

who have connections to my home State of North Carolina: Aubrey Kingsbury, who played at Wake Forest University; Lynn Williams, who played on the North Carolina Courage in my district; Casey Murphy, who currently plays on the North Carolina Courage; and Emily Fox and Crystal Dunn, who played at UNC and are currently on the North Carolina Courage.

As we cheer them on and while they are representing the USA abroad, it is important that we also support them at home. We must ensure that all women athletes receive the same pay, treatment, and resources as their male counterparts.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud of all the strong, talented women on our national team. We are rooting for them.

ALICIA MONSON BREAKS THE AMERICAN RECORD IN THE 5,000 METERS

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

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alicia Monson of Amery, Wisconsin, on breaking the American record in the 5,000 meters this past weekend. She ran 5,000 meters in 14 minutes and 19.45 seconds, beating the previous record by 4.47 seconds.

This is not the only record she has set this year. In February, she broke the North American indoor record in the 3,000 meters, and in March she set a new North American 10,000 meters record.

Alicia has been representing Wisconsin's Seventh District since she was in high school running cross country and track. She went on to become one of the top runners for the University of Wisconsin—Madison before becoming an Olympian in 2021.

Mr. Speaker, I can't wait to see what record she breaks next. Keep making Wisconsin proud, Alicia.

HONORING ELAINE NEWBERG ON HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Elaine Newberg, who will celebrate her 100th birthday on August 24.

Born in 1923, she grew up in Philadelphia and attended the University of Pennsylvania.

A gifted pianist, Elaine once performed with the Philadelphia Symphony Orchestra. She went on to become a music teacher, producing a number of popular musicals worthy of the best theaters.

Passionate about helping students find their way, Elaine became a guidance counselor, serving as president of both the Long Island and New York State School Counselor Association.

Elaine and her husband, Marvin, a World War II veteran, raised two chil-

dren, Richard and Shanti. Richard is an Emmy-winning journalist in Buffalo and Shanti is a social worker.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Elaine Newberg's dedicated life of service, passion, and creativity as we wish her a very happy 100th birthday.

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

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

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss how the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill will honor those who paid the ultimate sacrifice in defense of freedom here and abroad.

Arlington National Cemetery is the final resting place of hundreds of thousands of veterans who died fighting for us.

It is a tremendous honor to be buried at Arlington, but the cemetery is running out of space and is currently undergoing an expansion that requires funding from Congress to be completed.

The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill fully funds the cemetery's Southern Expansion Project, which will increase burial capacity until at least 2060.

Those who pay the ultimate sacrifice for our Nation must be honored, and the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies appropriations bill ensures America's most hallowed ground can continue to be the final resting place for our fallen heroes.

RELEASE CUBAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, as we mark the second anniversary of the July 11, 2021, protest in Cuba, I call on the Cuban Government to release all those imprisoned for exercising their rights to protest, to freedom of expression, and association.

Mr. Speaker, 2 years ago, Cubans took to the streets to demand better living conditions and more freedoms amid a grim economic crisis. There is no excuse for these largely peaceful protests to have been met with government repression, arrests, and internet blackouts.

According to reputable reports, over 1,500 people were arrested in connection with these protests, and over 680 remain in prison.

However, U.S. policies contribute directly to the hardships that Cubans endure, but the Cuban Government's repression only exacerbates the many challenges facing its people.

Cuba should release all remaining protesters, and the United States of

America should end all policies, including taking Cuba off the State Sponsors of Terrorism list, that only increase the suffering of the Cuban people.

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FOOD INSECURITY IN PUERTO RICO

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, the Third Congressional District of Illinois is home to a historic Puerto Rican community directly linked to the legacy, present, and future of Puerto Rico.

The lack of food sovereignty in Puerto Rico is a policy choice that threatens lives and livelihoods.

When I visited Puerto Rico last year, I was shocked to learn that food insecurity was a major motivation for the second biggest Puerto Rican migration since the 1950s.

Mr. Speaker, 85 percent of their food is imported, and Puerto Rico is subjected to much higher grocery prices. When Hurricane Maria hit, food imports couldn't come in. Many of my Puerto Rican constituents came to Chicago because of Hurricane Maria and because of food insecurity.

This body has the responsibility to act now on supporting food sovereignty in Puerto Rico. We can start today by using every legislative tool at our disposal through the upcoming farm bill.

MEDICARE IS AN INVESTMENT FOR ALL

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

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud cosponsor of Medicare for All here in the House.

Medicare for All isn't controversial or radical. It is commonsense policy to ensure that our healthcare is not dependent on where we work. We all know that Medicare already works in this country for so many older adults.

When I was mayor of Long Beach, I was proud to have cofounded the Mayors for Medicare Coalition which brought together leaders from across the country to support Medicare for All. As mayor, I saw the impact every day that barriers to healthcare can have on a community. That is why over 100 local cities and jurisdictions support Medicare for All nationally.

Medicare for All isn't just a commitment to address injustices in the healthcare system. It is an investment in the American people. We owe it to our country to prioritize healthcare, and Medicare for All is the way.

Healthcare is a human right. Let's pass Medicare for All.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE UNITED STATES FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE RELATING TO “ENDANGERED AND THREATENED WILDLIFE AND PLANTS; LESSER PRAIRIE-CHICKEN; THREATENED STATUS WITH SECTION 4(D) RULE FOR THE NORTHERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT AND ENDANGERED STATUS FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTINCT POPULATION SEGMENT”

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 614, I call up the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 9) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment”, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 614, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 9

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service relating to “Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Lesser Prairie-Chicken; Threatened Status With Section 4(d) Rule for the Northern Distinct Population Segment and Endangered Status for the Southern Distinct Population Segment” (87 Fed. Reg. 72674 (November 25, 2022)), and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour, equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GRIJALVA), each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S.J. Res. 9.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S.J. Res. 9, sponsored by Senator MARSHALL of Kansas. This bipartisan resolution will protect voluntary conservation while eliminating the litigation-driven listing of the lesser prairie-chicken.

Last year, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service published a final rule listing the lesser prairie-chicken as an endangered species. The rule created two distinct population segments. In the northern segment, which covers Colorado, Kansas, Oklahoma, and the Texas panhandle, the lesser prairie-chicken will be considered threatened in that area, while in the southern segment, which covers New Mexico and west Texas, it would be considered endangered.

The lesser prairie-chicken is a boom-and-bust species that is extremely susceptible to precipitation in its native range. Simply put, when it rains the lesser prairie-chicken populations grow, and in droughts their populations often shrink.

To ensure a healthy lesser prairie-chicken population, a private, voluntary conservation effort, known as the range-wide plan, was developed and implemented in 2013. At the time, the Fish and Wildlife Service declared that the voluntary conservation efforts being undertaken to be an unprecedented collaborative effort that produced a sound conservation plan for the lesser prairie-chicken.

As part of the range-wide plan, voluntary conservation agreements were formed that allow private landowners and businesses who operate on Federal lands to implement voluntary measures to conserve habitat. These programs have proven to be successful with private industry investing \$65 million into species conservation and nearly 6 million acres of habitat conserved for the lesser prairie-chicken.

These investments have produced results. They have resulted in population growth from less than 20,000 birds in 2013 to more than 35,000 birds in 2020. However, the listing puts all of the volunteer conservation efforts to date in jeopardy.

The unavoidable truth about the ESA is that a listing means less private investment which harms conservation efforts.

Mr. Speaker, some people might ask why is it so important that we talk about the lesser prairie-chicken on the House floor?

Some people might say: Why on Earth would the Fish and Wildlife Service move a species from threatened to endangered that went from 20,000 to 35,000 in its population in less than 10 years because of conservation efforts?

What would inspire the Fish and Wildlife Service to do such a thing?

Mr. Speaker, you would think that if a species were increasing, they wouldn't go from threatened to endangered, they would go the other way. However, I think this map behind me tells the motivation behind the Biden administration and the motivation be-

hind this U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to make the lesser prairie-chicken not threatened but endangered.

Mr. Speaker, you see the two ranges here, the northern range where they would remain threatened and the southern range where they would be listed as endangered.

So what is so unique about these areas?

It happens to be where the largest production of oil and gas in America is located. The area that this Fish and Wildlife Service decided to make the lesser prairie-chicken endangered is in the Permian Basin—not just the Permian Basin, but the Delaware Basin and the Permian Basin. It is the richest deposit of oil in our country.

So this is just a tool for the Fish and Wildlife Service to go implement the Biden administration's none-of-the-above energy policy, except their hand-picked energy policies, and it is another attack on low-cost energy for the American taxpayer. It is an attack on jobs in America, and at the same time it is weakening our national security. It is making us more dependent on member countries of OPEC, on Russia, and on OPEC+, like Venezuela, all because this administration is using every tool in the tool pouch to stop oil and gas and low-cost energy and safe energy production on U.S. lands and waters.

We just had a hearing this morning in the Natural Resources Committee about how BOEM has delayed the 5-year plan in the Gulf of Mexico and the earliest we could get a new sale in the Gulf of Mexico is 2026. That is the result of this Biden administration energy policy.

The ESA should be about protecting endangered species and about restoring habitat for endangered species. It shouldn't be something used that is going to attack the very heart of our economy and our energy production, that is going to harm our national security, and that at the end of the day it is just going to make prices higher for Americans.

That is why it is important to talk about something like the lesser prairie-chicken on the House floor because this administration made a rule—Congress didn't make a rule—this administration made a rule that said they are going to list the species as endangered that has shown dramatic increases in population.

Voluntary conservation is working, and this listing puts that at risk. That is why repealing the Biden administration's listing of the prairie-chicken is crucial.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in opposition to this resolution. There was a lot I could say and thought about saying about this resolution and the one that we will see after it. I could talk about