

This is what I found on the internet. It said, "From yesterday's Roll Call, as they reported on the CHIPS-Plus package." A quote from that is: "One of the Republicans who voted for the bill . . . had sought an amendment to fast track the permitting process for companies building semiconductor plants . . . instead he was promised that the House would clear his Senate-passed bill."

This legislation, S. 3451, provides modest permit streamlining to expedite reviews of infrastructure projects concerning semiconductors, artificial intelligence and machine learning, high-performance computing and advanced computer hardware and software, quantum information science and technology, data storage, and data management, or cybersecurity.

□ 1645

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support streamlining. In fact, for the last 18 months, Republicans on the Committee on Natural Resources have been calling to move legislation that would streamline the onerous NEPA process, cut bureaucratic red tape, and fight back against environmental activist litigants, the kinds of meaningful actions Congress needs to take to move our country forward.

I woke up this morning, and I was reading online my local newspaper back home. There was actually a story about the CHIPS Act that talked about this very bill that we have on the suspension calendar today. I found it interesting that someone from the Sierra Club was interviewed about it.

Now, normally if you are going to streamline NEPA, it sets Sierra Club's hair on fire, and they are calling all of their activists and putting alerts out. But it was interesting that on this one, the Sierra Club was going to study the text a little bit more, even though we are here this afternoon passing this on suspension.

These commonsense Republican solutions are crucial to improving the health of our Federal lands, repairing our crumbling infrastructure, constructing water storage projects needed to make our Western communities more resilient to drought, and developing America's domestic resources to secure our supply chain and our country.

In response, Democrats have repeatedly told us we were gutting bedrock environmental laws, and that we support pillaging the land from sea to shining sea.

Just yesterday, I spent, as I mentioned, over 10 hours in a Committee on Natural Resources markup where the Democrats advanced a bill—we not only debated it; we marked it up and advanced it—a bill to expand NEPA, create more burdensome red tape, and handcuff our great Nation from future development.

Now, today, after years of committee Republicans hearing how we are trying to destroy America, suddenly the exact same commonsense streamlining and

reasonable sideboards on frivolous litigation are necessary to build semiconductor plants and America's future.

This bill is only part of the solution. While building domestic chip manufacturing facilities is important and we want to bring those jobs to the United States for American workers, the reality is there is not much domestic about a chip made with 100 percent foreign materials.

For instance, today, the United States is 100 percent reliant on other countries to meet our demand for gallium and indium, both of which are needed in semiconductors. China is the lead supplier for both.

Semiconductors also require a mineral called bismuth, 90 percent of which the U.S. imports. Again, China is the lead supplier to the U.S. of bismuth.

Semiconductors are among dozens of high-tech commodities, such as satellites, electric vehicles, and missile defense systems reliant on mineral resources to function. China unquestionably controls the market on nearly every one of the necessary minerals.

If we truly want to secure the supply chain for semiconductors and the huge array of other products dependent on critical minerals, it is imperative to ensure a robust domestic mining industry through an efficient, predictable mine permitting system here in the United States.

While the bill before us is a step in the right direction, it does not address the supply chain necessary to build our domestic high-tech manufacturing technology.

Republicans have the solutions. To name a few: H.R. 2604, the Accessing America's Critical Mineral Act, introduced by Congressman PETE STAUBER, reforms onerous and duplicative steps in the critical mineral permitting process by requiring Federal agencies to adhere to timelines and improve coordination.

H.R. 2637, the American Critical Minerals Independence Act, introduced by Congressmen MICHAEL WALTZ and PAUL GOSAR, invests in recycling technologies and innovative mining and processing techniques, streamlines the permitting of critical minerals production, and requires that agencies analyze the mineral potential of Federal lands.

If Democrats were serious about streamlining and promoting a robust domestic manufacturing sector for semiconductors and other high-tech applications, they would be bringing these bills and others to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, S. 3451 is a modest step in the right direction, and I support the passage of this bill. Now that it appears Democrats have seen the error of their ways and they suddenly have done a 180 on streamlining environmental bureaucracy, I look forward to working with each and every Member who votes for this bill to advance many other Republican solutions to further address streamlining and secure a robust domestic critical minerals supply chain.

Unfortunately, while I would like to say that, with Democrats' newfound support of streamlining, the remaining Republican solutions will be coming to the floor quickly, something tells me Democrats' willingness to ignore environmental extremists and bring up commonsense policy solutions like S. 3451 has a lot more to do with politics than making good policy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, clearly, I think there is an agreement that America needs to increase its production of critical minerals for the economy of the 21st century. I think oftentimes there are differences on how we establish a framework and a goal in terms of the production of those critical minerals.

I think that there is support on both sides of the aisle for streamlining the permitting process that is reflected in this bill, and, clearly, I appreciate the efforts and the comments of my colleague, the gentleman from Arkansas. Obviously, we have more work to do, and this is a good bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the House's adoption, and I yield the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 3451.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. With respect to a unanimous consent request entered earlier today by Mr. SCHWEIKERT of Arizona, the Chair would clarify that such request cannot be entertained with respect to H.R. 4270.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 4720

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 4720, a bill originally introduced by Representative REED of New York, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

DEMOCRATS ARE WORKING TO LOWER COSTS FOR WORKING FAMILIES

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate House Democrats' efforts to lower costs for working families across America.

For months now, Democrats and the President have been working closely together to lower the prices of gas for Americans. We have focused on people's pocketbooks, not politics.

As a result, gas prices have been decreasing for 5 straight weeks, down around 70 cents since last month. In fact, \$3.99 a gallon is the most common price in America today. Mr. Speaker, I saw the \$3.99, and lower, in the Houston area over the weekend.

On average, drivers are saving \$35 per month. For residents in my district, this can mean the difference between a warm family meal or going hungry.

While Republicans in Congress have no solutions to lower prices and remain focused on other matters, like stripping women of their reproductive rights, House Democrats will continue delivering results for the American people. We are the party that puts people over politics.

OPPOSING THE LEFT'S ANTI-LIFE AGENDA

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, radical progressives will stop at nothing to advance their agenda of murdering the unborn.

On July 15, on this very floor, the majority rushed through two horrendous pieces of legislation that directly target the unborn: the abortion on demand until birth act and the so-called Ensuring Access to Abortion Act.

The right to life is guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, and the majority continues to conveniently ignore this fact. This shameful chapter of murdering the unborn should be consigned to the ash heap of history.

Mr. Speaker, an outright denial of life for the most vulnerable, who cannot speak for themselves, is in no way justified. I will always serve as a voice for the unborn. They deserve nothing less than unwavering advocates.

HIGH INFLATION IS CAUSED BY HIGH SPENDING

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we all know that inflation is the big topic on people's tongues nowadays, but what we can't let people forget is that high inflation is caused by high spending.

Now, what did Congress do after returning to this floor this week and spending the weekend hearing people complain about high gas prices, but even more high housing prices, high food prices? They passed the CHIPS bill today for \$76 billion.

Now, I know why they thought they could vote for a \$76 billion bill. They thought the public wouldn't know the difference between \$76 billion and \$76 million. \$76 billion is \$230 for every man, woman, and child in this country. If you are a family of four, Congress just spent \$1,000 of your money and didn't think anything about it.

Now, the other thing that bothers me about it is, I like to look out for the average guy. Who owns these chip companies? The uber wealthy. Seventy-six billion dollars toward the uber wealthy and corporate welfare.

A lot of people think the majority party likes to freely spend money for welfare, for the people who don't work. And that is true; they do. What is not as known is they love to spend money on the uber wealthy as well.

Every newspaper in the country ought to have a banner headline in the morning: "\$76 billion spent again by Congress."

ADDRESSING THE DROUGHT AND WILDFIRES IN CALIFORNIA

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

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, the people and communities of California's San Joaquin Valley have been dealing with devastating drought conditions for years.

Water is life, as we say, *agua es vida*.

A reliable, sustainable water supply is absolutely essential to put America's food on our dinner table. It is a national security issue. Think about it. We can't live without food. Without water, we cannot grow food.

Farmers in my district are feeling the impact of the drought firsthand. Many have fallowed land, sadly. It is becoming more and more difficult to grow food and maintain farmland.

It is really simple. We say back home: Where water flows, food grows.

Small businesses are struggling to survive. Residents suffer from declining air quality, spurred by dust and wildfires that continue to spread across the West.

We must confront the devastating impacts of climate change. The Wildfire and Drought Resiliency Act will improve drought resiliency and protect the giant sequoia trees that are part of America's natural heritage.

Without a doubt, we cannot wait to confront this issue. We must act now.

□ 1700

RECOGNIZING NICK ELLIS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Wayne County school system's Nick Ellis for his induction into the Boys & Girls Clubs Hall of Fame.

Nick has been working with the Boys & Girls Clubs for 16 years. After graduating high school in 2006, Nick began working with the Boys & Girls Clubs of Altamaha Area as a volunteer, then as a unit director, before rising to board membership. Today, he also serves as the area's chief volunteer officer.

Throughout his time with the club, Nick has been a positive influence in the lives of countless children, providing support and leadership to those in need.

Nick also serves his community as a law enforcement officer with the Jesup Police Department. In his 12 years with the department, Nick has risen through the ranks and currently serves as patrol division commander.

In 2020, Governor Brian Kemp recognized Nick's efforts in law enforcement and appointed Nick to serve on the Georgia Board of Public Safety.

A passionate volunteer dedicated to helping his community beyond his professional career, Nick Ellis is a shining example of leadership and guidance for everyone. He is fully deserving of this hall of fame induction honor.

THE ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, last week President Biden announced a series of executive orders to further advance his party's Green New Deal agenda. This is further proof of an utterly out-of-touch administration.

The average cost of a gallon of gas is \$3.93 in Tennessee, almost double the price when the President took office. Most Americans will spend thousands more this year on filling up their tanks.

Families are also paying an average of \$90 a month more for electricity this summer. In addition, reports say our Nation faces looming blackouts—yet this administration is doubling down on regulating our energy producers to death.

The solution is simple: The President should be supporting policies that ramp up domestic oil production, rather than policies that destroy it.

Mr. Biden has blamed oil companies, gas station owners, and everyone else for this disaster, but if he wants to assign blame, he need look no further than the mirror.