

The Grand Coulee Dam is the largest power station in the nation. With a 6,809-megawatt generating capacity, the Dam supplies an average of 21 billion kilowatt hours of clean, affordable, and reliable electricity to 11 States and Canada each year. Reservoirs from the Dam are the backbone of the Columbia Basin Project, which supplies irrigation to 10,000 farms on 671,000 acres of farmland in the Columbia Basin.

While residents throughout the Pacific Northwest reap these benefits, many are unaware of how the Dam came to be or how the work of a father and son changed Central Washington, our state, and the region forever.

In 1908, Nat Washington, Sr., a decedent of President George Washington's family, left his home in Virginia and established a homestead along the Columbia River, not far from where the Grand Coulee Dam sits today. Shortly after arriving in Washington, Nat Sr. was elected as Grant County Prosecutor and the first president of the Columbia River Dam, Irrigation, and Power District. In this role, Nat Sr. played a key role in the conception, approval, and construction of the Grand Coulee Dam.

Nat Jr. shared his father's passion for public service. After earning his law degree from the University of Washington, Nat Washington, Jr. also served as Grant County Prosecutor and later in the Washington State Legislature for 30 years. During this time, Nat Jr. was instrumental in the development of several hydro-power projects across the region, including the Columbia Basin Project, which is the largest water reclamation project in the United States, providing nearly \$2 billion in economic benefits to the region each year.

With these immeasurable contributions to Central Washington in mind, I rise to introduce legislation to rename the Third Power Plant at the Grand Coulee Dam as the Nathaniel "Nat" Washington" Power Plant in honor of Nat Jr. and Sr. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing the contributions of these pioneers of Northwest hydropower.

RAISE THE WAGE ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 18, 2019

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following letter in support of H.R. 582, the Raise the Wage Act.

OXFAM,
July 16, 2019.

MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Ms. EUNICE IKENE,
Labor Policy Advisor at House Committee on Education and the Workforce.

DEAR MS. IKENE AND MEMBERS OF CONGRESS: On behalf of Oxfam America, I urge you to vote for the Raise the Wage Act (H.R. 582) and vote against any amendments that would weaken the bill.

Oxfam America is an international development and relief agency committed to working for lasting solutions to poverty, hunger and social injustice in over 90 countries, including the United States. Oxfam has carried out development and humanitarian programs across the globe.

Within the United States, we have focused our efforts to elevating the rights and life

opportunities for historically disadvantaged workers in low-wage sectors. With a federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour, a full-time worker may only make \$15,080 a year, a salary that is almost \$4,000 below the poverty line for a family of three.

The Raise the Wage Act of 2019 would benefit over a quarter of the workforce: nearly 40 million workers and their families. The act would raise the federal minimum wage to \$8.55 this year and increase it over the next five years until it reaches \$15 in 2024, then adjust it each year to keep pace with the typical worker's wages.

Here are six reasons why raising the wage makes sense.

1. It is long overdue.

In the decade since it was last raised, the minimum wage has failed to keep up with inflation, failed to keep up with average wages, and—most dramatically—failed to keep up with incomes of the top 1 percent and CEOs, contributing to America's growing inequality.

Low-wage workers are not benefiting from economic growth and productivity. If the minimum wage had kept pace with productivity increases, it would be around \$20.

Just 30 years ago, the average pay gap between CEOs and workers was 59 to 1; last year, it soared to 361 to 1. The average CEO makes \$13,940,000, while a minimum wage worker makes \$15,080: a gap of 924 to 1.

2. It would address longstanding racial and gender inequities.

Historically marginalized people do more than their fair share of low-wage work, and would stand to benefit disproportionately from the bump.

While 27 percent of the total workforce would benefit from the raise:

39 percent of Black and Latina women would benefit (vs. 18 percent of white men), 38 percent of African American workers would benefit,

33 percent of Latino workers would benefit, 32 percent of women workers would benefit (vs 22 percent of men).

3. It would reduce poverty.

The bump from \$290 a week to \$600 a week would lift millions of family out of poverty. Two-thirds of all working people in poverty (67.3 percent) would see a raise in wages.

4. It would fuel economic growth.

The roughly \$120 billion extra paid to workers would be pumped back into the economy for necessities such as rent, food, clothes.

Economists have long recognized that boosting purchasing power by putting money in people's pockets for consumer spending has positive ripple effects on the entire economy.

In one recent poll, 67 percent of small business owners support the minimum wage increase to \$15 an hour. They say it would spark consumer demand, which would enable them to retain or hire new employees.

And raising the wage doesn't seem to compel employers to cut jobs. As states and cities across the country have raised wages, research has found no statistically significant effect on employment.

5. It would save taxpayers money and reduce use of government programs.

When employers don't pay people enough to survive, those workers are compelled to seek government assistance, meaning taxpayers are essentially subsidizing the corporations.

In 2016, EPI found that, among recipients of public assistance, most work or have a family member who works; and they are concentrated at the bottom of the pay scale. Raising wages for low-wage workers would "unambiguously reduce net spending on public assistance, particularly among workers likely to be affected by a federal minimum-wage increase."

6. It's what the vast majority of Americans want.

Vast majorities (up to three quarters, including a majority across party lines) support raising the wage. Even in a poll sponsored by the National Restaurant Association (which has worked to block state minimum wage increases and preempt local sick day laws), 71 percent of Americans indicated support for raising the wage, "even if it also increases the cost of food and service to customers."

In fact, over half the states have raised their minimum wages to restore basic fairness to the workforce.

CONCLUSION

Raising the minimum wage offers benefits to workers, children, taxpayers, and the economy as a whole. It increases buying power and reduces the daily struggle for people to pay their basic expenses. It enables people to save for and invest in their future. It contributes toward building a work force that is healthier, more stable, better educated, and more productive.

Raising the minimum wage will require members of Congress of both parties to be willing to overcome the divide: to be open to the debate, to consider the needs of hard-working constituents and taxpayers, to consider the wide range of benefits—and ultimately, to give a raise to the people who need it the most.

We strongly urge every member of Congress to vote for the Raise the Wage Act and enact this important piece of legislation as quickly as possible.

Sincerely,

MINOR SINCLAIR,
*Director, US Domestic Program,
Oxfam America.*

RETIREMENT OF MR. MICHAEL J. SULLIVAN, GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today, on behalf of myself and the members of the House Committee on Armed Services, to congratulate and celebrate Mr. Michael J. Sullivan, the Director of Defense Weapon System Acquisitions for the Government Accountability Office (GAO), on the occasion of his retirement after 34 years of distinguished federal service.

Mr. Sullivan's dedication to his profession, his selfless public service, and his role helping GAO meet its mission have exceeded everyone's expectations. During his time at GAO, Mr. Sullivan has been an effective thought-leader, most notably in GAO's work to expertly identify and apply best acquisition practices for product development, production, testing, and fielding for many of DOD's most complex, expensive, and critical weapon system acquisitions. Over the years, Mr. Sullivan's efforts resulted in numerous modifications and alterations to DOD's acquisition policies, processes and implementation. Mr. Sullivan significantly contribute to the development and enactment of the Weapon System Acquisition Reform Act of 2009 (P.L. 111-23), which lead to improved acquisition outcomes and effective returns on investment of billions of dollars on behalf of the Congress and the American taxpayer.

Mr. Sullivan testified numerous times before the House Armed Services Committee,

expertly representing GAO's work on high profile, complex, and sensitive DOD acquisition programs including the F-22 Raptor, the F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighter, among other high-profile programs such as the B-2 Spirit, the KC-46A tanker, the B-21 Raider, the Next Generation Air Dominance concept, and numerous unmanned aircraft programs such as the MQ-1, MQ-9, RQ-4, UCAV, UCLASS, and MQ-25. He consistently delivered insightful, independent, and fact-based analyses that informed the decision-making of the Armed Services Committee made regarding many of DOD's largest and most complex acquisition programs during many cycles of the Committee during formulation of annual National Defense Authorization Acts. He has been a constant voice for good government and a force for positive change. In addition to his program oversight noted above, Mr. Sullivan has also been greatly involved in reviewing issues related to science and technology portfolio management, technology maturation and requirements development efforts, and Department of Defense tactical aircraft force structure planning and execution.

We all are eternally grateful for Mr. Sullivan's contributions to oversight of national security issues and fiscal resources of the most importance to Congress and the American taxpayer. Mr. Sullivan's exceptional work and many accomplishments over more than three decades are deeply valued by me, the committee, and the Congress. We sincerely thank Mr. Sullivan and wish him the best success in all of his future endeavors after retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF JUDY SCHNEIDER ON THE OCCASION OF HER RETIREMENT

HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Judy Schneider on the occasion of her retirement.

Throughout her time on the Hill, Judy served as an unparalleled testament to bipartisanship, hard work, and public service. There is no one more deserving of being recognized for a lifetime of exemplary public service.

Cherished mentor to a lucky few and friend to countless Members of this body, Senators, and Hill staffers, including my Chief of Staff, Judy embraced each day of her four decades of service as an opportunity to improve the processes of Congress.

Her expertise knew no bounds. She has authored countless reports and mentored thousands. Judy was a tremendous help in the successful orchestration of the 2014 Women's Fly-In.

Committing forty years to Congress takes resilience and a passion for public service. But to embrace those years with her unwavering belief that Congress can always do better is her shining legacy.

Many of you know that I am fierce advocate for the 3 P's of public service: Policy, Process, and Politics. Fewer know that it was Judy who took the time to teach me the three P's, and emphasize that they are the key to fostering bipartisanship, even in the most contentious of times.

Her touchstone is immeasurable, her service is deeply appreciated, and her retirement is well-deserved.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SUSAN "LEANNE" POWELL

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Susan "Leanne" Powell, a dear friend of more than 15 years. Leanne was a passionate and fierce leader whose light reached across North Carolina's Eighth Congressional District and brightened our great nation. Leanne departed this life on July 20, 2019 at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte. Exemplary of her devotion to others, Leanne requested her organs be donated to her community and now three North Carolinians will benefit from her continued generosity.

Leanne led a life of distinction and at age 12 started a career in politics that would span more than three decades. As a young woman she served as a campaign volunteer for the late Congressman Bill Hefner and later joined his office staff. This experience foreshadowed the extraordinary woman she was to become. Leanne went on to serve the White House Women's Office under President Bill Clinton and Department of Agriculture Undersecretary Jill Long Thompson. Following this time in our nation's capital, she returned to North Carolina and founded a successful campaign consulting firm before managing the campaign of Congressman Larry Kissell. Leanne helped elect this history teacher-turned-candidate to Congress in 2008 and served two terms as Congressman Kissell's Chief of Staff, a tenure defined by ideological purity and constituent service.

After deciding to leave politics in 2013, Leanne would tell colleagues she wanted to "make an honest living" making whiskey. Today, Southern Grace Distilleries stands as one of North Carolina's premier distilleries and a testament of Leanne's hard work and dedication. Reflective of Leanne's innumerable accomplishments and devotion to public service, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper inducted Leanne into the Order of the Long Leaf Pine on July 17, 2019, the highest civilian honor the governor can bestow. Throughout Leanne's life she made service to others a priority.

My thoughts and prayers are with Leanne's husband, Drew Arrowood; her mother, Judy M. McCord; her brother, Albett "Chip" Powell Jr.; and all who loved her, including her beloved canine companion, Bleu. Renee and I join our entire community as we grieve together during this difficult time.

I know I speak for the entire community when I say Leanne lives on in the hearts and minds of all who felt her kindness and generosity and I will do everything in my power to honor her extraordinary life.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the life and legacy of Susan "Leanne" Powell.

VENEZUELA TPS ACT OF 2019

SPEECH OF

HON. BRENDAN F. BOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 23, 2019

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 549, the Venezuela TPS Act of 2019. I cosponsored this bill because I believe this is the right policy to protect the thousands of Venezuelans fleeing horrific conditions in their country. They don't want to leave. They are being forced to leave.

Today, the people of Venezuela face economic, political and humanitarian crises. The economy has shrunk by nearly 30 percent over the past four years, declines often seen only in wartime. Their currency erodes daily and is experiencing the highest inflation rates in the world. Poverty rates have skyrocketed with over three out of every four Venezuelans living in dire straits. Venezuelans can no longer meet the recommended 2,000 calories a day. 75 percent of the population reported significant weight loss in the last year alone. Hospitals are without basic medicines and equipment to treat the sick.

Venezuela used to be South America's richest nation, now the majority of Venezuelans live in unsustainable conditions.

This crisis is also affecting regional stability. Brazil and Colombia are dealing with escalating migrant and refugee flows, as millions of Venezuelans cross into their borders. Colombia has taken in almost 1.5 million Venezuelan refugees, straining their countries resources. The U.N. called the exodus from Venezuela the "largest in recent history of Latin America and the Caribbean."

It is time for the United States to step up. President Trump has been tough on Venezuela's dictator, Maduro, but has shown no mercy to the thousands of Venezuelans that have applied for protection in the United States. The conditions in Venezuela are exactly what TPS was designed to address. It prevents foreign nationals from being deported back to countries facing civil unrest.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this critical bill tonight.

This is how we help Venezuelans in the short term.

REMEMBERING STEFANO GIUSEPPE RIBOLI

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 24, 2019

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Madam Speaker, I rise to remember a great Angeleno, Stefano Giuseppe Riboli, who passed away on July 3, 2019, at the age of 97. He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, and lived a joyous life filled with the love of family and friends. To the people of Los Angeles, he was also cherished as the patriarch of San Antonio Winery, who led the winery's growth into the thriving, century-old local institution it is today.

Stefano was a Los Angeles native. He was born in the city on September 8, 1921, to