

Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today, during National Agriculture Week, to celebrate American farmers and farm families.

This nationwide effort recognizes and celebrates the abundance provided by American agriculture. It also reminds citizens that agriculture is a part of all of us and plays a critical economic and food security role.

Thursday is National Ag Day, which began in 1973 as a way to increase public awareness of agriculture's role in society. National Ag Day encourages every American to understand how food and fiber products are produced; appreciate the role agriculture plays in providing safe, abundant, and affordable products; value the essential role of agriculture in maintaining a strong economy; and acknowledge and consider career opportunities in the agriculture, food, and fiber industries.

In the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, we are fortunate to have more than 58,000 farmers. These men and women are the lifeline of the Commonwealth, as agriculture is our number one industry.

Our farmers produce a safe and abundant food supply, including our dairy farmers, who produce the milk that is stocked in the cases of our supermarkets and in lunchrooms across America.

My bill, the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, would further expand milk choices in our schools. It would allow for whole milk, both flavored and unflavored, to be offered in school cafeterias.

Mr. Speaker, milk was once a staple in the diets of our students, but consumption in schools has dramatically decreased since the Healthy, Hunger-Free Act of 2010—which demonized milk fat, which is where nutrition and flavor is—was implemented.

Milk is the number one source of nine essential nutrients in the diets of many young Americans. We can provide the foundation for a solid, healthy lunch in our schools that also tastes great and students will want to drink.

When students don't consume milk, they are not getting nutrients such as calcium, potassium, and vitamin D.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor the Whole Milk for Healthy Kids Act, and National Agriculture Week is the perfect time to sign on to this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, we know that farmers feed; nutrition matters; and agriculture plays a critical role in modern society. I would like to thank all Americans who work tirelessly in the ag sector. On behalf of a grateful Nation, we thank you.

CYBERSECURITY SKILLS INTEGRATION

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1592, the Cybersecurity Skills Integration Act.

As co-chair of the House Career and Technical Education Caucus, I am

proud that we continue to provide the resources necessary to have a dominant and prosperous workforce. For instance, this past July, we authorized the Carl D. Perkins Act to advance career and technical education.

We must continue developing a 21st century workforce to meet the technical demands our country is facing now and into the future. That is why, together with my friend, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN, we have introduced a bill to help protect our sensitive data and critical infrastructure from bad actors.

Our legislation directs the Department of Education to create a comprehensive grant program that integrates cybersecurity education into new and established postsecondary CTE programs.

With more than 16 critical infrastructure sectors in our country, we must prepare our next generation of learners to have the most sophisticated and comprehensive educational programs to protect our Nation's most dire assets, systems, and networks.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I thank Mr. LANGEVIN for his work and leadership on this issue.

EPA'S DECISION ON REDWOOD CITY SALT PONDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SPEIER) for 5 minutes.

Ms. SPEIER. Mr. Speaker, I am outraged, but not surprised, that the political appointees in the EPA's Washington, D.C., office have decided that the Redwood City salt ponds in my district do not include waters of the United States under the Clean Water Act.

This administration has completely hijacked the jurisdictional process away from the experts on the ground, putting politics ahead of science. No surprise.

Stunningly, after experts at the EPA's Region 9 had drafted a determination in 2016 that came to a completely opposite conclusion, the EPA trampled on that evidence-based determination.

The administration was, no doubt, counting on the fact that the draft would not be released to the public. Well, I am not willing to allow that to happen.

Let the RECORD reflect that, after being designated an EPA special case, Region 9 experts conducted an extensive review of the property and finally concluded that 1,270 acres within the Redwood City salt ponds property are, in fact, waters of the United States for the following reasons.

First, the tidal channels within the property were part of the traditionally navigable waters of the San Francisco Bay and were not converted to "fast land" or "dry solid upland" prior to the enactment of the Clean Water Act. This is because waters that have been severed from tidal influence but are regularly inundated are not fast lands.

Secondly, the salt ponds in their current condition have been shown to be navigable in the past and could be used in interstate or foreign commerce with reasonable improvements, such as removing levees. In fact, large portions of former salt ponds in proximity to the site have been restored to tidal marshes.

Third, the salt ponds are impoundments of water otherwise defined as waters of the United States.

Finally, the salt ponds have significant nexus to the traditionally navigable waters of the adjacent San Francisco Bay, providing food and habitat to certain species of microorganisms, invertebrates, and birds.

The most recent EPA determination directly contradicts the findings of Region 9 experts, but it is completely in line with this administration's record of gutting environmental protections in the name of corporate interests.

I realize that this administration struggles to recognize any body of water that is not a murky, scum-filled swamp, but I refuse to let this 180-degree political flip-flop occur without public disclosure. Believe me, the decision by Administrator Wheeler is a flop. That is why I am submitting this draft determination in its entirety for the public record.

DRAFT REDWOOD CITY SALT PONDS JD

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document constitutes the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) determination of the federal jurisdictional status of the Redwood City Salt Ponds for purposes of the Clean Water Act (CWA). This CWA jurisdictional determination applies to the Redwood City Salt Ponds property ("Redwood City Salt Ponds" or "the Property") depicted in Figure 1. The Property is approximately 1,365 contiguous acres adjacent to Westpoint Slough, a part of San Francisco Bay, located near Seaport Boulevard, Redwood City, San Mateo County, California. Within the boundaries of the subject area, approximately 95 acres of the Property are not "waters of the United States" where they are above the High Tide Line on the outer side of the perimeter levees bounding the Property, and above the Ordinary High Water Mark on the levee interiors. These non-jurisdictional areas consist of levees, building pads and other features converted to fast land before passage of the CWA.

The remaining estimated 1,270 acres within the subject area are "waters of the United States" as defined by the CWA, because: (1) the tidal channels within the Redwood City Salt Ponds were part of the traditionally navigable waters of San Francisco Bay, and were not converted to fast land prior to enactment of the CWA; (2) the salt ponds in their current condition have been shown to be navigable in fact, and are susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce with reasonable improvements; (3) the salt ponds are impoundments of waters otherwise defined as waters of the United States; and (4) the salt ponds have a significant nexus to the traditionally navigable waters of the adjacent San Francisco Bay.

Complete text can be found on <https://speier.house.gov/media-center/press-releases>

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF THE HONORABLE RICHARD DALE NICHOLS

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

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness that I speak today about the passing of the great Kansan and former Member of the United States Congress, my friend, Mr. Richard Dale Nichols.

Dick was born in southeast Kansas and honorably served his country in World War II as a member of the United States Navy. Upon returning to Kansas, he attended Kansas State University and was a fellow Beta Theta Pi fraternity brother.

After graduation, Dick entered the banking industry and, ultimately, settled down in McPherson, Kansas, where he served as president and then as chairman of the board for Home State Bank & Trust.

In 1990, Dick was elected to the United States Congress, representing the Fifth Congressional District of Kansas. Two years later, following the census, Dick's district was eliminated, and he returned to life as a businessman, but he never gave up his passion and love for our country.

Dick served as president of the Kansas Bankers Association, was active in the local Chamber of Commerce, and was a fellow Rotarian. He was a proud husband, father, and grandfather, and his outgoing, optimistic personality gained him new friends wherever he traveled.

I had the opportunity to get to know Dick and will always be grateful for the time and energy he spent helping me find my way to Washington, D.C. When I was back in McPherson, I always enjoyed chatting with him about Kansas State athletics, fellow Beta fraternity brothers, and Republican politics.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Dick's wife, Linda, and the entire Nichols family as they mourn the loss of a great Kansan and a great man. He will certainly be missed.

RESTORING INTEGRITY OF SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of Secretary Sonny Perdue and the Department of Agriculture's proposed rule to restore the integrity of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and implement the program as a safety net, not a way of life.

In 2019, too many able-bodied men and women remain on the sidelines of our workforce. Recent data published by the U.S. Federal Reserve in February indicate a historically robust economy yet sluggish labor force participation rates, indicating a continued reluctance by some to engage in the workplace.

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According to data from USDA, we have more families accepting SNAP

dollars today than we did at the height of the financial crisis of 2008.

Despite major economic gains and today's record low unemployment; too many States are allowing people to opt out of work, leaving employers to spend valuable resources searching for men and women to fill our many vacant jobs.

By requiring able-bodied adults without minor dependents who are seeking SNAP benefits to work at least 20 hours a week while participating in training or educational programs, we are ensuring these men and women are no longer disengaged from the labor market, but finding a way back to the workforce and long-term self-sufficiency.

This Nation's economy is as strong as it has been in my professional lifetime. We must continue to encourage individuals to become self-sufficient and find new employment opportunities.

For too long, too many States have bypassed the rules and allowed able-bodied adults to neglect valuable job training and educational opportunities.

Employers across the country have good-paying jobs that can help individuals move out of poverty and regain their independence and integrity.

It is time we restore SNAP to its intended purpose, help men and women move back into the workforce, and take a major step in closing the workforce participation gap.

CLOSING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to discuss the progress made over the past two years to close the digital divide.

Access to a reliable internet connection remains a significant challenge in rural America and across my district. Society is becoming more and more reliant on broadband, whether for access to educational resources, telemedicine, or precision agriculture technology.

At the end of 2016, more than 26 million Americans did not have access to high speed internet. However, in a recent draft report circulated by Chairman Pai, that number dropped to just over 19 million at the end of 2017, with many of these new connections being in rural America. According to that report, fiber was deployed to another almost 6 million homes by the end of 2018, which is the largest number ever recorded.

Reducing regulatory burdens for deployment has helped to incentivize investment. Our local providers are working hard to leverage Federal programs, private dollars, and savings from the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act to further deploy broadband infrastructure to rural communities, better connecting our farmers, small businesses, and families. Companies like Rockhouse Motion, a digital media company in Geneseo, Kansas, or Rollin J Boutique in Phillipsburg, Kansas, both in my district, are able to thrive thanks to that internet connection.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud our efforts at the FCC, the USDA, and Congress to

make broadband access in rural America both affordable and reliable. I also encourage my colleagues to continue working to ensure that Americans have access to an internet connection no matter where they live.

CELEBRATING GIRL SCOUTS ON THEIR 107TH ANNIVERSARY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Ms. KENDRA S. HORN) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KENDRA S. HORN of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Girl Scouts of the United States as it celebrates its 107th birthday today.

On this day in 1912, Juliette Gordon Low founded this organization for, in her words, the girls of Savannah and of all America and of the world.

As you might be able to tell from the pictures next to me, Girl Scouts holds a very special place in my life.

Girl Scouts prepares girls to empower themselves, promotes compassion, courage, confidence, character, leadership, entrepreneurship, and active citizenship.

You see, my life has been shaped, as have many other girls and women throughout this country, in large part by the lessons I learned through scouting. From my great-grandmother, to my grandmother, to my mother, to myself, Girl Scouts and the values that Girl Scouts helped me to achieve have helped carry me through life.

For more than a century, the Girl Scouts have taught girls to be go-getters, innovators, risk-takers, and leaders.

Today, with a record number of women serving in the U.S. Congress, there are also a record number of Girl Scouts. Fifty-eight percent of the women in the U.S. House of Representatives are Girl Scouts and 73 percent of female U.S. Senators are Girl Scouts.

Though there are hundreds of Girl Scout alums in both houses of Congress, there are three of us who earned scouting's highest honor: myself, Congresswoman LAUREN UNDERWOOD, and Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH.

This award, the Gold Award, is given to high schoolers after they identify an issue in their community, investigate it, build a team, build a plan, and implement it. These 1- to 2-year take-action projects must have sustainable impacts on the community. They can be petitions to add playgrounds to local parks, recycling campaigns, building emergency kits, and on and on, but the one thing they have in common is a sustainability requirement. They simply can't be a one shot. They must create lasting change.

Girl Scouts teaches its members to look for the root cause of a problem, not simply the symptoms.

The Gold Award is the highest achievement in all of Girl Scouts.

Congress isn't the only place as well that Girl Scouts have gone into public