

CBSI programs have yielded a 250 percent increase in cocaine interdictions. USAID programming targets the drivers of youth crime and violence to reduce the risk of youth involvement in transnational organized crime.

USAID uses risk assessment tools to identify at-risk youth in countries like St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Guyana. USAID then partners with those host countries, delivering support to families and youth. Across those three countries, 75 percent of the youth targeted have reduced risk levels.

To augment law enforcement, CBSI supports efforts to professionalize and reform law enforcement institutions and enables partner governments to better prevent, investigate, and prosecute crime. These are tremendous tools.

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are transshipment points for illicit drugs that have been smuggled from source countries into the U.S. mainland, as well as destination points for drugs distributed within the two territories. This bill is very essential to us.

Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands are situated between the U.S. mainland and drug-source countries such as Colombia and Peru, making them ideal gateways for movement of illicit drugs onward to the U.S. mainland.

The Caribbean sits as a transshipment area for so many goods: first, people, sugar, and, in many instances, drug trafficking now.

Drug trafficking organizations and criminal groups use commercial and private maritime vessels, commercial private aircraft, and package delivery services to smuggle illicit drugs into and through Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Large drug shipments are often offloaded in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, repackaged, and stored in secluded areas until they are distributed locally or transported to the U.S. mainland.

What is the outcome of this? Wreaking havoc in our communities.

There were 52 murders this year on the Virgin Islands, 49.2 per 100,000 people; in 2018, a whopping 52 individuals in a community of 100,000 people. Many of those deaths—most of those deaths—related to drug trafficking, drugs that we do not even use on the islands.

This bill is vital to combating drug trafficking, promoting good governance, independent justice sectors, and empowering civil society in the Caribbean.

Too often, the Caribbean is ignored. We must correct this by deepening our partnerships and cooperation with some of our closest allies. Working together, we can help increase citizen security, build resilience to natural disasters caused by climate change, and improve strategies to reduce illegal narcotics trafficking.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HORSFORD). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentleman from the Virgin Islands an additional 1 minute.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I won't need all of that minute, but I want to thank the gentleman for the time.

This bill is so vital, not only to stopping drug trafficking, but supporting our communities, helping youth within the Caribbean to reach their potential.

I want to thank the authors of this bill. I am grateful this is a bipartisan effort to not forget the Caribbean. I thank my colleague, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and the members of the committee.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it. 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. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7703, 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.

EXPRESSING SUPPORT OF THREE SEAS INITIATIVE IN ITS EFFORTS TO INCREASE ENERGY INDEPENDENCE AND INFRASTRUCTURE CONNECTIVITY

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 672) expressing support of the Three Seas Initiative in its efforts to increase energy independence and infrastructure connectivity thereby strengthening the United States and European national security, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 672

Whereas, in 2015, 12 Central and European nations of the European Union established the Three Seas Initiative to increase energy, infrastructure, and digital communications autonomy and resilience through support of collective financing for new infrastructure projects to connect the region between the Adriatic, Baltic, and Black Seas;

Whereas the United States pledged support and willingness to serve as a steadfast partner of the Three Seas Initiative's effort at the July 2017 Warsaw summit;

Whereas, in February 2020, the Secretary of State announced a United States commitment of up to \$1,000,000,000 in financing for Three Seas Initiative countries to promote energy security and economic growth;

Whereas the Three Seas Initiative will advance economic growth, resilience, transport and digital connectivity, and energy security in this strategic region, thereby increasing the national security of the United States;

Whereas the President of the European Commission recognized the Three Seas Initiative as a "catalyst for the cohesion and convergence of the EU and for the strengthening of the transatlantic link";

Whereas Soviet-imposed communist rule in Central and Eastern Europe left the region with a significant infrastructure deficit, especially in the realm of north-south transportation and energy lines;

Whereas the current state of infrastructure in Central and Eastern Europe nations restricts energy, water, and telecommunications interconnectivity across the region;

Whereas the infrastructure deficit leaves these nations overly dependent on Russia for their energy and additional economic needs;

Whereas Russia seeks to undermine democratic institutions and liberty in Europe through hybrid means, including using energy as a tool for coercion;

Whereas Russian gas pipeline projects, such as Nord Stream II and Turk Stream, are political and seek to undermine Europe's energy security;

Whereas the Three Seas Initiative provides a positive alternative for financing for transport, energy and digital connectivity projects in the Three Seas region to China's 17+1 and Belt and Road Initiatives, which have exported corruption, debt traps, and poor labor and environmental standards;

Whereas diversification of energy sources and supply routes, including development of renewable energy sources and technology, is critical to bolstering energy security;

Whereas members of the Three Seas Initiative have prioritized key energy projects such as the Krk, Croatia LNG terminal, Gas Interconnector Republic of Poland-Republic of Lithuania, the Bulgaria-Romania-Hungary-Austria (BRUA) gas interconnector, and other cross-border interconnections;

Whereas members of the Three Seas Initiative have also prioritized key digital infrastructure and transportation projects to support modern and vibrant economies including the Three Seas Initiative Digital Highway, the Viking Train, the Adriatic TEN-T Core Network Corridor, and the FAIRway Danube, among others; and

Whereas the Three Seas Initiative includes vital allies of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the Three Seas Initiative in its efforts to increase energy resilience and infrastructure connectivity across Central and Eastern Europe and to further the process of building a Europe that is undivided, secure, prosperous, and free;

(2) encourages Three Seas Initiative nations to take action on joint financing of projects to strengthen energy, infrastructure, and digital communications projects in Central and Eastern Europe, including through national contributions to the Three Seas Initiative Infrastructure Fund;

(3) reaffirms the authority of the President under the Build Act of 2018 (division F of Public Law 115-254) to provide United States financing to the Three Seas Initiative and its projects in cases that advance national economic or foreign policy interests of the United States and would produce significant developmental outcomes or provide developmental benefits to the poorest population;

(4) reaffirms the authority of the United States International Development Finance Corporation under the European Energy Security and Diversification Act of 2019 (title XX of division P of Public Law 116-94) to provide support for the Three Seas Initiative and its energy infrastructure projects in countries with upper-middle-income or high-income economies in cases described in paragraph (3) or if such support is necessary to preempt or counter efforts by a strategic competitor of the United States to secure significant political or economic leverage or

acquire national security-sensitive technologies or infrastructure in a country that is an ally or partner of the United States;

(5) encourages the Three Seas Initiative member nations to boost cross-border cooperation and financing on diversification of energy sources, including clean energy sources and infrastructure;

(6) encourages Three Seas Initiative nations to extend this vision of enhanced regional infrastructural connectivity to non-European Union member states in the Three Seas region, including Ukraine, Moldova, and those in the Western Balkans; and

(7) strongly condemns any efforts of Russia to weaponize energy as a means to put pressure on or to undermine liberty and democracy in Europe.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include in the RECORD any extraneous material on H. Res. 672.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation, and I would like to thank Congresswoman KAPTUR for her leadership and hard work. This is a strong, bipartisan resolution that seeks to promote and encourage Europe's independence from Russia's coercive energy influence and ensure greater interconnectivity of infrastructure in the region.

Our Eastern European allies and partners know all too well the need to get out from under Russia's stranglehold on the region's energy resources, and this resolution sends an important message that Congress stands with our close friends as they look to build up their own capacity.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 672. I want to thank MARCY KAPTUR for offering it. It is a very important bill to express support for the Three Seas Initiative.

Launched by 12 of our close friends in central and Eastern Europe, the Three Seas Initiative seeks to expand cross-border energy, transportation, and digital infrastructure, as well as to boost economic development in the region.

Though it is a regional initiative, it has global implications that serve not only European but also U.S. security and economic interests.

For far too long, Mr. Speaker, Vladimir Putin has had an energy chokehold

on much of Europe. In response, I have worked with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to strongly oppose Putin's efforts to weaponize Russia's energy resources, including by working to ensure that the Nord Stream 2 pipeline is never completed.

Moreover, we in Congress have expressed growing concern that the CCP is exporting corruption, debt traps, poor labor and environmental standards to Europe and across the world through its 17+1 and Belt and Road Initiatives.

We have also raised the alarm for our EU and NATO allies about the threats that Huawei and the Chinese Communist Party pose as partners.

The Three Seas Initiative seeks to address these concerns. It aims to decrease European dependence on Russian energy by financing new routes for non-Russian energy suppliers and to provide positive alternatives to PRC investments in the region.

We must support our allies in Central and Eastern Europe as they seek, through the Three Seas Initiative, to reduce their dependence on Moscow's and Beijing's economic overtures.

Only together can we face the threats posed by the authoritarian regimes in China and Russia. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support this important legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who is the author of this important resolution.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank Chairman ESPAILLAT for the time in support of H. Res. 672, which is a bipartisan resolution, and I appreciate his help in moving it through the subcommittee and committee. This resolution was introduced with our colleague, Congressman ADAM KINZINGER. I want to thank Ranking Member SMITH for his years of dedication on the committee as well.

This resolution expresses robust support for the Three Seas Initiative to accelerate the development of cross-border infrastructure in Central and Eastern Europe.

I am also very grateful to the chairman of the full committee, ELIOT ENGEL, who has given the best years of his life to this country and our interests around the world, and to Ranking Member McCAUL and Congressman KEATING for their commitment to strengthen the Transatlantic Alliance.

I thank again my colleague, Congressman KINZINGER, for his partnership to shepherd this resolution to the floor.

I also extend special thanks to Majority Leader HOYER and his staff associate Daniel Silverberg for their support.

Throughout the Cold War, the United States led efforts to expand liberty in Europe. After the collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989, the United States wel-

comed the people of the region into the community of democratic nations. Yet Soviet tyranny left this strategic region without a significant infrastructure—actually a huge infrastructure deficit—increasing dependence on malign influence from Russia and, yes, China, too.

Tragically, Russia seeks to divide Europe by exploiting Europe's energy dependence, including through the Nord Stream 2 and TurkStream pipelines. Meanwhile, Chinese state-linked companies like Huawei offer predatory financing to capture Europe's telecommunications networks creating surveillance vulnerabilities.

In response, 12 U.S. allies in Central and Eastern Europe launched the Three Seas Initiative and Investment Fund. The initiative provides a critical platform to pool financing to construct infrastructure projects free from malign influence. Currently, the Three Seas fund totals \$1.4 billion. The first investment has been made in the transportation infrastructure sector.

This resolution encourages Three Seas member nations to increase investments into the fund. Further, it strongly urges that the vision of a cross-border cooperation be extended to non-E.U. nations such as Ukraine and Moldova. Importantly, this legislation encourages support for financing of clean energy to counter the scourge of climate change. Following this resolution's introduction, the United States pledged up to \$1 billion to finance energy security projects through the Three Seas Investment Fund.

In conclusion, the transatlantic relationship is the bedrock of U.S. foreign policy. Out of the ashes of two world wars, visionary leaders created institutions like NATO to protect and expand liberty.

The Three Seas Initiative—this time launched and led by our Allies—is the next step to complete the transatlantic project. It will ensure a Europe in this 21st century that is whole, free, and at peace.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes."

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, again, I want to thank Congresswoman KAPTUR for her work on this measure and for being an advocate for energy security and the United States-European cooperation on this particular issue.

Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to support this measure, I urge all Members to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 672, a resolution that reinforces our Eastern European allies in the Three Seas Initiative.

Since the Iron Curtain was lifted in 1991, citizens of Eastern European countries have suffered the economic consequences of poorly kept, soviet-era infrastructure that ensures their reliance on Russia for generations to come.

As we all know, the goal of the Three Seas Initiative is to diversify resources in the region by collectively investing in cross border projects into the EU.

Reclaiming valuable economic leverage will open doors to enhanced energy development and expand access to global markets.

By capitalizing on this partnership, countries of the Three Seas Initiative are better equipped to meet the needs of a 21st century economy.

A more economically prosperous and secure Eastern Europe is in the interest of American foreign policy.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Three Seas Initiative and pass H. Res. 672.

I want to thank the sponsor, Congresswoman KAPTUR, Chairman KEATING, and Ranking Member KINZINGER for their leadership.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 672, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING POISONING OF RUSSIAN OPPOSITION LEADER ALEXEI NAVALNY

Mr. ESPAILLAT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1145) condemning the poisoning of Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny and calling for a robust United States and international response, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1145

Whereas Alexei Navalny is a well-known anticorruption activist and leader of the political opposition in Russia;

Whereas Mr. Navalny garnered 27 percent of the vote in the 2013 Moscow mayoral election;

Whereas since that election, Mr. Navalny and his party have been repeatedly denied the opportunity to compete in elections;

Whereas Mr. Navalny has been imprisoned multiple times for participating in unsanctioned protests;

Whereas Mr. Navalny was attacked twice with a chemical substance in 2017 and potentially poisoned in 2019 while in prison;

Whereas over the years a number of Russian journalists, human rights activists, politicians, whistleblowers, and others have been killed or died under mysterious circumstances, in Russia and overseas, including—

(1) former Russian spy Alexander Litvinenko (in London) and investigative journalist Anna Politkovskaya in 2006;

(2) human rights lawyer Stanislav Markelov, journalist Anastasia Baburova, whistleblower lawyer Sergei Magnitsky, and human rights activist Natalya Estemirova in 2009; and

(3) opposition politician Boris Nemtsov in 2015;

Whereas, on August 20, 2020, Mr. Navalny fell ill while on a domestic flight in Russia;

Whereas, on August 22, 2020, Mr. Navalny was evacuated by airlift from Omsk, Russia, to Berlin, Germany, for his protection and to ensure he would receive a high standard of health care to improve his chances of recovery;

Whereas German chemical weapons experts conducted tests and found “unequivocal” evidence that Mr. Navalny had been poisoned with a Soviet-era military-grade chemical nerve agent from the Novichok group;

Whereas specialized laboratories in France and Sweden confirmed that Mr. Navalny was poisoned with a nerve agent from the Novichok group;

Whereas the Government of the Russian Federation has repeatedly denied that Mr. Navalny was poisoned;

Whereas the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany has called on the Government of the Russian Federation to open an investigation into Mr. Navalny’s case;

Whereas the Russian Federation is a party to the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC);

Whereas, in November 2019, after Russian agents used a Novichok-class nerve agent in an attempted assassination of former Russian spy Sergei Skripal in the United Kingdom in March 2018, CWC parties agreed to add the Novichok group of nerve agents to “Schedule 1”, a list of chemicals classified as chemical warfare agents that are subject to declaration requirements and other restrictions;

Whereas, on September 4, 2020, NATO strongly condemned the attack on Mr. Navalny and called on the Russian Federation to cooperate with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons on an impartial, international investigation;

Whereas the G7 foreign ministers issued a statement on September 8, 2020, that called on the Government of the Russian Federation “to urgently and fully establish transparency on who is responsible for this abhorrent poisoning attack and, bearing in mind Russia’s commitments under the Chemical Weapons Convention, to bring the perpetrators to justice”;

Whereas the Russian Federation is a state party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR);

Whereas Article 6 of the ICCPR states that “Every human being has the inherent right to life” and “No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life”;

Whereas Article 9 of the ICCPR states that “Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person.”;

Whereas the Russian Federation is a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE);

Whereas respect for human rights is key to the OSCE’s comprehensive approach to security and therefore the OSCE monitors the human rights situation in its 57 participating states;

Whereas pressure on Germany to reconsider its support for the Nord Stream 2 pipeline from the United States and international community, including many European Union countries, as well as from leading politicians within Germany, has grown since the attack on Mr. Navalny;

Whereas Congress passed the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112–208) and the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328) in 2016 to provide the United States Government with authorities to respond to grave violations of human rights and corruption in Russia; and

Whereas in response to the Novichok-class nerve agent attack described in this preamble against United Kingdom national and

former Russian spy Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia in 2018, the United States Government imposed two rounds of sanctions on Russia pursuant to the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–182; 22 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.); Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the apparently purposeful poisoning on August 20, 2020, of Russian anticorruption activist and opposition leader Alexei Navalny;

(2) expresses its appreciation for the prompt and generous efforts of the Cinema for Peace Foundation and the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to ensure high-quality health care for Mr. Navalny after he was poisoned by facilitating his transfer by airlift from Russia to Germany;

(3) welcomes reports that Mr. Navalny has emerged from a medically induced coma and is gradually recovering from the poisoning;

(4) hopes for Mr. Navalny’s full and complete recovery so that he may promptly resume his life and work;

(5) urges the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and multilateral human rights monitoring bodies to monitor the case of the August 2020 poisoning of Alexei Navalny as a probable violation of his fundamental human rights and to respond accordingly;

(6) calls on the Government of the Russian Federation to cooperate with independent, impartial, and thorough investigations by competent authorities and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons of the reported poisoning of Alexei Navalny;

(7) calls on the United States Government to support international or multilateral efforts to ensure an independent, impartial, and thorough investigations by competent authorities and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons of the reported poisoning of Alexei Navalny;

(8) urges the United States Government, in all its interactions with the Government of the Russian Federation, to raise the case of the poisoning of Alexei Navalny and underscore the necessity of bringing the organizers and perpetrators to justice;

(9) calls on the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury to use their authority under the Sergei Magnitsky Rule of Law Accountability Act of 2012 (title IV of Public Law 112–208) and the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114–328) to designate individuals whom they determine upon investigation to have been involved in the poisoning of Alexei Navalny as perpetrators, organizers, or masterminds, on the list of specially designated nationals and blocked persons maintained by the Office of Foreign Assets Control of the Department of the Treasury, freezing their assets and making them ineligible to receive United States visas; and

(10) supports the 60-day review period triggered by the submission of a letter to the President by the Chair and Ranking Member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives to investigate whether the poisoning of Alexei Navalny constitutes use of a chemical weapon by the Government of the Russian Federation in contravention of international law, and if so, to impose sanctions pursuant to the Chemical and Biological Weapons Control and Warfare Elimination Act of 1991 (Public Law 102–182; 22 U.S.C. 5601 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ESPAILLAT) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.