

the Committee on Education and Labor to any conference committee to consider such provisions.

Finally, I would appreciate a response confirming this understanding and ask that a copy of our exchange of letters on this matter be included in the committee report for S. 212 and in the Congressional Record during floor consideration thereof.

Sincerely,

ROBERT C. “BOBBY” SCOTT,  
Chairman.

COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, November 30, 2020.

Hon. BOBBY SCOTT,  
Chair, Committee on Education and Labor,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR SCOTT: I write to you concerning S. 212, the “Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act of 2019.”

I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation. I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Education and Labor. I acknowledge that your Committee will not formally consider S. 212 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your Committee’s Rule X jurisdiction.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

RAÚL M. GRIJALVA,  
Chair,  
House Natural Resources Committee.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that, for decades, the Native American communities have struggled with a wide array of difficulties relating to economic development on their own land, including poor access to capital, remote and rural locations, and degradation of the local infrastructure. Only around half of all Native Americans residing or near Tribal communities have jobs, and a quarter of Native families earn an income that is below the American poverty line.

Tribal economic development is also hampered by the need for Federal approval before leasing of trust lands, legal systems that are not business friendly, and issues raised by sovereign immunity.

This bill, S. 212, amends three Federal laws relating to business, economic, and trade development in Indian communities: the Native American Business Development, Trade Promotion, and Tourism Act of 2000, the Buy Indian Act, and the Native American Programs Act of 1974.

The amendments are intended to increase access to capital for Indian Tribes and businesses, increase opportunities for Indian business promotion, and create mechanisms and tools to attract investments in Indian communities.

Mr. Speaker, I fully support the intent behind this legislation and appre-

ciate the work that has gone into it over the last several years.

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

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I very much appreciate the comments of my colleague from Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZALEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I stand here today in support of the legislation before us, the “Indian Community Economic Enhancement Act,”—the Senate companion to my bill in the House.

For too long, lack of access to credit and community development have hampered the entrepreneurial spirit of Native American tribes. Yet, across the country, Native American entrepreneurs are ready to start new businesses, create jobs, and lift up their communities.

My bill is a first step to change that. It updates and provides new resources to the Department of Commerce’s Office of Native American Business Development. It ensures the Department of Health and Human Services is using Native American labor and industry products when appropriate. And, it authorizes the Administration for Native Americans to provide key financial assistance to Native American community development financial institutions.

I want to thank my friend Congresswoman HAALAND for co-leading this bill with me, and Senator HOEVEN, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, for introducing and shepherding this bill in the Senate.

The American people and Native communities, should be reassured that there is bipartisan commitment to improving lives in Indian Country.

I urge my colleagues, to vote yes and join us in empowering the Native American entrepreneurs and communities who are building solutions for a better tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 212, 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.

#### COORDINATED OCEAN OBSERVATIONS AND RESEARCH ACT OF 2020

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 914) to reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, to clarify the authority of the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with respect to post-storm assessments, and to require the establish-

ment of a National Water Center, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 914

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act of 2020”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

#### TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM ACT OF 2009

Sec. 101. Purposes.

Sec. 102. Definitions.

Sec. 103. Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System.

Sec. 104. Financing and agreements.

Sec. 105. Reports to Congress.

Sec. 106. Public-private use policy.

Sec. 107. Repeal of independent cost estimate.

Sec. 108. Authorization of appropriations.

Sec. 109. Reports and research plans.

Sec. 110. Strategic research plan.

Sec. 111. Stakeholder input on monitoring.

Sec. 112. Research activities.

#### TITLE II—NAMED STORM EVENT MODEL AND POST-STORM ASSESSMENTS

Sec. 201. Named Storm Event Model and post-storm assessments.

#### TITLE III—WATER PREDICTION AND FORECASTING

Sec. 301. Water prediction and forecasting.

#### TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM ACT OF 2009

##### SEC. 101. PURPOSES.

Section 12302 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601) is amended to read as follows:

##### “SEC. 12302. PURPOSES.

“The purposes of this subtitle are—

“(1) to establish and sustain a national integrated System of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observing systems, comprised of Federal and non-Federal components coordinated at the national level by the Council and at the regional level by a network of regional coastal observing systems, and that includes in situ, remote, and other coastal and ocean observation and modeling capabilities, technologies, data management systems, communication systems, and product development systems, and is designed to address regional and national needs for ocean and coastal information, to gather specific data on key ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes variables, and to ensure timely and sustained dissemination and availability of these data—

“(A) to the public;

“(B) to support national defense, search and rescue operations, marine commerce, navigation safety, weather, climate, and marine forecasting, energy siting and production, economic development, ecosystem-based marine, coastal, and Great Lakes resource management, public safety, and public outreach and education;

“(C) to promote greater public awareness and stewardship of the Nation’s ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources and the general public welfare;

“(D) to provide easy access to ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes data and promote data sharing between Federal and non-Federal sources and promote public data sharing;

“(E) to enable advances in scientific understanding to support the sustainable use, conservation, management, and understanding

of healthy ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources to ensure the Nation can respond to opportunities to enhance food, economic, and national security; and

“(F) to monitor and model changes in the oceans and Great Lakes, including with respect to chemistry, harmful algal blooms, hypoxia, water levels, and other phenomena;

“(2) to improve the Nation’s capability to measure, track, observe, understand, and predict events related directly and indirectly to weather and climate, natural climate variability, and interactions between the oceanic and atmospheric environments, including the Great Lakes;

“(3) to sustain, upgrade, and modernize the Nation’s ocean and Great Lakes observing infrastructure to detect changes and ensure delivery of reliable and timely information; and

“(4) to authorize activities—

“(A) to promote basic and applied research to develop, test, and deploy innovations and improvements in coastal and ocean observation technologies, including advanced observing technologies such as unmanned maritime systems needed to address critical data gaps, modeling systems, other scientific and technological capabilities to improve the understanding of weather and climate, ocean-atmosphere dynamics, global climate change, and the physical, chemical, and biological dynamics of the ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes environments; and

“(B) to conserve healthy and restore degraded coastal ecosystems.”.

#### SEC. 102. DEFINITIONS.

Section 12303 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3602) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “section 7902” and inserting “section 8932”;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking “integrated into the System and are managed through States, regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector” and inserting “managed through States, regional organizations, universities, nongovernmental organizations, or the private sector and integrated into the System by a regional coastal observing system, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or the agencies participating in the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee”;

(3) by amending paragraph (6) to read as follows:

“(6) REGIONAL COASTAL OBSERVING SYSTEM.—The term ‘regional coastal observing system’ means an organizational body that is certified or established by contract or memorandum by the lead Federal agency designated in section 12304(c)(3) and coordinates State, Federal, local, tribal, and private interests at a regional level with the responsibility of engaging the private and public sectors in designing, operating, and improving regional coastal observing systems in order to ensure the provision of data and information that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions.”; and

(4) in paragraph (7), by striking “National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration” and inserting “Administrator”.

#### SEC. 103. INTEGRATED COASTAL AND OCEAN OBSERVATION SYSTEM.

##### (a) SYSTEM ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 12304(b) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle, the System shall be national in scope and consist of—

“(A) Federal assets to fulfill national and international observation missions and priorities;

“(B) non-Federal assets, including a network of regional coastal observing systems identified under subsection (c)(4), to fulfill regional and national observation missions and priorities;

“(C) observing, modeling, data management, and communication systems for the timely integration and dissemination of data and information products from the System, including reviews of data collection procedures across regions and programs to make recommendations for data collection standards across the System to meet national ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observation, applied research, and weather forecasting needs;

“(D) a product development system to transform observations into products in a format that may be readily used and understood; and

“(E) a research and development program conducted under the guidance of the Council, consisting of—

“(i) basic and applied research and technology development—

“(I) to improve understanding of coastal and ocean systems and their relationships to human activities; and

“(II) to ensure improvement of operational assets and products, including related infrastructure, observing technologies such as unmanned maritime systems, and information and data processing and management technologies;

“(ii) an advanced observing technology development program to fill gaps in technology;

“(iii) large scale computing resources and research to advance modeling of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes processes;

“(iv) models to improve regional weather forecasting capabilities and regional weather forecasting products; and

“(v) reviews of data collection procedures across regions and programs to make recommendations for data collection standards across the System to meet national ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes observation, applied research, and weather forecasting needs.”.

(2) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—Section 12304(b)(3) of such Act (33 U.S.C. 3603(b)(3)) is amended by inserting “for research and for use in the development of products to address societal needs” before the period at the end.

(b) POLICY OVERSIGHT, ADMINISTRATION, AND REGIONAL COORDINATION.—Section 12304(c) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(c)) is amended by striking paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), and inserting the following:

“(2) INTERAGENCY OCEAN OBSERVATION COMMITTEE.—

“(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Council shall establish or designate a committee, which shall be known as the ‘Interagency Ocean Observation Committee’.

“(B) DUTIES.—The Interagency Ocean Observation Committee shall—

“(i) prepare annual and long-term plans for consideration and approval by the Council for the integrated design, operation, maintenance, enhancement, and expansion of the System to meet the objectives of this subtitle and the System Plan;

“(ii) develop and transmit to Congress, along with the budget submitted by the President to Congress pursuant to section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, an annual coordinated, comprehensive budget—

“(I) to operate all elements of the System identified in subsection (b); and

“(II) to ensure continuity of data streams from Federal and non-Federal assets;

“(iii) establish requirements for observation data variables to be gathered by both Federal and non-Federal assets and identify,

in consultation with regional coastal observing systems, priorities for System observations;

“(iv) establish and define protocols and standards for System data processing, management, collection, configuration standards, formats, and communication for new and existing assets throughout the System network;

“(v) develop contract requirements for each regional coastal observing system—

“(I) to establish eligibility for integration into the System;

“(II) to ensure compliance with all applicable standards and protocols established by the Council; and

“(III) to ensure that regional observations are integrated into the System on a sustained basis;

“(vi) identify gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of both Federal assets and non-Federal assets;

“(vii) subject to the availability of appropriations, establish through 1 or more Federal agencies participating in the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, in consultation with the System advisory committee established under subsection (d), a competitive matching grant or other programs—

“(I) to promote intramural and extramural research and development of new, innovative, and emerging observation technologies including testing and field trials; and

“(II) to facilitate the migration of new, innovative, and emerging scientific and technological advances from research and development to operational deployment;

“(viii) periodically—

“(I) review the System Plan; and

“(II) submit to the Council such recommendations as the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee may have for improvements to the System Plan;

“(ix) ensure collaboration among Federal agencies participating in the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and

“(x) perform such additional duties as the Council may delegate.

“(3) LEAD FEDERAL AGENCY.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration shall function as the lead Federal agency for the implementation and administration of the System.

“(B) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall consult with the Council, the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, other Federal agencies that maintain portions of the System, and the regional coastal observing systems.

“(C) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out this paragraph, the Administrator shall—

“(i) establish and operate an Integrated Ocean Observing System Program Office within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that—

“(I) utilizes, to the extent necessary, personnel from Federal agencies participating in the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee; and

“(II) oversees daily operations and coordination of the System;

“(ii) implement policies, protocols, and standards approved by the Council and delegated by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee;

“(iii) promulgate program guidelines—

“(I) to certify and integrate regional associations into the System; and

“(II) to provide regional coastal and ocean observation data that meet the needs of user groups from the respective regions;

“(iv) have the authority to enter into and oversee contracts, leases, grants, or cooperative agreements with non-Federal assets, including regional coastal observing systems,

to support the purposes of this subtitle on such terms as the Administrator deems appropriate;

“(v) implement and maintain a merit-based, competitive funding process to support non-Federal assets, including the development and maintenance of a national network of regional coastal observing systems, and develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of the regional associations;

“(vi) provide opportunities for competitive contracts and grants for demonstration projects to design, develop, integrate, deploy, maintain, and support components of the System;

“(vii) establish and maintain efficient and effective administrative procedures for the timely allocation of funds among contractors, grantees, and non-Federal assets, including regional coastal observing systems;

“(viii) develop and implement a process for the periodic review and evaluation of the regional coastal observing systems;

“(ix) formulate an annual process by which gaps in observation coverage or needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System are—

“(I) identified by the regional associations described in the System Plan, the Administrator, or other members of the System; and

“(II) submitted to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee;

“(x) develop and be responsible for a data management and communication system, in accordance with standards and protocols established by the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, by which all data collected by the System regarding ocean and coastal waters of the United States including the Great Lakes, are processed, stored, integrated, and made available to all end-user communities;

“(xi) not less frequently than once each year, submit to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee a report on the accomplishments, operational needs, and performance of the System to contribute to the annual and long-term plans prepared pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(i);

“(xii) develop and periodically update a plan to efficiently integrate into the System new, innovative, or emerging technologies that have been demonstrated to be useful to the System and which will fulfill the purposes of this subtitle and the System Plan; and

“(xiii) work with users and regional associations to develop products to enable real-time data sharing for decision makers, including with respect to weather forecasting and modeling, search and rescue operations, corrosive seawater forecasts, water quality monitoring and communication, and harmful algal bloom forecasting.

#### “(4) REGIONAL COASTAL OBSERVING SYSTEMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A regional coastal observing system described in the System Plan as a regional association may not be certified or established under this subtitle unless it—

“(i) has been or shall be certified or established by contract or agreement by the Administrator;

“(ii) meets—

“(I) the certification standards and compliance procedure guidelines issued by the Administrator; and

“(II) the information needs of user groups in the region while adhering to national standards;

“(iii) demonstrates an organizational structure, that under funding limitations is capable of—

“(I) gathering required System observation data;

“(II) supporting and integrating all aspects of coastal and ocean observing and information programs within a region; and

“(III) reflecting the needs of State, local, and tribal governments, commercial interests, and other users and beneficiaries of the System and other requirements specified under this subtitle and the System Plan;

“(iv) identifies—

“(I) gaps in observation coverage needs for capital improvements of Federal assets and non-Federal assets of the System; and

“(II) other recommendations to assist in the development of the annual and long-term plans prepared pursuant to paragraph (2)(B)(i) and transmits such information to the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee through the Program Office established under paragraph (3)(C)(i);

“(v) develops and operates under a strategic plan that will ensure the efficient and effective administration of programs and assets to support daily data observations for integration into the System, pursuant to the standards approved by the Council;

“(vi) works cooperatively with governmental and nongovernmental entities at all levels to identify and provide information products of the System for multiple users within the service area of the regional coastal observing system; and

“(vii) complies with all financial oversight requirements established by the Administrator, including requirements relating to audits.

“(B) PARTICIPATION.—For the purposes of this subtitle, employees of Federal agencies are permitted to be members of the governing body for the regional coastal observing systems and may participate in the functions of the regional coastal observing systems.”.

“(C) SYSTEM ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—Section 12304(d) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(d)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “or the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee,” and inserting “or the Council under this subtitle”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “, data sharing,” after “data management”;

(B) in subparagraph (C), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) by striking subparagraph (D) and inserting the following:

“(D) additional priorities, including—

“(i) a national surface current mapping network designed to improve fine scale sea surface mapping using high frequency radar technology and other emerging technologies to address national priorities, including Coast Guard search and rescue operation planning and harmful algal bloom forecasting and detection that—

“(I) is comprised of existing high frequency radar and other sea surface current mapping infrastructure operated by national programs and regional coastal observing systems;

“(II) incorporates new high frequency radar assets or other fine scale sea surface mapping technology assets, and other assets needed to fill gaps in coverage on United States coastlines; and

“(III) follows a deployment plan that prioritizes closing gaps in high frequency radar infrastructure in the United States, starting with areas demonstrating significant sea surface current data needs, especially in areas where additional data will improve Coast Guard search and rescue models;

“(ii) fleet acquisition for unmanned maritime systems for deployment and data integration to fulfill the purposes of this subtitle;

“(iii) an integrative survey program for application of unmanned maritime systems to the real-time or near real-time collection and transmission of sea floor, water column, and sea surface data on biology, chemistry, geology, physics, and hydrography;

“(iv) remote sensing and data assimilation to develop new analytical methodologies to assimilate data from the System into hydrodynamic models;

“(v) integrated, multi-State monitoring to assess sources, movement, and fate of sediments in coastal regions;

“(vi) a multi-region marine sound monitoring system to be—

“(I) planned in consultation with the Interagency Ocean Observation Committee, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and

“(II) developed, installed, and operated in coordination with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Department of the Navy, and academic research institutions; and

“(E) any other purpose identified by the Administrator or the Council.”;

(D) in paragraph (3)(B), by inserting “The Administrator may stagger the terms of the System advisory committee members.” before “Members”; and

(E) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and the Interagency Ocean Observing Committee”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “Observing” and inserting “Observation”.

(d) CIVIL LIABILITY.—Section 12304(e) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3603(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “information coordination entity” each place it appears and inserting “coastal observing system”; and

(2) by striking “contract, lease, grant, or cooperative agreement under subsection (c)(3)(D)” and inserting “a memorandum of agreement of certification under subsection (c)(3)(C)(iii)”.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) is amended by striking “regional information coordination entities” each place it appears and inserting “regional coastal observing systems”.

#### SEC. 104. FINANCING AND AGREEMENTS.

Section 12305(a) of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3604(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce may execute an agreement, on a reimbursable or nonreimbursable basis, with any State or subdivision thereof, any Federal agency, any public or private organization, or any individual to carry out activities under this subtitle.”.

#### SEC. 105. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

Section 12307 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3606) is amended to read as follows:

#### “SEC. 12307. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than March 30, 2022, and every 5 years thereafter, the Administrator shall prepare, and the President acting through the Council shall approve and transmit to Congress, a report on progress made in implementing this subtitle.

“(b) CONTENTS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include—

“(1) a description of activities carried out under this subtitle and the System Plan;

“(2) an evaluation of the effectiveness of the System, including an evaluation of progress made by the Council to achieve the goals identified under the System Plan;

“(3) the identification of Federal and non-Federal assets as determined by the Council that have been integrated into the System, including assets essential to the gathering of required observation data variables necessary to meet the respective missions of Council agencies;

“(4) a review of procurements, planned or initiated, by each department or agency represented on the Council to enhance, expand, or modernize the observation capabilities and data products provided by the System, including data management and communication subsystems;

“(5) a summary of the existing gaps in observation infrastructure and monitoring data collection, including—

“(A) priorities considered by the System advisory committee;

“(B) the national sea surface current mapping network;

“(C) coastal buoys;

“(D) ocean chemistry monitoring;

“(E) marine sound monitoring; and

“(F) unmanned maritime systems technology gaps;

“(6) an assessment regarding activities to integrate Federal and non-Federal assets, nationally and on the regional level, and discussion of the performance and effectiveness of regional coastal observing systems to coordinate regional observation operations;

“(7) a description of benefits of the program to users of data products resulting from the System (including the general public, industries, scientists, resource managers, emergency responders, policy makers, and educators);

“(8) recommendations, if any, concerning—

“(A) modifications to the System; and

“(B) funding levels for the System in subsequent fiscal years; and

“(9) the results of a periodic external independent programmatic audit of the System.”.

#### SEC. 106. PUBLIC-PRIVATE USE POLICY.

Section 12308 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3607) is amended to read as follows:

##### “SEC. 12308. PUBLIC-PRIVATE USE POLICY.

“The Council shall maintain a policy that defines processes for making decisions about the roles of the Federal Government, the States, regional coastal observing systems, the academic community, and the private sector in providing to end-user communities environmental information, products, technologies, and services related to the System. The Administrator shall ensure that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration adheres to the decision making process developed by the Council regarding the roles of the Federal Government, the States, the regional coastal observing systems, the academic community, and the private sector in providing end-user communities environmental information, data products, technologies, and services related to the System.”.

#### SEC. 107. REPEAL OF INDEPENDENT COST ESTIMATE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) is amended by striking section 12309 (33 U.S.C. 3608).

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (Public Law 111-11; 123 Stat. 991) is amended by striking the item related to section 12309.

#### SEC. 108. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

Section 12311 of the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3610) is amended to read as follows:

##### “SEC. 12311. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce to support the

integrated oceans observations under this subtitle—

- “(1) \$48,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;
- “(2) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;
- “(3) \$52,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;
- “(4) \$54,000,000 for fiscal year 2024; and
- “(5) \$56,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.”.

#### SEC. 109. REPORTS AND RESEARCH PLANS.

Section 12404(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3703(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

##### “(4) ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY REPORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act of 2020, and every 6 years thereafter, the Subcommittee shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that—

“(i) is named the ‘Ocean Chemistry Coastal Community Vulnerability Assessment’;

“(ii) identifies gaps in ocean acidification monitoring by public, academic, and private assets in the network of regional coastal observing systems;

“(iii) identifies geographic areas which have gaps in ocean acidification research;

“(iv) identifies United States coastal communities, including island communities, fishing communities, low-population rural communities, tribal and subsistence communities, and island communities, that may be impacted by ocean acidification;

“(v) identifies impacts of changing ocean carbonate chemistry on the communities described in clause (iv), including impacts from changes in ocean and coastal marine resources that are not managed by the Federal Government;

“(vi) identifies gaps in understanding of the impacts of ocean acidification on economically or commercially important species, particularly those which support United States commercial, recreational, and tribal fisheries and aquaculture;

“(vii) identifies habitats that may be particularly vulnerable to corrosive sea water, including areas experiencing multiple stressors such as hypoxia, sedimentation, and harmful algal blooms;

“(viii) identifies areas in which existing National Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System assets, including unmanned maritime systems, may be leveraged as platforms for the deployment of new sensors or other applicable observing technologies;

“(ix) is written in collaboration with Federal agencies responsible for carrying out this subtitle, including representatives of—

“(I) the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Office for Coastal Management of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

“(II) regional coastal observing systems established under section 12304(c)(4);

“(III) regional ocean acidification networks; and

“(IV) sea grant programs (as defined in section 203 of the National Sea Grant College Program Act (33 U.S.C. 1122)); and

“(x) is written in consultation with experts, including subsistence users, academia, and stakeholders familiar with the economic, social, ecological, geographic, and resource concerns of coastal communities in the United States.

##### “(B) FORM OF REPORT.—

“(i) INITIAL REPORT.—The initial report required under subparagraph (A) shall include the information described in clauses (i) through (viii) of that subparagraph on a national level.

“(ii) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—Each report required under subparagraph (A) after the initial report—

“(I) may describe the information described in clauses (i) through (viii) of that subparagraph on a national level; or

“(II) may consist of separate reports for each region of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

“(iii) REGIONAL REPORTS.—If the Subcommittee opts to prepare a report required under subparagraph (A) as separate regional reports under clause (ii)(II), the Subcommittee shall submit a report for each region of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration not less frequently than once during each 6-year reporting period.

“(C) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS DEFINED.—In this paragraph and in paragraph (5), the term ‘appropriate committees of Congress’ means the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives.

“(5) MONITORING PRIORITIZATION PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the submission of the initial report under paragraph (4)(A), the Subcommittee shall transmit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that develops a plan to deploy new sensors or other applicable observing technologies such as unmanned maritime systems—

“(A) based on such initial report;

“(B) prioritized by—

“(i) the threat to coastal economies and ecosystems;

“(ii) gaps in data; and

“(iii) research needs; and

“(C) that leverage existing platforms, where possible.”.

#### SEC. 110. STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.

(a) CONTENTS.—Section 12405(b) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) make recommendations for research to be conducted, including in the social sciences and economics, to address the key knowledge gaps identified in the Ocean Chemistry Coastal Community Vulnerability Assessment conducted under section 12404(c)(4).”.

(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—Section 12405(c) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) Research to understand the combined impact of changes in ocean chemistry and other stressors, including sediment delivery, hypoxia, and harmful algal blooms, on each other and on living marine resources, including aquaculture and coastal ecosystems.

“(7) Applied research to identify adaptation strategies for species impacted by changes in ocean chemistry including vegetation-based systems, shell recycling, species and genetic diversity, applied technologies, aquaculture methodologies, and management recommendations.”.

(c) PARTICIPATION.—Section 12405(e) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704(e)) is amended in the first sentence by inserting “; tribal governments, and subsistence users” after “groups”.

(d) REVISED STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Joint Subcommittee on Ocean Science and Technology of the National Science and Technology

Council shall submit to Congress a revised strategic research plan under section 12405 of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3704) that includes the matters required by the amendments made by this section.

**SEC. 111. STAKEHOLDER INPUT ON MONITORING.**

Section 12406(a) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3705(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) includes an ongoing mechanism that allows industry members, coastal stakeholders, fishery management councils and commissions, non-Federal resource managers, community acidification networks, indigenous knowledge groups, and scientific experts to provide input on monitoring needs that are necessary to support on the ground management, decision making, and adaptation related to ocean acidification and its impacts.”.

**SEC. 112. RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.**

Section 12407(a) of the Federal Ocean Acidification Research And Monitoring Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3706(a)) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) RESEARCH ACTIVITIES.—The Director of the National Science Foundation shall continue to carry out research activities on ocean acidification which shall support competitive, merit-based, peer-reviewed proposals for research, observation, and monitoring of ocean acidification and its impacts, including—

“(1) impacts on marine organisms, including species cultured for aquaculture, and marine ecosystems;

“(2) impacts on ocean, coastal, and estuarine biogeochemistry;

“(3) the development of methodologies and technologies to evaluate ocean acidification and its impacts; and

“(4) impacts of multiple stressors on ecosystems exhibiting hypoxia, harmful algal blooms, or sediment delivery, combined with changes in ocean chemistry.”.

**TITLE II—NAMED STORM EVENT MODEL AND POST-STORM ASSESSMENTS**

**SEC. 201. NAMED STORM EVENT MODEL AND POST-STORM ASSESSMENTS.**

(a) AMENDMENTS TO THE OMNIBUS PUBLIC LAND MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2009.—Section 12312 of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (33 U.S.C. 3611) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “, except that the term shall not apply with respect to a State or territory that has an operational wind and flood loss allocation system.”;

(B) in paragraph (6), by inserting “sustained” before “winds”; and

(C) in paragraph (7), by striking “that threaten any portion of a coastal State” and inserting “for which post-storm assessments are conducted”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “540 days after the date of the enactment of the Consumer Option for an Alternative System to Allocate Losses Act of 2012” and inserting “December 31, 2020”; and

(II) by striking “by regulation”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “every” and inserting “an”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) PUBLIC REVIEW.—The Administrator shall seek input and suggestions from the public before the Named Storm Event Model,

or any modification to the Named Storm Event Model, takes effect.”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (D) and (E), respectively;

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) DATA COLLECTION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Upon identification of a named storm under subparagraph (A), and pursuant to the protocol established under subsection (c), the Administrator may deploy sensors to enhance the collection of covered data in the areas in coastal States that the Administrator determines are at the highest risk of experiencing geophysical events that would cause indeterminate losses.

“(ii) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—If the Administrator takes action under clause (i), that action may not be construed as indicating that a post-storm assessment will be developed for any coastal State in which that action is taken.

“(C) IDENTIFICATION OF INDETERMINATE LOSSES IN COASTAL STATES.—Not later than 30 days after the first date on which sustained winds of not less than 39 miles per hour are measured in a coastal State during a named storm identified under subparagraph (A), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify the Administrator with respect to the existence of any indeterminate losses in that coastal State resulting from that named storm.”;

(iii) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated—

(I) by striking “identification of a named storm under subparagraph (A)” and inserting “confirmation of indeterminate losses identified under subparagraph (C) with respect to a named storm”; and

(II) by striking “assessment for such named storm” and inserting “assessment for each coastal State that suffered such indeterminate losses as a result of the named storm”;

(iv) in subparagraph (E), as so redesigned—

(I) by striking “an identification of a named storm is made under subparagraph (A)” and inserting “any indeterminate losses are identified under subparagraph (C)”; and

(II) by striking “for such storm under subparagraph (B)” and inserting “under subparagraph (D) for any coastal State that suffered such indeterminate losses”; and

(v) by adding at the end the following:

“(F) SEPARATE POST-STORM ASSESSMENTS FOR A SINGLE NAMED STORM.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may conduct a separate post-storm assessment for each coastal State in which indeterminate losses are identified under subparagraph (C).

“(ii) TIMELINE.—If the Administrator conducts a separate post-storm assessment under clause (i), the Administrator shall complete the assessment based on the dates of actions that the Administrator takes under subparagraph (D).”; and

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “540 days after the date of the enactment of the Consumer Option for an Alternative System to Allocate Losses Act of 2012” and inserting “December 31, 2020”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “, in the discretion of the Administrator,” after “of sensors as may”; and

(C) in paragraph (4)(B), by inserting “and expend” after “receive”.

(b) AMENDMENTS TO THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE ACT OF 1968.—Section 1337 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4057) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting the following: “, except that the term shall not apply with respect to a State or territory that has an operational wind and flood loss allocation system.”; and

(B) in paragraph (5), by inserting “sustained” after “maximum”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “establish by rule” and inserting “publish for comment in the Federal Register”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by inserting after “Elevation Certificate” the following: “, or other data or information used to determine a property’s current risk of flood, as determined by the Administrator.”;

(3) in subsection (c)(3)(A)(i), by striking “the issuance of the rule establishing the COASTAL Formula” and inserting “publication of the COASTAL Formula in the Federal Register as required by subsection (b)(1)”;

(4) in subsection (d), by striking “section 12312(b)(2)(C)” and inserting “section 12312(b)(2)(E)”;

(5) in subsection (h)—

(A) by inserting “that issues a standard flood insurance policy under the national flood insurance program” after “company”; and

(B) by striking “or the COASTAL Formula” and inserting “, the COASTAL Formula, or any other loss allocation or post-storm assessment arising under the laws or ordinances of any State”;

(6) in subsection (i), by striking “after the date on which the Administrator issues the rule establishing the COASTAL Formula under subsection (b)” and inserting “60 days after publication of the COASTAL Formula in the Federal Register as required by subsection (b)(1)”;

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(k) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a cause of action under this Act.”.

**TITLE III—WATER PREDICTION AND FORECASTING**

**SEC. 301. WATER PREDICTION AND FORECASTING.**

(a) NATIONAL WATER CENTER.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere shall establish a center—

(i) to serve as the research and operational center of excellence for hydrologic analyses, forecasting, and related decision support services within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the National Weather Service; and

(ii) to facilitate collaboration across Federal and State departments and agencies, academia, and the private sector on matters relating to water resources.

(B) DESIGNATION.—The center established under subparagraph (A) shall be known as the “National Water Center”.

(2) FUNCTIONS.—The functions of the National Water Center shall include the following:

(A) Improving understanding of water resources, stakeholder needs regarding water resources, and identifying science and services gaps relating to water resources.

(B) Developing and implementing advanced water resources modeling capabilities.

(C) Facilitating the transition of hydrologic research into operations.

(D) Delivering analyses, forecasts, and inundation information and guidance for all hydrologic events in the United States, including flash flooding, riverine flooding, and water resources outlooks.

(E) In coordination with warning coordination meteorologists, providing decision-support services to inform emergency management and water resources decisions.

(B) NATIONAL INSTRUCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary, acting through the Director of the National Weather Service, shall make public an operations and services policy directive for the National Water Center.

(2) CONTENTS.—The directive required by paragraph (1) shall include national instructions to perform the functions of the National Water Center, including the following:

(A) Operational staff responsibilities.

(B) Guidelines for content, format, and provision of hydrologic and inundation products developed by the National Water Center.

(C) Procedures for cooperation and coordination between the National Water Center, the National Weather Service National Centers for Environmental Prediction, National Weather Service River Forecast Centers, and National Weather Service Weather Forecast Offices.

(C) TOTAL WATER PREDICTION.—The Under Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office of Water Prediction of the National Weather Service, shall—

(1) initiate and lead research and development activities to develop operational water resource prediction and related decision support products;

(2) collaborate with, and provide decision support regarding total water prediction to—

(A) the relevant Federal agencies represented on the National Science and Technology Council, Committee on Environment, Natural Resources, and Sustainability and the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction;

(B) State water resource agencies; and

(C) State and local emergency management agencies; and

(3) in carrying out the responsibilities described in paragraphs (1) and (2), collaboratively develop capabilities necessary for total water predictive capacity, including observations, modeling, data management, supercomputing, social science, and communications.

(D) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out the activities under this section amounts as follows:

- (1) \$44,500,000 for fiscal year 2021.
- (2) \$45,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.
- (3) \$45,500,000 for fiscal year 2023.
- (4) \$46,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

(E) DERIVATION OF FUNDS.—Funds to carry out this section shall be derived from amounts authorized to be appropriated to the National Weather Service and the National Ocean Service that are enacted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) and the gentlewoman from Puerto Rico (Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Hawaii.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASE. 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 material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 914, the Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act, would reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act of 2009, called IOOS for short.

For over 10 years now, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, has implemented this data-driven national regional partnership to successfully improve safety, enhance the economy, and protect the environment.

IOOS is a coordinated network of people and technology consisting of Federal partners and regional associations that generates and disseminates continuous data and models for our oceans and the Great Lakes. These data give us a crucial understanding of environmental variables, like temperature, salinity, currents, nutrient concentrations, contaminant levels, and more.

This bill would also clarify the authority of NOAA in regards to post-storm assessments, which NOAA has been doing the work for since it was appropriated funds in 2016. The bill makes technical challenges to the COASTAL Act of 2012 so that NOAA can successfully collect the required data to perform post-storm assessments and then provide that information to FEMA.

And finally, this legislation would codify establishment of the National Water Center as the primary facility for hydrologic decision support services. As we saw from the historic flooding events last year, it is critical that NOAA has these decision support tools.

In the face of climate change, it is so important that our environmental planners and managers have the tools they need to ensure safety for the American people and the longevity of our coastal natural resources. The Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act will put us on that path.

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

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 914.

This bill, the Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act, will reauthorize the U.S. Integrated Ocean Observing System, better known as IOOS, and increase Federal support for ocean data collection and monitoring efforts, which are vital to coastal and island communities across the Nation.

Why this bill is important is, as you may know, living in Puerto Rico and after the hurricanes, this program, it was so important for communities in the Caribbean as well as many other coastal communities across the Nation.

This network consists of 17 Federal agencies and 11 regional associations that provide quality information about our coasts, oceans, and Great Lakes. And through the use of tools such as satellites, buoys, and underwater glid-

ers, the system delivers accurate data that is critical to support coastal economies, maritime commerce, and navigation safety.

These products are also used to improve hurricane tracking and weather forecasts, monitor water quality, conduct research on coastal ecosystems, and support the U.S. Coast Guard search and rescue operations. That was the reason I was supporting this, and, of course, the dean of the House, Mr. DON YOUNG, who is showing the way for many of us arriving to the House after him.

In the case of Puerto Rico, we know firsthand the importance of this system. The Caribbean Coastal Ocean Observing System is one of the network's 11 regional associations that is based on the island. Among other things, it helps support port and harbor operations, as well as inter-island shipping and cruising, by providing observations and models of coastal weather, waves, wind, and currents in the waters surrounding Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

These system assets were particularly instrumental when Hurricanes Irma and Maria struck in 2017. While Puerto Rico was without power and communications, our buoys kept reporting data via satellite, providing crucial information that was utilized by NOAA's National Hurricane Center in Miami and other stakeholders. Reauthorizing this system network is necessary to continue supporting this and other similar efforts across the country and to ensure that we are delivering accurate and continuous data on our oceans and coast.

Mr. Speaker, I should mention, as well, that while we are taking up a Senate bill, the dean of the House, DON YOUNG, has been a dedicated supporter of this program for many, many years and has sponsored a House companion bill. You may have all heard that the dean of the House recently tested positive for COVID, as I did in August, and we are all hoping that he remains strong, as he is, fierce, and well after his resounding reelection victory.

Mr. Speaker, in conclusion, I know many folks living in coastal communities around the Nation will benefit from the enactment of this legislation here today. So not just by the people living in the islands or in coastal communities, but in solidarity with Congressman YOUNG, I urge the adoption of the measure and reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I certainly do deeply appreciate the comments of my colleague from Puerto Rico, and she knows, as well as I do, as members of the Island Caucus—and we include in the Island Caucus the largest island of all, Alaska, Mr. YOUNG's island—the deep importance of this system. It is a matter of life and death to us in many areas and many ways, and so we all fully endorse this bill from that perspective.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), dean of the House.

(Mr. YOUNG asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good chairwoman for yielding the time and my good friend on the other side from Hawaii, one of my brother States, for this piece of legislation; Congresswoman BONAMICI for a very bipartisan bill with Senator ROGER WICKER, DAN SULLIVAN, involved in this legislation. It has been hard work, dedication to our coasts, our oceans, and the Great Lakes.

Mr. Speaker, we sometimes forget, we hear a lot about climate change, et cetera, but one of the biggest challenges we have is the condition of our oceans and how we can clean it up, but only keep that in your mind so maybe we can go forth in the future to really solve some of these problems, especially with the plastics.

This bill, which includes technical changes implemented by the Senate, would reauthorize the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System Act through the fiscal year of 2024.

The 11 regional association networks of the Integrated Ocean Observing System work with regional partners to develop, operate, and maintain more than 300 observing assets that collect oceanographic and coastal data, including information about rising sea levels, coastal flooding, and harmful algal blooms.

This program is a simple system with multiple uses.

I will say that a cost-effective approach of fulfilling this Nation's need for coastal data is very important.

The data from these systems enables the Coast Guard to reduce the size of their search areas by two-thirds. The data is also used for tracking oil spills, providing mariners with sea state conditions, and for ship detection.

During the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, IOOS regions responded by deploying high-frequency radars and underwater gliders to the region to assist with monitoring the spill. IOOS data standards enabled the Federal command center to use non-Federal sources of data for the first time. NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration now routinely uses this data in their oil spill response.

It also provides core observations for water level, waves, winds, et cetera, and it helps to protect against flooding and surges of the sea.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good, bipartisan piece of legislation. I hope it will save lives.

We just had an instance in Haines, Alaska, where huge waves and rain destroyed a lot of our coastal areas. That just happened yesterday. This will help us try to make sure that we would have known that ahead of time.

It will save us money.

I would really like to congratulate everybody here on a bipartisan piece of legislation. It is long overdue. We will get the problems solved with oceans.

This is a good piece of legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this invaluable legislation for our oceans and all of us, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chair of the House Oceans Caucus, I rise in support of S. 914, a bill to reauthorize and increase funding for the Integrated Coastal and Ocean Observation System.

The ocean covers more than 70 percent of the planet, but despite our intrinsic connection to our ocean we know very little about what is beneath its surface. The eleven Integrated Ocean Observing System regional networks use satellites, buoys, underwater gliders, and tide gauges to deliver accurate and continuous data on our ocean and coasts. I was pleased to work with my House Oceans Caucus Co-Chair, Congressman DON YOUNG, on the House companion to reauthorize these important ocean observation efforts.

Coastal communities, like those I represent in Northwest Oregon, rely on accurate ocean data and monitoring for information about ocean acidification, harmful algal blooms and hypoxia, sea level rise, flooding, navigation, and port security. In the Pacific Northwest, we are fortunate to have the Northwest Association of Networked Ocean Observing Systems leading the way. Tribes, commercial fisheries, emergency responders, and public health officials rely on the free and open access data collected by NANOOS to learn about threats to the health of our ocean. I am excited about the partnership between NANOOS and the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission that focuses on the Center for Coastal Margin Observation and Prediction and will help to further our understanding of ocean-estuary interactions. I appreciate the continued innovation from NANOOS to meet the needs of our communities along the Pacific Coast and the Columbia River.

I am also pleased that this bill directs NOAA to conduct a vulnerability assessment to identify communities that are dependent on coastal and ocean resources and that may be affected by ocean acidification. I am grateful for the bipartisan support for strengthening our understanding of the socioeconomic effects of ocean acidification on a range of geographically diverse coastal communities, and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on this issue.

To protect and preserve one of our planet's greatest natural resources, we must rapidly accelerate the collection, management, and dissemination of ocean data collection and monitoring. I recently joined my colleagues on the House Select Committee on the Climate Crisis in releasing a bold, science-based comprehensive Climate Action Plan to set our nation on a path to net-zero emissions no later than midcentury and net-negative thereafter. I'm thrilled that our plan for solving the climate crisis recognizes the power of our ocean as part of the solution. Our Climate Action Plan

specifically includes the Coordinated Ocean Observations and Research Act to strengthen ocean observations.

Thank you to NANOOS for their efforts to accurately predict, model, and manage ocean observation data that support the needs of our region. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 914, 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.

#### □ 1800

#### GREAT LAKES ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX ACT OF 2020

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1342) to require the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere to update periodically the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

#### S. 1342

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Great Lakes Environmental Sensitivity Index Act of 2020".

#### SEC. 2. UPDATE TO ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX PRODUCTS OF NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION FOR GREAT LAKES.

(a) UPDATE REQUIRED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX PRODUCTS FOR GREAT LAKES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere shall commence updating the environmental sensitivity index products of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for each coastal area of the Great Lakes.

(b) PERIODIC UPDATES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX PRODUCTS GENERALLY.—Subject to the availability of appropriations and the priorities set forth in subsection (c), the Under Secretary shall—

(1) periodically update the environmental sensitivity index products of the Administration; and

(2) endeavor to do so not less frequently than once every 7 years.

(c) PRIORITIES.—When prioritizing geographic areas to update environmental sensitivity index products, the Under Secretary shall consider—

(1) the age of existing environmental sensitivity index products for the areas;

(2) the occurrence of extreme events, be it natural or man-made, which have significantly altered the shoreline or ecosystem since the last update;

(3) the natural variability of shoreline and coastal environment; and

(4) the volume of vessel traffic and general vulnerability to spilled pollutants.

(d) ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX PRODUCT DEFINED.—In this section, the term