

Register, and billions in compliance costs for American farmers, small businesses, and families, much of this backed by flawed research with a political agenda.

The Office of Science and Technology aids in the regulatory process and is responsible for the faulty research that led to costly regulations like the social cost of carbon and the Clean Power Plan.

The American people need transparent research without an agenda. They don't need Obama-Biden era regulations and spending policies.

The amendment, once again, simply reduces funding for the EPA to reflect President Trump's budget request.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Minnesota is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, as I said on the other amendment, for 4 years in a row, President Trump has sent us truly appalling budget request numbers for the EPA, and the Congress has overwhelmingly rejected these requests on a bipartisan basis. As I said, I predict we will do that again for the fourth year in a row.

The EPA's science and technology account does vital research on health effects of toxic chemicals and pollutants. Now, the Trump administration, by not doing this research and by not moving forward, protects corporate polluters' profits, not the health and safety of the American people. That is why, in my opinion, the administration's budget proposes to cut hundreds of millions of dollars for funding research on things like PFAS.

Now, in my constituency, I have several major municipalities that can no longer just take the water out of the ground the way that they had before, send it to the homeowners, and they could turn on their tap and safely drink it. No, it has to be filtered for PFAS. We need research. We need standards on it.

Lead. How many discussions have we had on this House floor? How many parents have we heard from? How many children have we heard from about the effects of lead in water?

Mercury. I am from Minnesota. We have fish advisories because of mercury. Pregnant women have to be careful how much fish they consume. We have postings when we go to our lakes about how much fish we can consume. Mercury is a concern to many of us.

And climate change. I am not afraid to talk about climate change. I was just on the phone with the Secretary of the Air Force, and we were talking about what we are going to have to spend in Alaska. You know, the permafrost is causing issues with radar installations not being stable—climate change. The permafrost, which is disappearing, is affecting the ability for

runways and safe landings. Climate change.

So, do we need to do the research on climate change? It is a national security issue. I am glad the EPA is out there looking at it, working with other agencies within the United States.

People across this country overwhelmingly agree we should be investing more research in PFAS. We should be getting the lead out of our water. We should be understanding what is going on with mercury. We should also be addressing the effects of climate change and, most of all, protecting our families from pollution.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Madam Speaker, if you listen to my Democrat colleagues, you would think the EPA could not go on without this funding that we are trying to reduce. It is about being efficient.

This administration, as I had said earlier, under President Trump, emissions have fallen in every major category and overall have dropped 7 percent since 2017. Right now, we have the cleanest air since 1970.

Throwing money at an issue you care about is not the solution. Being efficient in government is the solution, and that is what the Trump EPA has done.

□ 1930

So they have asked for this particular amount of money, and I am making sure that we are giving the EPA what they need, not busting the spending caps which were agreed to by Republicans and Democrats by their current proposal.

Let's keep the spending caps. Let's adopt my amendment.

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

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I will read from the National Geographic, published April 8, 2020:

"As the novel coronavirus tears around the world, it's exploiting our biggest weaknesses, from creaking health care systems to extreme social inequality. Its relationship with one pervasive and neglected problem, however, has been more tangled: Air pollution has intensified the pandemic. . . ."

So we need to do studies on that, and the EPA works on that, but at the same time, the coronavirus has temporarily cleaned the skies.

As I said earlier, for 50 years, the EPA has been responsible for protecting public health and the environment.

We need to do research to understand how to protect public health and the environment; and more importantly than ever, we need to understand how to protect public health and the environment for people who have long been neglected, the people who are suffering the most right now, and that is the inequality, the injustice we are seeing

between Black and Brown people in the United States.

We need to do better with the EPA for addressing social injustices that have affected those populations most by living in polluted areas and being subjected to pollution. I want to work on that in Congress. The administration's cuts would cripple the EPA's ability to achieve that mission.

Madam Speaker, if I understand correctly, the gentleman has yielded his time.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1060, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SMITH).

The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was rejected.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 7608 is postponed.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIM) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 23, 2020.

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 July 23, 2020, at 2:00 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 906.

That the Senate passed S. 4065.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

ROBERT F. REEVES,
Deputy Clerk.

WOMEN SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO SERVE IN DIGNITY

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, sometimes it is very difficult to respond to something that is so much out of the ordinary, but I rise today to refer to my colleague, ALEXANDRIA OCASIO-CORTEZ, and to make mention of the incident that occurred where she was described in unflattering words.

Those words were denigrating to a woman. They were equally denigrating to women of color.

One's views in this place are protected by the Constitution and protected by the First Amendment, but it is particularly sad when one's particular gender is called out and degraded, for women have been the backbone of this Nation. They have helped

build this country. They serve in the United States military.

Our Member of Congress from The Bronx, New York, has equally been elected by her constituents, and deserves the kind of respect and understanding that all of those who take the oath deserve. I am appalled by the words that were used against her.

I stand with her remarks of expression of the right to have different views, and I also stand with her as a woman who would respect that service and that unique service that we who have come to this place where we could not be for many, many years to serve, she should be allowed to serve, and serve in dignity.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE JOHN LEWIS

(Ms. McCOLLUM asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I was on my way out and I saw the beautiful white flowers that are sitting on my side of the aisle celebrating the life of John Lewis.

Last night, I had the radio on and I was listening to C-SPAN, and I heard the wonderful, wonderful stories on both sides of the aisle of people celebrating John's life and what he meant to them.

As I was preparing for this bill and working on this bill, working on the inequalities of years of systemic racism and how it has infected the environment made me even want to champion this bill that was before us today even more, as a remembrance of all the work that needs to be done.

As people were sharing their stories of John, what came to mind for me was talking about gardening. He loved to garden and he had a few plants, and we would talk about them.

He loved to fish, and the one thing I would always tease him about, Mr. Speaker, is going to Minnesota and going ice fishing.

Well, John, that is going to have to wait, but I look forward to seeing you again in the heavens, and we will go ice fishing.

WE NEED TO FIGHT FOR OUR COUNTRY

(Mr. NORMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I will quote from the great Alexander Fraser, who wrote about the decline of democracy. The nations have progressed through this sequence. Very few have existed past 200 years, but they all come to an end.

They go "from bondage to spiritual faith; from spiritual faith to great courage; from courage to liberty; from liberty to abundance; from abundance to selfishness; from selfishness to . . . apathy; from apathy to dependence; from dependence back into bondage."

I think now we are at a point in time in history where we have got to fight for our freedom, we have got to fight for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that people now get involved who have never been involved before.

AMERICA IS A GREAT NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2019, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Speaker, we are here as lovers of liberty, as patriots, as people concerned about the future of our country, just citizen legislators, people who have children and grandchildren and who want our posterity to inherit the blessings of liberty and all of the opportunities this great Nation has afforded not only myself and my colleagues, but all Americans.

America is a great nation, and God has truly blessed America. America has been a blessing to the world, and as President Trump has said, we must keep America great.

It is not just what that statement means to our citizens and to our children and the next generation of Americans; it is what America means and what this great experiment at liberty and democracy means for the entire world.

Mr. Speaker, we are going to talk about the substance of that greatness, the true substance of it.

I would suggest that what makes America great is the American people and the values, the beliefs—what defines us—our culture, what we esteem.

That is what we must remember as we legislate, as we lead and represent our citizens throughout this great land, that what makes America great and what will keep America great are America's values. We must defend them. We must promote them.

□ 1945

We must fight for a future that has those values of faith, In God We Trust, one Nation under the sovereignty of God, with a firm belief, as John Adams says, that the Constitution is only good for a moral and religious people, for example.

He understood that, at the foundation of this great country, that we would only be able to persist, and we have only persisted as the longest democracy in the history of the world be-

cause we bow the knee to our sovereign God, who, as Ben Franklin said, if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground apart from His will, then a Nation cannot rise apart from it. And I would submit that this great Nation cannot persist without that.

We recognize that you can pass all the laws you want and, certainly, laws have their place in civil order, and the enforcement of those laws are critical for the domestic tranquility of our country. But you are not going to change anyone's heart through passing laws.

And John Adams and our Founders understood that if this republic would continue for generations it would be because we always remembered that above and beyond passing good laws and making good policy is that we would recognize that we have a higher accountability, and that accountability is Almighty God, that same God whose providential hand was with this Nation from the very beginning and, I pray, will continue with all of us, on both sides of the aisle.

Every person that swears an oath and has the good fortune and privilege of serving, I pray God's gracious and providential hand will continue to guide us in the challenges that we face today.

We have our 21st century challenges, just like every generation has and, I would submit, we must return to what made this country great.

Tonight, we are going to reflect on America's values, America's culture, and America's heritage, and why it matters to fight and defend those values.

I have dear friends who are much more articulate, Mr. Speaker, than I am on this, and they speak from the heart. They speak with personal conviction. They ran for office to serve, and to strive for a more perfect union, and to hand this country better than we found it to their children and grandchildren.

One of those individuals is RALPH NORMAN, from the great State of South Carolina, a businessman who decided that he would make tremendous sacrifice. He has got a beautiful and big family, and he said this is the best way he can love his grandchildren is to love his country through service and through making it better by passing the right laws and upholding the right values.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for having this Special Order. It couldn't come at a more unique time. The history, defining America's values, our culture, and our heritage, now more than ever, need to be spotlighted.

The gentleman summed it up well. It boils down to three things, faith, family, and country; faith, family, and country.

America finds herself in an hour of peril. In the recent weeks and months,