

passed to address marine debris that threatens coastal communities and ecosystems.

The bill created a Marine Debris Foundation to support NOAA's work; advanced the removal and prevention of debris, including plastic waste; and established a pilot program to provide incentives for the proper disposal of marine debris collected at sea.

Despite these important policies, current law does not effectively permit NOAA through the Marine Debris Program to assist and collaborate with foreign governments, international organizations, Tribal groups, and other organizations that may have the specific skills required to achieve the Marine Debris Act's goals.

As co-chairs of the House Oceans Caucus, Representative GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN and I introduced the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act. This bill would amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act and the Marine Debris Act to provide NOAA with greater flexibility to deliver Federal resources and enter into cooperative agreements to conduct marine debris prevention and cleanup.

The ocean is resilient. We can help it heal, but we cannot afford to wait. We have significant work ahead of us to clean up and prevent marine debris, and the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act continues to build on our bipartisan foundation to protect the ocean.

I thank the gentlewoman and co-chair of the House Oceans Caucus, Representative GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, for her partnership on this bill. I thank our Senate colleagues, Senator DAN SULLIVAN and Senator SHELDON WHITEHOUSE. I also thank Chairman GRAVES and Ranking Member LARSEN, as well as Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member GRIJALVA.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill to strengthen the Federal response to marine debris and to continue to make ocean health a priority for future generations.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any further speakers, so I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. BONAMICI for bringing this legislation, and I also want to reflect on a group that I am familiar with called the Plastic Pollution Coalition that is headed up by Ms. Dianna Cohen and her sister, no relation to me. They have done great work on plastic and bringing the public's attention to the dangers of plastic in our environment.

Mr. Speaker, I support the legislation and urge all others to support it. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, this bill is an important next step to help remove marine debris and protect our oceans without instituting any new burdensome requirements.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 886, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY SALARY TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4693) to provide that the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995 does not apply to certain reports required to be submitted by the Tennessee Valley Authority, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4693

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

*This Act may be cited as the "Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act".*

#### SEC. 2. SALARY DISCLOSURE; EXCEPTION TO REPORT ELIMINATION.

*Section 9 of the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 (16 U.S.C. 831h) is amended—*

*(1) in subsection (a), by striking "a financial statement" and all that follows through "\$1,500 a year" and inserting "a report of the total number of employees at the management level or above, to include all executives and board members, that shall include the names, salaries, and duties of such employees, that are receiving compensation at or greater than the maximum rate of basic pay for grade GS-15 of the General Schedule";*

*(2) by striking all that precedes "The Board shall" and inserting the following:*

#### "SEC. 9. FINANCIAL REPORTING.

*"(a) REPORT ON COMPENSATION.—*

*"(1) IN GENERAL.—"; and*

*(3) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:*

*"(2) EXEMPTION.—The information concerning salaries of employees of the Corporation contained in, or filed with, the report described in paragraph (1) is exempt from—*

*"(A) disclosure under section 552(b)(3) of title 5, United States Code; and*

*"(B) the requirements of the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act (Public Law 117-263)."*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 4693.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4693, the Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act. This legislation simply reinstates an annual reporting requirement for the Tennessee Valley Authority to disclose to Congress the salaries for upper-level management.

I thank Representatives COHEN and BURCHETT for their bipartisan work on this legislation, which passed out of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by voice vote this last year.

The bill continues years of work to make the TVA more transparent for its customers and the communities that it obviously serves.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 4693, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GRAVES for his help with this legislation.

I rise in support of H.R. 4693, bipartisan legislation to promote additional transparency over the management structure of the TVA.

I thank my dear friend and colleague from days in Tennessee and days up here, Representative BURCHETT, for his tireless work on this issue and for partnering with me on this act.

The Tennessee Valley Authority, or the TVA, is better known as the Nation's largest government-owned wholesale power producer, supplying power to ten million people across the States of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky.

The legislation corrects a change enacted in 1995 that removed a requirement to disclose the management structure and salaries of TVA executives as part of the legislation to eliminate antiquated Federal agency reporting requirements. Well, this wasn't an antiquated portion that was deleted. This was something the public needs to see and know.

This bill reflects a fair compromise between our legitimate congressional oversight responsibilities over TVA and the need of TVA to retain and maintain a pool of talented, diverse, and effective management staff, executives, and board members.

It would ensure that Congress has the ability to provide effective oversight of the TVA and its management and executives.

I have asked TVA for salary transparency time and time again but have been refused information beyond that of the five highest-paid employees included in their annual SEC disclosure, which does indicate that the head of TVA makes \$10 million. That is, in my

opinion, too much for a public employee, even if it is a quasi-public employee. The fact is, when this gentleman, who is a good gentleman, was working in Canada when we hired him, he was earning \$2 million managing a utility. When he came to Tennessee, he followed in the footsteps of his predecessor, and his salary crept up to \$10 million.

Congress should have oversight, and the public should know what people are being paid. There are quite a few people being paid multimillions of dollars, not what F.D.R. envisioned when he helped pass the TVA bill back in the days of F.D.R.'s administration.

TVA's mission to make life better for the people in the Tennessee Valley is still there. We strayed from it in some ways. Hopefully, this bill is a vote for a more transparent and more accountable, better TVA.

It is going to give TVA a new deal, the New Deal they were originally passed under.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 4693, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), one of the cosponsors of this piece of legislation.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4693, the Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act.

The Tennessee Valley Authority controls a vital part of east Tennesseans' lives. It controls how they get energy, Mr. Speaker. If my constituents are going to rely on TVA every day, they deserve to know how TVA is spending its money. They deserve to know with certainty that TVA is doing right by them.

□ 1645

My first bill in Congress focused on transparency in TVA and, dadgummit, I have been proud to partner with my friend, Congressman STEVE COHEN, on several bills over the past few years on that very issue.

This bill, the Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act, would make sure the public has access to information about the salaries of employees at TVA. If government money flows into it, Mr. Speaker, we ought to know what they are paying and who they are paying. These are the GS-15 level or above. My constituents and all the Tennessee Valley should know exactly what the high earners at TVA are really making.

Transparency has been a problem for TVA in the past, but it has been getting better recently. I want to make sure that that pattern continues. This bill will help make that happen.

The Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act will help Congress keep TVA accountable for how it pays its employees, which is an important part of preserving the public trust.

I thank my friend and colleague, STEVE COHEN, for his hard work. When I think of Memphis, I think of barbecue, Stax Records, Elvis, Al Green, and STEVE COHEN. I thank him for working with me on this bill, and I strongly encourage all my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support it.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, first, I would have to say in the spirit of Elvis: "Thank you, thank you very much." That is nice company to be put into, with Stax, Al Green, and barbecue.

I thank Mr. BURCHETT for his work. In fact, this morning, Mr. BURCHETT's picture was in *The Commercial Appeal* looking up at the solar eclipse. He had glasses on, though; that was a good thing.

This is a good bill. I appreciate all the help we have had to get it to this point. The public deserves to see what the salaries are of the people serving in the public sector of the TVA.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4693, the Tennessee Valley Authority Salary Transparency Act, is a commonsense piece of legislation that is going to help increase transparency at the TVA and ensure that the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee can conduct appropriate oversight over the agency's actions.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4693, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BICE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules and pass:

- H.R. 1752; and
- H.R. 886.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

ELIMINATING BARRIERS TO RURAL INTERNET DEVELOPMENT GRANT ELIGIBILITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1752) to amend the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 to provide for a high-speed broadband deployment initiative, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 375, nays 20, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 79]

YEAS—375

Adams	Cartwright	Fallon
Aderholt	Case	Feenstra
Aguilar	Casten	Ferguson
Alford	Chavez-DeRemer	Finstad
Allen	Cherfilus-	Fischbach
Allred	McCormick	Fitzgerald
Amo	Chu	Fitzpatrick
Amodei	Ciscomani	Fleischmann
Armstrong	Clark (MA)	Fletcher
Arrington	Clarke (NY)	Flood
Auchincloss	Cline	Foster
Babin	Clyburn	Foushee
Bacon	Clyde	Franklin, Scott
Baird	Cole	Frost
Balderson	Collins	Fry
Balint	Comer	Fulcher
Banks	Connolly	Gaetz
Barr	Correa	Garamendi
Barragán	Costa	Garbarino
Beatty	Courtney	Garcia (IL)
Bentz	Craig	Garcia (TX)
Bera	Crane	Garcia, Mike
Bergman	Crenshaw	Garcia, Robert
Beyer	Crockett	Gimenez
Bice	Crow	Golden (ME)
Bilirakis	Cuellar	Goldman (NY)
Bishop (NC)	Curtis	Gomez
Blumenauer	D'Esposito	Gonzales, Tony
Blunt Rochester	Davids (KS)	Gonzalez,
Bonamici	Davis (IL)	Vicente
Bost	Davis (NC)	Good (VA)
Bowman	De La Cruz	Gooden (TX)
Boyle (PA)	Dean (PA)	Gottheimer
Brown	DeLauro	Granger
Brownley	DelBene	Graves (LA)
Buchanan	Deluzio	Graves (MO)
Bucshon	DeSaulnier	Green (TN)
Budzinski	DesJarlais	Green, Al (TX)
Burchett	Diaz-Balart	Greene (GA)
Burgess	Dingell	Griffith
Burlison	Doggett	Grothman
Bush	Duarte	Guest
Calvert	Duncan	Guthrie
Cammack	Edwards	Hageman
Caraveo	Ellzey	Harris
Carbajal	Emmer	Harshbarger
Cárdenas	Escobar	Hayes
Carey	Eshoo	Hern
Carl	Españillat	Hill
Carson	Estes	Himes
Carter (GA)	Evans	Hinson
Carter (LA)	Ezell	Horsford
Carter (TX)		Houchin