

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 10, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased that the Senate has passed and the House is now expected to re-pass the “American Rescue Plan Act of 2021” (H.R. 1319), for President Biden to sign into law.

This critical legislation provides federal relief totaling more than \$218 billion to state governments and more than \$140 billion to county and municipal governments. State and local governments will use this federal relief to continue providing essential services to the American public. With this soon-to-be law, Congress has answered President Biden’s call to defeat the COVID-19 pandemic, rebuild our economy, and help Americans return to normal life once we have widespread vaccination.

While this soon-to-be law does not include my “Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act” (H.R. 535), I hope that states will use the flexibility provided under the “American Rescue Plan Act” to pass though some federal relief to the 2,700 special districts in California and 30,000 special districts nationwide providing essential public services cities and counties do not provide to residents. Those services include first responders, policing, firefighting, public health, and more, making special districts indeed critical to the communities they serve. Special districts must now make their case directly to each state’s Governor.

I want to thank my colleagues who cosponsored H.R. 535 and U.S. Senator KYRSTEN SINEMA (D-AZ) for sponsoring the companion legislation.

I plan to continue working to ensure that special districts can access the Federal Reserve’s Municipal Liquidity Facility in the future, as called for in my “Special Districts Provide Essential Services Act.” Like states, counties, and cities, many special districts serve large populations and have the legal authority to issue short-term tax and revenue anticipation notes. However, special districts are not currently guaranteed access to the Municipal Liquidity Facility, even to offset revenue shortfalls caused by this ongoing pandemic or similar emergencies.

Congress must ensure that local governments including special districts have the federal support needed to deliver crucial quality-of-life services to communities during this global pandemic and future national emergencies.

COMMEMORATING 56TH ANNIVERSARY OF BLOODY SUNDAY

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, March 8, 2021

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay honor to the legacy of our late colleague, and my dear friend, Congressman John Lewis. This year marks the 56th Anniversary of the Bloody Sunday March in Selma, Alabama, over the Edmund Pettus Bridge. It is vital that we pay homage to Congressman Lewis and to the hundreds of individuals who marched beside him to protect the voices of the many, as well as to remember the history, legacy, and increasing importance of the infamous Bloody Sunday March.

On March 7, 1965, about six-hundred peaceful protesters, including a 25-year-old John Lewis, were violently attacked by Alabama State troopers while attempting to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge to begin the peaceful march from Selma to Montgomery. The ongoing Civil Rights Movement led nonviolent demonstrators to the bridge that Sunday with the risk of being met with opposition from law enforcement—but the outcome was much worse. Protesters were tear-gassed, clubbed, spat on, whipped, trampled by horses, and ultimately degraded by the police. The abhorrent attacks, which were seen on television and in newspapers, shocked the nation.

The events of that day mobilized Congress to pass the bipartisan Voting Rights Act of 1965—outlawing discriminatory voting laws which silenced the voices of Black Americans. Fifty-six years later, we celebrate the “good trouble” Congressman Lewis created that Sunday, and the decades to follow, embarking our nation down a path toward a more perfect union. Bloody Sunday is a dark moment in our country’s history, but it should not be left in the past. The increasing importance of memorializing that day draws on the impact it made on our citizens as well as our legislative body. This Congress should continue to implement the principles of our late colleague and uphold his legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I am so privileged to join the Congressional Black Caucus in its First Annual John Lewis Special Order Hour. Please join me in commemorating his leadership and bravery on the Edmund Pettus Bridge fifty-six years ago. May he Rest in Power, a well-earned peace, and may his memory be a blessing to all of us who loved him.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOHN WILLIAMS’ 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John Williams of Allen Park

on the occasion of his 100th Birthday. His contributions to our community and to our nation are worthy of commendation.

Mr. Williams was born in Emporia, Kansas and moved to Detroit, Michigan as the eldest of nine children when he was only three years old. Growing up in Detroit he was an active athlete, playing both baseball and football. He proudly cast his very first vote on election day for President Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

As a young man, he volunteered to serve his country in the United States Navy. Stationed in the Pacific, he survived the attacks on Pearl Harbor on that infamous day, December 7, 1941. After the death of his first wife while she was pregnant with their third child in California, Mr. Williams returned to Detroit with his two children. It was here where he later met his late wife Oila. Mr. Williams worked for Great Lakes Steel in Ecorse, Michigan for nearly 35 years.

A man of faith, Mr. Williams has served as a deacon at Whitlock Memorial Church of God in Christ in Detroit for over 63 years. These days, he continues to attend bible study and still makes time to attend church services. Friends and family know him as someone with a big smile, a love of people, and most importantly, someone who always has time to impart his wisdom or share a joke.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring John Williams on his 100th Birthday. He has honorably served this country through his service in the United States Navy during World War II. I join with Mr. Williams’ family, including his two granddaughters, four great grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and friends in extending my best wishes to him on his birthday, in celebration of another exemplary year of life.

COMMITTEE ON ETHICS SPECIAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES RELATING TO FINE NOTIFICATIONS AND APPEALS

HON. THEODORE E. DEUTCH

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2021

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, pursuant to section 1(e) of House Resolution 73, 117th Congress, and clause 3(g)(4) of House Rule II, I hereby submit the following special policies and procedures adopted by the Committee on Ethics on March 9, 2021, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Special Policies and Procedures Relating to Fine Notifications and Appeals

(Adopted by the Committee on Ethics—
March 9, 2021)

1. Upon receipt of a fine notification under House Rule II or H. Res. 73, the Committee will send a letter to the Sergeant at Arms, U.S. Capitol Police, and/or Chief Administrative Officer requesting that they preserve all records of any reviews, determinations, or decisions regarding the alleged violation(s) and any additional information, including

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

video recordings of the alleged violation(s). Also, the Committee will send a letter to the Member notifying them of their right to appeal, the deadline by which to file an appeal, the Committee's special policies and procedures, and noting that an appeal to the Committee shall include a response to the findings issued by the Sergeant at Arms, and may include the basis for the appeal, a description of the occurrence precipitating the fine, any exculpatory information, any request to appear before the Committee, and any additional information that the appellant believes will assist the Committee in considering the appeal. In addition, for receipt of any fine notification under H. Res. 73, the Committee shall notify the Member of the Committee's obligation to publish the fine notification.

2. For a fine notification received under H. Res. 73, the Chair and Ranking Member will make the notification public within two business days of receipt. The Committee will provide the subject of the fine with notice of publication one business day prior to release.

3. The Chair and Ranking Member may make redactions to the public fine notification received under H. Res. 73 as they deem necessary to protect certain personally identifiable information or other sensitive details.

4. In appealing a fine to the Committee, the appellant may be represented by counsel at their own expense.

5. Upon receipt of an appeal of a fine, the Committee will send a letter confirming its receipt of the appeal and notifying the appellant that it will consider the appeal within 30 calendar days. Also, upon receipt of an appeal, the Committee will send a letter to the Sergeant at Arms, U.S. Capitol Police, and/or Chief Administrative Officer requesting that they provide the Committee with a copy of all records of any reviews, determinations, or decisions regarding the alleged violation(s) and any additional information, including video recordings of the alleged violation(s).

6. If the written appeal does not provide sufficient information to fully assess an appeal, the Chair and Ranking Member may jointly authorize staff to request additional information from the appellant.

7. If an appellant asserts there are factual errors with the findings and any supporting documentation, the Chair and Ranking Member will request a response from the Sergeant at Arms and the U.S. Capitol Police. The Chair and Ranking Member may also jointly seek additional information from other sources.

8. The Chair or Ranking Member, consistent with Committee Rule 5(b), may place consideration of an appeal on the agenda at any time. If no meeting of the Committee is scheduled to occur within 30 days of receipt of an appeal, the Chair will make reasonable efforts to convene a meeting during that time period.

9. Members of the Committee will be provided any information needed for consideration of the appeal not later than three days prior to any meeting in which the appeal will be considered, whenever possible.

10. The Committee may agree to an appeal if it determines the fine is (a) arbitrary and capricious, an abuse of discretion, or otherwise not consistent with law or with principles of fairness; (b) not made consistent with required procedures; or (c) unsupported by substantial evidence.

11. The Chair and Ranking Member will notify the Speaker, the Sergeant at Arms, Chief Administrative Officer, and the public of the determination regarding a fine appeal (or that no appeal has been filed) two business days after such determination (or the expiration of the appeal period), and will also publish the written appeal if the appellant so chooses. The Committee will provide the subject of the fine with notice of publication one business day prior to release.

NATIONAL POLLUTANT DIS-
CHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM
(NPDES)

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 12, 2021

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, today I reintroduce a noncontroversial amendment to the Clean Water Act, extending permit terms for publicly owned water infrastructure projects under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). I thank my colleague Congressman KEN CALVERT (R-CA) for his support as the original cosponsor.

This bipartisan bill would simply extend the NPDES permit term for projects owned by local public agencies and water districts from the current 5 up to 10 years. This would encourage investment in modern wastewater treatment facilities by relieving unnecessary, bureaucratic paperwork and allow regulators to focus on watershed-scale planning and water quality standards. This bill is supported by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, National Association of Counties, United States Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, National Water Resources Association, Association of California Water Agencies, California Association of Sanitation Agencies, WaterReuse Association, and Water Environment Federation.

The United States has fallen behind many other developed nations in wastewater infrastructure, receiving a D+ grade in the Amer-

ican Society of Civil Engineers' most recent report card. One reason for this lapse in infrastructure improvements is arbitrary permitting timetables imposed by the federal government. Permit terms should match the construction timelines and on-the-ground reality for the projects to which they apply. This is currently not the case. With over 95 percent of wastewater infrastructure spending at the local level, according to the U.S. Conference of Mayors, lengthening permit terms for local governments would be one of the most expeditious ways to encouraging further investment in 21st-century wastewater treatment facilities.

Current NPDES permitting under the Clean Water Act has a maximum term of 5 years, an aggressive timeline that is impracticable given construction schedules of local public agencies. As a result, California's State Water Resources Control Board and Clean Water Act regulators in other states are overwhelmed with a backlog of NPDES permitting requests for existing projects. New public projects are, likewise, significantly delayed by this unnecessary bureaucracy.

My office has identified nearly a dozen major public projects to modernize wastewater treatment plants or build water recycling facilities in California delayed by the current 5-year NPDES term. One such public water recycling project in a drought-stricken region of southern California is well into its third NPDES permit term before even breaking ground on the underlying project. This is just one example where the arbitrary 5-year permit term impedes public water infrastructure projects that would advance the stated goals of the Clean Water Act.

My bill would alleviate this burden by extending the maximum permit to 10 years, helping local water agencies nationwide better implement the Clean Water Act and literally cutting the permitting backlog in half. Extending the NPDES permitting term is a practical solution that allows local agencies to meet the existing regulatory standards while building public water projects that measurably improve water quality, which after all is the purpose of the Clean Water Act. NPDES permit terms for private projects or industrial discharges would remain at the current 5-year term.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all Members to cosponsor this bipartisan bill to extend the maximum NPDES permit term for public water projects under the Clean Water Act. I plan to make this commonsense legislation a top priority in my work on the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.