that the birds significantly impact fish populations.

In February of last year, this Chamber voted to allow the Fish and Wildlife

Service to shoot bear cubs from a helicopter and gas wolf pups in their dens on Alaska National Wildlife Refuges to artificially inflate populations of moose and caribou prized by trophy hunters

In the 115th Congress, Republicans have introduced dozens of bills and policy riders targeting the Endangered Species Act and species like the gray wolf, grizzly bears, greater sage-grouse, delta smelt, and Chinook salmon.

The Trump administration's announcement that the Department of the Interior will now consider trophy imports on a case-by-case basis gave life to harmful bills in Congress that support trophy killing of elephants and lions in African countries for purported conservation purposes.

In the midst of all of the mass shootings in the country, committee Republicans tried to disguise an NRA-backed bill as a sportsmen's bill, the SHARE Act, which would deregulate silencers and armor-piercing bullets. All these attacks on wildlife have been constant, they have not been backed in science, and they have not been supported by science or fact.

We all would like to see legislation that would tackle the real threats facing imperiled wildlife and, in this particular legislation, to do a study to assess that and then to talk about the kinds of efforts that could be undertaken to protect the salmon. But to merely do that without the science and the study I think is a mistake, and it fits into a pattern that is all too common and puts this legislation within the same context and the same pattern as the other pieces of legislation.

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. Herrera Beutler), who will talk, among other things, about the mitigation efforts that the ratepayers have been funding for the salmon.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Chairman, I include in the RECORD a letter of support from the Public Power Council and a letter of support from the States of Washington, Oregon, and Idaho Departments of Fish and Wildlife and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

 ${\tt JUNE~22,~2018.}$

To: Speaker Ryan, Minority Leader Pelosi, and Northwest Congressional Delegation. Re Support for H.R. 2083 and S. 1702—To re-

duce marine mammal predation on endangered Columbia River salmon.

We come together today to lend our strong and joint support for H.R. 2083 and S. 1702, bills that would reduce predation of endangered adult salmon and steelhead. The Public Power Council (PPC) is a not for profit association that represents about 100 consumer-owned electric utilities in the Pacific Northwest on issues regarding the Federal Columbia River Power System. The Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) provides coordination and technical assistance to the tribes in regional, national, and international efforts to ensure

that treaty fishing rights issues are protected in a way that guarantees the continuation and restoration of tribal fisheries into perpetuity.

In the last few decades, west coast sea lion populations have increased ten-fold. This growing population has expanded its search for food and found it in the Columbia and Willamette Rivers, river systems they had never before accessed. A recent NOAA Fisheries study estimates that pinnipeds consumed between 10-45 percent of some stocks of returning adult salmon in 2017. It is difficult to envision a successful recovery plan for fish listed under the Endangered Species Act without addressing this aggressive predation on the very adult fish that have benefitted from current efforts only to fall short in surviving a return to their spawning grounds.

H.R. 2083 and S. 1702, introduced in the first session of the 115th Congress, address this concern by building on existing authorities that allow some lethal take of sea lions near Bonneville Dam by appropriate tribal and state entities. Fisheries biologists estimate predation would greatly decrease by incorporating all management activity in the areas of high predation between the mouth of the river up to the dam.

These bills are widely supported in the Northwest. In addition to this joint support from CRITFC and PPC, regional governors from both parties, along with other industries who rely on healthy salmon and steelhead runs, have come together to back these bills. We are hopeful the proposals will receive broad bipartisan support in the House of Representatives and Senate.

This situation continues to expand supporters of this legislation among diverse interests in the public, private and nonprofit sectors. Our joint support represents that healthy salmon and steelhead runs are critical to the future of the Columbia River treaty tribes and utilities. This bill would give fisheries managers greater tools to appropriately reduce predation of these endangered fish. Again, we support H.R. 2083 and S. 1702 and urge their expeditious passage through Congress.

Sincerely,

SCOTT CORWIN,
Executive Director, Public Power Council.
JAIME A. PINKHAM,
Executive Director, Columbia River InterTribal Fish Commission.

JUNE 25, 2018.

Hon. Speaker RYAN, Hon. Leader PELOSI,

Hon. Chairman BISHOP,

Hon. Ranking Member GRIJALVA.

As directors of the co-managing agencies charged with conserving fish and wildlife in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, we are writing to express our support for H.R. 2083, the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act, with amendments proposed by our three agencies and the Columbia River treaty tribes. Passage of this legislation is critical to ensuring we can manage the ever-increasing issue of predation on sturgeon, lamprey, and Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon and steelhead in the Columbia Basin.

Our agencies are acutely aware of the many issues facing salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon in the basin. We continue to advocate for actions to the hydro-system, hatcheries, harvest, and habitat to support the recovery of this region's iconic fish runs. However, if we avoid taking the hard step of managing sea lions in the basin, recovery will be all the more difficult for some stocks, while others will be placed on a rapid pathway to extinction. We have already seen this happen at Ballard Locks in Washington. Sea

lions are not a scapegoat, but managing predation is now an essential part of recovering fish runs in the Columbia.

As amended, H.R. 2083 ensures that we retain the strong environmental protections of the Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) and the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA), while allowing managers the flexibility to manage sea lions in the Columbia basin. The changes proposed in the bill will allow the MMPA and the ESA to work together to benefit both fish and sea lions.

H.R. 2083 provides managers flexibility to proactively remove sea lions that are foraging on ESA-listed salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon over 100+ miles from the ocean. These are locations where sea lions did not historically forage. Over a decade of scientific research has shown that 1) the diet of sea lions at these locations is almost exclusively salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon and 2) once sea lions locate these areas, they return year after year. It only makes sense to recognize the body of science that has accumulated on this issue and adjust our management accordingly to prevent sea lions habituating to these areas.

Sea lion predation is not just an issue at the dams. Increasingly we are observing sea lions forage in many of the undammed tributaries to the lower Columbia River. Many of these tributaries contain our healthiest salmon and steelhead populations and have large tracts of pristine habitat. These runs are critical to recovering the larger salmon and steelhead Evolutionary significant units (ESU). Without passage of H.R. 2083 we can do nothing to prevent sea lions gaining a toehold in these areas which, as we have seen at Willamette Falls and Ballard Locks, places the fish on a pathway to extirpation before action can be taken.

H.R. 2083 will have no impact on sea lion populations, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently published a paper demonstrating that California sea lions are at carrying capacity. Their population in the United States is projected to fluctuate between 250,000-300,000 individuals in the foreseeable future. Additionally, NOAA is required under the MMPA to calculate the Potential Biological Removal (PBR) level, or the number of animals that could be removed from the population without affecting its viability. For California sea lions, that number is currently 9.200. As a margin of safety, the proposed legislation caps the removals at no more than 10% of this number, for a total annual removal not to exceed 920. This is an extremely conservative number when put in context of the overall population. Moreover, in the Columbia River, there are only around 300 sea lions exhibiting the problem behavior, and they are all males. Thus, removal of these few animals will have no impact on the population.

H.R. 2083 ensures the process currently used to oversee permitting and program implementation stays intact. Before new permitting there will be a NEPA review, a public comment period, and a taskforce process. After a permit is issued, the federally appointed taskforce is required to evaluate the program annually and make recommendations to NMFS to improve its effectiveness.

H.R. 2083 does not expand the limit on the number of animals that may be lethally removed. Current law provides no limit to the number that the National Marine Fisheries Service may authorize states to remove. H.R. 2083 strengthens this by placing a basinwide cap on removal numbers that is linked to best available science. This means that if sea lion populations ever decline, the number of animals States and Treaty Tribes can remove will also decline.

Our agencies are committed to ensuring our iconic salmon, steelhead, and sturgeon are conserved for current and future generations and that we have healthy and thriving pinniped populations. We would be deeply grateful for your acknowledgement that the issue of pinniped predation in the Columbia River must be addressed legislatively. We cannot thank you enough for your support on this issue.

Sincerely,

JOE STOHR. Acting Director, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. CURTIS E. MELCHER, Director, Oregon Department of Fishand Wildlife. VIRGIL MOORE. Director, Idaho Fish and Game. JAIME A. PINKHAM, Executive Director. Columbia River Inter-Tribal FishCommission.

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Chairman, I want to speak to one piece. I keep hearing that this isn't a silver bullet. No one is claiming that this is a silver bullet. This is a step in the right direction to protect endangered salmon runs that are critical for commercial, recreational, and Tribal resource use. This is really iconic to the Pacific Northwest, and it is part of our heritage. It is something that we would like to pass on to our kids and our grandkids. Passing this bill today allows us to do that.

Ratepayers are so committed to this. In the States of Washington and Oregon, ratepayers who fund the Bonneville Power Administration and the dam—the hydro system—spend hundreds of millions of dollars a year. If you get it all together, it almost cracks \$1 billion annually that is spent in mitigation efforts to protect the species that are impacted.

As ratepayers, we spend a lot of money to protect and support these runs because it is so specific and unique to our way of life. This is a critical thing for us. It is one of those things where you literally can stand on the shore of the Columbia River and you can watch sea lions toss salmon, and you watch them play with salmon. You can come across carcasses of salmon on the river with a single bite mark taken out.

I walked across and found a sturgeon longer than my arm with a single bite mark taken out of her stomach. Basically they took the eggs—they took the caviar—and then let it go.

We look at that and we think we, as ratepayers, because we spend hundreds of millions of dollars to protect these runs and bring them back into fuller health, to watch these animals not even eat a full meal but just play with them, it makes you sick, Mr. Chairman.

So if you are someone who believes in protecting species and having a balanced ecosystem—this isn't about picking one species over the other. This is literally us trying to restore some balance here. It is one of those things where you would have to fight hard to find a reason not to support this.

When very liberal Governors and very conservative Republican Governors come in and ask us to pass this legislation, it should cause you to stop and pause. This is one of those things that this body should be about, and today is a good chance to take a step forward in protecting these wild runs.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I want to indicate that the proponents of the legislation on both sides of the aisle, I understand, are representing not only constituent interests, but what they see is a good piece of legislation.

Let me just end by saying that similar legislation has been proposed in previous Congresses, but this bill would allow more killing of seals and sea lions than all of those before it. When this version of the bill was introduced in 2015, it proposed an annual taking of 92 California sea lions. Under this legislation, H.R. 2083, this would increase by tenfold and would include the killing of Stellar sea lions and harbor seals. I am disappointed that the legislation before us today has gone in that direction.

Mr. Chairman, I urge a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, we have heard a lot of debate. This has been a good debate. I have been struck by the fact that every single speaker from the Northwest, on both sides of the aisle, has spoken in favor of this piece of legislation.

□ 1515

I find that very remarkable. Rarely do we have that kind of consensus, and yet we have that here with H.R. 2083.

Just to conclude, I would say that this is a commonsense piece of legislation. Unfortunately, the Federal Government sometimes has conflicting mandates. We have a law, on the one hand, that protects sea lions, but we have the endangered status of various salmon. These two are in conflict, unfortunately.

So let's take the side of the endangered species. We can do so on a limited and scientific basis, with the way that this bill has been crafted through a lot of compromise. In fact, before it even takes effect, there will be an environmental impact statement, which is a very lengthy process with lots of public comment, lots of judicial scrutiny, and so on.

So I find this to be a very commonsense piece of legislation with a lot of compromise built in, a lot of consensus. It makes so much sense that I hope that there would be no opposition or almost no opposition when this comes up for a vote. Let's all adopt H.R. 2083, a great piece of legislation for our environment.

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Chair, today, I voted in support of H.R. 2083, the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act. This was a difficult decision.

I voted for this bill because I strongly support the recovery of wild native fish populations in the Columbia River and its tributaries. There is an immediate, serious risk to native steelhead, among other fish, that this bill seeks to reduce.

I, however, do not view this bill as a wise long-term strategy for salmon and steelhead recovery in the Columbia River Basin. While the detrimental impacts of sea lions need to be addressed, human-caused factors are the primary driver in the declining salmon and steelhead populations. Instead of focusing on sea lions-another protected species with an important role in our ecosystem—let's actually confront the damage that we ourselves have caused. Pitting one treasured species against another does nothing to address the damage and obstacles that humans have forced upon this vital Pacific Northwest ecosystem.

This will not be easy. The impediments are many-the impacts from dams, habitat degradation, unprecedented climate disruption, and more. Regional partners have been working for years to address these issues, and thankfully our native fish are strikingly resilient. But we must do much, much more. Let's have a real conversation about the actual causes of salmon and steelhead decline and what we can do to meaningfully contribute to their recovery.

While this bill may reduce some short-term stressors, it is not a solution. Salmon and steelhead-iconic species in the Pacific Northwest-will only recover if we come together to face the facts and tackle the real issues that are our legacy—and our responsibility.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BARTON). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5minute rule.

It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 115-79. That amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 2083

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembed.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) prevention of predation by pinnipeds, recovery of salmonid stocks listed under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.), and prevention of the future listings of fish stocks in the Columbia River under such Act are a vital priority: and

(2) the Federal Government should continue to fund lethal and nonlethal removal of pinnipeds as well as deterrence measures for preventing such predation.

SEC. 3. TAKING OF PINNIPEDS ON THE COLUMBIA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES TO PROTECT ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES OF SALMON AND OTHER NONLISTED FISH SPE-CIES.

Section 120(f) of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1389(f)) is amended to read as follows:

"(f) TEMPORARY MARINE MAMMAL REMOVAL AUTHORITY ON THE WATERS OF THE COLUMBIA RIVER AND ITS TRIBUTARIES .-

"(1) Removal authority.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary may issue a permit to an eligible entity to authorize the intentional lethal taking on the waters of the Columbia River and its tributaries of individually identifiable pinnipeds that are part of a population or stock that is not categorized under this Act as depleted or strategic for the purpose of protecting-

'(A) species of salmon, steelhead, or eulachon that are listed as endangered species or threatened species under the Endangered Species Act

of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.); and "(B) species of lamprey or sturgeon that are not listed as endangered or threatened but are listed as a species of concern.

(2) PERMIT PROCESS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity may apply to the Secretary for a permit under this subsection.

"(B) Deadline for consideration of appli-CATION.—The timelines and procedures described in subsection (c) shall apply to applications for permits under this subsection in the same manner such timelines apply to applica-

tions under subsection (b).
"(C) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall establish procedures for coordination among eligible entities, including application procedures and timelines, geographic and species-specific considerations, and monitoring and periodic re-

"(D) DURATION OF PERMIT.—A permit under this subsection shall be effective for not more than 5 years and may be renewed by the Secretaru

"(3) LIMITATIONS ON ANNUAL TAKINGS.—The process for determining limitations on annual take of pinnipeds will follow the process established in subsection (c) and the cumulative number of pinnipeds authorized to be taken each year under all permits in effect under this subsection shall not exceed 10 percent of the annual potential biological removal level for pinnipeds.

'(4) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS.—Intentional lethal takings under this subsection shall be hu $mane\ and\ shall\ be\ implemented\ by\ agencies\ or$ qualified individuals described in subsection (c)(4), or by individuals employed by the eligible

entities described in paragraph (6).

"(5) Suspension of Permitting Authority.— If, 5 years after the date of the enactment of the Endangered Salmon and Fisheries Predation Prevention Act, the Secretary, after consulting with State and tribal fishery managers, determines that lethal removal authority is no longer necessary to protect salmonid and other fish species from pinniped predation, the Secretary shall suspend the issuance of permits under this subsection

'(6) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.

"(A) IN GENERAL.—
"(i) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, subject to subparagraph (B), the term 'eligible entity'

'(I) with respect to removal in the mainstem of the Columbia River and its tributaries, the State of Washington, the State of Oregon, and the State of Idaho;

'(II) with respect to removal in the mainstem of the Columbia River and its tributaries, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission; and

'(ii) Delegation authority.—The Secretary may allow an eligible entity described in clause (i)(II) to delegate its authority under a permit under this subsection to any entity described in clause (i)(II).

'(B) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY.-

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the approval of the Secretary and in consultation with the Indian Tribes in subparagraph (A)(i)(II)—

"(I) the State of Washington may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Cowlitz Indian Tribe for deterrence and removal of sea lions on the Cowlitz River.

"(II) the State of Oregon may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians of Oregon for deterrence and removal of sea lions on the Willamette River.

"(ii) CONSIDERATIONS.—In determining eligibility under this subparagraph, the Secretary shall consider the capacity of each Indian tribe to manage wildlife to meet the requirements of this Act.

"(7) INDIVIDUAL EXCEPTION.—For purposes of this section, any pinniped located upstream of Columbia River river mile 112, or in any tributary to the Columbia River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead is deemed to be individually identifiable

"(8) SIGNIFICANT NEGATIVE IMPACT EXCEPTION.—For purposes of this section, any pinniped located in the mainstem of the Columbia River upstream of river mile 112, or in any tributary to the Columbia River that includes spawning habitat of threatened or endangered salmon or steelhead is deemed to be having a significant negative impact on the decline or recovery of salmonid fishery stocks described in subsection (b)(1).

"(9) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'Indian tribe' has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)."

SEC. 4. TREATY RIGHTS OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED INDIAN TRIBES.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to affect or modify any treaty or other right of an Indian Tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

The Acting CHAIR. No amendment to that amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 115–783. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. KILMER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 115–783.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike "pinnipeds" in each place it appears and insert "sea lions".

Strike "pinniped" in each place it appears and insert "sea lion".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 961, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. KILMER) and a Member opposed each will control 5

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Washington.

minutes.

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to H.R. 2083.

This simple amendment would narrow the scope of this bill to clarify our intent that the lethal take authority should be limited to sea lions, rather than all pinnipeds.

This small but important distinction will help to ensure this authority targets only those animals that pose an imminent threat to our native ESA-listed salmon and steelhead stocks.

It will also help to align our bill with the Senate version that was recently introduced by Senators Cantwell and RISCH, hopefully ensuring that this bill gets across the finish line as quickly as possible.

That is absolutely critical, because some of our most vulnerable stocks face an imminent risk of extinction due to nonnative sea lion predation. So we must act now if we are going to save these runs.

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

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, we have no objection to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Chair, I have no further speakers on this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I thank the majority for their support of this amendment and for moving this important legislation forward, and I urge my colleagues to adopt it.

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

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

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 2 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. VARGAS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 115–783.

Mr. VARGAS. 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:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. _. REPORT AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall study and report to the Congress on the potential effects of the lethal taking of pinnipeds on the recovery of salmonid stocks in the waters of the Columbia River and the tributaries of the Columbia River.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Section 3 shall take effect on the date that the Secretary submits to the Congress the report required under subsection (a).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 961, the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. VARGAS

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that my amendment be modified with the form I have placed at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the modification.

The Clerk read as follows:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. _. REPORT.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall study and report to the Congress on the potential effects of the lethal taking of pinnipeds on the recovery of salmonid stocks in the waters of the Columbia River and the tributaries of the Columbia River.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is modified.

The gentleman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Chairman, salmon recovery is economically and culturally important to the country.

Recovery efforts must be rooted in science to address the most prevalent threats: fish passage at dams, pesticides, fishing pressures, interactions with hatchery fish, and habitat loss.

Currently, there is very little scientific evidence that sea lion predation has played a significant role in the overall decline of these salmon stocks.

My amendment would rectify this lack of scientific evidence by requiring the Secretary of the Interior study and report to Congress on the effects of lethal takings of sea lions on the recovery of salmon stocks in the Columbia River system.

If we are going to expand the lethal takings of sea lions, we should make sure it will help the salmon recover.

Mr. Chair, \bar{I} urge adoption of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. Mr. Chairman, we have no objection to this amendment, as modified.

The Acting CHAIR. Without objection, the gentleman from Colorado is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

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

Mr. VARGAS. Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. VARGAS).

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. EMMER) having assumed the chair, Mr.

Luetkemever

M.

Luian Grisham.

Luján, Ben Ray

MacArthur

Marchant

Marino

Massie

Matsui

McCaul

McCarthy

McClintock

McCollum

McHenry

McMorris

Meadows

Mitchell

Moulton

Newhouse

Mullin

Noem

Nolan

Nunes

Olson

Palazzo

Palmer

Paulsen

Pearce

Perry

Peters

Peterson

Pittenger

Poe (TX)

Poliquin

Ratcliffe

Reichert

Renacci

Rice (NY)

Rice (SC)

Roe (TN)

Rokita

Rogers (AL)

Rogers (KY)

Rohrabacher

Rooney, Francis

Rooney, Thomas

Roby

Posey

Reed

Perlmutter

Norman

O'Halleran

O'Rourke

Moolenaar

Mooney (WV)

Murphy (FL)

Meng

Messei

Rodgers

Mast

Marshall

BARTON, 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. 2083) to amend the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 to reduce predation on endangered Columbia River salmon and other nonlisted species, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 961, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the amendment reported from the Committee of Whole?

If not, the question is on the amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. LAMBORN. 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, this 15minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by 5-minute votes on:

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5841; and.

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 288, nays 116, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 294]

YEAS-288

Bucshon Diaz-Balart Abraham Aderholt Budd Dingell Aguilar Burgess Duffy Duncan (SC) Allen Bustos Amodei Byrne Duncan (TN) Arrington Calvert Dunn Carter (TX) Babin Emmer Castro (TX) Bacon Eshoo Banks (IN) Chabot Estes (KS) Esty (CT) Barletta Chenev Barr Coffman Faso Barton Cole Ferguson Collins (GA) Fleischmann Beatty Collins (NY) Bergman Comstock Fortenberry Foxx Beyer Conaway Frelinghuysen Biggs Cook Bilirakis Cooper Gaetz Gallagher Bishop (GA) Costa Bishop (MI) Costello (PA) Garamendi Bishop (UT) Courtney Garrett Blackburn Cramer Gianforte Gibbs Blum Crawford Blumenauer Gohmert Cuellar Gonzalez (TX) Bonamici Culberson Goodlatte Curbelo (FL) Bost Brady (TX) Davis (CA) Gosar Brat Davis, Rodney Gottheimer Brooks (AL) DeFazio Granger Graves (GA) DelBene Brooks (IN) Brown (MD) Denham Graves (LA) Brownley (CA) DeSantis Graves (MO) Green, Gene Buck DesJarlais

Hanabusa Handel Harris Hartzler Heck Hensarling Herrera Beutler Hice, Jody B. Higgins (LA) Himes Holding Hollingsworth Hudson Huffman Huizenga Hultgren Hunter Hurd Issa Jayapal Jenkins (KS) Jenkins (WV) Johnson (LA) Johnson (OH) Johnson, E. B Jones Jordan Joyce (OH) Katko Kelly (MS) Kelly (PA) Kildee Kilmer Kind King (IA) King (NY) Kinzinger Knight Kuster (NH) Kustoff (TN) Labrador LaHood LaMalfa Lamb Lamborn Lance Larsen (WA) Larson (CT) Latta Lesko Levin Lewis (MN) Lipinski LoBiondo Loebsack Long Loudermilk Love Lucas

Adams

Amash

Bass

F.

Barragán

Brady (PA)

Butterfield

Buchanan

Capuano

Carbajal

Cárdenas

Carson (IN)

Cartwright

Castor (FL)

Chu, Judy

Clark (MA)

Cicilline

Cleaver

Clyburn

Connolly

Cummings

Davidson

Delaney

DeLauro

Demings

DeSaulnier

Davis, Danny

Cohen

Correa

Crist

Clay

Blunt Rochester

Boyle, Brendan

Griffith

Guthrie

Grothman

Ros-Lehtinen NAYS-116

Deutch Doggett Doyle, Michael F. Espaillat Evans Fitzpatrick Foster Frankel (FL) Fudge Gabbard Gallego Gomez Green, Al Grijalya. Hastings Higgins (NY) Hover Jackson Lee Jeffries Johnson (GA) Kaptur Keating Kelly (IL) Kennedy Khanna Kihuen Krishnamoorthi Langevin Lawrence

Lawson (FL)

Lee Lewis (GA) Lieu, Ted Lofgren Lowenthal Lowey Lynch Maloney, Sean McEachin McGovern McNerney Nadler Napolitano Nea1 Norcross Pallone Panetta Pascrell Payne Pelosi Pingree Pocan Price (NC) Quigley Raskin Richmond Rosen Roybal-Allard Ryan (OH) Sanford Sarbanes Schakowsky Schiff Schneider Scott (VA)

Roskam Ross Rothfus Rouzer Royce (CA) Ruppersberger Russell Rutherford Sánchez Scalise Schrader Schweikert Scott, Austin Scott, David Sensenbrenner Sessions Sherman Shimkus Shuster Simpson Sinema Smith (MO) Smith (NE) Smith (NJ) Smith (TX) Smith (WA) Smucker Stefanik Stewart Stivers Suozzi Taylor Tenney Thompson (CA) Thompson (PA) Thornberry Tipton Trott Turner Upton Valadao Veasey Vela Wagner Walberg Walden Walker Walorski Walters, Mimi Weber (TX) Webster (FL) Wenstrup Westerman Williams Wilson (FL) Wittman Womack Woodall Yoder Yoho Young (AK) Young (IA) Zeldin

Serrano Sires Soto Speier Swalwell (CA) Takano Titus

Tonko Torres Tsongas Vargas Velázquez Visclosky Walz

Wasserman Schultz Waters, Maxine Watson Coleman Welch Yarmuth

NOT VOTING-

Black Carter (GA) Clarke (NY) Comer Crowley Curtis DeGette Donovan

Ellison Meeks Engel Moore Gowdy Polis Gutiérrez Rush Johnson, Sam Sewell (AL) Maloney, Shea-Porter Carolyn B Thompson (MS) McSallv Wilson (SC)

 \Box 1552

Messrs. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, NORCROSS, CUMMINGS, AL GREEN of Texas, COHEN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. DELANEY changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Messrs. LARSON of Connecticut, VELA, BEYER, and BERA changed their vote from to "yea."

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to allow for the taking of pinnipeds on the Columbia River and its tributaries to protect endangered and threatened species of salmon and other nonlisted fish species."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FOREIGN INVESTMENT RISK RE-VIEW MODERNIZATION ACT

SPEAKER pro tempore HOLDING). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5841) to modernize and strengthen the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States to more effectively guard against the risk to the national security of the United States posed by certain types of foreign investment, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 2, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 295]

YEAS-400

Abraham Bergman Adams Aderholt Beyer Biggs Aguilar Bilirakis Allen Bishop (GA) Amodei Bishop (MI) Arrington Bishop (UT) Babin Blackburn Bacon Blum Banks (IN) Blumenauer Barletta Blunt Rochester Bonamici Barr Barragán Barton Boyle, Brendan Beatty Brady (PA)

Brady (TX) Brat Brooks (AL) Brooks (IN) Brown (MD) Brownley (CA) Buchanan Buck Bucshon Budd Burgess

Bustos Butterfield Byrne Calvert Capuano