

Utility Service at the Department of Agriculture.

Furthermore, the bill clarifies that nothing in this act would alter or amend any provision of the section of law that authorizes the FCC's Universal Service Fund.

H.R. 1328 is an important bill that would indeed help speed up broadband deployment to unserved and underserved areas and promote broadband adoption.

There is still much more work to be done on this issue, and I do hope that this can serve as a starting place for us to open doors of opportunity and access to millions of Americans by investing in broadband expansion.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all the Members and staff working together on ACCESS BROADBAND to help ensure that our communities can access the broadband resources that they need to grow and prosper.

The ACCESS BROADBAND Act is a bipartisan, commonsense bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BROOKS of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1328, the ACCESS BROADBAND Act. I would also like to take this time to thank my colleague, Representative TONKO, for asking me to partner on this very important bill. I thank him and his team for this work.

Why is this bill so important? To put it simply, people in every State of our country, including Indiana, need better access to the internet.

This is no surprise to us. Every time I am home, back in the Fifth District, Hoosiers, particularly from rural areas, tell me they are afraid of being left behind in the 21st century economy because we continue to be more and more reliant on technology.

I have spoken to many members of the Indiana Farm Bureau who have voiced their continued concerns with the level of connectivity in Indiana and, as we have learned, throughout the country. They cannot wait and hope for new technology to fix their connectivity problems that have existed for years.

Additionally, today, more and more schools require homework to be submitted electronically, tests are taken online, and class notes are posted on school websites. When students can't access the internet, they often have to travel to a library daily in order to just keep up with their studies, or they risk falling behind in their classes.

We can't forget about the impact the internet has had on businesses of all sizes, especially small businesses. This week is National Small Business Week, so small businesses from across the country are meeting with Members of Congress or their staff about the obstacles they face as they work to grow their businesses.

Each year, these advocates highlight the need for the Federal Government

to better support their efforts. A significant part of that equation is working to ensure better and faster access to the internet, no matter where their business is located or no matter how large or small it is.

When small businesses don't have broadband internet access, their communities suffer, and they miss opportunities to create new jobs, drive innovation, and increase our country's global competitiveness.

□ 1245

For all these reasons and more, we must do more to support our communities in an age where internet connectivity is crucial to success.

Indiana has recognized this critical need and has made a commitment to invest \$100 million in supporting broadband access across the State for underserved areas. This Next Level Connections program is exactly the kind of idea that the ACCESS BROADBAND Act will help support. By making Federal resources easier to access, Indiana will be better able to support its own internet access efforts.

The ACCESS BROADBAND Act is an important step toward eliminating broadband access difficulties. This bill will require the National Telecommunications and Information Administration to create an office to coordinate all the various Federal efforts that support broadband deployment and access. This office will perform outreach to communities in every corner of our country to inform them how they can best support internet access development. It will also require the office to standardize applications for financial assistance or grants and work to create a single application for all Federal broadband support programs.

This bill is about bringing the benefits of broadband communications into the lives of our constituents. I am glad Congress is acting on a solution to help address this problem faced not only by Hoosiers but Americans all across the country.

I thank the gentleman from New York, Representative TONKO, once again for allowing me to partner with him on this important legislation. I look forward to working with him in the future on similar issues to ensure that our country and our constituents are wired and ready to compete.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my colleagues in the House to support this measure, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, again, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1328. It underscores the very relevance and importance of broadband in today's society. It speaks to fairness for all communities, certainly for all households, businesses, and the like. It is a way for us to offer a greater partnership with government, more effective governance, with this given phenomenon of technology. I encourage my colleagues to support that.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1328, 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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, May 8, 2019.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
*The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.*

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 8, 2019, at 11:00 a.m.:

Appointment:
Congressional-Executive Commission on the People's Republic of China.

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki).

With best wishes, I am
Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CARSON of Indiana) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages in writing from the President of the United States were communicated to the House by Mr. Brian Pate, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

H.R. 1503 and
H.R. 1520, if ordered.

