

West Point who said: "The sole reason for civilian deaths in Gaza is Hamas. For Israel's part, it has taken more care to prevent them than any other army in human history."

Let that settle in for a minute. They have taken more care than anybody to prevent civilian deaths. Hamas is the one causing them.

BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

(Mr. BOWMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Black Maternal Health Week and all of the members of my community who risk their lives to be Black and pregnant in America.

I want to shout out a member of our New York 16 community, Nubia Martin, a birth worker and founder of Birth from The Earth, a nonprofit focused on education and empowerment that provides health and wellness services for the Black community.

I also want to highlight the work of Cheryl Brannan and Sister to Sister International housed in Yonkers, New York. They connect women and girls of African descent to education and resources worldwide.

These organizations are on the front lines of the Black maternal health crisis and are fighting to make sure every person in our district and across the country has access to quality reproductive care.

It is time we start making the necessary improvements to our healthcare system, workforce training, and wrap-around services to protect and uplift Black pregnant people and parents. We need to make our healthcare system an antiracist system.

FARMERS, RANCHERS, FORESTERS, AND CONSUMERS DESERVE CERTAINTY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. 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 on the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, turmoil in the Middle East heightened over the weekend, and my prayers are with all involved. I trust our Nation's leadership can rise to the task at hand.

However, in another matter of food and national security, this evening I

am taking the opportunity to discuss how farmers, ranchers, foresters, and consumers deserve certainty.

Agriculture remains the backbone of America, but our Nation's dedicated producers have been burdened with fractured supply chains, considerable input costs, relentless inflation, natural disasters, volatile markets, and labor shortages.

Each is consistently worsened by ill-conceived, half-baked executive action by our own elected bureaucrats in Washington.

Our Nation's farmers are bearing the brunt of it. Adding insult to injury, we are now a net importer facing the most significant decline in farm income in our history.

Farmers impact our everyday lives, so how do we support those who provide so much to our families, to our Nation, and to our world? The answer is a 5-year farm bill.

The Committee on Agriculture spent the last 3 years listening to concerns of America's producers and turning their words into legislation.

We have received input, ideas, and suggestions from stakeholders and members alike through our public portals and listening sessions across the country. Through this transparent and exhaustive process, we have produced a bipartisan product that will provide effective tools to our producers by bolstering the safety net, strengthening nutrition programs and access opportunities, and revitalize rural America.

Since our last farm bill was passed in 2018, our producers have faced countless challenges. The needs of farm country are self-evident. We have developed a bill to meet them and a responsibility to fund them. For nearly a year, I have tried to educate my colleagues, and the hand-holding has yielded nothing.

My colleagues and I are here tonight to showcase our work and show that House Republicans have done their job.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. MILLER), and I appreciate his service on the House Agriculture Committee.

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me for this evening's Special Order.

I would like to emphasize the importance of passing an updated farm bill that supports our agriculture industry by strengthening the farm safety net, bolsters rural economies, and meets the growing food security and affordability difficulties that are impacting American families.

Mr. Speaker, agriculture and food-related industries are responsible for almost \$1.4 trillion of the United States gross domestic product, yet American farmers—specifically farmers in my district—face daunting challenges in providing a stable and affordable food supply to our Nation.

In Ohio, I have heard farmers' and ranchers' concerns about continued inflationary pressures, regulatory hurdles, limited trade markets, animal

health, and a broad range of other issues.

Through the House Agricultural Committee's busy schedule over the past 16 months, I have seen the importance of policies that keep the farm safety net strong, incentivize conservation, encourage innovative research initiatives, support specialty crops, allow farmers to grow our energy resources, and much more.

Mr. Speaker, the United States Department of Agriculture recently reported that our Nation has lost over 140,000 farms in the last 5 years. This is unsustainable. The USDA's most recent Farm Income Forecast reflects the urgent need to act. The report anticipates a 25 percent decrease in farm income from 2023 to 2024, one of the largest year-to-year dollar reductions in net farm income on record.

Failure to pass an updated farm bill could exacerbate these already growing problems and have a devastating impact on our economy and food supply chains.

The United States food and agricultural sector has an economic output of over \$8.6 trillion and cannot afford to wait. I hope that my colleagues will recognize the magnitude of these issues and help us to pass a sound farm bill quick.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership and dedication to America, and I know Ohio's number one industry.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Livestock, Dairy, and Poultry.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership of our committee in this effort.

I rise to call on this Congress to pass a comprehensive 5-year farm bill. This is my 25th time to come to the House floor to address the importance of a 5-year farm bill that is long enough to provide certainty and short enough to respond to the market changes and strengthen the safety net. America's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers deserve it, America's food and national security depend on it, and this Congress must deliver it.

In the almost 5½ years since the last farm bill was signed into law, the world has drastically changed. Since 2018, we have experienced a global pandemic, seen a war unfold between Russia and Ukraine and now Israel and Hamas, and witnessed President Biden's failed trade agenda cause market fluctuations that no one could have imagined.

On top of that, President Biden's spending spree and senseless war on American energy has driven inflation to historic levels. No matter how many times the administration officials and political pundits say that input costs and inflation rates are coming down, our ag producers know that these levels are still sky high in comparison to the last farm bill in 2018.

As Congress considers these conditions, we must also anticipate future

market fluctuations as best we can. That is why my priorities for the farm bill are to strengthen and protect crop insurance, incentivize agriculture trade, and conduct rigorous oversight.

Last year's drought and market conditions caused producers in Kansas to abandon the highest number of acres of wheat since World War I, and I witnessed a 35 percent decrease in annual wheat harvested per acre in my district.

A good crop insurance program and strong safety net help ag producers in situations like these and help producers reliably stock our grocery store shelves, maintain a robust food supply, and keep people fed. It is one of our Nation's best examples of a private-public partnership, and Congress must use a scalpel and not a sledgehammer when ensuring its continued success for generations to come.

Ag trade promotion helps America remain competitive and secure, as well. Back in February, I introduced legislation which would allocate additional resources to trade promotion programs in the farm bill.

Between 1977 and 2019, these trade programs added a 13.7 percent of additional export revenue to the value of U.S. ag products and helped to create more than half a million American jobs.

It is no secret that perhaps more than any other profession ag producers face endless hurdles as they work tirelessly to raise our livestock, grow our food, and put fuel in our cars. This next farm bill must not handicap them with additional overly restrictive regulations. Instead, Congress must get out of their way and support them with the tools they need to protect the future of American food and agriculture.

If you think about a safety net, the higher the risk the higher the fall, and the stronger the safety net that you need to survive. The livelihoods of American producers and consumers are on the line right now, and that means our food security and national security are on the line, as well.

American farmers, ranchers, and agriculture producers need certainty like never before, and Congress must deliver for them with a 5-year farm bill.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA).

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, the farm bill continues to be a vital investment to our producers, our competition with China, and our American economy. An important component of this farm bill is the crop insurance program.

Before coming to Congress, I sold crop insurance in my hometown of Hull, Iowa. I can confidently say that this program is a crucial piece to the safety net of the farming community.

When severe weather strikes like we had in Iowa with a derecho several years ago, the economy can take a turn very quickly. Crop insurance protects that farmer during the most unpredictable times.

That is why we must pass the farm bill that includes this robust investment in Federal crop insurance programs. I was proud to introduce legislation that would help deliver a discount to help the next generation of Iowa farmers who utilize this important management tool.

With nearly 40 percent of American farmland expected to change hands in the next two decades, this bill will make investments to the next generation and not allow our farmland to fall into the hands of our foreign adversaries.

My bill and the farm bill at large will help keep families rooted in rural communities, continue Iowa's proud tradition of farm families, and keep China away from our farmland.

□ 2000

I represent the second-largest agriculture-producing district in the country. It has over 50,000 active farm crop insurance policies.

I will continue to be a strong voice for agriculture and ensure that we pass a strong farm bill for Iowa and the Nation that enhances crop insurance and assists the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON for his leadership. I look forward to working with my colleagues to get this farm bill passed this year to provide certainty for our farmers, producers, and rural communities.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership in agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. FINSTAD), who serves as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Nutrition, Foreign Agriculture, and Horticulture.

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

Mr. Speaker, as a proud fourth-generation farmer raising the fifth generation, I know firsthand the importance of writing and passing a strong farm bill that is written by farmers for farmers, written by rural America for rural America.

Without farmers' hard work and dedication, we would not have the safe, affordable, nutritious food that stocks our shelves every day.

Food security is national security. Through strong farm policy, we will limit our dependence on foreign countries and maintain the most abundant and highest quality food supply in the world.

In recent years, the ag industry has faced increased volatility as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, weather-related disasters, and international conflict.

Today, the producers I represent in southern Minnesota are dealing with sky-high import costs and increased regulatory burdens, as well as a 27-percent decline in net farm income and a \$30 billion ag trade deficit, creating a highly leveraged financial environment in farm country.

The farm bill provides our farmers with a roadmap of what the next 5

years of farm policy will look like, and it is critical that we act to protect our family farmers and ensure that they can pass their operations down to that next generation.

Our farmers are part of one of the most honorable professions, and as only 2 percent of the American population, we must provide farm country with the support it needs.

Chairman THOMPSON as well as the House Agriculture Committee has been working tirelessly to write a farm bill that meets their needs and the needs of all Americans.

I am committed to standing shoulder to shoulder with my colleagues in Congress and the ag community to pass a farm bill that will shape the future of farm policy, including protecting and strengthening crop insurance, farmers number one risk management tool; revitalizing rural America; improving voluntary, incentive-based conservation programs; and ensuring that taxpayer dollars are used responsibly.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his leadership and the direction that he provides to the Ag Committee, and I am ready to go to work with him.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), who represents Tennessee's Sixth Congressional District.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, in America, we can almost always count on the grocery stores' shelves being full. Too often, many overlook just how blessed we are to live in a country with such an abundance of food.

Today, as Americans, we enjoy the most abundant, affordable, and safe supply of food in the history of humankind. That is because of the farmers, ranchers, producers, and suppliers who put in the hours and take the risks to produce the food and fiber we count on.

It is also in part because of the farm safety net programs included in the farm bill that ensure that we continue producing enough to feed American citizens.

As an eighth-generation Tennessee farmer and former Tennessee commissioner of agriculture, I can attest that programs in the farm bill, like the Federal crop insurance program, are critical to ensuring we maintain an abundant and affordable supply of food in the United States.

These farm safety net programs provide risk protection and income support for farmers who experience natural disasters, adverse growing conditions, and fluctuations in market prices.

We must remember in these times of rampant inflation and ever-rising prices for farm inputs that our farmers are price takers. They don't have the luxury of passing their rising input costs on in the form of higher prices.

The crop insurance program specifically helps farmers pay their private insurance premiums, which are often too expensive for small family farmers.

In 2021, premium assistance covered 62 percent of premiums, on average, for those who qualified. This assistance is available for most field crops, several specialty crops, and some livestock producers.

However, in their current form, these programs are far from perfect and far from meeting the growing needs of our Nation's producers. Emergency assistance and routine support payments are often determined by arbitrary and outdated formulas. It is why this proposed farm bill makes these programs more adaptive to inflation. Rising input costs continue to burden our Nation's farms, big and small, which is why the enhancement in this bill will improve the farm safety net for our farmers and agricultural producers.

I am committed to improving these commodity programs by increasing reference prices and creating a more robust crop insurance program.

Congress has the ability to update our farm policy by crafting a bipartisan farm bill that aligns the safety net with the needs of producers, expands market access, and strengthens program operations to demand transparency and accountability for the American taxpayer.

In a divided Congress, this would be a major win for the American people and the Tennesseans I represent. Throughout the farm bill process, I have remained committed, as have my colleagues, to delivering for them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his persistence and dedication to ensure our farmers are not left behind.

Rest assured, Republicans in the House Agriculture Committee will not quit working on passing this bill until the job is done. You have our word because it is the very least our farmers who work day in and day out deserve.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. NEWHOUSE), who represents Washington's Fourth Congressional District and also serves as the chair of our Western Caucus, which is a force to be reckoned with when it comes to rural issues and the shared dedication toward those rural issues with the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for those kind remarks on the Congressional Western Caucus, and I thank him for being such a strong member of the Western Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of a farm bill that addresses the needs, the priorities, and the concerns of rural America.

As chairman of the Congressional Western Caucus, and probably even more importantly as a third-generation farmer myself, my son being now the fourth generation, I know the difficulties farmers and ranchers face in day-to-day operations.

Agriculture is the lifeblood of our Nation. The government's role should be to support the agricultural industry and their efforts to feed and fuel our country. The farm bill does just that.

Today, farmers and ranchers understand all too well the consequences of a heavy-handed Federal bureaucracy.

Today, we are at a crossroads. We are being pushed to the limits. Agricultural operations, both large and small, have been impacted by excessive regulations and tax burdens that have proved challenging for everyday life.

That is why, at this critical moment, we cannot turn our backs on the men and women who have made American agriculture successful.

Western Caucus members have been consistent about their priorities for a successful farm bill. These include supporting production agriculture in every way possible, improving voluntary conservation programs to ensure that those closest to the land can manage it the way that they know the best, enhancing forest health and management, and strengthening America's rural communities through investment and development.

Throughout this entire process, I have been impressed with the Agriculture Committee's attention to producing the best farm bill possible.

I have been especially encouraged by Chairman THOMPSON's due diligence to go out to gather community perspectives, evaluate current programs, and advocate for policies to be included in the legislation with rural America first and foremost in mind. He has been to my State several times. I think he has been to almost every single State in the Union.

Under Chairman THOMPSON's leadership, the committee has strived to produce a comprehensive and effective farm bill that accomplishes many of the priorities that the Western Caucus members advocate for.

This legislation will send a message to America's farmers and ranchers that we will still have their backs, and I will continue to support them just as they support our Nation.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. NEWHOUSE). I thank him for his hospitality, too, and for being able to tour his farming operation and a lot of others while I was there.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN), who represents Iowa's Third Congressional District and is a great champion and advocate for America's number one industry, which is agriculture.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON as well as our colleagues on the Ag Committee.

As a sixth-generation Iowan and part of a Century Family Farm, collectively, we know the hands, hearts, and hard work of Iowa farmers who feed and fuel the world.

Every Iowan is impacted by this upcoming farm bill and the agriculture policy that is included, whether it is part of the supply chain, in the grocery store checkout line, or at the dinner table, as I, with my six kids, know very well, based on our grocery bills.

Unfortunately, input costs are up, surging 35 percent in recent years, and inflation is driving those profits down. We know this: Farmers are not price makers. They are price takers. Too often, as the chairman has highlighted, they end up bearing the brunt of those cost increases.

It was reported earlier this year that Iowa pork producers alone are experiencing their worst losses in 25 years amid a difficult economy. Producers are facing enough difficulties without worrying about D.C. being the one that hurts their business. They deserve far better than to be saddled with the consequences of politicians here in D.C. who might not be doing their job.

That is why it is important that we must pass a bipartisan farm bill as soon as possible, and I am grateful for our chairman taking the reins on this.

Our farmers deserve to have the certainty they need to continue running their operations after a busy harvest season. It is critical that this farm bill include key provisions, including strengthening the farm safety net for the more than 85,000 family farms in my home State of Iowa and so many more around the country; supporting the next generation of farmers' access to capital, as well as beginning their own farm operations; increasing rural economic development with access to credit for grants, loans, and improved infrastructure, including improvement for rural broadband; and bolstering innovation and security in agriculture by expanding cybersecurity resources, where ag is one of the top three sectors under attack today, and, importantly, preventing places like China from purchasing farmland right here in America.

Ultimately, we must help the farmers, the best stewards of our land, conserve their farmland as our natural resource.

Unleashing America's energy independence begins with a fight for biofuels in places like Iowa.

Mr. Speaker, I will continue to fight for Iowa's farmers and producers as we move forward, and I look forward to working with the chairman and this team. It is time for Congress to come together to pass a farm bill for the betterment of our farmers, producers, communities, and families like yours and mine.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT), the chair of the Agriculture Committee's General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit Subcommittee. He is also vice chair of the full Agriculture Committee and a recently appointed member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate him joining us. I know Rules is busy tonight.

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON for doing a wonderful job.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my unwavering support for our Nation's farmers and emphasize the importance of the farm bill.

Let me be clear. If you are a person who eats, and I suspect everyone is, then you should care about the farm bill. The farm bill sets a foundation of support for America's farmers and ranchers who produce the food and fiber that we depend on on a daily basis.

Right now, farmers are struggling with rising input costs that make it more difficult for them to produce the food that we need.

The House Agriculture Committee must make major improvements to title I in the farm bill and address the impact that high-input prices are having on America's farm families. The farm safety net in title I is decreased due to the increases in production costs, and current reference prices for most commodities do not reflect the increased costs of farming today.

□ 2015

The current statutory reference prices were established in the 2014 farm bill using 2012 cost of production data. I want to say that again. We are using the 2012 data to determine the point at which support under Price Loss Coverage kicks in if the market prices fall below the reference price during a time when producers are seeing record-high input costs.

This has created a no-win situation for our farmers, and it is vital to our country that they are able to do their jobs. No part of the farm safety net should guarantee a profit. The farmers know this. It is something our producers agree on, but if reference prices don't move, then our producers are effectively left with no stop loss assistance in the event of a commodity collapse.

Supporting our farmers through increased reference prices in the farm bill means that we support those who grow the crops to sustain our food supply.

Without reference price increases in this next farm bill, there is not enough assistance from Congress and the USDA for many farm families in our country to continue to grow the food and fiber that we depend on.

As the chairman of the Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities, Risk Management, and Credit, I am committed to making significant improvements to title I and giving the support that our farmers deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. THOMPSON for his work on this farm bill.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. MOORE).

Mr. MOORE of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, consumer prices are up 19.4 percent since Biden took office, and inflation is up 3½ percent in the last year. Producers simply can't afford this administration's bad policies.

My top priority this farm bill cycle has been addressing reference prices, which Mr. SCOTT just referred to.

Safety net programs are the bedrock of risk management for our producers, and current reference prices are not sufficient to help producers manage risk against these razor-thin margins, thanks to Bidenomics.

As input prices go up and commodity prices go down, producers rely on these reference prices in the farm safety net to stay in business.

I have seen this in my own family, hearing about the challenges my cousin, who is a young farmer, has had just getting started. I heard similar concerns during the farm bill listening sessions that I had all across the district.

That is why we need these inclusions in the farm bill. They will deliver for producers in Alabama and across America. We need this legislation to fund the farm safety net, promote market development, increase feral swine control efforts, modernize data collection for our foresters, protect crop insurance, and expand rural broadband deployment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to help our producers battle Biden's inflation.

Before I end, I will say I hope you will all join me in praying for Israel in the wake of this horrific attack they faced this weekend. May God bless them.

I thank Chairman THOMPSON for his leadership.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 33 minutes remaining.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I thank our distinguished chairman especially for bringing the listening tour of the Committee on Agriculture to the great State of Missouri this past August. We had a great time. People got to have their say on what they want in the farm bill.

It was truly a bipartisan effort. I will never forget JONATHAN JACKSON coming there from the Committee on Agriculture to Sedalia and milking a cow for the very first time. It was truly a sight to behold.

I am not a farmer. I don't even play one on TV. I am an American who understands the importance of agriculture, and that our food security is our national security. That is why, Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support of passing a robust farm bill, a lifeline for our Nation's farmers and for the nourishment of our citizens.

My home State of Missouri boasts 87,000 farms, the second highest number of farms in the United States of America. Ag is the backbone of our Nation. Through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, SNAP, we bridge the gap between the produce of our farmers and the tables of more than 41 million Americans.

SNAP is more than just a program, Mr. Speaker. It is a pact with our citizens, ensuring that no truly deserving, qualified American goes to bed hungry.

It is our duty to safeguard the integrity of SNAP. It is our duty to make sure every dollar is spent judiciously, reaching only the hungry and not lost to fraud, waste, and abuse.

Mr. Speaker, it is estimated that about \$34 million per day is lost to erroneous payments, some \$13 billion a year, where in some cases recipients intentionally cheat the system to obtain more benefits than they are eligible for. These fraudulent activities strain the program's resources and undermine its integrity, affecting those who are genuinely in need. Our farmers are held to integrity standards through their use of programs like crop insurance. It is incumbent that States and recipients are held to similar standards.

With more than 80 percent of the farm bill's funding dedicated to SNAP, any fraud is unacceptable. We must incentivize people to live a healthy lifestyle, eliminate waste, and firmly tackle abuse without punishing those truly in need.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, it is time to wash SNAP with a program that is prowork, pro-accountability, pro-sustenance, and pro-health. That is exactly what Chairman THOMPSON and my colleagues on the House Committee on Agriculture have been working on.

It is time to pass a farm bill that backs our hardworking farmers and ranchers and keeps our food assistance programs both strong and honest.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his passion for what is I know Missouri's number one industry, which is agriculture, and the number one industry in this great Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. MILLER), who is a farmer, a mom, a wife, a grandmother, and a member of the Committee on Agriculture, who represents Illinois's 15th Congressional District.

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON for his leadership on the Committee on Agriculture.

As one of the few family farmers left in Congress, I understand firsthand the challenges faced by farmers. My husband and I expanded our farm in the 1980s when interest rates were at their highest and the farm safety net wasn't as strong as it is today.

Crop insurance has given us and many fellow farmers the security needed to mitigate risks and continue producing the food and fuel that keeps America running.

We must be steadfast in our commitment to protecting the needs of farmers and rural America in the farm bill, including protecting crop insurance.

Today, our family farm faces the same challenges as many across the country. Increasing land prices are making it nearly impossible for our sons to expand.

Biden's EPA threatens our no-till practice, which is best for conservation. Inflation and Biden's relentless attack on American energy has increased our input costs.

With all the uncertainty that farmers face, they need the certainty of a 5-year farm bill. Over the past year, we have diligently laid the groundwork to pass a robust farm bill that safeguards farmers' interests, while Biden has been focusing on the green bad deal and DEI nonsense. It is vital for us to pass a farm bill that puts farmers first.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her service and her dedication to agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), who represents Indiana's Fourth Congressional District and is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON for all he does for our committee.

Mr. Speaker, since my first day here in Congress, I have been a relentless advocate for hardworking farmers, ranchers, producers, and agricultural professionals who form the backbone of our country. It is their dedication and resilience that fuels our economy and feeds the entire Nation. Today, the world relies on American producers more than ever.

As geopolitical tensions abroad disrupt supply chains and heighten the threat of global food insecurity, it has never been more important to give our producers the peace of mind that they deserve. That is why I am pleased to see we are making progress on this year's farm bill and beginning to move this legislation through committee.

This has not been a simple process. However, I am thankful for Chairman THOMPSON and everyone on the Committee on Agriculture for their hard work.

Over the past year, we have held listening sessions with stakeholders across the country to build on the success of the 2018 farm bill and prepare for the future of American agriculture.

As chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee on Conservation, Research, and Biotechnology, I am acutely aware of the opportunities we have to deliver new agricultural innovations that will address food insecurity, eliminate hunger, and grow the economy.

It is my hope that as we continue crafting this legislation, that we will prioritize agricultural research that will reduce our dependence on foreign inputs, create thousands of good-paying jobs, and utilize our Nation's abundant agricultural resources.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on the Committee on Agriculture to ensure we meet the needs of all our producers and prioritize research that will help America be the global leader in agriculture.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for

his leadership on the Committee and his Subcommittee as well.

Mr. Speaker, I will next recognize the Representative from California's First Congressional District (Mr. LAMALFA). He is a good friend and member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

I had the privilege of spending quite a bit of time with Mr. LAMALFA. We had what I would describe as a very emotional visit to Paradise, California, where so many lives, almost 100 lives, were lost due to wildfire.

I also had an opportunity to ride in a combine on his rice fields in northern California. I really appreciated that opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), who serves as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Forestry.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I greatly appreciate the work of Chairman THOMPSON on this Committee and the hard work on the farm bill and the demeanor with which he brings to it. He brings people together with his effort on this, by having all of us coming together to have these field hearings and listening sessions around the country since the beginning of last year in this session. I think that has been very productive and points out a strong bipartisan effort to make this farm bill come together and be successful this year. We need it to do so because we need that certainty for all the industries.

I am pleased to be able to be the chairman of the Subcommittee on Forestry. I thank Chairman THOMPSON on that. That is a very important issue in northern California, where my district is, but all over the West, and indeed for the whole country.

We should be deeply concerned about the state of our Nation's timber industry, the industry itself, as well as the condition of our forests. We have many mills closing down lately because they can't economically make it. It is not due to their business practices per se but more so the practices of the Forest Service and the available lands and timber harvest they need. This demands our immediate attention in the farm bill.

Many people don't know that the USDA oversees the U.S. Forest Service. That is why this element is in the farm bill.

As I am depicting in these posters here, you see the difference between managed forests and unmanaged forests, what they look like. On the left is a forest that has been thinned and properly maintained. On the right is a green forest, but it is so dense birds can't fly through it and deer can't run through it.

This used to actually be the norm—but over 50-plus years of neglect of our forested areas have allowed this to happen—because at the same time we put out fires, which is a good thing, except for when fire can be a useful tool at the right time of year under the right conditions for forest thinning.

We need active management on that. The Forest Service oversees 193 million acres in its purview, and at best it is treating 1 percent of those acres per year.

□ 2030

That is why it is extremely important we have private industry as a partner—indeed, the quarterback carrying the ball on this issue for this industry.

We recently we had a field hearing in South Dakota with my colleague, DUSTY JOHNSON. We met up with Neiman Enterprises, the Neiman family, a family company who have been there for many years. They have just announced layoffs now because they can't get the number of board feet needed to sustain their business there.

It is not just about business. It is about getting the wood products and paper products and being a partner in helping our forest to be safer, cleaner, and healthier, the whole works.

If they are having to lay off people, then that means the small town of Spearfish in South Dakota is going to suffer badly economically. It means their forest is going to suffer due to overcrowding ultimately, like you see on the right here, Mr. Speaker, and make an extreme fire danger. It is not a matter of if. It is a matter of when.

We need to have stronger activity. We need the Forest Service to get cracking on this.

Part of the elements we have had in recent farm bills and in this coming farm bill is a continued expansion of categorical exclusions and utilizing them. These exclusions allow the bypassing of a lot of red tape in permitting and such. It doesn't mean they are going to do things environmentally unsoundly. It just means we don't need to take 2 years to study every time we want to do a timber harvest. We already know what to do.

They require NEPA so many times. We need to have a faster process to get this done. We are falling further and further behind. We are losing the industry, and we are losing the forests.

We need to have more categorical exclusions. We need to have more pilot projects like we had in the South Tahoe area. It was a 10,000-acre one.

What happened there is that work was done in thinning that area. Fire hit that area, and it knocked the fire down and made it so it was not a devastating fire in that 10,000 acres. They were actually able to put it out.

We have the ability to expand the good neighbor policy, which enabled local governments and Tribes to help manage the land for the Forest Service since they are so far behind on this issue. We have an expansion of that in the bill, as well.

What we are doing in the farm bill is just commonsense things to make our forest practices keep our forests healthy and have an industry at the same time.

Yes, it is good to talk about having an industry. This isn't just Big Timber.

This is something that we need. All these small towns in my area in northern California and all over the West have been boarded up, so to speak, from losing the industry.

We need folks to be able to come back and do this work to help us because, just recently, the U.S. has gone from the number two importer to the number one importer of wood products because China is reeling things back in.

What are we doing here? We have so much burning up in our backyard and going to waste. We need to put people to work in our country in our forests to make them better and safer and have an industry and jobs in this country.

It is so important that we have these elements in this farm bill and that we get it passed, along with all the other good things for agriculture and farming, to have a stable food supply.

The gentleman mentioned I was a rice grower myself in northern California—five generations now. We need all of the above on that in order to have a stable food supply so our country is strong and secure.

The same goes with our forestry because you see success on the left here, Mr. Speaker, and impending disaster on the right here in this poster.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman so much for allowing me to speak tonight.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his leadership on forestry and all of American agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER), who represents North Carolina's Seventh District and is one of our senior members on the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, North Carolina is blessed to be one of the most agriculturally diverse States in our great country.

Contributing more than \$103 billion to our State's economy, agriculture has always been North Carolina's number one industry, but it is even bigger than that for this reason: Food security is national security. In other words, the economic impact of agriculture doesn't even come close to measuring its true benefit to America and the world.

Today, our farm families are struggling just like every other American feeling the inflation pinch. In the case of American agriculture, it is even worse. Our farm families are expected to see a 27-percent decrease in net farm income this year. They are facing as much uncertainty as at any time in American history.

We have a crisis unfolding in farm country because of record-high input and labor costs driven by a regulatory assault on the industry as well as stagnant or declining prices for both crops and livestock, eliminating any profit margin.

This, by the way, is at the same time every American household is paying more for food than ever before.

This is why a strong farm bill is so critically important for both farmers

and consumers. It could not have come at a more crucial time. Important programs necessary to help our farm families survive to feed and clothe America, including a commodity title, healthy meals for low-income families, rural development programs so important to infrastructure and job growth in rural areas, animal disease prevention, trade promotion, and key investments in research and extension services for our producers, along, I might add, with other important provisions, all must be updated and improved to meet today's challenges in American agriculture.

We have the safest, most affordable food supply in the world, and we must keep it that way. A strong farm bill is key for that to continue. A strong farm bill is America first. We should never forget that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for being such a strong leader and critical voice for agriculture as we work toward a farm bill that properly addresses the challenges of those who provide our food and fiber.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his leadership and dedication to this great industry that serves every American family.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY), who represents the 23rd District of New York and is a neighbor of mine, a neighbor to the north.

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON very much for hosting tonight's Special Order hour focused on the most consequential piece of legislation for rural America, the farm bill. I thank him for his work to make sure that we have an adequate farm bill and all the travel and the effort that he has put into this at this point.

In western New York and the Southern Tier, agriculture not only drives our economy, but it is also a way of life and a proud tradition for many families, who I am proud to represent. I am proud to fight for the more than 6,000 farms in my district as we develop each piece of this legislation, especially as they struggle with the high input costs and shrinking margins created by President Biden's reckless economic policies. More specifically, the dairy farms in my district need better policy solutions that offer them a stronger safety net and more predictable pricing.

As outlined in the bill that I introduced earlier in this Congress, H.R. 1756, the Dairy Pricing Opportunity Act, we need to ensure this next farm bill authorizes reporting of cost and yield information from dairy processors.

It also has been great to see the recent recognition of the role our farmers, ranchers, and dairies play in our Nation's nutrition and health.

This next farm bill should also aim to increase access to dairy products for SNAP recipients as outlined in the Dairy Nutrition Incentives Act, which

I am co-leading with my colleague, Representative JIM COSTA. It is important that we empower and encourage households to consume healthy but underconsumed foods, such as milk and other nutrient-rich dairy products.

Western New York and the Southern Tier have a proud history of dairy farming, and I want to ensure that dairy remains a core component of our efforts, as 90 percent of Americans fall short of meeting the recommended intake of dairy.

Similarly, I have been leading the effort to expand access to New York maple products with my bipartisan MAPLE Act, as I am proud to represent hundreds of maple farms and even had a chance to visit many of them last month during New York's Maple Week. It is a great product, and the legislation would add maple syrup to the eligible products under the Seniors Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

The farm bill doesn't stop at dairy production or specialty products. It also focuses on developing our rural communities that are so often forgotten here in Washington. Title VI of the farm bill authorizes programs that are meant to foster economic growth in our rural communities, like the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy, or RISE, grant program.

This program has been instrumental in offering grant assistance to foster high-wage job creation and accelerate the formation of new businesses in qualifying low-income rural areas. While the RISE program has garnered success and popularity, it is important to recognize that job accelerators typically provide specialized training for individuals seeking new skills to secure employment for new businesses.

The explosion of cutting-edge technologies has presented rural areas with challenges in adaptation, resulting in a widening workforce gap and diminishing economic prospects. These challenges compound existing workforce issues in rural America, including limited access to education and workforce development opportunities and mismatches between available jobs and the skills of our local workers.

In response to this need, we have introduced H.R. 7015, the CAREERS Act, to build upon the RISE grant program by allowing funds to support career pathway programs and industry or sector partnerships in specific industries, including public utilities, healthcare, manufacturing, agribusiness, and others.

Opening this program to industry partnerships would create more collaboration between employers, educators, and stakeholders to address workforce challenges and develop tailored training programs, ensuring a skilled workforce that meets industry needs.

The CAREERS Act champions skills development, innovation, and collaboration, empowering rural communities to thrive. We need to ensure that title

VI of the farm bill will do more to close the skills gap and support our rural communities.

In all, I am proud to be a voice for rural upstate New York, western New York, and the Southern Tier throughout the process of developing a final bill that not only supports American agriculture but builds a better future for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON for all of his efforts.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York for his comments. He is doing a great job serving rural America, his district, and American agriculture.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DUARTE), who represents the 13th District and is no stranger to agriculture, being from the Central Valley of California and a farmer himself.

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, it is an absolute honor to be here to support Chairman THOMPSON's farm bill, and it is moving forward today.

As a fourth-generation California farmer working side by side with my next generation, the fifth-generation California farmers in my family, nothing is more important right now than to get farm security and farm stability for American farmers.

As a California farmer, I have some of my friends right now, best-of-breed friends, calling and telling me that if we can't get stability in our agriculture prices, if we can't get our costs under control, and if we can't get foreign markets opened up again, then this might be our last year and the bank might have us sell property.

We are looking at a commercial real estate crisis in America today. Let me tell you firsthand, Mr. Speaker, there is an agricultural credit crisis coming in America today because we are on the heels of COVID, of supply chain disruption, and of Bidenflation. We are still under it.

All of this is stacking up against farmers while American families have higher SNAP benefits than they have ever enjoyed before. So many of us in the farm and the agriculture community support SNAP programs to get American children and families robust nutrition, but we have produce and protein leaving the dinner plates of working families.

We have cereal companies today advertising breakfast cereal for dinner, again, as SNAP benefits are higher than they have ever been, maintaining their plus-up status after COVID. Many of us on the Agriculture Committee support that on both sides of the aisle.

So, what do we need? We need a farm bill that produces American abundance, that promotes American farmers' innovations, and that allows American farmers to produce for national markets.

We are shut out of China with retaliatory ag tariffs. We are fighting back on that, but we need market access for

promotion. We need the specialty crops block grants plussed-up to help American farmers and especially crop producers find the new markets they need.

With the GATES Act, we want to solve big environmental problems and big ecological problems with farming. We need to make sure the biggest farmers can do that. For those who are true farmers who make over 25 percent of their income from agriculture, we need to allow the conservation program access, irrespective of income limits.

We can do this.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman THOMPSON so much for the opportunity to promote the American farm bill today. We can get this done.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how many minutes are remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California who is a valued member of the House Agriculture Committee for his work, leadership, and service.

Mr. Speaker, we have just heard a multitude of reasons why we need to pass this farm bill. This is a farm security, food security, and national security bill. Food security is national security.

My definition of American agriculture is pretty straightforward. American agriculture today is science, technology, and innovation.

America's farmers have suffered enough. They can't wait, and neither can we. Over the past 3 years, the Committee on Agriculture has traveled all over the country, to both Republican- and Democrat-held districts, with one goal in mind: to listen and report back. As I like to say, we use what God has given us, two ears and one mouth. That is why, when we go out, we call them listening tours, to be able to take the opportunity to listen to those folks whose hardworking families are providing us food, fiber, building materials, and energy resources all over this great Nation.

□ 2045

We have been to at least 40 different States and one territory. Probably some States, as we heard tonight, multiple times, so I have had the privilege of chairing probably close to 85 listening sessions around this great Nation.

We do that because we are building a farm bill listening to the voices outside the beltway of Washington, to the people who work so hard, some of them 7 days a week, to provide what is essential for this great Nation and for the families of this great Nation.

Frankly, our process has been transparent. It has been collaborative, and it has been done in good faith.

Mr. Speaker, I don't think there is a greater return on investment for a dollar spent in Washington than one spent through the farm bill and agriculture. I don't say that lightly. I point to the

facts of the number of jobs that are created. It is the number one industry in, quite frankly, almost every State and certainly in this Nation.

The economic activity that is generated through the agriculture industry, both production and processing and everything really within that food supply chain, and the amount of taxes that are generated by farms, ranches, forestry operations, agribusinesses, they are paid at every level of government to really fund what we hope are the essential services.

It is the food security that is provided that results in national security. There is no more slippery slope to national insecurity than food insecurity. That is obvious to see when you look around the world today. We are blessed as a Nation because of our agriculture industry and the hardworking families that are working in it.

However, it is also, with American agriculture being based on science, technology, and innovation, about a better environment and a cleaner climate. When one looks at the data, it shows that American agriculture—livestock, plants, and trees because trees are a crop—results in the sequestration of 6.1 gigatons of carbon annually, which is 10.1 percent more than what it generates. There are no better climate champions in the world than the American farmer, rancher, and forester. We have a lot to be proud of when it comes to this industry.

Again, there is not a dollar that has a better return on investment than one that is invested in American agriculture within this farm bill. It recoups tremendously just in terms of number of jobs, economic activity, and the taxes that are generated as a result of those entities.

Too often in Washington, the naysayers and the pundits drown out our progress on key issues, but not on the Agriculture Committee. There really is time to iron out the details, mark up the farm bill, and get it across the floor and have the Senate do their job next.

There are 12 titles to this farm bill. There is a lot to it, and we understand that. It is very diverse because it is everything that has to do with agriculture and, quite frankly, rural America. It has the safety net program. As I said, food security is national security.

Additionally, a strong commodity title ensures that Americans can continue to produce the safest, most abundant, and most affordable food supply in the world. In recent years, farm income has been on the decline. USDA's own data expects farm income to fall by \$80 billion by the end of 2022 to the end of 2024. This is the greatest 2-year loss in the net farm income in history. This farm bill can do something about that.

Persistent inflation, rising costs of production warrant new investments in farm safety net. A robust title I aids the American producer in managing the risks of low prices or declining farm revenues.

On the research side, American agriculture is science, technology, and innovation. The farm bill promotes science, technology, and innovation, which are necessary for training the next generation of agriculturalists. It is necessary for keeping American agriculture at the forefront of productivity and maintaining our competitive edge with China.

It helps us deal with the sometimes deteriorating weather conditions that helps us in areas where soil health is not the finest and being able to turn that around. It helps us to be able to produce more on less acreage, which is what the trend has been.

Trade is an incredibly important part of the farm bill, as well. The farm bill trade programs have worked to build and maintain and expand markets for American agricultural products around the world. American producers not only feed, fuel, and clothe our Nation, but provide for consumers around the world.

The Biden administration's trade agenda, or lack thereof, has left America's producers with their hands tied, unable to engage in free trade and pursue new or expanded markets, and so this farm bill is an opportunity to bolster those markets.

We have heard about forestry tonight. The livestock program, we have heard about this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I am looking forward here, without a doubt, before May of moving this farm bill out of the House Agriculture Committee and then we will get it to the floor and we will get it through the Senate and we will get it to the President's desk.

We appreciate your presiding this evening, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 16, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3796. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for Emergency Arms Transfers to Ukraine Under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-3797. A letter from the Chair, Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting FY 2023 Equal Access to Justice Act Awards Report, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2412(d)(5)(A); Public Law 116-9, Sec. 4201(a)(2); (133 Stat. 763); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6323. A bill to modify the availability of certain waiver authorities with respect to sanctions imposed with respect to the financial sector of Iran, and for other purposes; with an amendment Rept. 118-458 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. JORDAN: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4639. A bill to amend section 2702 of title 18, United States Code, to prevent law enforcement and intelligence agencies from obtaining subscriber or customer records in exchange for anything of value, to address communications and records in the possession of intermediary internet service providers, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-459 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. MCHENRY: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6015. A bill to require the President to prevent the abuse of financial sanctions exemptions by Iran, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-460 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. STEIL: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 4486. A bill to clarify that a State or local jurisdiction may give preference to individuals who are veterans or individuals with a disability with respect to hiring election workers to administer an election in the State or local jurisdiction, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-461). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. STEIL: Committee on House Administration. H.R. 4460. A bill to amend the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 and the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to ensure that only eligible American citizens may participate in elections for Federal office, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-462 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6285. A bill to ratify and approve all authorizations, permits, verifications, extensions, biological opinions, incidental take statements, and any other approvals or orders issued pursuant to Federal law necessary for the establishment and administration of the Coastal Plain oil and gas leasing program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-463). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on the Judiciary discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4460 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select) discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4639 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Foreign Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 6323 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following

titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MURPHY:

H.R. 7979. A bill to amend section 321 of the Tariff Act of 1930 to modify the administrative exemptions under that Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia:

H.R. 7980. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude vehicles the batteries of which contain materials sourced from prohibited foreign entities from the clean vehicle credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 7981. A bill to ensure that goods made using or containing cobalt extracted or processed with the use of child or forced labor in the Democratic Republic of the Congo do not enter the United States market; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FLOOD (for himself and Mrs. FOUSHEE):

H.R. 7982. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide F visas and employment authorization for international student athletes who enter into endorsement contracts for the commercial use of their names, images, and likenesses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 7983. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to define the term free trade agreement for purposes of the clean vehicle credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PAPPAS (for himself, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, and Mr. MANN):

H.R. 7984. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve access to disaster assistance for individuals located in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself and Mr. MOLINARO):

H.R. 7985. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to submit to Congress a report on the entrepreneurial challenges facing entrepreneurs with a disability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. SMITH of Nebraska:

H.R. 7986. A bill to modify and reauthorize the Generalized System of Preferences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LALOTA (for himself and Mr. THANEDAR):

H.R. 7987. A bill to require plain language and the inclusion of key words in covered notices that are clear, concise, and accessible to small business concerns, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. STAUBER (for himself and Ms. PEREZ):

H.R. 7988. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to new small business entrants in the scorecard program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. MOLINARO (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 7989. A bill to provide for a memorandum of understanding between the Small Business Administration and the National Council on Disability to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Ms. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 7990. A bill to extend the authorization for a large-scale water recycling and