

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

OPPOSITION TO H.R. 8790, THE FIX OUR FORESTS ACT

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, this week I voted against H.R. 8790. I support parts of this bill. For example, it would create a Community Wildfire Risk Reduction Program, in line with a recommendation from the non-partisan Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission. It would also increase tribal inclusion in forest management.

But I cannot overlook the unfunded mandates in H.R. 8790. For instance, I strongly support creating a Community Wildfire Defense Research Program within the Joint Fire Science Program (JFSP) to provide research that would improve the wildfire-resistance of structures and communities. However, JFSP is already oversubscribed and the bill ignores the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission's recommendation to significantly increase the program's funding. H.R. 8790 would greatly expand JFSP's responsibilities without a corresponding increase in funding, resulting in less applied research being provided to land managers. This is not the way to address the wildfire crisis.

I am also concerned about what is not in H.R. 8790. Over 100 recommendations from the Wildland Fire Mitigation and Management Commission were not addressed, including many recommendations to support and expand the workforce. You cannot talk about the wildfire crisis without talking about the firefighters who do body-breaking work to protect our forests and communities. It is unacceptable that Congress has not passed a permanent solution to the firefighter pay cliff. There should be no question that federal wildland firefighters deserve at least \$15 an hour and a daily pay supplemental when they are working on long-duration wildfires, prescribed fires, or deployed away from their duty station to a high-risk fire area. I am a cosponsor of bipartisan legislation, H.R. 5169, the Wildland Firefighter Paycheck Protection Act, which would finally ensure that these heroes are paid well for their work. This bill should have been included within H.R. 8790.

For these reasons, I do not believe H.R. 8790 is sufficient for the communities I represent that have been experiencing record-setting wildfire seasons and expect Congress to approach the issue with the seriousness it deserves.

I will be sending a letter urging Senate leadership to improve the bill and send it back for reconsideration in the House. I want to achieve a better outcome that can solve problems and make a difference in our forests. I stand ready to work with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to achieve that goal.

PROCLAMATION IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND EASTERN SHORE CLASS OF 1974

HON. ANDY HARRIS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following Proclamation in honor of the 50th anniversary of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore class of 1974.

Whereas, the University of Maryland Eastern Shore was established in 1886 as the Delaware Conference Academy and renamed several times since; and

Whereas, between 1948 and 1970 it was known as the Maryland State College; and

Whereas, in July of 1970 it was renamed to its current name as the University of Maryland Eastern Shore; and

Whereas, the class of 1974 was and is the first class to graduate under its new name; and

Whereas, on its 30th anniversary class reunion, the class of 1974 resolved to raise \$1,000,000 to be donated and contributed to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore and has since raised and donated \$650,000 which constitutes three-fourths of the resolved amount.

Now, therefore, I, Andy Harris, Member of Congress, do hereby proclaim and celebrate the class of 1974 of the University of Maryland Eastern Shore on its 50th reunion anniversary.

RECOGNIZING THE MADERA COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN S. DUARTE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Madera County Historical Museum's 50th Anniversary on September 28, 2024.

The Madera County Museum was opened to the public on September 28, 1974. For fifty years, the Madera County Historical Society, volunteers, and local organizations have made the Madera County Museum a historic and informative destination in the Valley. I want to also recognize the efforts of the community for their donations and efforts to provide exciting events and learning experiences showcasing Madera County's rich history.

Through the efforts of the community, the Madera County Museum provides Madera County with educational school tours, holiday events, and weekly educational public visitation options. Madera County Museum gives back to the community by hosting mock trial and 4-H educational opportunities for students, holiday events to bring the community together, and supporting local law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing the Madera County Museum's role in preserving the rich history of Madera County. I would also like to encourage every Valley family to visit the Madera County Museum and learn about our Valley's rich history.

OPPOSITION TO H.J. RES. 136

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 136, the latest Republican attempt to put polluters over people and stifle innovation in cleaner transportation.

H.J. Res. 136 would prohibit the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing the proposed rule to further reduce harmful air pollutant emissions from light-duty and medium-duty vehicles starting with model year 2027. The transportation sector is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, nearly one-third of total pollution. But the transportation sector has been innovating. Electric vehicles (EVs) do not produce any tailpipe emissions, and as such they are safer for our health and environment. The Biden administration is fighting to protect American's right to clean air and a safe climate by addressing dangerous pollution from the transportation sector.

I'm proud of the work Democrats did to pass the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. These landmark pieces of legislation are already helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and help consumers, businesses, and governments make the switch to low and no emission vehicles. Already, Minnesota has received \$68 million to build out an EV charging network, \$17 million to build out infrastructure for Metro Transit's fleet of low-no busses, and \$1 million to help school districts in Minnesota offset the cost of switching to low-no school busses. Not to mention, the tax credits Minnesotans have been able to claim for purchasing a new EV. All of these investments will help reduce climate pollution, improve public health, and save drivers money through reduced fuel and maintenance costs.

Every American deserves access to clean air, yet approximately 72 million Americans are exposed to higher levels of air pollution due to their close proximity to high-traffic trucking routes. These Americans are more likely to be low-income and communities of color. It is estimated that the EPA's new rule will lower respiratory illness, cardiovascular problems, and cases of childhood and adult asthma caused by exposure to dangerous pollution. I am proud of the historic investments Democrats made last Congress to develop cleaner, zero-emission technologies that will protect public health. Passing H.J. Res 136

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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.

would abandon the progress we have made to address public health concerns and promote environmental justice in our nation's infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, not only will H.J. Res. 136 harm our public health and contribute to climate pollution, but it would also block the Biden Administration, and any future administration, from taking meaningful action to curb dangerous NO_x pollution light- and medium-duty vehicles.

It should be rejected.

CONGRATULATING THE NEW TRIER HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS' SOCCER TEAM

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize New Trier High School girls' soccer team for winning the 2024 Class 3A state title.

The New Trier Trevians defeated the St. Charles North Stars in a thrilling state championship that ended in a 4–3 penalty kick victory. Just six minutes into the match, the Trevians took a 1–0 lead. Shortly before the halftime whistle, the North Stars answered with a goal of their own making the score 1–1. In the second half, both teams scored once again, sending the match into a dramatic extra-time period.

Incredibly, the extra-time period saw both teams score their third goals one after the other which therefore required a penalty shootout to determine the state champion. The Trevians' freshman goalie came up with a consequential penalty save to secure New Trier the 2024 Class 3A girls soccer state championship.

With this state championship, the New Trier girls' soccer program has achieved their seventh state championship title. All these championships have been won under the leadership of Coach Jim Burnside—who with 611 victories, is the winningest coach in IHSA girls soccer history.

The New Trier girls' soccer team has made all northern Illinois proud with their accomplishments this season, finishing with a 25–2–4 record. Each member's commitment to their team and their community is truly inspiring. Congratulations to Coach Burnside and the New Trier Trevians for their remarkable state championship win.

The Trevian players include: #0 Annie Fowler—Fr.—GK; #1 Caroline Hague—Jr.—GK; #2 Kennedy Colegrove—Jr.—D; #3 Sybil Evans—Sr.—MF/F; #4 Abby Morton—So.—D; #6 Quinn Brahm—So.—F; #7 Maeva Driscoll—So.—MF; #8 Addy Randall—Fr.—MF; #9 Maria Petrakis—Sr.—MF; #10 Annie Paden—Sr.—MF; #11 Noa Boeing—Fr.—MF; #12 Clara Deliduka—Sr.—D/MF; #15 Charlotte Dellin—Sr.—F/MF; #16 Basie Shannon—Sr.—D/MF; #17 Christina Tobon—Jr.—D; #18 Josie Noble—Sr.—F/MF; #19 Eleni Kanellos—So.—MF/D; #20 Jaime Elias—Sr.—F/MF; #21 Bea Cirulis—Fr.—D; #22 Honor Dold—Jr.—D; #23 Claire Gallagher—Fr.—D; #24 Olivia Wilson—Jr.—D.

HONORING MANUEL MILANES

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Manuel Milanes Pizonero, a cherished friend of mine, constituent of Ave Maria, Florida, and a bold anti-communist voice within the Cuban American community in South Florida.

On August 22, 2024, Manuel faced a life-altering situation few ever encounter in their lifetimes and made a heroic split-second decision even fewer choose to. As Manuel sat at home in his living room, a sudden loud sound like a crash broke the silence outside his home. Knowing his son had just stepped outside to take out the trash, Manuel immediately rushed out, fearing the very worst. Stepping onto the scene, he saw a man approaching a car in what appeared like a move to assist the family inside. As Manuel moved closer in an attempt to provide help, the man outside the car quickly asked him for a tool to break the car window, leading Manuel to go back inside to retrieve the appropriate device.

Upon returning, however, the situation rapidly shifted when one of the passengers stuck inside the car cracked the window open begging Manuel not to break the window. The passenger quickly revealed that the man outside the car was armed and threatening to kill the mother and her four children inside. Manuel, demonstrating an incredible measure of bravery did not hesitate to act but began pleading with the assailant, even while unarmed, to stop, attempting to deescalate the situation and fervently insisting that he not act on his impulses and harm the family.

At this, the man turned his weapon on Manuel, placing him directly in the line of fire, and instructed him to return to his home and stay out of it—yet Manuel refused to back down. Running back to his home, he grabbed his own gun, and quickly returned outside to help. However, in that short amount of time, the assailant managed to shatter the car window and force his way inside the car with the family. In seeing this, Manuel immediately stepped in to subdue him, once more placing himself in harm's way in the hopes of disarming the shooter. Refusing to drop his firearm, the man turned the gun on Manuel once more, firing at him and hitting him in the left shoulder and chest, shattering his clavicle and causing severe blood loss. Despite being shot at two more times, Manuel held his ground, ready to protect the mother and her children as the shooter fled the scene. It took one instant and Manuel single-handedly changed the course of events in the lives of a mother and her four children, choosing selflessly to place their wellbeing before his own. Manuel narrowly escaped the ordeal with his life, with his heart stopping a total of 3 times mid-emergency surgery and requiring over 30 liters of transfusions. Though he faces a long road to recovery and subsequent surgeries, Manuel maintains that he would do it all over again if necessary. Since his successful discharge from the hospital, the community of Ave Maria has coalesced in a show of solidarity and pride around him, offering their prayers and support.

Manuel Milanes is the preeminent example of the very kind-hearted, God-fearing and free-

dom-loving immigrant our country has long thrived as a result of. Originally from Cuba, Manuel made the United States his home in 2017 after living in the Dominican Republic, where he met his loving wife, Kenia Rodriguez. Together, they set down roots in the Ave Maria community, building a family and a successful business. He notes that it is his Christian faith that has guided him in choosing a business that serves others, while also providing generously for the families of his 50 employees.

Beyond his business pursuits, Manuel is a passionate anti-communist freedom fighter who has never forgotten his Cuban roots or the mission of achieving true democratic freedom for Cuba. Turning his convictions into action, Manuel created a YouTube channel dedicated expressly to denouncing the brutal Castro regime's human rights abuses and raising funds to support political prisoners and their families in Cuba. To this day, he remains blacklisted by the regime for speaking out against the ruthless dictatorship.

Through his efforts, he has successfully provided medicine, food, and financial support to those still fighting for freedom, both in the opposition and those wrongfully imprisoned under the regime's oppressive hand.

Exemplary citizens like Manuel Milanes are the very reason I remain hopeful for the future of our Nation and remain convinced the American Dream is yet alive and well today. His unrestrained willingness to risk his life for others, his unwavering commitment to freedom, and his deep faith make him a true patriot and a living example of the values we cherish in this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Manuel Milanes Pizonero, a hero who represents the best of America. We remain forever grateful to him and his family for their selfless contributions to our community and our country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday September 25, 2024, I was unavoidably detained and unable to cast my vote on Roll Call No. 454. Had I been present, I would have voted NO.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. A. DREW FERGUSON IV

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, September 27, 2024

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained off of the House floor. Therefore, I was unable to cast my vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 452; YEA on Roll Call No. 451; NAY on Roll Call No. 453; YEA on Roll Call No. 454; YEA on Roll Call No. 450; YEA on Roll Call No. 455; and YEA on Roll Call No. 449.