

Further, the Act directs the FCC to study and report to Congress on the effectiveness of the current National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, including how well it addresses the needs of veterans.

Mr. Speaker, our citizens and our suicide prevention centers deserve decisive action against suicide.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for H.R. 2345 to reduce the incidence of suicides in America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2345, 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. LANCE. 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.

PRECISION AGRICULTURE CONNECTIVITY ACT OF 2018

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4881) to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force for meeting the connectivity and technology needs of precision agriculture in the United States, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4881

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Precision agriculture technologies and practices allow farmers to significantly increase crop yields, eliminate overlap in operations, and reduce inputs such as seed, fertilizer, pesticides, water, and fuel.

(2) These technologies allow farmers to collect data in real time about their fields, automate field management, and maximize resources.

(3) Studies estimate that precision agriculture technologies can reduce agricultural operation costs by up to 25 dollars per acre and increase farm yields by up to 70 percent by 2050.

(4) The critical cost savings and productivity benefits of precision agriculture cannot be realized without the availability of reliable broadband Internet access service delivered to the agricultural land of the United States.

(5) The deployment of broadband Internet access service to unserved agricultural land is critical to the United States economy and to the continued leadership of the United States in global food production.

(6) Despite the growing demand for broadband Internet access service on agricultural land, broadband Internet access service is not consistently available where needed for agricultural operations.

(7) The Federal Communications Commission has an important role to play in the deployment of broadband Internet access service on unserved agricultural land to promote precision agriculture.

SEC. 3. TASK FORCE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

(1) the term "broadband Internet access service"—

(A) means a mass-market retail service by wire or radio that provides the capability to transmit data to and receive data from all or substantially all Internet endpoints, including any capabilities that are incidental to and enable the operation of the communications service, but excluding dial-up Internet access service; and

(B) also encompasses any service that the Commission finds to be providing a functional equivalent of the service described in subparagraph (A);

(2) the term "Commission" means the Federal Communications Commission;

(3) the term "Department" means the Department of Agriculture;

(4) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture; and

(5) the term "Task Force" means the Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States established under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Commission shall establish the Task Force for Reviewing the Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall consult with the Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, and collaborate with public and private stakeholders in the agriculture and technology fields to—

(A) identify and measure current gaps in the availability of broadband Internet access service on agricultural land;

(B) develop policy recommendations to promote the rapid, expanded deployment of broadband Internet access service on unserved agricultural land, with a goal of achieving reliable capabilities on 95 percent of agricultural land in the United States by 2025;

(C) promote effective policy and regulatory solutions that encourage the adoption of broadband Internet access service on farms and ranches and promote precision agriculture;

(D) recommend specific new rules or amendments to existing rules of the Commission that the Commission should issue to achieve the goals and purposes of the policy recommendations described in subparagraph (B);

(E) recommend specific steps that the Commission should take to obtain reliable and standardized data measurements of the availability of broadband Internet access service as may be necessary to target funding support, from future programs of the Commission dedicated to the deployment of broadband Internet access service, to unserved agricultural land in need of broadband Internet access service; and

(F) recommend specific steps that the Commission should consider to ensure that the expertise of the Secretary and available farm data are reflected in future programs of the Commission dedicated to the infrastructure deployment of broadband Internet access service and to direct available funding to unserved agricultural land where needed.

(2) NO DUPLICATE DATA REPORTING.—In performing the duties of the Commission under paragraph (1), the Commission shall ensure that no provider of broadband Internet ac-

cess service is required to report data to the Commission that is, on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, required to be reported by the provider of broadband Internet access service.

(3) HOLD HARMLESS.—The Task Force and the Commission shall not interpret the phrase "future programs of the Commission", as used in subparagraphs (E) and (F) of paragraph (1), to include the universal service programs of the Commission established under section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 254).

(4) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, shall explain and make available to the Task Force the expertise, data mapping information, and resources of the Department that the Department uses to identify cropland, rangeland, and other areas with agricultural operations that may be helpful in developing the recommendations required under paragraph (1).

(5) LIST OF AVAILABLE FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary and the Commission shall jointly submit to the Task Force a list of all Federal programs or resources available for the expansion of broadband Internet access service on unserved agricultural land to assist the Task Force in carrying out the duties of the Task Force.

(d) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall be—

(A) composed of not more than 15 voting members who shall—

(i) be selected by the Chairman of the Commission, in consultation with the Secretary; and

(ii) include—

(I) agricultural producers representing diverse geographic regions and farm sizes, including owners and operators of farms of less than 100 acres;

(II) an agricultural producer representing tribal agriculture;

(III) Internet service providers, including regional or rural fixed and mobile broadband Internet access service providers and telecommunications infrastructure providers;

(IV) representatives from the electric cooperative industry;

(V) representatives from the satellite industry;

(VI) representatives from precision agriculture equipment manufacturers, including drone manufacturers, manufacturers of autonomous agricultural machinery, and manufacturers of farming robotics technologies;

(VII) representatives from State and local governments; and

(VIII) representatives with relevant expertise in broadband network data collection, geospatial analysis, and coverage mapping; and

(B) fairly balanced in terms of technologies, points of view, and fields represented on the Task Force.

(2) PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Task Force appointed under paragraph (1)(A) shall serve for a single term of 2 years.

(B) VACANCIES.—Any vacancy in the Task Force—

(i) shall not affect the powers of the Task Force; and

(ii) shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment.

(3) EX-OFFICIO MEMBER.—The Secretary, or a designee of the Secretary, shall serve as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the Task Force.

(e) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Commission establishes the Task Force, and annually thereafter, the Task Force shall submit to the Chairman of the Commission a report, which shall be made public not later than 30 days

after the date on which the Chairman receives the report, that details—

(1) the status of fixed and mobile broadband Internet access service coverage of agricultural land;

(2) the projected future connectivity needs of agricultural operations, farmers, and ranchers; and

(3) the steps being taken to accurately measure the availability of broadband Internet access service on agricultural land and the limitations of current, as of the date of the report, measurement processes.

(f) **TERMINATION.**—The Commission shall renew the Task Force every 2 years until the Task Force terminates on January 1, 2025.

SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act. This Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud, today, to rise in support of H.R. 4881, authored by my colleagues, Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee Chairman BOB LATTA and Congressman DAVE LOEBSACK.

New and exciting technologies are improving efficiency in nearly every sector of our economy. Rural America should not be left behind.

The bill before us today focuses on the broadband needs of rural economies, our farmers and ranchers, to help take advantage of precision agriculture with improved internet access, GPS, and emerging technologies.

Cutting-edge innovation like the Internet of Things, drones, and self-driving machines can assist in monitoring crops, reading soil, and more. Precision agriculture connects rural communities to the 21st century economy.

This bill is a prime example of how the Energy and Commerce Committee is leading the way to close the digital divide. I thank Mr. LATTA and Mr. LOEBSACK for their good work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 4881, the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act of 2018.

Access to broadband internet service is essential for participating in modern American life for both individuals and

businesses. Farmers are no different. For them, a reliable, high-speed internet connection has become a necessity for managing their businesses efficiently. Farmers use it to collect realtime data on crops, buy equipment, verify weather forecasts, and check grain and feed prices.

Studies estimate that the use of broadband in precision agriculture can increase crop yields by 70 percent by the year 2050 and significantly reduce operation costs. Yet many people living in this country still do not have reliable high-speed internet service.

The Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act of 2018 would help facilitate the deployment of broadband to agricultural land by establishing a task force, led by the Federal Communication Commission in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture. The task force will identify and measure gaps in the availability of broadband on agricultural lands.

It will also develop policy recommendations to promote the rapid expanded deployment of broadband on unserved agricultural lands and promote effective policy and regulatory solutions to encourage the adoption of broadband on farms and ranches.

Moreover, the task force will recommend specific steps that the FCC should take to obtain reliable and standardized data on the availability of broadband and make sure that such data is reflected in future FCC broadband infrastructure programs.

H.R. 4881 is a bipartisan, common-sense bill, and I want to thank the authors, Mr. LOEBSACK and Mr. LATTA, for the very hard work they have put into this measure. I urge my colleagues to support it today.

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

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA), the sponsor of the legislation and the distinguished chairman of the Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4881, the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act, as amended, to help improve high-speed broadband access for our Nation's farmers.

I represent the largest farm income-producing district in the State of Ohio; therefore, I am fortunate to visit farms across the region and learn about new technologies, like the Internet of Things equipment, that are helping to improve farm productivity and sustainability.

But the unfortunate reality is that lack of high-speed broadband in rural areas, specifically in farm communities, hinders the use of advanced technologies in agriculture operations. That is why I introduced H.R. 4881, along with my friend, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK).

Our bill would require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a task force, in collaboration with

the Department of Agriculture, to review the connectivity and technology needs of precision agriculture in the United States.

I believe by combining minds from these two expert agencies, along with relevant private stakeholders, the task force will be able to offer tangible solutions that will promote rapid, expanded deployment of broadband in unserved areas, creating a pathway for precision agriculture in our rural farmlands.

□ 1430

The true benefits of precision agriculture cannot be realized without the availability of reliable broadband internet access service. For example, with broadband, farmers can use connected tractors and other advanced technologies to collect field data in realtime to help with crop management. This type of technology helps farmers maximize resources, which can reduce costs and increase crop yields by up to 70 percent by 2050, helping to maintain America's long-term leadership in global food production.

Two farming seasons ago, I drove a tractor with GPS capabilities. My mom was raised on a farm in northwest Ohio, and, early on, my grandfather still used a team of horses. My grandfather would be amazed at how straight the furrows I made that day were, thanks to the connected tractor. I never touched the steering wheel. Because of broadband, the connected tractor was able to go down an entire row, without human control, and place fertilizer in furrows within one inch of where those seeds would be planted in the spring. It is technology like this that helps farmers maximize resources and promote environmentally sustainable practices.

My bill will encourage this type of technology by bringing much-needed broadband to rural, agricultural areas.

Not only do I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4881, but I would also like to quote the support of FCC Commissioner Carr. He said:

In my time on the Commission, I have seen firsthand the difference that broadband connectivity makes for America's farmers and ranchers.

He goes on to say:

... running agriculture operations today requires expertise in agronomy, technology, and data analytics. Bringing all of those skills together to improve crop yields and efficiency increasingly requires a high-speed broadband connection. So I am pleased to see this bill move forward and hope that it becomes law.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his handling of the bill today, and I urge support of the bill.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support passage of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I hope that everyone supports this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr.

LANCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4881, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. LANCE. 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.

PREVENTING ILLEGAL RADIO ABUSE THROUGH ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. LANCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5709) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to provide for enhanced penalties for pirate radio, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5709

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act" or the "PIRATE Act".

SEC. 2. PIRATE RADIO ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENTS.

Title V of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 511. ENHANCED PENALTIES FOR PIRATE RADIO BROADCASTING; ENFORCEMENT SWEEPS; REPORTING.

"(a) INCREASED GENERAL PENALTY.—Any person who willfully and knowingly does or causes or suffers to be done any pirate radio broadcasting shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$2,000,000.

"(b) VIOLATION OF THIS ACT, RULES, OR REGULATIONS.—Any person who willfully and knowingly violates this Act or any rule, regulation, restriction, or condition made or imposed by the Commission under authority of this Act, or any rule, regulation, restriction, or condition made or imposed by any international radio or wire communications treaty or convention, or regulations annexed thereto, to which the United States is or may hereafter become party, relating to pirate radio broadcasting shall, in addition to any other penalties provided by law, be subject to a fine of not more than \$100,000 for each day during which such offense occurs, in accordance with the limit described in subsection (a).

"(c) FACILITATION.—Any person who knowingly and intentionally facilitates pirate radio broadcasting shall be subject to a fine of not more than \$2,000,000.

"(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of enactment of the PIRATE Act, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation a report summarizing the implementation of this section and associated enforcement activities for the previous fiscal year, which may include the efforts by the Commission to enlist the cooperation of Federal, State, and local law enforcement personnel (including United States Attorneys and the United States Mar-

shals Service) for service of process, collection of fines or forfeitures, seizures of equipment, and enforcement of orders.

"(e) ENFORCEMENT SWEEPS.—

"(1) ANNUAL SWEEPS.—Not less than once each year, the Commission shall assign appropriate enforcement personnel to focus specific and sustained attention on the elimination of pirate radio broadcasting within the top five radio markets identified as prevalent for such broadcasts. Such effort shall include identifying, locating, and taking enforcement actions designed to terminate such operations.

"(2) ADDITIONAL MONITORING.—Within six months after conducting the enforcement sweeps required by paragraph (1), the Commission shall conduct monitoring sweeps to ascertain whether the pirate radio broadcasting identified by enforcement sweeps is continuing to broadcast and whether additional pirate radio broadcasting is occurring.

"(3) NO EFFECT ON REMAINING ENFORCEMENT.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the Commission shall not decrease or diminish the regular enforcement efforts targeted to pirate radio broadcast stations for other times of the year.

"(f) STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT AUTHORITY.—The Commission may not preempt any State or local law prohibiting pirate radio broadcasting.

"(g) REVISION OF COMMISSION RULES REQUIRED.—The Commission shall revise its rules to require that, absent good cause, in any case alleging a violation of subsection (a) or (b), the Commission shall proceed directly to issue a 'Notice of Apparent Liability' without first issuing a 'Notice of Unlicensed Operations'.

"(h) PIRATE RADIO BROADCASTING DATABASE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, and semi-annually thereafter, the Commission shall publish a database in a clear and legible format of all licensed radio stations operating in the AM and FM bands. The database shall be easily accessible from the Commission home page through a direct link. The database shall include the following information:

"(A) Each licensed station, listed by the assigned frequency, channel number, or Commission call letters.

"(B) All entities that have received a Notice of Unlicensed Operation, Notice of Apparent Liability, or Forfeiture Order by the Commission.

"(2) CLEAR IDENTIFICATION.—The Commission shall clearly identify in the database—

"(A) each licensed station as a station licensed by the Commission; and

"(B) each entity described in paragraph (1)(B) as operating without a Commission license or authorization.

"(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) PIRATE RADIO BROADCASTING.—The term 'pirate radio broadcasting' means the transmission of communications on spectrum frequencies between 535 to 1705 kHz or 87.7 to 108 MHz without a license issued by the Federal Communications Commission, but does not include unlicensed operations in compliance with part 15 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations.

"(2) FACILITATES.—The term 'facilitates' means providing access to property (and improvements thereon) or providing physical goods or services, including providing housing, facilities, or financing, that directly aid pirate radio broadcasting.

"(3) KNOWINGLY AND INTENTIONALLY.—The term 'knowingly and intentionally' means the person was previously served by the Commission with a notice of unlicensed operations, notice of apparent liability, or cita-

tion for efforts to facilitate pirate radio broadcasting."

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendment made by this Act. This Act and the amendment made by this Act shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. LANCE) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume because, in my judgment, this is an important bill that we should all support.

The Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act, or PIRATE Act, combats the very serious issue of unlawful broadcasting, often called "pirate radio," and gives the Federal Communications Commission additional powers to issue fines on any person who willfully and knowingly broadcasts radio transmissions over AM or FM frequencies without a license from the Federal Communications Commission.

I thank my colleague, Congressman TONKO of New York, for joining me in offering this bipartisan legislation.

New Jersey, where I live, has one of the largest concentrations of pirate radio operators in the country. Pirate radio signals have been found to interfere with the emergency alert system and Federal Aviation Administration operations, causing significant harm to public safety. They also disrupt the business of licensed broadcasters who comply with the multitude of FCC regulations. Minority-owned broadcasters are disproportionately harmed by pirate radio operators in urban areas.

Knocking down pirate radio broadcasts prevents these bad actors from interfering with the licensed broadcasters public safety officials rely on to transmit communications during times of emergency. These unlawful broadcasts are interfering with the news and information programming people count on and needlessly clogging the information highway at important times.

It is time to take these pirates off the air by hiking the penalties and working with the Federal Communications Commission on enforcement. Chairman Pai and Commissioner O'Rielly have been able partners in