

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

## AMERICA'S CONSERVATION ENHANCEMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2024

SPEECH OF

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, December 3, 2024*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on S. 3791, the American Conservation Enhancement (ACE) Act.

The ACE Act helps to preserve ecosystems, restore habitats, and conserve wildlife by reauthorizing the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Establishment Act, and the Chesapeake Bay Program, among others. I strongly support these programs and the vital conservation efforts they undertake across the Nation and that's why I will support this bill.

Unfortunately, it also includes an exemption for lead-containing sport fishing equipment under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA). Section 107 of the bill would prevent the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) from regulating lead tackle under TSCA even if the agency determines that it poses an unreasonable risk to human health.

This section is a solution in search of a problem. To date, EPA has not taken steps to regulate lead tackle under TSCA, and if they did, it would not necessarily result in a ban. In fact, TSCA provides EPA a range of options to protect public health short of a ban—like labeling.

TSCA exists to protect human health, and only authorizes EPA to take action when the agency finds an unreasonable risk. If EPA finds that lead tackle poses an unreasonable risk to human health, we should not take away its authority to address it.

The toxicity of lead to humans and wildlife is well-established. Ingestion of lead can sicken and kill wildlife and can pose a risk to humans handling lead. Considering the risks, several states have banned the use of lead tackle and sinkers, and, in 2023, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service finalized a rule to phase out lead ammunition and tackle in national wildlife refuges by 2026. Blocking any potential EPA action on lead tackle under TSCA will not stop these regulatory efforts. But it will lock in the uneven patchwork of protections from the harms of lead tackle across the United States.

Congress provided EPA with the authority to regulate dangerous chemicals with the goal of protecting public health and the environment. We should let EPA do its job. Congress should not make it standard practice to provide exemptions from our bedrock environmental laws at the expense of public health. Especially for something as dangerous for humans and wildlife as lead.

While I continue to strongly oppose this section, I do support the other provisions in this bill and therefore vote in favor of S. 3791.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOSH GOTTHEIMER**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2024*

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 479; YEA on Roll Call No. 480; YEA on Roll Call No. 481; NO on Roll Call No. 482; NO on Roll Call No. 483; and YES on Roll Call No. 492.

## RECOGNIZING TODD MUTCHLER'S CAREER AND SERVICE TO NORTHVILLE TOWNSHIP

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2024*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Todd Mutchler of Northville, Michigan, on the occasion of his retirement. His dedication to making Northville Township and Wayne County a better place for all its residents is worthy of commendation.

Todd attended Eastern Michigan University where he earned a Bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice and a Master's degree in Interdisciplinary Technology. Combined with his innate drive to help people, his studies inspired Todd's passion for public service. He began his career with the Canton Township Police Department, serving for 28 years before joining the Northville Township Police Department as Police Chief. During his time at the helm of the Northville police force, Todd spearheaded the creation of the Canton Response to Hate Crimes Coalition, receiving the Pioneer Award from the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He also crafted policy surrounding religious head coverings for inmates, a policy that has since been modeled by police departments across the Nation. This accomplishment was recognized with the Peace and Justice Award from the Council on American Islamic Relations.

Todd's commitment to his community led him to the position of Northville's Director of Public Safety in 2016, before being promoted to Northville Township Manager in 2019. As manager, Todd oversaw the building of a new Essential Services Complex and the removal of the decaying state psychiatric hospital buildings. Community members and his peers refer to Todd as a "champion" and "titan" for Northville Township. His love and devotion to the community as reflected through his work is admirable and inspiring.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in honoring and celebrating the service and leadership of Todd Mutchler. His vision for Northville Township and Wayne County has always been rooted in respect, inclusivity, and collaboration, values that he ensured were upheld in every decision he made for the com-

munity. I thank Todd for his decades of public service, and wish him all the best as he moves on to the next chapter of his life.

## HONORING DR. HILDA SHIRK'S SERVICE TO PUBLIC HEALTH

**HON. LLOYD SMUCKER**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2024*

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate and give thanks to Dr. Hilda Shirk for her longstanding service to public health in south central Pennsylvania.

Navigating the complexities of the health care industry takes a dedicated and hard-working team of leaders. I am pleased to recognize Dr. Hilda Shirk for her passion, dedication, and commitment to improving healthcare in Pennsylvania's 11th Congressional District and the surrounding communities as she prepares to step down as Chair of the WellSpan Health Board of Directors.

Dr. Shirk has helped WellSpan to achieve tremendous growth in a rapidly changing industry. Under her leadership, WellSpan has become a nationally recognized leader in patient quality, significantly increasing access to and the overall quality of its care. Dr. Shirk's tenure embodied WellSpan's mission of creating healthy communities and continuously expanding care.

Dr. Shirk previously served as the President and CEO of the Lancaster Health Center. Dr. Shirk's longstanding commitment to public health is evident by her record of success in the field.

It is with great pride that I congratulate Dr. Hilda Shirk for her admirable career in healthcare, and I sincerely thank her for her service to WellSpan Health and the greater community.

## RECOGNIZING SENIOR CONSTITUENT ADVOCATE AND CASEWORK MANAGER, LUIS GONZALEZ FOR HIS EXCELLENT WORK ON BEHALF OF MINNESOTA'S THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

**HON. DEAN PHILLIPS**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2024*

Mr. PHILLIPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my Senior Constituent Advocate and Casework Manager, Luis Gonzalez, for his work on behalf of every constituent in Minnesota's Third Congressional District. I could not be more proud or grateful for his service.

Luis was born to immigrant parents, Sandra and Dimas, from Mexico. Raised in Houston, TX, after being born in Long Beach, California, he joined the Marine Corps straight out of high

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

school. Luis served honorably for eight years, including a combat deployment supporting Operation Inherent Resolve (OIR). He served with the 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines, Heather Co., where he worked alongside exceptional Marines and honors the memory of Sgt. Trujillo, Cpl. Nowicki, Cpl. Hernandez, and Cpl. Gee. After his military career, Luis transitioned into public service, joining Congressman DEAN PHILLIPS's team through the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program, and quickly became the heartbeat of the office. We are so grateful that he chose to stay as a permanent member of my staff when his fellowship position ended.

When Luis commits, he commits. He adopted Minnesota as his home, our staff as his platoon, and our constituents' causes as his mission—and we're all better for it. A passionate advocate for people. The man even has a "MN03" tattoo. Luis is generous with his gifts and living proof of the immense value that exists in recruiting individuals from different life paths for careers in public service.

Luis is a strong advocate for veterans and the issues they face as they readjust to civilian life. Luis works tirelessly to make sure all vets and constituents get the assistance they need in a timely manner. Once Luis is on the case, he will not let go till the issue is resolved. His coworkers are never tired of hearing a boisterous "Let's go!" from his office after getting a favorable response from an agency on behalf of a constituent. Many of his colleagues agree that he would be the person they would call in the middle of the night with an emergency, both because he is so loyal he would always be willing to help and because he has inevitably dealt with any dramatic situation you can imagine at least once in the past.

In addition to his official role, Luis also served as the Unofficial District Officer Security Guard, Half Marathon Coach, and Pastry Chef. Outside of work, Luis is the best dad to Graysen Carol, an outstanding partner to Michelle, and an inspirational soccer coach in the Anoka Community.

Luis has embodied radical hospitality during his time working for my office—both as he engages with constituents and as he encourages and supports his teammates. He builds trusting relationships and strives to provide the best constituent service to each constituent and in every circumstance. He is an invaluable member of our team, and we are so impressed by his growth in this office.

The people of Minnesota's Third Congressional District were lucky to have his dedication and leadership, and he will be dearly missed. I wish Luis all the best in his future endeavors and thank him for four years of faithful service to this Nation in my office.

#### HONORING THE COMMUNITY SERVICE OF YAHARA LISA GUTIERREZ

#### HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2024*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the remarkable career of Judge Yahara Lisa Gutierrez, a trailblazer in the legal community of El Paso County.

Born in Ojinaga, Chihuahua, Mexico, Judge Gutierrez's story is one of courage, resilience

and determination. She earned her Bachelor of Business Administration in 1991 from the University of Texas Permian Basin and her Juris Doctor in 1994 from Texas Tech University, becoming a distinguished member of the legal profession.

Since taking the bench in 2009, Judge Gutierrez has been a transformative force in El Paso County's judicial system. She has presided over cases involving child abuse and juvenile delinquency with a deep sense of responsibility and compassion. Her leadership has driven innovative reforms, including the establishment of the County's first Protective Order Court, Children's Cross-Over Court, and the first Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) Court in Texas. These specialized courts reflect her commitment to addressing complex social issues with empathy and effectiveness, ensuring that justice serves to protect and uplift.

Beyond the courtroom, Judge Gutierrez has devoted herself to community service. As a member of the Texas Children's Commission and the El Paso Women's Bar Association, and as a founding member of the El Paso Project Future internship program for aged-out foster youth, she has worked to empower and support others. Her accolades, including the Foster Parent Association's Judge of the Year Award, the Honorable Sam Paxon Outstanding Jurist Award, and the Trailblazer of the Year Award, highlight her contributions to the legal profession and our community.

Today, it is my privilege to honor Judge Yahara Lisa Gutierrez for her exemplary service, leadership, and dedication to our community, and wish her and her family the best upon her retirement.

#### HONORING NICK COE'S SERVICE AS CHIEF OF STAFF

#### HON. ANGIE CRAIG

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2024*

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate Nick Coe for more than six years and three sessions of Congress in service with my office.

Nick has been a dedicated public servant and political staffer for several years across various campaigns in Minnesota. Having gone to college at St. Olaf in Minnesota's Second District, I'm glad he was able to help this office serve that community so well.

Nick has been with me since before I was sworn in. He opened my first District Office with just a flip phone and some folding chairs and has since served as my Chief of Staff for nearly four years. Nick has guided the office through different administrations, a pandemic, changing committees and moving to DC from Minnesota.

He's been instrumental in setting up strong casework teams, securing funding for community projects across the Second District, building a strong brand back home and ultimately fostering a long-term strategic vision for my office.

It was a joy seeing Nick's life grow while in my office. He got engaged and married to Hannah and they've welcomed lovely Charlotte all while he's been here.

I've always appreciated Nick's advice and counsel over the years and wish him the best in his future.

#### HONORING THE CAREER AND SERVICE OF MAJOR HAROLD HEATLEY

#### HON. H. MORGAN GRIFFITH

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, December 6, 2024*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the career and service of Major Harold Heatley, current chief deputy of the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office, who retires from his career in law enforcement this year.

Major Heatley's life of service started when he made the significant step of enlisting in the U.S. Navy in 1981. Through the Navy, he exercised great discipline, respect for his peers and courage. His ascent in the U.S. Navy culminated in the ranking of chief petty officer.

His service to the military led him to stints in Alaska and the Philippines, where he served as a military police officer. His time spent on vessels such as the USS *Tuscaloosa* and USS *Bristol County* highlights his service to the country.

Following his military service, Major Heatley dedicated a career to a private security firm as a field supervisor and later as a vice president of operations.

By 2004, Major Heatley moved to Tazewell County, Virginia. He started work as a patrol officer with the Tazewell Police Department. Other duties he held with the department included night shift patrol sergeant.

Major Heatley served the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office starting in 2010. He worked as an undercover narcotics detective and chief deputy. He also contributed to substance abuse recovery efforts, helping nonviolent offenders seek treatment and raising awareness of such programs.

In 2015, Major Heatley starred on WVVA news and their 'All Points Bulletin' (APB) features, taking over a segment that used to be headed by former Tazewell County Sheriff Harry Cundiff. His tenure with media also included features on APB Morning Edition and APB Extra.

As a result of the news program, WVVA credits Mr. Heatley with taking nearly 1,000 plus wanted suspects off the streets, in both Virginia and West Virginia.

WVVA anchors and producers appreciated Major Heatley's service to the community and outlined the warmth and kindness he brought to the newsroom. Following his 2023 departure from the network, numerous WVVA employees remarked their love and admiration for Major Heatley.

The illustrious service of Mr. Heatley is recognized by the local Tazewell County Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. Post 9696. In January of 2024, the organization awarded him the Officer of the Year Award and thanked him for his tremendous service to law enforcement.

A Virginia House of Delegates Resolution filed in the summer of 2024, commends Major Heatley for his outstanding career in law enforcement and legacy of service to the residents of Tazewell County.

In my time working with the Tazewell County Sheriff's Office and Major Heatley, I greatly appreciated his advocacy for the safety of Tazewell and his support of local law enforcement and veterans. He served on my Veterans Advisory Council as well as my Service Academy Board.