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House of Representatives

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4368, and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLLINS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 723 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4368.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BENTZ) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 2027

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4368) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, with Mr. BENTZ in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

□ 2030

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today to bring before the House H.R. 4368, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 appropriations bill.

I thank Appropriations Committee Chairwoman GRANGER and commend her for her leadership in moving this bill and the fiscal year 2024 appropriations process forward.

I also recognize the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee (Ms. DELAURO), and the ranking member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee (Mr. BISHOP).

I appreciate the conversations he and I have had regarding the bill. While I know we don't agree on everything, we have reached areas of consensus that will keep our ag communities strong.

As Americans know all too well, our country continues to battle high inflation driven by the overspending of the last Congress and the Biden administration.

The fiscal situation in the United States, in fact, has changed since the Appropriations Committee passed this bill in June.

While we were on the August recess, the Congressional Budget Office projected the deficit to reach \$2 trillion for this fiscal year, doubling last year's deficit of \$1 trillion, and the deficit outlook for the future has gotten much worse.

We simply cannot continue down this path of spending large sums of money without regard to the fiscal future of our Nation.

This bill takes the same approach American families take every day.

They simply have to do more with less under the Biden economy.

American families decide every single day where to cut back spending to pay for what is most important for them. For them, those decisions are difficult.

Likewise, we have to make tough, difficult decisions for the good of the Nation. This is why the rule implements further reductions totaling \$2.7 billion across the discretionary accounts in this bill, except for the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women Infants and Children, or WIC.

With this reduction, the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture appropriation bill's discretionary allocation is \$15.1 billion.

By redirecting nearly \$7.5 billion in unobligated funds from the Inflation Reduction Act, this bill funds the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission with an effective program level of \$22.5 billion—a decrease of 12.8 percent from the current fiscal year.

This legislation prioritizes critical ag research and plant and animal health programs, invests in our rural communities, provides nutrition assistance to those in need, and ensures that American consumers have a safe food and drug supply.

This legislation rejects the Biden administration's unrealistic proposed spending levels that disregard the dire fiscal reality our country faces.

It also rejects the administration's continued push to bloat inside the beltway Federal bureaucracy by halting new hires in the Washington, D.C., office; instead, focusing on hiring an increased USDA workforce outside of the Capital Beltway in the offices that directly serve and support rural America.

I will highlight a few areas where this legislation prioritizes essential functions while being responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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In regard to supporting the core mission, the bill provides \$1 billion for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to support the Department's efforts to protect our producers from foreign plant and animal diseases.

The bill continues to invest in the delivery of farm programs, disaster assistance, and crop insurance to farmers and ranchers by maintaining funding for the Farm Service Agency and the Risk Management Agency.

The bill provides \$1 billion for the Food Safety and Inspection Service to fund our Nation's frontline inspectors of meat and poultry products.

We also continue to make important investments in critical agriculture research that will keep our producers on the cutting edge of technology and production practices.

We continue to fund rural development programs, including critical infrastructure investments in water and wastewater systems, broadband, and rural housing programs.

For the Food and Drug Administration, the bill provides just over \$6 billion in direct appropriations and user fees to enable the agency to keep food, drugs, and medical devices safe and effective.

The bill includes \$296 million for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to continue to oversee and ensure the integrity of U.S. derivative markets.

With regards to fiscal responsibility, at the same time, this legislation reins in some of the administration's wasteful, out-of-control spending.

For instance, it removes the Secretary's discretionary use of the Commodity Credit Corporation to fund unauthorized, nonemergency programs by returning statutory language to its pre-COVID language that didn't have that discretionary authority.

The CCC is not intended to allow USDA to completely bypass Congress in establishing new programs. Yet, the USDA apparently just can't help themselves, and that is exactly what they have been doing with the Commodity Credit Corporation.

According to a recent article in AgriPost, the USDA intends to use the Commodity Credit Corporation to spend nearly \$1.4 billion on trade programs and another \$1.1 billion to pay for "commodity-based international food aid." That sounds a lot like the Food for Peace program.

Since the USDA has provided \$1.1 billion for food aid that will be distributed during fiscal year 2024, the rule amendment reduces Food for Peace to \$532 million.

This bill will put an end to the habitual abuse of the CCC. In doing so, the bill saves \$1 billion in fiscal year 2024 alone.

Given that the USDA used these discretionary powers to spend another \$2.5 billion and \$6.6 billion in the last 2 fiscal years, respectively, I would submit to my colleagues that the real savings to taxpayers of taking these discre-

tionary authorities away will be much higher than the CBO score.

Mr. Chair, that is exactly what we need in times of the fiscal crisis we are in. Let me be clear: Restricting these authorities in the CCC will have no impact on farm bill and conservation programs, crop insurance, or the Secretary's ability to access the CCC in an animal or plant health emergency, the uses for which the program was created, not as a de facto slush fund for the department. All of those important duties and functions will continue under this bill.

This legislation also rescinds wasteful spending from the Inflation Reduction Act. It is finally time to be responsible stewards of taxpayer dollars by rescinding these new government giveaways.

We must work to rightsize programs, especially since the pandemic is over and President Biden ended the public health emergency in May.

It, in fact, is time to return to pre-COVID spending levels. Perhaps, Mr. Chair, we can return to pre-COVID inflationary levels, too, which I am sure the American public would, indeed, welcome.

Well, this is why we are returning the WIC cash value voucher benefits to a normal, sustainable inflation-adjusted funding level.

The American Rescue Plan provided a one-time increase in these benefits due to the pandemic, but these increases continue to be built into the WIC program in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 after they were due to expire. Keeping these increases on autopilot adds an additional \$1 billion to the program.

This bill does provide cash value vouchers above prepandemic levels to help with the food price inflation caused by the Biden economy. With the end of the public health emergency, it is time to return this program to normal pre-COVID operations.

On the regulatory front, this legislation puts a stop to USDA's efforts under the Packers and Stockyards Act to dictate how poultry and livestock producers raise and market their animals.

This bill also prevents the purchase of farmland by our foreign adversaries, while providing funds for the Farm Service Agency to fulfill its duty to track foreign ownership of land.

The bill also returns the use of mifepristone to in-person dispensing by a healthcare provider. This is a drug that should not be used without the supervision of a physician or a similarly licensed provider.

Anyone who truly cares, who genuinely cares about women's health and safety, should support this common-sense provision.

Finally, as I said earlier, this bill takes the same approach American families take every single day now. They have to do more with less under the Biden inflation economy. American families decide every day where to cut

back spending to pay for what is most important.

We are not appropriating monopoly money, Mr. Chair. It is hard-earned taxpayer dollars, and sometimes tough decisions have to be made, and this bill makes them.

In closing, I ask for your support for this important piece of legislation. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, every day when I anticipate the Agriculture appropriations bill coming to the floor, I wake up with my usual admonition that this is the day that the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

Today as we take up this Agriculture appropriations bill, it stretches my faith to say that this is a good day because I rise in very, very strong opposition to H.R. 4368.

As the ranking member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee, I am extremely disappointed to see this bill does not meet the needs of Americans who rely on this funding to ensure safe food and medicines, healthy and resilient farmlands, and strong rural infrastructure.

The programs contained in the Agriculture funding bill are important for all Americans, and they affect our country in so many ways.

These programs help Americans by helping American farmers produce the highest quality, safest, most abundant, and most economical food and fiber in the world through the assistance provided through the Farm Service Agency in almost every county in America.

They help future generations by funding conservation practices, which preserve our farmland and our national resources for years to come.

These programs are essential to those who live in rural areas and ensure quality of life through access to clean drinking water, electricity, telecommunication, broadband, sewer infrastructure, and housing.

They help feed every American, including our most vulnerable families, children, and seniors in difficult times.

They fund USDA meat and poultry inspectors and FDA inspectors of all other food products so that the food on Americans' tables is safe and nutritious. It funds the CFTC and the Farm Credit Administration, so this bill affects our financial space.

I cannot think of a funding subcommittee with as broad a reach as our bill has. A bill with such a broad reach deserves to have these programs adequately funded.

However, the bill passed in our full committee markup only provided \$17.8 billion in funding, which takes us back to the 2007 funding level.

That is entirely inadequate for the needs of the American people, and it had no chance of being passed into law when it came out of committee.

Unfortunately, rather than moving in a more productive direction, the majority used a procedural gimmick to impose even greater cuts of 69 percent to the Food for Peace program and 14.2 percent to all other discretionary programs.

Instead of improving the bill, the Rules Committee made it even worse. In total, the cuts to the bill have reduced funding 41 percent lower than last year. The bill before us today will take us back to 2001 levels. That is totally irresponsible.

The bill will harm rural America by taking money from programs supporting rural communities such as it cuts \$500 million from the Rural Energy for America Program, the REAP program, and it eliminates grants under the program, which will raise the energy costs for over 15,000 rural farmers and small businesses.

It takes \$1 billion from rural electric cooperatives, 900 cooperatives that serve over 40 million people in 48 States.

It slashes \$800 million from the WIC program, which drastically also cuts the cash value voucher benefit for fruit and vegetable purchases, affecting nearly 5 million hungry women and children.

It strips loan assistance needed by 100,000 economically distressed farmers, which could literally cost folks the family farm.

It cuts rural development programs by over 40 percent, which means thousands of rural families will no longer be able to get a loan to afford a home.

Hundreds of projects meant to provide clean water and wastewater systems will be eliminated, and thousands of families will not be able to turn on the tap and count on drinkable water.

It completely guts the Food for Peace international food aid program. It cuts the McGovern-Dole program by 14 percent, which will further exacerbate the global hunger and instability and the risk of conflicts abroad, which will weaken American security.

The bill also strips the Secretary, as you have heard, of discretionary use of the Commodity Credit Corporation funding.

The CCC is a tool authorized by law to benefit our farmers and the thousands of church and community food banks that it helps to fund.

No matter which party is in the White House, the only folks that suffer when any administration is not allowed to use the CCC at its discretion are our ag producers and American families.

Our farmers benefited tremendously under the Trump administration when Secretary of Agriculture Perdue used the CCC to give our farmers relief from the trade wars with China.

As I look at it, the path this bill has taken so far and the proposed amendments that we will see tonight would make it even worse.

I ask myself for any farmers that are watching tonight who are trying to do

what is best for their land, for their businesses and their family, what will they see?

□ 2045

For people in rural communities facing the challenges of providing clean water, affordable housing, and dependable utilities, what will they see?

For those same communities trying to ensure that their law enforcement and first responders have the vehicles, the communications equipment, and the other resources they need to keep their rural communities safe, what will they see?

For struggling families trying to put food on the table for their children, what will they see?

Sadly, if those Americans are watching us tonight, what they will see is a majority which is focused on overriding medical science to take away a woman's freedom to control their own reproductive health choices, but not a majority focused on ensuring that those women and their children are able to afford food.

They will see a majority that is focused on an undefined so-called critical race theory while pushing this bill to jeopardize the safety of our food and our medicine, slowing down our supply chain, and ironically, making these things harder to get and more expensive to buy.

Make no mistake, the majority would have a person who is watching at home to believe that this bill fights against some undeserving citizens who don't need the help. The hard truth is that this bill is a nuclear bomb against the needs of every single American.

The majority wants the people to be distracted by their culture war while they cut the crucial programs that every American depends on for the safest, the highest quality of affordable food, fiber, and medicine in the world. It appears that tonight we will see more amendments from the majority that further push the bill in a terribly harmful direction.

It astonishes me that we are 4 days away from a government shutdown, yet we are not debating a bipartisan bill to keep the government open. Instead, we are debating an extreme messaging bill that does nothing to bring us closer to the bipartisan agreement we will need to eventually pass a 4-year government spending bill.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill, and I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to craft a responsible bill that meets the needs of all Americans.

Mr. Chairman, I thank my personal staff, including Tynesha Boomer, and the subcommittee staff, including Martha Foley, Alex Swann, and Tyler Coe for their hard work on this bill. I thank the majority staff for their efforts. I pray that the majority Members of Congress and the majority of Congress will have an epiphany and deliver a much better work product to the

American people by the end of this funding process.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, what is really harmful is a \$2 trillion deficit, not the legislation before us.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support a vital amendment included within the bipartisan en bloc amendment to foster rural skills training and workforce development.

The amendment that I offered with several of my colleagues would restore funding for one of USDA's primary rural skills and workforce programs, the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy, also known as the RISE Grant Program.

As authorized in the 2018 farm bill, this workforce training initiative provides assistance to rural areas to establish job accelerators to cultivate the growth of high-wage jobs and support rural economies.

Rural America and regions throughout the country face economic challenges that are compounded by a lack of access to training and workplace skills.

This is an urgent issue that requires our attention; therefore, I urge all of my colleagues to support the amendment.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the ranking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill cuts funding for critical programs relied on by America's farmers, rural communities, and working families. This bill slashes loans and it weakens support for rural communities.

This bill inserts government into the personal healthcare decisions by limiting women's access to abortion. Shamefully, it cuts assistance for the most vulnerable children and families.

That we are debating this bill on September 26, 4 days before the end of the fiscal year, when House Republicans have provided no path forward to keep our government open, is as absurd as it is reprehensible.

The House Republican plan demonstrates an inability and an unwillingness to govern. Rather than working to keep the lights on and ensuring Federal workers and servicemembers get paid, Republicans are pursuing a path explicitly designed to shut down the government.

Republicans will claim to support farmers, but this bill makes it harder for small farmers to make ends meet. This bill will inflict increasing energy costs in rural communities, making it harder or impossible for farmers to get a loan, and making our food less safe.

This bill takes away billions of dollars in investments from rural communities by gutting funding provided to

rural electric co-ops used to help support the long-term resiliency, reliability, and affordability of rural electric systems. These co-ops serve 92 percent of persistent poverty counties and power to over 21 million businesses, homes, schools, and farms in 48 States.

This bill cuts the Rural Energy for America Program, the REAP program, by over \$500 million. It raises energy costs on 15,000 rural small businesses, and cuts farmers out of the green energy economy. It eliminates payments intended to serve as a financial lifeline for distressed farmers, which have already helped more than 20,000 producers avoid going into foreclosure.

This bill abandons the most vulnerable by slashing the Women, Infants, and Children, the WIC program, by \$800 million. Some 4.6 million women and children would also get severely reduced fruit and vegetable vouchers.

I do not believe we should practice this so-called fiscal responsibility by taking food out of the mouths of moms and children. Republicans seek to sell their spending cuts to the American people by taking food from the most vulnerable.

Finally, the majority has included shameful political riders in each of these appropriations bills that attack women and minorities and pander to various extreme rightwing issues, all while protecting billionaires and the biggest corporations.

Republicans are determined to make abortion illegal nationally. An attachment to this bill would reverse the FDA decision to allow mifepristone to be dispensed in certified pharmacies to patients with a prescription from a certified prescriber, instead of only in hospitals, clinics, and medical offices.

Mifepristone has been safely and legally used in the United States by over 5 million women since the FDA approved its use more than 20 years ago. This policy would overrule the established scientific process for FDA approval in order to restrict women's access to healthcare. My amendment to remove this rider was blocked.

This bill is not serious, but it will, like the majority's shutdown, have serious consequences that will be borne by the American people. This bill is shameful, this bill is dangerous, and this bill leaves rural Americans, farmers, seniors, children, and hungry families behind.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I remind Americans, if they are watching, that we are not dealing with Monopoly money.

Where are the ideas to solve a \$2 trillion budget deficit?

The President didn't have any. In fact, the President submitted a budget to Congress that never ever balanced and was supposed to have \$1 trillion deficits, but in fact, we had overspending in the so-called Inflation Reduction Act, which is one of the biggest

mismothers we ever had in the history of Congress.

The American people know, when you increase spending by hundreds and hundreds of billions of dollars, you increase inflation. You don't reduce it, you increase it. The fact of the matter is, our deficit is now \$2 trillion, not \$1 trillion.

Mr. Chair, I am hoping to hear from the other side of the aisle: How do we pay for all of this?

We have to borrow every single penny of this bill, and it has to be paid back by our children, our great-grandchildren—those are the facts. I know the facts are disturbing, but we have a \$2 trillion deficit, and it is the House Republicans who are taking the responsible position in Washington and dealing with it.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me just say that we are in this deficit situation largely because we don't collect the revenue from the people who owe taxes, the wealthy millionaires and billionaires that the Republican majority is protecting by not funding enough agents to collect the money for the Internal Revenue Service so that we can fund the government.

We wouldn't have the deficit that we have today were they willing to put sufficient agents on the job to be able to collect the money that is lawfully due. People should pay their taxes and they shouldn't protect those tax cheats.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maine (Ms. PINGREE), the ranking member of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, and a member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. PINGREE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my good friend from Georgia for yielding me the time.

I rise in opposition to this bill. This bill will hurt our farmers, it will hurt women and children, and it will hurt rural America. It provides \$17.8 billion, the lowest level of funding for 16 years.

This bill hurts our ability to fight the climate crisis by limiting the flexibility of the Credit Commodity Corporation that the USDA uses to give farmers the tools they need to respond to climate change.

It slashes funds for climate hubs and climate research, following the hottest months ever recorded on Earth.

It strips resources for the Rural Energy for America Program, which will make electricity more expensive for over 1,600 residents in my district. It zeros out funding for the Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production that handles composting and food waste. This means even more greenhouse gases will be released into our atmosphere.

This bill includes language to prevent the USDA from implementing a rule to protect farmers and ranchers from anticompetitive behavior in the meat and poultry industry.

Mr. Chairman, I want to be very clear about the cuts Republicans are making to WIC, the nutrition program for women, infants, and children. This bill cuts WIC by \$800 million. This bill also slashes the available funds for families to buy fruits and vegetables. This bill cuts WIC fruit and vegetable benefits by 56 percent for children and up to 70 percent for women.

Pregnant and postpartum participants would see their benefits drop from \$44 to \$13. That is \$13. Anyone who has been grocery shopping in the past few months knows this is not enough—if you buy a bag of apples, some carrots, and onions, you spent your allotment for the month.

Almost one-third of children in the United States don't consume enough fruit and vegetables daily, and almost half don't consume enough vegetables daily. This program is critical to address the disparities people face in assessing healthy food.

At a time when food pantries in States like Maine are facing empty shelves, while they have huge increases in demand, I cannot fathom how Republicans can justify the cuts in this bill. Please vote against this bill.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, it is only in Washington that this can happen. Last year's bill, from the other side of the aisle when they were in the majority, funded WIC at \$6.0 billion. This year's bill in front of us funds WIC at \$6.0 billion. That is a slash, if you listen to the other side of the aisle.

The average American is going: What? Wait a minute. We are funding it at exactly the same level as last year and they are accusing us of taking food out of the mouths of women, infants, and children.

□ 2100

This is the same level they did last year. That is what the American people can't stand about Washington. The average American understands that \$6.0 billion last year is the same as \$6.0 billion this year.

All they see is a partisan struggle going on. They don't see Americans and the House of Representatives wanting to solve their problems.

The price of food in the grocery store, the price of gas, the price of everything, the inflation, they don't want to solve the problem at the southern border. What they want to do is accuse us of slashing things when we fund it at exactly the same level.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the ranking member of the Energy and Water Development, and Related Agencies Subcommittee, and a member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and

Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank Ranking Member BISHOP for yielding time for me to oppose this quite unfortunate piece of legislation and quite harmful to agriculture.

The majority can't produce a real farm bill, and they can't produce a budget on time. Now, this legislation today, as it stands, is riddled with divisive policy riders and detrimental funding cuts galore that will hurt American farmers and the American people.

Republicans' efforts to slash funding by 41 percent across agriculture programs to 2000 levels cannot go unchecked. With the lowest funding in more than two decades, this bill weakens American competitiveness in the international marketplace and abandons our farmers.

Our country already imports a third of our fresh fruits and vegetables. We need to produce those in our country because what America makes and grows, makes and grows America.

Through this bill, Republicans also seek to starve the most exploited and vulnerable Americans of food, literally starve infants born to poor women by slashing the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children by \$800 million, slashing hundreds of millions in farmers' procurement contracts in the process.

Ohio has 179,262 WIC recipients, so if this bill would pass, many of these recipients—infants, toddlers, pregnant women, breastfeeding women, and postpartum women—will see their allotment drop to as little as, get ready, \$11 per month or simply disappear entirely.

A child's brain is largely formed by age 4 and its strength depends on what it eats. If you starve children, you permanently harm their ability to learn, and you impact them for life.

The last thing I will mention is the majority's lack of concern for the exploitation of farmers. One of the many dangerous provisions in this bill is rolling back protections for farmers that prevent megacorporations from imposing debt servitude on farmers. This bill prohibits farmers from being protected from, and I quote, unfair, unjustly discriminatory, or deceptive business practices.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, lack of enforcement of the 1921 Packers and Stockyards Act, along with unchecked corporate mergers, has allowed megacorporations, even foreign corporations, extreme power at the expense of our livestock producers and contract growers.

This bill blocks fair competition. If we don't support our hardworking farmers, what is this bill supposed to be about? I urge my colleagues to vote

"no" on this harmful, ill-considered piece of legislation.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I guess we are just going to have to be fact-checking all night long. Once again, the gentlewoman said that we are slashing \$800 million from the WIC program.

Now, maybe this is new math. Maybe this is why our public schools are failing our children, but \$6.0 billion this year, our amount, is exactly the same as the \$6.0 billion last year—6.0 minus 6.0, for those of you watching on TV, take note, is exactly the same. It is not \$800 million less.

Now, I think I heard that we are taking this down to FY 2000 funding levels. Well, that is interesting because we just looked up the FY 2000 funding levels, and the ag bill was funded at \$14 billion. We are funding it at \$25 billion. Now, again, this might be new math, 14 might be more than 25, maybe in some alternate universe. That is the way this government functions. It is in an alternate universe. It doesn't understand what every American family knows: Inflation is what our problem is. Inflation is driven by out-of-control government spending, by a \$2 trillion deficit, and then we are accused of cutting spending to the FY 2000 levels. Again, for those who weren't paying attention the first time, FY 2000, look it up. It is easy. Google it—\$14 billion. Our bill, \$25 billion.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Every time I hear Republicans talk, they are talking about the cost of everything going up. Assuming, which is not true, that the \$6 billion is the same as the last year, they say over and over and over how much the cost of living has gone up, how much more it costs to buy groceries. That is what they talk about every single day when they are not talking about what they want to slash.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), the ranking member of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee and a hardworking member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this heartless bill which cuts nutrition assistance to mothers and children and needed relief to our hardworking farmers.

If my Republican colleagues insist on preserving their tax cuts for the rich at all costs, please have the decency not to do it on the backs of women, children, and farmers.

Yet, as cruel as these cuts are, it is enough to satisfy the small band of MAGA extremists now running this

House. Republican leaders have caved to them again by adding harmful, divisive riders just to bring these bills for a vote. This legislation should have a toxic hazard warning on it.

One rider blocks women from accessing mifepristone via telemedicine or the mail, even in States that allow it. This sneak attack on abortion medication would vastly restrict a woman's right to control her own body. Since it is so unpopular, of course, Republicans are adding this healthcare access barrier now in the dead of night.

This isn't the only extreme rider on this bill. Instead of putting children and farmers first, this bill blocks the FDA from regulating nicotine standards.

You are a doctor. That is shocking.

It does this, mind you, despite scientific data showing that it will mean more addicted kids and fewer saved lives. In Florida alone, 32,300 people die each year from smoking-related deaths. Instead of helping hungry children and struggling families, Republicans give handouts to big tobacco in this bill.

Look, I know Americans are divided on many issues, but there is one thing we can all agree on: We do not take food assistance away from children, families, seniors, veterans, and the disabled that desperately rely on that funding. Yet this extremist MAGA bill does just that.

Mr. Chairman, as an appropriator, I always echo the adage: Show me your budget, and I will show you what you really value.

This bill exemplifies the ugliest of all values if it takes food from the mouths of the hungry, if it blocks women's reproductive care, and if it cuts funds to American farmers.

For these reasons, I strongly urge my colleagues to reject these cold-hearted values and vote "no" on this bill.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I am going to fact check myself. Our budget, the bill that is coming to the floor is \$22.5 billion, not \$25 billion, but that is still a whole lot more than \$14 billion.

The toxic hazard is not this bill. Rather, it is a \$2 trillion deficit and an open southern border. That is what the toxic hazard is, and we are not discussing that in Washington. We should be discussing it in Washington.

Mr. Chair, I just have a question. Aren't the remarks supposed to be directed to the chair, the speaker's comments?

The CHAIR. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. HARRIS. Okay. I thought so. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I hope that the people who are watching tonight will take note of the fact that they don't have to take our word for it. The Congressional Budget Office has scored this bill, and they have

scored the manager's amendment. The gentleman says that the bill is \$22 billion. After the amendments that they are going to be offering on this bill tonight, CBO has scored it at \$15.1 billion. It is clearly not what he is representing. After the manager's amendment, which is the first amendment that we will be considering tonight, the CBO has scored this bill at \$15.1 billion, which is a drastic cut to the needs of the American people.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. POCAN), a member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. POCAN. Mr. Chair, I am in disbelief over the ridiculously low spending levels proposed by the Republicans in the Agriculture appropriations bill. They slashed funding to 2001 levels, funding from over 20 years ago. That is a 41 percent cut, \$10 billion, to the people that feed America, our farmers.

I don't see how any Member of Congress who represents rural America can show this much disrespect to their constituents. Certainly no Member from Wisconsin.

Here are a few examples of what the bill does:

It zeroes out the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives completely, from \$25 million to nothing. That is assistance for new and growing dairy businesses that want to get products like milk and specialty cheeses to market.

If you are an economically distressed farmer, of which, unfortunately, there are plenty, this strips assistance for 104,000 farm loan borrowers.

If you are a farmer who uses the Farm Service Agency for things like loans or disaster relief, this bill cuts FSA in addition to conservation programs like EQUIP that help farmers improve their operations and output.

If you get energy assistance as a farmer, good luck with that. The REAP fund will be cut by over \$500 million, making your energy costs go up in rural America.

If you farm and supply food through international food programs, you are really out of luck because they cut it by \$1.2 billion, a 69 percent cut.

With this level of cuts, I would assume this was a satire, a "Saturday Night Live" episode, but it is just another Tuesday night in the U.S. Congress where farmers apparently aren't valued by the House Republican majority.

No one who claims to support rural America could write or vote for an agricultural funding bill this bad. No one. I, for one, won't be supporting this kind of disrespect to the farmers in my district.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I guess it is fact-check time again for the American people. FY 2000 was \$14 billion. I think I demonstrated that 22.5 is more than 14. The gentleman says we are cutting it to FY 2001 levels. Well, Mr. Chair, that was \$15 billion. Again, it might be new math, but when

I went to school, I was taught that 15 was less than 22.5. No matter how many times you say it on the floor of this House, we are not cutting spending to FY 2001 levels. We are cutting them to pre-COVID levels because, Mr. Chair, the pandemic is over.

The free-wheeling spending during the pandemic has to end. A \$2 trillion deficit and an open southern border are existential threats to this country, and the Republican House majority is dealing with it.

Mr. Chair, I remind the body that the Senate is not controlled by Republicans, and they haven't passed a single appropriations bill to the floor. Now, we only passed one, but, again, when I went to school, one was more than none.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BUDZINSKI).

Ms. BUDZINSKI. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 4368, which has been weaponized to further limit Americans' access to reproductive healthcare. Hidden in this bill is an attempt to reinstate medically unnecessary and outdated FDA policies that restrict access to mifepristone, a safe, effective drug used in medication abortion and miscarriage management care.

From the courts to Congress, my colleagues in the majority are continuing their efforts to force burdensome restrictions that attack our fundamental freedoms to make our own decisions about our own bodies.

□ 2115

This funding bill is yet another example of political interference into the scientific review process entrusted to the FDA by Congress. It is a draconian attempt to strip away people's fundamental freedom to make their own decisions, make their own medical decisions, rejecting years of scientific and medical expertise and an extensive evidence-based review that showed mifepristone to be incredibly safe.

Mifepristone is safe and effective, and it is not the business of Congress to substitute political judgments for the judgments of the scientific and medical experts who determine FDA policy governing this medication.

What is even more unfortunate is that this is just one of many problematic aspects of this bill. As a member of the House Committee on Agriculture, I could spend hours walking my colleagues through how cutting funding to 2003 levels leaves our farmers and working families behind.

I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who sit on the Agriculture Committee with me do not view this to be a serious proposal. I challenge them to think long and hard about how they will communicate this to farmers back home before voting "yes" on this bill.

For these reasons, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee.

If the House rules permitted, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill. My amendment would strike the provisions rolling back FDA's guidance.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD the text of my amendment, and I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit.

Ms. Budzinski moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4368 to the Committee on Appropriations with the following amendment:

Page 109, beginning on line 1, strike section 761.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, first, it was that we are cutting it to FY 2000 levels, then it was 2001 levels. Now, they raised the ante. It is FY 2003 levels. The FY 2003 funding level in this bill was \$17.55 billion. I will remind all the Americans watching that 17.5 is less than 22.5. In fact, we are \$5 billion above that.

We are not cutting spending to FY 2003 levels. Now, maybe the next speaker will suggest 2005, 2007. If they get to FY 2019, pre-COVID, yes, we are.

The floor leader on the other side of the aisle said Republicans talk of everything going up. Mr. Chair, if that were true, if it were only Republicans that talk of everything going up, we would be getting 95 percent of the vote in America because everybody is talking about everything going up. You can't go anywhere without someone saying they have to pay \$4.80 a gallon for diesel, or they have to pay so much for milk, pay \$2 for a loaf of bread that they used to pay \$1.20 for.

It is not Republicans talking about that. We are just listening to what Americans say. That is why we are returning spending to the pre-COVID levels.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, over the past two decades, our country and the agriculture industry have grown. Our population has grown, yet this bill initially withdrew funding for America's agriculture, as you have heard, back to 2006 funding levels with an allocation of \$17.1 billion, which is nearly \$8 billion below last year's enacted bill.

Sadly, we are here tonight with a bill that the majority made even worse this past weekend by gutting Congress' commitment to American farmers, producers, rural communities, and families to levels last seen in 2001. This bill keeps moving in the wrong direction.

Also, many of the amendments that we will be debating tonight, which lower this allocation much lower than the American people need, will be an attempt to circumvent the ongoing negotiations in the House authorizing committee, the Agriculture Committee, which is working so desperately to get our farmers, our rural communities, and our lenders in America our 2023 farm bill, which is the blueprint that our farmers and our stakeholders need to plan for agriculture in America going forward.

This will jeopardize the consensus that we hope to build and to pass for the 2023 farm bill.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to defeat this bill. Let's send it back to the committee, and let's begin to put together a better work product for the American people.

This bill is a disgrace. It really does not rise to the level that the American people deserve. We have to continue to keep our farmers and Americans in a position to consume and produce the highest quality, the safest, the most abundant food and fiber anywhere, and to have the safest medications and medical devices.

Mr. Chair, I urge us to defeat this. We need to do better, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, the Republicans were sent back to the majority this term of Congress to get things in order in Washington.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues to support the fiscal year 2024 Agriculture appropriations bill, which returns to pre-COVID spending levels and starts us on a path to decreasing our Federal spending and decreasing inflation. That is what the American people want.

This legislation does prioritize critical programs that support our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and rural communities.

The bill importantly reins in Federal spending and regulatory overreach as well as includes a number of conservative policy victories to stop the Biden administration's woke agenda.

Mr. Chair, again, I ask my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The amendment printed in part E of House Report 118-216, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4368

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Secretary, \$41,072,000 of which not to exceed \$5,051,000 shall be available for the immediate Office of the Secretary; not to exceed \$1,578,000 shall be available for the Office of Homeland Security; not to exceed \$2,215,000 shall be available for the Office of Tribal Relations; not to exceed \$7,044,000 shall be available for the Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement; not to exceed \$21,315,000 shall be available for the Office of the Assist-

ant Secretary for Administration, of which \$20,440,000 shall be available for Departmental Administration to provide for necessary expenses for management support services to offices of the Department and for general administration, security, repairs and alterations, and other miscellaneous supplies and expenses not otherwise provided for and necessary for the practical and efficient work of the Department: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Administration mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office; and not to exceed \$3,869,000 shall be available for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs to carry out the programs funded by this Act, including programs involving intergovernmental affairs and liaison within the executive branch: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to transfer funds appropriated for any office of the Office of the Secretary to any other office of the Office of the Secretary: *Provided further*, That no appropriation for any office shall be increased or decreased by more than 5 percent: *Provided further*, That the amount made available under this heading for Departmental Administration shall be reimbursed from applicable appropriations in this Act for travel expenses incident to the holding of hearings as required by 5 U.S.C. 551-558: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs shall be transferred to agencies of the Department of Agriculture funded by this Act to maintain personnel at the agency level: *Provided further*, That no funds made available under this heading for the Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations may be obligated after 30 days from the date of enactment of this Act, unless the Secretary has notified the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress on the allocation of these funds by USDA agency: *Provided further*, That during any 30 day notification period referenced in section 716 of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall take no action to begin implementation of the action that is subject to section 716 of this Act or make any public announcement of such action in any form.

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Economist, \$29,181,000, of which \$8,000,000 shall be for grants or cooperative agreements for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$500,000 shall be available to carry out section 224 of subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6924), as amended by section 12504 of Public Law 115-334.

OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Hearings and Appeals, \$16,173,000.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Budget and Program Analysis, \$11,337,000.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Information Officer, \$79,442,000, of which not less than \$66,731,000 is for cybersecurity requirements of the department.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, \$7,118,000.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, \$901,000:

Provided, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Civil Rights mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Civil Rights, \$22,789,000.

OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION

For necessary expenses of the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection, \$18,800,000.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For necessary expenses of the Office of Inspector General, including employment pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-452; 5 U.S.C. App.), \$109,561,000, including such sums as may be necessary for contracting and other arrangements with public agencies and private persons pursuant to section 6(a)(9) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-452; 5 U.S.C. App.), and including not to exceed \$125,000 for certain confidential operational expenses, including the payment of informants, to be expended under the direction of the Inspector General pursuant to the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95-452; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 1337 of the Agriculture and Food Act of 1981 (Public Law 97-98).

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

For necessary expenses of the Office of the General Counsel, \$44,408,000.

OFFICE OF ETHICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of Ethics, \$4,277,000.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics, \$1,800,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Research, Education, and Economics mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$1,000,000 shall be made available for the Office of the Chief Scientist.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the Economic Research Service, \$90,612,000.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

For necessary expenses of the National Agricultural Statistics Service, \$187,513,000, of which up to \$46,850,000 shall be available until expended for the Census of Agriculture: *Provided*, That amounts made available for the Census of Agriculture may be used to conduct Current Industrial Report surveys subject to 7 U.S.C. 2204g(d) and (f).

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Research Service and for acquisition of lands by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100,000 and with prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and for land exchanges where the lands exchanged shall be of equal value or shall be equalized by a payment of money to the grantor which shall not exceed 25 percent of the total value of the land or interests transferred out of Federal ownership, \$1,745,542,000: *Provided*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for the operation and maintenance of aircraft and the purchase of not to exceed one for replacement only: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for the construction, alteration, and repair of buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided, the

cost of constructing any one building shall not exceed \$500,000, except for headhouses or greenhouses which shall each be limited to \$1,800,000, except for 10 buildings to be constructed or improved at a cost not to exceed \$1,100,000 each, and except for four buildings to be constructed at a cost not to exceed \$5,000,000 each, and the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building or \$500,000, whichever is greater: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for entering into lease agreements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the lease shall be that any facility shall be owned, operated, and maintained by the non-Federal entity and shall be removed upon the expiration or termination of the lease agreement: *Provided further*, That the limitations on alterations contained in this Act shall not apply to modernization or replacement of existing facilities at Beltsville, Maryland: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center: *Provided further*, That the foregoing limitations shall not apply to replacement of buildings needed to carry out the Act of April 24, 1948 (21 U.S.C. 113a): *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available for granting easements at any Agricultural Research Service location for the construction of a research facility by a non-Federal entity for use by, and acceptable to, the Agricultural Research Service and a condition of the easements shall be that upon completion the facility shall be accepted by the Secretary, subject to the availability of funds herein, if the Secretary finds that acceptance of the facility is in the interest of the United States: *Provided further*, That funds may be received from any State, other political subdivision, organization, or individual for the purpose of establishing or operating any research facility or research project of the Agricultural Research Service, as authorized by law.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

For the acquisition of land, construction, repair, improvement, extension, alteration, and purchase of fixed equipment or facilities as necessary to carry out the agricultural research programs of the Department of Agriculture, where not otherwise provided, up to \$16,700,000 to remain available until expended, shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding" in the report accompanying this Act.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

For payments to agricultural experiment stations, for cooperative forestry and other research, for facilities, and for other expenses, \$1,085,221,000 which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Research and Education Activities" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That funds for research grants for 1994 institutions, education grants for 1890 institutions, Hispanic serving institutions education grants, capacity building for non-land-grant colleges of agriculture, the agriculture and food research initiative, veterinary medicine loan repayment, multicultural scholars, graduate fellowship and institution challenge grants, grants management systems, tribal colleges education equity grants, and scholarships at 1890 institutions shall remain available until expended: *Pro-*

vided further, That each institution eligible to receive funds under the Evans-Allen program receives no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions be made available to individual eligible institutions or consortia of eligible institutions with funds awarded equally to each of the States of Alaska and Hawaii: *Provided further*, That funds for providing grants for food and agricultural sciences for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving institutions and for Insular Areas shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That funds for education grants for 1890 institutions shall be made available to institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 and 3222: *Provided further*, That not more than 5 percent of the amounts made available by this or any other Act to carry out the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative under 7 U.S.C. 3157 may be retained by the Secretary of Agriculture to pay administrative costs incurred by the Secretary in carrying out that authority.

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

For the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund authorized by Public Law 103-382 (7 U.S.C. 301 note), \$11,880,000, to remain available until expended.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

For payments to States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, Micronesia, the Northern Marianas, and American Samoa, \$564,860,000 which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Extension Activities" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That funds for extension services at 1994 institutions and for facility improvements at 1890 institutions shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That institutions eligible to receive funds under 7 U.S.C. 3221 for cooperative extension receive no less than \$1,000,000: *Provided further*, That funds for cooperative extension under sections 3(b) and (c) of the Smith-Lever Act (7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c)) and section 208(c) of Public Law 93-471 shall be available for retirement and employees' compensation costs for extension agents.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

For the integrated research, education, and extension grants programs, including necessary administrative expenses, \$41,500,000, which shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified in the table titled "National Institute of Food and Agriculture, Integrated Activities" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That funds for the Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative shall remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, indirect costs shall not be charged against any Extension Implementation Program Area grant awarded under the Crop Protection/Pest Management Program (7 U.S.C. 7626).

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, \$800,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Marketing and Regulatory Programs mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, including

up to \$30,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 4085), \$1,168,964,000; of which \$514,000, to remain available until expended, shall be available for the control of outbreaks of insects, plant diseases, animal diseases and for control of pest animals and birds ("contingency fund") to the extent necessary to meet emergency conditions; of which \$15,450,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used for the cotton pests program, including for cost share purposes or for debt retirement for active eradication zones; of which \$49,683,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Animal Health Technical Services; of which \$3,096,000 shall be for activities under the authority of the Horse Protection Act of 1970, as amended (15 U.S.C. 1831); of which \$67,430,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used to support avian health; of which \$4,251,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for information technology infrastructure; of which \$224,521,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for specialty crop pests; of which, \$13,637,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for field crop and rangeland ecosystem pests; of which \$21,567,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for zoonotic disease management; of which \$44,617,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for emergency preparedness and response; of which \$55,562,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for tree and wood pests; of which \$6,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the National Veterinary Stockpile; of which up to \$1,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the scrapie program for indemnities; of which \$2,500,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the wildlife damage management program for aviation safety: *Provided*, That of amounts available under this heading for wildlife services methods development, \$1,000,000 shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of amounts available under this heading for the screwworm program, \$4,990,000 shall remain available until expended; of which \$24,527,000, to remain available until expended, shall be used to carry out the science program and transition activities for the National Bio and Agro-defense Facility located in Manhattan, Kansas: *Provided further*, That no funds shall be used to formulate or administer a brucellosis eradication program for the current fiscal year that does not require minimum matching by the States of at least 40 percent: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available for the purchase, replacement, operation, and maintenance of aircraft: *Provided further*, That in addition, in emergencies which threaten any segment of the agricultural production industry of the United States, the Secretary may transfer from other appropriations or funds available to the agencies or corporations of the Department such sums as may be deemed necessary, to be available only in such emergencies for the arrest and eradication of contagious or infectious disease or pests of animals, poultry, or plants, and for expenses in accordance with sections 10411 and 10417 of the Animal Health Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 8310 and 8316) and sections 431 and 442 of the Plant Protection Act (7 U.S.C. 7751 and 7772), and any unexpended balances of funds transferred for such emergency purposes in the preceding fiscal year shall be merged with such transferred amounts: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the repair and alteration of leased buildings and improvements, but unless otherwise provided the cost of altering any one building

during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

In fiscal year 2024, the agency is authorized to collect fees to cover the total costs of providing technical assistance, goods, or services requested by States, other political subdivisions, domestic and international organizations, foreign governments, or individuals, provided that such fees are structured such that any entity's liability for such fees is reasonably based on the technical assistance, goods, or services provided to the entity by the agency, and such fees shall be reimbursed to this account, to remain available until expended, without further appropriation, for providing such assistance, goods, or services.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE MARKETING SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service, \$184,668,000, of which \$5,004,000 shall be available for the purposes of section 12306 of Public Law 113-79: *Provided*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

Fees may be collected for the cost of standardization activities, as established by regulation pursuant to law (31 U.S.C. 9701), except for the cost of activities relating to the development or maintenance of grain standards under the United States Grain Standards Act, 7 U.S.C. 71 et seq.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$62,596,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses: *Provided*, That if crop size is understated and/or other uncontrollable events occur, the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

FUND FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY (SECTION 32)

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Funds available under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1935 (7 U.S.C. 612c), shall be used only for commodity program expenses as authorized therein, and other related operating expenses, except for: (1) transfers to the Department of Commerce as authorized by the Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742a et seq.); (2) transfers otherwise provided in this Act; and (3) not more than \$21,501,000 for formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders pursuant to the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937 and the Agricultural Act of 1961 (Public Law 87-128).

PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

For payments to departments of agriculture, bureaus and departments of markets, and similar agencies for marketing activities under section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1623(b)), \$1,235,000.

LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$55,000,000 (from fees collected) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for inspection and weighing services: *Provided*, That if grain export activities require additional supervision and oversight, or other uncontrollable factors occur, this limitation may be exceeded by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety, \$800,000:

Provided, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food Safety mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

For necessary expenses to carry out services authorized by the Federal Meat Inspection Act, the Poultry Products Inspection Act, and the Egg Products Inspection Act, including not to exceed \$10,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$1,197,067,000; and in addition, \$1,000,000 may be credited to this account from fees collected for the cost of laboratory accreditation as authorized by section 1327 of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 138f): *Provided*, That funds provided for the Public Health Data Communication Infrastructure system shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That no fewer than 148 full-time equivalent positions shall be employed during fiscal year 2024 for purposes dedicated solely to inspections and enforcement related to the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (7 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.): *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be available pursuant to law (7 U.S.C. 2250) for the alteration and repair of buildings and improvements, but the cost of altering any one building during the fiscal year shall not exceed 10 percent of the current replacement value of the building.

TITLE II

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, \$901,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Farm Production and Conservation mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, \$231,302,000: *Provided*, That \$60,228,000 of amounts appropriated for the current fiscal year pursuant to section 1241(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3841(a)) shall be transferred to and merged with this account.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Farm Service Agency, \$1,215,307,000, of which not less than \$15,000,000 shall be for the hiring of new employees to fill vacancies and anticipated vacancies at Farm Service Agency county offices and farm loan officers and shall be available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That not more than 50 percent of the funding made available under this heading for information technology related to farm program delivery may be obligated until the Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, and receives written or electronic notification of receipt from such Committees of, a plan for expenditure that (1) identifies for each project/investment over \$25,000 (a) the functional and performance capabilities to be delivered and the mission benefits to be realized, (b) the estimated lifecycle cost for the entirety of the project/investment, including

estimates for development as well as maintenance and operations, and (c) key milestones to be met; (2) demonstrates that each project/investment is, (a) consistent with the Farm Service Agency Information Technology Roadmap, (b) being managed in accordance with applicable lifecycle management policies and guidance, and (c) subject to the applicable Department's capital planning and investment control requirements; and (3) has been reviewed by the Government Accountability Office and approved by the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the agency shall submit a report by the end of the fourth quarter of fiscal year 2024 to the Committees on Appropriations and the Government Accountability Office, that identifies for each project/investment that is operational (a) current performance against key indicators of customer satisfaction, (b) current performance of service level agreements or other technical metrics, (c) current performance against a pre-established cost baseline, (d) a detailed breakdown of current and planned spending on operational enhancements or upgrades, and (e) an assessment of whether the investment continues to meet business needs as intended as well as alternatives to the investment: *Provided further*, That the Secretary is authorized to use the services, facilities, and authorities (but not the funds) of the Commodity Credit Corporation to make program payments for all programs administered by the Agency: *Provided further*, That other funds made available to the Agency for authorized activities may be advanced to and merged with this account: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$696,594,000 shall be made available to county committees, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding the preceding proviso, any funds made available to county committees in the current fiscal year that the Administrator of the Farm Service Agency deems to exceed or not meet the amount needed for the county committees may be transferred to or from the Farm Service Agency for necessary expenses: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available to the Farm Service Agency shall be used to close Farm Service Agency county offices: *Provided further*, That none of the funds available to the Farm Service Agency shall be used to permanently relocate county based employees that would result in an office with two or fewer employees without prior notification and approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

For grants pursuant to section 502(b) of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987, as amended (7 U.S.C. 5101-5106), \$6,000,000.

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out wellhead or groundwater protection activities under section 12400 of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839bb-2), \$7,500,000, to remain available until expended.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses involved in making indemnity payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products under a dairy indemnity program, such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such program is carried out by the Secretary in the same manner as the dairy indemnity program described in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2001 (Public Law 106-387, 114 Stat. 1549A-12).

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND
PROGRAM ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed farm ownership (7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.) and operating (7 U.S.C. 1941 et seq.) loans, emergency loans (7 U.S.C. 1961 et seq.), Indian tribe land acquisition loans (25 U.S.C. 5136), boll weevil loans (7 U.S.C. 1989), guaranteed conservation loans (7 U.S.C. 1924 et seq.), relending program (7 U.S.C. 1936c), and Indian highly fractionated land loans (25 U.S.C. 5136) to be available from funds in the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund, as follows: \$3,500,000,000 for guaranteed farm ownership loans and \$3,100,000,000 for farm ownership direct loans; \$2,118,491,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed operating loans and \$1,633,000,000 for direct operating loans; emergency loans, \$37,667,000; Indian tribe land acquisition loans, \$20,000,000; guaranteed conservation loans, \$150,000,000; relending program, \$61,426,000; Indian highly fractionated land loans, \$5,000,000; and for boll weevil eradication program loans, \$60,000,000: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall deem the pink bollworm to be a boll weevil for the purpose of boll weevil eradication program loans.

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: \$3,507,000 for emergency loans, to remain available until expended; and \$27,598,000 for direct farm operating loans, \$1,483,000 for unsubsidized guaranteed farm operating loans, \$19,368,000 for the relending program, \$1,577,000 for Indian highly fractionated land loans, and \$258,000 for boll weevil eradication program loans.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$326,053,000: *Provided*, That of this amount, \$305,803,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Farm Service Agency, Salaries and Expenses".

Funds appropriated by this Act to the Agricultural Credit Insurance Program Account for farm ownership, operating and conservation direct loans and guaranteed loans may be transferred among these programs: *Provided*, That the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress are notified at least 15 days in advance of any transfer.

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For necessary expenses of the Risk Management Agency, \$63,637,000: *Provided*, That \$1,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading in this Act shall be available for compliance and integrity activities required under section 516(b)(2)(C) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act of 1938 (7 U.S.C. 1516(b)(2)(C)), and shall be in addition to amounts otherwise provided for such purpose: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1506(i).

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

For necessary expenses for carrying out the provisions of the Act of April 27, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 590a-f), including preparation of conservation plans and establishment of measures to conserve soil and water (including farm irrigation and land drainage and such special measures for soil and water management as may be necessary to prevent floods and the siltation of reservoirs and to control agricultural related pollutants); operation of conservation plant materials centers; classification and mapping of soil; dissemination of information; acquisition of lands, water, and interests therein for use in the plant ma-

terials program by donation, exchange, or purchase at a nominal cost not to exceed \$100 pursuant to the Act of August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 2268a); purchase and erection or alteration or improvement of permanent and temporary buildings; and operation and maintenance of aircraft, \$911,399,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, of which up to \$18,748,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled "Community Project Funding" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided further*, That appropriations hereunder shall be available pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 2250 for construction and improvement of buildings and public improvements at plant materials centers, except that the cost of alterations and improvements to other buildings and other public improvements shall not exceed \$250,000: *Provided further*, That when buildings or other structures are erected on non-Federal land, that the right to use such land is obtained as provided in 7 U.S.C. 2250a.

CORPORATIONS

The following corporations and agencies are hereby authorized to make expenditures, within the limits of funds and borrowing authority available to each such corporation or agency and in accord with law, and to make contracts and commitments without regard to fiscal year limitations as provided by section 104 of the Government Corporation Control Act as may be necessary in carrying out the programs set forth in the budget for the current fiscal year for such corporation or agency, except as hereinafter provided.

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

For payments as authorized by section 516 of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1516), such sums as may be necessary, to remain available until expended.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND
REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For the current fiscal year, such sums as may be necessary to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for net realized losses sustained, but not previously reimbursed, pursuant to section 2 of the Act of August 17, 1961 (15 U.S.C. 713a-11): *Provided*, That of the funds available to the Commodity Credit Corporation under section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i) for the conduct of its business with the Foreign Agricultural Service, up to \$5,000,000 may be transferred to and used by the Foreign Agricultural Service for information resource management activities of the Foreign Agricultural Service that are not related to Commodity Credit Corporation business: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in writing 15 days prior to the obligation or commitment of any emergency funds from the Commodity Credit Corporation.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT
(LIMITATION ON EXPENSES)

For the current fiscal year, the Commodity Credit Corporation shall not expend more than \$15,000,000 for site investigation and cleanup expenses, and operations and maintenance expenses to comply with the requirement of section 107(g) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9607(g)), and section 6001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6961).

TITLE III

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL
DEVELOPMENT

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development,

\$800,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Rural Development mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT
SALARIES AND EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses for carrying out the administration and implementation of Rural Development programs, including activities with institutions concerning the development and operation of agricultural cooperatives; and for cooperative agreements; \$331,087,000: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, no less than \$75,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for information technology expenses. *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, funds appropriated under this heading may be used for advertising and promotional activities that support Rural Development programs: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other funds appropriated for purposes authorized by section 502(i) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472(i)), any amounts collected under such section, as amended by this Act, will immediately be credited to this account and will remain available until expended for such purposes.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE
RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM
ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949, to be available from funds in the rural housing insurance fund, as follows: \$880,691,000 shall be for Section 502 direct loans; \$5,000,000 for a Single Family Housing Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes; and \$30,000,000,000 for Section 502 unsubsidized guaranteed loans; \$25,000,000 for section 504 housing repair loans; \$60,000,000 for section 515 rental housing; \$400,000,000 for section 538 guaranteed multi-family housing loans; \$10,000,000 for credit sales of single family housing acquired property; \$5,000,000 for section 523 self-help housing land development loans; and \$5,000,000 for section 524 site development loans.

For the cost of direct and guaranteed loans, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, as follows: section 502 loans, \$86,660,000 shall be for direct loans; Single Family Housing Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes, \$2,288,000; section 504 housing repair loans, \$4,337,000; section 523 self-help housing land development loans, \$637,000; section 524 site development loans, \$477,000; and repair, rehabilitation, and new construction of section 515 rental housing, \$20,998,000: *Provided*, That to support the loan program level for section 538 guaranteed loans made available under this heading the Secretary may charge or adjust any fees to cover the projected cost of such loan guarantees pursuant to the provisions of the Credit Reform Act of 1990 (2 U.S.C. 661 et seq.), and the interest on such loans may not be subsidized: *Provided further*, That applicants in communities that have a current rural area waiver under section 541 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490q) shall be treated as living in a rural area for purposes of section 502 guaranteed loans provided under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts available under this paragraph for section 502 direct loans, no less than \$5,000,000 shall be available for direct loans for individuals whose homes will be built pursuant to a program funded with a

mutual and self-help housing grant authorized by section 523 of the Housing Act of 1949 until June 1, 2024: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall implement provisions to provide incentives to nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities to facilitate the acquisition of Rural Housing Service (RHS) multifamily housing properties by such nonprofit organizations and public housing authorities that commit to keep such properties in the RHS multifamily housing program for a period of time as determined by the Secretary, with such incentives to include, but not be limited to, the following: allow such nonprofit entities and public housing authorities to earn a Return on Investment on their own resources to include proceeds from low income housing tax credit syndication, own contributions, grants, and developer loans at favorable rates and terms, invested in a deal; and allow reimbursement of organizational costs associated with owner's oversight of asset referred to as "Asset Management Fee" of up to \$7,500 per property.

In addition, for the cost of direct loans and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, \$34,000,000, to remain available until expended, for a demonstration program for the preservation and revitalization of the sections 514, 515, and 516 multi-family rental housing properties to restructure existing USDA multi-family housing loans, as the Secretary deems appropriate, expressly for the purposes of ensuring the project has sufficient resources to preserve the project for the purpose of providing safe and affordable housing for low-income residents and farm laborers including reducing or eliminating interest; deferring loan payments, subordinating, reducing or re-amortizing loan debt; and other financial assistance including advances, payments and incentives (including the ability of owners to obtain reasonable returns on investment) required by the Secretary: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall, as part of the preservation and revitalization agreement, obtain a restrictive use agreement consistent with the terms of the restructuring.

In addition, for the cost of direct loans, grants, and contracts, as authorized by sections 514 and 516 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1486), \$9,525,000, to remain available until expended, for direct farm labor housing loans and domestic farm labor housing grants and contracts.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$412,254,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for "Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses".

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed pursuant to the authority under section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 or agreements entered into in lieu of debt forgiveness or payments for eligible households as authorized by section 502(c)(5)(D) of the Housing Act of 1949, \$1,606,926,000, and in addition such sums as may be necessary, as authorized by section 521(c) of the Act, to liquidate debt incurred prior to fiscal year 1992 to carry out the rental assistance program under section 521(a)(2) of the Act: *Provided*, That rental assistance agreements entered into or renewed during the current fiscal year shall be funded for a one-year period: *Provided further*, That upon request by an owner of a project financed by an existing loan under section 514 or 515 of the Act, the Secretary may renew the rental assistance agreement for a period of 20 years or until the term of such loan has expired, subject to annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That any unexpended balances re-

maining at the end of such one-year agreements may be transferred and used for purposes of any debt reduction, maintenance, repair, or rehabilitation of any existing projects; preservation; and rental assistance activities authorized under title V of the Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of the Act, the Secretary may recapture rental assistance provided under agreements entered into prior to fiscal year 2024 for a project the Secretary determines no longer needs rental assistance and use such recaptured funds for current needs: *Provided further*, That such recaptured funds shall remain available for obligation in fiscal year 2024 for the purposes specified under the heading: *Provided further*, That such recaptured rental assistance shall, to the extent practicable, be applied to another farm labor multi-family housing project financed under section 514 or 516 of the Act.

RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER ACCOUNT

For the rural housing voucher program as authorized under section 542 of the Housing Act of 1949, but notwithstanding subsection (b) of such section, \$48,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the funds made available under this heading shall be available for rural housing vouchers to any low-income household (including those not receiving rental assistance) residing in a property financed with a section 515 loan which has been prepaid or otherwise paid off after September 30, 2005: *Provided further*, That the amount of such voucher shall be the difference between comparable market rent for the section 515 unit and the tenant paid rent for such unit: *Provided further*, That funds made available for such vouchers shall be subject to the availability of annual appropriations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, administer such vouchers with current regulations and administrative guidance applicable to section 8 housing vouchers administered by the Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development: *Provided further*, That in addition to any other available funds, the Secretary may expend not more than \$1,000,000 total, from the program funds made available under this heading, for administrative expenses for activities funded under this heading.

MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

For grants and contracts pursuant to section 523(b)(1)(A) of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1490c), \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended.

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For grants for very low-income housing repair and rural housing preservation made by the Rural Housing Service, as authorized by 42 U.S.C. 1474, and 1490m, \$35,000,000, to remain available until expended.

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$2,800,000,000 for direct loans and \$650,000,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, for rural community facilities programs as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$327,636,000, to remain available until expended, of which up to \$312,037,648 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in

the table titled "Community Project Funding" in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That \$5,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for a Rural Community Development Initiative: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be used solely to develop the capacity and ability of private, nonprofit community-based housing and community development organizations, low-income rural communities, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes to undertake projects to improve housing, community facilities, community and economic development projects in rural areas: *Provided further*, That such funds shall be made available to qualified private, nonprofit and public intermediary organizations proposing to carry out a program of financial and technical assistance: *Provided further*, That such intermediary organizations shall provide matching funds from other sources, including Federal funds for related activities, in an amount not less than funds provided: *Provided further*, That any unobligated balances from prior year appropriations under this heading for the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including amounts deobligated or cancelled, may be made available to cover the subsidy costs for direct loans and or loan guarantees under this heading in this fiscal year: *Provided further*, That no amounts may be made available pursuant to the preceding proviso from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, or that were specified in the table titled "Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending" in the explanatory statement for division A of Public Law 117-328 described in section 4 in the matter preceding such division A: *Provided further*, That \$6,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be available for community facilities grants to tribal colleges, as authorized by section 306(a)(19) of such Act: *Provided further*, That sections 381E-H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to the funds made available under this heading.

RURAL BUSINESS—COOPERATIVE SERVICE

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the cost of loan guarantees and grants, for the rural business development programs authorized by section 310B and described in subsections (a), (c), (f) and (g) of section 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$68,840,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$500,000 shall be made available for one grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural transportation in order to promote economic development and \$6,000,000 shall be for grants to the Delta Regional Authority (7 U.S.C. 2009aa et seq.), the Northern Border Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 15101 et seq.), and the Appalachian Regional Commission (40 U.S.C. 14101 et seq.) for any Rural Community Advancement Program purpose as described in section 381E(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, of which not more than 5 percent may be used for administrative expenses: *Provided further*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, not to exceed \$100,000 shall be made available for one or more qualified state technology councils to promote private-sector economic development in the bio-sciences: *Provided further*, That \$4,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for business grants to benefit Federally Recognized Native American Tribes, including \$250,000 for a grant to a qualified national organization to provide technical assistance for rural

transportation in order to promote economic development: *Provided further*, That sections 381E–H and 381N of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act are not applicable to funds made available under this heading.

INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), \$16,000,000.

For the cost of direct loans, \$4,856,000, as authorized by the Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account (7 U.S.C. 1936b), of which \$331,000 shall be available through June 30, 2024, for Federally Recognized Native American Tribes; and of which \$663,000 shall be available through June 30, 2024, for Mississippi Delta Region counties (as determined in accordance with Public Law 100-460): *Provided*, That such costs, including the cost of modifying such loans, shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

In addition, for administrative expenses to carry out the direct loan programs, \$4,468,000 shall be paid to the appropriation for “Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses”.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For the principal amount of direct loans, as authorized under section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, \$75,000,000.

The cost of grants authorized under section 313B(a) of the Rural Electrification Act, for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects shall not exceed \$15,000,000.

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

For rural cooperative development grants authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932), \$19,600,000, of which \$2,800,000 shall be for cooperative agreements for the appropriate technology transfer for rural areas program: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$3,000,000 shall be for grants for cooperative development centers, individual cooperatives, or groups of cooperatives that serve socially disadvantaged groups and a majority of the boards of directors or governing boards of which are comprised of individuals who are members of socially disadvantaged groups; and of which \$8,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for value-added agricultural product market development grants, as authorized by section 210A of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946.

RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For the principal amount of direct loans as authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s), \$5,000,000.

For the cost of loans and grants, \$6,000,000 under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 379E of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s).

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

For the principal amount of loan guarantees, under the same terms and conditions as authorized by section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107), \$50,000,000.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For gross obligations for the principal amount of direct and guaranteed loans as au-

thorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, as follows: \$1,000,000,000 for direct loans; and \$50,000,000 for guaranteed loans.

For the cost of direct loans, loan guarantees and grants, including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, for rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B and described in sections 306C(a)(2), 306D, 306E, and 381E(d)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, \$587,120,000, to remain available until expended, of which up to \$120,101,362 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled “Community Project Funding” in the report accompanying this Act, of which not to exceed \$1,000,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306(a)(2)(B) of such Act, and of which not to exceed \$4,000,000 shall be available for the rural utilities program described in section 306E of such Act: *Provided*, That not to exceed \$10,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for grants authorized by section 306A(i)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act in addition to funding authorized by section 306A(i)(1) of such Act: *Provided further*, That \$30,000,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for loans and grants including water and waste disposal systems grants authorized by section 306C(a)(2)(B) and section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act, and Federally Recognized Native American Tribes authorized by 306C(a)(1) of such Act: *Provided further*, That funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be provided to a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83: *Provided further*, That not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by the State of Alaska for training and technical assistance programs and not more than 2 percent of the funding provided for section 306D of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may be used by a consortium formed pursuant to section 325 of Public Law 105-83 for training and technical assistance programs: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$37,500,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for technical assistance grants for rural water and waste systems pursuant to section 306(a)(14) of such Act, unless the Secretary makes a determination of extreme need, of which \$8,500,000 shall be made available for a grant to a qualified nonprofit multi-State regional technical assistance organization, with experience in working with small communities on water and waste water problems, the principal purpose of such grant shall be to assist rural communities with populations of 3,300 or less, in improving the planning, financing, development, operation, and management of water and waste water systems, and of which not less than \$800,000 shall be for a qualified national Native American organization to provide technical assistance for rural water systems for tribal communities: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$21,817,000 of the amount appropriated under this heading shall be for contracting with qualified national organizations for a circuit rider program to provide technical assistance for rural water systems: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$4,000,000 of the amounts made available under this heading shall be for solid waste management grants.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT
(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

The principal amount of loans and loan guarantees as authorized by sections 4, 305, 306, 313A, and 317 of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 904, 935, 936, 940c-1, and 940g) shall be made as follows: guaranteed rural electric loans made pursuant to section 306 of that Act, \$2,167,000,000; cost of money direct loans made pursuant to sections 4, notwithstanding the one-eighth of one percent in 4(c)(2), and 317, notwithstanding 317(c), of that Act, \$4,333,000,000; guaranteed underwriting loans pursuant to section 313A of that Act, \$900,000,000; and for cost-of-money rural telecommunications loans made pursuant to section 305(d)(2) of that Act, \$690,000,000: *Provided*, That up to \$2,000,000,000 shall be used for the construction, acquisition, design, engineering or improvement of fossil-fueled electric generating plants (whether new or existing) that utilize carbon subsurface utilization and storage systems.

For the cost of direct loans as authorized by section 305(d)(2) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 935(d)(2)), including the cost of modifying loans, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, cost of money rural telecommunications loans, \$7,176,000.

In addition, \$3,578,000 to remain available until expended, to carry out section 6407 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107a): *Provided*, That the energy efficiency measures supported by the funding in this paragraph shall contribute in a demonstrable way to the reduction of greenhouse gases.

In addition, for administrative expenses necessary to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, \$33,270,000, which shall be paid to the appropriation for “Rural Development, Salaries and Expenses”.

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

For grants for telemedicine and distance learning services in rural areas, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950aaa et seq., \$56,973,000, to remain available until expended, of which up to \$6,972,570 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled “Community Project Funding” in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That \$3,000,000 shall be made available for grants authorized by section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act: *Provided further*, That funding provided under this heading for grants under section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act may only be provided to entities that meet all of the eligibility criteria for a consortium as established by this section.

For the cost of broadband loans, as authorized by sections 601 and 602 of the Rural Electrification Act, \$2,037,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the cost of direct loans shall be as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

For the cost to continue a broadband loan and grant pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141) under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 901 et seq.), \$269,385,000, to remain available until expended, of which up to \$10,385,000 shall be for the purposes, and in the amounts, specified for this account in the table titled “Community Project Funding” in the report accompanying this Act: *Provided*, That the Secretary may award grants described in section 601(a) of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, as amended (7 U.S.C. 950bb(a)) for the purposes of carrying out such pilot program: *Provided further*, That the cost of direct loans shall be

defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided further*, That at least 90 percent of the households to be served by a project receiving a loan or grant under the pilot program shall be in a rural area without sufficient access to broadband: *Provided further*, That for purposes of such pilot program, a rural area without sufficient access to broadband shall be defined as twenty-five megabits per second downstream and three megabits per second upstream: *Provided further*, That to the extent possible, projects receiving funds provided under the pilot program must build out service to at least one hundred megabits per second downstream, and twenty megabits per second upstream: *Provided further*, That an entity to which a loan or grant is made under the pilot program shall not use the loan or grant to overbuild or duplicate broadband service in a service area by any entity that has received a broadband loan from the Rural Utilities Service unless such service is not provided sufficient access to broadband at the minimum service threshold: *Provided further*, That not more than four percent of the funds made available in this paragraph can be used for administrative costs to carry out the pilot program and up to three percent of funds made available in this paragraph may be available for technical assistance and pre-development planning activities to support the most rural communities: *Provided further*, That the Rural Utilities Service is directed to expedite program delivery methods that would implement this paragraph: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this paragraph, the Secretary shall adhere to the notice, reporting and service area assessment requirements set forth in section 701 of the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 950cc).

In addition, \$30,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Community Connect Grant Program authorized by 7 U.S.C. 950bb-3.

TITLE IV

DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, \$800,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to an agency in the Food, Nutrition and Consumer Services mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), except section 21, and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.), except sections 17 and 21; \$31,996,363,000 to remain available through September 30, 2025, of which such sums as are made available under section 14222(b)(1) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-246), as amended by this Act, shall be merged with and available for the same time period and purposes as provided herein: *Provided*, That of the total amount available, \$18,004,000 shall be available to carry out section 19 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.): *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$21,005,000 shall be available to carry out studies and evaluations and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$3,000,000 shall remain available until expended to carry out section 18(g) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 18(g)(3)(C) of the Rich-

ard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769(g)(3)(C)), the total grant amount provided to a farm to school grant recipient in fiscal year 2024 shall not exceed \$500,000: *Provided further*, That of the total amount available, \$20,000,000 shall be available to provide competitive grants to State agencies for subgrants to local educational agencies and schools to purchase the equipment, with a value of greater than \$1,000, needed to serve healthier meals, improve food safety, and to help support the establishment, maintenance, or expansion of the school breakfast program: *Provided further*, That section 26(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769g(d)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “2010 through 2024” and inserting “2010 through 2025”: *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(3) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(3)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “For fiscal year 2023” and inserting “For fiscal year 2024”: *Provided further*, That section 9(h)(4) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758(h)(4)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “For fiscal year 2023” and inserting “For fiscal year 2024”.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

For necessary expenses to carry out the special supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), \$6,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That notwithstanding section 17(h)(10) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786(h)(10)), up to \$90,000,000 shall be used for breastfeeding peer counselors and other related activities, and up to \$14,000,000 shall be used for infrastructure: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall use funds made available under this heading to increase the amount of a cash-value voucher to \$11 for child participants, \$13 for pregnant and postpartum women, and \$15 for fully and partially breastfeeding women and adjusted for inflation beginning in fiscal year 2025: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided in this account shall be available for the purchase of infant formula except in accordance with the cost containment and competitive bidding requirements specified in section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds provided shall be available for activities that are not fully reimbursed by other Federal Government departments or agencies unless authorized by section 17 of such Act: *Provided further*, That upon termination of a federally mandated vendor moratorium and subject to terms and conditions established by the Secretary, the Secretary may waive the requirement at 7 CFR 246.12(g)(6) at the request of a State agency.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), \$121,996,757,000, of which \$3,000,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2026, shall be placed in reserve for use only in such amounts and at such times as may become necessary to carry out program operations: *Provided*, That funds provided herein shall be expended in accordance with section 16 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$998,000 may be used to provide nutrition education services to State agencies and Federally Recognized Tribes participating in the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$3,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be used to carry out

section 4003(b) of Public Law 115-334 relating to demonstration projects for tribal organizations: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under this heading, \$2,000,000 shall be used to carry out section 4208 of Public law 115-334: *Provided further*, That this appropriation shall be subject to any work registration or workfare requirements as may be required by law: *Provided further*, That funds made available for Employment and Training under this heading shall remain available through September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading for section 28(d)(1), section 4(b), and section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 shall remain available through September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be obligated or expended in contravention of section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183A): *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading may be used to enter into contracts and employ staff to conduct studies, evaluations, or to conduct activities related to program integrity provided that such activities are authorized by the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

For necessary expenses to carry out disaster assistance and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program as authorized by section 4(a) of the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note); the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983; special assistance for the nuclear affected islands, as authorized by section 103(f)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (Public Law 108-188); and the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 17(m) of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966, \$472,563,000, to remain available through September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That none of these funds shall be available to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for commodities donated to the program: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, effective with funds made available in fiscal year 2024 to support the Seniors Farmers' Market Nutrition Program, as authorized by section 4402 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, such funds shall remain available through September 30, 2025: *Provided further*, That of the funds made available under section 27(a) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2036(a)), the Secretary may use up to 20 percent for costs associated with the distribution of commodities.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

For necessary administrative expenses of the Food and Nutrition Service for carrying out any domestic nutrition assistance program, \$136,861,000: *Provided*, That of the funds provided herein, \$2,000,000 shall be used for the purposes of section 4404 of Public Law 107-171, as amended by section 4401 of Public Law 110-246.

TITLE V

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL AFFAIRS

For necessary expenses of the Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs, \$875,000: *Provided*, That funds made available by this Act to any agency in the Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs mission area for salaries and expenses are available to fund up to one administrative support staff for the Office.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Foreign Agricultural Service, including not to exceed

\$250,000 for representation allowances and for expenses pursuant to section 8 of the Act approved August 3, 1956 (7 U.S.C. 1766), \$237,330,000, of which no more than 6 percent shall remain available until September 30, 2025, for overseas operations to include the payment of locally employed staff: *Provided*, That the Service may utilize advances of funds, or reimburse this appropriation for expenditures made on behalf of Federal agencies, public and private organizations and institutions under agreements executed pursuant to the agricultural food production assistance programs (7 U.S.C. 1737) and the foreign assistance programs of the United States Agency for International Development: *Provided further*, That funds made available for middle-income country training programs, funds made available for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellowship program, and up to \$2,000,000 of the Foreign Agricultural Service appropriation solely for the purpose of offsetting fluctuations in international currency exchange rates, subject to documentation by the Foreign Agricultural Service, shall remain available until expended.

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS

For expenses during the current fiscal year, not otherwise recoverable, and unrecovered prior years' costs, including interest thereon, under the Food for Peace Act (Public Law 83-480), for commodities supplied in connection with dispositions abroad under title II of said Act, \$1,740,000,000 (reduced by \$1,207,900,000), to remain available until expended.

MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of section 3107 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1), \$240,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Commodity Credit Corporation is authorized to provide the services, facilities, and authorities for the purpose of implementing such section, subject to reimbursement from amounts provided herein: *Provided further*, That of the amount made available under this heading, not more than 10 percent, but not less than \$24,000,000, shall remain available until expended to purchase agricultural commodities as described in subsection 3107(a)(2) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1736o-1(a)(2)).

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT (LOANS) CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For administrative expenses to carry out the Commodity Credit Corporation's Export Guarantee Program, GSM 102 and GSM 103, \$6,063,000, to cover common overhead expenses as permitted by section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act and in conformity with the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990, which shall be paid to the appropriation for "Foreign Agricultural Service, Salaries and Expenses".

TITLE VI

RELATED AGENCIES AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses of the Food and Drug Administration, including hire and purchase of passenger motor vehicles; for payment of space rental and related costs pursuant to Public Law 92-313 for programs and activities of the Food and Drug Administra-

tion which are included in this Act; for rental of special purpose space in the District of Columbia or elsewhere; in addition to amounts appropriated to the FDA Innovation Account, for carrying out the activities described in section 1002(b)(4) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114-255); for miscellaneous and emergency expenses of enforcement activities, authorized and approved by the Secretary and to be accounted for solely on the Secretary's certificate, not to exceed \$25,000; and notwithstanding section 521 of Public Law 107-188; \$6,579,030,000: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,336,525,000 shall be derived from prescription drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379h, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$331,273,000 shall be derived from medical device user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$594,150,000 shall be derived from human generic drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-42, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$42,432,000 shall be derived from biosimilar biological product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-52, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$33,500,000 shall be derived from animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-12, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$25,000,000 shall be derived from generic new animal drug user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-21, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended; \$712,000,000 shall be derived from tobacco product user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 387s, and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That in addition to and notwithstanding any other provision under this heading, amounts collected for prescription drug user fees, medical device user fees, human generic drug user fees, biosimilar biological product user fees, animal drug user fees, and generic new animal drug user fees that exceed the respective fiscal year 2024 limitations are appropriated and shall be credited to this account and remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That fees derived from prescription drug, medical device, human generic drug, biosimilar biological product, animal drug, and generic new animal drug assessments for fiscal year 2024, including any such fees collected prior to fiscal year 2024 but credited for fiscal year 2024, shall be subject to the fiscal year 2024 limitations: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may accept payment during fiscal year 2024 of user fees specified under this heading and authorized for fiscal year 2025, prior to the due date for such fees, and that amounts of such fees assessed for fiscal year 2025 for which the Secretary accepts payment in fiscal year 2024 shall not be included in amounts under this heading: *Provided further*, That none of these funds shall be used to develop, establish, or operate any program of user fees authorized by 31 U.S.C. 9701: *Provided further*, That of the total amount appropriated: (1) \$1,190,536,000 shall be for the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs, of which no less than \$15,000,000 shall be used for inspections of foreign seafood manufacturers and field examinations of imported seafood; (2) \$2,316,063,000 shall be for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research and related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs, of which no less than \$10,000,000 shall be for pilots to increase unannounced foreign inspections and shall remain available until expended; (3) \$492,314,000 shall be for the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and for re-

lated field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (4) \$283,678,000 shall be for the Center for Veterinary Medicine and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (5) \$739,854,000 shall be for the Center for Devices and Radiological Health and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (6) \$76,534,000 shall be for the National Center for Toxicological Research; (7) \$677,165,000 shall be for the Center for Tobacco Products and for related field activities in the Office of Regulatory Affairs; (8) \$214,304,000 shall be for Rent and Related activities, of which \$55,729,000 is for White Oak Consolidation, other than the amounts paid to the General Services Administration for rent; (9) \$227,708,000 shall be for payments to the General Services Administration for rent; and (10) \$360,874,000 shall be for other activities, including the Office of the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Office of Food Policy and Response, the Office of Operations, the Office of the Chief Scientist, and central services for these offices: *Provided further*, That not to exceed \$25,000 of this amount shall be for official reception and representation expenses, not otherwise provided for, as determined by the Commissioner: *Provided further*, That any transfer of funds pursuant to, and for the administration of, section 770(n) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 379dd(n)) shall only be from amounts made available under this heading for other activities and shall not exceed \$2,000,000: *Provided further*, That of the amounts that are made available under this heading for "other activities", and that are not derived from user fees, \$1,500,000 shall be transferred to and merged with the appropriation for "Department of Health and Human Services—Office of Inspector General" for oversight of the programs and operations of the Food and Drug Administration and shall be in addition to funds otherwise made available for oversight of the Food and Drug Administration: *Provided further*, That funds may be transferred from one specified activity to another with the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

In addition, mammography user fees authorized by 42 U.S.C. 263b, export certification user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 381, priority review user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360n and 360ff, food and feed recall fees, food reinspection fees, and voluntary qualified importer program fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-31, outsourcing facility fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-62, prescription drug wholesale distributor licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 353(e)(3), third-party logistics provider licensing and inspection fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360eee-3(c)(1), third-party auditor fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 384d(c)(8), medical countermeasure priority review voucher user fees authorized by 21 U.S.C. 360bbb-4a, and fees relating to over-the-counter monograph drugs authorized by 21 U.S.C. 379j-72 shall be credited to this account, to remain available until expended.

FDA INNOVATION ACCOUNT, CURES ACT (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the purposes described under section 1002(b)(4) of the 21st Century Cures Act, in addition to amounts available for such purposes under the heading "Salaries and Expenses", \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That amounts appropriated in this paragraph are appropriated pursuant to section 1002(b)(3) of the 21st Century Cures Act, are to be derived from amounts transferred under section 1002(b)(2)(A) of such Act, and may be transferred by the Commissioner of Food and Drugs to the appropriation for "Department of Health and Human Services

Food and Drug Administration Salaries and Expenses" solely for the purposes provided in such Act: *Provided further*, That upon a determination by the Commissioner that funds transferred pursuant to the previous proviso are not necessary for the purposes provided, such amounts may be transferred back to the account: *Provided further*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law.

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

COMMODITY FUTURES TRADING COMMISSION (INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For necessary expenses to carry out the provisions of the Commodity Exchange Act (7 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), including the purchase and hire of passenger motor vehicles, and the rental of space (to include multiple year leases), in the District of Columbia and elsewhere, \$345,000,000, including not to exceed \$3,000 for official reception and representation expenses, and not to exceed \$25,000 for the expenses for consultations and meetings hosted by the Commission with foreign governmental and other regulatory officials, of which not less than \$20,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2025, and of which not less than \$4,218,000 shall be for expenses of the Office of the Inspector General: *Provided*, That notwithstanding the limitations in 31 U.S.C. 1553, amounts provided under this heading are available for the liquidation of obligations equal to current year payments on leases entered into prior to the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, That for the purpose of recording and liquidating any lease obligations that should have been recorded and liquidated against accounts closed pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1552, and consistent with the preceding proviso, such amounts shall be transferred to and recorded in a no-year account in the Treasury, which has been established for the sole purpose of recording adjustments for and liquidating such unpaid obligations.

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Not to exceed \$94,300,000 (from assessments collected from farm credit institutions, including the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation) shall be obligated during the current fiscal year for administrative expenses as authorized under 12 U.S.C. 2249: *Provided*, That this limitation shall not apply to expenses associated with receiverships: *Provided further*, That the agency may exceed this limitation by up to 10 percent with notification to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the purposes of section 3.7(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2128(b)(2)(A)(i)), the Farm Credit Administration may exempt, an amount in its sole discretion, from the application of the limitation provided in that clause of export loans described in the clause guaranteed or insured in a manner other than described in subclause (II) of the clause.

TITLE VII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS AND TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 701. The Secretary may use any appropriations made available to the Department of Agriculture in this Act to purchase new passenger motor vehicles, in addition to specific appropriations for this purpose, so long as the total number of vehicles purchased in fiscal year 2024 does not exceed the number of vehicles owned or leased in fiscal year 2018: *Provided*, That, prior to purchasing additional motor vehicles, the Secretary must determine that such vehicles are necessary for transportation safety, to reduce operational costs, and for the protection of life,

property, and public safety: *Provided further*, That the Secretary may not increase the Department of Agriculture's fleet above the 2018 level unless the Secretary notifies in writing, and receives approval from, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 30 days of the notification.

SEC. 702. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may transfer unobligated balances of discretionary funds appropriated by this Act or any other available unobligated discretionary balances that are remaining available of the Department of Agriculture to the Working Capital Fund for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment and for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of Department financial, and administrative information technology services, and other support systems necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture, such transferred funds to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act shall be transferred to the Working Capital Fund without the prior approval of the agency administrator: *Provided further*, That none of the funds transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to this section shall be available for obligation without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to make any changes to the Department's National Finance Center without written notification to and prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress as required by section 716 of this Act: *Provided further*, That none of the funds appropriated by this Act or made available to the Department's Working Capital Fund shall be available for obligation or expenditure to initiate, plan, develop, implement, or make any changes to remove or relocate any systems, missions, personnel, or functions of the offices of the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer, co-located with or from the National Finance Center prior to written notification to and prior approval of the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress and in accordance with the requirements of section 716 of this Act: *Provided further*, That the National Finance Center Information Technology Services Division personnel and data center management responsibilities, and control of any functions, missions, and systems for current and future human resources management and integrated personnel and payroll systems (PPS) and functions provided by the Chief Financial Officer and the Chief Information Officer shall remain in the National Finance Center and under the management responsibility and administrative control of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Agriculture and the offices of the Chief Financial Officer shall actively market to existing and new Departments and other government agencies National Finance Center shared services including, but not limited to, payroll, financial management, and human capital shared services and allow the National Finance Center to perform technology upgrades: *Provided further*, That of annual income amounts in the Working Capital Fund of the Department of Agriculture attributable to the amounts in excess of the true costs of the shared services provided by the National Finance Center and budgeted for the National Finance Center

ter, the Secretary shall reserve not more than 4 percent for the replacement or acquisition of capital equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of financial, administrative, and information technology services, and other systems of the National Finance Center or to pay any unforeseen, extraordinary cost of the National Finance Center: *Provided further*, That none of the amounts reserved shall be available for obligation unless the Secretary submits written notification of the obligation to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That the limitations on the obligation of funds pending notification to Congressional Committees shall not apply to any obligation that, as determined by the Secretary, is necessary to respond to a declared state of emergency that significantly impacts the operations of the National Finance Center; or to evacuate employees of the National Finance Center to a safe haven to continue operations of the National Finance Center.

SEC. 703. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 704. No funds appropriated by this Act may be used to pay negotiated indirect cost rates on cooperative agreements or similar arrangements between the United States Department of Agriculture and nonprofit institutions in excess of 10 percent of the total direct cost of the agreement when the purpose of such cooperative arrangements is to carry out programs of mutual interest between the two parties. This does not preclude appropriate payment of indirect costs on grants and contracts with such institutions when such indirect costs are computed on a similar basis for all agencies for which appropriations are provided in this Act.

SEC. 705. Appropriations to the Department of Agriculture for the cost of direct and guaranteed loans made available in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year for the following accounts: the Rural Development Loan Fund program account, the Rural Electrification and Telecommunication Loans program account, and the Rural Housing Insurance Fund program account.

SEC. 706. None of the funds made available to the Department of Agriculture by this Act may be used to acquire new information technology systems or significant upgrades, as determined by the Office of the Chief Information Officer, without the approval of the Chief Information Officer and the concurrence of the Executive Information Technology Investment Review Board: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be transferred to the Office of the Chief Information Officer without written notification to and the prior approval of the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding section 11319 of title 40, United States Code, none of the funds available to the Department of Agriculture for information technology shall be obligated for projects, contracts, or other agreements over \$25,000 prior to receipt of written approval by the Chief Information Officer: *Provided further*, That the Chief Information Officer may authorize an agency to obligate funds without written approval from the Chief Information Officer for projects, contracts, or other agreements up to \$250,000 based upon the performance of an agency measured against the performance plan requirements described in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 113-235.

SEC. 707. Funds made available under section 524(b) of the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1524(b)) in the current fiscal year shall remain available until expended to disburse obligations made in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 708. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any former Rural Utilities Service borrower that has repaid or prepaid an insured, direct or guaranteed loan under the Rural Electrification Act of 1936, or any not-for-profit utility that is eligible to receive an insured or direct loan under such Act, shall be eligible for assistance under section 313B(a) of such Act in the same manner as a borrower under such Act.

SEC. 709. Except as otherwise specifically provided by law, not more than \$20,000,000 in unobligated balances from appropriations made available for salaries and expenses in this Act for the Farm Service Agency shall remain available through September 30, 2025, for information technology expenses.

SEC. 710. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used for first-class travel by the employees of agencies funded by this Act in contravention of sections 301–10.122 through 301–10.124 of title 41, Code of Federal Regulations.

SEC. 711. In the case of each program established or amended by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) or by a successor to that Act, other than by title I or subtitle A of title III of such Act, or programs for which indefinite amounts were provided in that Act, that is authorized or required to be carried out using funds of the Commodity Credit Corporation—

(1) such funds shall be available for salaries and related administrative expenses, including technical assistance, associated with the implementation of the program, without regard to the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in section 11 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714i); and

(2) the use of such funds for such purpose shall not be considered to be a fund transfer or allotment for purposes of applying the limitation on the total amount of allotments and fund transfers contained in such section.

SEC. 712. Of the funds made available by this Act, not more than \$2,900,000 shall be used to cover necessary expenses of activities related to all advisory committees, panels, commissions, and task forces of the Department of Agriculture, except for panels used to comply with negotiated rule makings and panels used to evaluate competitively awarded grants.

SEC. 713. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 714. Notwithstanding subsection (b) of section 1422 of Public Law 110–246 (7 U.S.C. 612c–6; in this section referred to as “section 1422”), none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel to carry out a program under section 32 of the Act of August 24, 1938 (7 U.S.C. 612c; in this section referred to as “section 32”) in excess of \$1,573,666,000, as follows: Child Nutrition Programs Entitlement Commodities—\$485,000,000; State Option Contracts—\$5,000,000; Removal of Defective Commodities—\$2,500,000; Administration of section 32 Commodity Purchases—\$37,178,000: *Provided*, That none of the funds made available in this Act or any other Act

shall be used for salaries and expenses to carry out in this fiscal year section 19(i)(1)(E) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, except in an amount that excludes the transfer of \$195,000,000 of the funds to be transferred under subsection (c) of section 14222 of Public Law 110–246, until October 1, 2024: *Provided further*, That \$195,000,000 made available on October 1, 2024, to carry out section 19(i)(1)(E) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, as amended, shall be excluded from the limitation described in subsection (b)(2)(A)(x) of section 14222 of Public Law 110–246 for fiscal year 2025: *Provided further*, That, none of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act shall be used during fiscal year 2024 to pay the salaries or expenses of any employee of the Department of Agriculture to carry out clause (3) of section 32 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (Public Law 74–320, 7 U.S.C. 612c, as amended), or subsections (a) through (g) of section 5 of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act: *Provided further*, That of the available unobligated balances under (b)(2)(A)(x) for fiscal year 2024 of section 14222 of Public Law 110–246, \$505,000,000 are rescinded.

SEC. 715. None of the funds appropriated by this or any other Act shall be used to pay the salaries and expenses of personnel who prepare or submit appropriations language as part of the President’s budget submission to the Congress for programs under the jurisdiction of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies that assumes revenues or reflects a reduction from the previous year due to user fees proposals that have not been enacted into law prior to the submission of the budget unless such budget submission identifies which additional spending reductions should occur in the event the user fees proposals are not enacted prior to the date of the convening of a committee of conference for the fiscal year 2024 appropriations Act.

SEC. 716. (a) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming, transfer of funds, or reimbursements as authorized by the Economy Act, or in the case of the Department of Agriculture, through use of the authority provided by section 702(b) of the Department of Agriculture Organic Act of 1944 (7 U.S.C. 2257) or section 8 of Public Law 89–106 (7 U.S.C. 2263), that—

(1) creates new programs;
(2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds or personnel by any means for any project or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted;

(4) relocates an office or employees;
(5) reorganizes offices, programs, or activities; or

(6) contracts out or privatizes any functions or activities presently performed by Federal employees; unless the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming of such funds or the use of such authority.

(b) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts

to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for obligation or expenditure for activities, programs, or projects through a reprogramming or use of the authorities referred to in subsection (a) involving funds in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, that—

(1) augments existing programs, projects, or activities;

(2) reduces by 10 percent funding for any existing program, project, or activity, or numbers of personnel by 10 percent as approved by Congress; or

(3) results from any general savings from a reduction in personnel which would result in a change in existing programs, activities, or projects as approved by Congress;

unless the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission (as the case may be) notifies in writing and receives approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of the reprogramming or transfer of such funds or the use of such authority.

(c) The Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall notify in writing and receive approval from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress before implementing any program or activity not carried out during the previous fiscal year unless the program or activity is funded by this Act or specifically funded by any other Act.

(d) None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided by previous Appropriations Acts to the agencies funded by this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in the current fiscal year, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, shall be available for—

(1) modifying major capital investments funding levels, including information technology systems, that involves increasing or decreasing funds in the current fiscal year for the individual investment in excess of \$500,000 or 10 percent of the total cost, whichever is less;

(2) realigning or reorganizing new, current, or vacant positions or agency activities or functions to establish a center, office, branch, or similar entity with three or more personnel; or

(3) carrying out activities or functions that were not described in the budget request; unless the agencies funded by this Act notify, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days in advance of using the funds for these purposes.

(e) As described in this section, no funds may be used for any activities unless the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Health and Human Services, or the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission receives from the Committee on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress written or electronic mail confirmation of receipt of the notification as required in this section.

SEC. 717. Notwithstanding section 310B(g)(5) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(g)(5)), the Secretary may assess a one-time fee for any guaranteed business and industry loan in an amount that does not exceed 3 percent of the guaranteed principal portion of the loan.

SEC. 718. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or the Farm Credit Administration shall be used to transmit or otherwise make available reports, questions, or responses to questions that are a result of information requested for the appropriations hearing process to any non-Department of Agriculture, non-Department of Health and Human Services, non-Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or non-Farm Credit Administration employee.

SEC. 719. Unless otherwise authorized by existing law, none of the funds provided in this Act, may be used by an executive branch agency to produce any prepackaged news story intended for broadcast or distribution in the United States unless the story includes a clear notification within the text or audio of the prepackaged news story that the prepackaged news story was prepared or funded by that executive branch agency.

SEC. 720. No employee of the Department of Agriculture may be detailed or assigned from an agency or office funded by this Act or any other Act to any other agency or office of the Department for more than 60 days in a fiscal year unless the individual's employing agency or office is fully reimbursed by the receiving agency or office for the salary and expenses of the employee for the period of assignment.

SEC. 721. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration, the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a detailed spending plan by program, project, and activity for all the funds made available under this Act including appropriated user fees, as defined in the report accompanying this Act.

SEC. 722. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to the Secretary of Agriculture in section 22002(a)(1) of Public Law 117-169, \$500,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 723. For the purposes of determining eligibility or level of program assistance for Rural Development programs the Secretary shall not include incarcerated prison populations.

SEC. 724. For loans and loan guarantees that do not require budget authority and the program level has been established in this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture may increase the program level for such loans and loan guarantees by not more than 25 percent: *Provided*, That prior to the Secretary implementing such an increase, the Secretary notifies, in writing, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 15 days in advance.

SEC. 725. None of the credit card refunds or rebates transferred to the Working Capital Fund pursuant to section 729 of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2002 (7 U.S.C. 2235a; Public Law 107-76) shall be available for obligation without written notification to, and the prior approval of, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress: *Provided*, That the refunds or rebates so transferred shall be available for obligation only for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment, including equipment for the improvement, delivery, and implementation of Departmental financial management, information technology, and other support systems necessary for the delivery of financial, administrative, and information technology services, including cloud adoption and migration, of primary benefit to the agencies of the Department of Agriculture.

SEC. 726. For fiscal year 2024, the Secretary shall establish a process under which an establishment that is subject to examination and inspection under section 6 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act solely due to the establishment's processing of domestic, wild caught, invasive blue catfish (*Ictalurus furcatus*) solely for domestic consumption or use, may apply for a waiver of such examination and inspection requirements if the establishment is subject to inspection under the Seafood Hazard Analysis Critical Control Points Program of the Food and Drug Administration and the establishment attests that it applies existing Seafood Hazard Critical Control Points Program for all species processed at the establishment.

SEC. 727. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce the "variety" requirements of the final rule entitled "Enhancing Retailer Standards in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)" published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on December 15, 2016 (81 Fed. Reg. 90675) until the Secretary of Agriculture amends the definition of the term "variety" as defined in section 278.1(b)(1)(ii)(C) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, and "variety" as applied in the definition of the term "staple food" as defined in section 271.2 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, to increase the number of items that qualify as acceptable varieties in each staple food category so that the total number of such items in each staple food category exceeds the number of such items in each staple food category included in the final rule as published on December 15, 2016: *Provided*, That until the Secretary promulgates such regulatory amendments, the Secretary shall apply the requirements regarding acceptable varieties and breadth of stock to Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program retailers that were in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113-79).

SEC. 728. Section 756 of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (7 U.S.C. 2254c), is amended by striking "each of fiscal years 2021 and 2022" and inserting "fiscal year 2021 and each fiscal year thereafter".

SEC. 729. In carrying out subsection (h) of section 502 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1472), the Secretary of Agriculture shall have the same authority with respect to loans guaranteed under such section and eligible lenders for such loans as the Secretary has under subsections (h) and (j) of section 538 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1490p-2) with respect to loans guaranteed under such section 538 and eligible lenders for such loans.

SEC. 730. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act shall be available for the United States Department of Agriculture to propose, finalize or implement any regulation that would promulgate new user fees pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9701 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 731. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available for the supplemental nutrition program as authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1786), \$500,000,000 are hereby rescinded: *Provided*, That no amounts may be rescinded from amounts that were designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a Concurrent Resolution on the Budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 732. Notwithstanding any provision of law that regulates the calculation and payment of overtime and holiday pay for FSIS inspectors, the Secretary may charge establishments subject to the inspection require-

ments of the Poultry Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 451 et seq., the Federal Meat Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 601 et seq., and the Egg Products Inspection Act, 21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq., for the cost of inspection services provided outside of an establishment's approved inspection shifts, and for inspection services provided on Federal holidays: *Provided*, That any sums charged pursuant to this paragraph shall be deemed as overtime pay or holiday pay under section 1001(d) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2, 135 Stat. 242): *Provided further*, That sums received by the Secretary under this paragraph shall, in addition to other available funds, remain available until expended to the Secretary without further appropriation for the purpose of funding all costs associated with FSIS inspections.

SEC. 733. Of the unobligated balances from amounts made available to the Secretary of Agriculture in section 9003(j)(1) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002, \$1,000,000,000 are hereby rescinded.

SEC. 734. (a) The Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) conduct audits in a manner that evaluates the following factors in the country or region being audited, as applicable—

- (A) veterinary control and oversight;
- (B) disease history and vaccination practices;
- (C) livestock demographics and traceability;
- (D) epidemiological separation from potential sources of infection;
- (E) surveillance practices;
- (F) diagnostic laboratory capabilities; and
- (G) emergency preparedness and response; and

(2) promptly make publicly available the final reports of any audits or reviews conducted pursuant to subsection (1).

(b) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under its international trade agreements.

SEC. 735. (a)(1) No Federal funds made available for this fiscal year for the rural water, waste water, waste disposal, and solid waste management programs authorized by sections 306, 306A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1926 et seq.) shall be used for a project for the construction, alteration, maintenance, or repair of a public water or wastewater system unless all of the iron and steel products used in the project are produced in the United States.

(2) In this section, the term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron or steel: lined or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not apply in any case or category of cases in which the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") or the designee of the Secretary finds that—

(1) applying subsection (a) would be inconsistent with the public interest;

(2) iron and steel products are not produced in the United States in sufficient and reasonably available quantities or of a satisfactory quality; or

(3) inclusion of iron and steel products produced in the United States will increase the cost of the overall project by more than 25 percent.

(c) If the Secretary or the designee receives a request for a waiver under this section, the Secretary or the designee shall make available to the public on an informal basis a copy of the request and information available to the Secretary or the designee

concerning the request, and shall allow for informal public input on the request for at least 15 days prior to making a finding based on the request. The Secretary or the designee shall make the request and accompanying information available by electronic means, including on the official public Internet Web site of the Department.

(d) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with United States obligations under international agreements.

(e) The Secretary may retain up to 0.25 percent of the funds appropriated in this Act for “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account” for carrying out the provisions described in subsection (a)(1) for management and oversight of the requirements of this section.

(f) Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to a project for which the engineering plans and specifications include use of iron and steel products otherwise prohibited by such subsection if the plans and specifications have received required approvals from State agencies prior to the date of enactment of this Act.

(g) For purposes of this section, the terms “United States” and “State” shall include each of the several States, the District of Columbia, and each Federally recognized Indian Tribe.

SEC. 736. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 737. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act thereafter may be used to write, prepare, or publish a proposed rule, final rule, or an interim final rule in furtherance of, or otherwise to implement or enforce the proposed rule entitled “Transparency in Poultry Grower Contracting and Tournaments,” published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on June 8, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 34980 et seq.), the advance notice of proposed rulemaking entitled “Poultry Growing Tournament Systems: Fairness and Related Concerns,” published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on June 8, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 34814) (also identified in the White House Office of Management and Budget’s Fall 2022 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions as “Poultry Growing Tournament Systems: Fairness and Related Concerns—Harm to Competition (AMS-FTPP-22-0046),” RIN 0581-AE18), the proposed rule entitled “Inclusive Competition and Market Integrity Under the Packers and Stockyards Act,” published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on October 3, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 60010 et seq.), the rulemaking identified in the White House Office of Management and Budget’s Fall 2022 Unified Agenda of Regulatory and Deregulatory Actions as “Unfair Practices, Undue Preferences, and Harm to Competition Under the Packers and Stockyards Act (AMS-FTPP-21-0046),” RIN 0581-AE04, or any subsequent substantially similar rulemaking effort, except that funds may be used to, and the Secretary of Agriculture shall, withdraw or rescind any such proposed rules, advance notices of proposed rulemaking, and any such rules that may have been finalized.

SEC. 738. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available to the U.S. Department of Agriculture may be used to increase the number of positions in the Department (measured on a full-time equivalent basis) for which the primary duty station is located in the National Capital Region unless otherwise specified in the report accompanying this Act.

(1) The term “National Capital Region” means the District of Columbia; Mont-

gomery and Prince George’s Counties of Maryland; and Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William Counties of Virginia.

SEC. 739. (a) There is hereby appropriated \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out no more than 5 pilot projects, under the terms and conditions determined by the Secretary for a period not to exceed 3 years and without increasing household benefit allotments as authorized by section 8 of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2017), that allow the use of supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to purchase only nutrient-dense foods and beverages (as defined in the 2020-2025 Dietary Guidelines for Americans), of which 1 or more of such projects shall be carried out before December 21, 2024.

(b) Not later than 6 months after the first pilot project under subsection (a) begins, the Secretary shall enter into a contract with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to—

(1) evaluate the pilot project or projects carried out under subsection (a); and

(2) provide the results of such evaluation not later than 18 months after the date of such contract.

SEC. 740. Of the total amounts made available by this Act for direct loans and grants under the following headings: “Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account”; “Rural Housing Service—Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants”; “Rural Housing Service—Rural Housing Assistance Grants”; “Rural Housing Service—Rural Community Facilities Program Account”; “Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Rural Business Program Account”; “Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account”; “Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Rural Cooperative Development Grants”; “Rural Business-Cooperative Service—Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program”; “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account”; “Rural Utilities Service—Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account”; and “Rural Utilities Service—Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program”, to the maximum extent feasible, at least 10 percent of the funds shall be allocated for assistance in persistent poverty counties under this section, including, notwithstanding any other provision regarding population limits, any county seat of such a persistent poverty county that has a population that does not exceed the authorized population limit by more than 10 percent: *Provided*, That for purposes of this section, the term “persistent poverty counties” means any county that has had 20 percent or more of its population living in poverty over the past 30 years, as measured by the 1990 and 2000 decennial censuses, and 2007–2011 American Community Survey 5-year average, or any territory or possession of the United States: *Provided further*, That with respect to specific activities for which program levels have been made available by this Act that are not supported by budget authority, the requirements of this section shall be applied to such program level.

SEC. 741. There is rescinded the unobligated balances of amounts made available under section 1006 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (7 U.S.C. 2279 note).

SEC. 742. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to notify a sponsor or otherwise acknowledge receipt of a submission for an exemption for investigational use of a drug or biological product under section 505(i) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355(i)) or section 351(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42

U.S.C. 262(a)(3)) in research in which a human embryo is intentionally created or modified to include a heritable genetic modification. Any such submission shall be deemed to have not been received by the Secretary, and the exemption may not go into effect.

SEC. 743. None of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to enforce the final rule promulgated by the Food and Drug Administration entitled “Standards for the Growing, Harvesting, Packing, and Holding of Produce for Human Consumption,” and published on November 27, 2015, with respect to the regulation of entities that grow, harvest, pack, or hold wine grapes, hops, pulse crops, or almonds.

SEC. 744. For school years 2023–2024 and 2024–2025, none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the matter following the first comma in the second sentence of footnote (c) of section 220.8(c) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, with respect to the substitution of vegetables for fruits under the school breakfast program established under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).

SEC. 745. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used—

(1) in contravention of section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 (7 U.S.C. 5940), subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, or section 10114 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018; or

(2) to prohibit the transportation, processing, sale, or use of hemp, or seeds of such plant, that is grown or cultivated in accordance with section 7606 of the Agricultural Act of 2014 or subtitle G of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, within or outside the State in which the hemp is grown or cultivated.

SEC. 746. The Secretary of Agriculture may waive the matching funds requirement under section 412(g) of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (7 U.S.C. 7632(g)).

SEC. 747. The Secretary, as part of the report on foreign landholding required under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (Public Law 95-460), shall report to Congress on foreign investments in agricultural land in the United States, including the impact foreign ownership has on family farms, rural communities, and the domestic food supply: *Provided*, That within 2 years after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a streamlined process for electronic submission and retention of disclosures made under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act, including an internet database that contains disaggregated data from each disclosure submitted: *Provided further*, That all prior year disclosures of foreign investments in agricultural land in the United States are published in the database: *Provided further*, That the plan includes a process to ensure the protection of personally identifiable information and that all disclosures of foreign investments in agricultural land on the USDA website be disaggregated by: (1) in any case in which such foreign person is an individual, the citizenship of such foreign person; and (2) in any case in which such foreign person is not an individual or a government, the nature of the legal entity holding the interest, the country in which such foreign person is created or organized, and the principal place of business of such foreign person.

SEC. 748. There is rescinded the unobligated balances of amounts made available under section 22006 of Public Law 117-169 (136 Stat. 2021).

SEC. 749. (a) After the effective date of any final rule FDA publishes in connection with its proposed rule to update these requirements (87 Federal Register 59168, issued on

September 29, 2022), manufacturers may also continue to comply with the previous requirements promulgated by the FDA for the implied nutrient content claim “healthy” through the “compliance date” FDA provides in the final rule.

(b) Any food product manufactured and labeled as “healthy” during the compliance period FDA provides in that final rule shall not be directly or indirectly subject to any state-law requirements that are not identical to either (i) the federal requirements for the implied nutrition content claim “healthy” that were in effect as of the date FDA issues the final rule, or (ii) the updated federal requirements that FDA promulgates in the final rule, assuming the updated requirements go into effect during the regulatory compliance period.

SEC. 750. Funds made available under title II of the Food for Peace Act (7 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.) may only be used to provide assistance to recipient nations if adequate monitoring and controls, as determined by the Administrator, are in place to ensure that emergency food aid is received by the intended beneficiaries in areas affected by food shortages and not diverted for unauthorized or inappropriate purposes.

SEC. 751. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to procure raw or processed poultry products imported into the United States from the People’s Republic of China for use in the school lunch program under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), the Child and Adult Care Food Program under section 17 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1766), the Summer Food Service Program for Children under section 13 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1761), or the school breakfast program under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.).

SEC. 752. (a) Subject to subsection (c), none of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, issue, implement, administer, or enforce any rule, regulation, or order that, pursuant to any revisions to the whole grain requirements under section 246.10 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, required by such rule, regulation, or order, would reduce the availability of WIC-eligible breakfast cereals, including the rule entitled “Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Revisions to the WIC Food Packages” published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on November 21, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 71090).

(b) The Secretary of Agriculture shall carry out a study—

(1) on the revisions of such whole grain requirements pursuant to such rule; and

(2) that is representative of all States.

(c) If the study required under subsection (b) demonstrates that such revisions will not limit consumption due to marketplace availability or reduce the redemption of WIC-authorized breakfast cereal, beginning on the date on which the Secretary publishes the results of such study, the limitation under subsection (a) shall not apply.

SEC. 753. For school year 2024–2025, only a school food authority that had a negative balance in the nonprofit school food service account as of June 30, 2023, shall be required to establish a price for paid lunches in accordance with section 12(p) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(p)).

SEC. 754. None of the funds made available by this Act may be made available to support, directly or indirectly, the Wuhan Institute of Virology, or any laboratory owned or controlled by the governments of the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of Cuba, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the

Russian Federation, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela under the regime of Nicolás Maduro Moros, or any other country determined by the Secretary of State to be a foreign adversary.

SEC. 755. Any funds made available by this or any other Act that the Secretary withholds pursuant to section 1668(g)(2) of the Food, Agriculture, Conservation, and Trade Act of 1990 (7 U.S.C. 5921(g)(2)), as amended, shall be available for grants for biotechnology risk assessment research: *Provided*, That the Secretary may transfer such funds among appropriations of the Department of Agriculture for purposes of making such grants.

SEC. 756. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no funds available to the Department of Agriculture may be used to move any staff office or any agency from the mission area in which it was located on August 1, 2018, to any other mission area or office within the Department in the absence of the enactment of specific legislation affirming such move.

SEC. 757. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any program, project, or activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory or any concept associated with Critical Race Theory.

SEC. 758. The Secretary, acting through the Chief of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, may use funds appropriated under this Act or any other Act for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program carried out pursuant to the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (16 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and for the Emergency Watershed Protection Program carried out pursuant to section 403 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2203) to provide technical services for such programs pursuant to section 1252(a)(1) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3851(a)(1)), notwithstanding subsection (c) of such section.

SEC. 759. In administering the pilot program established by section 779 of division A of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141), the Secretary of Agriculture may, for purposes of determining entities eligible to receive assistance, consider those communities which are “Areas Rural in Character”: *Provided*, That not more than 10 percent of the funds made available under the heading “Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program” for the purposes of the pilot program established by section 779 of Public Law 115–141 may be used for this purpose.

SEC. 760. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to pay the salaries or expenses of personnel—

(1) to inspect horses under section 3 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 603);

(2) to inspect horses under section 903 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 104–127); or

(3) to implement or enforce section 352.19 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

SEC. 761. (a) The modifications made by the Food and Drug Administration on January 3, 2023 to the risk evaluation and mitigation strategy under section 505–1 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355–1) for mifepristone are hereby nullified.

(b) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to establish, implement, or enforce—

(1) any provision of a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy under section 505–1 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355–1) for mifepristone that is substantially similar to any of the modifications nullified by subsection (a); or

(2) any non-enforcement or enforcement discretion policy for any provision of a risk

evaluation and mitigation strategy under such section for mifepristone.

SEC. 762. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used by FDA to develop, issue, promote, or advance any new guidelines or regulations applicable to food manufacturers for population-wide sodium reduction actions until the issuance of the 2025–2026 National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) survey that will show consumer sodium consumption after the completion of the short-term sodium reduction targets.

SEC. 763. Within 60 days of enactment of this Act the Secretary shall provide to the Committees a plan for expenditure that accelerates the continued implementation and expansion of the Farmers.gov application and the Enterprise Data Analytics Platform and Toolset (EDAPT) to enable USDA users to: (1) view their information, complete transactions, quickly review the status, and update tabular customer information; (2) submit applications for Farm Production and Conservation programs and receive program payments for all USDA farm programs; (3) to complete their own applications, including electronic signatures and submission, for all farm programs that require direct application; (4) enable electronic income reporting between USDA and IRS; and (5) transition acreage reporting, farm records mapping, and farm records information to Farmers.gov: *Provided*, That the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center shall provide a roadmap for systems to be decommissioned and consolidated with Farmers.gov and EDAPT including, but not limited to, the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, the Dairy Margin Coverage program, and the Farm Service Agency Emergency Relief Program.

SEC. 764. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, apply, enforce, or carry out Executive Order 13985 of January 20, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 7009, relating to advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government), or the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Equity Action Plan in Support of Executive Order 13985, or any Equity Action Plan created by the Food and Drug Administration, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or the Farm Credit Administration, or Executive Order 14035 of June 25, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 34593, relating to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in the Federal workforce), or Executive Order 14091 of February 16, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 10825, relating to further advancing racial equity and support for underserved communities through the Federal Government), or to create or establish an Office of the Chief Diversity and Inclusion Officer.

SEC. 765. The Secretary of Agriculture shall take such actions as may be necessary to prohibit the purchase of agricultural land located in the United States by non-resident aliens, foreign businesses, of any agent, trustee, or fiduciary associated with Russia, North Korea, Iran, or the Communist Party of China.

SEC. 766. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on the last day of school year 2024–2025, the Secretary of Agriculture shall—

(1) allow flavored, low-fat fluid milk to be served—

(A) under the school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.);

(B) under the school breakfast program established under the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1771 et seq.);

(C) as a competitive food available on campus during the school day; and

(D) to children ages 5 years and older under the child and adult care food program established under section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1766); and

(2) with respect to weekly sodium limitations to meals and supplements served during such period under the school lunch program established under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.) —

(A) exclude sodium used for food safety and functional purposes in cheese-making, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration; and

(B) if a determination has not been made under subparagraph (A), apply the Target 1 sodium levels included in the final rule entitled “Nutrition Standards in the National School Lunch and School Breakfast Programs” published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on January 26, 2012 (77 Fed. Reg. 4087).

SEC. 767. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce any rule that would reduce the maximum monthly allowance with respect to milk under section 246.10 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on April 1, 2023), including the rule entitled “Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC): Revisions to the WIC Food Packages” published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on November 21, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 71090).

SEC. 768. None of the funds provided by this Act or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, may be used by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to finalize, issue, implement, administer, or enforce any rule, regulation, or order setting a tobacco product standard that mandates a maximum nicotine level for cigarettes.

SEC. 769. None of the funds provided by this Act, or provided from any accounts in the Treasury of the United States derived by the collection of fees available to the agencies funded by this Act, may be used by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to finalize, issue, or implement any rule, regulation, notice of proposed rulemaking, or order setting any tobacco product standard that would prohibit menthol as a characterizing flavor in cigarettes or prohibit characterizing flavors in all cigars and their components and parts.

SEC. 770. In this fiscal year and each fiscal year thereafter, and notwithstanding any other provision of law, none of the funds made available by this or any other Act may be used to implement section 3.7(f) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 in a manner inconsistent with section 343(a)(13) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

SEC. 771. (a) For an additional amount for the Office of the Secretary, \$2,000,000, to remain available until expended, for the Secretary of Agriculture to carry out no more than 10 pilot projects, under the terms and conditions determined by the Secretary for a period not to exceed 2 years, that award grants to an Indian tribe; a tribal organization approved by an Indian tribe; a tribal educational agency; a consortium of Indian tribes; or a partnership between an Indian tribe and either a State educational agency, a local educational agency, a tribal educational agency, or the Bureau of Indian Education to operate and implement the school lunch program as authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1769), the summer food service

program as established under section 13 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, the child and adult care food program as established by section 17 of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act, or the school breakfast program established by the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773) in either a Bureau-funded school (as defined in section 1141 of the Education Amendments of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 2021)); a school (as defined in section 12(d) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1760) (d) on or near an Indian reservation; or an early child care and education facility: *Provided*, That to carry out this pilot program each grant awarded shall be no less than \$10,000 and no more than \$100,000 for each school year and shall not increase state administrative costs or the amount of benefits provided in any program: *Provided further*, That the term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(b) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a pilot project grant recipient shall be reimbursed for meals served under the school lunch program, the summer food service program, and the child and adult care food program as if the recipient were a State under the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act; and under the school breakfast program as if the recipient were a State educational agency.

(c) Not later than 1 year after the conclusion of the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the outcomes of the pilot program.

SEC. 772. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or the Chairman of the Farm Credit Administration to fly or display a flag over a facility of the Department of Agriculture, the Food and Drug Administration, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, or the Farm Credit Administration other than the flag of the United States; the flag of a State, territory, or the District of Columbia; the flag of an Indian Tribal Government; the official flag of a U.S. Department or agency; or the POW/MIA flag.

SEC. 773. (a) In general.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman.

(b) Discriminatory action defined.—As used in subsection (a), a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to—

(1) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection (a);

(2) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;

(3) withhold, reduce the amount or funding for, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certification, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to such person;

(4) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any entitlement or benefit under a Federal benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to such person; or

(5) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny access or an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and non-public fora), or charitable fundraising campaigns from or to such person.

(c) Accreditation; Licensure; Certification.—The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction described in subsection (a).

SEC. 774. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Food and Drug Administration to issue, promote, or advance any new guideline or regulation applicable to food manufacturers for *Listeria monocytogenes* (Lm) until the Food and Drug Administration, based on the available new science, incorporates into the Compliance Policy Guide (CPG), Guidance for FDA Staff, Sec. 555.320, a tolerance for *Listeria monocytogenes* in low-risk foods, meaning foods that do not support the growth of *Listeria monocytogenes*.

SEC. 775. The Secretary of Agriculture may not use unobligated balances available under section 22002(a)(1) of Public Law 117-169, after the application of the rescission under section 722 of this Act, to award grants under section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8107).

SEC. . Each discretionary amount made available by this Act is hereby reduced by 14.15 percent. Such reduction shall not apply to the following amounts:

(1) “Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)”.

(2) “Foreign Assistance and Related Programs—Foreign Agricultural Service—Food for Peace Title II Grants”.

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 776. \$0.

This division may be cited as the “Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024”.

The CHAIR. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived.

No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part F of House Report 118-216, amendments en bloc described in section 12 of House Resolution 723, and pro forma amendments described in section 13 of that resolution.

Each further amendment printed in part F of the report shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before action thereon, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 13 of House Resolution 723, and

shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part F of the report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or the designees, shall not be subject to amendment, except as provided by section 13 of House Resolution 723, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. HARRIS

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 723, I offer amendments en bloc.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, 27, 28, 30, 31, 34, 35, 37, 39, 40, 44, 46, 47, 49, 50, 58, 59, 60, and 63, printed in part F of House Report 118-216, offered by Mr. HARRIS of Maryland:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. BALINT OF VERMONT

Page 3, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. VALADAO OF CALIFORNIA

Page 3, line 14, after the second dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. STEIL OF WISCONSIN

Page 3, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$500,000)”.

Page 9, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. LEGER FERNANDEZ OF NEW MEXICO

Page 3, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,975,000)”.

Page 3, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,975,000)”.

Page 7, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,975,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MS. PORTER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 3, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 3, line 14, after the second dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 13, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MS. SEWELL OF ALABAMA

Page 3, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 3, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 3, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 46, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 46, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MS. PETTERSEN OF COLORADO

Page 3, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,249,000)”.

Page 29, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,249,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. PETTERSEN OF COLORADO

Page 3, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,002,000)”.

Page 34, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$4,002,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 3, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 7, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. EDWARDS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 3, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 58, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. EDWARDS OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 3, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 9, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 3, line 14, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 15, line 8, after first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 15, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 5, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 6, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 6, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 13, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. MILLER OF OHIO

Page 5, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert “(decreased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 42, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 6, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 53, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 54, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 6, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 53, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Page 6, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 6, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 11, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MS. ESCOBAR OF TEXAS

Page 6, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 6, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 6, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 6, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 11, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 6, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 50, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MS. CARAVEO OF COLORADO

Page 6, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 44, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MS. CARAVEO OF COLORADO

Page 6, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 13, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MS. LEGER FERNANDEZ OF NEW MEXICO

Page 7, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$7,000,000)”.

Page 32, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$7,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MR. NEGUSE OF COLORADO

Page 7, line 8, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF SOUTH DAKOTA

Page 7, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,500,000)”.

Page 11, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,500,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT OF COLORADO

Page 7, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 46, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 47, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MS. PEREZ OF WASHINGTON

Page 9, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 31 OFFERED BY MS. PEREZ OF WASHINGTON

Page 9, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert the following: “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MS. SLOTKIN OF MICHIGAN

Page 13, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 13, line 13, after the dollar amount insert “(increased by \$5,000,000) (reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 37 OFFERED BY MRS. FISCHBACH OF MINNESOTA

Page 15, line 8, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 16, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,500,000)”.

Page 63, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.
 Page 66, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,500,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 39 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 28, line 13, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 40 OFFERED BY MR. RASKIN OF MARYLAND

Page 29, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$8,500,000) (increased by \$8,500,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 42, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MS. ESCOBAR OF TEXAS

Page 44, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$75,000,000) (increased by \$75,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 47 OFFERED BY MS. CARAVEO OF COLORADO

Page 50, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 49 OFFERED BY MS. ESCOBAR OF TEXAS

Page 52, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$30,000,000) (increased by \$30,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 50 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 60, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000) (increased by \$10,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 58 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 63, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 59 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 63, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 60 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO OF NEW YORK

Page 65, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,800,000) (increased by \$2,800,000)”.
 AMENDMENT NO. 63 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 81, line 6, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,000,000)”.
 Page 81, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.
 The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.
 Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I rise in favor of this amendment. This is the bipartisan amendment, which includes priorities for Members on both sides of the aisle. I appreciate Ranking Member BISHOP working with us on this amendment and ask for your support.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment. This amendment includes 42 amendments—5 bipartisan, 17 Republican, 20 Democratic.

The agriculture funding bill has historically been a bipartisan bill, and we will need to channel that same cooperation if my colleagues want to pass appropriations bills into law.

Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for offering the amendments and his cooperation in having this bipartisan en bloc amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Vermont (Ms. BALINT).

Ms. BALINT. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the en bloc amendment, which includes my amendment to support Vermont’s recovery from this summer’s catastrophic flooding.

Vermont farmers are hurting. With government funding running out on Saturday, the Republicans’ Agriculture appropriations bill is too little too late. Vermont’s recovery needs are urgent.

My amendment urges USDA to ensure disaster assistance is deployed as quickly as possible.

It has been a rough year in Vermont. Vermont producers have sustained millions and millions of dollars in damages, impacting nearly 30,000 acres of land.

Vermont’s farmers are essentially the heart of our communities, the fabric of our State, and I will do everything in my power to make sure they have the resources they need to make sure that they are able to recover and build back better from this horrible flooding.

A government shutdown would be devastating for Vermont and other States like mine that are recovering from disasters this summer. Vermonters need Federal recovery dollars to continue to flow so that towns and households can get back on their feet. We must turn our attention to serious matters.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) and Mr. HARRIS for working together.

Every time I come to the floor, Mr. Chair, I am going to say that I do not want a government shutdown, having been through them and seen the desperation that comes upon the American people, and I will do everything I can that is within reason to make sure we do not have it.

As I present this amendment and thank the committee for allowing this amendment to be included, I have to take note of the cuts in SNAP benefits, the funding cuts in rural electric cooperatives, and the shocking cuts in WIC. That is what I think has to be fixed, so the American people are aware.

I am grateful that my amendment, the Jackson Lee amendment No. 18, increases funding that provides grant research and financial support for the 1890s land grant universities, which are 28 historically Black colleges and universities. This amendment would decrease funding in another account.

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities Council of 1890s includes all the historically Black colleges under the Morrill Act of 1890. At least 19 universities have been designated.

The importance of this is how crucial it is to engage our universities in research and, in particular, the National Science Foundation. It strengthens the training of our young people. It provides them with the doors to opportunity. Research is the economy of the 21st century. Increasing funding for the United States Department of Agriculture that provides grant research would help to stimulate sustainable improvement in research and development.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues to support the Jackson Lee amendment that supports education and research in historically Black colleges.

Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in support of the Jackson Lee Amendment, listed as No. 18 in Harris (MD)—EN BLOC No. 1 to H.R. 4368, the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Act of 2024.

I want to thank my colleagues on the Rules Committee for making this amendment in order.

The Jackson Lee Amendment [No. 18 in Harris (MD)—EN BLOC No. 1] increases funding that provides grant research financial support for “1890s Land Grant Universities,” which are 28 Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

This amendment also proposes decreasing funding for Office of the Chief Information Officer.

The Association of Public and Land-grant Universities’ (APLU) Council of 1890s includes all Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) that are land-grant universities.

Under the Morrill Act of 1890, at least 19 universities have been designated with land-grant status.

The Historically Black Colleges and Universities—Excellence in Research HBCU-EiR program was established in response to direction provided in the Senate Commerce and Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee Report (Senate Report 115–139).

That initiative was built on prior and continuing efforts by the National Science Foundation (NSF) to strengthen research capacity at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

The Jackson Lee Amendment [No. 18 in Harris (MD)—EN BLOC No. 1] would provide sufficient funding and guidance to enable the NSF to be successful with the HBCU Excellence in Research program.

This amendment would further provide opportunities for both public and private HBCUs, particularly for those who have not been successful in competing with larger NSF Research & Related Activities.

Increasing Funding for the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) agency that provides grant research would help to stimulate sustainable improvement in research and development capacities of HBCUs.

By increasing funding for relevant agencies that provide appropriate financial support for these historically underserved institutions, we can ensure that federal funds are redirected toward more critical funding needs of the American people.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of the Jackson Lee Amendment [No. 18 in Harris (MD)—EN BLOC No. 1].

□ 2130

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. PEREZ).

Ms. PEREZ. Mr. Chair, I rise today to urge the support of two of my amendments in this bipartisan en bloc.

My first amendment supports farmers and healthy soils by asking the USDA to conduct research on the amount of microplastics in farmland.

Microplastics are showing up everywhere: in our bodies, in our waters, and our soils. My amendment would support efforts to understand microplastics and support healthy soil, which is essential for our farming communities and our agricultural sector.

My second amendment is the idea that the USDA should be able to fix its own stuff. We shouldn't waste taxpayer dollars on tractors and other farm equipment that cannot be repaired easily—and by USDA technicians—when it breaks.

My amendment allows the USDA to be better stewards of taxpayer dollars and supports the longevity of the equipment they use to perform groundbreaking research.

Mr. Chairman, I encourage my colleagues to support my amendment.

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ).

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this en bloc amendment which includes two of my amendments.

The USDA Office of Tribal Relations serves as the vital, single point of contact for our rural communities as they work through what is available for them. As we know, our Tribal communities are rural, and they must have access to the USDA Office of Tribal Relations.

My amendment No. 4 would restore funding levels for the USDA Office of Tribal Relations. Separately, my amendment No. 25 would increase funding to USDA Rural Development by \$7 million to use these funds to improve its oversight of the Section 515 loan program for Rural Rental Housing.

Outrageously, in my district, three of these properties have experienced serious management and maintenance issues. The city of Espanola even con-

demned a property recently. This has left residents in unsafe conditions. USDA needs the necessary research to make sure its properties are livable.

Mr. Chair, while I am in favor of this en bloc, I must state again my opposition to the appropriations bill itself. I previously stood on this floor in opposition to the severe cuts to our rural communities. We must prioritize our rural communities, not cut them to 2007 levels.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment, but I am opposed to the bill itself.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 15 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 5, line 18, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$11,404,000)”.

Page 5, line 24, strike the period at the end and insert the following: “: *Provided further*, That no reduction in such amount shall be made from funds appropriated to the Office of Pest Management Policy within the Office of the Chief Economist.”

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$11,404,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to restore funding for the USDA Office of Chief Economist to fiscal year 2016 levels, which will save us more than \$11 million in 2024.

Now, what is interesting, I have been listening to my colleagues across the aisle saying that it is going to 2001 levels. They don't want 2000 levels. This goes to 2016 levels, so I am hoping that they will support this because our annual discretionary spending has exploded over the course of the COVID-19 response.

No one thought our government was too small before COVID. We are currently spending \$400 billion more in fiscal 2023 for the same government we had before, and deficits for this year are expected to exceed \$2 trillion.

That is why we have a \$33 trillion national debt, and that does not even include the \$600-\$700 billion in interest that we pay.

Revenue in fiscal year 2022 levels far exceeded our Federal spending in fiscal year 2016, meaning that if we were to shrink the Federal behemoth back to

those pre-COVID levels, we might be able to avoid adding to our national debt for the next 12 months.

This is the first of many amendments that I will be offering to appropriations bills this week intended to reduce spending. My staff and I spent countless hours earlier this year reviewing the prior year's appropriations bills and making recommendations to the Committee on Appropriations. I even filed 521 separate bills to cut spending across the discretionary budget totaling \$100 billion in spending reductions for fiscal year 2024.

I am not singling any one office or department out here. We need to tighten our belts across the Federal Government in order to get spending under control.

I will just ask you: How bad is the national debt crisis? The 12 regional Federal Reserve Banks that compose the largest central bank in the world have a monopoly on printing paper dollars. It is the world's reserve currency. Yet, its ability to print money and invest it in bonds, the Federal Reserve is now on pace to lose over \$100 billion this year.

They lost \$53 billion in the last two quarters. They are going to lose over \$100 billion.

Why is that? Because Federal spending is out of control. If we are not going to fix it, who is going to fix it? Who is going to start fixing it? It is our job.

Mr. Chair, I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. The amendment would cut funding for the Office of the Chief Economist by an additional 46 percent. That is almost half.

The Office of the Chief Economist provides advice and counsel to the Secretary on matters affecting the economy with respect to the Agriculture Department. This bill already guts funding for USDA. Any further cuts just make a bad bill worse.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to defeat this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I congratulate the gentleman, because the gentleman brings an amendment to the floor that does something with the \$2 trillion budget deficit. He is right, we have a \$33 trillion debt. Our interest payments in a few years are going to be over \$1 trillion—more than Social Security, more than Medicare, more than Medicaid, more than food stamps, more than all of them.

One fact check before I sit down. Now we heard it was FY 2007, so I guess the

speechwriters can't make up their minds. Is it FY 2000, 2001, 2003? Now it is 2007.

I would remind the Chair, the spending level in the 2007 bill was \$17.8 billion, and that is almost \$5 billion less than what we appropriate in this bill.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this is a bad amendment. It is bad for the country. It is bad for the USDA.

Mr. Chair, I urge defeat of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, for the last while I have heard my colleagues across the aisle, they were talking about costs, that Republicans want to cut costs, and that we always talk about costs.

Here is my question: What could they do? They are the ones who fostered this massive inflation on us that is imposing terrible, terrible costs on the American people.

The first thing they could do is they could unleash American energy. When you unleash American energy, you reduce the price of the fuels that are necessary for the farmers to produce our food. You reduce the cost of the transports to bring that food to market, and you make our cost structure go down.

That is not necessarily inflation, because the other thing you have to do to bring inflation under control is to bring Federal spending under control.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, when you cut the energy assistance programs for our farmers and our rural communities, you raise the cost of their production. When you raise the cost of their production, you raise the cost of the products they produce to put on the shelves of the grocery stores. This is not a good thing, so I urge the defeat of this amendment, and I urge the defeat of this bill.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 24 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,789,000)”.

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$3,789,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. Good) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, here we are trying to fund our government for the year at a time when we have \$33 trillion in national debt and we are on track for a \$2 trillion deficit this year, and so we are literally borrowing some \$2 trillion to fund the government this year. It is incumbent upon us to be careful with how we spend hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, within that context, the Biden administration continues to weaponize every level of the Federal Government, abusing their power to push their harmful leftist agenda on Federal employees and the American people.

Exhibit A would be the Department of Defense abortion travel policy which violates current law, but this harm that is being done to the American people by this administration manifests itself in other ways, as well. The Biden administration continues pushing diversity, equity, and inclusion policies through all Federal agencies largely enforced by the Office of Civil Rights.

My amendment would reduce funding for the Office of Civil Rights within the USDA by 50 percent, permitting necessary functions to continue but sending a much-needed message on behalf of the American people that they cannot use their taxpayer dollars to implement their radical leftist agenda.

DEI initiatives promote hiring quotas rather than merit-based policies for selection and promotion. The Federal Government should be hiring and firing—now there is a concept for the Federal Government.

The Federal Government should be hiring and firing employees based on the quality of their performance or lack thereof, not based on the color of their skin or the gender they claim to be identifying as on whatever particular day.

My amendment cuts a little over \$8 million. When we have \$33 trillion in national debt and we are on track for a \$2 trillion deficit, my amendment would cut a little over \$8 million from the Department so that taxpayer dollars can be appropriately used rather than promoting the leftist radical agenda of the Biden administration.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, this amendment would cut funding for the Office of Civil Rights at USDA by an additional 19 percent. The bill already guts funding for USDA. Any further cuts would just make a bad bill worse.

The Office of Civil Rights at USDA is there for one purpose, and that is to make sure that every American has an equal opportunity to access the programs of USDA regardless of race, re-

gardless of gender, regardless of national origin.

USDA over the past decades has been required to pay billions of dollars to folks who were stakeholders who were denied equal opportunities to access these programs. If we cut this, we will be hamstringing the ability of USDA to do the right thing. We want to stop this before it spreads. It has already done too much damage to access for minorities, for women, and for various ethnic minorities, so we must fund this office.

I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment. It is another amendment that does nothing to serve farmers, nothing to serve rural America, and it has no place in this bill. We should fund the USDA in a way that makes its programs accessible and available to every single American.

Mr. Chair, I urge that this amendment be rejected, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2145

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, the justification of the gentleman from Georgia just enumerated there is already protected by law. It is already illegal to discriminate on the basis that he is talking about there. Thanks to the Supreme Court, we are moving to a post-discrimination society. We are going to no longer discriminate based on race. The Supreme Court is moving us that way in education. We ought to be doing it with the Office of Civil Rights in the USDA, as well.

We should be using taxpayer dollars for those farmers and programs that actually benefit the American people and have the highest return or at least a return and one that is not harmful for the American people.

If the Office of Civil Rights were simply ensuring that people were protected as required by law, again, there wouldn't be a problem, but the Biden administration has subverted these types of offices to promote their divisive radical leftist agenda.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has the only time remaining.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, the Biden administration has completely lost touch with the idea of hiring and firing people according to their performance and the work that they do, and instead wants to base those decisions on a person's immutable characteristics and achieving quotas in the name of equity.

My amendment will hold these individuals accountable to simply do their jobs instead of promoting a radical agenda and wasting taxpayer dollars—again, dollars that are borrowed from our kids and grandkids.

I urge my colleagues to vote in support of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 29 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 8, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$12,996,000)”.

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$12,996,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment, which restores funding for the National Agricultural Statistics Service to the fiscal year 2019 level. That would result in nearly \$13 million to deficit reduction in fiscal year 2024.

Annual discretionary spending, I won't go through that again, what I said last time.

Revenue in fiscal year 2022 levels actually exceeded our Federal spending in fiscal year 2019, meaning that if we were to shrink the Federal behemoth back to those pre-COVID levels, we might be able to avoid adding to our national debt for the next 12 months.

Now, I want to continue on why this is so doggone important that we take care of this. The proposed funding level for the National Agricultural Statistics Service is a 7.6 percent increase over the fiscal year 2019 level. So we are actually bumping it slightly above the 2019 level, but we are getting right back to the pre-COVID levels.

Now, let's talk about this for a second. My colleagues across the aisle—I actually heard one of them say in talking about the underlying bill, the main bill, that the Federal Government needed to “meet the needs of every American.” I want you to think about what that says. The Federal Government meets the needs of every American.

Who determines what that need is and who pays for that need? Well, our grandchildren must be the ones that they think are going to pay for the current needs because we are borrowing \$2 trillion this year; and it will be more than that next year. We are paying interest about \$700 billion in 2023. It will be more than that next year.

Let's talk about the Fed again. I mention the Fed just so people can understand that the Fed has now put itself in a precarious position. We al-

ways used the Fed. We counted on it—those who wanted to grow government did. They believed in modern monetary theory, that the Fed could just keep printing money, no inflation would result, just money grows on trees, and that we could supply every American with every need that they might have.

So you use the central bank to keep interest rates really low. That made private borrowers really happy because they could service government debt inexpensively.

But what happened? COVID happened, right? And trillions of dollars flooded our economy, and when those trillions of dollars flooded our economy, it devalued our currency and caused inflation to go up because those were nonproductive dollars.

What did the Democrats do last year—because they didn't get their act together on budgeting—they passed a couple of CRs, which led ultimately to the omnibus bill, and that flooded money in there—after COVID was long gone. They added to the inflationary pressures.

I am going to continue this, but for now, Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. It will cut funding for the National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Census of Agriculture by an additional 8 percent.

This bill already cuts too much funding from USDA, and any further cuts, again, will make a bad bill worse.

The Office of National Agricultural Statistics Service and the Census of Agriculture serve very important functions.

The American people need to know—we need to know what we grow; we need to know who is producing what we grow; we need to know where it is grown; we need to know what the country will need.

This office provides very important data that informs us; it informs governmental entities; it informs our private sector; it informs the consumers. We don't need any more cuts here.

I urge Members to defeat this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, let's talk some more about the Fed and why we are in a world of hurt and why we have to start reducing spending and funding.

We can't fund every project, everything around the world and even in our own country. We send hundreds of billions of dollars out of this country.

Guess what, when the Fed bought \$4.7 trillion in additional assets, \$2.5 trillion of that was in mortgage-backed securities, and they invested in long-term loans. Then, as inflation pressures up, they kept increasing the prime rate. They are now expecting an-

other increase in the interest rate within the next 2 months. We will have to pay that debt service. That will contribute to the inflationary pressure that we have.

When you screw up your energy policy and you screw up your Federal funding policy, the American people suffer, and they suffer through higher costs due to inflation. That is a hidden tax.

That is why I keep trying to find ways, line items where we can actually provide services but we can reduce the Federal spending to at least make some rational nod toward bringing us back to some sound funding policy, something we haven't seen here in ages.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 32 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 33 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 33 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 11, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$157,572,000)”.

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$157,572,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to restore funding to the National Institute of Food and Agriculture to fiscal year 2019 levels.

This amendment would direct \$157 million to deficit reduction in fiscal year 2024.

Let's talk about this. I have been talking all night about the precarious position our economy is in. I am often baffled by this. I view it as an existential threat, and you know what, bipartisan we have seen national security leaders of this country say our biggest threat is our national debt.

Every year we have a structural deficit. This year we thought it was going to be about \$1.7 trillion. CBO revised it to north of \$2 trillion, and that is what it is going to be next year.

The National Institute of Food and Agriculture has made a habit of disseminating grant funding to organizations intent on perpetuating societal

division in the United States. These include things like a \$350,000 funding grant to a Soros-funded nonprofit promoting “equity” in community food development projects, another \$1.4 million in funds for organizations to advance “food justice” in California, and funding to colleges seeking to “enhance diversity” in food economics.

The proposed funding level that is made for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture is a 17 percent increase over the fiscal year 2019 level.

This reduction I propose in my amendment would ensure that taxpayer dollars are properly focused on activities related to food and crop development. That is what this agency is supposed to be doing, not wokeifying the money that we give to it.

Well, I want everyone to support this amendment, and I am going to continue my talk about our precarious position, which is an existential crisis to the United States.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in very strong opposition to this amendment.

Cutting funding for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture by an additional 17 percent is penny-wise and pound-foolish.

The bill already guts funding for USDA, but the NIFA, the National Institute for Food and Agriculture provides grants for research to our colleges and universities, and particularly the 1890s institutions that were created under the Second Morrill Act.

This is a very useful agency. It provides essential research, the tool that keeps American agriculture on the cutting edge. In America, we produce the safest, the highest quality of food and fiber anywhere in the industrialized world, and we do it because we fund research.

Our research is cutting edge. Why would we cut it by 17 percent? We need research like we never needed it before because of the climate challenges that we are facing. We have got challenges that we must overcome in order to continue to produce the food to feed the people in this country and around the world.

This research is essential, and we need to continue to fund it. We don't need this 17 percent cut.

I urge the defeat of this amendment. Let's defeat this amendment, and let's pass a useful bill that is responsible that meets the needs of the American people and the American producers.

Mr. Chair, I urge that this amendment be defeated, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, over the course of this evening during the debate of the underlying bill it was referred to as being heartless and disrespectful. This amendment was re-

ferred to as being disrespectful, as a matter of fact.

This is what I would tell you: You know what is heartless? Heartless is putting our Nation and wrapping it up with flax and cords that we will not soon be able to get out of with constant perpetual debt.

You see inflation, inflation is going to keep going. Inflation is going to keep going because we don't have a great energy policy and we have a terrible Federal spending problem.

We heard on the underlying bill, hey, you know what, we should just raise more taxes. That is what we should be doing. But you know what, we had record revenue, record revenue, and guess what, we continued to increase our structural deficit, which leads to a greater national debt problem.

□ 2200

It isn't that Americans aren't paying enough in taxes. It is a fundamental spending problem. It gets back to what I have been talking about, this modern monetary theory. You heard it just a minute ago. We need to take care of the needs of everybody. Who pays for that? It is obviously not going to be the American people who are living right now. Maybe it is going to be some who are living right now.

We can't fundamentally afford the government my leftist colleagues across the aisle continue to promote. That is what they want. They want massive government. They want government that controls every aspect of everybody's life. Then, they say, that will meet the needs of everybody.

That is not enough. They have to open the southern border, as well. By the time the Biden administration leaves, you will have 10 million encounters at the border. That won't include the got-aways, both known and unknown, which already, under the Biden administration, exceed 2½ million people.

How are you going to pay for that? They never want to tell you how they are going to pay for it because they have no concept of what is facing this country.

Mr. Chair, I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 38 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 38 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 38 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 22, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$14,952,000)”.

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$14,952,000)”.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to restore funding to the Farm Production Conservation Business Center to fiscal 2019 levels. That is right: Take it back to pre-COVID levels.

This amendment would direct nearly \$15 million to deficit reduction in fiscal year 2024. My staff and I, earlier in the year, introduced many bills trying to take a line-item approach to the budget to try to reduce spending, to try to bring us back into some rationality, and this is one of the places we found.

The proposed funding level for the Farm Production Conservation Business Center is a nearly 7 percent increase over fiscal year 2019 levels.

The Farm Production Conservation Business Center is a fairly new office within the Department of Agriculture and is intended to support the agency's farmer-facing components. Under the Biden administration, the agency is pushing out taxpayer-funded climate alarmism and messaging to outline how USDA is advancing equity by providing increased financial assistance to historically underserved groups.

The spending reduction in this amendment would ensure that the business center is not abusing its farmer-facing role to promote divisive ideology, as the Biden regime is trying to do, but instead focuses its resources on serving agriculture producers.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ISSA). The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, these amendments just go to undermine the ability of USDA to do what it is supposed to do for the American people.

This is another amendment that cuts funding, and if you keep cutting funding, you will totally make this agency unable to deliver on its promises to the American people.

Mr. Chair, it is a bad amendment. It is a cut that doesn't need to happen. I urge opposition, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I have to say, I am actually baffled a little bit because it is like we are on the other side of an ocean, an ocean separates us. I never hear my colleagues say that they want to reduce spending on any program. I never hear it. Instead, they

want to continually propose big spending programs that we simply don't have money for, and then they want to do something that is actually self-defeating by increasing taxes.

We have significant revenue. We just outspend the revenue. We outspend it every time.

What happened after COVID? Well, I am proposing we go back to pre-COVID levels. What happened during COVID is that the Federal Reserve had to auction so many treasures it really had to begin offering higher rates. What did that do? That fueled higher rates.

Now, with rates so much higher, the bank is now forced to borrow against all its prior lending, all its prior investments, which they did at like 1 percent. Now, we are sitting at 5.3 percent.

When you are doing bonds, Mr. Chair, and you know this as well as anybody, your value of your asset has decreased. That is what has happened, and it puts us in massive economic jeopardy. We have to acknowledge that.

That is the reason that the Fed has incurred a net loss of \$53.5 billion on interest expense, a trend that is going to continue in this quarter.

Mr. Chair, I include in the RECORD an article by Daniel Horowitz from September 26, 2023.

[From Blaze Media/Opinion & Analysis/Opinion, Sept. 26, 2023]

HOROWITZ: WHEN MONEY PRINTERS CAN NO LONGER PRINT MONEY

(By Daniel Horowitz)

Just how bad is the national debt crisis? The 12 regional Federal Reserve Banks that compose the largest central bank in the world have a monopoly on printing paper dollars, the world's reserve currency. Yet despite its ability to print paper and then invest it in bonds, the Federal Reserve is now on pace to lose money on its own scheme to the tune of over \$100 billion this year.

Thus, the great bailout institution of last resort has now itself become a further drain on the federal treasury.

Until recently, the Federal Reserve was the ace in the hole for the governing elites who wanted to grow weaponized government on the cheap. The central bank was able to keep interest rates extremely low, which made private borrowers happy but also serviced government debt inexpensively. And by using maturity transformation to borrow short and lend long, the central bank could turn a profit by lending at higher rates of interest than it borrowed. The net profit was always deposited into the rapacious accounts of the Treasury Department to offset a portion of its ballooning debt.

Then came COVID.

COVID ended the Ponzi scheme. In its attempt to permanently control our lives, the Federal Reserve was forced to pay for the lockdowns and ultimately lost control of the money laundering operation. In order to service the debt, the Fed in less than a year purchased \$4.7 trillion in additional assets, including \$2.5 trillion in mortgage-backed securities. Central bankers invested this money in the form of long-term loans locked in at very low rates.

Then came the inevitable inflation driven by this very COVID spending.

The Federal Reserve was forced to auction so many Treasures on the market that it had to begin offering higher rates. Many would also argue that Federal Reserve Chairman Jerome Powell raised the federal funds

rate too quickly under the false premise that it would stem the tide of the inflation it created.

Well, now with interest rates so much higher, the bank is forced to borrow high against all of its prior lending (investments), which was at a much lower rate. We now have the ultimate inversion, which is causing severe deficits. In just the first two quarters of 2023, the Fed has incurred a net loss of \$53.5 billion on interest expense, a trend that will only be exacerbated with higher rates, a slowing economy, and a tightening credit market.

The \$53 billion loss for the first half of 2023 is on top of the \$15.8 billion net loss in the final quarter of 2022.

This is a big deal. For the first time in its more than 100 years of existence, the money god itself can't print its way out of insolvency.

To print even more money now will take an already tapped-out consumer and small business and crush them further with even higher inflation, tightening of credit, and crushing an already insolvent housing market.

On top of the Fed's capital deficit is more than \$1 trillion in unrealized losses on its \$7.6 trillion balance sheet of Treasuries and mortgage-backed securities it purchased in its System Open Market Account. All those assets the bank purchased at 1 percent interest are now worth much less if the bank were to sell them off at 5.3 percent. Ironically, this is the same insolvency other banks that come to the Fed for bailouts are facing today.

Yet the Fed simply writes off the loss as it unloads a small portion of its balance sheet (about 9 percent from its high in 2022) without using mark-to-market accounting, as other banks are required to do under the Dodd-Frank law. Mark-to-market uses the actual market price of the bonds, not the irrelevant face value. The Fed ignores the market price of bonds and assumes they are face value.

If the Fed is incurring this much of a deficit, which will engender more bailouts from the Treasury—rather than the Fed bailing out the debt-ridden Treasury—imagine how the economy will look in the coming years. The majority of FOMC members announced at a Wednesday meeting that they expect another interest rate hike before the end of the year. Then they envision the elevated rates to remain at least for a few years. The capital deficit and unrealized losses on the balance sheet are going to explode exponentially because of the yield inversions, which will further exacerbate the debt tsunami.

Also, even if the Fed itself doesn't raise the funds rate, the yields on Treasuries must continue to climb just from the sheer volume of issuance the Fed will offload on the market to service biblical levels of interest on the debt, now slated to top \$1 trillion every year. There is already a problem attracting enough buyers—with many foreign countries, including China and Japan, dumping U.S. Treasuries. Just wait until these other countries continue with their plan to move away from the U.S. dollar as the reserve currency. Yields will need to increase, further perpetuating and exacerbating the cost of servicing the debt and the Fed's own fiscal deficit in doing so.

Yields on the two-year Treasury are at the highest level since 2006. However, 17 years ago, the gross debt was \$8.5 trillion, not \$33 trillion. Also, we were running \$200-\$400 billion annual deficits, not \$2 trillion deficits. Not to mention the fact that we didn't have nearly this much debt and credit crush in the private sector and among households that are straining banks and individuals to the point of insolvency. Oh, and we are offi-

cially not in a recession and have relatively low unemployment. Wait until the fun begins in 2024 and the cost of social programs skyrockets. Even without any new debt, \$7.6 trillion of existing debt will mature within the next year at much higher interest rates.

In other words, the Fed, which has been the government's lifeguard for several generations, is now drowning in the very pool it, along with corrupt politicians in Congress and the Treasury Department, has created. Who will bail out the money printer then?

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, let's talk some more about what should be done. We have a structural deficit of \$2 trillion. We are spending \$700 billion in interest. The Fed is losing money. Our economy is slowing down to boot.

The question is: What could we do? How about we rein in our Federal spending so that the value of our currency doesn't keep dropping like a stone? How about we unleash American energy so that we have pressure to reduce costs on the energy side and have traditional currency protection on the inflation side? That would do it. That would help, but we don't see anything from the Hill from which my colleagues across the way speak. We don't hear from the White House, either.

Mr. Chair, I am urging adoption of this amendment. It is a small measure to reduce a small program in a small way, but it moves us in that direction.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 41 OFFERED BY MR. BRECHEEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 41 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 29, line 15, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$60,543,000)".

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$60,543,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Chair, since this administration took office, the average family of four is spending \$1,200 more per month to buy the exact same goods and services as compared to January 2021. That is an almost \$15,000 increase per year to the average family of four because of excessive government spending that is driving devaluation of our currency, thus inflation.

I grew up ranching. I still ranch. When you talk to farmers and ranchers, they will tell you their biggest issue is the increase in the input costs. Whether it is 4-point barbed-wire, T-posts, a feed truck, a cake box, used tractors, everything is costing almost

twice what it did just a few years ago. The price of agriculture in general is up 23 percent, the stats tell us, just in 2 years under this administration.

To help America's farmers and ranchers, we need to get serious about cutting government spending that is the root cause of inflation and devaluation of our currency.

Right now, for every dollar that we are spending, about \$6 trillion, only 70 percent of it is paid for. We are charging 30 percent to our kids and our grandkids, who want to inherit those farms and ranches.

My conservative colleagues and I are urging Congress to reduce overall spending back to pre-COVID spending levels. The cut I am proposing with this amendment is a modest 6.5 percent cut from the underlying bill and funds the NRCS at a higher level even than they were in fiscal year 2019.

I know NRCS programs. In my heavy equipment excavation business, I built ponds. I have friends who work for the NRCS. I have gotten good advice from the NRCS.

My question to my friends at the NRCS and my question to my friends in the agricultural community: Can we not return to the pre-COVID spending levels to give our kids and our grandkids a chance at the blessing of liberty?

There is money within the NRCS that can be cut that is not even conservation related. Like many agencies, the Biden administration is using even the NRCS to carry out a leftist agenda, so absorption of these cuts should start here.

The NRCS has an Equity Division whose mission is to advocate and better align institutional equity into the work and practices of NRCS programs and services.

The NRCS aims to meet or exceed President Biden's Justice40 goals. Under the guise of environmental justice, the Justice40 Initiative goal is to pick winners and losers. It aims to have 40 percent of benefits flow to disadvantaged communities that are marginalized, underserved, and overburdened by pollution.

The NRCS State offices, like Vermont, have created a lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender special emphasis program manager position. The NRCS also provides resources such as Pride calendars, pronouns in the workplace guidance, and LGBTQ spotlights.

This is not the original mission of the NRCS. It demonstrates there is excess within the agency.

I know this agency. I have benefited from it. Friends have benefited from it. If we are going to be serious about giving our kids a chance, we can't protect every program that we like from what has to be a nation that starts living within its means. We have to begin somewhere.

Mr. Chair, this 6.5 percent cut is more than reasonable, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

Cutting funding for the Natural Resources Conservation Service by an additional 8 percent will just, again, make it worse.

This is a very important agency. It provides very valuable services to our communities as well as to our farmers. You have a number of programs that are so vitally important.

They have the conservation innovation programs.

They have the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, which helps farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners to integrate conservation into their working lands.

They have the grants that support the development of new tools and new approaches, practices and technologies to further our natural resources conservation on private lands.

They have the Conservation Stewardship Program, which builds on conservation efforts to strengthen the farmers' operations.

They have the Emergency Watershed Protection Program, which is a Federal emergency recovery program that helps local communities recover after natural disasters strike. Look at what we have endured over the past year, the past 2 years. Communities have been struck by floods, wildfires, and hurricanes.

We have problems, and the Watershed Rehabilitation Program is there. It needs to be fully funded, particularly this year with what we have experienced with climate change.

They have watershed and flood prevention programs, the wetland reserve easements. We have to help with this. We have to protect our forests and, of course, the forest programs and the grazing funds for our livestock.

This is just penny-wise and pound-foolish. We must protect the conservation programs because they protect our environment and our farmers and help them to be sustainable.

Mr. Chair, this is a bad amendment. I urge its rejection, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 2215

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Chair, I had someone say to me one time that governing should be pretty easy. However much government you want ought to be the amount of government you are willing to pay for.

The problem is, on the Federal Government level, we are not paying for it. We are asking our kids and our grandkids to pay for all of this.

For every dollar we are spending right now, we are asking our children to pick up 30 percent of the tab.

The question is: When will we start being responsible, looking out for the blessing of liberty for our children and our grandkids?

This is a 6.5 percent reduction. The underlying bill, if adopted, leaves \$850 million in NRCS.

We are addicted to overspending in this Nation. Fiscal sanity is crying out. Future generations are crying out to start somewhere. I am asking my colleagues to start here with me.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 42 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR. BRECHEEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 43 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 37, line 7, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,606,926,000)".

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,606,926,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Chairman, to reiterate what has often been said this evening, we hit \$33 trillion. It is the first time in our Nation's history.

That means, as of today, every baby that is born in any hospital around this country who opens their eyes and takes in their first breath of air owes \$98,000.

They are only going to pay it off through a lower standard of living because of the selfishness of the generations before them.

If we continue at this rate of overspending, we are sacrificing their future—make no mistake about that.

It is why my conservative colleagues and I are trying to rein in our Federal spending and return to the pre-COVID spending levels. We have to start cutting spending.

My amendment would eliminate the USDA rental assistance program, which is 1 of 25 duplicative housing programs. I want to reiterate the word "duplicative"—duplicative housing programs, 25.

This amendment, if adopted, would save \$1.6 billion. That is a real number.

Today, the Federal Government subsidizes low-income families through more than 25 duplicative housing programs consisting of projects, vouchers, rental construction, financing, and

grants to State and local governments. It includes 20 different entities administering 160 different programs, tax expenditures, and other tools supporting homeownership and rental housing.

In 2021, the Federal Government spent over \$57 billion on low-income housing programs benefiting 9.3 million Americans. We have 333 million Americans total in this Nation.

This particular program represents only about 2.8 percent of Federal housing assistance programs. This duplicative program should be rolled into the Department of Housing and Urban Development to improve efficiency.

In 2012 and 2016 reports, the Government Accountability Office recommended consolidating many of these duplicative programs. That is why, in 2018, OMB under President Trump proposed removing USDA rental housing programs to HUD to improve operational efficiency, service delivery, and produce savings by reducing agency bureaucracy costs.

According to the OMB under the Trump administration, "USDA's housing programs, which serve eligible rural areas, were initially established in the 1940s in response to an underrepresentation of national housing programs in rural areas. . . . Since then, the rationale for separate, rural-focused housing programs at USDA has become outdated given HUD's role in serving communities throughout the Nation, including in many rural areas. In fact, due in large part to the sheer size of its programs, HUD serves more households in USDA-eligible areas than USDA does."

The consolidation of agencies or administrative functions could yield a more efficient oversight and administrative structure for cost savings in central housing programs.

The Government Accountability Office recommended that HUD and USDA review and consolidate duplicative housing programs, including the Rural Housing Service.

The duplication of program services provides headaches and confusion to the neediest of Americans wanting to know where to go. It is time to streamline programs and get our fiscal house in order.

What is causing so many young adults outside of this program administration not to be able to afford their homes? High interest rates driven by overspending.

This \$1.6 billion that this amendment proposes represents a return to fiscal sanity. For every dollar we are spending, we are only paying for 70 percent of it.

When are we going to get serious about spending restraint for the next generation?

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, this bill, our funding bill, funds rural America. We, as Members of Congress, ought to be committed to ensuring that people who live in rural communities are not disadvantaged simply because of their rural ZIP Code.

I urge us to defeat this amendment because affordable, decent housing is something that every American ought to have access to regardless of where he or she lives.

Of course, this funding for rural America is comparable to the same programs that urban Americans have access to. It provides support for families so that they can afford to have decent housing.

To cut this is to punish people who need help for decent housing and who happen to live in rural America. This is something we should not do.

Rural Americans should have the same opportunities to realize the American Dream as any other American anywhere they live.

Mr. Chair, I urge the defeat of this amendment. It is a bitter, nasty amendment that hurts people who need a hand up.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BRECHEEN. Mr. Chairman, I reiterate: duplication of programming. There are 25 duplicative programs in this same area.

This cut represents 2.8 percent of all Federal housing assistance. We can help the neediest Americans by streamlining housing programs and getting our own fiscal house in order.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense reduction in duplication, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BRECHEEN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 45 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 42, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$25,715,000)".

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$25,715,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment cuts the Rural Business Program Account in half from last year's enacted budget amount of \$43,125,000.

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service, like a lot of Washington, D.C., programs, has a good name. It doesn't always do good things. Unfortunately, it continues the age-old government sin of picking winners and losers instead of just letting the market work.

I ran a small business, and people would tell me that the government wants to be a good partner. I wasn't looking for a partner in my business. I was looking to run my business. If there was a partner, surely it wasn't the government, which had no idea about what I did in my business.

What businesses need is for the government to get out of the way and stop making it difficult if they don't bend the knee to whatever the government demands of them.

Let me just tell you what we are funding with this money. This comes right from the code cited in this appropriations bill: Loans for the purposes of reducing the reliance on nonrenewable energy sources by encouraging the development and construction of solar energy systems and other renewable energy systems.

If you want to do that, you can get some of this money. If you don't want to do that, you can forget it.

Mr. Chair, we have seen the government-mandated shift to green and oftentimes unreliable energy sources, and we have seen what it has done to the country. The Secretary of Energy tried to take a drive a little while ago in her battery-operated vehicle and didn't make it too far.

We are not against these things, but the market should decide, not the government. The government is not the market, and it doesn't make the most efficient decisions.

Even in places where the shift hasn't directly caused tragedy, every single one of our constituents is facing higher prices because of these policies.

Because of these policies, we are literally building a grid on top of the grid that we already have, and the grid that we have, we are actually diminishing it at the very same time we are demanding more from that grid.

Remember your healthcare costs, how they were going to go down when we socialized medicine with the Affordable Care Act, and now you can't afford medicine? Get ready because you are not going to be able to afford your electricity, either. This program supports that unaffordability, which is why it should end.

This is only the tip of the iceberg. This very spending fight has highlighted the true amount of waste and duplication in the Federal Government the gentleman before me just spoke about.

I offer a list of agencies that offer direct or indirect funding for this very

thing: Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Defense, Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of the Interior, Department of the Treasury, and Small Business Administration.

My goodness. If every household and every business duplicated all the things the Federal Government did, they would be broke, too, because we sure are now.

Again, I am more than supportive of small businesses and towns. That is where I got my start, picking fruit, baling hay, working in small businesses. The first business outside of agriculture was Ray's Exxon on Route 15. That is a small business.

These businesses, like every other one and our consumers, have faced the record-high cost of living due to government-mandated shutdowns and harmful Biden policies.

Every single one of these businesses and all individual taxpayers ought to keep more of their money that they earn instead of having it redistributed to whomever the government chooses to be the winner.

Mr. Chairman, I urge support of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment should be defeated. It will cut funding for the Rural Business-Cooperative Service by an additional 44 percent.

Agricultural cooperatives provide effective marketing and local supplies and services to their member-owners. Cooperatives bring electricity, connectivity, affordable housing, capital, financial services, telecommunications, healthcare, food, hardware, building supplies, and countless other goods and services for people who live in rural communities.

An example for electricity: There are 900 co-ops, electric membership cooperatives, that serve 42 million people in this country in 48 of the 50 States, and they cover 51 percent of the land area in the United States of America.

□ 2230

We need the Rural Business-Cooperative Service to help support these rural co-ops that help bring business and help marketing in our rural communities.

Agriculture is a very, very lucrative business, it happens in our rural communities for the most part, and we need this cooperative service and we need the support for it.

Mr. Chair, this is a bad amendment. It is penny-wise and pound-foolish, and I urge its defeat.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlemen from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for coming to the floor with a specific idea of how we stop the out-of-control Federal spending leading to a \$2 trillion deficit and runaway inflation. That is the bottom line.

There are plenty of ideas on how to spend more money, believe you me. There are plenty of ideas circulating around Washington. What we need are ideas on how to cut spending.

Mr. Chair, I suggest that going after parts of the Federal Government that encourage high-cost energy, because that is what renewable energy is, it is all high cost. That is the fact of the matter.

If we want to create low-cost energy, Mr. Chair, you know what we have to do, we have to extract our natural gas and burn our natural gas and then we can compete with China for the cost of energy.

All that we are doing with programs like this that fund renewable energy is yielding unilateral disarmament to China on energy, and it doesn't belong in the agriculture department.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ISSA). The gentleman from Pennsylvania's time has expired.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 48 OFFERED BY MR. NUNN OF IOWA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 48 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 51, line 19, strike "twenty-five" and insert "one-hundred".

Page 51, line 20, strike "three" and insert "twenty".

Page 51, line 24, strike "twenty" and insert "100".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to discuss the critical need to expand broadband connectivity across the United States. In my home State of Iowa, nearly a third of our State is considered a broadband desert.

Hundreds of thousands of Iowans are left out from the critical access that they need, such as for a young mother

to get telemedicine provided, for a growing farmer to be able to have the artificial intelligence necessary for their farm to be successful, or for a fellow veteran to get the type of access they need for their medicine over broadband.

As parents, we know all too well the challenges of rural communities to be able to get the same access that some of our other States have received. It is not enough to simply have internet, but to have high-quality access to broadband that truly grows the types of communities that we have seen be successful.

Not just in my home State of Iowa, but across the country, these small investments allow young entrepreneurs to work remotely. It allows farmers to work and cultivate to both feed and fuel the world.

Importantly, they help connect through the USDA ReConnect Program grants which allow access to grow in my home State to over 400,000 households, and not just in Iowa but nationwide.

Clearly, there is more work that needs to be done. I offered this amendment in the Agriculture appropriations legislation to raise the awareness and the need that is happening in rural communities across our country, and to improve this program to ensure that we are investing in our rural communities' success in the same way we have in some of our large cities' success.

Strategically speaking, I want to make sure that this is something that is enduring and not just in one appropriations bill, but that there is a rollout plan—a plan like the farm bill that looks at a 5-year venture here.

With Chairman G.T. THOMPSON's commitment on the Agriculture Committee, I believe we can incorporate this into the farm bill. I will be withdrawing my amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I rise to claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Pennsylvania is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, during this Congress, the House Committee on Agriculture has had one overarching goal: to empower our farm families and invigorate our rural economies.

A central focus of our efforts has been to ensure that rural economies gain access to affordable, high-speed internet.

Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. NUNN for his tireless work on behalf of his constituents to develop smart policy ideas to bring broadband internet to every corner of America.

Over the past several years, the House Committee on Agriculture has worked hard on a bipartisan basis to close the connectivity gap. The gentleman from Iowa has been a welcome addition to those conversations.

Every Member of this House is committed to using taxpayer funds wisely, and the House Agriculture Committee will report a farm bill that does just that.

We will ensure that broadband networks financed through USDA's broadband programs will offer fast, reliable service far into the future.

Now, I firmly believe that the best policies emerge through discussions and collaboration. That is what we are doing as we craft the next farm bill.

With the leadership of Members like Mr. NUNN, we will ensure USDA's broadband programs can meet both the current and the future connectivity needs of rural America.

Mr. Chair, I appreciate Mr. NUNN taking the time tonight to raise these important issues. I am equally appreciative of his willingness to withdraw his amendment and continue this conversation through the farm bill process.

Mr. Chair, I look forward to working with the gentleman on our shared priorities as we advance the 2023 farm bill through the House and ultimately to the President's desk.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Iowa is recognized.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I specifically thank Chairman THOMPSON for his leadership on this, and from the many of us from rural communities, including agriculture communities like Iowa, for this continued commitment to improve our broadband. We have seen time and time again; this type of infrastructure truly can grow our economy in a productive way.

Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment from consideration.

The Acting CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Iowa?

There was no objection.

The Acting CHAIR. The amendment is withdrawn.

AMENDMENT NO. 51 OFFERED BY MR. DONALDS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 51 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 60, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$23,440,000)".

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$23,440,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Chairman, I will be brief. My amendment does one simple thing, it actually restores the funding for the Foreign Agriculture Service to fiscal year 2019 levels.

In short, Mr. Chairman, our government spends a lot of money, and we are not even sure if it is effective. One of the things that is critical to get our overall fiscal house in order is to start looking at line items in the Federal budget pre-COVID.

We have plussed up a lot of these agencies and a lot of these departments, and the COVID pandemic was used as a reason to do so.

My amendment is simple. The COVID pandemic is over and it is now time to start focusing on getting our fiscal house in order while still being focused on the programs that are important to the agriculture community and other communities. My amendment does that.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I claim time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I certainly rise in opposition to this amendment. The amendment would reduce funding for the Foreign Agriculture Service, which reduces the services promoting United States agricultural exports, developing overseas markets, and increasing global food security.

This cut would directly harm American farmers because they would have less opportunities to market their commodities abroad. There is already a 14.15 percent cut from the House levels imposed by the majority in this bill, and these cuts would only further harm our American farmers.

Mr. Chair, I urge opposition to this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Chairman, let's be very clear. What we are talking about is moving the requested number for this appropriation down \$23.4 million.

In 2019, we spent \$213,000,890 on the Foreign Agriculture Service. All we are saying is move it back to that line. The Federal Government will still be able to accomplish its mission, but we don't have the additional resources. We have to be prudent with the people's money so we can actually cut that back to 2019 levels and still accomplish the mission.

Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I congratulate the Member from Florida for bringing a concrete idea to the floor on how to cut our \$2 trillion Federal deficit.

Once again, it is very easy to spend money. We could make a list of a thousand programs that are deserving programs, but the fact of the matter is we have to borrow every single cent to fund the programs in this agriculture bill, and our grandchildren have to pay it back. That is immoral.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I think it is interesting to hear

the discussion about a \$2 trillion deficit when that was created by the tax cut that they passed in the last administration—\$2 trillion because they cut the taxes and reduced the amount of revenue. Come on.

You balance the budget with revenues as well as with spending reductions. Let's be real here. This is just a subterfuge. We need to defeat this amendment and we need to move forward and try to produce an agriculture bill that really addresses the needs of the American people in 2023.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Chairman, I did not hear an argument as to why \$250 million needs to be spent for the Foreign Agriculture Service. What I heard, Mr. Chairman, was talk about the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act which, by the way, has yielded more tax revenue to the Federal Government than at any other time in American history.

The minority party refuses to acknowledge the fact that actual tax policy changes in a positive way which reduces rates on producers in our country actually yields more tax revenue to the Federal Government. They refuse to acknowledge that to this day.

If you are going to ask for a recipe for fiscal sanity in this Nation, it is to actually lower marginal tax rates over a consistent period of time—consistent, controlled spending restraint at the Federal level over a period of time. Those two things will actually lead us to spending less in this government and provide more prosperity to all of the people that we serve, regardless of where they fall on the economic ladder.

Mr. Chairman, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment. This is what we should be doing. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 52 will not be offered.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 53 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 54 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 54 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 61, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,740,000,000)".

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,740,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

□ 2245

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to strike funding for the Food for Peace Title II grant program, which would direct \$1.74 billion to deficit reduction.

I will repeat again what has been said so often here: Annual discretionary spending exploded over the course of the COVID-19 response. No one thought our government was too small before COVID, and we are currently spending \$400 billion more in fiscal year 2023 for the same government we had before. Deficits exceed \$2 trillion.

Let me just make this clear: In 2019, we spent about \$4.9 trillion, \$4.7- to \$4.9 trillion, depends on who is telling you, and our revenue is going to be about \$5.2 trillion. Wouldn't it be great to get back to those 2019 levels? Wouldn't it be great to get to the 2019 spending levels with our current revenue levels? Then you would not be increasing your deficit, your structural deficit.

The spending deficits that we have are out of control. They are leading to this massive national debt, which is fueling inflation and is going to be generational theft.

Let's talk about the Food for Peace Title II grant programs. Since the program was established in the 1950s, funding for the program has exploded. The Trump administration's fiscal year 2020 budget request recommended eliminating this program, which is duplicative of other foreign aid programs.

What is interesting, I say "Trump," and you know that is going to set off, oh, no, the Trump derangement syndrome folks, the far left of this body are going to say: Oh, that is crazy.

However, Trump wasn't the first to do it. The Obama administration's 2014 budget request recommended shifting all Food for Peace Title II funds into accounts funded through the State and Foreign Operations appropriations bill. They cited potential improvements to flexibility, timeliness, and efficiency.

I am urging us to wipe out \$1.74 billion in wasteful, duplicative spending and put it into deficit reduction.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

As a reminder, the bill already cuts the Food for Peace program by 69 percent from the level passed in the full committee. During a time of increased need and difficult decisions ahead for prioritizing funding from this program, this amendment would further cut Food for Peace. Additionally, today, we have already considered three other stand-alone amendments to cut the program.

I not only oppose this amendment due to its effects on people without food security across the globe, I also oppose it due to its effect on our farm-

ers here at home. U.S. commodities are a key pillar of this program, and cutting funding would directly harm those farmers who produce these commodities that go to this program. There is an international aid shortfall of commodities, including millions of commodities that American farmers proudly produce, such as wheat, rice, corn, sorghum, lentils, beans, and peas.

This amendment shortchanges America's farmers as well as America's values, our Judeo-Christian values. I urge opposition to this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, previously, some of my counterparts in debate have said we should supply every need, the Federal Government should supply every need to every American, and now they want to persist in trying to satisfy the needs and wants of people offshore, as well.

We can't afford to take care of every need of every American today. That is why we have a \$2 trillion structural deficit. That does not include the \$700 billion that we are spending in interest. We simply cannot afford to keep giving our future away, and that is what we are doing here.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I am encouraging everyone to support this important amendment. I think it is important, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 55 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 56 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 56 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 61, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$120,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, our Nation's international food assistance programs are broken. They drive our deficits higher while providing little to

no value to taxpayers and even harming the recipient countries.

I am grateful for Mr. HARRIS' manager's amendment that reduced funding for the destructive so-called Food for Peace program, and I urge extending the cost cuts to its sister program, McGovern-Dole, sometimes known as Food for Education.

When we dump free food on developing markets, their domestic farmers can't compete. I mean, who can compete with free? Their domestic farmers are forced out of business, and investment in their domestic agricultural sector dwindles. In fact, we hurt those we seek to assist.

We have known that this problem has existed for years. In 2010, watching international food aid destroy his country's agricultural sector, the President of Haiti begged us to stop, to stop sending it. Further, reflecting on his administration's role in testimony before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, President Bill Clinton said: "I had to live every day with the consequences of the loss of capacity to produce a rice crop in Haiti to feed those people."

Bill Clinton even recognized the mistake. However, we keep making it. We need to stop impoverishing farmers in countries with developing agricultural sectors and stop discouraging private investment in those sectors.

While supporters of the McGovern-Dole program have touted its alleged role supporting democracy and good governance, a look at the recipient countries proves that that isn't true. USDA determines a list of priority countries for McGovern-Dole each year. Let's take a look at this year's recipients, seven countries.

Nicaragua, which is ruled by Daniel Ortega's thugocracy, throws its opposition in prison, and that is on a good day. It stands accused of politically motivated extrajudicial executions and torture and other human rights abuses.

Then there is Togo, whose President first took power in a military coup in 2005.

Cameroon's President, coincidentally, won reelection uninterrupted since coming into power in 1982.

At the time the USDA put Nepal on the priority list, it had a Communist Party leader.

These are not beacons of democracy or good governance.

Haiti still remains on the priority list; and look at Haiti today. Decades of aid have failed to produce a reliable government there.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. As I said in my opening statement, this bill already cuts the Agriculture funding bill back to a level last seen in 2001.

Apparently, those cuts are not enough because this amendment would cut 50 percent from the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. That is a 50 percent cut from funding supporting schoolchildren abroad.

This is a proven, successful program, a bipartisan program which takes concrete steps to ensure that the program activities continue after U.S. support is no longer provided. This money is not wasted. It is not indefinite for any one location. It is a sound investment to promote the health and education of schoolchildren, especially girls, in need around the globe.

We are 4 days away from a government shutdown, and instead of debating a bipartisan path forward, we are debating further cuts to programs that have broad, bipartisan support. I urge all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote against this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, success? Haiti is a wreck. Nicaragua has sided with the CCP. They led the charge to expel Taiwan as a permanent observer, replacing with the butchers of Beijing. Of the seven priority countries, six of them—including Cameroon, Mozambique, Nepal, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, and Togo—voted to support China's imposition of the oppressive national security law on Hong Kong. The recipient countries have proven to be anti-American.

Their countries have failed to produce agricultural sectors because local farmers can't compete with free. This isn't saving people from hunger. It is destroying the very people we are trying to assist. I urge Congress to continue to reform its food aid program. Mr. Chairman, if you want to sow the seeds of freedom, harvest the yield of democracy, pursuing failed policies is not the answer. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of my amendment. These policies are failed. They are not successful. We are hurting the very countries that we are aiming to support. Let's help these nations, but this is not the answer.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 57 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 57 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 61, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$240,000,000)".

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$240,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment to strike funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

I appreciate that the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) offered an amendment reducing it, and I appreciate that that is now going to be part of the underlying bill since it just passed on voice vote.

My amendment would direct the entire \$240 million supporting that program would be used to reduce our deficit in 2024.

When you think about it, Mr. OGLES certainly made a strong case as to why that should be so, but I am going to add just a couple points to it. I am not going to labor the fact that we continue to spend ourselves into oblivion at the Federal level. That is causing tremendous inflationary pressures, bringing stress to every American family.

What I am going to talk about instead is what happens in any Federal bureaucracy, what we see government do constantly. Mr. OGLES talked about the negative policy aspects of it, but I will just cover briefly what happens in the Federal bureaucracy on the spending side of it.

This particular program, the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program first received appropriations in fiscal year 2004, just 20 years ago, 20 short years ago. The bill set aside \$50 million to carry out the program. That was the program, \$50 million. Help around the world ostensibly, right?

However, what happens to Federal bureaucracies? They grow like Topsy. This one has grown to \$240 million annually.

The Trump administration's 2018 budget, pre-COVID budget, request recommended that the program be eliminated as it 'lacks evidence that the program is being effectively implemented to reduce food insecurity.'

□ 2300

Additionally, the program primarily works by donating food produced in the United States to communities in need around the world, but we have already heard the seven nations identified. It is a great deal for U.S. agricultural producers whose surplus is purchased by the Federal Government for use in the program, but the provision of free food, as Mr. OGLES so eloquently pointed out, is required to be delivered, and that causes native, local production to decline in those States.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment. It is unnecessary and harmful.

While there is a global commodity shortage and conflict that fuels hunger around the world, this bill has already been cut by 14.15 percent. Further cuts will only cause further impacts to efforts to improve the food security and education of children around the world.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, why else might we want to eliminate this program? The provision of free food to these seven nations on this list, which is required to be delivered in a not-so-timely manner on U.S.-flagged ships, distorts food production markets in those nations receiving aid, and it actually increases the cost.

It is a classic "give a man a fish, feed him for a day" problem. The program isn't eliminating food insecurity. It is slow. It is costly. It is growing. It pushes out local production. Quite frankly, we simply can't afford it anymore.

At some point, we are going to have to say we are having trouble funding everything in our own country, and now we are going to send it abroad. That is something I don't think the American people stand for.

Mr. Chair, I urge the adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. GOODEN of Texas). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 61 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 69, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$77,000,000)".

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$77,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to restore funding for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to fiscal year 2019 pre-COVID levels.

This amendment would direct \$77 million to deficit reduction in fiscal year 2024. Annual discretionary spending exploded over the course of the COVID-19 response. No one thought our government was too small before COVID. We are currently spending hundreds of billions of dollars more in fiscal year 2023 for the same government functions that we had before.

Deficits are now projected to exceed \$2 trillion for this fiscal year. Recently, the U.S. eclipsed \$33 trillion in debt, accounting for nearly \$100,000 per U.S. citizen.

Earlier in the debates today, we were told that if we go down this road, we are going to see a threatened credit rating reduction. We have already seen that. Fitch already did it. Moody's is threatening to do it again, and why are they doing it again? It is because, as they said the last time they downgraded us, we don't have an effective plan to handle and reduce our Federal deficit.

We just don't have a plan anymore. The plan is to actually increase our deficit, and my bill attempts to take one small bite at trying to shrink that deficit, that structural deficit, that leads to the gross national debt problem we have every year.

Revenue in fiscal year 2022 levels actually exceeded our Federal spending in fiscal year 2019. What that means is if we were to shrink the Federal spending behemoth back to those pre-COVID levels, we might just be able to avoid adding to our national debt for the next 12 months. That is all I am asking.

I am begging us, can we do it for a month, 2 months, 3 months? You will see that this country will not fall apart. Instead, it will prosper and grow, and we would be better off.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the offered amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment. I appreciate the gentleman taking a bite at fiscal responsibility, but this bite actually will create fiscal irresponsibility and create harm.

The CFTC is one of our two financial market regulators acting as a cop on the beat for commodity derivatives markets. The Commission's work is essential to ensure that commodity markets are fair for all participants, from the largest financial institutions to the smallest businesses.

Robust, fair, well-policed derivative markets allow for the accurate risk control and price discovery for essen-

tial economic inputs, like agricultural and energy products. Domestic derivatives markets enable U.S. producers and consumers of commodities to effectively manage their risk, making American businesses more competitive around the world.

The Commission's work is also essential to protecting the public from financial frauds and scams, including those targeting the elderly, immigrants, and Americans seeking to participate in the digital assets market.

CFTC is already one of the most cost-effective financial regulators we have, its markets as complex and important as securities markets with a budget that is just a slice, a sixth, of the SEC's \$2 billion budget.

Now, this bill, the underlying bill, already reduces the CFTC's funding \$296 million, which is less than FY 2021. Enacting this amendment on top of the current reductions in the bill would reduce the CFTC's funding to \$219 million, which is a cut \$49 million greater than the sponsor's intent.

Instead of bringing the CFTC back to 2019 funding levels, this amendment would bring the CFTC back to its 2014 funding levels. If enacted into law, this amendment would result in a 40 percent reduction in funding for the Commission and would jeopardize the critical work the agency does to support the economy and protect Americans from financial fraud.

Mr. Chair, I strongly oppose this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Chair, I appreciate my friend, the Agriculture Committee chairman, and his opposition, but I must respectfully disagree. The proposed funding level for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission is a nearly 30 percent increase over the fiscal year 2019 levels.

The CFTC is following in the footsteps of the SEC under the Biden administration with efforts to mandate, without statutory authority, an onerous climate disclosure regime on the private sector.

Last year, the CFTC solicited comments on climate-related financial risk. Conservative attorneys general, led by West Virginia Attorney General Patrick Morrisey, forcefully pushed back, stating that attempts to mandate disclosure through rulemaking or through another regulatory framework would clearly implicate the major questions doctrine, raised First Amendment concerns related to compelled speech, and stated that courts would find climate-related action to be arbitrary and capricious.

□ 2310

Other reporting suggests that the CFTC is aggressively pursuing enforcement action and hefty fines over minor technical reporting requirements. That is typical of the bureaucratic regime established under the Biden administration.

Adoption of my amendment would ensure that the CFTC is properly utilizing its resources to fulfill its mission of fostering open, competitive, and financially sound futures and option markets, not becoming the Biden administration's ESG enforcer.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arizona will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 62 OFFERED BY MR. DONALDS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 62 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 69, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$96,000,000)".

Page 119, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$96,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Chairman, my amendment in short does something very simple. It actually reduces the funding requirement for the Commodity Futures Trading Commission back to FY 2018 levels.

In short, Mr. Chairman, the job of the CFTC has been operating for a very long time. The additional \$96 million in money, it is not clear why they need that to be able to regulate the Commodity Futures Trading platform.

Nothing miraculously has changed in commodity trading from 2018 to 2024, so in my view, Mr. Chairman, we need to restore those levels back to the FY18 levels in part because the CFTC will still be able to accomplish their mission, number one.

Number two, we are running a \$2 trillion deficit this fiscal year. We have to actually begin to pull some of these agencies back two levels so the American taxpayer can actually begin to afford, and not the wishful thinking of Federal agencies.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Chairman, it is a good thing I represent Punxsutawney, Pennsylvania, because it feels like Groundhog Day all over again.

I don't see the point of defunding the police further than what the underlying bill has done to police. It really provides safeguards for those who are involved in the derivative market, those small businesses, those farmers, those Americans.

As I have mentioned before, the CFTC is one of our two financial market regulators. They are the police within this area, acting as a cop on the beat for the commodity derivatives market.

The Commission's work is essential to ensure that commodity markets are fair for all participants, from the largest financial institutions to the smallest businesses. Robust, fair, well-policed derivative markets allow for accurate risk control and price discovery for essential economic inputs like agricultural and energy products.

Domestic derivative markets enable the United States producers and consumers of commodities to effectively manage their risk, making American businesses more competitive around the world.

Now, this Commission's work is also essential to protecting the public from financial frauds and scams, including those targeting the elderly, immigrants, and Americans seeking to participate in the digital asset markets, which, quite frankly, is an increasing number given the state of digital assets in the derivatives market.

The CFTC is already one of the most cost-effective financial regulators we have. It polices markets as complex and important as securities markets, with a budget that—once again I have to state—is less than a fifth of the SEC's \$2 billion budget.

The bill already reduces CFTC's funding to \$296 million, which is less than FY 2021.

Enacting this amendment on top of the current reductions in the bill would reduce, quite frankly, this police force from protecting those investing through the derivatives market, their funding to \$200 million, which is a cut \$49 million greater than the sponsor's intent.

Instead of bringing the CFTC back to 2018 funding levels, this amendment would bring the CFTC back to 2011 funding levels.

If enacted into law, this amendment would result in a 45-percent reduction in funding for the Commission and jeopardize the critical work that the agency does to support the economy and protect Americans from financial fraud.

I strongly oppose this amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Chairman, a couple of things. Number one, the regu-

latory mission and the enforcement mission for the CFTC has not been encumbered in any way over the last several years, so cutting their spending back at a time when the American taxpayer does not have more money, first, to give to the Federal Government and its Leviathan of overspending but, number two, borrowing more money from its future is just not the prudent measure to do. That is one and two.

Number three, Congress has not outlined any regulatory framework around the digital assets framework. It does not exist because Congress has not spoken about digital assets. For the CFTC to take appropriations to regulate a space it has no legal authority to regulate, in my view, is outside the purview of the CFTC.

There might be a time in the future where Congress would regulate legislative responsibilities around the digital assets marketplace, but that has not occurred at this time.

Number four, I would agree with the gentleman from Pennsylvania, the CFTC, with respect to all the other regulators, is one of the most cost-effective.

Obviously, I believe the SEC is bloated and, frankly, out of control in a myriad of areas, but that does not mean that we just turn a blind eye to the budgets of every aspect of the Federal Government. We have to bring some semblance of fiscal sanity to this government and starting even with the good "cops on the beat" is a responsible thing to do.

The CFTC can still accomplish its mission if their budget is restrained to a degree. There has not been any really significant issues in the derivative markets since, frankly, 2008, where the CFTC has not been able to accomplish its mission. This lower funding level will allow them to do the same.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 64 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 65 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 65 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 119, after line 18, insert the following:
SEC. 775A. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out clause (ii) of section 6(o)(4)(A) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(4)(A)).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) and a

Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chairman, in 1996 this Congress came together to work on a bipartisan basis and enact work requirements for welfare programs.

Mr. Chairman, let me be very clear. The United States needs a social safety net. We need a social welfare program—let me say it again—as a safety net, as a program that is there to help those on a temporary basis at a time of need to offer a handout.

Under President Clinton, under Republicans and Democrats working together in 1996, and I make note, Mr. Chairman, then-Senator Joe Biden voted in support of installing work requirements for welfare programs such as for the SNAP program, and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, commonly known as food stamps.

□ 2320

Under the program or under the law change, the work requirements simply meant that you needed to go to a job assistance center, a job training center, somewhere to gain the skills to connect you with available jobs.

More recently, Mr. Chair, just months ago, Republicans and Democrats—and I want to make note the majority of Democrats in this Chamber, the majority of Republicans in this Chamber and our President Joe Biden signed into law strengthening those work requirements; for example, raising the requirement up to age 55 that work capable individuals without dependents would be responsible for 20 hours of work in order to be eligible after an extended period for programs like food stamps.

This body came together and established a hard cap on the percentage of individuals that a State may be able to exempt.

What has happened is we have watched as the States have abused a loophole, a loophole that simply says if there are insufficient jobs, you don't have to comply with the work requirement. Eighteen States today—18 States—have said that they have insufficient jobs. Mr. Chair, that is ridiculous.

We have one of the lowest workforce participation rates in modern history. We have 8.8 million jobs available according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Jobs are available. Let's be clear. For those who are going to come out and say that this is mean, this is mean-spirited, this is cruel—let's be clear, Mr. Chair, the objective of work requirements—I am certain that Bill Clinton had as President, that then-Senator Joe Biden supported, that more recently President Joe Biden signed into law—the objective here is following models that have shown getting people to job assistance centers, job training centers, volunteering in

their community, volunteering in their church, going to school helps improve employability. It helps get people back in the workforce, taking them off of government dependence and becoming members of our society that determine their own future.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I have extremely strong opposition to this amendment.

If there are not sufficient jobs for people in the State, who are we to take that State's judgment away?

The other side is always talking about States' rights. Well, these are not people that are living high on the hog. They are not people that have excess money.

I cannot and I will not support this amendment, nor will any of my Democratic colleagues. It is mean and it is cruel to ask people to do something that is not possible. If there aren't jobs, they can't be employed and they can't comply with this. The States should know better than we in Washington. If the State requests a waiver, which is a request, it is not a mandate, certainly the Department can examine it and determine whether or not there is sufficient cause to justify the waiver.

We shouldn't just sua sponte on our own decide that a State doesn't have sense enough to know what is going on within its borders.

We should not support this, and if it is included in the final conference agreement, I doubt my Democratic colleagues would provide the necessary votes for final passage, nor that the President would sign the bill.

I urge us to defeat this amendment. It really makes no sense, and it is mean, and it is cruel.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding. He has a great amendment. Now, he doesn't have great hair right now—there is a little too much of it—but he has a great amendment.

He is talking about the abuse of States. I come from Pennsylvania where these waivers are continually abused.

Let's face it, Mr. Chair, they wouldn't have to be abused, they don't have to be abused at all. If my friends on the left would quit destroying the economies and the fabric of the household that makes a living and makes everything more expensive for them, none of this would be required. First, they destroy the house's income, and then they subsidize it and force them to do this.

These waivers are indicative of this policy, Mr. Chair, and the gentleman from Louisiana makes a great point. This is a great amendment, and it should be adopted because these programs exist to help people but not to be abused by States that use them to push people further into poverty, which is what happens. They can never get out, and they are ever dependent. These waivers support that, and that is why they should end.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I will respond to my friend's comments. I actually agree with what he said, and, fortunately, he is not making any reference to my amendment.

Let's be clear on what happens here. These are Federal funds; so, yes, absolutely, the Federal Government should be determining it. This has nothing to do with State's rights. We don't let the States cut the check for the Federal Government. That is inappropriate.

Number two, no one is taking these benefits away. Let's keep in mind, taxpayers are funding these programs, and all we are doing is we are simply asking for 20 hours a week of volunteer time in return for receiving these very generous taxpayer-funded benefits.

Lastly, Mr. Chair, the outcomes show, study after study shows this results in getting people back in the workforce. This should be our objective. Why in the world would we want to force people to stay on social welfare programs? That is cruel. We shouldn't be doing that to anyone. It is entirely inappropriate.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 66 OFFERED BY MR. TIFFANY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 66 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce section 3 (relating to milk) of the rule entitled "Child Nutrition Programs: Revisions to Meal Patterns Consistent with the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans" published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on February 7, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 8050).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 66, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Chair, my bipartisan amendment ensures that none of the funds made available by this bill

will go toward funding a rule that will ban flavored milk, like chocolate milk, in schools.

This would ensure that all types and flavors of milk are available to schoolchildren.

This summer it was reported that the USDA is considering banning chocolate milk from elementary and middle schools.

USDA issued a proposed rule in February that would set new nutrition standards for school meals. If implemented, the new standards proposed could limit the amount of flavored milk, like chocolate and strawberry, in high schools while children in elementary and middle schools would be restricted to a variety of unflavored milk. This rule would affect roughly 30 million students who participate in the school meal programs.

According to the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, removing flavored milk from schools resulted in a 62 to 63 percent reduction in milk consumption by kids in kindergarten through fifth grade, as well as a 50 percent reduction in sixth through eighth grades.

Milk is full of rich nutrients that support bone growth and development, and millions of children enjoy drinking it.

We should not be funding rules that would limit our children's access to delicious and nutritious products like milk.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bipartisan amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, this amendment, as the gentleman from Wisconsin has said, prohibits funds from being used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the milk section of USDA's proposed rule that aligns nutrition standards to the 2020 dietary guidelines for Americans. This appropriations rider is preemptive as the final rule hadn't even been released by the Department, and it is out of place because this issue should be taken up within the context of a child nutrition reauthorization, not an appropriations rider.

□ 2330

This amendment disregards the normal scientific process currently being undertaken to establish the nutrition guidelines.

School meals and beverages are required to be consistent with the dietary guidelines for Americans, which are evidence-based recommendations set to provide nutritional guidance.

This amendment would effectively undermine the unbiased, evidence-based process that ensures that children receive the most nutritious meals and replace that scientifically based process with a political process.

It is critical that science continue to guide the process in determining options in schools and that the regulations are updated to align with the newest dietary guidelines using a process that intentionally allows for adaptations in line with the latest scientific and expert recommendations.

Importantly, the Department of Agriculture has specifically requested public feedback on the proposed milk options for consideration when crafting the final rule.

The bottom line is that scientific experts, not politicians, should be the ones to determine the nutrition standards and ensure that our children get the healthiest meals possible.

A dozen organizations, including the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Heart Association, have all urged Congress to continue to respect the scientific-based process and not interfere with the normal procedure.

Mr. Chair, I urge a “no” vote on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN), my friend and neighbor in the Third Congressional District.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of this amendment, which will continue the allowance of flavored milk in school nutrition programs.

Dairy products deliver nutrients critical to children’s health and development. Milk is the top source of protein, calcium, potassium, phosphorus, and vitamin D for children ages 2 to 11. Dairy also provides nutrients vital for immune health.

Unfortunately, children are not consuming enough dairy to benefit from these essential nutrients. Removing flavored milk from schools only deters school-aged children from drinking milk.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment to continue to fully allow nonfat and low-fat flavored milk in grades K-12 to ensure our children have access to nutrients that they need.

I will say to my Democratic colleagues on the other side of the aisle that we must be cautious when we are speaking about conflating politics with science. We have learned that over the last 3 years.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I thank Mr. TIFFANY for the amendment. I want, with him, to speak on behalf of parents and children, not on behalf of politicians and so-called scientists.

This is what we know. We shouldn’t even be having this conversation because we didn’t enact this Federal Government to ban things from us. We want to make the decisions. Children want to make the decisions. Parents

want to make the decisions. We know what is best for us. We don’t need them to tell us. We will figure it out ourselves. Over the course of a couple hundred years, we have done pretty well here without scientists and politicians telling us and our children what is good or what is bad.

Let me tell you what is good and what is bad. What is bad is school lunches today. Do you know how I know? Because kids don’t want to eat them. All the nutrition they are getting? They are not getting it because they don’t want them. The only time they are going to eat them is if it is the only thing they have to eat, and you are limiting that now. It is absurd.

Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for offering the amendment. I hope that we win this amendment, and kids and parents can finally make choices for themselves.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Chair, in many ways, this may be the least of the amendments that you will hear tonight, but it is actually, I would say, the most of the amendments.

Here is the reason why: When you have a Federal Government that believes that they need to regulate the milk that is served in our kids’ schools across America, you have a Federal Government that is out of control.

We have become a borderless country. When our Federal Government has become perhaps the largest human trafficking operation in the history of the world, when you have a Federal Government that will not take us back to energy independence, where gasoline is now back up to \$4 a gallon where I live in northern Wisconsin, where you have a Federal Government that has fueled inflation like we haven’t seen for 40 years, what in the world are they doing? What in the world are they doing trying to regulate what milk is served in our kids’ schools?

That is why we are here tonight and trying to pass these amendments. They get America back to a place of fiscal responsibility but also sanity from what we have seen over the last couple of years with this profligate spending that is going on.

Finally, I will say that I come from America’s Dairyland, and you are damn right that I am going to fight for milk in our kids’ schools.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 67 OFFERED BY MR. BOST

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 67 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Agriculture to purchase electric vehicles.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment to restrict the Secretary of Agriculture from using taxpayer dollars to purchase electric vehicles.

The American people have had enough of the Green New Deal mandates. Families and farmers in my district, who fear the steady march of Big Government, know that it is just the beginning before Big Government makes it harder to purchase the vehicles you want to drive and that you have to drive to operate your farms and businesses.

I have talked to car dealers in my district that are having a hard time even moving electric vehicles off the lot. No one wants to buy them. Not only do electric vehicles cost more than gas-powered vehicles, but they also make us more dependent on global adversaries for the lithium batteries it takes to run them.

Americans should not be forced to heel under the Biden administration’s push for this radical agenda.

There are better solutions. For instance, biofuels offer a tremendous energy opportunity for our country that supports our farmers in the fields and the consumers at the pump with cleaner and cheaper fuel.

The USDA should be supporting and uplifting American farmers, not selling them out to please environmental activists. My amendment shows that the people’s House will hold the Biden administration accountable to the people.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, electric vehicles produce no carbon dioxide or other harmful emissions when driving, and they create a healthy environment for all Americans by reducing air pollution. Electric vehicles require less fluids and lubricants, which keeps our drinking water cleaner.

Why would anyone object to having cleaner air or cleaner water for our children and our grandchildren?

This amendment doesn’t save the American taxpayer any money because it prohibits the Secretary of Agriculture from purchasing electric vehicles that will reduce fuel costs for the Department of Agriculture.

It is estimated that by 2035, most of the world’s automakers will offer nothing but electric vehicles. While that is

12 years away, there is no reason to prohibit the Department of Agriculture from replacing retiring vehicles with electric vehicles to build our fleet for the future.

We are all witnessing the impacts of climate change through drought and extreme weather events. Let's not prevent any steps that would help us address climate change.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 2340

Mr. BOST. Mr. Chairman, first off, I have actually met with members of the Auto Dealers Association who have tremendous amounts of EVs sitting on their lots that they can't sell. Yet, we continue to push from the Federal Government and from the Biden administration to try to push that.

I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding time.

This is a commonsense amendment. The bottom line is it is a myth to say that electric vehicles produce no CO₂. Where do you think the electricity comes from when you plug it into the outlet? Most electricity in the United States is producing CO₂.

Secondly, why would we want the Federal Government to buy a vehicle, an expensive vehicle, that people don't even buy for themselves?

We should run the Federal Government much more efficiently. These are not the most efficient purchases to make. We have a \$2 trillion deficit.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chair, my colleague from the other side of the aisle just talked about electric vehicles and how clean they are.

Well, let me ask you something. Why would you mine those critical minerals, Mr. Chair, in a foreign adversarial land under zero environmental standards and zero labor standards, when we can do it better here in this country?

In the district that I have the privilege of representing, we have the biggest copper-nickel find in the world to help mine these critical minerals safely.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle and this administration, Mr. Chair, won't even let us mine those minerals here in the United States of America. They would rather have the polluting Chinese Communist Party mine these minerals and then say we want to get to this green energy and turn a blind eye to the atrocities and the child slave labor coming from the communist country of China and the Congo where 15 of those 19 industrial mines are owned by the Chinese communist country who employ child slave labor.

Don't tell me that electric vehicles are cleaner.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Chairman, let me explain this. As I said, auto dealers themselves, since we put this in place, cannot sell these vehicles. No one wants them even if the government is trying to force us to take them.

They are offering tax incentives. They are offering everything that you think would drive somebody to purchase a vehicle they don't want.

We, as United States citizens, and my constituents and your constituents, Mr. Chair, know and understand that we are consumers. We kind of like this freedom thing we have in this Nation. We want to make sure that that freedom works for us.

I am going to tell you, it is vitally important that our farmers have vehicles that are affordable, that are reliable, and that they can do the job of providing the food, fiber, and all of the things that we require from our farmers to make sure that we can feed the world.

Mr. Chairman, if we continue down this path, it doesn't allow them to do that. I encourage all the Members to support this amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 68 OFFERED BY MR. MCCORMICK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 68 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the revised guidance entitled "Marketed Unapproved Drugs—Compliance Policy Guide Sec. 440.100, Marketed New Drugs Without Approved NDAs or ANDAs", published by the Food and Drug Administration in the Federal Register on September 21, 2011 (76 Fed. Reg. 58398) (or any guidance of the same substance).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer my amendment No. 68 to H.R. 4368, the Agricultural, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill.

Amendment No. 68 prohibits funding for the implementation of the Unapproved Drug Initiative. This initiative causes generic drugs that have historically low prices to have their prices skyrocket, which ultimately hurts families across the Nation.

Because of the Unapproved Drug Initiative, many generic drugs that have

been used for centuries were removed from the market and awarded to large pharmaceutical companies to seek new drug applications, which has led to monopolistic practices.

On top of this, the new drug manufacturer was granted a period of market exclusivity and aggressively used the courts to block other drug companies from marketing cheaper generic alternatives for years.

The best example of this issue is in the pricing of the therapeutic drug colchicine. When I was a resident at Grady Hospital through the Emory ER residency program, I treated patients with colchicine for gout.

The drug had been around for centuries. It was a cheap drug. The average American could afford it. It cost about \$11.

After this initiative, colchicine increased nearly 16-fold from about \$11 in 2009 to \$190 in 2011. The average family cannot afford that.

As of 2020, price increases of drugs through the Unapproved Drug Initiative have increased U.S. health spending by \$3.2 billion.

High drug costs do not only interfere with appropriate use of medications, but they force families to make impossible choices between their healthcare and other basic needs.

If reinstated, the Unapproved Drug Initiative would target an estimated 1,500 drugs. Even one increase would punish all of us, whether destitute or well-insured.

The only one who wins is Big Pharma. We all lose. That is why I urge my colleagues to support amendment No. 68, which serves as a safeguard to ensure that the FDA does not continue to implement the Unapproved Drug Initiative, which is hurting Americans and placing an undue burden on the healthcare system.

To be clear, there will never be a good use for this. It can only be used to profit and cannot benefit people we serve, especially the most vulnerable.

I appeal to my fellow Georgian, my fellow servant, my fellow Christian, join me in a nonpartisan effort to protect the American people.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 69 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 69 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement

any recommendation specified in the Interim Report 2023 issued by the USDA Equity Commission established pursuant to section 1006(b)(3) of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (135 Stat. 13).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Illinois.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chair, under the Biden administration, the Department of Agriculture is being forced to pander to the left's extreme ideology instead of helping farmers in rural communities.

While farmers struggle with the increasing cost of inputs caused by the Biden administration, the Biden Department of Agriculture is focusing on equity and climate change.

The Department of Agriculture's job is to support farmers and rural communities, not political equity reports.

I urge my colleagues to stand with me and support this amendment to ensure that no funds go toward the Biden administration's woke agenda policies.

Let us refocus the USDA on its core mission of supporting farmers in rural communities.

I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment. This amendment would prohibit funding for carrying out the recommendations of the interim report of the USDA Equity Commission.

The Equity Commission has made 32 initial recommendations on a range of topics such as environmental justice, increasing financial support for minority-serving institutions, and ensuring farmworkers have access to nutrition programs, among other topics.

□ 2350

These recommendations are a great first step toward addressing historic inequities and we should all support them.

Therefore, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chair, it is time to refocus the USDA on its core mission of supporting our farmers and rural communities.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

The amendment was agreed to.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will

now resume on those amendments printed in part F of House Report 118-216 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 24 by Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

Amendment No. 29 by Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.

Amendment No. 33 by Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.

Amendment No. 41 by Mr. BRECHEEN of Oklahoma.

Amendment No. 43 by Mr. BRECHEEN of Oklahoma.

Amendment No. 45 by Mr. PERRY of Pennsylvania.

Amendment No. 54 by Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.

Amendment No. 57 by Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.

Amendment No. 61 by Mr. BIGGS of Arizona.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 24, printed in part F of House Report 118-216 offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 175, noes 254, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 408]

AYES—175

Aderholt	Crane	Graves (LA)	Clarke (NY)	Kaptur	Pettersen
Alford	Crawford	Graves (MO)	Cleaver	Kean (NJ)	Phillips
Allen	Crenshaw	Green (TN)	Clyburn	Keating	Pingree
Amodei	Curtis	Greene (GA)	Cohen	Kelly (IL)	Plaskett
Armstrong	Davidson	Griffith	Connolly	Kelly (PA)	Pocan
Arrington	De La Cruz	Grothman	Correa	Khanna	Porter
Babin	DesJarlais	Guest	Costa	Kiggans (VA)	Pressley
Balderson	Diaz-Balart	Guthrie	Courtney	Kildee	Quigley
Banks	Donalds	Hageman	Craig	Kiley	Ramirez
Barr	Duncan	Harris	Crockett	Kilmers	Raskin
Bean (FL)	Edwards	Harshbarger	Crow	Kim (CA)	Ross
Bentz	Ellzey	Hern	Cuellar	Kim (NJ)	Ruiz
Bergman	Emmer	Higgins (LA)	D'Esposito	Krishnamoorthi	Ruppersberger
Bice	Estes	Hill	Davids (KS)	Kuster	Ryan
Biggs	Ezell	Houchin	Davis (IL)	LaLota	Salazar
Bilirakis	Fallon	Hudson	Davis (NC)	Landsman	Salinas
Bishop (NC)	Feeenstra	Huizenga	Dean (PA)	Langworthy	Sánchez
Boebert	Ferguson	Hunt	DeGette	Larsen (WA)	Sarbanes
Bost	Finstad	Jackson (TX)	DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Scanlon
Brecheen	Fischbach	Johnson (LA)	DelBene	LaTurner	Schakowsky
Buchanan	Fitzgerald	Johnson (OH)	Deluzio	Lawler	Schiff
Buck	Fleischmann	Johnson (SD)	DeSaulnier	Lee (CA)	Schneider
Burchett	Foxx	Jordan	Dingell	Lee (FL)	Schrirer
Burgess	Franklin, C.	Joyce (PA)	Doggett	Lee (NV)	Scott (VA)
Burlison	Scott	Kelly (MS)	Duarte	Lee (PA)	Scott, David
Calvert	Fry	Kustoff	Dunn (FL)	Leger Fernandez	Sewell
Cammack	Fulcher	LaHood	Escobar	Letlow	Sherman
Carey	Gaetz	LaMalfa	Eshoo	Levin	Sherrill
Carl	Gallagher	Lamborn	Espaiat	Lieu	Slotkin
Carter (GA)	Garcia, Mike	Latta	Evans	Lofgren	Smith (N.J.)
Cline	Gimenez	Lesko	Fitzpatrick	Lynch	Smith (WA)
Cloud	Gonzales, Tony	Loudermilk	Fletcher	Mace	Sorensen
Clyde	Good (VA)	Luetkemeyer	Flood	Magaziner	Soto
Cole	Gooden (TX)	Luttrell	Foster	Mann	Spanberger
Collins	Gosar	Malliotakis	Foushee	Manning	Stansbury
Comer	Granger	Massie	Frankel, Lois	Matsui	Stanton

Webster (FL)	Westerman	Williams (TX)	Stauber	Titus	Veasey	Bentz	Garcia (TX)	McHenry
Wenstrup	Williams (NY)	Wilson (SC)	Stefanik	Tlaib	Wasserman	Bera	Garcia, Robert	Meeks
NOES—323								
Adams	Finstad	Mann	Strong	Tokuda	Schultz	Bergman	Gimenez	Menendez
Aderholt	Fischbach	Manning	Swalwell	Trahan	Watson	Beyer	Golden (ME)	Meng
Aguilar	Fitzpatrick	Matsui	Sykes	Tonko	Watson Coleman	Weber (TX)	Bilirakis	Goldman (NY)
Alford	Fleischmann	McBath	Takano	Turner	Williams (GA)	Wexton	Bishop (GA)	Gomez
Allen	Fletcher	McCaul	Tenney	Underwood	Wild	Williams (FL)	Blunt Rochester	Gonzales, Tony
Allred	Flood	McClain	Thanedar	Valadao	Wittman	Wilson (FL)	Bonamici	Gonzalez, Vicente
Amodei	Foster	McClellan	Thompson (CA)	Van Orden	Womack	Bost	Gottheimer	Miller (IL)
Armstrong	Foushee	McCollum	Thompson (MS)	Vargas	Yakym	Bowman	Graves (LA)	Miller (OH)
Auchincloss	Frankel, Lois	McGarvey	Thompson (PA)	Vasquez	Zinke	Boyle (PA)	Graves (MO)	Moore (WI)
Babin	Franklin, C.	McGovern				Brown	Green (TN)	Moran
Bacon	Scott	Meeks				Brownley	Green, Al (TX)	Morelle
Baird	Frost	Menendez				Buchanan	Grijalva	Moskowitz
Balderson	Gallego	Meng				Bucshon	Guest	Moulton
Balint	Garamendi	Meuser				Budzinski	Guthrie	Mylan
Barragán	Garbarino	Mfume				Calvert	Harder (CA)	Mrvan
Beatty	García (IL)	Miller (IL)				Cammack	Hayes	Mullin
Bentz	Garcia (TX)	Miller (OH)				Caraveo	Higgins (NY)	Molinaro
Bera	Garcia, Robert	Miller-Meeks				Carbajal	Hill	Neal
Bergman	Gimenez	Molinaro				Cárdenas	Himes	Moolenaar
Beyer	Golden (ME)	Moolenaar				Carl	Hinson	Moore (WI)
Bice	Goldman (NY)	Moore (WI)				Carson	Horsford	Newhouse
Bilirakis	Gomez	Morelle				Carter (GA)	Houchin	Nickel
Bishop (GA)	Gonzales, Tony	Moskowitz				Carter (LA)	Houlihan	Norcross
Blumenauer	Gonzalez,	Moulton				Cartwright	Hoyer	Norton
Blunt Rochester	Vicente	Moylan				Casar	Hoyle (OR)	Obernolte
Bonamici	González-Colón	Mrvan				Case	Huffman	Ocasio-Cortez
Bost	Gottheimer	Mullin				Casten	Huizenga	Omar
Bowman	Granger	Murphy				Castor (FL)	Hunt	Pallone
Boyle (PA)	Graves (MO)	Nadler				Castro (TX)	Issa	Panetta
Brown	Green, Al (TX)	Napolitano				Chavez-DeRemer	Ivey	Pappas
Brownley	Grijalva	Neal				Cherifius-	Jackson (IL)	Pascarella
Buchanan	Grothman	Neguse				McCormick	Jackson (NC)	Payne
Bucshon	Guest	Newhouse				Chu	Jackson Lee	Pelosi
Budzinski	Guthrie	Nickel				Ciscomani	Jacobs	Perez
Calvert	Harder (CA)	Norcross				Clark (MA)	James	Peters
Cammack	Harris	Norton				Clarke (NY)	Jayapal	Pettersen
Caraveo	Hayes	Nunn (IA)				Cleaver	Jeffries	Pfluger
Carbajal	Higgins (NY)	Obernolte				Clyburn	Johnson (GA)	Phillips
Cárdenas	Himes	Ocasio-Cortez				Cohen	Johnson (OH)	Pingree
Carl	Hinson	Omar				Cole	Johnson (SD)	Plaskett
Carson	Horsford	Pallone				Connolly	Joyce (OH)	Pocan
Carter (GA)	Houlahan	Panetta				Correa	Joyce (PA)	Porter
Carter (LA)	Hoyer	Pappas				Costa	Kamlager-Dove	Pressley
Cartwright	Hoyle (OR)	Pascrell				Courtney	Kaptur	Quigley
Casar	Huffman	Payne				Craig	Kean (NJ)	Ramirez
Case	Huizenga	Pelosi				Crawford	Keating	Raskin
Casten	Issa	Perez				Crenshaw	Kelly (IL)	Reschenthaler
Castor (FL)	Ivey	Peters				Crockett	Kelly (MS)	Rodgers (WA)
Castro (TX)	Jackson (IL)	Petterson				Crow	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (AL)
Chavez-DeRemer	Jackson (NC)	Phillips				Cuellar	Khanna	Rogers (KY)
Cherifius-	Jackson Lee	Pingree				D'Esposito	Kiggans (VA)	Rose
McCormick	Jacobs	Plaskett				Davids (KS)	Kildee	Ross
Chu	James	Pocan				Davis (IL)	Kiley	Rouzer
Ciscomani	Jayapal	Porter				Davis (NC)	Kilmer	Ruiz
Clark (MA)	Jeffries	Posey				De La Cruz	Kim (CA)	Ruppersberger
Clarke (NY)	Johnson (GA)	Pressley				Dean (PA)	Kim (NJ)	Rutherford
Cleaver	Johnson (OH)	Quigley				DeGette	Krishnamoorthi	Ryan
Clyburn	Johnson (SD)	Ramirez				DeLauro	Kuster	Salinas
Cohen	Joyce (OH)	Raskin				DelBene	LaHood	Sánchez
Cole	Kamlager-Dove	Rodgers (WA)				Arrington	Deluzio	Barbanes
Connolly	Kaptur	Rogers (AL)				Fulcher	DeSaulnier	Scanlon
Correa	Kean (NJ)	Rogers (KY)				Gaetz	DeSaulnier	Schakowsky
Costa	Keating	Rose				Banks	DesJarlais	Landsman
Courtney	Kelly (IL)	Ross				Barr	Good (VA)	Langworthy
Craig	Kelly (PA)	Rouzer				Bean (FL)	Murphy	Schiff
Crawford	Khanna	Ruiz				Biggs	Gooden (TX)	Schneider
Crenshaw	Krigans (VA)	Ruppersberger				Bishop (NC)	Nehls	Scholten
Crockett	Kildee	Rutherford				Boebert	Dingell	Larsen (WA)
Crow	Kiley	Ruck				Brecheen	Doggett	Larson (CT)
Cuellar	Kilmer	Rubin				Griffith	Norman	Latta
D'Esposito	Kim (CA)	Sánchez				Hern	Ogles	Schrir
Davids (KS)	Kim (NJ)	Santos				Carey	Owens	LaTurner
Davis (IL)	Krishnamoorthi	Sarbanes				Higgins (LA)	Duncan	Scott (VA)
Davis (NC)	Kuster	Scanlon				Cloud	Palmer	Scott, Austin
De La Cruz	Kustoff	Schakowsky				Clyburn	Dunn (FL)	Scott, David
Dean (PA)	LaLota	Shiff				Fulcher	Perry	Slotkin
DeGette	Landsman	Schneider				Gaetz	Emmer	Lee (CA)
DeLauro	Langworthy	Scholten				Banks	Harris	Lee (FL)
DelBene	Larsen (WA)	Schrir				Barr	Rosendale	Sessions
Deluzio	Larson (CT)	Scott (VA)				Bean (FL)	Roy	Sewell
DeSaulnier	LaTurner	Scott, Austin				Biggs	Eshoo	Lee (NV)
DesJarlais	Lawler	Donalds				Bishop (NC)	Granger	Lee (PA)
Diaz-Balart	Lee (CA)	Edwards				Boebert	Greene (GA)	Sherman
Dingell	Lee (FL)	Sherman				Carey	Hern	Leger Fernandez
Doggett	Lee (NV)	Ellzey				Higgins (LA)	Salazar	Sherrill
Duarte	Lee (PA)	Estes				Cloud	Santos	Letlow
Dunn (FL)	Leger Fernandez	Simpson				Clyburn	Scalise	Simpson
Ellzey	Letlow	Slotkin				Fulcher	Feenstra	Slotkin
Escobar	Levin	Smith (MO)				Gaetz	Ferguson	Smith (NE)
Eshoo	Lieu	Smith (NE)				Banks	Jordan	Smith (NJ)
Espaillet	Lofgren	Smith (WA)				Barr	Johnson (LA)	Smith (WA)
Evans	Luetkemeyer	Sorensen				Biggs	Good (VA)	Stansbury
Ezell	Lynch	Soto				Bishop (NC)	Gooden (TX)	Stanton
Feenstra	Magaziner	Spanberger				Boebert	Harris	Staver
Ferguson	Malliotakis	Stanton				Carey	Hawkins	Stauber
						Hern	Hawkins	Stefanik
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						Biggs	Hawkins	Swalwell
						Biggs	Haw	

Veasey	Watson Coleman	Williams (GA)	Castor (FL)	Hoyer	Ocasio-Cortez	Westerman	Williams (GA)	Wittman
Velázquez	Webster (FL)	Williams (NY)	Castro (TX)	Hoyle (OR)	Omar	Wexton	Williams (NY)	Womack
Wagner	Wenstrup	Wilson (FL)	Chavez-DeRemer	Hudson	Pallone	Wild	Wilson (FL)	Yakym
Wasserman	Westerman	Wittman	Cherifilus-	Huffman	Palmer			
Schultz	Wexton	Womack	McCormick	Huizenga	Panetta			
Waters	Wild	Yakym	Chu	Issa	Pappas	Bush	Luna	Radewagen
			Ciscomani	Ivey	Pascrill	Carter (TX)	Peltola	Sablan
			Clark (MA)	Jackson (IL)	Payne	Lucas	Pence	
			Clarke (NY)	Jackson (NC)				
Bush	Luna	Radewagen	Cleaver	Jackson Lee				
Carter (TX)	Peltola	Sablan	Clyburn	Jacobs				
Lucas	Pence		Cohen	James				
			Cole	Jayapal				
			Connolly	Jeffries				
			Correa	Johnson (GA)				
			Costa	Johnson (OH)				
			Courtney	Johnson (SD)				
			Craig	Joyce (OH)				
			Crawford	Kamala-Harris				
			Crenshaw	Kaptur				
			Crockett	Kean (NJ)				
			Crow	Keating				
			Cuellar	Kelly (IL)				
			Curtis	Kelly (MS)				
			D'Esposito	Khanna				
			Davids (KS)	Kiggans (VA)				
			Davis (IL)	Kildee				
			Davis (NC)	Kiley				
			De La Cruz	Kilmers				
			Dean (PA)	Kim (CA)				
			DeGette	Kim (NJ)				
			DeLauro	Krishnamoorthi				
			DelBene	Kuster				
			Deluzio	Kustoff				
			DeSaulnier	LaHood				
			DesJarlais	LaLota				
			Diaz-Balart	LaMalfa				
			Dingell	Landsman				
			Doggett	Langworthy				
			Duarte	Larsen (WA)				
			Dunn (FL)	Larson (CT)				
			Edwards	LaTurner				
			Emmer	Lawler				
			Escobar	Lee (CA)				
			Eshoo	Lee (FL)				
			Espaillet	Lee (NV)				
			Estes	Lee (PA)				
			Evans	Leger Fernandez				
			Ezell	Leitlow				
			Feeenstra	Levin				
			Ferguson	Lieu				
			Finstad	Lofgren				
			Fischbach	Luethemeyer				
			Fitzpatrick	Lynch				
Arrington	Good (VA)	Mooney	Fleischmann	Magaziner	Smith (NJ)			
Babin	Gooden (TX)	Moore (AL)	Fletcher	Malliotakis	Smith (WA)			
Barr	Gosar	Nehls	Flood	Mann	Smucker			
Bean (FL)	Granger	Norman	Foster	Manning	Sorensen			
Biggs	Green (TN)	Ogles	Foushee	Matsui	Soto			
Bishop (NC)	Greene (GA)	Owens	Foxx	McBath	Spanberger			
Boehrt	Grothman	Perry	Frankel, Lois	McCarthy	Stansbury			
Brecheen	Harris	Posey	Franklin, C.	McCarty				
Buck	Harshbarger	Rosendale	Scott	McClain	Stanton			
Burchett	Hern	Roy	Frost	McClellan	Stauber			
Burgess	Hunt	Santos	Fry	McCollum	Steel			
Burlison	Jackson (TX)	Scalise	Gallagher	McCormick	Stefanik			
Cline	Johnson (LA)	Schweikert	Gallego	McGarvey	Stevens			
Cloud	Jordan	Self	Garamendi	McGovern	Strickland			
Clyde	Joyce (PA)	Spartz	Garbarino	McHenry	Strong			
Collins	Kelly (PA)	Steube	Garcia (IL)	Meeks	Swalwell			
Comer	Lamborn	Tiffany	Garcia (TX)	Menendez	Sykes			
Crane	Latta	Timmons	Garcia, Robert	Meng	Takano			
Davidson	Lesko	Van Drew	Gimenez	Meuser	Tenney			
Donalds	Loudermilk	Van Duyn	Golden (ME)	Mfume	Thanedar			
Duncan	Luttrell	Walberg	Goldman (NY)	Miller (IL)	Thompson (CA)			
Ellzey	Mace	Waltz	Gomez	Miller (OH)	Thompson (MS)			
Fallon	Massie	Weber (TX)	Gonzales, Tony	Miller-Meeks	Thompson (PA)			
Fitzgerald	Mast	Webster (FL)	Gonzalez	Molinaro	Titus			
Fulcher	McClintock	Williams (TX)	Vicente	Moolenaar	Tlaib			
Gaetz	Miller (WV)	Wilson (SC)	González-Colón	Moore (UT)	Tokuda			
Garcia, Mike	Mills	Zinke	Gottheimer	Moore (WI)	Tonko			
			Graves (LA)	Moran	Torres (CA)			
			Graves (MO)	Morelle	Torres (NY)			
Adams	Bentz	Bucshon	Green, Al (TX)	Moskowitz	Trahan			
Aderholt	Bera	Budzinski	Griffith	Moulton	Trone			
Aguilar	Bergman	Calvert	Grijalva	Moylan	Turner			
Alford	Beyer	Cammack	Guest	Mrvan	Underwood			
Allen	Bice	Caraveo	Guthrie	Mullin	Valadao			
Allred	Bilirakis	Carbajal	Hageman	Murphy	Van Orden			
Amodei	Bishop (GA)	Cárdenas	Harder (CA)	Nadler	Vargas			
Armstrong	Blumenauer	Carey	Hayes	Napolitano	Vasquez			
Auchincloss	Blunt Rochester	Carl	Higgins (LA)	Neal	Veasey			
Bacon	Bonamici	Carson	Higgins (NY)	Neguse	Velázquez			
Baird	Bost	Carter (GA)	Hill	Newhouse	Wagner			
Balderson	Bowman	Carter (LA)	Himes	Nickel	Wasserman			
Balint	Boyle (PA)	Cartwright	Hinson	Norcross	Schultz			
Banks	Brown	Casar	Horsford	Norton	Waters			
Barragán	Brownley	Case	Houchin	Nunn (IA)	Watson Coleman			
Beatty	Buchanan	Casten	Houlahan	Obernolte	Wenstrup			

NOT VOTING—8

Bush
Carter (TX)
Lucas

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 3712

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced
as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 61 OFFERED BY MR. BIGGS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished
business is the demand for a recorded
vote on amendment No. 57, printed in
part F of House Report 118-216 offered
by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr.
BIGGS), on which further proceedings
were postponed and on which the ayes
prevailed by voice vote.The Clerk will redesignate the
amendment.The Clerk redesignated the amend-
ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-
minute vote.The vote was taken by electronic de-
vice, and there were—ayes 105, noes 325,
not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 416]

AYES—105

Allen	Fulcher	Meuser
Arrington	Gaetz	Miller (WV)
Babin	Garcia, Mike	Mills
Barr	Banks	Mooney
Bean (FL)	Bean (FL)	Gooden (TX)
Biggs	Biggs	Gosar
Bishop (NC)	Bishop (NC)	Granger
Boehrt	Boebert	Nehls
Brecheen	Brecheen	Green (TN)
Buck	Buck	Norman
Burchett	Burchett	Palmer
Burgess	Burgess	Perry
Burlison	Burlison	Harshbarger
Cline	Cline	Posey
Cloud	Cloud	Reschenthaler
Clyde	Clyde	Rosendale
Collins	Collins	Roy
Comer	Comer	Santos
Crane	Crane	Scalise
Davidson	Davidson	Jordan
Donalds	Donalds	Schweikert
Duncan	Duncan	Timmons
Ellzey	Ellzey	Timmons
Fallon	Fallon	Van Drew
Fitzgerald	Fitzgerald	Waltz
Fulcher	Fulcher	Wasserman
Gaetz	Gaetz	Westerman
Garcia, Mike	Garcia, Mike	Williams (TX)
		Wilson (SC)
		Zinke
		NOES—325
Adams	Balderson	Bilirakis
Aderholt	Balint	Bishop (GA)
Aguilar	Barr	Blumenauer
Bergman	Barragán	Blunt Rochester
Alford	Beatty	Bonamici
Beyer	Beatty	Bost
Allen	Bentz	Bera
Allred	Bentz	Bowman
Amodei	Bentz	Brown
Bishop (GA)	Bentz	Brownley
Armstrong	Bergman	Boyle (PA)
Auchincloss	Bergman	Brown
Bacon	Bacon	Beyer
Baird	Baird	Brown
Balderson	Balderson	Brownley
Balint	Balint	Casten
Banks	Bates	Casten
Barragán	Bates	Casten
Beatty	Bates	Casten

Buchanan	Himes	Owens	Williams (GA)	Wilson (FL)	Womack
Bucshon	Hinson	Pallone	Williams (NY)	Wittman	Yakym
Budzinski	Horsford	Panetta			
Calvert	Houlahan	Pappas			
Cammack	Hoyer	Pascrall			
Caraveo	Hoyle (OR)	Payne			
Carbajal	Huffman	Pelosi			
Cárdenas	Huizenga	Perez			
Carl	Issa	Peters			
Carson	Ivey	Pettersen			
Carter (GA)	Jackson (IL)	Pfluger			
Carter (LA)	Jackson (NC)	Phillips			
Cartwright	Jackson Lee	Pingree			
Casar	Jacobs	Plaskett			
Case	James	Pocan			
Casten	Jayapal	Porter			
Castor (FL)	Jeffries	Pressley			
Castro (TX)	Johnson (GA)	Quigley			
Chavez-DeRemer	Johnson (LA)	Ramirez			
Cherifilus-	Johnson (OH)	Raskin			
McCormick	Johnson (SD)	Rodgers (WA)			
Chu	Joyce (OH)	Rogers (AL)			
Ciscomani	Kamlager-Dove	Rogers (KY)			
Clark (MA)	Kaptur	Rose			
Clarke (NY)	Kean (NJ)	Ross			
Cleaver	Keating	Rouzer			
Clyburn	Kelly (IL)	Ruiz			
Cohen	Kelly (PA)	Ruppertsberger			
Cole	Khanna	Rutherford			
Connolly	Kiggans (VA)	Ryan			
Correa	Kildee	Salinas			
Costa	Kiley	Sánchez			
Courtney	Kilmer	Sarbanes			
Craig	Kim (CA)	Scanlon			
Crawford	Kim (NJ)	Schakowsky			
Crenshaw	Krishnamoorthi	Kuster			
Crockett		LaLota			
Crow		Landsman			
Cuellar		Langworthy			
D'Esposito		Larsen (WA)			
Davids (KS)		Larson (CT)			
Davis (IL)		Latta			
Davis (NC)		LaTurner			
De La Cruz		Lawler			
Dean (PA)		Lee (CA)			
DeGette		Lee (NV)			
DeLauro		Lee (PA)			
DelBene		Leger Fernandez			
Deluzio		Letlow			
DeSaulnier		Levin			
Diaz-Balart		Lieu			
Dingell		Lofgren			
Doggett		Luetkemeyer			
Duarte		Dunn (FL)			
Dunn (FL)		Lynch			
Ellzey		Magaziner			
Escobar		Mann			
Eshoo		Manning			
Espaillat		Matsui			
Evans		McBath			
Ezell		McCaull			
Feeenstra		McClain			
Fischbach		McClellan			
Fitzpatrick		McCullum			
Fleischmann		McCormick			
Fletcher		McGarvey			
Flood		McGovern			
Foster		McHenry			
Foushee		Meeks			
Frankel, Lois		Menendez			
Frost		Meng			
Gallagher		Mfume			
Gallego		Miller (IL)			
Garamendi		Miller (OH)			
Garbarino		Miller-Meeks			
García (IL)		Molinaro			
García (TX)		Moolenaar			
Garcia, Robert		Moore (AL)			
Gimenez		Moore (WI)			
Golden (ME)		Morelle			
Goldman (NY)		Moskowitz			
Gomez		Moulton			
Gonzales, Tony		Moylan			
Gonzalez,		Mrvan			
Vicente		Mullin			
González-Colón		Murphy			
Gottheimer		Nadler			
Graves (LA)		Napolitano			
Graves (MO)		Neal			
Green, Al (TX)		Neguse			
Griffith		Newhouse			
Grijalva		Nickel			
Guthrie		Norcross			
Harder (CA)		Norton			
Harris		Nunn (IA)			
Hayes		Obernolte			
Higgins (NY)		Ocasio-Cortez			
Hill		Omar			

Williams (GA)	Wilson (FL)	Womack
Williams (NY)	Wittman	Yakym
NOT VOTING—9		
Bush	Luna	Radewagen
Carter (TX)	Peltola	Sablan
Lucas	Pence	Takano

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 4105

So the amendment was rejected.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Chair, I was not able to be present during today's full first vote series or the second series. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on rollcall No. 404, NAY on rollcall No. 405, YEA on rollcall No. 407, NAY on rollcall No. 408, NAY on rollcall No. 409, NAY on rollcall No. 410, NAY on rollcall No. 411, NAY on rollcall No. 412, NAY on rollcall No. 413, NAY on rollcall No. 414, NAY on rollcall No. 415, and NAY on rollcall No. 416.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair understands that amendment No. 70 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 71 OFFERED BY MS. HAGEMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 71 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. _____. No funds made available by this Act may be provided to the World Health Organization.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in favor of my amendment No. 71 to H.R. 4368, which prevents American tax dollars from being used to fund the World Health Organization.

In the bill currently before us, the FDA is seeking to provide funding to the WHO to advance and expand tobacco product regulation under the Building Research Capacity in Global Tobacco Product Regulation grant program.

The United States has consistently been the largest contributor in the world to the WHO, topping the charts in 2020 at over \$116 million, nearly twice as much as China, which contributed about 12 percent of the organization's total that same year.

This is the same WHO that refused to act on or publicize warnings from Taiwan that the new respiratory infection now known as COVID-19 was a threat to humans.

□ 0050

Ms. HAGEMAN. They instead chose to echo the lies coming out of China,

that there was no evidence of human-to-human transmission.

Mr. Chairman, my constituents sent me to Washington, D.C., with the mandate to stop sending taxpayer dollars to the WHO, an entity which covers for the CCP, helped cover up the COVID outbreak, and routinely attempts to infringe of the sovereignty of Americans in furtherance of its globalist agenda.

I say all this to repeat what the American people rightly know. That the WHO is a corrupt organization which bends to the Chinese Communist Party and does not deserve a cent of American tax dollars, no matter through which account this money is distributed.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise to claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, setting aside whether this amendment is misplaced in the Agriculture appropriations bill, this amendment is simply bad policy.

We are still fighting the lingering effects of a once-in-a-lifetime pandemic and attempts to cut funding for the World Health Organization would hamper work to monitor any new variants of COVID-19.

Moreover, the World Health Organization's work extends far beyond just responding to COVID. Cutting funds for the World Health Organization will affect efforts on other diseases and illnesses, including polio or the flu.

Efforts to disengage with the WHO through our bill are misguided and do nothing to address any concerns about accountability, transparency, or cost efficiency.

This is not a good amendment. I urge its defeat, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. HOUCIN).

Mrs. HOUCIN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment. I thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming for yielding and for her leadership on this issue.

I share the concern of many of my constituents with respect to the World Health Organization or the WHO, particularly with respect to the recent track record related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In fact, I supported President Trump's efforts to remove the United States from the WHO. Our tax dollars are precious. Tax dollars should only be spent on necessary programs and necessary programs only.

We should be prioritizing our limited resources within organizations that have a track record of delivering for the American people.

Frankly, based on the WHO's own record, I struggle to say the WHO fits into that category. We have had to

make a lot of tough decisions about what to spend taxpayer dollars on, about what to cut and what not to cut.

An international organization with a dangerous record of protecting the world from the spread of diseases just does not meet the simple threshold. Are American taxpayers getting what they are paying for?

Again, I thank the gentlewoman from Wyoming for her efforts to bring this to the floor. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Chair, it is simply not in the interest of Americans to have their tax dollars going toward a program that studies the health burden of tobacco in other countries.

This is simply an attempt to export the Federal nanny State into other countries through one of the most corrupt international organizations ever known.

What we should be focusing on is domestic deregulation, not global governance. After everything we have been through over the last few years, after witnessing the WHO's complete and utter incompetence during the spread of COVID-19, after witnessing them turn a blind eye time and time again to the CCP's culpability, you would think that we would have learned that American tax dollars should go to American priorities and not the priorities of our adversaries.

Having any funding for the WHO in any appropriations bill is inconsistent with the stated goal of the 118th Congress to defund the WHO completely.

They are a failed puppet organization of Communist China. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support my amendment. I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 72 OFFERED BY MR. CRAWFORD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 72 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to close or continue closing offices of the Farm Service Agency, including any such offices still on a closed or hybrid schedule related to COVID-19.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Chair, we need to have a nationwide conversation

about USDA's Farm Service Agency's staffing levels that have suffered as a result of COVID-19.

USDA operates over 2,000 FSA county offices around the country. Its mission is to serve all farmers, ranchers, and ag partners through the delivery of effective and efficient agricultural programs such as commodity support programs, farm ownership, operating, and emergency loans, disaster assistance, and other ad hoc disaster assistance programs.

One of the FSA's greatest strengths is its grassroots delivery system of farm programs to the agency's customers, meaning FSA's programs are delivered through an extensive network of county offices and local FSA employees.

Producer-elected county committees comprised of farmers in the local area are responsible for overseeing FSA programs and services delivered to the farming community.

This local oversight of farm programs enables FSA to maintain close relationships with farmers and ranchers, address their needs in a timely manner, preserve and improve the integrity of Federal farm programs, and provide production agriculture with the tools they need to produce the world's best ag products.

Unfortunately, the FSA county office footprint has been impacted by employee retirements and USDA's inability to attract high-level talent and onboard new employees.

Producers in my district continue to raise the lack of FSA staff as one of the main reasons for program delivery delays.

Sadly, the COVID-19 pandemic made a bad situation worse at FSA, but the pandemic is over, and we must continue bringing our Federal, State, and local workforces back into the office and refill positions that were lost during the pandemic.

This also means putting an effective end to any offices that may still be operating on a closed or hybrid schedule related to COVID-19.

We cannot afford to have the FSA understaffed or teleworking, and thus unable to provide the expected level of customer service needed on the farm.

This is a disservice to farmers and producers everywhere. It is long past time we had a conversation about why we can't get farmers and ranchers the basic help they need.

I hear from farmers and ranchers all the time about how they still have problems contacting their local FSA offices and how they never receive a response, even after multiple inquiries.

That is not farm service. This amendment finally ends the COVID-19 pandemic in FSA offices, but it also highlights the need for the Department of Agriculture to focus on maintaining FSA's county office footprint and delivering farm programs.

I call on my colleagues to support my amendment in returning our FSA county agents to work and urge the

Secretary of Agriculture to take action by adequately staffing FSA county offices.

I thank the chairman, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise to claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, this amendment would prevent the closing of offices of the Farm Service Agency for any reason.

Although it mentions COVID-19, the prohibition amendment would not be limited to closures related to COVID.

The Crawford amendment is duplicative of the stronger, clearer proviso on page 25, lines 8 through 10 of the bill that is being considered where it says: Provided further that none of the funds available to the farm service agencies shall be used to close Farm Service Agency county offices.

Therefore, this amendment is unnecessary because it would create a restriction that the legislation already contains.

□ 0100

We don't know what the future of COVID or any future pandemic or disaster may hold, so we shouldn't impose such a broad restriction. This is duplicative.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Chair, I am glad to hear the ranking member actually agrees with me. We can say that this is actually a good amendment because it contains language that sounds like he actually supports.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption of the amendment and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Ms. VAN DUYNE). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 73 OFFERED BY MRS. CAMMACK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 73 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to finalize any rule or regulation that meets the definition of section 804(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment which would restrict taxpayer funds from being used to finalize any rule or regulation that has resulted in or is likely to result in an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more at the Department of Agriculture.

During his first 2 years in office, the President added more than \$300 billion in new regulatory costs to the economy. The American Action Forum found that the new rules in his first 2 years required 193 million hours of compliance paperwork. That is 193 million hours to comply with new regulations from nameless, faceless bureaucrats.

This commonsense proposal would restrict any major regulatory actions by USDA from going into effect without the approval of Congress beforehand. Our farmers and ranchers across the country have enough to deal with, including natural disasters, market conditions, increasing input costs, trade issues, and the list goes on.

Our Nation's farmers, ranchers, and producers should not have to worry about the ever-changing environment in Washington with regard to regulations. Moreover, these costly regulations ultimately harm consumers who end up paying a higher price for their food, fiber, and fuel.

These days, these major rules and regulations are simply a way for agencies to circumvent Congress on major policy decisions to implement the political will of whatever party is in office at the time.

As the Nation's legislative body, we must reassert our constitutional role and prevent regulatory overreach. It doesn't matter if there is a Republican or Democrat in the White House, the American people should not be burdened by and forced to pay for the overreaching regulations that are rooted in nothing more than a political agenda.

Madam Chair, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this amendment to protect our Nation's farmers and ranchers and to prevent overreach. We certainly can cut spending, Lord knows we need to. Until we change the way we do business here in Washington, and this amendment does that, we will not change a thing.

Madam Chair, I urge passage of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, the amendment prohibits the administration from finalizing any rules with significant economic impacts. The amendment adds to the pile of bad policy riders aimed at tying the administration's hands when it comes to carrying out the laws passed by Congress.

It will stop USDA, FDA, and CFTC from finalizing regulations that are designed to keep the food and drug supply safe, the environment healthy, and markets stable.

This amendment has little to do with an appropriations bill, and even less to do with supporting farmers or rural America.

While I can understand the gentleman's intentions, I must respectfully oppose the amendment and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Chair, respectfully, I disagree with my colleague. However, I can't think of a single Member in this Chamber who would willfully give up their constitutional oversight responsibilities that their constituents have sent them up here to Washington to engage in.

I think it is time that we reassert Article I authority, but more importantly, make sure that we are being mindful of the inflationary costs that are burdening our consumers as well as our producers in this country.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 74 OFFERED BY MR. VAN ORDEN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 74 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Madam Chair, I rise to offer amendment No. 74 as the designee of Mr. STEIL from the great State of Wisconsin.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. For the Agricultural Marketing Service for dairy business innovation initiatives as authorized by section 12513 of the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (7 U.S.C. 1632d), there is hereby appropriated \$10,000,000, and the amount made available by this Act for the Agricultural Marketing Service is hereby reduced by, \$10,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment. This amendment funds the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives, which supports our dairy farmers in the development, production, marketing, and distribution of their products.

Wisconsin is America's dairyland and this important program is why I also

introduced, along with my great colleague, BRYAN STEIL, the Dairy Business Innovation Act, that looks to increase the authorization from \$20 million to \$36 million, a 55 percent increase.

Wisconsin is home to nearly 6,000 dairy herds that produce over 2.7 billion pounds of milk a month. In fact, in our district, there are many counties where our cows outnumber people by a ratio of 4-to-1.

Since President Biden took office, costs have risen by over 15 percent for Wisconsin families. Our agriculture industry is paying the price as Bidenflation makes it more expensive for farmers to fuel equipment, feed their livestock, and run their businesses.

This amendment would help ease the burden of Bidenflation for our farmers and ensure that they are able to continue the innovations in today's uncertain economic times. We must ensure that Wisconsin dairy farmers continue to be able to feed the world.

The time for fearmongering with our farmers is over. I came to this body to legislate, not bloviate. I encourage my colleague from the great State of Wisconsin, who spoke so passionately earlier on this initiative, to spend more time reading legislation versus X—formerly known as Twitter—because if he had he would realize that this amendment was proposed in July.

Madam Chair, I encourage my colleagues, especially those in the Wisconsin delegation, to cosponsor my bill and support this amendment; to not do so is clearly putting politics over our farmers. Actions speak louder than words.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I am a strong supporter of our Nation's dairy farmers in the southeast and in Georgia, but I must regretfully decline to support this amendment.

The Agricultural Marketing Service, from which the funds will be taken, is equally as important, and it supports farmers in all segments of agriculture.

The Initiative, which goes to entities only in four States got \$80 million from the American Rescue Plan just 15 months ago. The offset from the Agricultural Marketing Service is one that many, many Members, certainly on my side, deeply value.

It does great work, particularly for our specialty crop producers, and it is already underfunded due to the manager's amendment.

Madam Chair, I urge a "no" vote on this amendment, and I ask my colleagues to vote "no" also.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 0110

Unfortunately, my great colleague is not conflating or confusing apples and

oranges, it is almonds and cheese curds. These moneys are designated to make sure that our dairy industry is intact. We either support small family farms or we do not. Money talks, and I will not finish the rest of that colloquialism.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 75 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 75 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for Climate Hubs.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Chair, the FDA is no place for the left to push their radical climate agenda. While farmers face real problems, like rising input costs, the left wants to make sure that the green bad deal infiltrates every aspect of our lives.

Under the Biden administration, the USDA came out with an Action Plan for Climate Adaptation and Resilience. Instead of promoting the left's climate priorities, USDA should be focused on promoting policies that actually help farmers. That is why my amendment makes sure no Federal funds go toward the USDA's climate hubs. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, USDA's climate hubs were created to promote robust and healthy agricultural production and natural resources under increasing climate variability and climate change.

Climate hubs develop and deliver science-based, region-specific information and technologies to USDA agencies and its partners, including Federal and State agencies, extensions, and Tribes to make our communities and our Nation more resilient to climate change.

They provide outreach and education to farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners on the effects of climate change on their working lands.

We are all witnessing drought, extreme weather events, and changing growing seasons, so why would we want to prohibit aiding farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners understand and respond to climate change on their working lands? Why would we want to prohibit these 10 regional climate hubs from providing usable regional data and forecasts to underserved and vulnerable communities, Tribes, and individuals that can help their land be more productive?

This amendment does not save the American taxpayer money. In fact, it jeopardizes our food security, our economy, and the lives and livelihoods of many across the Nation. I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Chair, with due respect to the gentleman from Georgia, the farmers in my district recognize climate change as summer, winter, spring, and fall, and we would like the USDA to focus on policies that actually help producers and rural communities.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 76 OFFERED BY MRS. SPARTZ

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 76 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any program established under a commodity promotion law (as such term is defined in section 501 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (7 U.S.C. 7401)).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Indiana.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Chair, I know that accountability is a foreign concept in Washington, D.C., and there is no lobby for the people, but I would like to lobby for real farmers and consumers as a farmer myself. And, also, I have a cosponsor of my amendment, an actual real farmer, too. I would like to stand with the farmers.

My amendment is very simple. Farmers used to pay a voluntary checkoff fee when they do a checkoff to promote their commodities to boards, nonprofit boards. Well, Congress decided to make this fee mandatory and no transparency. If you are going to force farm-

ers to pay some money, I think farmers need to know where the money goes. Do they promote commodities or promote jobs for very wealthy people in fancy suits? Farmers are working hard for this money.

My amendment has two parts, to help promote transparency with trying to do the farm bill, but also no taxpayer money should be used unless we know what is happening with these checkoff dollars to be used to promote them. I believe no one argues that these moneys are not used for checkoff fees.

This does not say that they cannot be used for checkoff fees. I thought this would be an easy amendment. Unfortunately, a lot of special interest groups that aren't supposed to even lobby with this money decided to go and attack: How can Congress ask accountability? How can Congress ask us what we are doing with the money? I believe now it has become imperative since they are lobbying with this money against this amendment, against transparency, I think it is becoming imperative that taxpayer dollars are not used or given to these boards until we figure out what is going on with the money.

This is a very simple amendment. They say they are not using this money, so just clarify the intent of the Congress that no taxpayer dollars are going to be used or given to these boards who knows where they spend the money. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I rise today in strong opposition to this amendment. Research and promotion programs, commonly referred to as checkoffs, are time-tested programs that expand markets, increase consumer demand, develop new uses for those covered commodities, and, quite frankly, helps to fund the research that is needed to be able to deal with issues related to those crops or those commodities.

These programs are voluntarily created by producers for producers, and they receive no taxpayer dollars for any of their activities or for USDA oversight of their activities.

I am a strong supporter of research and promotion programs and will wholeheartedly advocate for their continued existence. I believe any debate surrounding the integrity of these programs should be reserved for farm bill deliberations due to the fact that no dollars from the bill that is up for consideration that we are talking about funds these programs.

I look forward to engaging with my colleagues to explain the merits and the mechanics of checkoffs and encourage anyone who has questions about these programs to engage with their producers to hear firsthand about the

benefits of these programs. I specifically look forward to continuing conversations about these programs with the gentlewoman from Indiana.

I urge my colleagues to stand with producers and join me in voting against this amendment. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Chair, I rise in support of this amendment, sponsored by my colleague and fellow farmer, Mrs. SPARTZ. The amendment states that none of the funds made available by this bill may be used to carry out commodity checkoff programs.

These may have started out as well-intentioned, but it is pretty well known in Washington, D.C. that this program has gone rotten, and it no longer serves farmers. In fact, we have just sent a bipartisan letter from Senators and Members of this House to Secretary Vilsack reminding him that the USDA is required to report annually to Congress, describing activities conducted accounting for the receipt and disbursement of all funds and including an independent analysis of the effectiveness of the program. Yet the USDA hasn't submitted this report since 2019.

□ 0120

Yet, the USDA hasn't submitted this report since 2019. Since that time, American dairy farmers have paid nearly a billion dollars into this promotional program. At the same time, we have witnessed the loss of more than 6,000 dairy operations across our communities.

Let me talk about the Beef Checkoff program. In 2010, an independent audit examining the equivalent of just 9 days of Beef Checkoff program spending found that the primary Beef Checkoff contractor, the National Cattlemen's Beef Association—that is right; I am calling out names—had improperly spent more than \$200,000 in checkoff dollars on lobbying and overseas vacations.

Despite a Freedom of Information Act request and complaint, a full audit has not been released to the public. Additionally, this organization, NCBA, gets 70 percent of its revenue from the checkoff program. They are prohibited from lobbying, but they are one of the biggest lobbyists up here in Washington, D.C. They lobby against things that are antithetical to cattlemen. For instance, they were up here lobbying with the money paid to them by the cattlemen against country of origin labeling.

They represent less than 5 percent of the industry. It is time to put them back to work for farmers. It is time to adopt Mrs. SPARTZ' amendment.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from

Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), the Agriculture Committee's Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology Subcommittee chairman.

Mr. BAIRD. Madam Chair, today, I rise in opposition to the Spartz amendment No. 76. This amendment states that none of the funds made available by this appropriations bill may be used to carry out commodity checkoff programs.

Checkoff programs function as research and promotion boards that help different commodities achieve industry success through market development, heightened demand, and expanded consumer awareness.

This amendment proves factually unnecessary and inaccurate since no tax dollars are used to implement the checkoffs and no appropriated dollars are used to oversee them, pursuant to the statute. These programs benefit our Nation's agriculture industry and bolster the work that is being done by our farmers and ranchers who put food on the tables across the country.

The continued success of these programs must not be interrupted and misguided by the lack of understanding and nongermane amendments.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Mrs. SPARTZ. Madam Chair, if my colleagues are saying that no taxpayer funds are used for these programs, I don't think that should be a debate, just to clarify that no taxpayer funds are used for these programs.

If they are so beneficial, I am looking forward to bringing transparency. They shouldn't be afraid to say that they are doing these great things for farmers, but so far, I have seen them serving large special interest groups and large monopolies, and farmers are becoming more and more consolidated because the little guy cannot survive.

This is ultimately the decision of Congress to stand up for the little guy, for consumers, for farmers, or we will continue to cater to large special interest groups making big salaries. Secretary Vilsack was making over a million dollars on checkoff boards while farmers were going bankrupt.

Congress needs to stop this insanity and not be afraid to challenge them and say that we do stand for the people, we lobby for the people, and we shouldn't be afraid.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I look forward to bring more transparency, but this is the clarity, and I don't see any opposition to something that everyone believes exists.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON from Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, once again, these checkoff programs are commodity group driven. There are no taxpayer dollars for any of the activities or for USDA oversight of these activities. I look forward to the farm bill process where we can continue discussions I have had with the gentlewoman from Indiana

and with her staff to be able to look at how we improve transparency, how we refine these programs to provide her and others confidence in them.

The attack on the checkoff programs really was rooted in animal rights organizations that have one goal, and that is to eliminate the livestock agriculture industry. Obviously, that is unacceptable, but increasing transparency is not unacceptable. I see the farm bill process as the appropriate path forward for that.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Indiana will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 77 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 77 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The amount of appropriations provided by this Act for the annual salary of the position of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Food and Nutrition Service of the Department of Agriculture, occupied by Stacy Dean, is hereby reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, this amendment decreases the salary of the Deputy Under Secretary of the Food and Nutrition Service.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The amendment targets a dedicated leader in nutrition for apparently doing her job as the law required. With all the challenges that we face in feeding our Nation, we should not obstruct the agency charged with carrying out our nutrition policies.

This House should hold its actions to the highest standards and not engage in attacks on individual officials in the executive branch.

Madam Chair, I urge the defeat of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, one moment. My apologies. I do not have amendment No. 77 in front of me, but, Madam Chair, I urge adoption of amendment No. 77 to be considered to decrease the salary of the Deputy Under Secretary.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

□ 0130

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, the Thrifty Food Plan, this is the official political appointee who decided that the SNAP benefits weren't high enough, so they devised a new food plan that was used as a vehicle to just increase the SNAP benefits.

The bottom line is we are spending over \$100 billion a year. We have a \$2 trillion deficit. We should reevaluate that increase in the Thrifty Food Plan that has resulted in a double-digit increase in SNAP benefits.

What this amendment does is sends a clear signal to the administration that this probably wasn't a well-thought-out idea.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment that utilizes the Holman rule to reduce the salary of Deputy Under Secretary of the Food and Nutrition Services of the Department of Agriculture, Stacy Dean, to \$1.

As the Deputy Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services at USDA, Ms. Dean has spent her career helping bureaucrats use loopholes and gimmicks to gut requirements for able-bodied adults and bypass Federal eligibility requirements, even going as far as to help States make millionaires qualify for the program.

The last thing Americans need are higher prices, fewer jobs, and the largest expansion of our welfare State in a lifetime. The Biden-Harris administration expansion of the welfare State abolishes work ethic and promotes a new generation of government dependency.

I have lived under government dependency, and I am thankful that I have broken free of that cycle given my life experiences and developing work ethic. I am one of the few who was able to break free of that cycle of dependency.

Stacy Dean, without Congressional approval, unilaterally increased Title IV of future farm bills by no less than \$256 billion. Stacy Dean has spent her life's work concocting ways to expand the welfare State and was given latitude to do so under the Biden administration with no consequence, no oversight, and no boundaries. No amount of

endless government checks can address the underlying challenges families face.

The best way to help American families is with good-paying jobs, not endless government checks.

Madam Chair, 25 years ago in the face of rising welfare caseloads, long durations in poverty, and no work for millions, Republicans and Democrats came together to reform the Nation's welfare system.

These reforms were based on one simple idea: The best way out of poverty is a job. Even the Bible says if you don't work, you don't eat.

Ms. Dean has also allowed a 25 percent increase to food stamp benefits, which was not only unprecedented, but abandoned the cost-neutral policy the Department had followed for 45 years.

Madam Chair, 25 years ago, in the face of rising welfare caseloads, long durations in poverty, and no work for millions, we said this was enough. That cannot be reiterated enough.

This move displayed Dean's blatant disregard for program transparency by failing to even consult USDA's own chief economist. Worse yet, this move went far beyond Congressional authority granted under the 2018 farm bill, all thanks to Ms. Dean.

Ms. Dean even went as far as to expand woke LGBTQ+ free school lunch policies absent Congressional approval and direction.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and hold Ms. Dean accountable for going rogue in an administration that has ignored the direction of Congress.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 78 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 78 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Equity Commission of the Department of Agriculture established pursuant to section 1006 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (7 U.S.C. 2279 note).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment to prohibit funding for the USDA's Equity Commission.

Our farmers and ranchers are fed up with a government that is weaponized against them and are fed up paying for commissions that simply should not exist.

The USDA Equity Commission was born out of a Biden executive order

but his radical administration tried to force it through anyway. We will never forget that President Biden tried to use the Federal Government to fire 84 million struggling Americans from their jobs.

Congress must pass this amendment to ensure that the Federal Government cannot implement its radical COVID agenda on Americans ever again.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, this Workplace Safety Plan was developed according to the guidance of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Decisions regarding the safety of Federal workers and returning to work should be driven by science and the methodical recommendation of experts not by broad Congressional mandates.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Chair, we need to pass this amendment so that this can never happen again.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 79 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 79 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement the COVID-19 Workplace Safety Plan issued by the Department of Agriculture on February 7, 2023.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment to prohibit funding for the USDA's Equity Commission.

Our farmers and ranchers are fed up with a government that is weaponized against them and are fed up paying for commissions that simply should not exist.

The USDA Equity Commission was born out of a Biden executive order

calling for Federal departments to address, “racial equity,” because they believe even agriculture is racist.

This Commission made over 30 recommendations to make the USDA more woke. This includes diversity training for farmers and ranchers, expanding language access, and even supporting legislation that removes restrictions on food stamp eligibility based on immigration status, or even criminal records.

This commission also opened up the door for Joe Biden’s racist \$4 billion plan for minority farmers and ranchers to pay their loans because the USDA is racist.

Joe Biden’s USDA is even holding school lunch money hostage to force a curriculum that sexualizes our children. This administration is acting like a schoolyard bully, saying, if you are not going to do what I want, I am going to take your lunch money. Quite literally.

They are holding school districts hostage in order to shove their radical agenda down our throats to ensure biological men are allowed to use the same restroom as five-year-old girls. This is madness.

This administration is so distracted by pandering to their own leftist agenda to prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion that they simply cannot manage their policies that have driven the price of milk and eggs up over 50 percent for the average American family for those items.

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Let’s return our focus to our USDA to what it should be—providing leadership on food, agriculture, natural resources, rural development, nutrition, and related issues based on public policy, the best available science—real science, please—and effective management, not pandering to the woke mob.

I urge passage of my amendment and, Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. I claim the time in opposition to the gentlewoman’s amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. The USDA Equity Commission was set up in 2022 to address the historic inequities in implementation of the programs by the Department of Agriculture.

The Department has a long and storied history of discrimination, as evidenced by the billions of dollars that it has had to pay out as a result of discriminatory policies over the years.

To quote directly from the USDA website regarding the commission: “At USDA, we acknowledge we have not done enough to provide all farmers and ranchers an equal chance of success and prosperity. We are committed to changing that, actively working to build a USDA that ensures none of our customers are ignored or left behind.”

What is so threatening about that?

The bill already came out of committee bearing harmful policy riders restricting the administration’s efforts related to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The continued assault on equity initiatives at USDA is not helping our farmers. This amendment is a distraction from the real issues that are facing our farmers, and it does nothing to move us closer to a bipartisan conference agreement, an agreement we know we must reach to pass these appropriations bills.

I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from Colorado for offering this amendment.

There is one thing the Federal Government should not do when it has a \$2 trillion deficit, and that is do duplicative things in one department.

There already is an Office of Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Agriculture. There is no need for an Equity Commission. Oh, but that is right, we have got to get the word “equity” in there somewhere.

I suggest maybe we should go back and just rename the Office of Civil Rights. It is cheaper, and with a \$2 trillion deficit, that is probably what we ought to do.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 80 OFFERED BY MR. SELF

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 80 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. SELF. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Civilian Climate Corps.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas for 5 minutes.

Mr. SELF. Madam Chair, I rise to support my very simple amendment, which would prohibit any funds from this bill from being used toward the Civilian Climate Corps.

The Biden administration continues to prioritize programs like the Civilian Climate Corps, which pushes Green New Deal policies that have proved to be costly and ineffective.

Instead of pushing their Green New Deal agenda, this administration should instead focus on cutting wasteful spending and securing our southern border, rather than wasting taxpayer dollars on indoctrination on a leftist ideology that provides nothing of value to the economy.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I am perplexed that anyone would not want to provide good-paying jobs that will help our Nation tackle the climate crisis and build a stronger country.

The goal of the Civilian Climate Corps is to put more than 20,000 young people on career pathways in the growing fields of clean energy, conservation, and climate resilience.

In launching this effort, President Biden is calling on Tribal, State, and local governments, labor unions, non-profit service allies, the private sector, and philanthropy to collaborate with the Federal Government to build on current relationships and expand skills-based training partnerships to ensure that our workforce is ready to meet the climate crisis.

We have seen the devastation to coastal communities impacted by hurricanes and tropical storms. Why would we not want to train our youth to restore coastal wetlands that can protect communities from storm surges?

We know the damage and the loss that accompanies wildfires across our Nation, so why would we not want to train youth to manage forests, to improve health, and prevent catastrophic wildfires?

We know the power of skills-based training as a tool to expand pathways into good-paying jobs. Let’s not deny our youth this opportunity, and let’s not deny our country the resources for our future.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to reject this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SELF. Madam Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Texas for offering the amendment.

It turns out in the wisdom of the committee we have already defunded the Civilian Climate Corps, but belts and suspenders is fine, I have no problem with that, because good-paying

jobs shouldn't come from the government, they should come in the private sector. That is why we don't need the Civilian Climate Corps. Oh, that is right, it has the word "climate" in it, so you have to create something in the Department with the word "climate" and with the word "equity" and with the words "diversity" and "inclusion"—the whole thing. We don't need it.

Mr. SELF. Madam Chair, we borrow \$6 billion a day. We throw the \$2 trillion number around all the time but, frankly, most of us don't understand a trillion.

We borrow \$6 billion a day toward that \$2 trillion. We discuss a lot of inputs on the floor of the House, which means government spending, Federal spending. We rarely discuss outputs, and in this case there is very little output. We are talking about some inputs, Federal spending, but no outputs.

This is simply an indoctrination program to the Green New Deal.

Now, we also have a lot of noble sounding ideas coming across this floor, but in this case there is nothing positive. There is only spending.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 81 OFFERED BY MR. BURLISON

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 81 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out section 6(o)(4) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2015(o)(4)).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 81, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

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Mr. BURLISON. Madam Chair, everyone understands that if you add recipients to a program that has limited resources, the benefits of that program get diluted amongst those who are still receiving it. In essence, the safety net becomes stretched and sometimes may even break, which is why I rise in support of my amendment to eliminate a loophole in the SNAP program that is called the geographic work requirement waivers.

These waivers have been abused for years by State bureaucracies to waive

work requirements in areas with record-low unemployment and particularly waive them for able-bodied individuals, the very people who should be working.

Current law allows for States to waive work requirements for those individuals in certain limited circumstances, but States have used this loophole to waive work requirements completely. In fact, 18 States have completely waived these work requirements. My amendment prevents this from happening.

Having work requirements for food stamps or for SNAP is not a new or radical idea. It has been around since the 1990s. It was a bipartisan agreement that occurred, and it is a commonsense approach to ensure that those who can work should be working, thereby promoting self-sufficiency while reducing the burden on taxpayers.

Congress intended for these to be limited, but obviously, just like anything else the Federal Government touches, its intent has been distorted to ensure as many people as possible are dependent on the government.

The USDA, in the late days of the Clinton administration, issued these loopholes, but now they have exploded to the point where 70 percent of able-bodied adults do not have to be required to do any work requirements.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I rise in extremely strong opposition to this amendment.

This amendment would take away all State waivers for able-bodied adults without dependents, the so-called ABAWDs. If employment is over 10 percent or there are not sufficient jobs for people in the State, again, who are we to take that State's judgment away?

If you think we will never experience these conditions again, think again. Neither you nor I can foresee the future. If these conditions do occur, what are the chances that these folks will find jobs?

I cannot and will not support this amendment, nor will any of my Democratic colleagues. If it is included in a final conference report, I doubt my Democratic colleagues will provide the necessary votes for final passage, nor will President Biden sign it into law.

It is a bad amendment. Let's vote it down.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for putting forth this amendment. It is common sense. Able-bodied people ought to work. That is the bottom line.

There are two things about this program. One is that my colleague on the

other side of the aisle says you never know, the economy could get bad. Now, this is only a 1-year amendment. We are only discussing the next fiscal year.

The President has said this is a great economy. I don't know what we are worried about. The President has said this economy is great. So don't worry about this amendment. It shouldn't be a problem.

The other thing is that this is one of the greatest State scams in the country right now. States vie with each other as to who can get this waiver. Do you know what, Madam Chair? This is no cost to the State. We could solve this problem by just asking States to have a 20 percent copay.

Do you think food stamps are a great deal or SNAP is a great deal? Great. The Federal Government pays 80, you pay 20, just like Medicaid. That means States will have skin in the game, and they won't go for these scams.

Mr. BURLISON. Madam Chair, this program has blown up and expanded—nearly a 60 percent increase since 2020 alone. This addition of individuals who are able-bodied is jeopardizing the program that we should make sure is available for individuals who truly need it, those individuals who are disabled, parents with children, and anyone who is a student. Those are the individuals who we all see and want to provide a safety net to.

Let's not let these programs, which are so valuable to them, be diluted by individuals who should be working.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 82 OFFERED BY MRS. CAMMACK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 82 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Chair, I rise to offer amendment No. 82 as the designee of Mr. ROY of Texas.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to implement any of the following executive orders:

(1) Executive Order 13990, relating to Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science To Tackle the Climate Crisis.

(2) Executive Order 14008, relating to Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad.

(3) Section 6 of Executive Order 14013, relating to Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs To Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration.

(4) Executive Order 14030, relating to Climate-Related Financial Risk.

(5) Executive Order 14057, relating to Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability.

(6) Executive Order 14082, relating to Implementation of the Energy and Infrastructure Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022.

(7) Executive Order 14096, relating to Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Chair, I rise in support of an amendment authored by Representative ROY and myself. This amendment would restrict funds from being used to implement President Biden's radical climate agenda.

Since taking office, the Biden administration has spent billions of dollars implementing leftist climate initiatives at the expense of the American taxpayer.

In May 2023, the USDA announced \$11 billion in grants and loans for "zero emission energy," otherwise known as unreliable energy.

In addition, a recent report found that Biden's USDA Secretary, Tom Vilsack, coordinated with Arabella Advisors, a George Soros-funded group, on transforming the U.S. food system.

We simply cannot produce and process the food necessary to satisfy the massive demand in this country and abroad if we cannot depend on energy and food systems that are being hijacked into an extremist climate agenda.

Furthermore, Biden's climate policies have detrimental effects on our economy and threaten the very livelihood of Americans in our agricultural sector. In many cases, these radical Biden initiatives actually do more harm than good to our environment.

Our farmers already face enormous challenges, including market fluctuations and rising input costs. The list goes on and on.

By squeezing out clean and economical fuel sources and demanding a hasty shift to so-called clean energy, green energy, as they call it, our farmers and ranchers are struggling with the rising cost of fuel that they need to keep their operations going.

Agriculture is the backbone of our Nation, and we must ensure that that sector, the agricultural sector, has the resources that it needs to keep providing for American families.

Our farmers and ranchers are some of the best conservationists in the world. Our amendment would prevent President Biden's extreme anti-climate initiatives that would undoubtedly raise costs on our Nation's agricultural businesses.

A threat to our Nation's ag producers is a threat to our national security. I encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment and safeguard our farmers and ranchers from the Biden administration's misguided climate policies.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition to the gentlewoman's amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, this amendment prohibits funds from being used to carry out President Biden's climate change executive orders, specifically:

Executive Order No. 13990 relating to Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis;

Executive Order No. 14008, relating to Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad;

Section 6 of Executive Order No. 14013, relating to Rebuilding and Enhancing Programs to Resettle Refugees and Planning for the Impact of Climate Change on Migration;

Executive Order No. 14030, relating to Climate-Related Financial Risks;

Executive Order No. 14057, relating to Catalyzing Clean Energy Industries and Jobs Through Federal Sustainability;

Executive Order No. 14082, relating to Implementation of the Energy and Infrastructure Provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022; and

Executive Order No. 14096, relating to Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All.

Who could be against that? Oh, well.

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The scientific consensus is clear, however, that we need to take significant steps to reduce carbon emissions moving forward while also working to mitigate the damage from climate change that we are already experiencing.

Extreme weather events and changing temperatures and weather patterns are extremely relevant to America's farmland. The Department of Agriculture should be at the forefront of ensuring that our farmers remain productive and successful on the global market in the years to come.

Tackling the climate crisis is an essential part of that work. Our farmers are on both the front line of dealing with the effects of climate change as well as taking steps to reduce carbon output and to promote sustainability.

This amendment being offered on both appropriations bills brought to the floor this week would hamstring our government's response to climate change.

This amendment is shortsighted and does nothing to help our farmers. In fact, it hurts our farmers.

Madam Chair, I urge the defeat of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Chair, I am so glad that my colleague mentioned carbon emissions and the need to reduce them because our farmers and ranchers are a carbon sink.

Like I said, they are the best conservationists in the world, and the harmful policies of the Biden administration continue to make their job much more difficult.

Madam Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for offering this amendment.

My colleague across the aisle read verbatim from an executive order to analyze the effect of climate on migration. What we need is an executive order to examine the effect of an open border on migration into the United States, the effect in the large cities—New York, Chicago—and bankrupting this country. That is the executive order we need from the President, not these.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Chair, we are closing in on 2 a.m., and while I definitely encourage my colleagues to support this commonsense amendment, I give thanks to the floor staff, the Clerks, the Parliamentarians, my colleagues on the committee staff who are here at 2 a.m. doing the very important work of the American people.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 83 OFFERED BY MS. HAGEMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 83 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, implement, administer, or enforce the proposed rule entitled "Use of Electronic Identification Eartags as Official Identification in Cattle and Bison" published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on January 19, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 3320).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Chair, I rise today in favor of my amendment No. 83 to H.R. 4368. This amendment would prevent the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service from implementing its proposed rule mandating electronic identification ear tags, known as EID, for cattle and bison transported in interstate commerce.

Let me start by saying this: The United States has the highest quality and safest meat in the world. We currently have a robust, effective, and affordable animal identification and traceability system in place that works. Our high standards of disease prevention and detection make us the leader in world food quality.

This rule is problematic for many reasons, including the fact that it sets a dangerous precedent by allowing a Federal agency to dictate how our ranchers run their operations. Our ranchers do not need the D.C. bureaucracy to tell them how to manage and identify their livestock. Yet, that is exactly what this rule allows.

This rule will create a paperwork nightmare, forcing our producers to hire a slew of compliance officers just to meet the new requirements.

The creation of this federally mandated system will require extensive data collection and countless reporting obligations.

Last year, Ireland mandated EID ear tags. Today, just 1 year later, there are an untold number of reports that they must file with the government.

Ireland is now considering killing off 1.3 million head of cattle to reach their “climate targets.” Their EID mandate will help them carry out this slaughter.

This rule will increase the cost of food and food production, thereby hurting the consumer.

This rule will ultimately cost our ranchers millions of dollars in compliance costs, forcing many of our smaller independent operations to sell out. It will thus result in further vertical integration of the food supply chain, making our independent livestock producers nothing but serfs to the big ranches and meatpackers.

The primary supporters of this rule are the four big packers, two of which are owned by Brazil and one of which is owned by China, and the ear tag manufacturing companies.

This rule raises serious privacy concerns for our independent ranchers. APHIS’ estimated cost of this rule is indefensible, and the minimal amount included in the rule for implementation is entirely inadequate. The real cost of mandating EID ear tags is exponentially higher than what APHIS claims, and this is an unfunded mandate.

In short, we simply cannot afford or allow a bunch of unelected bureaucrats, who have never handled livestock or made an honest living raising animals, to tell our ranchers how to operate.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, American agriculture really can be defined very simply by three words: science, technology, and innovation.

We should utilize that to our advantage, obviously, going forward. It really has been a defining nature of American agriculture.

Quite frankly, traceability resources are paramount when dealing with an animal disease outbreak. We have seen

that this year with poultry. We had threats on swine.

We obviously invested, as of the last farm bill, a significant amount of money to have a vaccine for foot and mouth. Should that ever impact our livestock industry here, it would be devastating.

APHIS’ proposed rule on electronic identification would reduce the overall quarantine times, limit the number of animals that get sick, and allow farmers and ranchers to resume normal operations in a timely manner.

Producers recognize that animal disease traceability is an essential component of protecting livestock during an animal disease outbreak, and that is whether they are the size of herds in Wyoming or, quite frankly, in Kentucky or Pennsylvania, where they are much smaller.

Animal health is incredibly important, and the ability to recognize animal disease traceability is, as well.

We should not allow ourselves to be in a position where efforts to improve animal disease traceability are hampered, and for this reason, I will oppose Ms. HAGEMAN’s amendment.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

Mr. MASSIE. Madam Chair, as a cattleman myself who interacts with and supports thousands of cattlemen in Kentucky, I rise in support of Ms. HAGEMAN’s very important amendment, which prevents funds from being used to mandate electronic identification ear tags for cattle and bison.

The cattlemen in Kentucky know this isn’t just another extra expense for them. It is the beginning of the end of the American rancher, of the American cattleman. It is the beginning of the end of multigenerational farms in Kentucky because this is an on-and-off switch that will prevent farmers from marketing their cattle if they are not in compliance with thousands of rules, a never-ending list of rules. This is why we should oppose it.

We should quit listening. I implore my colleagues who have been lobbied on this issue—we have all been lobbied on this one. I implore my colleagues to quit listening to the lobbyists who pretend to represent farmers and start listening to their farmers back home and support Ms. HAGEMAN’s amendment.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, once again, traceability resources really are incredibly important when dealing with an animal disease outbreak.

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We need to do our best to be prepared to deal with these. Otherwise, it compromises our ability to export overseas. Our trade partners could shut off markets in the United States, and it would have a decimating impact on the

livestock industry in the United States.

There are moneys in the underlying bill in order to do this. Quite frankly, a more appropriate amendment might have been to make sure the money lines up with the need. I would agree that what is in the bill is not adequate for the full implementation of this, but that is another issue.

Madam Chair, I remain in opposition to the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Chair, I reiterate that we already have an identification and traceability system in place that is effective, robust, and affordable. Some larger operations have voluntarily implemented EID because they have the resources and the manpower to do so.

If small and medium operations are forced into this same system, however, and without the proper capital, they will be locked out of the markets.

My colleague just admitted that the funding in the rule doesn’t provide adequate funding to implement the rule, and so it is going to cost our ranchers literally millions upon millions of dollars to comply. It is an unfunded mandate.

This proposed rule is based on dubious assumptions. It raises more questions than answers. It is a solution in search of a problem. It is dangerous, and it should be stopped.

I will finish with this: My amendment does not touch the cost offset in the bill. It merely addresses the flawed policy advanced by USDA. It does not prevent any American rancher, cattle producer, or bison producer to use EID technology, but it does not allow the USDA to mandate it.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Wyoming will be postponed.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 84, printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

AMENDMENT NO. 85 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. STAUBER). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 85 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The amount of appropriations provided by this Act for the annual salary of the position of the Director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research of the Food and Drug Administration, occupied by Patrizia Cavazzoni, is hereby reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to reduce to \$1 the salary of the director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research within the FDA.

As part of the Republican House majority, conservatives were able to secure important reforms to the House rules, including reinstating the Holman rule. The Holman rule dates back to the 1800s and was created to reduce spending, but it has also been used as a measure of accountability to exercise oversight over unelected bureaucrats by reducing the salaries of Federal employees.

I have concerns that the position of director for the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research has been politicized because of decisions it has been involved in related to abortion.

In January, the Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy for the main chemical abortion drug, mifepristone, was updated. A multidisciplinary team within the FDA approved changes that eliminated the in-person distribution requirement of mifepristone and allowed for retail pharmacies to dispense the abortifacient.

A Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy, or REMS, is required by the FDA for certain drugs with “serious safety concerns to help ensure the benefits outweigh its risks.” It is baffling to me that these bureaucrats would acknowledge that mifepristone is inherently dangerous yet advance policies that discourage a woman from even having to show up at a doctor’s office.

This office was complicit in these dangerous updates that impact women’s health. My amendment provides needed scrutiny over the bureaucrats who issue documents, not laws, that literally carry the power of life or death.

Whatever value these offices provide to drug safety has been clouded by political judgment. Congress should take a serious look at these offices, and we can start by holding pro-abortion officials accountable for such a destructive decision.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to stand for life and support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment. It targets a career civil servant for apparently doing their job as the law requires. This House should hold its actions to the highest standards, and attacks on the civil service have no place in this House.

This is a bad amendment. It sets a bad precedent. It is beyond our duties. It is ultra vires.

Mr. Chair, I urge the defeat of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HARRIS).

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman from Virginia for bringing this forth.

Mr. Chair, look, I urge everyone just to read the Fifth Circuit Court opinion. The fact of the matter is, the Fifth Circuit Court said the FDA way overstepped their congressional fencing in on how they have to approve drugs. The bottom line is, it is not us saying this. It is the Fifth Circuit.

Maybe this is one way to send a message that you actually ought to listen to the way Congress set up the safety and efficacy approval process. Maybe we need something like this so the FDA actually pays attention to how Congress told them they have to operate.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, FDA administrators who originally approved mifepristone knew it had risks attached to it. In the following years, those risks have been confirmed and proven time and again to the mother and, obviously, ultimately to the child.

Between 2002 and 2015, the rate of chemical abortion-related emergency room visits increased by more than 500 percent.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, at least seven offices within the FDA are responsible for administering the decision that made the chemical abortion drug easier to access. My amendment reduces to \$1 the salary of the director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research.

Congress has a responsibility to not just appropriate money but to also conduct oversight for the use of taxpayer dollars. My amendment does both.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to stand up for life and support my amendment.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

□ 0220

AMENDMENT NO. 86 OFFERED BY MR. MASSIE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 86 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund any grant related to any transgenic edible vaccine.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment, which states, “None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to fund any grant related to any transgenic edible vaccine.”

Does the term transgenic edible vaccine sound farfetched? Well, it is not. We are funding it.

In fact, scientists from the University of California, Riverside, funded with your taxpayer dollars, have been studying whether they can turn edible plants such as lettuce and spinach into mRNA vaccine factories, thereby creating a transgenic edible vaccine.

One associate professor at UCR explained that “Ideally, a single plant would produce enough mRNA to vaccinate a single person. We are testing this approach with spinach and lettuce and have long-term goals of people growing it in their own gardens. Farmers could also eventually grow entire fields of it.”

I don’t think this is a good idea.

I don’t think the American people should be funding this, and I would hope that we have learned something from the COVID experience with SARS-CoV-2 that some of our science projects aren’t the best ideas.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I do rise in opposition to this misguided amendment.

The amendment would eliminate research funding into novel approaches to keeping livestock healthy.

Livestock disease costs hundreds of millions of dollars per year. Producers

lose revenue and consumers pay higher prices as a result.

An ongoing avian influenza outbreak has devastated poultry producers across the country, devastating that industry in many areas.

Innovative research on methods to cost effectively protect livestock benefits both producers and consumers.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to defeat this misguided amendment and let USDA work to keep livestock healthy for producers and prices low for consumers.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chair, my colleague on the other side of the aisle talks about keeping prices low. I think there is more to it than that for the American people. He also speaks as if these vaccines, these transgenic edible plant vaccines, are only used for livestock.

Well, in fact, they have been used for livestock—I will get to that in a second—but they are also being used for people. That is the intended outcome of many of these programs that we are funding with money from the USDA.

What could possibly go wrong with this research?

Well, we found out a few years ago when a biotech company was experimenting, growing, in corn, a vaccine to keep pigs from getting diarrhea.

What happened? Well, the next year where the corn was grown the prior year, the corn came up and it got commingled with soybeans that were being grown there.

It contaminated 500 bushels of soybeans, which were then commingled with 500,000 bushels of soybeans. Those all had to be recalled and destroyed.

Luckily, they caught it.

Do we want humans eating vaccines that were grown in corn meant to stop pigs from getting diarrhea? I don't think we want that to happen. Yet, that almost happened, and it could happen.

There is another case where the pollen cross-contaminated another crop of corn, and 155 acres of corn had to be burned. What are the cases where we are not discovering this?

I think it is dangerous to play God with our food. I think we need a safe food supply.

Mr. Chair, this is about food safety. Ultimately, the people in this country need to know what is in their food, and if we start contaminating the DNA of our food with DNA from other animals or viruses, the pollen could spread, and we don't know what could happen.

I would hope we have learned a lesson from the Wuhan lab that sometimes things escape, sometimes things don't go as you plan. That is why I think it is a bad idea to fund transgenic edible plant vaccine research from the USDA.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 87 OFFERED BY MR. MASSIE

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 87 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to issue any new rule under section 23(a) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 623(a)), section 15(c)(1)(B) of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 464(c)(1)(B)), to implement or enforce sections 303.1(a)(2) and 381.10(a)(4) of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or regulations of the same substance), or sections 303.1(b)(1) or 320 of such title 9—

(1) regarding the number of owners of an animal for purposes of the custom slaughter exemption of the Food Safety and Inspection Service;

(2) limiting the persons that may own an animal; or

(3) requiring custom operators to keep records.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of my amendment, which states in part that, "None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to issue any new rule related to (1) regarding the number of owners of an animal for purposes of the custom slaughter exemption of the Food Safety and Inspection Service; (2) limiting the persons that may own an animal; or (3) requiring custom operators to keep records."

My amendment simply states that no funds in this bill can be used to create new rules and regulations related to the custom slaughter exemption, limiting the number of people who may own an animal, or placing additional recordkeeping burdens on custom slaughter exemption.

Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I appreciate and share the gentleman's support for our meat and poultry producers. However, this is an amendment to permanent law that, with very rare exceptions, should not be in an appropriations bill. This issue should be considered in the context of the next farm bill.

Mr. Chair, I urge a "no" vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MASSIE. Mr. Chairman, I respectfully disagree with my colleague's characterization of this amendment that it changes permanent law. In fact,

all it does is limits the spending that can be used to promulgate any new rules. Its only period is for the extent of a year. The next year, the next fiscal year.

In fact, were it changing permanent law, we would not have allowed it as an amendment to this bill.

Mr. Chair, I serve on the Rules Committee, and we vet hundreds of amendments for this very constraint. This is not one of the amendments that changes permanent law.

If I could change permanent law, would I change permanent law? You are sure right that I would, and we will try that in the farm bill, but we can't change permanent law on an appropriations bill.

The reason I have introduced this amendment is I have found on the USDA website, they haven't done the rule yet, but they are thinking about doing a rule to limit how many families could share an animal.

Listen, there are four meat-packers that control over 80 percent of the meat that is processed in the United States. Our President himself said it from that very podium during a state of the Union speech. It is a problem. We all know it.

There is one exemption that allows people to get out from under the thumb of the multinational corporations that process most of the meat in this country, and that is the custom slaughter exemption that allows somebody who owns an animal to have it processed for themselves.

It seems somewhat ridiculous that the USDA thinks they have the power to say two families can't share that animal. Yet, that is what they are proposing in a PowerPoint slide on their website.

My amendment is simple. It says we are not going to allow the USDA to promulgate a rule that keeps families from getting healthy meat from their local farmer.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. MASSIE).

The amendment was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 88, printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

AMENDMENT NO. 88 OFFERED BY MRS. BOEBERT

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 88 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for courses, books, or study guides relating to—

(1) approaching LGBT issues in the workplace;

- (2) succeeding as an LGBT professional;
- (3) understanding and supporting LGBTQ+ employees;
- (4) connecting with LGBTQ+ customers year round;
- (5) becoming an ally to all;
- (6) inclusive mindset for committed allies external link;
- (7) mindfulness, diversity, and the quest for inclusion;
- (8) driving inclusion with empathy;
- (9) communicating about culturally sensitive issues;
- (10) skills for inclusive conversations;
- (11) strategies to foster inclusive language at work;
- (12) pride leadership: strategies for LGBTQ+ leaders to be the king or queen of their jungle;
- (13) building effective corporate engagement on LGBTQ rights;
- (14) how the LGBTQ+ community and their allies are changing the global economy;
- (15) conversations with LGBTQ+ leaders on the power of identity;
- (16) gender ambiguity in the workplace: transgender and gender-diverse discrimination; and
- (17) transgender employees: creating an inclusive work community.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Colorado.

□ 0230

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer my amendment that prevents USDA from using funds for woke extreme leftist courses, books, and study guides as part of this administration's woke LGBTQI+—whatever other letter you would like to add for the flavor of the day—Pride Month agenda.

Biden's woke bureaucrats implemented woke courses, books, and study guides for Department employees, training that defy congressional intent and mandate leftist indoctrination.

Mandated Department courses and curriculum for the Federal employees included topics like Pride Leadership: Strategies for LGBTQ+ Leader to be the King Or Queen of Their Jungle; the Queer Advantage: Conversations with LGBTQ+ Leaders on the Power of Identity; Out and Proud: Approaching LGBT Issues in the Workplace; Gender Ambiguity in the Workplace; Transgender and Gender-Diverse Discrimination; Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer (LGBTQ+) Program.

In total, there were more than 20 different LGBTQI+—add your letter—training sessions and courses required by USDA that cower to the left's woke indoctrination policies, defy congressional intent, and contradict the agency's mission.

Federal employees devoted to public service shouldn't be forced to participate in extreme training sessions that contradict their own values.

I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and prevent Federal employees from being forced to participate in extreme training sessions for

the purpose of pandering to a woke agenda.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Who in the world knows what "woke" means? I think all of us should be awake to the dangers of overreach in this appropriations bill.

This amendment would prohibit funds for courses, books, or study guides on 17 topics related to inclusion, diversity, and supporting LGBT employees.

These topics include issues such as empathy, fostering an inclusive workplace, or becoming an ally to all.

I do not believe we should be spending our time here on the floor today debating ways that we can cut back on teaching empathy. Instead, what I think would serve our constituents the most would be a discussion on how we can better help American farmers remain competitive globally, help put food on the tables of those in need, and, yes, help foster an inclusive and welcoming workplace for all at the Department of Agriculture.

Mr. Chair, I urge opposition to this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Chair, maybe the USDA should spend their time educating those on how to tell the difference between a heifer and a bull. Maybe then we can actually bring some common sense to this topic.

Also, I would like to note that my colleague on the other side of the aisle, the gentleman, failed to mention some letters when referencing the LGBTQI+ community, which is not very inclusive for their party's agenda. I just wanted the record to reflect that there definitely were some letters missing from that description, which is extremely offensive.

Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado (Mrs. BOEBERT).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Colorado will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 90 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 90 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The amount of appropriations provided by this Act for the annual salary of the position of the Director of the Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology of the Food and Drug Administration, occupied by Gerald Dal Pan, is hereby reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 90, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to reduce to \$1 the salary of the director of the Office of Surveillance and Epidemiology within the FDA.

As part of the Republican House majority, conservatives were able to secure important reforms to the House rules, including reinstating the Holman rule, which dates back to the 1800s and was created to reduce spending, but it has also been used as a measure of accountability to exercise oversight over unelected bureaucrats by reducing salaries of Federal employees.

I invite my colleagues to consider this amendment as a form of oversight, transparency, and accountability—what value does this office provide, and is the person who occupies it using their position for political purposes?

Earlier this year, the FDA updated the risk evaluation and mitigation strategy for the main chemical abortion drug, mifepristone. This document changed the policy surrounding the distribution of the drug, making it easier to access, and, therefore, more dangerous for women.

Many peer-reviewed studies show that women who take chemical abortion pills are at risk of severe side effects, including hemorrhaging, the need for follow-up surgery, and even death. Yet, this FDA guidance would formally eliminate the in-person distribution requirement.

My amendment provides scrutiny over the bureaucrats who issue documents—not laws—that literally carry the power of life or death. Whatever values these offices provide to drug safety has been clouded by political judgment, and Congress should take a serious look at those offices, and we can start by holding pro-abortion officials accountable for such a destructive decision.

I urge my colleagues to stand for life in support of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 91 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 91 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The amount of appropriations provided by this Act for the annual salary of the position of the Director of the Division of Risk Management of the Food and Drug Administration, occupied by Cynthia LaCivita, is hereby reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I rise today in support of my amendment to reduce to \$1 the salary of the director of the Office of Risk Management within the FDA.

This amendment asks the question: Is this person who oversees the Office of the Director of Risk Management actually protecting women and children from risk?

The office is one of at least seven within the FDA that helped develop a risk evaluation and mitigation strategy, or REMS, for the chemical abortion drug mifepristone. These REMS documents are required by the FDA for certain drugs with serious safety concerns to help ensure the benefits outweigh its risks.

It is baffling to me that these bureaucrats would acknowledge that mifepristone is inherently dangerous, yet advance policies that discourage a woman from even having to show up at a doctor's office.

Earlier this year, the FDA updated the risk evaluation mitigation strategy for the main chemical abortion drug mifepristone, and this document changed the policy surrounding the distribution of the drug.

□ 0240

Chemical abortion has four times the complication rate of surgical abortion. These risks would only increase with advanced pregnancy and lack of medical supervision.

Of course, mifepristone REMS doesn't factor into the risk evaluation process, and the drug ends the life of the precious, innocent child in the womb.

Mifepristone deprives the developing child of the hormones that he or she needs to grow and then is paired with another drug to violently expel the child from the womb.

My amendment provides needed scrutiny over bureaucrats who issue documents that literally carry the power of life or death.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to stand for life and support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 92 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 92 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The amount of appropriations provided by this Act for the annual salary of the position of the Director of the Office of New Drugs of the Food and Drug Administration, occupied by Peter P. Stein, is hereby reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to reduce to \$1 the salary of the director of the Office of New Drugs within the FDA.

This amendment provides accountability on behalf of the 63 million children lost to abortion since 1972. If our Federal agencies are not protecting the most vulnerable among us, we should not give them more of our hard-earned taxpayer dollars.

This year, the Alliance for Hippocratic Medicine brought a lawsuit

against the FDA with evidence that the original approval process for mifepristone was incomplete. This case argues that the FDA wrongfully fast-tracked approval and neglected the pediatric study requirement. The case is still ongoing, but the details show a pattern of the FDA systematically removing any meaningful safeguard from the drug to make it as widely used as possible.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to stand for life and support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 93 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 93 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The amount of appropriations provided by this Act for the annual salary of the position of the Director of the Office of Compliance of the Food and Drug Administration, occupied by Jill Furman, is hereby reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to reduce to \$1 the salary of the director of the Office of Compliance within the FDA.

Americans don't want their taxpayer money funding bureaucrats who make decisions contrary to their values. In this case, this director was complicit in harming women and their unborn children by loosening restrictions on

mifepristone, the chemical abortion drug.

The FDA has even looked the other way to permit chemical abortion drugs to be distributed via mail, which clearly violates the Federal law outlined in the Comstock Act.

Americans expect Federal regulators to value women's safety and children's lives more than profits for the abortion industry.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to stand for life and support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 94 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 94 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The amount of appropriations provided by this Act for the annual salary of the position of the Director of the Office of Medical Policy of the Food and Drug Administration, occupied by M. Khair ElZarrad, is hereby reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to reduce to \$1 the salary of the director of the Office of Medical Policy within the FDA.

In 2020, chemical abortions became the number one abortion method for ending an unborn child's life. In that year, we lost 492,210 children.

Instead of making it easier for women to get access to the abortion

pill, the FDA should be banning it. We should work to make every pregnancy a happy one and support the fantastic pregnancy resource centers, churches, and families that help women in difficult situations choose life for their children.

Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 95 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 95 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The amount of appropriations provided by this Act for the annual salary of the position of the Director of the Office of Regulatory Policy of the Food and Drug Administration, occupied by Elizabeth Jungman, is hereby reduced to \$1.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to reduce to \$1 the salary of the director of the Office of Regulatory Policy within the FDA.

Mr. Chair, between 2007 and 2019, total FDA employment increased 79 percent. Today, there are over 18,000 employees. The FDA actually makes it very difficult to discern the exact number among the thousands of employees who were responsible for the updates to the abortion pill Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy.

We can glean from FDA documents that multidisciplinary teams, including at least these seven offices I have

mentioned across my debate time, played a role in approving the changes that eliminated the in-person distribution requirement of mifepristone and allowed for retail pharmacies to dispense the abortifacient.

The names of specific individuals responsible are shrouded in mystery. The names are redacted from public documents related to this massive policy change, but we can reasonably conclude that the directors were indirectly or directly responsible.

Whatever value these offices provide to drug safety has been clouded by these political judgments, and Congress should take a serious look at these offices. We can start by holding these pro-abortion officials accountable for such a destructive decision.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues to support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

□ 0250

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ROSENDALE). The Chair understands that amendment Nos. 96 through 98 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 99 OFFERED BY MR. STAUBER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 99 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Farm to School Network Racial Equity Learning Lab.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendment. I believe in promoting equal opportunities for all, irrespective of race, color, or creed.

However, the National Farm to School Network's Racial Equity Learning Lab takes an approach that contradicts the core values of our Nation.

The Farm To School movement was started to help give schools and students access to locally produced farm fresh foods and provide a new market for our local farmers.

It is unfortunate that the National Farm to School Network has decided to force radical ideology into these programs.

The proposed Racial Equity Learning Lab's stated goal is to teach participants to apply a "racial equity lens" to their work within the farm to school program.

It seeks to inject critical race theory and identity politics into our educational institutions, perpetuating an agenda that emphasizes differences rather than uniting us as Americans. This follows a dangerous and growing trend in America to view everything through the lens of race.

While the National Farm to School Network itself has laudable goals of encouraging healthier eating habits among students and supporting local agriculture, it should do so without embracing divisive ideologies.

We should be fostering an environment where children from all backgrounds come together to learn and grow, understand the value of hard work, personal responsibility, and the importance of community.

Mr. Chair, my amendment will ensure that no taxpayer money is used to further steer the National Farm to School Network in the wrong direction.

I ask that my colleagues join me in keeping critical race theory out of our food systems and out of our schools. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment. The National Farm to School Network supports the work of farmers, teachers, and community leaders.

The Racial Equity Learning Lab is a learning program regarding racial inequities in our food system. USDA's support from the program seeks to address racial equity in our farm to school system.

I would think that making sure that all schoolchildren have access to adequate meals would be an easy, bipartisan priority. I am disappointed by this amendment. I urge all Members to oppose it. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Chair, I rise again in support of my amendment and ask my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Minnesota will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 100 OFFERED BY MR. GOOD OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 100 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chairman.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the spending reduction account) insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to implement any of the following executive orders:

(1) Executive Order 14075, relating to Advancing Equality for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Intersex Individuals.

(2) Executive Order 14021, relating to Guaranteeing an Educational Environment Free from Discrimination on the Basis of Sex, Including Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity.

(3) Executive Order 13988, relating to Preventing and Combating Discrimination on the Basis of Gender Identity or Sexual Orientation.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment will defund three radical executive orders issued by President Biden. These executive orders are intended to combat so-called discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation.

The weaponized bureaucratic regime wants to promote everything regular Americans stand for: freedom of speech, marriage as being between one man and one woman for life, and other values that so many people outside of Washington hold dear.

The Biden administration wants to instill fear in the hearts of regular Americans. My amendment would block any taxpayer dollars that would be used for the implementation of these woke executive orders in any agency. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I rise to claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

I oppose this amendment. Members of the LGBT community have historically faced higher rates of food insecurity.

USDA has taken steps to clarify that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity are prohibited in programs administered by USDA such as SNAP.

It is concerning to me that the Democratic amendment striking harmful policy riders was not put forward by the Rules Committee for the debate, while a large number of Republican amendments adding further policy riders were allowed to be considered.

These amendments have no chance of becoming law and only move us further from bipartisan conference agreement which can pass both chambers of Congress.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, the Civil Rights Act of 1964 which, by the way, saw significant Democrat opposition, clearly outlines who is protected from discrimination.

Now, the left wants to impose extra requirements on businessowners and the American people and force them into either having to walk on eggshells or face being sued for a supposed incorrect statement.

This amendment will defund President Biden's directives to promulgate woke ideology throughout the entire government instead of serving the American people. This culture of fear is not what made America the Nation that it is.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I urge strong support for my amendment for the values that have made America the country we love today.

Democrats are opposed to the very idea of America so much that they oppose the values that Americans know and love.

My amendment will preserve that America and fight back against the left's woke agenda. I urge my colleagues to support this effort and vote in favor of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 101 OFFERED BY MRS. MILLER OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 101 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the Executive Order 14008 of January 27, 2021, titled "Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad" (86 Fed. Reg. 7619).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 101, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

□ 0300

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Chair, the American people do not want their tax dollars going to the creation of the Obama communist climate corps, which is a leftwing indoctrination program for young people that advances Communist China's attack on American energy and promotes China's solar panels, lithium batteries, and windmills.

Congress must prohibit funding for this green bad deal army and reverse the America last agenda. Barack Obama's communist revolution to fundamentally transform America kills our domestic energy production.

Obama flies on private jets and has beachfront mansions. He doesn't care about climate, and he doesn't think the oceans are rising. Taxpayers do not want to fund the foot soldiers of Obama's communist revolution.

Mr. Chair, I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, this amendment would prohibit USDA from implementing an executive order on tackling the climate crisis.

This year, our country has experienced more billion-dollar climate disasters than ever before in our history. In only the first 8 months of the year, 23 weather disasters devastated regions across the country, and in every case, the agricultural sector was harmed.

This summer, we witnessed catastrophic floods in the Northeast decimate farmers' crops. Extreme drought in the West continues to impact ranchers' ability to sustain their livestock. Tragically, we watched helplessly as the Maui wildfires ravaged thousands of acres of farmland and took nearly 100 human lives.

This amendment would block Federal efforts to help farmers develop climate-smart agricultural and forestry practices that are critical to combating the climate crisis. If we are to address the climate crisis, help farmers, and strengthen our economy, we cannot be hamstrung by funding limitations that deny that climate change is real.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Illinois will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 102 OFFERED BY MR. ROSENDALE

The Acting CHAIR (Mrs. MILLER of Illinois). It is now in order to consider amendment No. 102 printed in part F of House Report 118-216.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. The total amount of appropriations made available by this Act is hereby reduced by \$717,000,000.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 723, the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Montana.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, I rise to support my amendment.

My amendment No. 102 would reduce the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act by \$717 million in order to get the total spending of all bills back to the fiscal 2022 levels.

In fiscal year 2022, the Agriculture-FDA appropriations were about \$24 billion. I believe that the agencies and programs included in this bill were able to operate effectively enough at those levels.

In order to get spending under control, Federal agencies must begin operating at the same levels or, at the very least, receive only modest increases, which this would include.

On April 26, 2023, House Republicans passed the Limit, Save, Grow Act to reduce spending and take the first step forward to financial stability and recovery for our country. However, Speaker MCCARTHY deserted this plan and instead turned to the Democrats to pass a debt ceiling bill eliminating the work done and passed under the Limit, Save, Grow Act.

The American people are sick and tired of the D.C. cartel. It is running up our tab for the American people while our constituents are struggling to make ends meet.

From 1981 until 2008, Congress added \$10 trillion to the national debt. In the past 4 years, we have added as much as they did during that 27-year period.

This is not sustainable, and we need to find an off-ramp. Limiting spending will help our farmers in the long run as they are currently struggling with high input costs as a result of Joe Biden's reckless spending, which has led to historically high inflation rates.

We can no longer continue to fund the Democrats' and the Biden administration's radical agenda. It is an insult to the American people to continue the exorbitant spending spree that has been spread by the previous Speaker of the House.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I claim time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The amendment would attempt to cut overall funding of the bill by an additional \$717 million. Not only that but it would do so without specifying where the cuts would come from. This would effectively turn the decision from where the cuts would come from over to the executive branch, to the administration that the other side is so critical of, robbing Congress of its constitutionally mandated power of the purse, a violation of the separation of powers.

This is something that we should not include in any appropriations bill. The bill already guts funding for USDA, and any further cuts would just make a bad bill worse.

We should kill this amendment. We should enact a reasonable, responsible appropriations bill so that we can take care of the needs of the American people and make sure that the Department of Agriculture is adequately funded to serve the needs of the American people.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Chair, there is a proposed \$1.3 billion increase in this appropriation. With this reduction, there would still be a \$600 million increase in the appropriation. That is a reasonable increase based upon the inflation rates that have been caused by all the reckless spending by the Biden administration.

The farmers across the State of Montana understand that everyone has to conserve. A \$600 million increase in the appropriation for the agriculture bill is certainly doing their part. That is a tremendous increase, and they are willing to take that \$700 million reduction.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana (Mr. ROSENDALE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Montana will be postponed.

Mr. HARRIS. Madam Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROSENDALE) having assumed the chair, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4368) making

appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 0310

HOUR OF MEETING ON TODAY

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. today.

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

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 11 minutes a.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until today, Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at 9 a.m.