

COVID-19 variants. Congress should not impose significant tax increases, inflexible mandates, and massive new civil monetary penalties on small businesses as they would compound these problems and damage the fragile small business recovery. NFIB opposes H.R. 5376 and will consider the legislation an NFIB Key Vote for the 117th Congress.

Sincerely,

KEVIN KUHLMAN,  
*Vice President,*

*Federal Government Relations.*

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from American Farm Bureau who represents nearly 6 million families and American farmers asking us to reject passage of this bill due to inflation and how this hurts America's farmers.

AMERICAN FARM BUREAU FEDERATION,  
*Washington, DC, November 16, 2021.*

Hon. \_\_\_\_\_  
*House of Representatives,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the Farm Bureau's nearly 6-million member families, I write to urge you to oppose the Build Back Better Act, a piece of legislation that raises taxes and spends more taxpayer money at a time our country can afford to do neither.

Inflation is driving up costs across the economy, and greatly increased federal spending is a contributing factor. Federal policy choices have raised energy prices, leading to higher costs for everything from food to used cars. And yet this legislation will further exasperate that pain through a methane tax on oil and gas.

The Consumer Price Index is at a 31-year high, and unlikely to reach historical norms any time soon, having risen 6.2% since this time last year. Inflation is a hefty tax on every American's paycheck.

While certain funding increases or newly created programs may, by themselves, be commendable, the totality of the increased federal spending in this bill coupled with the enormously burdensome tax increases leveled on businesses and individuals to pay for it will stifle economic growth and destroy jobs. Ultimately, the result could be the consolidation or sale of family farms and ranches.

The legislation also seeks to raise revenue by increasing fines and penalties as much as ten times their current amount for violations of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, Fair Labor Standards Act, and Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act. The missteps of farmers and ranchers when navigating complex, oftentimes onerous regulations and laws should not serve as a funding mechanism. While Farm Bureau does not condone bad actors when it comes to appropriately managing safety, the seasonal workforce, and employee pay on the farm, fines associated with OSHA, FLSA, or MSPA violations should not be determined based on their ability to serve as a pay-for in a partisan legislative process. If enacted, these provisions could put well-meaning farmers and ranchers out of business.

While some elements of the reconciliation package would benefit agriculture, the massive amount of spending and tax increases required to pay for the plan outweigh the gains we would see in rural America. Also, the manner in which they were crafted is concerning. The agriculture industry and the committees of jurisdiction have held to a long tradition of bipartisanship that we have seen erode over this past year. We hope this does not negatively impact future farm policy discussions.

In addition, the best policy is that which is discussed in an open and transparent manner

with input from a variety of stakeholders. Reconciliation has been anything but transparent with billions of dollars not even discussed by the committees of jurisdiction. This should concern all advocates of good and responsible government.

The economy is still recovering from the pandemic, supply chains are stressed, and inflation is putting pressure on America's pocketbooks. Now is not the time to put an additional burden on families struggling to make ends meet. After watching months of contentious, partisan debate surrounding the Build Back Better Act, Farm Bureau can only stand in opposition to the legislation.

Respectfully,

ZIPPY DUVAL,  
*President.*

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. GOMEZ), whose negotiating skill on USMCA really impressed me.

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a second-generation American. I am the son of Mexican immigrants who came here in pursuit of the American promise; a promise that if you work hard and follow the rules, you will succeed, and your children and grandchildren will build on that success.

Unfortunately, the promise has eluded far too many Americans, particularly the working class and people of color. Although some of them feel America has given up on them, they have refused to give up on America. That is why we must pass the Build Back Better Act to make historic investments in our people and our planet and put the American promise within reach of an entire generation for the first time.

Through the Build Back Better Act, we have an opening to invest in children and families by expanding the child tax credit and universal pre-K, give millions of families an affordable place to call home, and tackle climate change while creating good-paying jobs. We have a chance to redefine our commitment to the American people and to move toward a more just, equitable, and perfect Union.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. HORSFORD), who is a terrific advocate for all things Nevada.

Mr. HORSFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise to highlight the historic investments that Ways and Means Democrats have secured in the Build Back Better Act.

For years, Americans have seen their cost of living rise while my colleagues across the aisle focused on tax cuts for the wealthy and the well-connected. At long last, with Democrats in the majority, Congress is delivering the change that our constituents deserve.

As we rebound from the pandemic, I am very proud that the Build Back Better Act includes my bills to cap out-of-pocket drug costs for seniors, lower healthcare premiums for working students, and improve wages, benefits, and training for workers at nursing homes and hospitals.

I also want to acknowledge the major investments in our clean energy future. To tackle the climate crisis and create good union jobs, the Build Back Better Act includes my bills to invest in clean energy transmission and incentivize production of dynamic glass.

The Build Back Better Act will pay for itself, create millions of good-paying jobs, and lower costs for our families. And critically, through a \$5 billion investment in my bill to prevent community violence, the Build Back Better Act will keep our communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, I urge this body to pass this bold investment in America.

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT), who is a very effective member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, with the Build Back Better Act, we are investing in a strong economy, in jobs, and ensuring that children, families, and all of our communities can compete and succeed equitably in the 21st century.

This will tremendously benefit all districts, including districts whose Members will not vote for the bill. No doubt many of them will try to take credit for this as they stand against this transformative investment in our economic future.

Build Back Better fights inflation because it is paid for and because it helps working people return to work, increasing supply. Build Back Better reduces the deficit, as we have seen from scoring that has been released as we developed the package.

Americans overwhelmingly support Build Back Better because the American people broadly agree we face an urgent choice between Republicans who insist on keeping the economy that serves the wealthiest and the biggest corporations or the Democrats who are giving middle-class families a hand up at achieving the American Dream.

We have millionaires and billionaires paying lower tax rates than teachers, cops, and firefighters.

Stop pretending you care about balancing the budget, the deficit, and the middle class. We saw what you cared for in the 2017 tax grab.

Mr. Speaker, vote to build back better.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 5376 is postponed.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Mr. Adrian Swann, one of his secretaries.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON UNITED STATES OUTLYING AREAS AND FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3730) to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 420, nays 4, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 380]  
YEAS—420

Adams Casten Fitzgerald  
Aderholt Castor (FL) Fitzpatrick  
Aguilar Castro (TX) Fleischmann  
Allen Cawthorn Fletcher  
Allred Chabot Fortenberry  
Amodei Cheney Foster  
Armstrong Chu Foxx  
Arrington Cicilline Frankel, Lois  
Auchincloss Clark (MA) Franklin, C.  
Axne Clarke (NY) Scott  
Babin Cleaver Fulcher  
Bacon Cline Gaetz  
Baird Cloud Gallagher  
Balderson Clyburn Gallego  
Banks Clyde Garamendi  
Barr Cohen Garbarino  
Barragán Cole Garcia (CA)  
Bass Comer Garcia (IL)  
Beatty Connolly Garcia (TX)  
Bentz Cooper Gibbs  
Bera Correa Gimenez  
Bergman Costa Golden  
Beyer Courtney Gomez  
Bice (OK) Craig Gonzalez (OH)  
Biggs Crawford Gonzalez,  
Bilirakis Crenshaw Vicente  
Bishop (GA) Crist Gooden (TX)  
Bishop (NC) Crow Gosar  
Blumenauer Cuellar Gottheimer  
Blunt Rochester Curtis  
Boebert Davids (KS) Graves (LA)  
Bonamici Davidson Graves (MO)  
Bost Davis, Danny K. Green (TN)  
Bourdeaux Davis, Rodney Green, Al (TX)  
Bowman Dean Griffith  
Boyle, Brendan DeFazio Grijalva  
 F. DeGette Grothman  
Brady DeLauro Guest  
Brooks DelBene Guthrie  
Brown (MD) Delgado Hagedorn  
Brown (OH) Demings Harder (CA)  
Brownley DeSaulnier Harris  
Buchanan DesJarlais Harshbarger  
Buck Deutch Hartzler  
Bucshon Diaz-Balart Hayes  
Budd Dingell Hern  
Burchett Doggett Herrell  
Burgess Donalds Herrera Beutler  
Bush Doyle, Michael Hice (GA)  
Bustos F. Higgins (LA)  
Butterfield Duncan Higgins (NY)  
Calvert Dunn Hill  
Cammack Ellzey Himes  
Carbajal Emmer Hinson  
Cárdenas Escobar Hollingsworth  
Carey Eshoo Horsford  
Carl Espaillat Houlihan  
Carson Estes Hoyer  
Carter (GA) Evans Hudson  
Carter (LA) Feenstra Huffman  
Carter (TX) Ferguson Huizenga  
Cartwright Fischbach Issa

Jackson Meeks Schweikert  
Jacobs (CA) Meijer Scott (VA)  
Jacobs (NY) Meng Scott, Austin  
Jayapal Meuser Scott, David  
Jeffries Mfume Sessions  
Johnson (GA) Miller (IL) Sewell  
Johnson (LA) Miller (WV) Sherman  
Johnson (OH) Miller-Meeks Sherrill  
Johnson (SD) Moolenaar Simpson  
Johnson (TX) Mooney Sires  
Jones Moore (AL) Slotkin  
Jordan Moore (UT) Smith (MO)  
Joyce (OH) Moore (WI) Smith (NE)  
Joyce (PA) Morelle Smith (NJ)  
Kahele Moulton Smith (WA)  
Kaptur Mrvan Smucker  
Katko Mullin Soto  
Keating Murphy (FL) Spartz  
Keller Murphy (NC) Speier  
Kelly (IL) Nadler Stansbury  
Kelly (MS) Napolitano Stanton  
Kelly (PA) Neal Stauber  
Khanna Neguse Steel  
Kildee Nehls Stefanik  
Kilmer Newhouse Steil  
Kim (CA) Newman Steube  
Kim (NJ) Norcross Stevens  
Kind Nunes Stewart  
Kirkpatrick O'Halleran Strickland  
Krishnamoorthi Obernolte Suozzi  
Kuster Swalwell Swalwell  
Kustoff Omar Takano  
LaHood Owens Taylor  
LaMalfa Palazzo Tenney  
Lamb Pallone Thompson (CA)  
Lamborn Palmer Thompson (MS)  
Langevin Panetta Thompson (PA)  
Larsen (WA) Pappas Tiffany  
Larson (CT) Pascrell Timmons  
Latta Payne Titus  
LaTurner Pence Tlaib  
Lawrence Perlmutter Tonko  
Lawson (FL) Peters Torres (CA)  
Lee (CA) Pfluger Torres (NY)  
Lee (NV) Phillips Trahan  
Leger Fernandez Pingree Trone  
Lesko Pocan Turner  
Letlow Porter Underwood  
Levin (CA) Posey Upton  
Levin (MD) Pressley Valadao  
Lieu Price (NC) Van Drew  
Lofgren Quigley Van Dуйne  
Long Raskin Vargas  
Lowenthal Reed Veasey  
Lucas Reschenthaler Vela  
Luetkemeyer Rice (NY) Velázquez  
Luria Rice (SC) Wagner  
Lynch Rodgers (WA) Walberg  
Mace Rogers (AL) Walorski  
Malinowski Rogers (KY) Waltz  
Malliotakis Rose Wasserman  
Maloney, Rosendale Schultz  
Carolyn B. Ross Waters  
Maloney, Sean Rouzer Watson Coleman  
Mann Roybal-Allard Weber (TX)  
Manning Ruiz Webster (FL)  
Massie Ruppertsberger Welch  
Mast Rush Wenstrup  
Matsui Rutherford Westernman  
McBath Ryan Wexton  
McCarthy Salazar Wild  
McCaul Sánchez Williams (GA)  
McClain Sarbanes Williams (TX)  
McClintock Scalise Wilson (FL)  
McCollum Scanlon Wilson (SC)  
McEachin Schakowsky Wittman  
McGovern Schiff Womack  
McHenry Schneider Yarmuth  
McKinley Schrader Young  
McNerney Schrier Zeldin

NAYS—4

Good (VA) Norman  
Greene (GA) Roy

NOT VOTING—9

Case Gonzales, Tony Loudermilk  
Fallon Jackson Lee Perry  
Gohmert Kinzinger Spanberger

□ 1303

Messrs. LUETKEMEYER and GAETZ changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 380 on the passage of H.R. 3730, to amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs an Advisory Committee on United States Outlying Areas and Freely Associated States, and for other purposes, my “yea” vote was not recorded because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 380.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei	Johnson (TX)	Rice (NY)
(Balderson)	(Jeffries)	(Murphy (FL))
Bacon	Kelly (IL)	Royal-Allard
(Fitzpatrick)	(Clarke (NY))	(McCollum)
Barragan	Kirkpatrick	Rush (Quigley)
(Allred)	(Stanton)	Sires (Pallone)
Blumenauer	Krishnamoorthi	Stauber
(Beyer)	(Levin (CA))	(Bergman)
Boyle, Brendan	Lawson (FL)	Steube
F. (Jeffries)	(Evans)	(Timmons)
Burgess (Lucas)	Lieu (Raskin)	Swaikwell
Calvert (Garcia	Lesko (Miller	(Gomez)
(CA))	(WV))	Thompson (MS)
Cleaver	Long	(Butterfield)
(Butterfield)	(Fleischmann)	Thompson (PA)
Davids (KS) (Kim	Lowenthal	(Meuser)
(NJ))	(Beyer)	Tlaib (Bowman)
DeFazio (Brown	Matsui	Trone (Beyer)
(MD))	(Thompson	Underwood
Dingell (Clark	(CA))	(Casten)
(MA))	McEachin	Van Drew
Gonzalez (OH)	(Wexton)	(Tenney)
(Armstrong)	Nunes (Garcia	Waltz (Salazar)
Harshbarger	(CA))	Welch
(Fleischmann)	Payne (Pallone)	(McGovern)
Hartzler	Porter (Wexton)	Wilson (FL)
(Walberg)	Reed (Walorski)	(Hayes)

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE), the Republican whip, for the purpose of an inquiry as to the balance of the day.

Mr. SCALISE. I thank the gentleman from Maryland for yielding. Mr. Speaker, I would like to request if the gentleman could let us know what the schedule is expected to be for the remainder of today.

Obviously, the reports are that there may be a CBO score today. I also want to ask the gentleman: Would it be anticipated that there would first be a CBO score before any final passage of legislation?

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his question. Let me read through this so I reach every point that I think each Member needs to know.

Following the next vote, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair. As all Members know, we are waiting for some technical pursuits of the budget and reconciliation process to be completed.

The House has completed, as I think all of you know, 1 hour and 40 minutes of the 2 hours of debate on the Build Back Better Act, so there will remain 10 minutes on each side prior to the passage of the Build Back Better Act.