

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD) to speak on his bill.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) for yielding and for all the work done in committee to get this important piece of legislation to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I also thank the gentleman from California (Ms. LOFGREN), the ranking member of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee, for her leadership and support on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, there are a lot of misconceptions about what this bill does, and, unfortunately, there are some who are intentionally spreading misinformation about this bill for political gain. Before I continue any further, let's put these rumors to rest by telling the American people what this bill does not do.

This bill does not give Federal agencies any authority to seize private property. I am a farmer and a private landowner, and I would never sponsor or support a bill that would give the Federal Government more power to seize private land.

This bill does not specify any land for carbon capture projects or undermine the property rights of American citizens.

This bill does not directly benefit or impact private companies with an interest in carbon sequestration.

The United States has been using carbon sequestration methods to store excess carbon emissions underground for over 50 years, and President Biden's Department of Energy is currently studying large-scale carbon sequestration at the Federal level. The problem is that our Federal agencies are not communicating properly about this technology, leaving a knowledge gap that wastes taxpayer dollars and could result in important findings falling through the cracks.

H.R. 4824 will force the executive branch to submit a plan to Congress and require Federal agencies to share research, data, and current sequestration technologies. Simply put, this bill puts guardrails on the administration's national energy plan by adding a reporting requirement to Congress and requires Federal agencies to talk to one another and share research in the most efficient way.

Mr. Speaker, I am sponsoring this legislation because I believe every Hoosier and every American, for that matter, should have the best information that is available when making informed decisions about their land and their community.

That is why, Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4824, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 4824 is a practical bill that lets Federal agencies collaborate on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, I would note that before my father's family lived in Oklahoma, we lived in Indiana. I would also note to my colleague on the other side of the aisle that before they lived in Indiana, they lived in Pennsylvania.

Nonetheless, this is an important piece of legislation, and we need to pass this.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to adopt it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4824, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

ABANDONED WELL REMEDIATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4877) to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out a research, development, and demonstration program with respect to abandoned wells, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4877

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 "Abandoned Well Remediation Research and Development Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2005.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Energy Policy Act of 2005 is amended—

(1) by adding at the end of subtitle F of title IX (42 U.S.C. 16291 et seq.) the following new section:

"SEC. 969E. ABANDONED WELLS RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary of Energy shall, in coordination with relevant Federal and state agencies and entities, establish a research, development, and demonstration program to improve—

"(1) data collection on the location of abandoned wells;

"(2) the plugging, remediation, reclamation, and repurposing of abandoned wells; and

"(3) strategies to mitigate potential environmental impacts of documented and undocumented abandoned wells.

"(b) ACTIVITIES.—The research, development, and demonstration under subsection (a) shall include activities to improve—

"(1) remote sensor capabilities, LiDAR capabilities, optical gas imaging, magnetic

survey technology, and any other technologies relevant to the efficient identification of abandoned wells;

"(2) understanding of how certain parameters of abandoned wells affect methane emission rates of such wells, including parameters such as well age, well depth, geology, construction, case material, and geographic region;

"(3) the efficiency and cost-efficacy of processes for plugging, remediating, reclaiming, and repurposing abandoned wells, including—

"(A) improvement of processes and technologies for the unique challenges associated with plugging remote abandoned wells;

"(B) use of low carbon, lightweight cement or use of alternative materials and additives for plugging purposes; and

"(C) repurposing of abandoned wells for alternative uses, including geothermal power production or carbon capture, utilization, and storage; and

"(4) understanding of the impacts of abandoned wells on groundwater quality and contamination.

"(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the program established under subsection (a), the Secretary shall ensure coordination of these activities with State and local governments, institutions of higher education, the Department of Energy National Laboratories, the private sector, and impacted communities, including landowners within such communities.

"(d) ABANDONED WELL DEFINED.—In this section, the term 'abandoned well' means a well originally drilled in connection with oil and gas operations that is not being used, has not been plugged, and has no anticipated use in oil and gas operations.

"(e) FUNDING.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section amounts authorized pursuant to section 10771 of subtitle O of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117–167), as follows:

"(1) For fiscal year 2024, \$30,000,000.

"(2) For fiscal year 2025, \$31,250,000.

"(3) For fiscal year 2026, \$32,500,000.

"(4) For fiscal year 2027, \$33,750,000.

"(5) For fiscal year 2028, \$35,000,000.

"(f) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate five years after the date of the enactment of this section.";

(2) in the table of contents in section 1(b) (42 U.S.C. 15801 note), by inserting after the matter relating to section 969D the following new item:

"Sec. 969E. Abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration program.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (6) of section 10771 of subtitle O of title VI of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (enacted as division B of Public Law 117–167) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "2026" and inserting "2028";

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking "\$600,000,000" and inserting "\$507,500,000";

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking "and" after the semicolon;

(4) in subparagraph (C)—

(A) by striking "\$1,000,000,000" and inserting "\$930,000,000"; and

(B) by striking the period and inserting ";; and"; and

(5) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

"(D) \$162,500,000 to carry out abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration activities under section 969E of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, in accordance with such section.".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. LEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4877.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4877, the Abandoned Well Remediation Research and Development Act.

This bill was introduced by two of my Science Committee colleagues, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. LEE) and the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

The bill directs the Department of Energy to support research, development, and demonstration activities that accelerate the remediation of abandoned or orphaned oil and gas wells across the country.

Currently, there are an estimated 700,000 to maybe 3 million abandoned wells in the United States. These wells cost between \$30,000 to potentially as much as \$1 million per well to plug, meaning a remarkable amount of money will be needed just to cover past developments.

Wells in remote locations, like Tribal land in Oklahoma, are more difficult and costly to locate and plug, thus increasing the likelihood they will remain unmitigated.

Improving the technologies and methods associated with plugging and remediation processes for abandoned wells would lower the overall cost, improve efficiency, reduce the environmental harm, and potentially result in new and improved purposes.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I support H.R. 4877. This bill will capitalize on the Department of Energy's existing research and infrastructure within the Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management to improve the processes and lower the costs associated with abandoned wells.

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The research, development, and demonstration activities conducted by DOE have the potential to validate innovative processes, such as the use of low-carbon cement for plugging or repurposing abandoned wells for geothermal power production and carbon capture utilization and storage.

Additionally, this bill directs DOE to improve technology to pinpoint and map the location of abandoned wells. Before we can plug or repurpose a well, we need to know exactly where they are located.

Efforts for States to plug abandoned wells are already underway and funded by Federal investment. This bill en-

sures that those efforts efficiently use taxpayer dollars and remain effective in the long term.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative LEE and Representative BICE for leading this bill. I urge all of my colleagues to support its passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of legislation that I am proud to see passed on behalf of the people of Pennsylvania and Oklahoma, the bipartisan Abandoned Well Remediation Research and Development Act. Across the country, there are around 3 million abandoned oil and gas wells in urgent need of remediation or plugging.

In Pennsylvania, there are well over 350,000 abandoned wells, but only 27,000 of these have been identified and documented in order to be plugged.

These abandoned wells not only contribute to the climate crisis by leaking methane, but they also expose our families to cancer-causing toxins like benzene, leave our homes vulnerable to explosive gases, and lower property values making it tougher for families to maintain and sell their homes.

Our region's health and economy suffer while we allow these wells to pollute our communities without accountability or plans to plug them.

Last month, I visited the home of Pamela and Ivan Schrank, a couple in Murrysville, who recently discovered a leaky, abandoned well on their property in Westmoreland County.

During my visit, Pamela described how she got dizzy and almost fainted while gardening in her backyard after being exposed to the pungent odor she recognized as gas. Fortunately, she and her husband, Ivan, caught the leakage in time to reach out to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection to begin the process of plugging the well and preventing permanent harm to their family's health and the value of their property. However, until Congress takes action to invest in the identification and remediation of abandoned wells starting with the passage of this bill, tens of thousands of people in my district and across Pennsylvania will continue to suffer the consequences.

Pennsylvania has more abandoned wells than any other State except Texas. Many of these wells that pollute our communities were drilled in the mid-1800s, decades before regulations existed to properly track and document them.

My district already suffers from some of the worst air quality in the Nation and serious rates of exposure to toxins in our water. These communities also suffer from high rates of asthma or COPD and exposure to lead in our water.

We can't leave leaky oil and gas wells from the 1800s to continue poisoning and endangering our communities. We also can't afford inaction. We must in-

vest significant resources to research and develop solutions to this crisis by passing our bipartisan bill because, until we do, it will remain nearly impossible to track every orphaned and abandoned well and too expensive to plug or remediate them.

This bipartisan bill we have introduced builds on the \$23 million worth of Federal investments to plug abandoned wells we have already delivered to western Pennsylvania from the infrastructure act by authorizing a new research, development, and demonstration program at the Department of Energy to locate, identify, and address the problems associated with abandoned oil and gas wells.

This program will enhance our ability to locate these wells and direct research toward improving remediation, plugging, and understanding what causes some of these wells to become super emitters, posing the most harm to our health and our climate. It will also fuel the development of new uses for these wells, such as evaluating whether they are suitable for conversion to geothermal power production.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LUCAS and Ranking Member LOFGREN for supporting this legislation, as well as Representative BICE for joining me in championing this issue for bringing this important bipartisan bill to the floor.

Today, the Science Committee has now twice unanimously approved this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LUCAS for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4877, the Abandoned Well Remediation Research and Development Act. In Oklahoma, there are over half a million oil and gas wells, which allow our State to rank eight in oil and gas production in the country. While active wells support hundreds of thousands of jobs, legacy sites and abandoned wells can present environmental and economic problems.

Across the country, some abandoned or orphaned wells are slowly leaking harmful gases and chemicals into the ecosystem. This is partly due to some wells being left unaddressed after their use. However, most leaks are the result of plugging procedures or materials that have not withstood the test of time.

To remedy this issue, different States have implemented plugging and clean-up programs with varying levels of success. For example, the Oklahoma Energy Resources Board has invested \$132 million to successfully clean up over 18,000 sites across our State.

Additionally, the Federal plugging and remediation program established last Congress provided \$25 million in

initial grants to Oklahoma. This was a great first step, but unless we want to continue to spend on temporary solutions, we must have innovation.

H.R. 4877 will address this innovation gap and potentially save billions of dollars in future efforts. Through the research, development, and demonstration activities authorized by this bill, the Department of Energy will improve the data on the location of abandoned wells, the process for plugging, reclaiming, and repurposing wells, and the ability to mitigate potential environmental impacts of leaking wells.

In the future, we won't need another \$4 billion in Federal plugging programs. The innovation spurred by this bill could cut those costs in half and save billions in taxpayer funds.

H.R. 4877 directs the type of forward-looking research and development that will solve our legacy challenges, while allowing responsible environmental stewardship to continue into the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to lead this bill with my colleague from Pennsylvania (Ms. LEE). I thank her for working alongside me in a bipartisan fashion to get this bill to the floor, which is a great example of innovating to solve a real-world issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote from my colleagues.

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 4877, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, we all share concern about the tens of thousands of known abandoned oil and gas wells across the country that have the potential to leak methane, pose health and safety risks, and pollute local ground water. This is a major step in addressing that.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 4877. I thank Congresswoman LEE and Congresswoman BICE for their effort, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4877, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2023

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6093) to improve the National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's weather research, support improvements in weather forecasting and prediction, expand commercial opportunities for the provision of weather data, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6093

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Reauthorization Act of 2023" or the "Weather Act Reauthorization Act of 2023".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Definitions.

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION ACT OF 2017

- Sec. 101. Public safety priority.
- Sec. 102. United States weather research and forecasting.
- Sec. 103. Verification of the Origins of Rotation in Tornadoes Experiment (VORTEX).
- Sec. 104. Hurricane forecast improvement program.
- Sec. 105. Tsunami Warning and Education Act reauthorization.
- Sec. 106. Observing system planning.
- Sec. 107. Observing system simulation experiments.
- Sec. 108. Computing resources prioritization.
- Sec. 109. Earth prediction innovation center.
- Sec. 110. Satellite architecture planning.
- Sec. 111. Improving uncrewed activities.
- Sec. 112. Interagency Council for Advancing Meteorological Services.
- Sec. 113. Ocean observations.
- Sec. 114. Consolidation of reports.
- Sec. 115. National Landslide Preparedness Act reauthorization.
- Sec. 116. Amendments to Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Act of 1998.

TITLE II—ENHANCING FEDERAL WEATHER FORECASTING AND INNOVATION

- Sec. 201. Weather innovation for the next generation.
- Sec. 202. Next generation radar.
- Sec. 203. Data voids in highly vulnerable areas of the United States.
- Sec. 204. Atmospheric rivers forecast improvement program.
- Sec. 205. Coastal flooding and storm surge forecast improvement program.
- Sec. 206. Aviation weather and data innovation.
- Sec. 207. NESDIS joint venture partnership transition program.
- Sec. 208. Advanced weather interactive processing system.
- Sec. 209. Reanalysis and reforecasting.
- Sec. 210. National Weather Service workforce.

TITLE III—COMMERCIAL WEATHER AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBSERVATIONS

- Sec. 301. Commercial Data Program.
- Sec. 302. Commercial Data Pilot Program.
- Sec. 303. Contracting authority and avoidance of duplication.
- Sec. 304. Data assimilation, management, and sharing practices.
- Sec. 305. Clerical amendment.

TITLE IV—COMMUNICATING WEATHER TO THE PUBLIC

- Sec. 401. Definitions.

- Sec. 402. Hazardous weather or water event risk communication.
- Sec. 403. Hazard communication research and engagement.
- Sec. 404. National Weather Service communications improvement.
- Sec. 405. NOAA Weather Radio modernization.
- Sec. 406. Post-storm surveys and assessments.
- Sec. 407. Government Accountability Office report on alert dissemination for hazardous weather or water events.
- Sec. 408. Data collection management and protection.

TITLE V—IMPROVING WEATHER INFORMATION FOR AGRICULTURE AND WATER MANAGEMENT

- Sec. 501. Weather and climate information in agriculture and water management.
- Sec. 502. National Integrated Drought Information System.
- Sec. 503. National Mesonet Program.
- Sec. 504. National Coordinated Soil Moisture Monitoring Network.
- Sec. 505. National water center.
- Sec. 506. Satellite transfers report.
- Sec. 507. Precipitation forecast improvement program.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In this Act, the terms "seasonal", "State", "subseasonal", "Under Secretary", "weather enterprise", "weather data", and "weather industry" have the meanings given such terms in section 2 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8501).

(b) WEATHER DATA DEFINED.—Section 2 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8501) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (6); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraph:

"(5) WEATHER DATA.—The term 'weather data' means information used to track and predict weather conditions and patterns, including forecasts, observations, and derivative products from such information."

TITLE I—REAUTHORIZATION OF THE WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING INNOVATION ACT OF 2017

SEC. 101. PUBLIC SAFETY PRIORITY.

Section 101 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8511) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "The Under Secretary shall ensure the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration remains focused on providing accurate and timely weather forecasts that protect lives and property and enhance the national economy by disseminating to the public and core partners through nimble, flexible, and mobile methods critical weather information and impact-based decision support services."

SEC. 102. UNITED STATES WEATHER RESEARCH AND FORECASTING.

Section 110 of the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 (15 U.S.C. 8519) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 110. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research to carry out this title the following:

"(1) \$155,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, of which—

"(A) \$90,000,000 is authorized for weather laboratories and cooperative institutes;

"(B) \$30,000,000 is authorized for the United States Weather Research Program;

"(C) \$20,000,000 is authorized for tornado, severe storm, and next generation radar research; and