

Ms. DEGETTE. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Chair, H.R. 4606, the Ensuring Small Scale LNG Certainty and Access Act, is far from perfect, as several of our colleagues have noted. The amendment I am offering today would reverse most of the bill's most egregious shortcomings and help ensure that liquefied natural gas exports benefiting from expedited approval truly are in the public interest, as the original bill purports to do.

This amendment would help keep methane waste to a minimum for the LNG exports permitted by the bill. It requires export applications to show that the natural gas was produced using available techniques and technologies to minimize methane emissions from leaks or venting.

In other words, this amendment would require companies developing liquefied natural gas for export to actually develop and export the natural gas rather than venting vast quantities into the atmosphere or lighting it on fire.

This requirement is easy to implement with readily available technologies. Many companies are already working to reduce their methane emissions.

Sara Ortwein, president of XTO Energy, a subsidiary of ExxonMobil, just this week stated her company's continued support for Federal methane regulations, and she is far from alone.

In Colorado, we have had strong methane rules in place since 2014, and our oil and gas industry has continued to thrive, even as it is required to find and stop the leaks.

Stopping these leaks has real benefits. There is widespread scientific consensus that methane leaks into the atmosphere significantly contribute to climate change. The volatile organic compounds released with the methane increase ground-level pollution and harm public health. When natural gas is produced on public land, it leaks rob taxpayers of royalties on the wasted gas.

So we can and we must prevent such needless harmful emissions wherever possible, and this measure is one way to do it. It would increase the royalties collected for taxpayers; it would reduce climate-changing emissions; and it would protect public health.

Vote for it and you will vote for a better future for our constituents, for our children, and for generations to come.

Now, colleagues who are considering whether to support this amendment may be interested to learn that natural and regional polling consistently show strong bipartisan support for methane rules. Sixty to 80 percent or more of those polled expressed their approval.

Now, there may be many reasons for which some people will oppose this amendment, but I can't think of any that would stand up to scrutiny. I would look forward to discussing those reasons here. And if you oppose this amendment, let's talk about it.

Otherwise, we can reduce these emissions; we can pass this bill; and it would go a long way toward cleaning up our environment and saving money.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Chair, this amendment is unnecessary and misguided because emissions from natural gas wells are already regulated by the EPA and States under the Clean Air Act.

H.R. 4606 applies only to projects that have already undergone rigorous environmental review and are eligible for an exclusion under the National Environmental Policy Act.

□ 1445

Other than the Natural Gas Act, DOE has the responsibility to protect the public interest. In doing so, DOE must consider whether the project applicant is following the laws and regulations, including those under the Clean Air Act.

Let's be clear about the environmental benefits of natural gas in general and this legislation, specifically.

U.S. carbon emissions in 2017 were the lowest they have been since 1992 because we are using more clean natural gas. Unfortunately, carbon emissions are increasing in other parts of the world because they don't have access to clean-burning natural gas. Our friends in South America, Central America, and the Caribbean are still burning Venezuelan fuel oil in places where our U.S. LNG can replace that fuel oil.

H.R. 4606 is good for our economy. It is good for new American jobs, and it is good for our environment. This legislation will start America's rise as a world-class exporter of natural gas, which will help reduce emissions and pollution all across the globe.

If you really care about reducing emissions, you can't deny the benefits of this legislation.

I urge a "no" vote on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Chairman, just quickly, these rules that the gentleman referred to, alleging that they solve the problem, I would just say the BLM Methane and Waste Prevention rule was eliminated by the Trump EPA under Scott Pruitt, and so that is not controlling the public lands emissions right now, which is what this amendment would do. And the EPA rule under the Clean Air Act is also under attack.

Really, if it is current law, why not just support it? Why not say, if we are going to be developing this LNG, let's stop these leaks? Because it helps our environment, it helps with our air and our climate change, and it also helps with profits. And, frankly, for the BLM lands and the other Federal lands, it will help the taxpayers recover money.

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Chairman, again, this bill is all about good-paying American jobs.

American exports of liquified natural gas help our neighbors in South America, Central America, and the Caribbean. This bill makes our air cleaner. Let's lock those benefits in for years to come.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4606 and oppose this amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CALVERT). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE).

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

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

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

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. CHENEY) having assumed the chair, Mr. CALVERT, 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. 4606) to provide that applications under the Natural Gas Act for the importation or exportation of small volumes of natural gas shall be granted without modification or delay, had come to no resolution thereon.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 6147, INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, FINANCIAL SERVICES, AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2019

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 1 of rule XXII and by direction of the Committee on Appropriations, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Calvert moves that the House take from the Speaker's table the bill, H.R. 6147, with the Senate amendment thereto, disagree to the Senate amendment, and request a conference with the Senate thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. CALVERT. Madam Speaker, this is a necessary step to continue to move the fiscal year 2019 appropriations process forward under regular order.

On July 19, the House passed H.R. 6147 by a vote of 217-199, which includes the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies and the Financial Services and General Government bills.

The Senate has now sent H.R. 6147 back to the House with the Agriculture

and Transportation bills added to the package. With the appointment of these conferees, the House and the Senate may begin to resolve differences, with the goal of passing H.R. 6147 before the end of the fiscal year.

As such, I strongly support this motion.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The previous question was ordered.

The motion was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to instruct conferees at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. McCollum moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 6147 be instructed to agree to section 114 of division A of the matter proposed to be added by the Senate amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XXII, the gentleman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this motion would instruct conferees to use a provision from the Senate Interior Appropriations bill that guarantees full funding for the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program. The Payment in Lieu of Taxes program—or PILT, as I will refer to it from now on—provides Federal payments to local governments to help offset the loss of property taxes due to nontransferable Federal lands within their boundaries.

Since local governments cannot tax Federal lands, PILT payments help defray the cost for maintaining vital community services, such as police and fire protection and construction of schools and roads in many cases. It also provides much-needed search and rescue operations.

To date, including fiscal year 2018 payments, approximately \$8.5 billion in payments have been made to local units of government. These payments are a vital lifeline for communities across this country.

Originally, PILT was part of the discretionary appropriations process; but often, Congress failed to provide enough funding for our counties and

they ended up being shortchanged. To stop this from happening and to correct the problem, the program was made mandatory. However, Congress has failed to authorize the PILT program, so we are back to funding PILT through the Interior Appropriations bill.

Funding PILT through the discretionary appropriations process creates uncertainty and unpredictability for local governments across this country. Why? Because the amount available to be appropriated for PILT is constrained by the 302(b) allocation provided in the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. And with less than a 1 percent funding increase for 2018 and 2019, it just goes to show that the Interior allocation cannot continue to keep pace with the rising cost of PILT.

At the same time, we need to meet other important obligations in the Interior bill, such as providing healthcare for Native Americans and Alaskan Natives, addressing the backlog of deferred maintenance on Federal lands, and maintaining our national parks, only to name a few.

In the past 25 years, PILT has grown from \$103 million to \$553 million in fiscal year '18. The estimate for this year is again going to exceed \$500 million.

I agree with our local units of government; PILT should be funded as a permanent mandatory program. But with the reauthorizers not having completed their work, the next best thing we can do is to pass this motion to guarantee full funding for our counties.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this commonsense motion, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in reluctant opposition to the motion to instruct conferees. The House and Senate, both Democrats and Republicans, have been working together to complete work on as many appropriations bills as possible as quickly as possible. We face a looming deadline of September 30. We are making great progress.

The conferees recognize the importance of the four bills included in this conference package: Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies; Financial Services and General Government; Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies; and Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies. These programs support economic growth, the preservation and promotion of our natural resources and agricultural products, and critical law enforcement functions.

As chairman of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, I am determined to complete this legislation, a commitment I know my friends on the other side of the aisle and on the other side of the Capitol also share.

As we are doing with the two other conference committees, both of which I am serving on, we are negotiating in good faith and working to ensure that the agencies and departments under these bills are adequately funded.

The House and Senate are returning to regular order, and this is great news for the American people. We should let the process work as intended.

Given this, this motion to instruct is unnecessary. I am sure it is going to be one of the items we will be discussing over the next few days. We should not risk any delays to completing the final conference report for these four bills, particularly given the deadline and limited number of legislative days ahead.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this motion to instruct conferees, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the chairman's reluctance in opposing this because the Payment in Lieu of Taxes program is a nonpartisan issue and it is something that the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee has been struggling with over our allocations, and it is something, as I bring up, that the Senate has in their bill, something which I think is a good idea and should be discussed. I look forward to further discussions on this, as well as with the other conference committee the chairman and I serve on, Madam Speaker.

But we have a precedent for using this provision. In fact, it a fiscal year 2018 enacted bill. This provision would simply ensure that 100 percent of the PILT payments will be made even if the cost exceeds the cost of the Interior Department's original estimate.

So this is a backstop. This is a guarantee. We still need the authorizers to do their work, but this is to make sure that we don't shortchange any of the other important programs that we fund in the Interior bill. So in my opinion, this is a commonsense issue, and I would urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on that.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for his comments and look forward to going to conference and completing our goal together.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to instruct.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct.

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

Ms. McCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 187, nays 218, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 388]

YEAS—187

Adams Gabbard Nadler
 Aguilar Gallego Napolitano
 Barragán Garamendi Nolan
 Bass Gohmert Norcross
 Beatty Gomez O'Halleran
 Bera Gonzalez (TX) O'Rourke
 Beyer Gottheimer Pallone
 Bishop (GA) Green, Al Panetta
 Blumenauer Green, Gene Pascrell
 Blunt Rochester Grijalva Payne
 Bonamici Gutiérrez Pelosi
 Boyle, Brendan Hanabusa Perlmutter
 F. Hastings Peters
 Brady (PA) Heck Peterson
 Brown (MD) Higgins (NY) Pingree
 Brownley (CA) Himes Pocan
 Bustos Hoyer Polis
 Butterfield Jackson Lee Price (NC)
 Carbajal Jayapal Quigley
 Cárdenas Jeffries Raskin
 Carson (IN) Johnson (GA) Rice (NY)
 Cartwright Johnson, E. B. Richmond
 Castor (FL) Jones Rogers (AL)
 Castro (TX) Kaptur Rosen
 Chu, Judy Keating Ruizbal-Allard
 Cicilline Kelly (IL) Roybal
 Clark (MA) Kennedy Ruppersberger
 Clarke (NY) Khanna Rush
 Clay Kihuen Sánchez
 Cleaver Kildee Sarbanes
 Clyburn Kilmer Schakowsky
 Cohen Kind Schiff
 Connolly Krishnamoorthi Schneider
 Cooper Kuster (NH) Schrader
 Correa Lamb Scott (VA)
 Costa Langevin Scott, David
 Courtney Larsen (WA) Serrano
 Crist Larson (CT) Sewell (AL)
 Crowley Lawrence Shea-Porter
 Cuellar Lawson (FL) Sherman
 Cummings Lee Sinema
 Davis (CA) Levin Sires
 Davis, Danny Lewis (GA) Smith (WA)
 DeFazio Lieu, Ted Soto
 DeGette Lipinski Suozzi
 Delaney Loeb sack Swalwell (CA)
 DeLauro Lofgren Takano
 DelBene Lowenthal Thompson (CA)
 Demings Lowey Thompson (MS)
 DeSaulnier Lujan Grisham, Tonko
 Deutch M. Torres
 Dingell Luján, Ben Ray Tsongas
 Doggett Lynch Vargas
 Donovan Maloney Veasey
 Doyle, Michael Carolyn B. Vela
 F. Matsui Velázquez
 Duncan (TN) McCollum Visclosky
 Engel McGovern Wasserman
 Espallat McNerney Schultz
 Esty (CT) Meeks Waters, Maxine
 Evans Meng Watson Coleman
 Foster Moore Welch
 Frankel (FL) Moulton Wilson (FL)
 Fudge Murphy (FL) Yarmuth

NAYS—218

Abraham Byrne Estes (KS)
 Aderholt Calvert Faso
 Allen Carter (GA) Ferguson
 Amash Carter (TX) Fitzpatrick
 Amodei Chabot Fleischmann
 Arrington Cheney Flores
 Babin Cloud Fortenberry
 Bacon Coffman Foss
 Balderson Cole Frelinghuysen
 Banks (IN) Collins (GA) Gaetz
 Barletta Collins (NY) Gallagher
 Barr Comer Garrett
 Barton Comstock Gibbs
 Bergman Conaway Goodlatte
 Biggs Cook Gosar
 Bilirakis Costello (PA) Gowdy
 Bishop (MI) Cramer Granger
 Bishop (UT) Crawford Graves (GA)
 Black Culberson Graves (LA)
 Blum Curbelo (FL) Graves (MO)
 Bost Curtis Griffith
 Brady (TX) Davidson Grothman
 Brat Davis, Rodney Guthrie
 Brooks (AL) Denham Handel
 Brooks (IN) DesJarlais Harper
 Buchanan Diaz-Balart Harris
 Buck Duffy Hartzler
 Buschson Duncan (SC) Hensarling
 Budd Dunn Herrera Beutler
 Burgess Emmer Hice, Jody B.

Higgins (LA) Hill
 Holding Hill
 Hollingsworth
 Hudson
 Huelskamp
 Hultgren
 Hunter
 Hurd
 Jenkins (KS)
 Johnson (LA)
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jordan
 Joyce (OH)
 Katko
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kinzinger
 Knight
 Kustoff (TN)
 Labrador
 LaHood
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Lance
 Latta
 Lesko
 Lewis (MN)
 LoBiondo
 Long
 Loudermilk
 Love
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 MacArthur
 Marchant
 Marino
 Marshall
 Massie
 Mast
 McCarthy
 McCaul
 McClintock
 McHenry
 McKinley
 McMorris
 Rodgers
 McSally
 Meadows
 Messer
 Mitchell
 Moolenaar
 Mooney (WV)
 Mullin
 Newhouse
 Norman
 Nunes
 Olson
 Palmer
 Pearce
 Perry
 Pittenger
 Poe (TX)
 Poliquin
 Posey
 Ratcliffe
 Reed
 Reichert
 Renacci
 Rice (SC)
 Roby
 Roe (TN)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rohrabacher
 Rokita
 Rooney, Francis
 Roskam
 Ross
 Rothfus
 Rouzer
 Rutherford
 Sanford
 Scalise
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Sensenbrenner
 Sessions
 Shimkus
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Smucker
 Stefanik
 Stewart
 Stivers
 Taylor
 Tenney
 Thompson (PA)
 Thornberry
 Tipton
 Trott
 Turner
 Upton
 Valadao
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Walden
 Walker
 Walorski
 Walters, Mimi
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Williams
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Woodall
 Yoder
 Yoho
 Young (AK)
 Young (IA)
 Zeldin

NOT VOTING—24

Blackburn
 Capuano
 DeSantis
 Ellison
 Eshoo
 Giffords
 Huffman
 Issa
 Jenkins (WV)
 Maloney, Sean
 McEachin
 Neal
 Noem
 Palazzo
 Paulsen
 Rooney, Thomas
 J.
 Ros-Lehtinen

□ 1528

Mrs. COMSTOCK, Messrs. LEWIS of Minnesota, HUNTER, TURNER, GRIF-FITH, Ms. GRANGER, Messrs. DENHAM, ROKITA, COLLINS of Georgia, BOST, DUFFY, and STEWART changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. CROWLEY and DONOVAN changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to instruct was re-jected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 388.

ENSURING SMALL SCALE LNG CERTAINTY AND ACCESS ACT

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. RUTHERFORD). Pursuant to House Resolution 1049 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 4606.

Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER) kindly take the chair.

□ 1530

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 further consideration of the bill (H.R. 4606) to provide that applications under the Natural Gas Act for the importation or exportation of small volumes of natural gas shall be granted without modification or delay, with Mr. WEBER of Texas (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 115-919 offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 115-919 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. PALLONE of New Jersey.

Amendment No. 2 by Ms. DEGETTE of Colorado.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. PALLONE

The ACTING Chair. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been requested.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 176, noes 227, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 389]

AYES—176

Adams Chu, Judy Demings
 Aguilar Cicilline DeSaulnier
 Barragán Clark (MA) Deutch
 Bass Clarke (NY) Dingell
 Beatty Clay Doggett
 Bera Cleaver Doyle, Michael
 Beyer Clyburn F.
 Bishop (GA) Cohen Engel
 Blumenauer Connolly Espallat
 Blunt Rochester Cooper Esty (CT)
 Bonamici Correa Evans
 Boyle, Brendan Costa Foster
 F. Courtney Frankel (FL)
 Brady (PA) Crist Fudge
 Brown (MD) Crowley Gabbard
 Brownley (CA) Cuellar Gallego
 Bustos Cummings Garamendi
 Butterfield Davis (CA) Gomez
 Carbajal Davis, Danny Gonzalez (TX)
 Cárdenas DeFazio Gottheimer
 Carson (IN) DeGette Green, Al
 Cartwright Delaney Grijalva
 Castor (FL) DeLauro Gutiérrez
 Castro (TX) DelBene Hanabusa