

Paycheck Protection Program. Crucially, this bill will provide \$12 billion for minority-owned and very small businesses that struggled to access financing during the earlier rounds of PPP. Local newspapers and local broadcasters will have access to this assistance as well as nonprofits—I worked very hard to see that this happened—and our nonprofit religious institutions. Our churches and our synagogues and our mosques—no collection plate, no income, but so vital to social services and so needed during a time of crisis—will, once again, get the help they need—something that I authored in the CARES bill.

I am especially pleased that this bill will provide money for bars and restaurants and \$15 billion in SBA grants for theater operators and small venue owners through the Save Our Stages Act. These venues are so important to my State and many States across the country. They are the lifeblood of our communities. They were first to close and will be the last to open. This bill gives them a fighting chance.

Of course, today's agreement will give a major boost to our battle against the disease itself. There will be more than \$30 billion to support the procurement and distribution of the coronavirus vaccine, ensuring that it is free and rapidly distributed to everyone.

Today's agreement includes all this and more—support for childcare, food assistance, agricultural relief, the Postal Service, and funding to help families gain access to broadband. So the American people have a great deal to celebrate in this legislation, but, of course, the agreement we reached is far from perfect. It leaves out direct State and local assistance. Despite desperate pleas from Governors, mayors, and economists across the spectrum, the Republicans stubbornly refused to provide direct aid to State and local governments. Over a million public employees have already lost their jobs. It doesn't matter if you are working for a small business and get laid off or if you are working for a government and are laid off; you still need to feed your family. So why is there such a difference on this side of the aisle between these same people—flesh and blood? Because some work for the government, they don't get help, but because some work for a small business, they do. Both should get help.

State revenues, of course, are significantly down across the country in States red and blue. The continued opposition to State and local funding from the Republicans remains deeply irresponsible. It will force States to make painful decisions to cut jobs and potentially raise taxes on working families, and it will hurt the economy of the entire country as millions more government workers are laid off at a time when we are struggling to recover—hurting us all.

Still, the Democrats refused to let State and local governments be com-

pletely left behind. Today's agreement does include aid for specific State-level expenses—\$82 billion for education funding, \$27 billion in payments for testing and State healthcare programs, \$45 billion for transit systems. I am very proud of the fact that New York's MTA will receive the money it needs to keep going. It is so vital to our city's economy and something I worked very hard for.

Make no mistake—these funding sources are not a replacement for direct aid to State and local governments, and we Democrats will continue to fight for those in the new year. But in this case, a rose by any other name smells not quite as sweet, but at least it brings some relief. State and local governments will receive assistance in a number of different ways.

When this Chamber gavels back in in 2021, we must pick up where we just left off. We have given the administration a vital headstart, but make no mistake about it—our economy is in a deep, deep, deep hole, in part, because of the Trump administration's lack of policy in fighting the coronavirus. Now we will have to help them. This is a good start, but a lot more needs to be done. We must continue to protect people's jobs whether they work for a company or a local government. We must do so much more, and we have to start building and stimulating our economy so it gets out of the hole with things like infrastructure and wiring every home with broadband and improving our healthcare and education systems and so much more—so much more.

Let me be very, very clear about one thing. Once this deal is signed into law, it cannot be the final word on congressional relief. There is more to do in the new year with a new administration that has a much more favorable attitude toward giving the American people the help they need. The bipartisan agreement is simply a downpayment. It will establish a floor, not a ceiling, for coronavirus relief in 2021.

Over the course of this challenging year, tens of millions of Americans have been pushed close to the breaking point. They have lost their jobs. They have lost their homes. Many can't feed their families. Many have lost neighbors, colleagues, friends, and family to this vicious, vicious disease. They have such great pain—a pain that we can only distantly empathize with because it hasn't happened directly to us here.

As the pandemic enters its worst phase, we will continue to be isolated from one another, but behind closed doors, desperation mounts for millions and millions of our fellow Americans. This bill is for them—for them—to carry them to a brighter day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HOEVEN). The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, first, I am delighted that we are finally at the point at which we are passing legislation to deal with the COVID-19 crisis that has gripped my State and our

country. We have a healthcare pandemic, and we have an economic crisis. I am pleased to say that, on a bipartisan basis, we are now coming together as we did 9 months ago with the CARES Act. It shouldn't have been 9 months, but we now have a targeted bill that focuses on providing a bridge between now and the time at which the vaccines will be widely available. We need the help. The economy is faltering, as was just said, but also the healthcare crisis in my home State and in so many other places has gotten worse. So it is past time.

I am told I have given 21 speeches on the floor about the bipartisan nature of this. There are so many areas of common ground, and I was pleased to be part of the 10-person bipartisan group who put together our own package over the last month. I think that helped to encourage leaders on both sides to see that there was a lot of common ground, that there were ways for us to come together.

One of my colleagues is on the floor with me now, Senator STABENOW of Michigan. She is one of those Democrats whom I spoke to over a month ago about this bipartisan process, and we talked about the common ground and the ability for us to find ways to move ahead to help those small businesses that truly are struggling; individuals who, through no fault of their own, lost their jobs because of the economic crisis that was precipitated by the pandemic; and to help our schools and to help our healthcare providers and to help ensure that we are doing what we can here to help at the local level to respond to this crisis.

GREAT LAKES RESTORATION INITIATIVE ACT OF 2019

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am on the floor tonight to join my colleague Senator STABENOW of Michigan to ask our colleagues to support legislation that has to do with the Great Lakes. It is called the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. We are asking to reauthorize that legislation.

This is one of those public-private partnerships that work. It is not only public, like Federal public, and private; it is Federal, State, local, and private individuals coming together to figure out how to keep our Great Lakes the amazing treasure that they are.

I represent Lake Erie. It is on the north coast of Ohio. It is the most shallow and also the most fertile of the Great Lakes. It has incredible fishing. There is a gigantic, \$7 billion fishing industry in the Great Lakes. A lot of it is recreational fishing—\$7 billion. It is being threatened right now, really, by a few different things. One is these Asian carp, so-called "bighead carp," that are coming up into the lake. We are doing all we can to keep them out, but this funding, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, focuses on that issue to keep the carp from ruining Lake Erie as they have ruined other

bodies of water for recreational and commercial fishing.

Second, we have to deal with our toxic algae blooms. You have probably heard about this. We have these blooms that are increasingly forming in Lake Erie, particularly in the western basin of the Toledo area. What they do is they keep people from being able to use the lake. You don't want to swim in it. By the way, you don't even want your dog to swim in it because the dogs can actually be injured by this. You don't want to fish in it, of course, and you really can't.

I have gone fishing in the Great Lakes every year for the past many years. I love the Great Lakes. Part of my childhood was on the Great Lakes. When I was a little kid, with my dad, I went fishing on the Great Lakes. You really can't fish when the algae blooms come in because they are so thick, you literally can't get a lure or bait through the algae blooms, and your boat has a tough time getting through them.

This is a serious issue. At one point, it got so serious in the western basin that it actually affected the water supply for the city of Toledo. So several years ago, we had to stop the city water in Toledo. I remember going there, with my pickup truck full of bottles of water, to help hand out water because people—particularly moms with babies—couldn't use the water. They were told: Don't allow your babies to have formula made from the water in the faucet because it is too dangerous, too toxic, because these algae blooms had gotten into the water system.

That is how scary this is if we don't ensure that we are taking efforts at every level—State, local, in the private sector, and at the Federal. Lake Erie and the other Great Lakes now provide drinking water for 40 million people. You want to be sure that treasure continues, not just for recreation and fishing and swimming and so on but also for the water supply for so many Americans.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative is a downpayment, really, to ensure that we can deal with these invasive species like the Asian carp and others. It is to ensure that we can deal with the toxic algae blooms and the erosion that is occurring as the water level has gone up and also some pollution issues that remain in Lake Erie and in all the Great Lakes.

The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative works. I have been to about 10 of these sights all around Ohio, and I have gone often with people from the private sector and the local community and sometimes the State government, and we talk about how, again, this is a model partnership.

As an example, I was at a farm in northwest Ohio, where, instead of telling them, "Hey, you have to stop farming because you are putting nitrogen and phosphorus into the creek that goes by your farm, and that is going

into the Maumee River, and that is going into Lake Erie and causing these algae blooms to grow," I asked, "Hey, how can we work with you as a farmer to try to reduce your runoff?"

We have had great success in that, but there is some expense in it. Often, you have to provide for filters and pumps and so on to keep this from going into the water supply and dealing with these upstream issues with regard to algae blooms and phosphorus nitrogen.

So I am pleased to say that, as of tonight, it appears that we have passed this on both sides of the Chamber through a so-called hotline. We had to work with some of our colleagues to resolve some remaining questions that they had for which we had answers because this is a program that works, and I have seen it work.

I am really pleased to have partnered with Senator STABENOW. We are co-chairs of the Great Lakes Task Force. She is the Democratic cochair, and I am the Republican cochair, and tonight I have partnered with her on this legislation. I thank her for her friendship, her work on this issue, and her passion for the Great Lakes.

I would like, if I could, to now turn to Senator STABENOW.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Michigan.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, it is always wonderful to work with my friend and colleague from Ohio, and certainly we share a tremendous partnership and passion about our Great Lakes.

For us in Michigan, we are a peninsula. We are surrounded by the Great Lakes, and we really believe it is about our way of life. My friend has talked about the fishing industry and the boating industry. There are 40 million people who get their drinking water from the Great Lakes Basin. We have more lighthouses all around Michigan, actually, than any other shoreline has in the country. We say we have the ocean without the salt, and it is very much in our DNA for us in Michigan.

As the Senator from Ohio indicated, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative focuses on a number of things that deal with water quality, stopping the spread of Asian carp and other invasive species, and restoring the shoreline from any future contaminations.

I have to say, as a personal point of pride, in 2010, I authored the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative as a member of the Senate Committee on the Budget, and since that time, we have funded 5,449 different projects throughout the entire region of the Great Lakes, including 880 projects in Michigan. And we have seen tangible results.

As Senator PORTMAN has indicated, this is a partnership, public-private. It is with local communities. It is with State governments. It is the Federal Government.

We, in Michigan, have passed four areas of concern that have been labeled because of the seriousness of what was

happening to the water and the water quality. They have now been removed from those areas of concern, where the communities worked together using Great Lakes Restoration funding and working with the communities, and they have been delisted, which is a good thing. That means things have improved. You can fish again. You can swim again. You can enjoy the water again. And so we are seeing tremendous, tangible results from what we have been able to do together.

And it is also important to note that for every \$1 we put into investment through this important program, it produces \$3 in economic return.

So it is fiscally responsible. It is responsible stewardship for all of us in protecting the fresh waters of our country. What we are doing in this legislation, basically, would allow us, over the next 5 years, to raise the authorization level back up to where it started in 2010. It has been up and down, and up and down, and up and down, and this would allow us to be able, within the next 5 years, to get that authorization back up to where it was. So we do have the support of the body.

Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 4031 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 4031) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4031) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, thank you very much. Let me say again what a pleasure it is to work with my friend from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, one other point from Senator STABENOW and myself, and that is that we want to congratulate and thank our colleagues in the House for working with us on this Great Lakes Restoration Initiative and, in particular, the two cochairs in the House from the Great Lakes Task Force and the two coauthors of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative legislation.

That would be Representative MARCY KAPTUR of Ohio and Representative DAVID JOYCE from Ohio. We would like to thank them for their good work and

congratulate them on tonight's passage as well.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. STABENOW. Mr. President, I want to take one other moment just to also speak and thank everybody that is involved at this point in getting us to where we are on this very important survival package.

I have never felt this was a COVID stimulus. It is about helping people survive over the next several months, whether that is making sure they have a roof over their head and food on the table, can pay the bills, keep the heat on. In places like North Dakota and places like Ohio, it is going to get pretty cold this winter. Our small businesses, our farmers, our schools that need help to be able to succeed, all the support we need to provide for vaccine distribution and healthcare, and all of the other areas—this has been a tough negotiation.

I do want to say, on a couple of points where I have been deeply involved, I want to thank the Presiding Officer for his support and help on our nutrition and agriculture pieces. We have come together in a very important step. It is going to allow more people to get help to feed their families over the next several months—no small thing.

We have a hunger crisis in our country. We have people who have donated to the food bank, worked for the food bank, and are now sitting for hours in cars, waiting to drive up and get a box of food, in the United States of America.

And so what we are doing as part of this package is going to be significant to help people be able to purchase food in the grocery store, as well as to get help in other ways—to help our seniors with Meals on Wheels, to help our children who aren't able to eat in school right now, and our college students who don't have the opportunity to be on campus and get support.

So we have very significant food access and nutrition, very positive efforts in this legislation. And for our farmers, as well, across the country, there is significant support, as well as help in our food chain and supply chain areas, where we have all been concerned as we have watched those involved in the supply chain lose their markets in restaurants and so on but not have the support and the capacity to take that milk or take those other commodities and be able to move them over and package them differently for consumers to go to the food bank. We make some headway in supporting that, as well, in this legislation.

So I want to thank my colleagues. This is really the last negotiation that Senator ROBERTS and I have led, as he retires this year. And it has been, as I have said before, a great pleasure to work with him and to be able to achieve this effort—bipartisan effort.

The one thank-you I just want to give is in a whole other area that has been a passion of mine that I have been

proud to lead with a colleague from Missouri, Senator ROY BLUNT. We have very significant support, as well, for behavioral health services, mental health, substance abuse services that are desperately needed and have been amplified, and the need has been expanded even more because of what has happened with the coronavirus.

And there is important support in this legislation, as well, and I am grateful to be involved in pushing that forward as well.

So there is more to talk about. I know we are a little ways away from that final vote, but I am hopeful that the coalition that was formed—that all of us working together that brought this together and negotiated, and my colleagues who initiated this bipartisan effort—will find that this is a coalition we want to keep going for next year, because there is so much more that we need to do together, and the American people expect us to get things done. And this, I hope, is the first step of many to celebrate ways that we are solving problems and helping people and moving the country forward.

Thank you, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. PORTMAN. First of all, I want to agree with my colleague from Michigan and thank her for her work concerning behavioral health and working with us in a bipartisan group on both behavioral health and addiction because, unfortunately, during this pandemic, the epidemic of drug addiction and drug overdose and overdose deaths has increased dramatically, and it is a heartbreaking reality because we were making progress, thanks to work here in this Chamber and in the States. Around the country, we were actually reducing not just the number of people addicted but the number of people who were suffering from overdose and overdose deaths.

Unfortunately, this year we are now going to see the largest overdose death rate in the history of our country, we believe. That is a sad reality, and we need to address it—that is part of the COVID-19 package—along with the behavioral health issues that are also, unfortunately, being exacerbated by the isolation that comes with the COVID-19 issue and the helpless, probably, and the joblessness that we have been seeing.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JOHNSON). Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDING THE GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 627, S. 2716.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2716) to amend the Grand Ronde Reservation Act, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Indian Affairs, with an amendment as follows:

(The part of the bill intended to be stricken is shown in boldface brackets and the part of the bill intended to be inserted is shown in italics.)

S. 2716

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

SECTION 1. GRAND RONDE RESERVATION ACT AMENDMENT.

Section 1(d) of Public Law 100-425 (commonly known as the "Grand Ronde Reservation Act") (102 Stat. 1594) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1) by striking "lands within the State of Oregon" and inserting "the 84 acres known as the Thompson Strip";

(2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (4); and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

["(2) GAMING PROHIBITION.—Any real property transferred to the Tribes as part of a land claim settlement approved by the United States shall not be eligible, or used, for any class II gaming or class III gaming (as those terms are defined in section 4 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2703))."]

["(2) GAMING PROHIBITION.—Any real property obtained by the Tribes as part of a land claim settlement approved by the United States shall not be eligible, or used, for any class II gaming or class III gaming under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) (as those terms are defined in section 4 of that Act (25 U.S.C. 2703))."]

SEC. 2. TREATY RIGHTS OF FEDERALLY RECOGNIZED TRIBES.

Nothing in this Act, or the amendments made by this Act, shall be construed to enlarge, confirm, adjudicate, affect, or modify any treaty right of an Indian tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

Mr. BLUNT. I further ask that the committee-reported amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment was agreed to.

The bill (S. 2716), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 2716

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