

Government have murdered, detained, and tortured innocent people peacefully standing up for their rights. Stories of Nicaraguan protesters being electrocuted and waterboarded by gangs aligned with the Ortega regime continue to horrify the international community.

While the Ortegas may condemn foreign interference in their affairs, let us be clear: The United States condemns the violence, the persecution, the intimidation, and the murders of peaceful protesters by the Ortega security forces and his henchmen.

We support the people of Nicaragua in their pursuit for democracy, including their call for free and fair elections overseen by credible domestic and international observers, and we demand that Nicaragua release those individuals wrongfully detained by the government.

Again, I want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, ED ROYCE and ELIOT ENGEL. I want to take this opportunity to thank ED ROYCE for his last 3 years of bipartisan work. I want to tell the gentleman that I really appreciate being on his committee and serving with him on this committee. I thank the gentleman for his service.

I also want to thank both my good friend ELIOT ENGEL as well, who is my counterpart on the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, and Chairman PAUL COOK for their strong bipartisan leadership.

I also want to thank my good friend from Florida, ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, whom I have worked with and admired for many, many years, for her decades of unwavering dedication to promoting democracy and human rights around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I urge all Members to do the same.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I shared with this body the letter from my constituent and neighbor outlining what had happened to her village where she had grown up and how she had lost friends at the hands of a gang allied with Daniel Ortega quite recently who attacked the village. So I want to thank ALBIO SIREs, Chairman Emeritus Ros-Lehtinen, and others who worked on this resolution for bringing this bipartisan measure forward.

I want to thank them for their continued leadership. Because of the continued attacks on demonstrators in Nicaragua, the shooting up of churches, and the threatening of priests there, hundreds of protesters have been murdered, and thousands more have been injured. This is unacceptable.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, it is imperative that this body, and our friends and allies across the region, continue to call on Daniel Ortega to end the violence and to allow free and fair elections in Nicaragua.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 981, and to condemn the Ortega regime's escalating, brutal campaign against its own people.

Ortega has now been in charge of Nicaragua for 22 of the last 39 years. After years of consolidating power by installing his wife as vice president, and gradually chipping away at the power of the judiciary and congress, Ortega has now dropped all pretense of being anything other than an authoritarian leader.

More than 300 people have now died in Nicaragua for having the courage to speak out against his and his wife's dictatorial rule. Ortega has now shown himself willing to target members of the clergy for fulfilling their sacred duty to recognize the value of human life, and for putting themselves in harm's way to try to protect their people.

This should be unacceptable to the U.S. and to the international community. I commend my colleague Rep. ROS-LEHTINEN for taking a stand, and I encourage the executive branch to use all non-military means available to hold Ortega accountable for these deaths and to stop the carnage in Nicaragua.

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 agree to the resolution, H. Res. 981, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENERGY DIPLOMACY ACT OF 2018

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5535) to amend the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 regarding energy diplomacy and security within the Department of State, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5535

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 "Energy Diplomacy Act of 2018".

SEC. 2. ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) ENERGY RESOURCES.—

“(A) AUTHORIZATION FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—Subject to the numerical limitation specified in paragraph (1), there is authorized to be established in the Department of State an Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources.

“(B) PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of State shall ensure that there are sufficient per-

sonnel dedicated to energy matters within the Department of State who shall be responsible for—

“(i) formulating and implementing international policies, in coordination with Secretary of Energy, as appropriate, aimed at protecting and advancing United States energy security interests by effectively managing United States bilateral and multilateral relations in the fields of petroleum, natural gas, biofuels, renewable energy, nuclear, and other energy resources;

“(ii) ensuring that analyses of the national security implications of global energy and environmental developments are reflected in the decision making process within the Department of State;

“(iii) incorporating energy security priorities into the activities of the Department of State;

“(iv) coordinating energy activities within the Department of State and with relevant Federal agencies;

“(v) working internationally to—

“(I) support the development of energy resources and the distribution of such resources for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners for their energy security and economic development needs;

“(II) promote availability of diversified energy supplies and a well-functioning global market for energy resources, technologies, and expertise for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners;

“(III) resolve international disputes regarding the exploration, development, production, or distribution of energy resources;

“(IV) support the economic and commercial interests of United States persons operating in the energy markets of foreign countries; and

“(V) support and coordinate international efforts to alleviate energy poverty;

“(vi) leading the United States commitment to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative;

“(vii) coordinating within the Department of State and with relevant Federal departments and agencies on developing and implementing international energy-related sanctions; and

“(viii) coordinating energy security and other relevant functions within the Department of State currently undertaken by—

“(I) the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs of the Department of State;

“(II) the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs of the Department of State; and

“(III) other offices within the Department of State.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 931 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17371) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b); and

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SIREs) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as America's energy production has increased, and as Chairman MIKE McCAUL, the author of the measure, can tell you, our Nation's influence in global energy policy has grown.

The U.S. is now the world's top producer of petroleum. It is also the top producer of natural gas for the fifth straight year. I will add to that: The United States has become more energy efficient.

Our abundant supply of energy resources is not only good for our economy, it is also good for our national security. It offers American allies a critical alternative to countries like Russia, which use their energy resources to bully their neighbors, in the case of Vladimir Putin, and, in the case of the global oil cartel OPEC, enrich its member states at the expense of U.S. consumers.

In this moment of heightened American energy leadership, it is critical that the State Department have the leadership and direction needed to fulfill its statutory responsibilities governing international energy diplomacy.

This bill, the Energy Diplomacy Act, will elevate America's energy security and diplomacy priorities. It authorizes an Assistant Secretary for Energy Resources at the State Department. This Assistant Secretary will replace the Coordinator for International Energy Affairs, demonstrating the importance of energy issues to our foreign policy and our national interests.

The Assistant Secretary will be responsible for developing and implementing policies to advance U.S. energy interests abroad by managing our relations in petroleum, in natural gas, in biofuels, in renewable energy, and in nuclear and other energy resources.

This bill also requires the State Department to use diplomacy to support the development of U.S. energy resources to bolster our energy security, grow our economy, and support our allies.

Mr. Speaker, for years, the world's leading petroleum producers have been rigging the world market by cutting production to drive up gasoline prices, and this hurts families in places like our home States. It is in our interests to promote the availability of diversified energy supplies in a functioning global market for energy resources, technologies, and expertise. That is exactly what this bill requires.

Energy policy expertise must be more deeply integrated in our foreign policy. As a major energy producing nation, it is time we elevate this important issue within our diplomatic ranks, which is what this bill will do.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman McCAUL for his work on this important measure with us today.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SIREs. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5535.

I would like to thank Congressman McCAUL, Chairman ROYCE, and Ranking Member ENGEL for their bipartisan work on this timely issue.

As it has for decades, energy will continue to play a key role in shaping United States foreign policy. But the international landscape is changing, and so are the players.

Global energy demand is set to rise 30 percent by the year 2030. This reflects an expanding global economy, rapid industrialization, population growth, urbanization, and improved energy access among developing countries.

For the United States to maintain a leading role on the global stage, the State Department must be positioned to protect and promote favorable energy policies abroad. The Energy Diplomacy Act of 2018 helps this effort by creating an Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources and requiring the State Department to employ sufficient personnel dedicated to international energy matters.

By passing this legislation, we can prepare the State Department to engage in robust energy diplomacy and encourage strong international partnerships that promote our own political, economic, environmental, and national security concerns.

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

Mr. ROYCE of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. McCAUL), who is the chairman of the Committee on Homeland Security and a senior member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs. The gentleman is the author of this measure.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, the Energy Diplomacy Act. Across the globe, our friends and allies want a stable and reliable supply of American energy. America, in turn, must actively engage our friends and allies to provide alternatives to energy from rogue regimes.

Look what is happening in Europe. For over a decade, Russia has used their natural gas pipelines flowing into Eastern and Central Europe as a point of leverage over these countries. Ukraine has been most affected, with Russia turning off their natural gas supply in the winter of 2008 and during the annexation of Crimea in 2014. By twisting a knob and turning off Ukrainian heat, they were able to exert an outsized amount of influence on Ukraine.

Now, Russia's proposed Nord Stream II pipeline with Germany further threatens to expand Russia's energy influence throughout Eastern and Central Europe.

Make no mistake: Russia is a destabilizing regime that constantly exploits the vulnerabilities posed by Europe's reliance on their natural gas.

The United States must be involved to curb this influence.

Over the past decade, the United States has reduced our reliance on foreign sources of energy in order to achieve energy independence. As a result, we are now exporting energy abroad, including from my home State of Texas. In fact, in 2015, I helped champion the repeal of the outdated crude oil export ban. Now, U.S. producers are finding new customers in both Asia and Europe.

That is why I authored the Energy Diplomacy Act. It elevates the Bureau of Energy Resources at the State Department. It replaces the International Energy Affairs Coordinator with an Assistant Secretary. This Assistant Secretary will carry out the State Department's functions on behalf of the United States.

It also ensures the State Department is staffed with sufficient personnel to support this mission. This will empower the State Department to promote and advance a bold U.S. energy diplomacy policy.

As energy-rich adversaries expand their malign influence and our allies continue to purchase from such states, the United States must project strong energy diplomacy now more than ever.

It is not just Russia with whom we are contending. One of Iran's main goals in negotiating their nuclear deal was to open up their energy markets to more foreign investment and to expand their oil exports globally.

Since the U.S. departed from the JCPOA, our European allies and our strategic partner India are deciding between complying with United States sanctions or ignoring them and buying Iranian oil.

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We also need our diplomats on the front lines promoting reliable American energy.

These two circumstances underscore the need for an Assistant Secretary for Energy Resources to project U.S. energy diplomacy throughout the world.

I want to thank Chairman ROYCE for his leadership, as well as Ranking Member ENGEL, an original cosponsor of my bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, the United States has long recognized that global energy security and cooperation are necessary to advance our economic, foreign policy, and national security interests. We must work with our established friends and allies to seize the opportunities and address the challenges we face. We must also work with the emerging economies that account for an ever-increasing amount of energy consumption and production.

H.R. 5535, the Energy Diplomacy Act, takes an important step toward ensuring that the State Department has the leadership and the capacity it needs to appropriately advance this critical aspect of U.S. foreign policy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues, Chairman MCCAUL, Ranking Member ENGEL, and Mr. SIREs, for crafting bipartisan legislation to ensure that the State Department has the leadership and the direction to support America's energy diplomacy priorities.

Working with our allies and partners in the private sector, we can counter Putin's weaponization of his energy resources and provide our allies with a stable alternative to unreliable energy suppliers whose priorities are self-enrichment and geopolitical self-interest at the expense of a functioning market.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of this bipartisan 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 California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5535, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

S. 1182, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 5864, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. The second electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

THE AMERICAN LEGION 100TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATIVE COIN ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1182) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the 100th anniversary of The American Legion, 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 Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 366, nays 52, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 373]

YEAS—366

Abraham	Doggett	Larson (CT)
Adams	Donovan	Latta
Aderholt	Doyle, Michael	Lawrence
Aguilar	F.	Lawson (FL)
Allen	Dunn	Lee
Amodei	Emmer	Levin
Arrington	Engel	Lewis (GA)
Babin	Eshoo	Lewis (MN)
Bacon	Españallat	Lieu, Ted
Barletta	Estes (KS)	Lipinski
Barr	Esty (CT)	LoBiondo
Barragán	Evans	Loeback
Bass	Faso	Loftgren
Beatty	Ferguson	Long
Bera	Fitzpatrick	Love
Bergman	Fleischmann	Lowenthal
Beyer	Flores	Lowe
Bilirakis	Fortenberry	Lucas
Bishop (GA)	Poster	Lujan Grisham,
Bishop (MI)	Frankel (FL)	M.
Bishop (UT)	Frelinghuysen	Luján, Ben Ray
Blackburn	Fudge	Lynch
Blum	Gabbard	MacArthur
Blunt Rochester	Gaetz	Maloney,
Bonamici	Gallego	Carolyn B.
Bost	Garamendi	Maloney, Sean
Boyle, Brendan	Gianforte	Marchant
F.	Gibbs	Marino
Brady (PA)	Gomez	Marshall
Brady (TX)	Gonzalez (TX)	Mast
Brooks (AL)	Goodlatte	Matsui
Brooks (IN)	Gottheimer	McCarthy
Brown (MD)	Gowdy	McCaul
Brownley (CA)	Granger	McCollum
Buchanan	Graves (GA)	McEachin
Bucshon	Graves (LA)	McGovern
Burgess	Graves (MO)	McHenry
Bustos	Green, Al	McKinley
Butterfield	Green, Gene	McMorris
Byrne	Griffith	Rodgers
Calvert	Grijalva	McNerney
Capuano	Guthrie	McSally
Carbajal	Gutiérrez	Meadows
Cárdenas	Handel	Meeks
Carson (IN)	Harper	Meng
Carter (GA)	Harris	Mitchell
Carter (TX)	Hartzler	Moolenaar
Cartwright	Hastings	Moulton
Castor (FL)	Heck	Mullin
Castro (TX)	Herrera Beutler	Murphy (FL)
Chu, Judy	Higgins (LA)	Nadler
Cicilline	Higgins (NY)	Napolitano
Clark (MA)	Hill	Neal
Clarke (NY)	Himes	Newhouse
Clay	Hoyer	Nolan
Cleaver	Huffman	Norcross
Cloud	Huizenga	Norman
Clyburn	Hultgren	Nunes
Coffman	Hunter	O'Halleran
Cohen	Hurd	O'Rourke
Cole	Issa	Olson
Collins (GA)	Jackson Lee	Palazzo
Collins (NY)	Jayapal	Pallone
Comer	Jeffries	Panetta
Comstock	Jenkins (KS)	Pascrell
Connolly	Jenkins (WV)	Paulsen
Cook	Johnson (GA)	Payne
Cooper	Johnson (LA)	Pearce
Correa	Johnson (OH)	Pelosi
Costa	Johnson, E. B.	Perlmutter
Costello (PA)	Jones	Perry
Courtney	Joyce (OH)	Peters
Crawford	Kaptur	Peterson
Crist	Katko	Pingree
Crowley	Keating	Pittenger
Cuellar	Kelly (IL)	Pocan
Culberson	Kelly (PA)	Poe (TX)
Cummings	Kennedy	Poliquin
Curbelo (FL)	Khanna	Polis
Curtis	Kihuen	Posey
Davis (CA)	Kildee	Price (NC)
Davis, Danny	Kilmer	Quigley
Davis, Rodney	Kind	Raskin
DeFazio	King (IA)	Reed
DeGette	King (NY)	Reichert
Delaney	Kinziger	Renacci
DeLauro	Knight	Rice (NY)
DelBene	Krishnamoorthi	Rice (SC)
Demings	Kuster (NH)	Richmond
Denham	Kustoff (TN)	Roby
DeSantis	LaHood	Roe (TN)
Desaulnier	LaMalfa	Rogers (AL)
DesJarlais	Lamb	Rogers (KY)
Deutch	Lance	Rooney, Francis
Diaz-Balart	Langevin	Rooney, Thomas
Dingell	Larsen (WA)	J.

Ros-Lehtinen	Shuster	Veasey
Rosen	Sinema	Vela
Roskam	Sires	Velázquez
Rothfus	Smith (NJ)	Visclosky
Rouzer	Smith (WA)	Wagner
Roybal-Allard	Smucker	Walberg
Ruiz	Soto	Walden
Ruppersberger	Stefanik	Walorski
Rush	Stewart	Walters, Mimi
Russell	Stivers	Wasserman
Rutherford	Suozi	Schultz
Ryan (OH)	Swalwell (CA)	Waters, Maxine
Sánchez	Takano	Watson Coleman
Sanford	Taylor	Weber (TX)
Sarbanes	Tenney	Webster (FL)
Scalise	Thompson (CA)	Welch
Schakowsky	Thompson (MS)	Wilson (FL)
Schiff	Thompson (PA)	Wilson (SC)
Schneider	Thornberry	Wittman
Schrader	Tipton	Womack
Scott (VA)	Titus	Woodall
Scott, Austin	Tonko	Yarmuth
Scott, David	Torres	Yoder
Serrano	Trott	Yoho
Sessions	Tsongas	Young (AK)
Sewell (AL)	Turner	Young (IA)
Shea-Porter	Upton	Zeldin
Sherman	Valadao	
Shimkus	Vargas	

NAYS—52

Amash	Gohmert	Messer
Banks (IN)	Gosar	Mooney (WV)
Barton	Grothman	Palmer
Biggs	Hensarling	Ratcliffe
Blumenauer	Hice, Jody B.	Rohrabacher
Brat	Holding	Rokita
Buck	Hollingsworth	Ross
Budd	Hudson	Royce (CA)
Chabot	Johnson, Sam	Schweikert
Cheney	Jordan	Sensenbrenner
Conaway	Kelly (MS)	Smith (MO)
Davidson	Labrador	Smith (NE)
Duffy	Lamborn	Walker
Duncan (SC)	Lesko	Wenstrup
Duncan (TN)	Loudermilk	Westerman
Fox	Luetkemeyer	Williams
Gallagher	Massie	
Garrett	McClintock	

NOT VOTING—10

Black	Moore	Speier
Cramer	Noem	Walz
Ellison	Simpson	
Hanabusa	Smith (TX)	

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Messrs. MOONEY of West Virginia and BRAT changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. SANFORD, YARMUTH, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Messrs. ENGEL, JEFFRIES, Ms. ADAMS, and Mr. PETERS changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "An Act to extend the National Flood Insurance Program, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. MEADOWS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this afternoon I voted for final passage of the House Amendment to S. 1182—National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2018 (Roll No. 373). I intended to vote against final passage of this legislation.

VA HOSPITALS ESTABLISHING LEADERSHIP PERFORMANCE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WILLIAMS). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the