

In 2022, we announced that we would secure a substantial increase of our defense budget by fiscal year 2027 to 2 percent of GDP, possess counterstrike capabilities, and improve cybersecurity. Today, the deterrence that our alliance provides is stronger than ever, bolstered by U.S. extended deterrence for Japan.

Japan has taken strong sanctions against Russia in the wake of its aggression against Ukraine. We have announced over \$12 billion in aid to Ukraine, including anti-drone detection systems. This is part of NATO's aid package; and, yes, we are even working with NATO on the other side of the world from us.

I might add that in February, to help a devastated Ukraine get through these agonizing times, I hosted the conference for Ukraine's economic growth and reconstruction. Japan will continue to stand with Ukraine.

As the geopolitical landscape changed and as Japan grew in confidence, we expanded our outlook beyond that of being America's closest ally. We first became a regional partner of the United States, and now we have become your global partner. Never has our relationship been so close, our vision and approach so united.

Today, our partnership goes beyond the bilateral. Examples include trilateral and quadrilateral cooperation among the U.S., Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, India, and the Philippines as well as cooperation through the G7 and with ASEAN. The three leaders of the U.S., the Republic of Korea, and Japan convened at Camp David last summer to inaugurate a new era of our partisanship.

From these various endeavors emerges a multilayered, regional framework where our alliance serves as a force multiplier and, together, with these like-minded countries, we are working to realize a free and open Indo-Pacific. Here in this Chamber, we should have strong bipartisan support for these efforts.

Japan believes in U.S. leadership, and we also believe in the U.S. economy. Japan is the number one foreign direct investor in the United States. Japanese companies have invested around \$800 billion, creating almost 1 million American jobs. These are good jobs, with half a million jobs in the manufacturing sector alone.

At home, I am embarking on a set of initiatives called a New Form of Capitalism to drive the Japanese economy. The public and private sectors are joining hands to transform the social challenges we face into engines of growth. Wage increases, capital investment, and stock prices all have attained levels not seen for 30 years.

The Japanese economy is now making strides by capitalizing on these unprecedented and major changes. A growth-oriented Japanese economy should also spur even greater investment in the United States, and we can

then help boost the global economy to steer it toward a strong growth trajectory in the years to come.

Just yesterday, President Biden and I demonstrated our commitment to leading the world on the development of the next generation of emerging technologies, such as AI, quantum, semiconductors, biotechnology, and clean energy.

The scope of our bilateral cooperation expands to space as well, illuminating our path toward a brighter and more hopeful tomorrow. The TV broadcast of Apollo 11's lunar landing of 1969 is still seared into my memory. Japan's lunar lander mission in January achieved the first pinpoint landing in history. Yesterday, President Biden and I announced that a Japanese national will be the first non-American astronaut to land on the Moon on a future Artemis mission.

We have two astronauts with us today. Would Mr. Hoshide and Mr. Tani please stand.

Mr. Akihiko Hoshide has flown to space three times and served as commander of the International Space Station for 5 months in 2021.

Next to him is Mr. Daniel Tani. He is a retired Japanese-American astronaut who has conducted six space walks and, in his two missions, has logged over 50 million miles, which is a lot of frequent flyer points.

Mr. Hoshide and Mr. Tani are living symbols of our collaboration in space, and we will have many more such collaborations in the future.

Thank you, gentlemen.

Let me close with this final thought. I want you to know how seriously Japan takes its role as the United States' closest ally.

Together, we carry a large responsibility. I believe that we are essential to peace, vital to freedom, and fundamental to prosperity.

Bonded by our beliefs, I pledge to you Japan's firm alliance and enduring friendship.

"Global Partners for the Future": We are your global partner today, and we will be your global partner in the years ahead.

Thank you for inviting me, thank you for your hospitality, and thank you for the role you play in the world. (Applause, the Members rising.)

At noon, His Excellency Kishida Fumio, Prime Minister of Japan, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The U.S. Secretary of Transportation; and

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

#### JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly (at noon), the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

The SPEAKER. The House will continue in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1230

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GUEST) at 12 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

#### PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

#### 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.

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

#### FEDERAL COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECTS

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 524) to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 524

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

#### SECTION 1. FEDERAL COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECTS.

*Section 6(a) of the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (16 U.S.C. 3505(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:*

*"(7) Use of a sand source within a System unit by Federal coastal storm risk management projects or their predecessor projects that have used a system unit for sand to nourish adjacent beaches outside the System pursuant to section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (commonly known as the 'Flood Control Act of 1941') (55 Stat. 650, chapter 377; 33 U.S.C. 701n) at least once between December 31, 2008 and December 31, 2023 in response to an emergency situation prior to December 31, 2023."*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 524, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 524, sponsored by my colleague Congressman ROUZER of North Carolina. This bill amends the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, or CBRA, to ensure coastal communities have access to the resources they need to renourish their beaches, protect public safety, and strengthen their local economies.

This bill would amend CBRA to ensure communities that have been using sites located within the CBRA's system as a source of sand to renourish beaches in response to an emergency between December 31, 2008, and December 31, 2023, will be allowed to continue doing so.

Without it, communities like Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, in Mr. ROUZER's district, which has been using the same site for the last 60 years to renourish its beach, would be left with few realistic and cost-effective options to carry out their necessary projects, which serve as a critical tool in protecting vulnerable communities.

As we heard from the mayor of Wrightsville Beach at the hearing on this bill, enacting H.R. 524 would enable both the Federal Government and local governments to achieve the primary goals of CBRA at a lower cost to taxpayers by avoiding the necessity to complete beach nourishment using sand from offshore sites.

For example, the most recent completed beach nourishment event took place in 2018 at a cost of \$11.9 million. If Wrightsville Beach is forced to utilize an offshore borrow site, costs could exceed \$25 million for the same project.

This is a commonsense bill that protects coastal communities while accomplishing the goals of CBRA.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, or CBRA as we call it, is a great example of successful Federal land management. When President Reagan signed it in 1982, he explained that without this statute, the Federal Government would be subsidizing development in risky areas and would subsequently be on the hook for disaster costs when storms inevitably hit these vulnerable regions.

He said that CBRA would "halt the Federal subsidy spiral," by discouraging Federal investments in development on storm-prone coastal lands, lands that, if developed, would put human lives and property at risk, and

also cost taxpayers billions of dollars in disaster relief.

In the years since this law was enacted, the U.S. taxpayer has saved over \$9.5 billion in disaster costs alone and the act has protected millions of acres of habitat.

Mr. Speaker, I will hand it to President Reagan. Signing this bill into law was actually in line with conservative conservation, mainly because CBRA was and is the type of innovative policy we need to conserve habitat and make our coastlines more resilient to climate change, all while saving American taxpayers money.

I thank Mr. ROUZER for working with Democrats to produce a bill that we can all support today. As the bill was originally introduced, it would have amended CBRA to allow taxpayer dollars to subsidize taking sand from CBRA units for beach renourishment at a handful of beaches outside the CBRA system.

Without careful limits, this practice can be destructive to fish and wildlife habitat. It can also cause more erosion for communities downdrift of the sand borrow site.

I said during our hearing and our markup on this bill that if we are going to grant an exception to CBRA like this, we need to be careful. We need to ensure that it is in the spirit of CBRA, meaning that we need to first protect habitat and coastal barriers and not let Federal subsidies spiral into a cascade of more and more Federal subsidies in these areas.

Democrats raised this concern during committee consideration, and I thank Mr. ROUZER and my other colleagues across the aisle for working with us and finding a bipartisan solution.

This amended version of the bill that we are voting on today would instead provide that, in the case of a federally declared disaster and with careful environmental analysis, a narrow exemption can be granted for using a CBRA unit as a borrow site for towns in a state of emergency.

With this clarifying language, I am pleased to support the solution and the revised bill. I do also hope that this bill's passage in the House will help build some momentum for the broader CBRA package that Representatives KIGGANS and BLUNT ROCHESTER, as well as Senators CARPER and GRAHAM and others have been negotiating.

We need responsible, equitable, science-based management of public lands and taxpayer dollars, and I think this updated version of H.R. 524, in combination with that broader CBRA package, would achieve that objective by addressing the issues at hand and protecting the integrity of the CBRA system.

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

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 524, a bill I introduced to amend the Coastal Barrier Resources Act to create an exemption for certain shoreline borrow sites.

This legislation, which passed the House Natural Resources Committee unanimously, resolves an issue for a handful of coastal communities that have unique and longstanding beach nourishment project borrow sites.

For background, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act of 1982 created certain protected coastal zones, known as CBRA zones, along the Atlantic, Gulf, and coasts of the Great Lakes.

Under that law, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service prohibits Federal investment in these areas due to the risk associated with coastal natural disasters. While this is intended to protect human life and taxpayer dollars, in a few select cases for which this bill is focused, a recent revision of implementation has inadvertently created uncertainty for these longstanding projects necessary to keep these coastal communities safe during storms.

For example, and as has already been cited, Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, which is in my district, has been utilizing sand from Masonboro Inlet for their beach nourishment project for more than 50 years. The natural erosion of sand from the beach is guided by the current and continually deposits south of the beach in Masonboro Inlet.

Every 4 years, just like clockwork, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has dredged the inlet of this sand and returned it to Wrightsville Beach.

For 50 years, this natural cycle has served as a reliable ecological borrow site for our coastal community and, by the way, is home to an abundance of wildlife. Placement of the sand solidifies the dunes and berms, creating a natural protective barrier for the community that protects both property and life. This process has been the most cost-effective and ecologically friendly for other coastal communities with similar natural erosion cycles as well.

To share a little more history for perspective, CBRA zones eliminated the use of these natural borrow sites for nourishment purposes with the enactment of the 1982 law. However, shortly after enactment of that law, a clarification was made to prevent communities like Wrightsville Beach to use these historic borrow sites. Literally decades later, that clarification was reversed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers at the request of the Department of the Interior in 2021, undoing decades of precedent and preventing these communities from using such site.

Under the current interpretation, communities such as mine at Wrightsville Beach would be forced to dredge offshore, leading to skyrocketing costs for taxpayers, not to mention changing the natural ecology of these areas in ways that may have significant unintended consequences.

Reversing this action to, once again, permit the use of a beach's natural, historic borrow site is imperative for physical resiliency and safety, as well as the local economic benefits that accrue. Further, it will save taxpayer dollars and protect the ecology of these areas that has developed over all these years.

Mr. Speaker, simply put, the bill before us today resolves this issue for good by putting the original decades-old clarification into law. It allows for the use of historical borrow sites within a CBRA zone provided such site has been utilized for the past 15 years in response to an emergency.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support passage of this legislation. I thank my colleagues on the other side of the aisle for their work with me to produce this bipartisan project that solves a real problem for many in these particular communities.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, America is blessed with pristine coastlines that are both vital ecosystems and vital economic engines. CBRA is an important safeguard that helps us as a Nation balance these two important factors. H.R. 524 furthers this ideal by ensuring that local communities who rely on beach renourishment projects to protect their citizens and their beaches can responsibly continue to do so.

I thank Congressman ROUZER, once again, for his leadership on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support 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 Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 524, 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.

## SEA TURTLE RESCUE ASSISTANCE AND REHABILITATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2560) to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2560

*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 "Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance and Rehabilitation Act of 2023".*

## SEC. 2. SEA TURTLE RESCUE ASSISTANCE AND REHABILITATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall establish a grant program, to be known as the "Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance and Rehabilitation Grant Program", to encourage and facilitate coordinated rapid response and rescue by awarding grants for the purposes described in subsection (c).

(b) **DESIGNATION OF STRANDING AND REHABILITATION REGIONS.**—The Secretary shall designate geographic regions of the United States as stranding and rehabilitation regions for the purposes of carrying out this section.

(c) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of the Program are to provide for—

(1) the recovery, short- or long-term care, transportation, and treatment of stranded marine turtles;

(2) the release of rescued and recovered marine turtles;

(3) the collection of data and samples from stranded marine turtles for scientific research related to marine turtle health; and

(4) facility operation costs that are directly related to activities described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3).

(d) **EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.**—The Secretary shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that funds awarded under this section are distributed equitably among stranding and rehabilitation regions, taking into account—

(1) the number of stranding and rehabilitation events that occurred in each stranding and rehabilitation region in the preceding 5 years; and

(2) the conservation priorities and recovery needs of species of marine turtles that are threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

(e) **APPLICATION.**—An applicant for a grant under this section shall submit an application in such form and manner as the Secretary shall prescribe.

(f) **GRANT CRITERIA.**—

(1) **DEVELOPMENT OF CRITERIA.**—The Secretary shall, in consultation with the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, establish by regulation appropriate criteria for awarding grants under this section.

(2) **STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT.**—As part of the process for developing and finalizing criteria under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, in consultation with the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, provide opportunities for engagement with representatives from stranding and rehabilitation regions and representatives of State governments and public and private organizations with an established record in coordination, rescue, rehabilitation, and release, as well as related scientific research, marine conservation, and forensic science, with respect to stranded marine turtles.

(3) **REQUIRED CRITERIA.**—The criteria developed under paragraph (1) shall prioritize applicants with an established record of coordination, rescuing, rehabilitation, scientific research, and forensic science with respect to stranded and rehabilitated marine turtles or conducting scientific research and forensic science on stranded and rehabilitated marine turtles.

(g) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF GRANT.**—No grant awarded under this section may exceed \$150,000 in any 12-month period.

(2) **MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**—The non-Federal share of the costs of an activity conducted with a grant awarded under the Program shall be not less than 50 percent of such costs, including in-kind services and the use of property.

(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **MARINE TURTLE.**—The term "marine turtle" means any member of the family Cheloniidae or Dermochelyidae.

(2) **PROGRAM.**—The term "Program" means the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance and Rehabilitation Grant Program established under subsection (a).

(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Commerce.

(4) **STRANDING.**—The term "stranding" means an event in which—

(A) a marine turtle is dead and is—

(i) on a beach or shore of the United States; or

(ii) in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States (including any navigable waters); or

(B) a marine turtle is alive and is—

(i) on a beach or shore of the United States and unable to return to the water;

(ii) on a beach or shore of the United States and in need of medical attention; or

(iii) in waters under the jurisdiction of the United States (including any navigable waters), and in need of medical attention or other necessary intervention to aid its likelihood of survival.

(5) **STRANDING AND REHABILITATION REGION.**—The term "stranding and rehabilitation region" means a geographic region designated by the Secretary under subsection (b).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TIFFANY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2560, as amended, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, Representative KEATING's bill would establish a Federal grant program for the recovery, care, and treatment of stranded sea turtles in the United States.

All six turtle species found in U.S. waters are listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. According to the Sea Turtle Stranding and Salvage Network, their partners cared for more than 2,000 sea turtles over the last 2 years. H.R. 2560 will build on the network of these organizations and further support sea turtles.

At our full committee markup of this bill last October, an amendment in the nature of a substitute was offered by Representative LUNA of Florida to incorporate feedback from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission to include rehabilitation as an intent of the legislation. In addition, to ensure its compliance with floor protocols, the ANS ensured the program would be funded through NOAA's general authorities.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KEATING and my colleagues across the aisle for working with us to amend this bill to address the concerns of some of our Members, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1245

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