

in FAA grants to California airports and divert \$70 million in CA State and Local general sales taxes away from their intended purpose. This provision was included in my amendment on the House floor that is the same as my bill H.R. 2939, the State and Local General Sales Tax Protection Act. This restores 29 years of FAA policy that the restriction on aviation fuel sales taxes for aviation purposes is based on excise taxes and not general sales taxes. This will allow the State of California, California Counties and California cities to continue to spend their general sales tax revenues on their voter approved purpose.

An additional amendment of mine was adopted on the floor to protect the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan program from being raided by other programs. TIFIA is incredibly important to Southern California as we are able to use this low cost financing with our Measure R, Measure M, and SB1 money to speed up transportation projects so they are completed now instead of 30 years from now. This means Southern California residents, businesses, and commuters get the benefits of these highway, transit and rail improvements today instead of waiting for future funding cycles. This also saves money in the long run by shortening the time value of the costs of construction.

H.R. 2 also includes important provisions from the Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee which I chair that would provide federal assistance to clean water projects, water supply projects, and environmental improvements and recreation. These include:

Reauthorizes the Clean Water State Revolving Fund at \$40 billion over five years to construct water treatment systems that address today's water challenges to clean up our rivers, streams, lakes and ocean for improved drinking water, recreation, and the environment.

Authorizes \$5.6 billion for clean water act grant programs (including \$1 billion for treatment of PFAS chemicals and other emerging contaminants) that can provide direct assistance to local water agencies.

Authorizes \$3.4 billion to reauthorize various regional water programs over the next five years that the subcommittee recently passed, which include: the National Estuary Program, the San Francisco Bay Program, the Puget Sound Program, the Great Lakes Program, the Chesapeake Bay Program, and the Lake Pontchartrain Program.

Appropriates \$10 billion to the Army Corps of Engineers for construction projects for flood control, navigation, and environmental restoration. This funding could be used to perform the Whittier Narrows Dam renovation project that will protect Southern California from major flooding events.

Appropriates \$5 billion for operation and maintenance of Army Corps projects which can be used on the Los Angeles, San Gabriel and Rio Hondo rivers to improve the river landscape and maintain proper flood control.

The Natural Resources Committee has included in H.R. 2 my bill, H.R. 1162, the Water Recycling Investment and Improvement Act. This will increase the authorization for the Bureau of Reclamation's Title XVI program, which is the most successful and primary water recycling program of the federal government, from \$50 million to \$500 million.

Title XVI provides cost-shared funding for water recycling projects that reclaim and reuse

municipal, industrial, domestic or agricultural wastewater, and, naturally impaired ground or surface waters across the 17 Western states. This grant program has proven to be the most cost-effective in improving water supply by providing long-term savings, while boosting job growth and lowering our reliance on imported potable water.

By increasing Title XVI's authorization from \$50 million to \$500 million, it gives local water agencies the necessary funding to increase capacities for existing recycling plants or create new cost-effective projects to boost water supplies.

Since 1992, Congress has authorized 53 Title XVI recycling projects, producing more than 400,000 acre-feet of drought-resistant water supply. Unfortunately, due to the lack of funding, there is a backlog of almost \$1 billion dollars for congressionally authorized Title XVI projects—demonstrating a clear need to continue and expand funding.

Not only do these projects create jobs and boost our local economies, farms, and businesses, but Title XVI projects can be brought on-line with "wet" water, not paper water, in as little as two years. These projects provide long-term savings, which is why water districts and sanitation agencies are overwhelmingly supportive of this program.

With almost 50 percent of the country in drought and demands for clean water increasing especially during this pandemic, Congress must look towards programs that further drought proof our drinking water, irrigation, and recreation water supplies. As we work to explore new ways to expand our water portfolio and safeguard our local communities from future shortages and drought, it is imperative that Congress adequately fund, promote and expand water recycling infrastructure projects.

Mr. Speaker, before I close, I would like to thank the cities, transportation agencies and water agencies in my district and state that were integral at informing the Congress of their concerns and ideas for infrastructure policy.

I would particularly like to thank Mark Christoffels for testifying before the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee regarding railroad safety issues, and his colleague Paul Hubler who is also Chair of the Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors.

I would like to thank my local transit leaders for giving expert advice on transit issues and the improvements to transit we were able to make in this bill. This includes Phil Washington, Raffi Hamparian and Michael Davies from Los Angeles Metro, and Doran Barnes and David Reyno from Foothill Transit.

And I would like to thank the San Gabriel Valley Council of Governments and our local city leaders who advocated for increased urban mobility with first and last mile solutions such as pedestrian walkways, bike paths, and improved bus and rail service. They also encouraged us to do more on transit-oriented development and address homelessness which we were able to accomplish in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I hope members appreciate the amazing work done by our Committee Chairs and Committee staff on this important infrastructure bill. They have spent countless hours, long weekends and many late nights putting this bill together through the odd working conditions of a pandemic. I would particularly like to thank my incredible water sub-

committee staff Alexa Williams, Camille Touton, Navis Bermudez, and Ryan Seiger. I would also like to thank the staff who worked with me on provisions important to California including Helena Zyblikewycz, Garrett Gee, Jackie Schmitz, Auke Mahar-Piersma, Andrea Wohleber, and Matthew Muirragui.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I am back home in Green Bay, Wisconsin on paternity leave with my family.

Had I been present, I would have voted Yea on Roll Call No. 123; Nay on Roll Call No. 124; Yea on Roll Call No. 125; Nay on Roll Call No. 126; Yea on Roll Call No. 127; Nay on Roll Call No. 128; and Nay on Roll Call No. 129.

IN CELEBRATION OF PASTOR JERRY HATTER

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to Pastor Jerry Hatter as he celebrates his retirement from the pastoral ministry at Brown Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (AME) Church.

After a 23-year career at Ford Motor Company in finance and accounting, Pastor Jerry Hatter entered into the Christian ministry full time. In August 1991, Pastor Hatter was appointed to serve as the 43rd pastor of Brown Chapel AME Church by Bishop Haskell Mayo. In the years since, Pastor Hatter has led to the church to unimaginable new heights and has nurtured, supported, and welcomed the entire Ypsilanti religious community in his ministry. Under his spiritual leadership, Brown Chapel created the Daniel Payne Scholarship Fund, began a Child Care Ministry, established Brown Chapel Foundation, Inc., and partially sponsored a Habitat House, to name a few of the church's numerous accomplishments. Throughout the years, Pastor Hatter has also led Brown Chapel through some of its most incredible milestones, like the church's 150th and 175th anniversaries, and the completion of the new church edifice in 1999.

Pastor Hatter uses his faith to support his local community. In the early 1990s, Pastor Hatter and Brown Chapel became one of Food Gatherer's first partners. Determined to battle hunger in Michigan, Pastor Hatter promoted thoughtful collaboration among his congregation to determine ways to address the root causes of food insecurity. Since, Pastor Hatter has been active in a variety of other outreach programs that uplift the underprivileged and give them the resources they need to lead healthy, fulfilling, and dignified lives. His passion for service even took him to India, where he embarked on a mission trip in 2013. To date, Pastor Hatter has held membership

in several organizations and boards, including the Hope Clinic, SOS Community Services, Turner Geriatric Advisory Board, WCSO Ministerial Advisory Team, and Southeastern Michigan AME Minister's Alliance, and continues to seek out opportunities to help people navigate spiritual, emotional, or physical issues. Moreover, Pastor Hatter is mentor to many and particularly strives to assist younger generations in developing their relationships with the church and God. He is involved in the Mentor2Youth program that empowers youth to excel in life, academics, and work, and was honored by the organization for his tremendous accomplishments in the community.

Among his friends, family, peers, and congregation, Pastor Jerry Hatter is recognized as a dedicated and spirited leader who humbly strives to make the world a better place. As the longest-serving pastor in Brown Chapel AME Church's history, Pastor Hatter has preached at a variety of prestigious celebrations across Michigan and implemented a number of successful faith-based programs. In times of divisiveness and strife, Pastor Hatter has been the voice of reason, and he has been an unwavering advocate of the entire religious community. Without a doubt, Pastor Hatter has demonstrated what a true servant of God should endeavor to be. He provides a clear example of selfless love and compassion that encourages others to live a life of purpose, integrity, and virtue. His commitment to the word of God has left a positive mark on Brown Chapel and the community beyond.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the retirement of Pastor Jerry Hatter from the pastoral ministry at Brown Chapel AME Church. In addition to being a faithful leader, Pastor Hatter was a friend who was deeply valued, cherished, and respected by John Dingell. His devotion to God continues to make a difference, and his legacy at Brown Chapel AME Church is one that will never be forgotten. Although we are sad to see him go, we are all grateful for his years of service, his extraordinary work, and his significant community impact.

HONORING COLONEL GREG FORD

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Greg Ford for his 24 years of military service and to congratulate him on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army. Colonel Ford assumed command of Presidio of Monterey (POM) in June 2018 and has served not only the post, but also the broader community with distinction. It has been a privilege to work alongside Colonel Ford over the past two years, and it is my honor to recognize his service on the House floor today.

Colonel Ford earned a bachelor's degree from Western Oregon University in 1996, and was commissioned a Military Intelligence Second Lieutenant through ROTC. He later held numerous assignments within the 101st Airborne, deploying to Operation Iraqi Freedom multiple times between 2001 and 2006. In 2010, Ford transferred to Hawaii where he served as the U.S. Army Pacific G2 Oper-

ations Chief and later as the 25th Infantry Division G2. Between these assignments, Ford deployed to Afghanistan from 2014 to 2015. Upon his return, Ford became a U.S. Army War College Fellow at the Daniel K. Inouye Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies. From there, he served in the Republic of Korea as the G2 Chief of Operations for the 8th U.S. Army.

In the two years that Colonel Ford served as Garrison Commander at the Presidio of Monterey, he has made a lasting impact on base operations, military families, and the wellbeing of the broader community. He was a leading advocate for Presidio of Monterey Housing residents and worked tirelessly to ensure safe and quality housing to our servicemembers and their families. My office has received countless testimonials from POM residents who credit Colonel Ford with improving their health and safety through his advocacy efforts and direct communication with anyone in need of assistance.

Colonel Ford continuously engaged on the Fort Ord Reuse Authority Board to ensure Army equities and community reuse goals were synchronized. He also worked to strengthen ties between POM and the local community, including organizing rehearsals of the Peninsula Evacuation Plan with the City of Monterey for the first time in a decade.

During his command, Colonel Ford worked with local organizations and leaders to improve support to Gold Star Families, Exceptional Family Members, and Housing Residents. In doing so, he sought ways to integrate local efforts, such as Stonepine Estate, Operation Care and Comfort, and Hayward Scores, to better support the military community.

Most recently, Colonel Ford rose to the challenge as COVID-19 reached the central coast of California. He coordinated with the County and local municipalities to ensure that Garrison actions were synchronized with local efforts. Additionally, Colonel Ford quickly implemented safety measures through POM and held regular virtual townhalls to ensure the Military community remained informed in the midst of the pandemic. His actions undoubtedly contributed to the relatively small impact of COVID-19 within POM.

It has been a pleasure having Colonel Ford and his wife, Mrs. Rebecca Ford, in Monterey for the past two years. Madam Speaker, please join me in congratulating Colonel Ford on his retirement and expressing gratitude for his and his family's many years of honorable service to our country.

COMMEMORATING JAMES "RUSTY" MITCHELL

HON. DEBBIE LESKO

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the retirement of James "Rusty" Mitchell from the Department of the Air Force as a civilian employee out of Luke Air Force Base, Arizona.

Mr. Mitchell has been a well-loved and influential member of the military and veteran community for over 25 years. He began his career in the Air Force flying fighter jets and retired

from Active Duty after 22 years as the Commander of the 21st Fighter Squadron at Luke Air Force Base.

During his time in service, Mr. Mitchell acquired a long list of achievements and awards to include the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Air Force Aerial Achievement Medal, both the Air Force and Army Commendation Medals, and more. Professionally, he has been awarded the Air Force Practice Award and the Valley Peaks Community Partnership Award, to name a few. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Valley Partnership and WESTMARC.

Mr. Mitchell has dedicated the last 17 years to serving the West Valley proactively—promoting the relationships between Luke Air Force Base, nine municipalities, Maricopa County, and the State of Arizona as the Director of the Community Initiatives Team with Luke Air Force Base. The relationships he built on behalf of Luke Air Force Base continue to be critical to accomplishing their mission of "Training the World's Best Fighter Pilots."

I am certain that his efforts improving relationships with communities near bases that are tasked with flight operation missions has enhanced the compatibility of several military bases and their communities across the United States.

On this day, we as a community would like to thank Mr. Mitchell for his service to his country. His impact will be felt not only in the West Valley, but also within the Air Force Community beyond his retirement.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN ROUSH'S RETIREMENT

HON. BRETT GUTHRIE

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Mr. GUTHRIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. John A. Roush on his retirement as president of Centre College in Danville, Kentucky.

President Roush often told his students, "Do your best. Be your best. No regrets." I have had the privilege of getting to know President Roush during my time representing Danville and Centre College in Congress, and I can undoubtedly say that President Roush always did his best. I have always admired his work and appreciated his advice, particularly when I served as chairman of the Higher Education subcommittee. During his 22 years at Centre College, he oversaw a 40 percent growth in the student body population, without sacrificing quality of education or Centre's liberal arts values. He has helped build Centre's national reputation. My colleagues might know Centre as the host of not one, but two vice presidential debates during his time as president. President Roush's legacy will live on at Centre College for generations to come.

Today is not only the first day of President Roush's retirement, but also his birthday. I congratulate him on his retirement, and I wish him and his wife Susie the best.