

The overwhelming majority of Palestinians want peace, as well. They just want to live their lives with dignity and independence as they should, but they need to be treated as equals with human rights, which too often they are not.

I urge our government to do more to help distribute aid, utilizing great groups like the World Central Kitchen, UNWRA, and so many others that are doing this work. Our government must stop supplying any offensive weapons or equipment that damages Gaza further, especially in regard to any invasion of Rafah.

Let's take this awful, current situation and make some good out of it. We need to double down on a two-state solution that recognizes the many, many good people of Israel and Palestine that want to live in peace. It is achievable, and the United States is crucial to that peace. That is what I am hearing in my district.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 35 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. WEBER of Texas) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Sovereign God, in these days when skies darken and nations rage, when politics become a weapon and discord takes center stage, we yearn for peace only You can give. Come quickly to our aid, that our hearts would not be troubled, with no more need to be afraid.

God, mend this House divided, for against itself it cannot stand. Grant Your peace upon us. May we live as You command, to look at foe or friend and see in them Your face, to strive to love each other and give to each Your grace.

In Your eternal name, we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

IN RECOGNITION OF WEGAYEWU FARIS

(Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a local hero whose selfless act exemplifies the very essence of courage and sacrifice.

Wegayewu Faris, an immigrant from Ethiopia who settled 7 years ago in Coralville, Iowa, displayed remarkable bravery when he risked his life to save an 8-year-old boy from drowning back in 2022.

Without hesitation, Faris, who had worked as a custodial worker at City High School, leaped into action and jumped into the full Iowa River when he saw the boy in danger and struggling. His quick and decisive response underscores the true nature of heroism.

Tragically, Faris lost his life in the process, but his heroism did not go unnoticed. Recently, he was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal for Heroism, the highest civilian honor for bravery in North America.

This recognition serves as a testament to his extraordinary courage and selflessness. Faris' legacy reminds us of the profound impact one individual can have on their community.

May his bravery inspire us all to act with courage and compassion in the face of adversity.

RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

(Mrs. RADEWAGEN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in recognition of the University of South Carolina women's basketball team.

These amazing athletes from my good friend JOE WILSON's district completed a perfect season, culminating in a championship win.

Special congratulations to senior guard Te-Hina Paopao and her contributions to the team.

"Congratulations on your great sportsmanship." "Malo le ta'alo fa'a tamali'i."

Te-Hina Paopao is of Samoan heritage, and I know our islands always love to see our Pacific athletes excelling on the national stage. She will have lifelong memories of scoring 14 points in the national championship.

I congratulate all her friends and family cheering her on in our Polynesian communities from her home in California and elsewhere.

I so enjoyed watching this game that attracted millions of people with lots of nationwide excitement about all the great teams competing. I thank the South Carolina women's basketball team.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SOMALIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-129)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, with respect to Somalia is to continue in effect beyond April 12, 2024.

The situation with respect to Somalia continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13536 with respect to Somalia.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 9, 2024.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SPECIFIED HARMFUL FOREIGN ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-130)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation declared in Executive Order 14024 of April 15, 2021, which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 14066 of March 8, 2022, and with respect to which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 14039 of August 20, 2021, Executive Order 14068 of March 11, 2022, Executive Order 14071 of April 6, 2022, and Executive Order 14114 of December 22, 2023, is to continue in effect beyond April 15, 2024.

Specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation—in particular, efforts to undermine the conduct of free and fair democratic elections and democratic institutions in the United States and its allies and partners; to engage in and facilitate malicious cyber-enabled activities against the United States and its allies and partners; to foster and use transnational corruption to influence foreign governments; to pursue extraterritorial activities targeting dissidents or journalists; to undermine security in countries and regions important to United States national security; and to violate well-established principles of international law, including respect for the territorial integrity of states—continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 14024 with respect to specified harmful foreign activities of the Government of the Russian Federation.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.,
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 9, 2024.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1503

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. SALAZAR) at 3 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

RIGHT-OF-WAY APPLICATION TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6011) to direct the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to notify applicants of the completion status of right-of-way applications under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 and section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6011

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 "Right-Of-Way Application Transparency and Accountability Act" or the "ROWATA Act".

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION REGARDING RIGHTS-OF-WAY.

(a) NOTICE.—Not later than 90 days after the Secretary concerned receives an application to grant a right-of-way, the Secretary concerned shall—

(1) notify the applicant as to whether the application is complete; or

(2) notify the applicant that information is missing and specify any information that is required to be submitted for the application to be complete.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) RIGHT-OF-WAY.—The term "right-of-way" means—

(A) a right-of-way issued, granted, or renewed under section 501 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1761); or

(B) a right-of-way granted under section 28 of the Mineral Leasing Act (30 U.S.C. 185).

(2) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term "Secretary concerned" means—

(A) with respect to public lands, the Secretary of the Interior; and

(B) with respect to National Forest System lands, the Secretary of Agriculture.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Wyoming.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 6011, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Wyoming?

There was no objection.

Ms. HAGEMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6011, the Right-of-Way Application Transparency and Accountability Act.

H.R. 6011, introduced by Congressman VALADAO, would expedite right-of-way applications on Federal lands for energy projects by requiring agencies to notify applicants within 90 days if the right-of-way application is complete or deficient.

The Department of the Interior and the U.S. Forest Service would both be required to meet this deadline and specify the information needed for applicants that are deemed deficient.

The Federal Land Policy Management Act, or FLPMA, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to grant rights-of-way on Federal lands for several activities that cause land disturbance. The Mineral Leasing Act of 1920 allows the respective Secretaries to issue rights-of-way for oil, natural gas, and refined product pipelines over Federal lands.

While both statutes include application requirements, neither includes timelines for the agencies to respond to applicants to tell them whether their applications are complete or deficient.

The lack of a timeline has created a bottleneck in the permitting process for energy projects that need a right-of-way to proceed, which is why this bill is needed.

During the Committee on Natural Resources' hearing on this bill, the American Clean Power Association testified in support of it and pointed out that the permitting system on Federal lands is overly burdensome and actively curtails investment.

Specifically, their testimony stated that "delays are largely due to procedural inefficiencies in processing permits and have ripple effects throughout the economy, throwing off project timelines, domestic supply chains, and the indirect jobs and economic activity that would otherwise occur. Without further permitting reform, the United States may not be able to meet our growing energy demand."