

Works, this federal pilot program allows states like California with more stringent environmental laws than the federal National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) to substitute their state environmental reviews in lieu of completing a second, unnecessary federal environmental review at additional taxpayer expense. This cuts the permitting backlog in half for major transportation infrastructure projects statewide, which can proceed immediately to construction on time and budget. As a member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I helped to develop and pass the 2015 Highway Bill (Public Law 114–94), which established this pilot authority.

Under the leadership of then-Speaker Pelosi and President Biden, Congressional Democrats made a generational investment under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021 (Public Law 117–58) and the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (Public Law 117–169) to modernize our nation's infrastructure and build the clean energy economy of tomorrow. As one of five cosponsors of the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and having voted with every other Democratic member of California's Congressional delegation to enact the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act, I am committed to getting California our fair of this historic federal investment.

However, I am increasingly concerned that California will miss out on this federal funding only available for the next 3 years to fix our roads and public transit if we remain bogged down in a state and federal permitting morass that is unnecessarily cumbersome and litigious. My bill would simply make permanent the pilot authority established under the 2015 Highway Bill for substituting by California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for NEPA reviews for federally funded transportation projects. Under current law, this pilot authority will expire on December 4, 2027.

In January 2021, the U.S. Department of Transportation finalized the necessary regulations to finally implement this pilot authority. To date, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has never made use of this federal pilot authority and continues to insist on completing less stringent federal environmental reviews on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration at additional taxpayer expense.

I take a backseat to no one when it comes to upholding California's high environmental standards, of which I am immensely proud. Mr. Speaker, I call on Governor Newsom and all members of California's Congressional delegation to join me in supporting my common-sense bill. We cannot watch the \$1.2 trillion in available federal funding to rebuild our state's roads, public transit, airports, and ports pass us by. It's now or never.

RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR FEDERAL ACTION TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, a gun violence epidemic plagues the United States of America. Although the Bipartisan Safer Com-

munities Act advanced important reforms to address gun violence—including enhanced background checks, prohibitions on gun trafficking and straw purchases, funding to support Extreme Risk Protection Orders and community-based violence intervention, and one billion dollars to support mental health—the federal government must take additional action to protect our young people and communities from gun violence.

State and local laws can only do so much to curb gun violence. Illinois and the City of Chicago can implement strict gun regulations, but if states like Indiana and Wisconsin keep weak restrictions in place, then practically anyone can cross those state borders and acquire a gun. We must limit the number of guns that exist in our country. We must ban assault weapons and enact strong background checks with no loopholes. We must repeal immunity for firearm manufacturers so individuals can bring civil actions to hold these companies responsible for their role in the gun violence epidemic. We must pass my bill—the Ammunition Identification Act—that would provide law enforcement with the tools to trace ammunition back to its purchaser.

Also, we must invest in community-based programs that successfully decrease gun violence. UCAN operates one of these innovative community-based programs on the westside of Chicago in areas with high unemployment and poverty rates. The Violence Intervention and Prevention program intervenes with victims and perpetrators after gun violence to help address trauma and limit violent responses, leading to a 30 percent reduction in shootings where this program was implemented. Another program is Chicago CRED, or Create Real Economic Destiny, that believes that those involved in gun violence are not the problem, but the future solution. When participants join CRED, they receive counseling, life coaching, education, and a pathway to employment. A study by Northwestern University found that—although around 85 percent of CRED participants reported a familial history with gangs, many had a criminal record, and some reported being gunshot victims—CRED alumni were less likely to be victims of gun violence because they left vulnerable situations and entered stable lifestyles after receiving the care they needed.

However, we cannot successfully prevent gun violence without revenue. That is why I champion the Gun Violence Prevention and Safe Communities Act that would create guaranteed, annual funding for gun violence prevention via a 0.5 percent increase in federal gun and ammunition excise taxes. This bill would evenly divide the estimated \$20 to 36 million of annual revenue to fund gun violence research, hate crime data collection and prevention, forensic examiner training to improve gun crime clearance rates, and community-based violence intervention and prevention programs. As Fredrick Douglass once said, “People might not get all they work for in this world, but they certainly must work for all they get.” If we truly want to make progress in preventing gun violence in this country, then we must work for it and invest in it.

We also must remember that preventing gun violence is broader than simply gun-focused programs. People turn to gun violence when they lack economic security, food security, housing security, and educational opportunity. Under the Obama Administration, the

Office of Civil Rights at the Department of Education had a goal of reducing gun violence at its source by creating a national tool to examine equity and educational opportunities across the country. This tool demonstrated that inequities from the start of an individual's life deeply affect their outcomes and that the school-to-prison pipeline in high-in-crime areas coincides with the quality of education. If we continue to neglect our citizens and allow disparities in opportunity and security, we will not successfully end gun violence.

As my mother told me, an ounce of prevention is worth so much more than a pound of cure. I cannot stress enough how important it is to enact effective gun legislation on the federal level. Gun violence is a public health crisis. As such, the federal government must act to protect its citizens.

RECOGNIZING GENERAL JAMES C. MCCONVILLE

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the career of General James C. McConville, Chief of Staff of the Army, and congratulate him on his retirement.

General McConville graduated from the United States Military Academy in 1981 and was commissioned as an Infantry officer shortly thereafter. Throughout his distinguished military career, General McConville served our country in the Iraq War, as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom, and during the war in Afghanistan, he was part of Operation Enduring Freedom.

General McConville earned 2 Distinguished Service Medals, 3 Legions of Merit, 3 Bronze Star Medals, 2 Defense Meritorious Service Medals, 3 Meritorious Service Medals, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, 2 Army Commendation Medals, 4 Army Achievement Medals, the Combat Action Badge. In 2019, he was appointed Chief of Staff of the Army, following 2 years as Vice Chief of Staff.

As a soldier and member of Congress, I can honestly call General McConville a “Soldier's Soldier.”

General McConville's life work is an example of patriotism, sacrifice, and commitment—qualities that all in the U.S. military strive to emulate. We are grateful for his dedication to this country, and I wish him all the best in his retirement.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN RAMSAY—30TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our Nation's women during Women's History Month. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman,

Carolyn Ramsay of the Hancock Park neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Born in Philadelphia, Carolyn is the youngest of 5 children of Jean and Jack Ramsay. She attended the University of Oregon and received a bachelor's degree in sociology in 1981. Carolyn worked as a journalist from 1986 to 2006 including as a magazine writer for Los Angeles Times Magazine, Buzz Magazine, and SELF magazine, correspondent for People Magazine, and staff writer at the Stamford Advocate.

Following her career as a journalist, Ms. Ramsay served as the communications director and deputy chief of staff for the late Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge from 2006 to 2011, thereafter serving as the Los Angeles Program Director for the Trust for Public Land from 2011 to 2012, before returning to work for Councilman LaBonge as Chief of Staff from 2012 to 2014. In 2018, Carolyn went on to serve as the Executive Director for the Los Angeles Parks Foundation. Under her leadership, many parks in Los Angeles were improved and expanded for people to enjoy in the years ahead. After 5 years with the organization, Carolyn recently retired from her position.

In addition to her illustrious career, Ms. Ramsay has always found the time to volunteer and give back to the community. She served on the board of trustees of Temple Israel of Hollywood, board of advisors of Hollywood Wilshire YMCA, and as board president of the Windsor Square Association from 2002 to 2005, where she led the organization during the planting of hundreds of street trees and was instrumental in the efforts for the historic preservation of Windsor Square.

She has received several awards including Windsor Square Hancock Park Historical Society's Leadership Award, Wilshire Community Police Council's Lifetime Achievement Award, and in 2023 was named Nonprofit Executive of the Year for a medium sized organization by the Los Angeles Business Journal.

Carolyn is married to her husband, Andy Goodman, who is a public interest consultant. Their son, Daniel Goodman, is a podcast producer for iHeartRadio in Los Angeles, and their daughter, Olivia Goodman, is about to begin her third year of medical school at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine in Pasadena.

I ask all Members to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 30th Congressional District, Carolyn Ramsay.

HONORING JUDGE ROBERT L.
MILLER, JR.

HON. RUDY YAKYM III

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. YAKYM. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize and congratulate Judge Robert L. Miller, Jr. upon his retirement from the United States District Court for the Northern District of Indiana.

Born and raised in South Bend, Indiana, Judge Miller has served the Hoosier state and our Nation with distinction for more than 4 decades. Nominated to the federal bench by President Ronald Reagan, Judge Miller is now

retiring as a Senior Judge as well as a Judge of the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of Review, a position he was appointed to by U.S. Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts in 2020.

Some of the awards and accolades Judge Miller has been recognized with over the course of his career are the Sagamore of the Wabash Award, the American Inns of Court Professionalism Award for the Seventh Circuit, and an induction into the South Bend Alumni Hall of Fame.

As John Adams famously observed, our constitutional republic is supposed function as a "government of laws, not of men." Our Nation depends on dedicated public servants who faithfully uphold the rule of law and ensure that Lady Justice remains blind. Judge Miller is 1 such person and jurist.

As he prepares to retire and write the next chapter of his life, I am proud to congratulate Judge Miller on a distinguished career and a job well done. I join Hoosiers throughout the Second District and beyond in expressing our gratitude to Judge Miller for his service and in wishing him and his family nothing but the best going forward.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MORGAN LUTTRELL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. LUTTRELL. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, July 18, 2023, I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 338. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 338.

HONORING THE WORK OF
CHRISTOPHER DEL BECCARO

HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I want to pay tribute to a long-time staff member and dear friend. Christopher Del Beccaro, who is leaving to embark on his next adventure. Although he will be greatly missed, I could not be happier for the chapter of life he is about to enter with his soon-to-be wife.

Chris has been my right-hand man, serving as Chief of Staff for the last 4 years. He has earned the reputation of a kind, patient, and dependable chief. I could always rely upon him for intelligent, helpful advice when it came to policy and politics.

Even more importantly, he has led my office with a sincere heart. My staff has often remarked on his compassion and genuine concern for their well-being. He brought a spirit of laughter and support in both good times and in difficult moments. Chris stays true to who he is and what he believes, and I know it will bring him much success throughout the remainder of his life.

I thank Christopher Del Beccaro for a job well done. I am forever grateful for the friendship and support he has given to me, the staff, and the people of our congressional district. I wish him and his fiancée, Evgeniya, all the best with their upcoming wedding in Montenegro and the adventures that lie ahead.

His presence in my office will certainly be missed, but Chris will undoubtedly continue to be a trusted advisor to me. Once a member of Team McCaul, always a member of Team McCaul.

CONGRATULATING 100 YEARS FOR
MOUNT ARLINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Mount Arlington Fire Department on its 100th anniversary. This significant milestone represents a century of unwavering dedication, sacrifice, and service to our New Jersey community.

Firefighters are the first responders to danger and the backbone of keeping our neighborhoods safe. They represent hope and security, safeguarding our homes and businesses while keeping our families safe. From literally and figuratively putting out the biggest fires to responding to medical emergencies, firefighters exemplify heroism and commitment day in and day out. Their bravery, resilience, and selflessness in the face of danger have not only protected countless lives but have also inspired the entire community.

I wish the Mount Arlington Fire Department a happy 100th anniversary. I thank them for their sacrifices, dedication, and overall, keeping our communities safe.

RECOGNIZING BRENT ROBINSON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 26, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Brent Robinson and his service to Virginia's First District and the Nation.

Brent got his start on the Hill in 2002 working for my predecessor, Jo Ann Davis. Brent joined my office in 2007 as a Legislative Assistant, and subsequently worked his way up to Legislative Director and Deputy Chief of Staff. Brent served as my chief policy advisor during his time in my office and helped introduce key pieces of legislation. Over 20 years after getting his start on the Hill, Brent has become an expert on various policy issues and an integral member of my D.C. staff. From meeting with constituents to managing our legislative team, Brent has spent countless hours serving Virginia's 1st District.

Brent has been an excellent mentor; always willing to offer advice to interns and staff. Both current and former members of my staff are improved public servants due to Brent's leadership. Brent's wisdom, humor, and perspective will be dearly missed in my office. I wish Brent the best as he starts his new position with FGS Global.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing the service and accomplishments of Brent Robinson. May God bless Brent as he embarks on a new challenge, and I look forward to seeing his continued success in the future.