

agency and the breadth of experience led her to the western region where she served as Deputy Regional Director/Chief of Staff for the NPS Intermountain Region in Lakewood, Colorado, the Associate Regional Director for Resource Stewardship and Research in the Intermountain Regional Office, and as Pacific West Regional Director in San Francisco.

During her tenure as General Superintendent of Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Muir Woods National Monument, and Fort Point National Historic Site, Laura has been a tireless advocate for communities, underserved audiences, and staff. She successfully navigated the challenges of leading these popular units of the National Park Systems and did so during a pandemic. She hosted national and international visits by congressional staff, Washington officials, and international dignitaries, including the Italian President and delegations from Norway and the Ukraine studying the parks as a model for developing their own national park systems. Under Laura's direction, NPS also signed the first sister park agreement with the First Lady of Costa Rica to develop their Isla San Lucas National Park, a twin to the park's Alcatraz Island unit.

In our personal experiences working with Laura, she has been a consummate professional, responsive to community issues, and conducted herself with a professional and diplomatic demeanor. Our national parks and communities have benefited from Laura's transparency, integrity, and deep commitment to the Golden Gate Recreation Area and extended national park system.

Madam Speaker, we respectfully ask that you join us in expressing gratitude to Laura for her enduring commitment to public service and extending heartfelt congratulations on her more than three decades with the National Park Service.

**HONORING DREW HELLENSEN,  
OLYMPIC ATHLETE**

**HON. ANGIE CRAIG**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2022*

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Farmington native Drew Hellenson on his performance at the 2022 Olympic Games in Beijing, which earned the United States Ice Hockey team 5th place.

At only 21 years old, Drew has earned the Hockey East Best Defensive Defenseman, First Team All-Hockey East and Second Team AHCA All-American awards. With countless winning games and titles under his belt, he has proven to all of us that anything can be achieved when you stay committed to your dreams.

On behalf of Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District, I want to congratulate Drew on performing in his first ever Olympic games.

**RECOGNIZING CONGRESSIONAL  
WORKERS' RIGHTS TO ORGANIZE**

**HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2022*

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1096, to ensure that

House staffers have the same fundamental rights to organize and collectively bargain as workers across the Nation. Unions play an essential role in providing higher wages, better benefits, and safer workplaces. For decades, unions workers have consistently enjoyed 10- to 20-percent higher wages than their non-union counterparts. The benefits of union membership are so strong that studies show even the children of union workers enjoy greater economic mobility.

Unions also narrow both the racial wealth gap and the gender pay gap. Union members of color have almost five times the median wealth of their non-union counterparts. Moreover, unions close the gender wage gap almost completely, whereas on average non-union women are paid 78 cents for every dollar paid to non-union men.

Ultimately, unions provide workers with a voice on the job—and this proved to be critical during the pandemic. While the entire economy suffered from massive job losses throughout the pandemic, union workers suffered fewer job losses because they were able to bargain for fewer layoffs and safer workplaces.

As the Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor, I have led legislation that ensures workers can form and access all the benefits of a union. These rights should also be extended to House staffers.

House staffers are central to moving our country forward. They help constituents find affordable health care coverage and access social security benefits; they ensure Members of Congress can hear directly from the people; and they help draft legislation that protects and strengthens our democracy.

As I have repeatedly said, joining a union is a fundamental right—and that must hold true for House employees, too.

I thank Speaker PELOSI, Leader HOYER, Congresswoman LOFGREN, Congressman LEVIN, and so many others for their leadership on this important issue.

**HONORING ROBERTSON CHARTER  
SCHOOL IN DECATUR, IL**

**HON. RODNEY DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2022*

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Robertson Charter School in Decatur, Illinois on their 2A 7th Grade Basketball State Championship.

Decatur Robertson played Normal Metcalf in the State Championship, and while both teams fought well, there was never a doubt that the Wildcats would come out on top. After an almost perfect game, the Wildcats won 38–27.

After a successful regular season and impressive post-season, Decatur Robertson showed that they are a team full of talent and promise. Like others, I am excited to see what they can accomplish next season.

I would like to personally congratulate the coaches and the players of Decatur Robertson for their outstanding season and 2A 7th Grade State Championship. They have certainly made the Decatur area proud. I look forward to seeing them all play in the future and go Wildcats.

APRIL LAMBATOS

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize April Lambatos for receiving the 2021 Young Professional of the Year Award from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. The Young Professional of the Year Award recognizes an Arvada young professional whose leadership and dedication have positively impacted their community.

April is the co-owner of Footers Catering and Social Capitol Events in Arvada. Under April's leadership, Footers Catering has been recognized as a 'Best Place to Work' by The Denver Post, Colorado Biz Magazine, The Denver Business Journal, and the ICC. April was recognized as a Titan 100, a 40 Under 40 winner by the Denver Business Journal, and a top COO through the DBJ C-Suite awards. In addition to her work at Footers and Social Capitol, April is a founding Board member of the Mile High Young Professionals, is an active Board member for the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation and is currently on the Board for the Denver Public Library Friends Foundation and the International Catering Association.

Congratulations again to April Lambatos on this recognition from the Arvada Chamber of Commerce. I extend my deepest appreciation for her contributions to our community.

**IN RECOGNITION OF DEBORAH  
MERRILL**

**HON. CHRIS PAPPAS**

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2022*

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Deborah Merrill's long-standing commitment to higher educational and wish her well as she enters retirement. Deborah's current role as the dean of the Peter T. College of Business and Economics at the University of New Hampshire is no easy task. In this role, Deborah oversees more than 3000 students and supports an incredible faculty team. This retirement is well deserved.

Prior to her work in higher education, Deborah worked for 15 years in international development and research management in Latin America and East Africa. Her commitment to pressing social issues has earned her grants from a variety of organizations, including the Ford Foundation, Rockefeller Foundation, Fulbright, Social Science Research Council, and the Inter-American Foundation.

Deborah has worked to created multiple business and marketing programs for the residents of New Hampshire. These programs include the Center for Business Analytics, the Business in Practice Program, Creation of Voice Z, Changemaker Collaborative, among others. These programs offer educational and research opportunities to further students and residents' knowledge of the business world. Each of her programs has been incredibly successful in preparing students for careers in leadership and business roles.

As public health precautions during the coronavirus pandemic caused many institutions to close their doors to the public for prolonged periods of times, Deborah made sure

that her staff felt supported, even without typical face to face operations. Deborah worked tirelessly to ensure that every staff member felt that they were heard and felt empowered to do their best work.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank Deborah for her continued dedication to the Granite State and wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement.

#### RESPONDING TO SLANDER

### HON. PAUL A. GOSAR

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 11, 2022*

Mr. GOSAR. Madam Speaker, without bothering to corroborate the facts, a Congressman from California called me a "white nationalist" for my supposed attendance at an event that I never attended. He was wrong factually in saying I attended two such events. I did not go to any such events.

He uses the term "white nationalist." A "white nationalist" is someone who is white who wants a nation of only white people. I have never endorsed such a view. Ever. You will never find words I have said or actions I have taken that support the creation of a white ethnostate. Yet he cavalierly throws this out.

Slander is the left's go-to move to silence those they disagree with politically. For the last seven years they have attempted (unsuccessfully) to brand former President Donald Trump as a racist. Simply because President Trump believes, with a solid evidentiary basis, that there were electoral irregularities, they call him racist. Because he believes in a strong border and national security, they call him a racist. President Trump pursues an America First foreign policy—they call him racist.

And it's not just racism. Pick a phobia, and if you are standing up for the Constitution and its values, you are probably one. If you believe children as young as Kindergarten should not be sexually groomed and sexually indoctrinated in school—you are a "hater" and "phobic." I will continue to object and fight against any person or group that tries to sexualize children. Call me names but children cannot be sexualized by drag queens and mentally ill people who are confused by their gender.

And if none of those apply, they can always just fall back on calling you crazy or a conspiracy theorist. We have seen for years now that today's "conspiracy theory" is tomorrow's confirmed fact. If you believe there may be some health risks to a vaccine—conspiracy. If you believe climate change is more a tool for gaining power than anything to do about science—conspiracy. If you believe critical race theory is taught in our schools—crazy.

Cancel culture is a disease eating away at this country from the inside. Cancel culture is doing more damage than a hostile foreign power could only imagine doing—weakening our borders, potentially involving us in calamitous foreign conflicts, teaching our citizens to hate their country. In order to preserve all we hold dear, we must reject the libels and continue to boldly stand for truth. Know that I for one will not be intimidated.

#### PROVIDING RESEARCH AND ESTIMATES OF CHANGES IN PRECIPITATION ACT

SPEECH OF

### HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 10, 2022*

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1437, the Providing Research on Estimates of Changes in Precipitation, or PRECIP Act.

Earlier this month on the Science, Space and Technology Committee, we heard from our government's representative to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change that we should expect three to eight times as much rain in the coming years as we have seen historically.

That future is here already in the cities and towns of New Jersey's 11th District. From Denville to Pequannock, and in Lincoln Park, Montville, Hanover Township, Morristown, Montclair, Verona and others, we are already seeing record-breaking instances of heavy precipitation wreaking havoc upon homes and businesses.

Last September, we experienced horrendous flooding in the wake of Tropical Storm Ida and tragically lost 27 lives across New Jersey. In Woodland Park in my district, a woman was swept away by the flooding—brave residents at the scene tried to rescue her, but the current was too strong and they themselves had to be rescued.

According to CDC estimates, over 35 percent of deaths related to Hurricane Ida were in New Jersey—the largest share of deaths in any state. The storm also shut down Newark International Airport, with nearly 400 flights canceled and an entire terminal closed, suspended almost all NJ Transit rail service, and caused significant delays for buses and drivers stranded by rising water across the state as they encountered roads closed by flooding and downed trees.

The devastation was widespread and continues to affect my constituents long after the waters receded. In Little Falls, New Jersey, I met with Mayor Damiano and spoke with families about the heartbreaking losses they faced; their lives and homes upended, with many still trying to recover from the personal and financial upheaval months later.

I remember one woman who told us how she was about to have her son's wedding that upcoming weekend and her whole house was flooded and nearly destroyed to the point that the power had to be shut off in order to keep them safe. She told me she just didn't know how she was going to make it all work. This wasn't the first time her home had flooded and her life uprooted, and in that moment, her fears were not just around recovering from the damage of Ida, but that even if she could recover, this still might happen again in the next storm or the one after that.

I heard from another mother in my district who, along with her young children, had to be rescued from her home at night during Hurricane Ida. She said that she had been told at 5 p.m. that the storm would pass to the west. The precise location of extreme weather and precipitation can make a life-or-death difference, and so we must constantly be working to improve NOAA's forecasting ability.

Sadly, this loss of life and of property is no longer limited to major storms and hurricanes or to limited regions. We are seeing very high volumes of precipitation that exceed the frequency and patterns we have seen in the past. These extreme precipitation events are happening in my district and those of my colleagues with alarming regularity.

Therefore, it is critical that decision makers such as flood plain managers, dam safety officials, civil engineers, local elected officials, first responders and others have the most accurate and up to date information to plan for these events. However, there is a gap in the information necessary to make these decisions.

This bill directs the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, to update precipitation frequency estimates. This includes regular updates to Probable Maximum Precipitation, or PMP, estimates. These estimates are required to be updated at least every 10 years to provide up-to-date information for decision makers, but we encourage the agency to update these, and other precipitation frequency estimates, as frequently as practicable.

This bill also requires NOAA to develop a National Guidance Document for precipitation methodologies. Additionally, the bill authorizes the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a consensus study on best practices for precipitation estimation.

Given the critical need to update PMPs, and develop the National Guidance Document, Congress urges NOAA to include the findings of the Academies study when practicable and not to delay these time-sensitive updates.

This bipartisan bill is the result of significant stakeholder engagement, and outreach across the aisle. I want to particularly thank the Environment Subcommittee Ranking Member, Ms. BICE for her work, as well as the Full Committee Ranking Member, Mr. LUCAS.

I thank my colleagues for their support on this bill.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, May 12, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.