

ENERGY IS CRITICAL TO ECONOMY

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, America's energy is critical toward our economy, toward people of all income levels. Energy is the cornerstone of either a strong economy or a hyperinflation one like we are seeing now. Either government spending or the cost of energy or both are the reasons why we are where we are these days.

Important things we could be doing are building more nuclear power plants and offering more hydroelectric power as well as natural gas, which we have so abundantly in this country.

Now, there are a lot of people worried about CO₂, which is only 0.04 percent of our atmosphere, but let's play along for a moment: nuclear energy, zero CO₂; hydroelectric power, zero CO₂.

What do we have happening? They are trying to, and successfully in my district, get rid of hydroelectric dams that are already built and make low-cost, 24/7 power.

They are after nuclear power plants until recently. California just got a 5-year extension on its nuclear power plant. Otherwise, it was slated to close in 2024 and 2025 its two reactors.

We can't afford to lose energy that is 24/7 available power for our economy, for our sustenance. We need to build more.

STOLEN CHILDREN OF UKRAINE

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, in my meeting last week with the President of Ukraine, we spoke about the devastation of stolen children from Ukraine by the Russian fighters, children now that have been taken, reprogrammed, and not returned to their families.

Today, we voted to continue to support Ukraine in its democratic fight for freedom and democracy against the tyranny of Russia.

I now stand here today introducing the Oleksandr Ivanov Act. This bill, on which I am joined by Representative JOE WILSON and other Members, is a bill to address the stolen children of Ukraine that have been taken to Russia. This act is dedicated to Oleksandr, a young boy who was shot dead in the car with his grandmother.

This unjust and brutal war has put millions of Ukrainian women and children at risk of trafficking. Millions of children have been deprived of their education and are experiencing trauma.

More than 6,000 children are in custody in Russia, and there are at least 43 camps and facilities where the Russian Government has interned Ukrainian children.

This legislation will provide sanctions against Russia and demand that the children of Ukraine be returned to Ukraine.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to announce the introduction of my bill, the Oleksandr Ivanov Act.

On February 26, 2022, Lilia Vasylyvna Kolesnyk was driving from Kyiv, Ukraine to the suburb of Bucha with her grandson, Oleksandr Ivanov when Russian forces opened fire on their car, killing Oleksandr.

Although wounded herself, Ms. Kolesnyk was able to drive to a medical clinic, where her grandson was formally declared dead.

This act is dedicated to Oleksandr Ivanov, his family, and all the children and families of Ukraine who are suffering serious injury and trauma due to Russia's unjustified, brutal, and genocidal war on Ukraine.

On February 24, 2022, Russia, under the leadership of Vladimir Putin, launched a premeditated war against Ukraine in an attack on democracy and a grave violation of international law, global peace, and security.

According to the United Nations Refugee Agency, as of July 2023, there are a recorded 5.1 million internally displaced people in Ukraine, 6.2 million refugees from Ukraine globally, and 17.6 million Ukrainian people in need of humanitarian assistance.

The unjust and brutal war has put millions of Ukrainian women and children at risk of trafficking, millions of children have been deprived of their education and are experiencing trauma, and according to a report by Yale University, more than 6,000 children are in Russians custody.

According to a report by Yale University Humanitarian Research Lab (Yale HRL), at least 6,000 children from Ukraine ages four months to 17 years have been held at camps and other facilities within Russia-occupied Crimea and mainland Russia since Russia's full-scale invasion began.

There are at least 43 camps and facilities where the Russian government has interned Ukrainian children.

Among the camps identified by Yale HRL, at least 32 (78 percent) of the camps seem to be engaged in organized re-education initiatives that subject Ukrainian children to Russia-focused educational, cultural, patriotic, and/or military teachings.

And numerous Ukrainian children have been placed into Russian foster families.

These Ukrainian children have had their names and birthdates changed when adopted, making them difficult to trace.

Russian propaganda cynically portrays its adoption of Ukrainian children as an act of generosity that gives new homes to helpless orphans.

Russian state media shows local officials hugging and kissing newly arrived Ukrainian children and handing them Russian passports.

These children are not happy, they are being ripped away from their families and their homes.

Forcibly transferring children of one group to another group is a violation of Article II(e) of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide 1948 and the Geneva Convention IV, including articles 24, 25, 50, 78 and 82.

The International Criminal Court has indicted Russian President Vladimir Putin and Russian Commissioner for Children's Rights

Maria Lvova-Belova for the war crime of unlawful deportation of population (children) and that of unlawful transfer of population (children) from occupied areas of Ukraine to the Russian Federation under articles 8(2)(a)(vii) and 8(2)(b)(viii) of the Rome Statute.

As reported by the Ukrainian Ministry of Education, over 400 schools have been destroyed and an additional 2,600 schools are damaged across Ukraine.

The war has also caused Ukrainian women and children to become more vulnerable to being trafficked.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees reports that 90 percent of the 5.8 million refugees who have fled Ukraine for Europe are women and children.

Reports have stated that traffickers patrol border entry points, train stations, and refugee centers with the purpose of attracting, exploiting, and targeting refugees.

Specifically, traffickers lure in refugees with promises of accommodation, transportation, and employment, sometimes disguising themselves as volunteers providing humanitarian assistance.

To hold accountable those who have committed these atrocities and have put the lives of thousands of Ukrainian women and children at risk, my bill:

Supports programs specifically for trauma treatment and healing, rehabilitation and where necessary prostheses, for Ukrainian children affected by the war including nationwide educational programs of psychological support to address trauma and stress for all of Ukraine's children, integrated into school curriculum and offered through clinical and social services;

Supports programs to rebuild the education system in Ukraine and education for Ukrainian child refugees, in cooperation with other countries, international organizations, and civil society;

Supports the development of a unified and consolidated searchable registry of missing Ukrainian children in order to facilitate identification of children and family reunification. The registry should ensure strict data protection and availability in the Ukrainian, Russian, and English languages. In addition, the public should be made aware of its existence and use;

Supports the creation of a unified central emergency call center hub linked to law enforcement in Ukraine and in other countries to enable reporting on and interventions on behalf of missing children originally from Ukraine and suspected cases of human trafficking and sexual exploitation, including online, of children originally from Ukraine.

Supports the creation of an international mechanism to facilitate vetting of volunteers and other non-governmental front-line responders working with refugees or with victims of other major crises or natural disasters by government authorities or law enforcement. Such an international vetting system could include internationally recognized certifications verifying individuals who have been recently cleared to work with refugees;

Supports efforts to only allow appropriately vetted and credentialed individuals (such as described in the above section) access to refugees;

Continues to support efforts by the Ukrainian government to increase collaboration with their European counterparts on anti-trafficking

investigations and increased awareness efforts.

Supports the development of robust child protective mechanisms for vulnerable children, including those from Ukraine, in Ukraine and in countries that have received Ukrainian refugees, that include social assistance and protection to help prevent human trafficking and sexual abuse of Ukrainian children.

Works with Ukrainian authorities to ensure that law enforcement officials stationed at major border crossing points during a refugee crisis are appropriately trained to prevent human trafficking and support other measures to monitor for indications of human trafficking targeting refugees in areas surrounding border crossings.

My bill also imposes financial blocking and visa sanctions on any foreign person or organization that the President or Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, determine are responsible for engaging in or facilitating the transfer of Ukrainian children to Russia and/or Russian controlled areas of Ukraine and/or for their forced assimilation, adoption, or placement in a foster home, and engaging in or facilitating the human trafficking of Ukrainian refugees.

The Oleksandr Ivanov Act also contains a provision that requires the Department of State to submit a report on United States efforts for reintegrating Ukrainian children affected by the war including but not limited to: supporting the rebuilding and redevelopment of the Ukrainian education system, and the implementation of mental health supports to address trauma and family separations.

Holding Russia accountable for war crimes is crucial.

There can be no impunity for these heinous crimes.

Today, I call my colleagues to action and ask that they join me in seeking liberty and justice for all those in Ukraine by cosponsoring the Oleksandr Ivanov Act.

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS NEEDED FOR WAR IN UKRAINE

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, we just had another vote on this floor regarding the war between Russia and Ukraine. One more time, more money was spent on the war.

As bad as the money that is spent on the war, what is worse is the huge cost in human lives and suffering going on as long as the war exists.

I think there is a shortage of serious concern as to how this war is going to end and a shortage of desire to end this war.

Eventually, this war will end, but I believe the United States has traditionally been the world leader, and we should take our responsibility as world leader and try to push somebody, be it Israel, be it France, be it, Türkiye, into negotiating a peace.

The longer this war goes on, the more you will have wounds between countries that are not going to turn around, and the more Russians and Ukrainians die.

I remind this body that Ukraine has the second-lowest birthrate in the

world. Russia has a very low birthrate as well and, even before the war, was suffering from a lot of its young people leaving Russia and coming to other countries such as the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I plead with President Biden to take a leadership role and try to negotiate an end to this war.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 41 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, September 29, 2023, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1946. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Process for Establishing Rates for Veterinary Services User Fees [Docket No.: APHIS-2021-0052] (RIN: 0579-AE67) received September 11, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-1947. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management Division, Innovation Center, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's Major rule — Fertilizer Production Expansion Program — Request for Applications (RFA) received August 23, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-1948. A letter from the Senior Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Ban of Inclined Sleepers for Infants [CPSC Docket No.: 2022-0025] received September 15, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1949. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Air Cleaners [EERE-2021-BT-TP-0036] (RIN: 1904-AF26) received September 8, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1950. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguard, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Inflation Adjustments to the Price-Anderson Act Financial Protection Regulations [NRC-2023-0110] (RIN: 3150-AL01) received September 6, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1951. A letter from the Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's FY 2023 Commercial and Inherently Governmental Activities Inventory report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 501 note; Public Law 105-270, Sec. 2(c)(1)(A); (112 Stat. 2382); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-1952. A letter from the Chairwoman, Election Assistance Commission, transmitting the Commission's Election Administration and Voting Survey (EAVS) 2022 Comprehensive Report; to the Committee on House Administration.

EC-1953. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NOAA/NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2023 and 2024 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No.: 230224-0053; RTID 0648-XC347] received September 15, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-1954. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NOAA/NMFS — Pacific Islands Region, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pacific Island Fisheries; Pelagic Longline Gear and Operational Requirements [Docket No.: 220421-0102] (RIN: 0648-BK74) received September 15, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-1955. A letter from the Fisheries Regulation Specialist, NOAA/NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — West Coast, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries; 2022-2024 In-Season Action Announcement Procedures for Commercial Pacific Bluefin Tuna in the Eastern Pacific Ocean [Docket No.: 230119-0019] (RIN: 0648-BL59) received September 15, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-1956. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NOAA/NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GAR, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act Provisions; Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Framework Adjustment 9 [Docket No.: 220713-0155] (RIN: 0648-BL06) received September 15, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-1957. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NOAA/NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; Final 2023 and 2024 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No.: 230306-0065; RTID 0648-XC365] received September 15, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-1958. A letter from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Persons Eligible for Burial (RIN: 2900-AR80(F)) received September 15, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1959. A letter from the Branch Chief, Publications and Regulations, Associate Chief Counsel, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Guidance on Section 603 of the SECURE 2.0 Act with Respect to Catch-Up Contributions [Notice 2023-62] received September 5, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.