

IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 2615, THE UNITED STATES—NORTHERN TRIANGLE ENHANCEMENT ENGAGEMENT ACT

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2019*

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2615, the “United States—Northern Triangle Enhancement Engagement Act.”

H.R. 2615 supports the people of Central America and strengthens United States national security by addressing the root causes of migration from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

H.R. 2615 will provide reports on drivers of migration from the Northern Triangle to the United States and will identify methods for the United States to strengthen fragile democracies in the region.

Thousands of immigrants flee the Northern Triangle to seek asylum and refuge in the United States of America.

The number of asylum seekers worldwide originating from the Northern Triangle reached 110,000 in 2015, a five-fold increase from 2012.

Poverty, corrupt police forces, gang violence, political corruption, and economic instability exacerbate living conditions in the Northern Triangle.

Homicide rates are extremely high for Central American countries; El Salvador is leading the way with a rate of 82.84 per 100,000 persons.

Salvadorans, Hondurans, and Guatemalans leave their homes in search of physical security, democracy, freedom, and civil liberties.

They look toward the U.S. as a beacon of hope and prosperity, often traveling miles while battling hardships and risks to pursue the American Dream.

This bill seeks to combat corruption among political institutions in the region to reinforce security and lead to the development of civil society.

We must address the origins and the structural causes of migration to address the issues that lead to mass migration to our southern borders.

Our agencies are unequipped and are incapable of meeting the demand of sheltering and processing immigrants who arrive at our ports of entry.

Our nation's security depends on the stability of the Northern Triangle.

We must act to ensure that the countries in this region return to a functioning democracy, free of corruption and violence.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2615 to assist in re-establishing democratic and peaceful societies in the countries of the Northern Triangle.

RECOGNIZING THE VETERANS MENTOR GROUP OF OUTAGAMIE COUNTY, WISCONSIN

**HON. MIKE GALLAGHER**

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2019*

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work, dedication,

and outstanding service of Veterans’ Mentor Group in Outagamie County, Wisconsin.

Since its creation in 2015, Veterans’ Mentor Group has assisted countless veterans in Northeast Wisconsin navigate the struggles of transitioning to civilian life. The group’s success is evident as three graduates of the program are now members of the group’s leadership team. Along with founding members Bill and Beverly, Thomas Barrett, Scott Hutchings, Michael Gawel, and Rodney Schreiber work to ensure Outagamie County Veterans feel supported and connected. I am confident its members will continue to help many more veterans as the program grows.

Veterans’ Mentor Group consists of volunteer veterans and partners within Outagamie County who share and understand the experiences of military service. The group assists veterans with their basic needs, as well as engaging in socialization and reintegration back into their communities. I am proud to have a veteran-run organization in my district that strives to help fellow veterans. The volunteers of Veterans’ Mentor Group truly demonstrate what it means to engage in selfless service.

The Veterans’ Mentor Group also assists the Veteran Treatment Court in Outagamie County and increasing veterans’ awareness of resources and benefit programs. Bill Trombley, along with Beverly Weber, Todd Raley, and Jason Laber, worked hard to ensure this support program for veterans in Outagamie County became a success. Their efforts and commitment are integral in creating this successful program.

Madam Speaker, I urge all members of this body to join me in applauding Veterans’ Mentor Group, its board, and its veteran volunteer mentors for their service to veterans in Northeast Wisconsin.

THE EMERY COUNTY PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT INCLUDED IN S. 47, THE JOHN D. DINGELL, JR. CONSERVATION, MANAGEMENT, AND RECREATION ACT

**HON. JOHN R. CURTIS**

OF UTAH

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2019*

Mr. CURTIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding the Emery County Public Land Management Act, that was included in S. 47, the John D. Dingell, Jr. Conservation, Management, and Recreation Act. This became Public Law 116–9 on March 12th, 2019.

Throughout 2018 and early 2019, Senator Hatch, Senator ROMNEY, and myself heavily engaged with the Emery County Commissioners and Emery County Public Lands Council to draft this important piece of legislation. After Senator Hatch’s retirement, Senator ROMNEY helped to carry the ball across the finish line.

This law is the result of countless hours of deliberation, and thus I find it important to highlight some areas of congressional intent of particular interest. While these should generally be clear in the text and corresponding map, the historical context of how we arrived at some of these decisions may be of benefit to the Department of the Interior, future members of the Utah delegation, or those in Utah.

The Utah delegation, and particularly myself, look forward to the implementation of this new law.

Of note, Jake Bornstein (my Legislative Director), Romel Nicholas (Senator Hatch’s public lands staffer), and Kelsey Berg (Senator ROMNEY’s Deputy Chief of Staff) were the main staff points of contact in our respective offices for the bill. Jake and Romel have extensive correspondence with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) that further demonstrates the accurate characterization of the congressional intent I outline here.

Most important to this process, our founding principle was to never take any action that would end a current ongoing use. For example, we were immensely careful to not close a road, trail, air strip, or other existing use in the legislative text or corresponding map with a wilderness designation. Further, we worked extensively to avoid more restrictive designations, such as wilderness, to areas it would limit ongoing activity. We worked to draw designation boundaries along geographic and physical features, or just outside a cherry stem, to ensure management made sense for the area.

Any designation boundary that does not follow these trends, particularly any designation that puts at risk an existing use due to a poorly drawn boundary, was a clerical error and should be resolved under the authority clearly provided in Sec. 1221. Given the pure scale of this bill and legislative map, we realized this authority would be a vital tool to resolve these errors.

I’d also like to point out the clear intent within Sec. 1232. Section (e), which clearly states that non-wilderness activities or uses that can be seen or heard from areas within wilderness are to be left uninterrupted by this legislation.

On the topic of roads, we worked closely with BLM to ensure all roads in the 2008 RMP were not put into a wilderness designation, often referred to as “cherry stemmed”. Our intent was to preserve these roads and for them to stay open. These cherry stems are of various sizes and were intended to ensure an adequate corridor is there to facilitate necessary maintenance. In the Recreation Area, we included language in Sec. 1222 to ensure the necessary maintenance to existing routes may continue and allow rerouting of roads or trails to protect the resources of the Recreation Area.

Finally, I would like to explain that the driving force for this compromise bill was certainty, and thus preventing the designation of a national monument using the authority granted to the President under the Antiquities Act. As so many know, national monument designations in my home state of Utah have been the source of extensive controversy. In my view, land management is most effective when it is driven by local voices, compromise, and well-reasoned planning. Sweeping designations via national monument are often politically-inspired and they erode the quality of management for the areas they intend to protect. With the passage of the Emery County legislation, the need for a national monument is forfeited because a clear plan has been laid out for the long-term management of the San Rafael Swell. To be clear, this is a view that was shared by the many parties, including locally elected officials, conservationists, and recreationists, that were intimately involved in the forging of this compromise legislation. Any

future national monument designation under the Antiquities Act in Emery County would be a violation of the good faith agreement that was shared among those that negotiated as part of this bill's process.

I believe this bill is a big win for all stakeholders, and I look forward to watching what was a 20-year journey for Emery County come to fruition.

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HONORING CHARLES SMITH

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**HON. SAM GRAVES**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2019*

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my dear friend, Charles Smith, and to congratulate him on the completion of his term as President of the Missouri-National Education Association (MNEA) and wish him well as he enters into retirement.

A graduate of Northwest Missouri State University, Charles taught communication arts in the Center School District of Kansas City for over three decades. Through being an active member of his church and the head of the Communication Arts Department and High School Newspaper Advisor, Charles always sought to find every opportunity to help his students and serve his community.

It was this desire to serve that led Charles to seek the position of MNEA President six years ago. As President, Charles chaired the MNEA Board of Directors, served as the association's official spokesperson for the state of Missouri and represented over 35,000 members of the MNEA.

Madam Speaker, dedicated and hard-working educators, such as Charles, put in an immense amount of effort to ensure our children receive the best education possible and help students realize their dreams. One thing is certain; I know that I could have never served in the halls of Congress without the help of devoted and caring teachers along the way, and Charles has certainly made a lasting impact on my career. I am grateful for his friendship and comradery over the years and wish him well in his future endeavors.

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IN RECOGNITION OF THE DENTON VA MENTAL HEALTH ANNEX

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**HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2019*

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the new Denton VA Mental Health Annex. North Texas is fortunate to be home to a number of veterans, and it is critical that we have the resources to support these brave men and women. This morning, we held a ribbon cutting ceremony at The Annex, a new clinic that will help ensure that our growing veteran population can access quality mental health care close to home.

It was my privilege to work alongside the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist in the opening of this new facility. This project took a team effort, and I am grateful to the many people who helped to make The Annex a reality.

In Congress, it is both my privilege and my responsibility to support North Texas veterans. Quality health care—including mental health care—is imperative to our veterans' wellbeing, and this new clinic is an important resource for our community.

Last week, I joined my fellow Members of Congress from North Texas on a letter urging the Veterans Administration to help facilitate the donation of a hospital center in Garland, Texas. Following our collaborative work in Denton, I am hopeful that communities in Garland and beyond can build on our success and ensure that veterans in North Texas have the health care they deserve.

It is imperative for Congress to support the brave men and women who have answered the call to serve our nation, including ensuring that they can access quality health care. As we mark the opening of The Annex, I hope that it is a valuable resource to our North Texas veterans.

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HONORING THE CAREER OF KASEY J. CRONQUIST

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**HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2019*

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, to mark the conclusion of American Grown Flowers Month, we honor a great citizen who has been instrumental in starting the movement to support American Grown Flowers, Kasey J. Cronquist, the outgoing CEO of the California Cut Flower Commission and Administrator of Certified American Grown.

In 2007, Kasey Cronquist took the helm of the California Cut Flower Commission and in his successful tenure, he spearheaded an aggressive legislative advocacy program targeting elected officials in Sacramento and Washington, D.C., and retail promotional campaigns to attract consumers and industry stakeholders to the benefits of American Grown Flowers.

His efforts have brought industry and consumer attention to the value and importance of domestically grown flowers and foliage, helping consumers connect the "Farm to Fork" trend with floral, and driving home the message that the bouquets at the center of our tables should be as fresh, sustainable, and homegrown as the food on our plates.

Prior to joining CCFC, Cronquist held posts as president and CEO of the Carpinteria Valley Chamber of Commerce and CEO of the Shelton-Mason County Chamber in Washington State. A firm believer in service to the industry, Cronquist is an active volunteer for the Buy California Marketing Agreement, the Agriculture President's Council of California, and the California Department of Food and Agriculture Nursery Advisory Board.

A committed nonprofit leader, Cronquist is a graduate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Institute for Organizational Management, was named a Santa Barbara Foundation's Katherine Harvey Fellow in 2007, and is the former recipient of Produce Business magazine's "40 under Forty" award that identifies the produce industry's top young leaders.

As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Cut Flower Caucus, I laud Kasey for his service to this iconic sector of American agriculture and wish him the best in his future endeavors.

CONGRATULATING WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

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**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2019*

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the City of Burnsville for an historic achievement—for the first time ever, nearly all of the city's top leadership positions are held by women, including the mayor, the school superintendent, the city manager, the president of the Chamber of Commerce, the executive director of the convention and visitors bureau, chair of the county commissioners, five school board members, the new police chief, and an at-large City Council member.

When women hold these positions, our children grow up knowing that women are fully capable of leading and driving change in their communities. Burnsville Mayor Elizabeth Kautz is to be commended not only for her service, but also for her leadership in ensuring more women are at the policymaking table. I'm proud to not only represent the City of Burnsville, but also locate my district office there.

I'm not the only one who has taken notice—just recently, the women of Burnsville were featured on a segment on the Today show for their outstanding work to create stronger communities and serve as role models to young women everywhere.

As the first woman to ever represent Minnesota's Second Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives, I want to congratulate these women on their hard work, their leadership, and their demonstration to communities across Minnesota that women deserve a seat at the table. This is what leadership looks like.

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COMMEMORATING THE RETIREMENT OF CALIFORNIA ARMY NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER MAJOR GENERAL LAWRENCE HASKINS

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**HON. AMI BERA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 2, 2019*

Mr. BERA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of Major General Lawrence Haskins of the California Army National Guard.

As Commander of the California Army National Guard, General Haskins oversees a force of over 18,000 soldiers.

General Haskins has served for over 40 years and first enlisted in the California Army National Guard in July 1975. After 9/11, he was mobilized as the Commander of Task Force Guardian, a brigade in support of Operation NOBLE EAGLE III, providing extra force protection forces for 88 Army and Air Force installations across 21 Western states. In 2008, he became Chief of Staff of the CA Army National Guard.

On April 1, 2011 General Haskins became the Deputy Commander, responsible for day to day operations. In October 2012, he assumed the duties of full time Commander.

General Haskins has received numerous awards and decorations including the Legion