

It makes me wonder: What is the baseline we are working from?

What are the goals going to be?

If you don't even know what the baseline is, how the heck do you set a goal?

Here in yellow—again, when I ask people, they think, wow, it must be somewhere between 20, 50, 70 percent, right? No. No.

It is here on the chart. We show that the yellow portion is nitrogen in the atmosphere, 78 percent. That is nitrogen gas.

Number two, oxygen, is 21 percent. Well, that is 99 percent right there.

Okay. Third place is argon gas, right there in that skinny sliver of green; that is 0.93 percent. Then you finally come in amongst trace gases here and here, the remaining portion of 0.07 percent. CO<sub>2</sub> is contained in that. The number is 0.04 percent of the atmosphere is CO<sub>2</sub>.

It is not this existential threat as pronounced by those who want to regulate you and control you; control where you go, how you drive, even so far as to what you eat.

They are banning cattle, banning beef. There are actually less beef and dairy cattle in North America than there were buffalo before the European intervention happened 300 or 400 years ago. There are a lot of misnomers that are put out, just flat out lies and deceit about this in order for the government to control things.

So given the small fraction, they are trying to attribute major climate shifts to CO<sub>2</sub> which is really disproportionate and deceptive. Beyond current levels, additional CO<sub>2</sub> has a negligible impact on global temperatures.

Water vapor is the primary so-called greenhouse gas accounting for most of whatever greenhouse effect we do have. Its immediate and powerful feedback effects overshadow CO<sub>2</sub>'s influence on whatever level of warming we may be having.

Earth's history shows significantly higher CO<sub>2</sub> levels back then, even going as far back as the Jurassic period without catastrophic warming. Ecosystems flourished with abundant plant and animal life. Climate models often overemphasize CO<sub>2</sub>'s role while ignoring key natural drivers like solar activity, ocean currents, and other factors.

The medieval warm period occurred without significant human CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the Industrial Age that everybody seems to criticize from that side of the aisle, which highlights a natural variability in our climate.

CO<sub>2</sub> is vital for photosynthesis, which is the process of plants growing and producing, the process through which plants convert sunlight into energy, releasing oxygen as a byproduct. This process also occurs when growing the food that we consume. Without CO<sub>2</sub>, without carbon—we are all carbon-based—without it, life on Earth would actually not exist.

Let's say we are really too good at reducing the number, that level of car-

bon dioxide from 0.04 percent to somewhere around 0.02 percent, then plant life starts dying off. Now, I don't think we could be that good at reducing CO<sub>2</sub> and getting it down to that level and maybe the sanity would prevail, we would stop producing it at that point, but that is what we are talking about.

Plant growth is actually boosted by CO<sub>2</sub>. You have seen hothouses, greenhouses, et cetera. They introduce extra CO<sub>2</sub> and will speed plant growth so we can get more crops or better, stronger plants.

Satellite imagery shows that the increased CO<sub>2</sub> has contributed to a greening of the planet, with vegetation cover expanding in many regions.

We all like green, right? Forests and grasslands, which rely on CO<sub>2</sub>, play a crucial role in supporting biodiversity and absorbing other environmental pollutants that may occur.

Elevated CO<sub>2</sub> levels in controlled environments, such as greenhouses, as I mentioned, are intentionally increased in those greenhouses to enhance our productivity. Yet, it seems CARB in California and the EPA want to take away our vehicles, take away our lawnmowers, take away our leaf blowers, and make us all fit in some narrative.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 20 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

Creator God, to whom the Earth belongs and everything in it, in Your time, You founded it on the seas and established it on the waters, and so we ask that You take this day and our lives into Your keeping.

Direct our energies to seek Your will. Instruct our minds to understand Your precepts. Sustain our will and motivation that we would prove faithful in our service to You.

Make this day a day of obedience to You and not to our own desires. May it be a day of spiritual joy as we yield to Your design for peace. Make this day's work contribute to the work of Your kingdom, that at the day's end, You would be glorified.

In Your sovereign name, we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### RECOGNIZING LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lions Clubs International for its historic year of service.

Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world. More than 1.4 million members and over 48,000 clubs serve in 200 countries and geographic areas worldwide.

Since 1917, Lions have strengthened local communities through hands-on service and humanitarian projects. They focus on supporting vision, the environment, childhood cancer, hunger, diabetes, and other pressing humanitarian needs to help address some of humanity's biggest challenges.

From July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2024, Lions helped more than 420 million people worldwide. Over the past year, Lions engaged in more than 1.6 million service projects, a 4 percent increase over the year prior; inducted nearly 150,000 new members, an 8 percent increase from the previous year; and awarded more than 1,500 grants totaling \$46.4 million, helping millions of people in need globally.

As co-chair of the Congressional Service Organization Caucus, I applaud Lions Clubs International's commitment to making our communities better and brighter.

#### DISASTER RELIEF

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise with a heavy heart as we have witnessed the devastating impact of Hurricanes Helene and Milton.

These storms have wreaked havoc with homes lost, businesses destroyed,

and lives upended. Tragically, over 200 people were killed, and the damage is estimated to be as much as \$300 billion.

During this dark moment, we have seen the incredible resilience of the people across the Southeast. Our brothers and sisters in western North Carolina are strong, united, and determined to rebuild.

However, we cannot wait any longer. Our communities need help now. Congress must act swiftly and pass a supplemental appropriations bill. We must ensure Federal resources are made available quickly and efficiently to support recovery efforts, whether for temporary housing, debris removal, or rebuilding infrastructure.

Together, we will emerge stronger for us to continue to move forward.

#### VIRGIN ISLANDS SUPREME COURT

(Ms. PLASKETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the importance of the Virgin Islands Supreme Court, the highest court in the Virgin Islands of the United States.

As a member of the bar of both New York and the Virgin Islands, as a former prosecutor, and a former political appointee at the Justice Department, I understand how important our courts are.

I congratulate Associate Justice Harold Willocks on his recent investiture to the Virgin Islands Supreme Court. He boasts a distinguished career of more than 40 years as a jurist, as both a prosecutor and public defender, and served in multiple roles within the Virgin Islands Superior Court.

I thank the Virgin Islands Supreme Court for their continued commitment to making decisions in the strictest fidelity to justice. The independence of our courts has never been more critical. Democracy relies upon judicial independence and the ability to deliver impartial, prompt decisions in accordance with the rule of law.

We must keep our courts free from political influence or pressures to ensure our judges can make decisions solely on the law and the facts of a case. The integrity of the courts will determine the future of our Nation.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 06 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1601

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) at 4 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

#### GRANT TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2023

Mr. FRY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5536) to require transparency in notices of funding opportunity, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5536

*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 "Grant Transparency Act of 2023".

#### SEC. 2. NOTICES OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TRANSPARENCY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term "agency"—

(A) has the meaning given the term "Executive agency" in section 105 of title 5, United States Code; and

(B) does not include the Government Accountability Office.

(2) COMPETITIVE GRANT.—The term "competitive grant" means a discretionary award (as defined in section 200.1 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations) awarded by an agency—

(A) through a grant agreement or cooperative agreement under which the agency makes payment in cash or in kind to a recipient to carry out a public purpose authorized by law; and

(B) the recipient of which is selected from a pool of applicants through the use of merit-based selection procedures for the purpose of allocating funds authorized under a grant program of the agency.

(3) EVALUATION OR SELECTION CRITERIA.—The term "evaluation or selection criteria" means standards or principles for judging, evaluating, or selecting an application for a competitive grant.

(4) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—The term "notice of funding opportunity" has the meaning given the term in section 200.1 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations.

(5) RATING SYSTEM.—The term "rating system"—

(A) means a system of evaluation of competitive grant applications to determine how such applications advance through the selection process; and

(B) includes—

(i) a merit criteria rating rubric;

(ii) an evaluation of merit criteria;

(iii) a methodology to evaluate and rate based on a point scale; and

(iv) an evaluation to determine whether a competitive grant application meets evaluation or selection criteria.

(b) TRANSPARENCY REQUIREMENTS.—Each notice of funding opportunity issued by an agency for a competitive grant shall include—

(1) a description of any rating system and evaluation and selection criteria the agency uses to assess applications for the competitive grant;

(2) a statement of whether the agency uses a weighted scoring method and a description of any weighted scoring method the agency uses for the competitive grant, including the amount by which the agency weights each criterion; and

(3) any other qualitative or quantitative merit-based approach the agency uses to evaluate an application for the competitive grant.

(c) APPLICATIONS; DATA ELEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in coordination with the Executive department designated under section 6402(a)(1) of title 31, United States Code, shall develop data elements relating to grant applications to ensure common reporting by each agency with respect to applications received in response to each notice of funding opportunity of the agency.

(2) CONTENTS.—The data elements developed under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the number of applications received; and

(B) the city and State of each organization that submitted an application.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—With respect to a particular competitive grant, nothing in this Act shall be construed to supersede any requirement with respect to a notice of funding opportunity for the competitive grant in a law that authorizes the competitive grant.

(e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act.

(f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This Act shall take effect on the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) NO RETROACTIVE EFFECT.—This Act shall not apply to a notice of funding opportunity issued before the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. FRY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRY. Madam 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 this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, before serving in Congress, I served in the South Carolina State legislature. Now, here in Washington, I am passionate about ensuring that State, local, and Federal Governments all work together and work together well.

During my time in office, I have heard from many of our local governments, and particularly in my district in those rural communities, that applying for Federal grant money can be a complicated and often confusing process.

In big cities, you often have professional staff that do this. In a small town, it is the mayor or his spouse that is doing this.

After putting time and effort into filling out a competitive grant application, applicants are left wondering why