

First, WRDA makes numerous important changes to the SRF program, including extending the length of loans from 20 to 30 years, and up to 40 years for disadvantaged communities, while increasing the set-aside for these communities by raising the maximum and, importantly, instituting a minimum amount of assistance.

It provides \$125 million annually to support State water offices through the Public Water Systems Supervision grant program.

It seeks to improve the availability of compliance data submitted by water systems and States.

It promotes better asset management practices, improves consumer confidence reports, and reauthorizes the Source Water Petition Program.

It includes funding for EPA to review methods and technologies to prevent and detect leakage, contamination, and other problems.

It requires Buy America standards for SRF projects through fiscal year 2023 and prevailing wage standards to ensure that American workers are benefiting from these investments.

It provides funding for systems to conduct risk assessments of their resilience to extreme weather.

It establishes a grant program to help schools and daycare centers replace water fountains containing lead components.

Also related to lead, it requires future EPA needs assessments to include the cost of replacing lead service lines.

I know a number of communities are dealing with emerging contaminants, such as PFOA and PFOS. Currently, only systems serving more than 10,000 people are required to test for unregulated contaminants. This bill requires water systems serving over 3,300 people to monitor for these contaminants, empowering local residents to take action to mitigate serious health threats that they may not have known existed otherwise.

This would mean that thousands of communities, communities like Hoosick Falls, New York, and similarly sized systems would no longer have emerging contaminants go undetected, potentially threatening their residents for years.

Finally, while not included in the committee-passed bill, WRDA authorizes \$100 million for areas hit by natural disasters to repair their water systems, enabling post-Maria Puerto Rico to access funds without the financial burden of State matching requirements.

This is not an exhaustive list of provisions in this title, but it gives a sense of the breadth of policies that were included to improve the Safe Drinking Water Act.

This bill is not a clean water silver bullet, but it will put us on the path to end the decades of neglect of our water infrastructure and make the investments needed to maintain and upgrade our systems in order to protect public health.

I want to thank my colleagues, Representative HARPER, Chair SHIMKUS, Chair WALDEN, and their staffs for working with our side of the aisle on this legislation. I want to acknowledge the contributions of our ranking member Representative FRANK PALLONE, Jackie Cohen, Jean Fruci, and Rick Kessler, and other members of the Energy and Commerce minority staff for their hard work.

I always say that every life and every job in this country depends on access to safe drinking water. The needs are great and the cost of inaction is high.

Today, Congress has the opportunity to act. I urge my colleagues to support America's Water Infrastructure Act and for the Senate to take it up immediately.

#### HONORING LOGAN S. PALMER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RODNEY DAVIS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember Petty Officer Logan Palmer of Harristown, Illinois, who was tragically lost in the accident last August aboard USS *John S. McCain*.

Logan knew early that he wanted to serve his country. After he graduated from Sangamon Valley High School and Richland Community College, he enlisted in the Navy as an interior communications electrician.

Petty Officer Logan Palmer died serving and protecting our country, and for that, we remain eternally grateful.

Today, the House will vote on a bill to designate Harristown's post office in Logan's hometown of Harristown, Illinois, a small rural community in Macon County, Illinois, as the Logan S. Palmer Post Office.

Although I never had the honor of meeting Logan, I have since come to know his parents, Theresa and Sid, and I was honored they were able to join me when I introduced this bill earlier this year. While they sat in the gallery, I was able to drop that piece of paper in the box to introduce this bill to the floor of the House, and I am honored today to ask my colleagues to join me in passing this important legislation to honor one of America's heroes.

Designating this post office will not only honor Logan's service, but serve as a grave reminder of the risks that our servicemembers take on each day and the responsibilities we have to them as a country.

It is my privilege to be able to honor Logan today, but, again, it is not why we are here. Many times this chamber will be criticized for naming post offices, naming public buildings, but, again, let us remember the sacrifices that many of those who those buildings are named after made for the freedoms and the liberties that many of us in this country take for granted every day.

When Logan joined the Navy, no one in his hometown, let alone his family, thought that he would sacrifice so much for the freedom and liberty of our great country.

It is my honor to honor Logan S. Palmer with this bill today, and his name will live forever on his local post office.

□ 1030

#### DEMOCRATIC VISION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Madam Speaker, once again, the do-nothing Republican Congress has outdone itself.

Here in America, we have a wage stagnation problem, an underemployment problem, an infrastructure problem, a retirement insecurity problem, and a corruption problem right here in Washington, D.C.

What is the House Republicans' response to these challenges facing the American people? They want to get out of town before sundown.

Why don't we remain here in Washington, doing the people's business week after week, month after month until we get something done on these issues, improve the lives of working families, middle-class folks, senior citizens, the poor, the sick, and the afflicted?

They want to get out of town before sundown.

There are two very different visions for the American people. Republicans control the House, the Senate, and the Presidency. What has that brought to the American people? Chaos, crisis, confusion, the culture of corruption.

Part two, the sequel, and the signature piece of legislation is the Republican tax scam, where 83 percent of the benefits went to the wealthiest 1 percent in this country simply to subsidize the lifestyles of the rich and shameless. That is their signature accomplishment?

The Democratic vision is very different. Democrats here in the House are fighting for the people. We are fighting to lower healthcare costs, fighting to strengthen the Affordable Care Act, fighting to protect people with preexisting conditions, fighting to dramatically lower the high cost of prescription drugs, fighting to increase pay for everyday Americans so that folks can provide a comfortable living for themselves and for their families, fighting for a real infrastructure plan that invests \$1 trillion in fixing our Nation's crumbling bridges, roads, and tunnels and will create 16 million good-paying jobs.

Democrats here in the House of Representatives are fighting to clean up corruption in Washington to make government work for everyday Americans. We are fighting to end, once and for all, the era of Citizens United.

That is the House Democratic vision: lower healthcare costs, increased pay,

and cleaning up corruption here in Washington. Democrats are fighting for the people.

#### A TEXAS RELIGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is that time of the year, a time folks in Texas and in the South have been waiting for. It is called football season.

It has been said there are only two seasons in Texas: football season and spring football season.

Football in Texas is its own religion. Whether you are watching the game under the Friday night lights, joining 25,000 of your closest friends on Saturday, or checking your watch in church to make sure your preacher gets you out on time on Sunday, there are more than a few prayers being said in the name of football on any given day in Texas.

Just last week, I headed to Waco, Texas, with my entire family to watch my alma mater, the Abilene Christian Wildcats, take on the Baylor Bears. The outcome wasn't what we were hoping for, but there is nothing better than college football under a Texas sunset.

Texans naturally believe everything is bigger and better in Texas—because it is. My son, Kurt, started playing football when he was 8 years old, and I have watched him play every game from Humble, Texas, pee-wee football until he took the field wearing the purple and white of our alma mater, Abilene Christian University.

From the beginning, Kurt played quarterback. Being the quarterback is one of those positions that is tough on parents. It is all the fame or all the blame. Every time I saw him take the field, I saw that same little 8-year-old boy full of determination. It was that very determination that led to him being a walk-on at Abilene Christian University and earning a spot as a safety and becoming an Academic All-Conference player.

I was a judge during that time in Texas in Houston, and I would head out on Friday night after court and drive all night to towns such as Abilene; Kingsville; Canyon; Wichita Falls; Commerce; Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Ada, Oklahoma, to get there in time for Saturday's game.

There is nothing more fun than being in a stadium on that first weekend and seeing your team and your son take the field to thousands chanting, "Wildcats, purple, white, purple, white, fight, fight, fight."

Last week I saw Kurt's son, my grandson, Jackson, take the field, also as safety, for the Georgetown, Texas, middle school team.

Texas football is a legend and legacy. It has spawned books, movies, TV series, and it has been known to ruin a family dinner or two in a house divided over the loyalty of their team. Blood

may be thicker than water, but it is not thicker than football.

Yes, Texans love football, right down to the names they choose for their children and to the cars they drive. I am sure there is some big executive in Detroit wondering why they have to send so many maroon pickups to Texas. Well, of course, they are for the Texas Aggie fans.

We may not have too many fall weddings in Texas, but I am willing to bet you that you have been to a wedding where the new Mr. and Mrs. took off down the aisle to the University of Texas' "The Eyes of Texas" or got a big Texas A&M "Whoop" after the preacher declared them husband and wife.

But it is not just the action on the gridiron. It is the atmosphere; it is the band; it is the drill team; it is the cheerleaders; it is the moms selling T-shirts, the school clubs hanging banners, the same old guys in the same old seats season after season in the stands, and the whole atmosphere of what makes the game great.

So, Madam Speaker, it is that time of the year. Put on your school colors; head for the game; grab some hotdogs and Dr Pepper or Coke; and take part in one of Texas' finest religious traditions: Texas football.

And that is just the way it is.

#### PUERTO RICO IS A HUMANITARIAN CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Madam Speaker, September 20 this next week is the 1-year anniversary of Hurricane Maria.

One year later in Puerto Rico, in the neighboring island of Puerto Rico where there are U.S. citizens living because Puerto Rico is a commonwealth of the United States, the schools are still closed.

One year later and people are still waiting for home repairs.

One year later and the death toll continues to rise.

One year later and we are just now finding out that the death toll resulting from Hurricane Maria and its aftermath resulted in 2,975 deaths, a drastic, dramatic increase from the original reported numbers by the government of merely 64 people.

Madam Speaker, the numbers have ballooned from 64 people who died during that terrible storm and the aftermath, to 2,975. We are just now finding out that close to 3,000 U.S. lives were lost while this administration did very little.

Just this week, the President said that he has done an A-plus job. He seems to feel that there are only 64 deaths there, but that is not the case. In fact, there were 3,000 lives that perished there with slow response, and that is failure. That is an F-minus, to me, for government.

But that is not all. Such is the indifference of this administration to the lives of Puerto Rico. And, Madam Speaker, we have a moral obligation to help the Puerto Rican people. They are American citizens.

When we are in a time of war, when our Nation is in danger, we call upon them to defend us. Thousands and thousands of Puerto Ricans have given up their lives for democracy in the United States.

We all remember the photograph of President George W. Bush on Air Force One hovering over New Orleans right after Katrina, and it was a watershed moment for our Nation that the photo became the poster child for neglect and the failed response of the government during a tragedy.

Well, guess what. Puerto Rico has become our modern-day Katrina. Undoubtedly, this administration's mismanagement of Puerto Rico has become its most significant failure to date.

FEMA provided roughly a third of the meals, half as much water, and just a small fraction of tarps to Puerto Rico than it provided to Texas after Hurricane Harvey in the first 9 days after the storm. Several weeks elapsed before FEMA and the Defense Department increased their presence on the island. And even though airports and ports had reopened after a few days, they still failed to bring the necessary help to that island.

The agencies failed to direct the aircraft carrier USS *Abraham Lincoln* and other ships to Puerto Rico and provide first aid to the people who were hurting.

We have now entered the 2018 hurricane season. As you know, we are bracing for Florence, Isaac, Helene, and Olivia to make landfall. This administration needs to do better in responding to these emergencies.

It is heartbreaking and a serious tragedy for the American citizens of Puerto Rico, their families, and our Nation as a whole to have been treated this way. We cannot turn our backs on Puerto Rico, and we must continue to support our brothers and sisters along this journey to rebuild their lives during this humanitarian crisis.

Mr. Speaker, the Puerto Rico crisis has become a humanitarian crisis that has proven far greater than we ever imagined.

#### CELEBRATING CONSTITUTION DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE of Texas). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in celebration of Constitution Day this upcoming week.

On September 17, 231 years ago, 39 patriots signed their names to a document that changed the course of history. This document chartered a lasting experiment in democracy and put our Nation on the path to becoming