I commend my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their great work on yet another piece of legislation out of the Energy and Commerce Committee, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1320.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE), my colleague on the committee.

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. PALLONE. I appreciate the opportunity to speak about the Nuclear Utilization of Keynote Energy Act, or the NUKE Act. I thank my colleague, ADAM KINZINGER, for introducing this bill and working with me to advance it. I also thank Chris Bowman and Claire Borzner from my staff, as well as Mr. KINZINGER's staff, and the Energy and Commerce Committee staff for their diligent work to get this bill to the floor.

This legislation is very timely as the nuclear industry is facing pressure from a variety of factors. Nuclear energy provides nearly 40 percent of Pennsylvania's electricity, and it employs thousands of skilled workers in Pennsylvania.

However, increasing NRC fees and uncertainty in the nuclear export process threaten this carbon-free and reliable source of baseload power. Addressing some of these issues is necessary to protect jobs in Pennsylvania and across the country, as well as to meet our Nation's climate goals.

This bipartisan legislation will take important steps to modernize the NRC's fee structure, set achievable and flexible timelines for application reviews, and look to future reforms that will ensure the NRC can continue to effectively protect public health and safety.

The bill addresses a serious reality facing the nuclear industry. As nuclear power plants retire, the remaining fleet will be faced with increasing fees from the NRC. We need to support our existing nuclear plants while ensuring that the NRC is able to fulfill its mission, and I believe that this legislation accomplishes those goals.

So once again, I thank Mr. KINZINGER for his work, and I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KINZINGER), the author of the bill.

Mr. KINZINGER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, H.R. 1320, the Nuclear Utilization of Keystone Energy Act, which I proudly introduced with my colleague, MIKE DOYLE. I want to also share my compliments to his staff and my staff working together very well on hammering out a lot of the technical issues and getting this done. It shows that hard work matters.

The United States is home to nine nuclear power plants—my district has four of those—which provide reliable, carbon-free electricity to thousands of American homes and businesses.

Unfortunately, nuclear power is at a critical impasse, and many of these plants are facing early retirements, which means a loss of clean energy, good jobs, and our global leadership on vital issues like safety and nonproliferation.

This legislation, the NUKE Act, makes commonsense reforms to increase transparency, predictability, and accountability at the NRC. Because nuclear plants pay to be regulated by the NRC, these reforms, including a predictable fee recovery structure, caps on annual fees, and keeping overhead costs in line with similar Federal agencies, will not only increase stability at our operating plants, but it will also pave the way for the next generation of nuclear technology.

I also think it is important to point out that many times in the energy battle, we sometimes find out we needed to do something when it is too late and you spend a lot of time playing catch-up. This is a proactive way to make sure we maintain this strong fleet of which America is a leader.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to join me and Congressman DOYLE in supporting H.R. 1320, the NUKE Act, and help ensure a safe and strong future for American nuclear power.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan initiative, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OLSON. Madam Speaker, the ranking member of the full committee said it just perfectly: Support this bill. It is a good bipartisan bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OLSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1320, 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.

## STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE REFORM ACT

Mr. BARTON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6511) to authorize the Secretary of Energy to carry out a program to lease underutilized Strategic Petroleum Reserve facilities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6511

*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 ''Strategic Petroleum Reserve Reform Act''.*

***SEC. 2. USE OF UNDERUTILIZED STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FACILITIES.***

*Section 168 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6247a) is amended to read as follows:*

***''SEC. 168. USE OF UNDERUTILIZED FACILITIES.***

*''(a) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this title, the Secretary may establish and carry out a program to lease underutilized Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities and related facilities to the private sector, or a foreign government or its representative. Petroleum products stored under this section are not part of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.*

*''(b) PROTECTION OF FACILITIES.—Any lease entered into under the program established under subsection (a) shall contain provisions providing for fees to fully compensate the United States for all related costs of storage and removals of petroleum products (including the proportionate cost of replacement facilities necessitated as a result of any withdrawals) incurred by the United States as a result of such lease.*

*''(c) ACCESS BY THE UNITED STATES.—The Secretary shall ensure that leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) does not impair the ability of the United States to withdraw, distribute, or sell petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve in response to an energy emergency or to the obligations of the United States under the Agreement on an International Energy Program.*

*''(d) NATIONAL SECURITY.—The Secretary shall ensure that leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) to a foreign government or its representative will not impair national security.*

*''(e) DEPOSITS OF AMOUNTS RECEIVED.—*

*''(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), amounts received through the leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a) shall be deposited in the general fund of the Treasury during the fiscal year in which such amounts are received.*

*''(2) COSTS.—The Secretary may use for costs described in subsection (b) (other than costs described in subsection (f)), without further appropriation, amounts received through the leasing of facilities under the program established under subsection (a).*

*''(f) PREPARATION OF FACILITIES.—The Secretary shall only use amounts available in the Energy Security and Infrastructure Modernization Fund established by section 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 for costs described in subsection (b) of this section that relate to addition of facilities or changes to facilities or facility operations necessary to lease such facilities, including costs related to acquisition of land, acquisition of ancillary facilities and equipment, and site development, and other necessary costs related to capital improvement.''.*

***SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM TO LEASE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE FACILITIES.***

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title I of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

***''SEC. 170. PILOT PROGRAM TO LEASE STORAGE AND RELATED FACILITIES.***

*''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out section 168 and not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Reform Act, the Secretary shall establish and carry out a pilot program to make available for lease—*

*''(1) capacity for storage of up to 200,000,000 barrels of petroleum products at Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities; and*

*''(2) related facilities.*

*''(b) CONTENTS.—In carrying out the pilot program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—*

*''(1) identify appropriate Strategic Petroleum Reserve storage facilities and related facilities to lease, in order to make maximum use of such facilities;*

*''(2) identify and implement any changes to facilities or facility operations necessary to so lease such facilities, including any such changes necessary to ensure the long-term structural viability and use of the facilities for purposes of this part and part C;*

*''(3) make such facilities available for lease; and*

*''(4) identify environmental effects, including benefits, of leasing storage facilities and related facilities.*

*''(c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Reform Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the status of the pilot program established under subsection (a).''.*

*(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Energy Policy and Conservation Act is amended by adding after the item relating to section 169 the following:*

*''Sec. 170. Pilot program to lease storage and related facilities.''.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, in 1995, President Ford signed a bill to ban the sale of crude oil overseas. Two years ago, we repealed that ban, and, last month, we were exporting some days 3 million barrels of oil per day.

□ 1545

We have gone from a nation that was importing up to 80 percent of our oil to a nation that, today, if we absolutely had to, could be totally energy independent.

Because of the Arab oil embargo in the early 1970s, a little before President Ford signed the bill that said you couldn't export crude oil, we established a Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The idea was that we wanted to store oil in underground caverns—crude oil—so that, if there were another supply disruption, we would have the crude oil even if the OPEC cartel cut off oil shipments to the United States.

We have authorized up to a billion barrels of crude oil in this reserve, and there is currently a little under 700 million barrels. But, Madam Speaker, we don't need 700 million barrels of crude oil today because, as I have just pointed out, when we allowed crude oil to be exported, we unleashed a drilling boom in the United States that has driven our oil production on a daily basis from around 6 million barrels of oil per day to, this past month, 11 million barrels of oil per day.

So, hence, the idea embodied in H.R. 6511, cosponsored by my good friend from Chicago, Democrat BOBBY RUSH. It is pretty straightforward.

We have quite a bit of excess capacity right now in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We have authorized the sale of about 300 million barrels between now and 2028. If that oil is actually sold, we will have almost half of the SPR without any crude oil in it. So why not set up a program and authorize the Department of Energy to put that vacant space up for bid?

Oil producers all over the United States are scrambling for ways to store all the oil that we are producing while it is waiting to be refined or shipped overseas.

This is not a mandatory program. We are not mandating that the private sector has to lease the space. What we are saying is, if the private sector wants to negotiate with the Strategic Petroleum Reserve managers, and it is a good deal for both sides, they can.

We currently—now, this number may not be exactly right, Madam Speaker, but we spend about $200 million a year, I believe, to store the oil that we are storing in the reserve, that is owned by the taxpayers.

If you have vacant space and you allow the private sector to use that vacant space and you charge whatever the market rate is for the private sector to put oil in the reserve for a short term, those funds will offset the cost of storing the government-owned oil. They will also offset the cost of maintaining the reserve, and they will offset the cost of improving the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Again, this is not a mandatory program, so we believe that this bill, H.R. 6511, is a win-win. It helps the taxpayers because it might generate some revenue that could be used to offset the cost of maintaining the reserve as it exists. It might save the private sector some money if they decide to utilize it.

And it might—and I would say, probably will—make our energy sector more efficient because the private sector, should they choose to participate in this program, doesn't have to go out and build above-ground storage and maintain the above-ground storage. They can use the existing capacity that has already been hollowed out on the Gulf Coast of the United States that is very conveniently located adjacent to our refineries and/or to our export terminals; and that will, overall, lower costs of the whole system and end up being a win for the consumer both in the United States and overseas. So I would hope that, when the time comes later today, we will pass this unanimously.

I want to thank, again, my original Democratic sponsor, Congressman RUSH of Chicago, Illinois. I want to thank the subcommittee chairman, FRED UPTON of Michigan; the full committee chairman, GREG WALDEN of Oregon; and the full committee ranking member, who is on the floor, Mr. PALLONE of New Jersey.

We have all worked on a bipartisan basis to pass this, and we think that is why we have put it on the suspension calendar.

As you know, Madam Speaker, suspension bills have to get a two-thirds vote, and I am hoping that this bill gets a 100 percent vote. It is a good bill. It is a win-win.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6511, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Reform Act. This bill would set up a pilot program to facilitate the leasing of unused storage space in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, or SPR, while attempting to ensure that the government and taxpayers benefit from these leases. This is a worthy cause, and I commend Representatives BARTON and RUSH for their efforts.

In recent years, Congress has turned to the SPR repeatedly as an offset for deficits, transportation funding, and other items. In fact, it has been used far more in recent years for those purposes than for energy security. And these SPR sales, which will occur over the next several years, will free up a great deal of physical space in the reserve. This bill puts that empty space to good use.

The bill is part of our committee's ongoing efforts to modernize the SPR. Going forward, we need to rethink its whole structure, including exploring the authorization of regional refined product reserves.

Today, there are two regional supply reserves, both serving the Northeastern States: The Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve and the Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve.

The Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve was created by our committee in the Energy Act of 2000; and the Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve was created by President Obama and Energy Secretary Moniz in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, using authorities provided to the Secretary in section 171 of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act.

President Trump has proposed eliminating the Northeast Gasoline Supply Reserve, and I think that is a mistake. I remain committed to authorizing the existing gasoline reserve in statute, and I am convinced that regional reserves are a critical component of any SPR modernization effort.

Madam Speaker, I believe other regions should benefit, or could benefit greatly, from having a refined product reserve. This is particularly true for the Southeast, which is extremely supply constrained. A Southeast regional reserve could provide relief and flexibility in the event of a natural disaster in the region itself or in the Gulf States that supply the Southeast region with refined product.

Now, expanding the number of regional reserves is something that we must do in the future, but I believe this legislation is a good step forward on

the road to SPR modernization, and so I do urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I have been in Congress for 34 years. I am about to retire at the end of this session. I have been on the House floor with many tumultuous battles. I have watched the fight over the Keystone pipeline, drilling in ANWR up in Alaska. My good friend, Senator MARKEY of Massachusetts, when he was in the House, would come to the floor with his chart, an oil well drilling into the Social Security trust fund.

It is refreshing, Madam Speaker, to be on the floor today in the spirit of bipartisanship where we are all for something which I think really is good for the American people, good for the taxpayer, and good for the consumer.

This is on suspension, so, obviously, we have to have a huge vote. I hope we get it. It looks like we will since we don't have any other speakers.

I would urge a ''yes'' vote, Madam Speaker. Let's do something good for America. Let's vote for this bill. Please vote ''yes'' on H.R. 6511 when the vote is called.

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

Mr. WALDEN. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6511, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve Reform Act. This bill is another product of the Energy and Commerce Committee's ongoing and bipartisan work to modernize the Department of Energy.

The Committee's DOE modernization efforts are focused on ensuring the Department can more ably address current and future domestic and international energy and security challenges. These challenges range from maintaining nuclear safety and security to protecting the reliable supply and delivery of energy, and they require a DOE that has the appropriate organization, management focus, and authorities to succeed.

H.R. 6511 was developed by Vice Chairman BARTON and Ranking Member RUSH to modernize the forty-year-old Strategic Petroleum Reserve, so it's prepared to protect our Nation from energy disruptions in the decades ahead.

H.R. 6511 authorizes DOE to lease underutilized storage capacity, which will become available in increasing amounts as DOE conducts mandated drawdowns over the next several years. Rather than have DOE maintain empty caverns at considerable taxpayer expense, H.R. 6511 will allow DOE to develop the spare capacity, attracting much needed capital investments for additional improvements. H.R. 6511 will preserve the SPR's existing capacity, generate revenue for upgrades and maintenance, and improve the operational readiness of the entire SPR complex. H.R. 6511 is truly a win-win, and a perfect example of our bipartisan DOE modernization effort.

I especially want to thank Mr. BARTON for his work on this bill. He has been at the forefront of so many defining moments relating to energy security. From his leadership as Chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee during passage of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, to his tireless efforts to repeal the ban on crude oil exports, his work on this bill contributes to the great legacy he leaves behind at the Energy and Commerce Committee—and in the United States Congress. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6511.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6511, 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.

## REAUTHORIZING WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2389) to reauthorize the West Valley demonstration project, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2389

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

**SECTION 1. WEST VALLEY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**

(a) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 3(a) of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act (Public Law 96–368; 42 U.S.C. 2021a note) is amended by striking ''$5,000,000 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1981'' and inserting ''$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2019 through 2025''.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(1) the volumes, origins, and types of radioactive waste at the Western New York Service Center in West Valley, New York;

(2) what options have been identified for disposal of each such type of radioactive waste;

(3) what is known about the costs of, and timeframes for, each such option;

(4) the benefits and challenges of each such option, according to the State of New York and the Department of Energy; and

(5) as of the date of enactment of this Act—

(A) how much has been spent on the disposal of radioactive waste associated with the demonstration project prescribed by section 2(a) of the West Valley Demonstration Project Act; and

(B) what volumes and types of radioactive waste have been disposed of from the Western New York Service Center.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MCKINLEY) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from West Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCKINLEY. Madam 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 West Virginia?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 2389 is a bill to reauthorize the West Valley demonstration project, which was introduced in May of 2017 by our New York colleague, TOM REED.

The bipartisan legislation moved through the Energy and Commerce Committee by regular order, including legislative hearings and markups, as part of our broad nuclear waste management agenda. It was reported to the full committee, with a bipartisan amendment, by a voice vote.

Let me thank the ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Environment, Mr. TONKO, for working closely with us on this legislation.

H.R. 2389, as amended, authorizes appropriations to support the Department of Energy's environmental remediation at its West Valley cleanup site in New York through 2025. It also directs a study to help Congress determine the final disposition of the radioactive waste that DOE is cleaning up at the site.

H.R. 2389 also continues the work of this Congress to address the Federal Government's obligation for treatment and disposal of the legacy waste produced during the Cold War and through the Federal Government's early efforts to develop a civilian nuclear energy industry.

The Department of Energy has successfully remediated 92 sites of this waste, but the most technologically challenging projects remain in place at 17 locations, one of which is the West Valley site.

In 1980, Congress passed the West Valley demonstration project to direct DOE to address legacy environmental issues and authorized the appropriations, however, only through fiscal year 1981. The project has not been reauthorized since that time, despite Congress funding DOE's work at the site for the past 37 years. H.R. 2389 corrects this situation and provides a path to answering important questions concerning waste disposition and ensures spending at the site is subject to an active authorization.

I urge all Members to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2389, which reauthorizes the West Valley demonstration project.

The Western New York Service Center in West Valley, New York, has a unique history. The site is owned by New York State, but from 1966 to 1972 it was operated by a private business to reprocess spent nuclear fuel primarily provided by the Federal Government. Those reprocessing activities ended