

The amendment (No. 3224) in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The amendment was ordered to be engrossed and the bill to be read a third time.

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. CORNYN. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. MCCAIN).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. ALEXANDER) would have voted "yea."

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 86, nays 11, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 143 Leg.]

YEAS—86

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Peters
Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Bennet	Grassley	Reed
Blumenthal	Harris	Risch
Blunt	Hassan	Roberts
Booker	Hatch	Rounds
Boozman	Heinrich	Rubio
Brown	Heitkamp	Sanders
Cantwell	Hirono	Sasse
Capito	Hoeven	Schatz
Cardin	Hyde-Smith	Schumer
Carper	Isakson	Scott
Casey	Jones	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kaine	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Smith
Coons	King	Stabenow
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Sullivan
Cortez Masto	Manchin	Tester
Crapo	Markey	Thune
Cruz	McCaskill	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Udall
Donnelly	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Moran	Warren
Enzi	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Fischer	Nelson	Young
Gardner	Perdue	

NAYS—11

Burr	Heller	Lee
Corker	Inhofe	Paul
Cotton	Johnson	Toomey
Flake	Lankford	

NOT VOTING—3

Alexander	Leahy	McCain
-----------	-------	--------

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order requiring 60 votes for passage of the bill, the bill, as amended, is passed.

The Senator from Kansas.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, which, I assure Members, I will not do.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Kansas.

FARM BILL

Mr. ROBERTS. Mr. President, with 171 amendments and a vote of 86 to 11, obviously, getting this farm bill done has been a tremendous team effort. You are only as good as your staff on both sides of the aisle, and they make us look good when we stand up here a little confused trying to get things a little sorted out.

I wish to thank my staff: James Glueck, DaNita Murray, Janae Brady, Fred Clark, Meghan Cline, Haley Donahue, Matt Erickson, Darin Guries, Chance Hunley, Chu Hwang, Chelsie Keys, Sarah Little, Curt Mann, Andy Rezendes, Bob Rosado, Anthony Seiler, Wayne Stoskopf—who, by the way, knows more about farm programs than anybody else on the staff, myself included—Andrew Vlasaty, and Katherine Thomas.

I also want to mention Jackie Cottrell, Amber Kirchhoefer, Will Stafford, Morgan Anderson, and Stacy Daniels in my personal office.

I want to especially thank the ranking member—vice chairman, really—Senator STABENOW, and her team, led by the indomitable Joe Shultz and Jacquelyn Schneider. The efforts of Jessie Williams, Amanda Kelly, Bobby Mehta, Katie Salay, and Micah Wortham have been valuable to the Ag Committee process.

Additionally, I thank the technical support from the Secretary of Agriculture, Sonny Perdue, and the staff at the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Thank you so much for your help.

I also appreciate the work of the Congressional Budget Office staff, including: Tiffany Arthur, Megan Carroll, Kathleen FitzGerald, Jennifer Gray, Jim Langley, and Robert Reese.

I now yield to my distinguished ranking member, Senator STABENOW.

I say to the Senator, thank you for being such a great partner.

Ms. STABENOW. I thank the Senator.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I thank my partner and friend. This has been a tremendous team effort, and it is a great pleasure to work with the chairman.

Today the Senate has proven that bipartisanship is the way we can get things done, and we all know that is the case. It is not always the easiest path to take. However, when we put our differences aside and focus on the needs of the communities and people we serve, that is how we deliver a good bill. In this case, it is a bill that serves our farmers, our families, and rural America. Over 500 food, agriculture, and conservation leaders agree that this bill will provide certainty to communities and to our farmers across the country.

From the start, we have had a collaborative process. We have built this bill on feedback. We heard from farmers and local leaders at field hearings and in our committee room. We added ideas proposed by Members on both sides of the aisle, both on and off the committee. From our committee markup to today, we have incorporated a total of 171 either bipartisan bills introduced by Members or bipartisan amendments—171.

We were able to get a bill done because we never lost sight of the importance of our agricultural economy and the 16 million jobs it supports. I am proud that we voted in a bipartisan way to move this bill forward. That is the good news for rural America and the men and women who work hard every day to give us the safest, most affordable food supply in the world.

Let me now give some thank-yous. As the chairman indicated, there are many.

I appreciate very much the work of our Democratic leader and his staff for their leadership and support through the process. I thank the majority leader, who knows how important agriculture is to Kentucky. I think we have some things in this bill that are going to make for an even stronger agricultural economy in Kentucky, as well as around the country. I appreciate that he moved this bill quickly on the Senate floor.

Of course, I have to thank my friend and partner Senator ROBERTS, who is chairman of the committee. He has stayed true to our commitment to deliver a bipartisan bill and has worked extremely hard to get us here today. I say: Congratulations, Mr. Chairman, and to all of our Senate colleagues who supported this important bill.

I thank my incredible staff, as well as Senator ROBERTS' incredible staff, for working together very hard, very consistently, putting together a bipartisan bill—really, a historic farm bill—and ultimately working as a team to get us over the goal line.

Of course, Joe Shultz and Jacquelyn Schneider, my staff director and deputy staff director and policy director for the committee—true leaders from start to finish. They have both been with me on the committee staff since the very beginning, in 2011, when I chaired the committee.

Joe has led our amazing team and has been living and breathing the farm bill for the past year. You can sleep tonight, Joe.

Jacquelyn has done so as well. Jacquelyn is the heart and soul of our Ag Committee, whose tremendous work over the past two farm bills has made sure that we were protecting our families and supporting our specialty crop producers. She led our efforts to develop groundbreaking new initiatives on food access, like Double Up Food Bucks.

Mary Beth Schultz, our chief counsel, had no idea what she was getting herself into when she came to the Ag Committee this last year. In no time, she

became a farm bill expert who kept track of every page and every amendment to make sure this process was successful.

Mike Schmidt and Kyle Varner, our amazing commodities and livestock team, understand the ins and outs of farm policy like nobody else. They have done so much to improve our dairy programs, expand risk management tools to specialty crops, and support new and beginning farmers.

Ashley McKeon led our work on the conservation title to expand our partnership programs. She brings her warmth, personality, and expertise to the job every day.

Sean Babington, our forestry and environmental expert, has impeccable judgment and negotiating skills that we rely on daily, and he helped get us to this point of there being a final farm bill as well.

Thanks to both Ashley and Sean, our country will have healthy forests, more wildlife habitat, and clean waters for generations to come.

Katie Naessens' hard work led to the major advances in this bill for urban agriculture, organics, beginning farmers, and veterans who want to go into agriculture. I am so proud of the Farmer Veterans Programs in Michigan.

Kevin Bailey led our efforts on expanding high-speed internet for rural communities and on the rural development and energy titles so we can continue to grow the bio-based economy in rural America.

Katie Bergh led our work on international trade and fought to preserve markets for Michigan producers from cherries to dairy, and she helped improve our food aid policies in the United States and abroad.

Rosalyn Brummette is the glue that keeps our team together. She kept the trains running on time and made sure we were all prepared to do what needed to be done. I thank her so much.

We also had fantastic help from farm bill veteran Susan Keith, who provided invaluable wisdom and counsel to our commodity and livestock team.

Ward Griffin, our CFTC detail to the committee, is not only an expert on financial issues, but he has become a full-fledged member of the team, jumping in to help wherever needed. We are grateful.

Jason Sherman, a lawyer and fellow from the Department of Energy, has a keen eye and legal mind. Both were invaluable on environmental and conservation issues.

Now to my personal Senate staff, who were a very important part of the team as well: I thank Matt VanKuiken, my chief of staff, who leads my personal office team, and my legislative director, Emily Carwell, who followed the floor procedure, was involved in negotiations, and made sure everything was happening the way it should have been. I thank them and all of our team in the personal office for being a part of this effort.

Of course, I thank Krystal Lattany, who always makes sure that I am get-

ting where I need to be, so I am in the right place for negotiations.

I thank Anne Stanski, my deputy chief of staff, Matt Williams, my communications director, and Jess McCarron, our ag press secretary, who made sure we were telling the story of the farmers and families who are affected by the farm bill.

We couldn't have done it without the help of the rest of our communications team: Miranda Margowsky, Nirmeen Fahmy, and Amy Phillips Bursch. I also thank my State team, which is led by Teresa Plachetka, and Kali Fox, who leads our agriculture work in Michigan.

I also thank Senator ROBERTS' team. It was truly wonderful working with James Glueck and DaNita Murray, who are true pros. I thank them for their hard work, creativity, and tenacity in helping to get us to this point. Our team spent many long hours together, and I am grateful that even our staffs worked together in a wonderful, bipartisan way just as the chairman and I did.

Of course, I thank Jessie Williams, Amanda Kelly, Bobby Mehta, and everyone who works behind the scenes on the Ag Committee.

Nothing would get done around here without the excellent floor staff, led by Gary Myrick and his team, including Tricia Engle and Ryan McConaghy.

The insights of Sean Byrne, with Senator SCHUMER's staff, and Reema Dodin, with Senator DURBIN, have been incredibly helpful.

I should really thank the folks at the CBO, who had late nights at the Senate Office of the Legislative Counsel. They worked on weekends and had late nights to make sure we had what we needed to get the bill done.

Finally, of course, I thank all of the members of the Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee and their staffs. We have so much talent and experience. It is a real privilege to serve as its ranking member.

This farm bill is the product of a year and a half of hard work by a long list of very talented people. I cannot thank every single one of them individually, but we wouldn't be here today without their help.

We passed a farm bill today that supports the 16 million jobs in America that depend on agriculture. We passed a bill that helps our farmers stay resilient, that protects our land and water, that helps families keep food on their tables, that invests in our small towns all across America, that recognizes the diversity of American agriculture, and that strengthens local food economies.

We should all be very proud of the work we have done today, and I thank my colleagues for joining us in such a strong "yes" vote in passing this bill.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, I am very glad my Senate colleagues joined me in supporting the Senate farm bill,

in fact, with a very strong vote of 86 to 11.

This farm bill is good news for Montana farmers and for Montana ranchers, and it is going to help to provide certainty for Montana agriculture in these most difficult times because agriculture is Montana's No. 1 industry, and it supports tens of thousands of jobs in our State. Yet, with more than 25,000 family farms and ranches in Montana alone, it is clear that ag is more than just an economic driver in our State; it is very much a way of life.

That is why, as Montana's Representative on the U.S. Senate Ag Committee, I fought to ensure that this farm bill reflects the priorities that Montana farmers and Montana ranchers have shared directly with me. Some of these priorities are the crop insurance and the sugar program; ag research funding at Montana State University, as well as ag research stations all across Montana; and prioritizing rural broadband for Montana's underserved communities, as well as supporting and maintaining conservation programs that are important to our farmers, to our ranchers, and to our sportsmen.

This farm bill is also critically important to the health of our national forests. Last year in Montana, catastrophic wildfires harmed numerous communities, and it cost our State millions of dollars. I am glad to have secured important forest reforms that are critical to healthy forests, to Montana timber jobs, and to wildlife habitat, such as encouraging the coordination among the Forest Service and State forestry agencies to restore our forests to reduce the risk of wildfire and allowing the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management to enter into agreements with counties, as well as with States and Tribes, to implement forest management projects on national forests and public lands. Additionally, there is a provision that will support more innovation, as well as to develop new markets for Montana's timber industry.

These are important wins, but I want to make something very clear that there is still so much more we can do to help improve the health of our forests and support Montana's farmers and ranchers. In fact, in Montana, as well as across the West, we are seeing extensive collaboration. Groups are collaborating—conservation groups, wildlife groups, wood products stakeholders, along with our counties—and they are working together to determine responsible forest management practices.

These partners know very well that active management is critical to restoring a healthy forest and that it helps to reduce wildfire risks. It is important that we don't allow extremists to hinder this most important work because, today, it takes 18 to 24 months to do many of these environmental reviews. After that is done, many projects in Montana are litigated, and this can add years of delay.

In fact, listen to this: There are 29 timber sales in Montana that are currently impacted by fringe litigation. Just today, we were informed that another timber project in Montana has been delayed by a restraining order because of litigation. That makes 30. This project was scheduled to start this coming Monday, July 2, and now those folks will be out of work. Reducing red-tape and combating chronic litigation doesn't erode public trust. In fact, it safeguards it. It does so by ensuring that the public feedback of the majority isn't obstructed by a few extreme dissenters.

This disastrous Ninth Circuit Cottonwood ruling must also be addressed because it imposed unnecessary paperwork that even the Obama administration has said had the "potential to cripple" Federal land management without conservation benefit.

My amendments would address this excessive redtape while continuing to ensure that robust, science-driven environmental review and public engagement would remain. Many similar provisions are found in the House bill as well.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the inclusion of these amendments as we work together now, with the House, in a conference of the final farm bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

KILAUEA VOLCANO

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I want to share an update about what is happening with the Kilauea volcano in my home State of Hawaii.

The first thing people need to know is that the State of Hawaii remains safe to visit and that the Island of Hawaii, where the volcano is erupting, is also safe to visit.

Let's start with a basic geography lesson. Hawaii has eight main islands, and the volcano is on the Island of Hawaii, which people often call the Big Island. It is about 4,000 square miles. This is Hawaii Island. It is about the size of Connecticut. Only 9 square miles are directly impacted by the volcano. So it is actually just this little area in this corner of the island. If you are in the town of Hilo, which is 25 miles away from the volcano, you can't even tell there is a volcano erupting for the most part.

Cruise lines are coming back, and officials are trying to set up areas where people can safely view this spectacular volcano. It is that safe. People need to know that it is business as usual for lots of people on the Big Island and that both the State and the island are open for visitors. We just got the data in for the month of May, and we had again increased tourism statewide. Everyone should come to visit.

With that being said, this is an extraordinarily difficult situation for the communities that are being affected,

and even though people are used to living with volcanos, this is extraordinarily tough. Right here, we have fissure 8. This is about a 300-foot lava fountain that has not ceased for several weeks. As recently as 2015, lava approached the town of Pahoa in the Puna district, but we really haven't seen anything like this since the 1974 flow.

For the past few months, we have had 300-foot lava fountains. We have had ash explosions that have reached tens of thousands of feet. We have also had more than 30 billion gallons of lava that have destroyed 600 homes. An estimated 2,500 people have been displaced, one way or another, by the volcanic eruption. In certain areas, there is no power, no water, and no cell phone reception. So even if your home has not been destroyed, your access now may be limited or nonexistent.

Here is the really good news: There has been no loss of human life due to the volcano. Despite all that has happened, the people of Puna and the people of Hawaii Island remain extraordinarily resilient. The bad news is that no one is sure when the volcanic activity will end. Even the experts at the United States Geological Survey don't know. We have several difficult challenges in moving forward—from air quality to the need for economic relief and, especially, for housing and transportation. Hundreds of people are currently living in shelters. Hundreds of animals from homes and ranches are, in a sense, volcano refugees. So we have to secure temporary housing for people who lost their homes or who have been evacuated and then get these people permanent housing and deal with private property damage. We have to make decisions about where to rebuild and start the process of fixing roads, power lines, and other infrastructure in the Puna district.

The Big Island's mayor, Harry Kim, and the entire county emergency operations center team, including first responders, have been working from day one and day and night to keep people safe and deal with these challenges. Several weeks ago, I visited the emergency operations center and saw firsthand that it is really all hands on deck. Something that distinguishes our EOCs from other EOCs and impresses our Federal counterparts is the extent to which we all work together regardless of jurisdiction. You can scarcely tell who works for State, Federal, or county government. You can scarcely tell who is a business leader or a not-for-profit leader or a university professor or a mayor. Everybody is really working together.

There is a long list of people who deserve our thanks. Local media have gone above and beyond to keep people informed by assigning crews to stay in place for weeks at a time. By the way, that is somewhat unusual for a disaster, especially one that has been going on as long as this one.

Nonprofits, such as the Red Cross, the World Central Kitchen, and the

Salvation Army, are operating shelters and serving meals. Companies are pitching in by waiving freight charges for relief supplies or working to keep cell towers powered.

I can name every single elected official on Hawaii Island, and each one of them is personally doing significant work in the recovery. Because this is an island State and because it is a small community, this isn't just a matter of their trying to secure resources from State, Federal, or county government, and this isn't just a matter of lawmaking; they are on the ground, they are listening, and they are helping with their hands.

This is part of the general sense that people have of wanting to help during this extraordinary time. Several weeks ago, a resident of Puna named Ikaika Marzo took it upon himself to set up Pu'u honua o Puna, which means "a place of refuge" in Puna. People can donate things or pick up what they need, whether it is information, supplies, or a hot meal. We have seen people drive 100 miles to show up and help. Ranchers are helping out other ranchers—normally they are competitors—by housing displaced cattle. On other islands, people are filling shipping containers with donations. Across the State, we are helping each other out so that people are being fed, finding shelter, and getting the things they need.

Lots of good things are happening, but it is still a very tough situation, an ongoing situation, which is why we have been grateful for the Federal response. Two weeks ago, the White House approved the State of Hawaii's request for individual assistance from FEMA for residents whose homes have been lost or damaged. FEMA has also partnered with the State to open a disaster relief center. From the start, it was clear that they sent their A team. I want to thank FEMA and the White House for their quick action, which is welcome news during this challenging time for the Big Island of Hawaii.

FEMA and the EPA are also working with the State and county partners to monitor air quality, which the EPA is now publishing online so that the public can make informed decisions. This may sound like a small thing, but this is everything when it comes to determining whether Norwegian Cruise Line can come to Hilo, and all that economic opportunity will either be lost or not, or whether schools in the Ka'u and Puna districts can open. What EPA is doing in partnership with the State and county government is really extraordinary.

The Hawaii National Guard was able to command Department of Defense resources under a dual command agreement. General Logan, General Hara, and the National Guard have all been crucial. They are literally doing everything from collecting gas samples to providing security on the ground to providing temporary shelters.

We are grateful for all the help, but we also know it is a long road to recovery because we don't know how long