

SEIU and the Teamsters union, eventually leading Western New York's Area Labor Federation for a decade.

From picket lines to shop floors and from union halls to the halls of power, Richard has been a forceful voice for working men and women, always working to improve and defend workers' living standards and working conditions. As leader of the ALF, Richard repeatedly demonstrated his talent for building consensus among broad and diverse constituencies so that policymakers and the public at large would see what united the labor movement, not what could potentially divide it; this has led to real, tangible successes in public policy and organizing. His talent and diligence would make this difficult work of consensus-building look easy, though surely this was not always the case.

Richard remains a trusted and thoughtful advisor to labor leaders, elected officials and civic leaders in Western New York and far beyond. His crystal-clear insight, far-reaching perceptiveness and his deep understanding of labor, economics and government make that advice invaluable.

I am pleased to join the Western New York Area Labor Federation in thanking Richard Lipsitz for his lifetime of dedication to the cause of working men and women. We are all the better for his good work.

OPPOSING H.R. 277, "REGULATION FROM THE EXECUTIVE IN NEED OF SCRUTINY (REINS) ACT," AND H.R. 288 "THE SEPARATION OF POWERS RESTORATION ACT OF 2023"

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reassert my opposition to H.R. 277, the "Regulation from the Executive in Need of Scrutiny (REINS) Act" and H.R. 288, "The Separation of Powers Restoration Act of 2023."

H.R. 277, the REINS Act, is a measure that has been offered by Republicans dating back to 2012, is and has always been a problematic bill that would restrict agency rulemaking procedures and undermine public health and safety.

Because it would require both houses of Congress to pass, and the President to sign, a joint resolution of approval for any major rule before they can take effect, this bill would effectively act as a chokehold on Federal agency rulemaking.

I, along with my colleagues, have attempted to address many of the ills these bills purport by offering common sense amendments that Republicans have continued to refuse any meaningful consideration.

My amendment to H.R. 277, listed on the Rules Committee roster as Amendment No. 30, would have exempted from the bill the congressional approval requirement for any proposed rule that is made to ensure the safety of products used or consumed by children under the age of 2.

Without such an amendment, the REINS Act cripples the Federal government's ability to protect our children and prioritize their safety.

As it stands, this bill has no exceptions or flexibility when it comes to pressing issues of public health and safety.

It is deeply troubling that REINS Act will delay the implementation of integral new public health and safety safeguards, putting our children at risk.

As such, the REINS Act will ultimately fail to protect the public as it places an expertise-based process into the hands of the government, allowing the political games we have seen in the House this Congress to continue.

Because of the special vulnerability of young children and the distinct threat that the implementation of the REINS Act poses to the current regulatory process, I urge my colleagues to join me in opposition to H.R. 277.

H.R. 288, "The Separation of Powers Restoration Act of 2023" purports to address constitutional and statutory deficiencies in the judicial review of agency rulemaking.

Yet, this bill is a long-repeated effort to shift the scope and authority of judicial review of agency actions away from federal agencies by amending Section 706 of the Administrative Procedures Act (APA) to "require that courts decide all relevant questions of law, including all questions of the interpretation of constitutional, statutory, and regulatory provisions, on a de novo basis without deference to the agency that promulgated the final rule, unless otherwise expressly provided by statute."

Effectively, H.R. 288 would abolish judicial deference to agencies' statutory interpretations in federal rulemaking and create harmful and costly burdens to the administrative process.

Mr. Speaker, I am concerned about the ability for agencies to act in times of imminent need to protect citizens.

In particular, H.R. 288 would make sweeping and dangerous changes that would jeopardize the ability of the Department of Homeland Security to protect our nation in times of urgent and imminent need.

My amendment to H.R. 288 listed on the Rules Committee roster as Amendment No. 3, would have been a simple but necessary revision that would remedy this concern by excluding from the bill cases with rules made by the Secretary of Homeland Security and pertaining to any matter of national security.

As a Senior Member of the Homeland Security Committee, I understand the many challenges the Department of the Homeland Security (DHS) already faces and its critically important role in preventing terror threats and keeping Americans safe.

The Department is the first line of defense in protecting the nation and leading recovery efforts from all-hazards and threats which include everything from weapons of mass destruction to natural disasters.

We do not need to be reminded of the heightened state of security our nation is in and the ever-increasing demands imposed upon our government agencies tasked with keeping our borders and citizens safe.

Now is not the time to undermine or slow the ability of DHS and its ability to address growing threats and active acts of terrorism.

The overall mission of DHS is too critical and its functions indispensably essential, such that it would be impugned to do anything that will slow down the process that allows DHS to do its job.

Given the absence of my essential amendment and the fact that H.R. 288 would cripple Federal agency's ability to act in times of imminent need, I urge opposition to H.R. 288.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL JÓZEF HALLER'S "BLUE ARMY" VETERANS

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize General Józef Haller's "Blue Army" Veterans buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Southfield, Michigan. Dressed in horizon blue uniforms, they valiantly served on the Western Front of World War I and in Poland's subsequent struggle for independence. These individuals deserve unwavering praise and respect for their sacrifices. We posthumously extend our gratitude to all buried at Sepulchre Cemetery and celebrate their legacy for generations to come.

Consisting of 24,000 Polish immigrants from the United States, many of the 68,000 total in the "Blue Army" concluded their service in the early 1920s and returned to the United States to further pursue the American Dream. Unfortunately, upon their return stateside, they did not receive the support and recognition they deserved. Many relied on charity in order to survive and could not find support from the United States or Polish governments. For this, I call on us all to come together and share a moment of well-deserved appreciation and thanks to those that had not been properly acknowledged during their lifetimes.

On June 17, 2023, we will show our respect with the placement of a monument and grave-stones in honor of those buried at Sepulchre Cemetery. Many families did not have the funds available to properly mark the graves of their loved ones, so to remedy this, the Polish Institute of Culture and Research has worked tirelessly to construct a monument and 60 gravestones to cement the memory of those buried.

Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize General Józef Haller's "Blue Army" Veterans and those buried at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. I also want to thank the Polish Institute of Culture and Research for their work and for honoring the lives and sacrifices of so many Polish Veterans. On behalf of Michigan's First District, I extend my gratitude to all members of the "Blue Army" and their families and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING RODNEY SMOLDON

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the great achievements and outstanding leadership of Rodney Smoldon, who will be retiring as Forest Supervisor for the Colville National Forest on June 30, 2023.

Rodney was born and raised in Eastern Washington. He graduated from Eastern Washington University in 1985 and has spent the last two decades managing the Colville National Forest, which covers 1.6 million acres and is known for its wild huckleberries, camping, hiking and horse trails, lakes, rivers, and some of the most exciting wildlife Mother Nature has to offer.

Throughout his career, Rodney served in a number of leadership roles in both California and Washington, including as a District Ranger on the Okanogan-Wenatchee, Plumas, and El Dorado National Forests. He returned to the Colville in 2008 as the Deputy Forest Supervisor and later became a Ranger. In 2015, he was named the Forest Supervisor for the entire Colville National Forest.

Rodney's tenure as Forest Supervisor was defined by leadership that made the Colville National Forest one of the most productive national forests in the country. He made it his mission to champion innovative conservation efforts and proactive forest management strategies in the hopes of unleashing economic opportunities for our rural communities and protecting the forest for generations to come.

And it worked. Rodney's innovative approach secured the A to Z Project, a public-private partnership where local communities, conservation groups, the recreational community, industry, and the forest service teamed up to proactively and collaboratively manage Colville National Forest. This project has been remarkably successful in mitigating wildfire risks in our community and serves as a national model for forest restoration that will improve our environment and the economy.

Rodney's passion for the land, the people, and the communities he serves is unmatched. His career of service is proof of that. He never stopped searching for new ways to increase the pace and scale of restoration, and he would always ask why or how we could do better. This results-driven mindset is what empowered our partnership to be so successful throughout the years.

Mr. Speaker, I will dearly miss working with my friend Rodney Smoldon when he retires at the end of the month, but I know the best is yet to come for him and his family. In honor of an illustrious career of dedicated service to the Colville National Forest and the entire Northeastern Washington community, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Rodney Smoldon on his retirement. We wish him the best as he embarks on his next adventure.

CELEBRATING THE EXPANSION OF ROCKWALL HIGH SCHOOL

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the groundbreaking of Rockwall High School's newest Ninth Grade Center. Located in Rockwall, Texas, Rockwall High School operates as part of Rockwall Independent School District and has continuously prepared North Texas students for success.

Rockwall ISD's first documented schools date back to the late 1840's near Heath, Texas. Its first high school was founded in 1925, and the first superintendent was J.A. Wilkerson, who also served as a math teacher and football coach. In 1935, Rockwall ISD purchased its first school bus and began transporting students from nearby county schools.

Under Superintendent Wilkerson's leadership, Rockwall ISD constructed its first football stadium, now known as the Hobart Wisdom Field. Over thirty years later, the new Wilkerson-Sanders Memorial Stadium was

constructed in honor of Mr. Wilkerson and Harvey Sanders, a local businessman and longtime supporter.

Rockwall High School first opened in 1965 and has expanded its educational outreach over the years to local counties. The new Ninth Grade Center is expected to be completed by August 2024, and it will encompass state-of-the-art technology centers, lounge areas, and refreshing outdoor spaces to accommodate all students. I'm proud to represent such distinguished students, and I look forward to their continued growth and success.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize this historic expansion for the students, teachers, and staff of North Texas. Congratulations to Rockwall High School, and I wish all students an excellent school year.

OPPOSING H.R. 1615, THE "GAS STOVE PROTECTION AND FREE- DOM ACT" AND H.R. 1640, THE "SAVE OUR STOVES ACT"

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1615, the Gas Stove Protection and Freedom Act, and H.R. 1640, the Save Our Stoves Act. These bills are the latest Republican attempt to manufacture a crisis and reject commonsense rulemaking from the Biden administration. These bills are purposefully misleading and reject legitimate concerns about the threats gas stoves pose to our personal safety, public safety, and the energy efficiency of our homes.

Since 1972, the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has worked with manufacturers to protect Americans from unsafe consumer products by issuing recalls, developing safety standards, and conducting research into product-related illness and injury. The CPSC does not have the authority to ban gas stoves, but they are obligated to ensure the gas stoves in our homes aren't hazardous for our health. For example, in December 2022, CPSC issued a recall on a specific gas stove product that was found to pose serious risk of injury or death from carbon monoxide poisoning. H.R. 1615 would prohibit CPSC from protecting consumers from a similar hazardous problem with gas stoves in the future. Why would we limit the CPSC's ability to issue recalls on products that will harm our families? Congress should be encouraging CPSC to explore all allegations that appliances or other consumer products are unsafe to children and adults and should give the CPSC more, not fewer, tools for eliminating or mitigating the safety risks they uncover.

Contrary to Republican talking points, the Biden administration is not coming to take your gas stove. That is simply untrue. The Department of Energy (DOE) does not have the authority to ban gas stoves or other appliances based on fuel sources, nor should it have the authority. The DOE is mandated by Congress to set energy efficiency standards for home appliances. As required, the Department issued new energy efficiency standards in February 2023. Nearly half of gas stoves on the market are already in compliance with the

new DOE energy efficiency standard, and the rule gives manufacturers three years to comply with the new standard. Yet H.R. 1640 goes further than just disapproving the new standard. The bill will also limit future rulemaking for energy efficient appliances. Mr. Speaker, why wouldn't we want more efficient appliances in the future?

Mr. Speaker, with these two bills, Republicans are completely disregarding legitimate concerns about the nitrogen dioxide emitted by gas stoves. Members of Congress should not be fearmongering nor hiding data on the health impacts of gas stoves. Americans should have access to the most up-to-date information on consumer products so they can make purchases that are right for them.

H.R. 1615 and H.R. 1640 should be rejected.

HONORING MANALAPAN TOWNSHIP

HON. ANDY KIM

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 15, 2023

Mr. KIM of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Manalapan Township as they celebrate the 175th anniversary of the township's incorporation this week.

Previously a part of Freehold Township, in February of 1848, the New Jersey State Legislature founded Manalapan Township as a separate town, which is now part of New Jersey's 3rd District. The town received its name from Lenape Indian words "manel" for drinking and "paune" for bread, which meant good land to settle upon for Indigenous peoples. Manalapan originated as a rural farm town within our state, and over many years, held a major role within the agricultural industry, growing grains and a wide variety of vegetables.

During the American Revolution, Manalapan served as a crossroad for one of the sites of the Battle of Monmouth, which occurred on June 28, 1778 and involved 30,000 British and Continental troops. On the 200th anniversary of the Battle, in 1978, the State of New Jersey opened the 1,520 acre Monmouth Battlefield State Park, a majority of which is in Manalapan Township. Every year to commemorate the occasion, the town also holds a reenactment of the Battle, which was a notable part of the Revolution.

Throughout these major events, the town has grown past its original humble beginnings. With only 1,910 people calling it home at the time of its incorporation, Manalapan quickly rose to have the population of over 39,000 residents that exists today. Known by many as a safe community with many local draws like excellent schools and convenient access to metropolitan areas, the town has become a destination for many families to build their lives and have a place to call home.

We are proud to celebrate the accomplishments of Manalapan Township over the course of their 175-year history. I look forward to all they will continue to accomplish and many more years of notable milestones.