

According to statistics I have seen, because I can hardly get a straight answer, six times the flow has been pushed through there as what it would take to maintain that salinity—six times the flow.

So much water is not being captured. California still has a lot of rain and snowpack that falls upon it that is not being captured.

What are we down to? That water district I met with, those farmers are going to receive 7 percent of their flows, 0.4 acre-feet. If you had 100 acres, you would get to plant 7 acres. Can you imagine in any kind of business atmosphere where you get to operate 7 percent of it?

We have to get this right. The Federal Government needs to come in and do its job, not just worship the Endangered Species Act.

BE CONCERNED ABOUT AMERICA, NOT OTHER COUNTRIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. GREENE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, right now, the American people are over \$30 trillion in debt because Congress is incapable of being responsible with the American people's hard-earned tax dollars.

Over \$30 trillion in debt and counting is a sum total that we will never be able to pay back in our lifetimes, our children's lifetimes, our grandchildren's lifetimes, our great-grandchildren's lifetimes, and so forth.

Our dollar is on the verge of crashing. We are also on the verge of being the competitive currency with another foreign country's currency, possibly China. We are not in good shape financially.

We also are looking at 7.9 percent inflation and rising, with nothing to stop it. We are looking at gas prices that are getting so expensive that people can hardly afford to fill up their gas tanks.

Crime is out of control, and there is no reason for that. But coming up, on May 23, the Biden administration is going to suspend title 42, which is going to allow approximately an estimated 18,000 illegal aliens to come across our border.

If you total this up, in over 5 months, we are looking at potentially over 2.7 million people coming in throughout the summer and into the fall. This is unsustainable. This is also against our Constitution and is completely irresponsible.

Now, we have something coming up that Congress is going to be voting on, a 41-page COVID-19 supplemental bill because, for some reason, we are supposed to be spending more money that we don't have on future COVID and future COVID variants and future COVID vaccines because, really, that makes a lot of sense.

Why is that an emergency? It is in the future.

This bill, at \$10 billion, of which up to \$9 billion is for the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority—what is the purpose of that? It is in the future. Is this gain of function research? We have a lot of questions, but we don't have answers.

This is also—for future COVID, by the way—supposed to provide \$750 million in efforts to fight future variants to build future vaccine manufacturing capacity.

Haven't our vaccine manufacturers made enough money when COVID vaccines were mandated across the country? They are still making a lot of money.

We have already spent \$4.6 trillion in resources on COVID, \$4.16 trillion in obligations, \$3.63 trillion in outlays across 44 government agencies.

The U.S. has made \$825 billion in direct payments. The U.S. has issued \$845 billion in loans. The U.S. has given \$540 billion in grants, \$50 billion in contracts, mostly through HHS and Defense, and so forth and on and more spending and more spending. Again, we are over \$30 trillion in debt.

Currently, the death rate for COVID is 1.22 percent. By the way, this death rate has continued to go down, thankfully. We are all thankful for that. Yet, Congress wants to spend more money for future COVID, for future vaccines, and for future variants when there is no need to do so.

What we should be doing is we should be helping Americans get back to work. We should be helping small businesses.

Most of all, we should be securing our southern border to protect our country and our national security interests, and to protect our people, instead of being completely concerned and wrapped up in another country's border and their people.

While we are failing Americans here at home, we are too concerned about countries abroad.

□ 1030

Now, we have other serious problems. We have things that more Americans have been ignored on. There have been approximately 11,943 deaths reported on VAERS, but no investigation. There have also been 1,676 miscarriages reported on VAERS; 5,592 heart attacks reported on VAERS; 5,164 cases of myocarditis reported on VAERS; 13,230 permanently disabled cases reported on VAERS, yet no investigation. But we are supposed to spend \$10 billion on future COVID, future variants, future vaccines?

If we are going to spend some money, why don't we spend some money looking into these cases reported on VAERS?

This is why I introduced the Justice for Vaccine Victims Act of 2022 because there needs to be an investigation.

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES: THE STATE OF AGRICULTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver the next installment of my farm bill impact series—the state of agriculture.

We are at the end of the first quarter. National Agriculture Month just ended, and as Congress prepares to authorize the farm bill, we should examine the state of agriculture.

Agriculture is not just a business; it is a rich heritage and a lifestyle. Sadly, the distance from farm to fork has never been greater, and there are fewer legislators who have experience on the farm. Since Congress will reauthorize the farm bill in 2023, I am standing here today to remind Congress that for this legislation to be effective in ensuring the food security, and, therefore, the national security, of our Nation, we need to get in the field and consider the perspectives of farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers.

Last month, House Agriculture Committee Republican leader G.T. THOMPSON and I did just that on a tour of my district. We went to farms; we toured facilities; we ate at dinner tables; and we listened. We did it because hearing from producers is crucial to legislating well on matters that concern their livelihoods. Today, I will report to Congress on what they have been telling me about the economic, human, and natural resources surrounding their work, and what Kansas producers believe to be the state of agriculture.

A farmer or rancher's economic health depends on things like cash and assets on hand, protections against the government taxing the farm at transfer or death, and well-crafted farm bill programs like crop insurance.

You don't have to look far to know that producers are facing the highest input prices in 40 years. Fertilizer is four to five times higher than it was at this time last year, if you can even get it. Equipment is back-ordered for 6 to 8 months. Parts are at least double the cost. On our trip, Republican leader THOMPSON and I hosted a roundtable with Kansas commodity groups, and all of them told me that if we cannot get input prices and inflation under control, today's farm and tomorrow's crop will be in a much worse condition at this time next year.

The day-to-day trials of operating a successful farm, ranch, or agribusiness are challenging enough without worrying about these skyrocketing prices. Now, President Biden's budget proposal threatens the stepped-up basis and imposes capital gains taxes on farms or ranches that have been held in the family for 90 years or more. This new farm-killer tax would inflict hundreds of thousands of dollars in new capital gains taxes on hardworking Americans and jeopardize family-owned businesses.

The one saving grace for most farmers is that the 2018 farm bill protected

and strengthened their opportunity to utilize crop insurance programs, even when conditions are dire. Largely, farmers want to keep crop insurance in place in the 2023 farm bill. One Kansas farmer even told us that Congress needs to “use a scalpel, not a sledgehammer, as we refine crop insurance.”

Agriculture’s human resources include labor on the farm and employees at the local Farm Service Agency office. On the farm, folks are hurting for workers. We visited one of the first feed yards in the State, and the family owners haven’t seen a labor shortage with looming retirements this bad since before the feed yard’s inception in 1951. Another co-op owner told us their workforce is down 10 percent with more than 70 open positions.

At the local USDA offices, where Kansans go if they need help from the government, staff is also short. Traditionally, there has been a fully staffed USDA office in every county in America, but President Biden’s policies have kept employees at home and turned those offices mostly all virtual. I met with farmers who are at a complete loss trying to navigate convoluted government websites instead of talking face-to-face with USDA employees.

There is a workforce shortage in every industry, and agriculture is no exception. From the farm to government services for the farm, agriculture has been experiencing record employee turnover due to unnecessary vaccine mandates, enhanced unemployment benefits, and more.

And in terms of natural resources, we all know America’s farmers and ranchers are the original conservationists. America has vast amounts of natural resources available to its stewards. The biggest threat to agriculture’s natural resources isn’t availability or the weather, but Federal Government overreach.

Late last year, President Biden withdrew the Navigable Waters Protection Rule, which sought to undo the harm caused by the Waters of the United States rule from 2015, through which the Federal Government aimed to control nearly all bodies of water, regardless of their size or connection to larger waterways. Because of this mess, farmers and ranchers have had to conduct their business under three different definitions of what amounts to “water” in just 6 years.

President Biden has also halted drilling on Federal lands and halted construction on the Keystone XL pipeline, exacerbating the price and shortage of American-made fuel. On our trip, Republican leader THOMPSON and I saw a live oil well operated by a company that produced 60,000 barrels of oil last October from 363 active wells, and right next door, we saw an ethanol plant ready to supply America with dependable liquid fuel if President Biden would just ditch his unrealistic and ill-timed electric vehicle push. You can’t plow with a Prius.

While I recognize things like protections against the harmful Waters of the

U.S. rulings and oil and gas drilling do not live within the confines of the next farm bill, I also recognize that the protections and proper use of America’s resources are vital to the strength of American food and agriculture.

The state of agriculture is strong because of the strength of American farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers. Congress has the responsibility to get them the resources they need to protect the resources they have to feed, fuel, and clothe the world. We must do our job.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o’clock and 36 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Holy God, set Your covenant before us this day. Show us how You have bound Yourself to us time and again throughout history and in our own lives. We need yet another reminder of the promises which You have so graciously given to Your people.

Remind us, too, that You expect of us not just righteous, exemplary behavior but accountability and forgiveness. You desire not just our knowledge of scripture and adherence to Your law, but You desire that we check and recheck our attitudes, that they remain examples, reflections of Your steadfast love for all people.

You desire not just that we relish the forgiveness we have found in You, but that we share that mercy with each and all we meet, and that we do so with the same unbounded, uninhibited grace that You have shown us.

Speak to us louder today, O Lord, that we can’t help but hear that You have called us into a marvelous relationship with You that we would then be compelled to share with one another.

Show us Your will, that we can’t help but respond with faithfulness to You and to the needs of the human family with whom we are inextricably bound.

We listen. We wait. We pray to You this day by the fulfilled promise found in Your name.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolu-

tion 188, the Journal of the last day’s proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PAYNE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SUPPORTING RESTAURANT REVITALIZATION

(Mr. HIGGINS of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, restaurants have been hit particularly hard during the pandemic, taking on increasing costs while facing huge revenue losses.

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, the Restaurant Revitalization Fund provided \$28.6 billion for restaurants nationwide and delivered over \$85 million to restaurants in my community.

Still, the demand was greater than the resources made available by Congress, with over 175,000 eligible restaurants that applied for grants through the program going entirely unfunded.

This week, we have the opportunity to fill that gap, support small businesses, and save jobs by passing the Restaurant Revitalization Fund Replenishment Act. I am proud to support this bill and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

After a long, difficult period of isolation, people are coming together and going back to restaurants, but we need to make whole these restaurants that have lost money based on nothing that they have done.

PUT AMERICANS FIRST

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, last week, President Biden announced a decision to repeal one of the best tools our Nation has to deter illegal immigration, title 42.

Title 42 is a public health law that authorized U.S. border agents to promptly send back illegal immigrants if they pose a health risk to Americans