

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 9541.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 9541, the POWER Act of 2024, addresses FEMA's problematic interpretation of section 403 of the Stafford Act by clarifying electric utilities are classified as essential assistance.

This legislative fix allows electric utilities to work quickly to restore power following a disaster and maintain eligibility to later implement permanent fixes that include mitigation measures.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9541, the bill I cosponsored with Representative EZELL. This bill empowers publicly owned electric utilities to implement hazard mitigation improvements during disaster recovery.

When disasters strike, they leave a trail of destruction, including damaged energy infrastructure that needs to be immediately repaired to restore power.

At the same time, this can present an opportunity to improve the resilience of power infrastructure to reduce the risk of outages in the future. Unfortunately, current law prevents FEMA from reimbursing utilities for hazard mitigation as they make temporary disaster repairs. This leads to wasted opportunity, more frequent power outages, and higher costs passed on to ratepayers.

Commonsense solutions like H.R. 9541 are more critical than ever to keep energy costs low for American families. This bill maximizes FEMA's resources and helps communities protect critical infrastructure, leading to lower costs for utilities and families in the wake of future disasters.

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

□ 1530

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I don't have any more speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, the cost of recovering from increasingly frequent severe weather events often raises the price of America's electric bills.

This bill will help public power make their systems more resilient at the

time of repair, increasing efficiency and cutting overall costs.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of a disaster, oftentimes communities will lose power. This legislation simply allows the utilities to come in and put temporary fixes in place so power can get stood back up and power can get turned back on for these recovering communities. It will help ensure that electric utilities are not penalized for those temporary, interim actions to act quickly to restore power for Americans impacted by natural disasters by clarifying their eligibility for mitigation assistance.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 9541, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9541.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMTRAK EXECUTIVE BONUS
DISCLOSURE ACT

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8689) to require Amtrak to publicly disclose certain bonus compensation paid to Amtrak executives, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8689

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 "Amtrak Executive Bonus Disclosure Act".

SEC. 2. AMTRAK REPORTS AND AUDITS.

Section 24315(a) of title 49, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by inserting " , and make available to the public on the website of Amtrak," after "submit to Congress"; and

(2) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) provide the annual base pay and any bonus compensation paid to a member of the executive leadership team (including the chief executive officer, president, and officers) of Amtrak, including the criteria and metrics used to determine any such bonus compensation; and".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) and the gentleman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their re-

marks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 8689.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8689 was introduced by my good friend, Representative MOLINARO of New York. The bill is intended to ensure annual bonuses awarded to Amtrak's top executives are made public at the beginning of every calendar year.

Amtrak relies heavily on government subsidies, and during more than 50 years of existence, it has never made a profit. Nonetheless, Amtrak executives have been awarded generous six-figure bonuses despite financial losses and service issues.

The disclosure of such huge payouts rightfully outrages the public and members of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

We had a hearing on this many, many months ago where Amtrak officials were unwilling to disclose some of the information we had requested. This bill is a strong step toward transparency and accountability for Amtrak executives and Amtrak's board of directors, which awards the bonuses.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague Mr. MOLINARO for sponsoring this really important legislation.

I rise in support of the Amtrak Executive Bonus Disclosure Act. This bill requires Amtrak to post the compensation of its executive leadership team annually on the Amtrak website. Congress already requires the Nation's intercity passenger railroads to submit this information to Congress. This bill increases transparency by making this information readily available to the public.

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

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO), the sponsor of bill.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Speaker, I first extend my appreciation to Chairman SAM GRAVES not only for leadership of the committee this last year but also for working with us to move this piece of legislation.

Amtrak was certainly hesitant to disclose their bonuses that came immediately after the COVID pandemic and the stress and stressors on commuters, passengers, and employees. The fact that we had to work, despite the significant taxpayer subsidies, to have them disclose this information was obscene at best.

I, too, want to take a moment, though, since I have 5 minutes, to express my appreciation and gratitude to

Representative GARRET GRAVES as well. I truly join, I think, a chorus of individuals who recognize not only his leadership but his diligence and hard work on behalf of not only his constituents but certainly this country as a whole. He certainly has made Congress just a little bit better for the American people, and I am grateful for his friendship and support.

I would note he is unofficially my mentor. I am not quite sure what it is I have learned from him. Nevertheless, I have learned quite a bit, and I am grateful for it.

I join him certainly today standing in support of my bill, the Amtrak Executive Bonus Disclosure Act. This bill is rooted in basic transparency and accountability.

As noted, in 2023, Amtrak awarded over \$5 million in executive bonuses despite a \$1.7 billion loss and \$11 billion in taxpayer subsidies.

No business in the world, certainly not in this country, would extend those kinds of bonuses with those kinds of losses, as I noted, in the immediate aftermath of the COVID pandemic. These bonuses rightfully sparked outrage not only from passengers and constituents but Members of Congress and the hardworking employees who keep Amtrak running for Americans.

Those employees are represented by unions who join in opposition. They include SMART-TD and the Transport Workers Union, each calling these payouts exorbitant and an affront to taxpayers. I think all of us might have stronger words than that. TWU has not only endorsed the bill but certainly wishes, on behalf of their employees, to see continued expansion of transparency and accountability.

Overall, I oppose the bonuses. If we could claw them back, I would. I am hopeful this legislation might demand the opportunity for the board of directors to take a pause and be more respectful to taxpayers and perhaps Congress to take action subsequent to their issuing these bonuses.

Transparency should never be optional, certainly when it comes to taxpayer-subsidized programming, especially when it comes to Amtrak and the significant amount of public funds.

My bill seeks to ensure that Amtrak publicly discloses executive bonuses annually, empowering taxpayers to see exactly where their money goes.

This legislation puts passengers, workers, and taxpayers first. It is simply about fairness, accountability, and earning back the public trust.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, this bill will increase transparency at Amtrak. I urge my colleagues to support this very important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I normally would say thank you when folks give compliments. I am not sure that would be sincere in this case.

Seriously, Mr. Speaker, if my friend from New York decided he was going to take a \$1.94 Uber ride because he was too lazy to walk a block, he would have to disclose it. He would have to disclose it if he spent public funds doing that.

The fact that we are talking about six-figure bonuses for Amtrak—once again, public funds—not being publicly disclosed is simply inexcusable.

We must ensure this legislation is enacted and this information be made available. It is an important step toward increased transparency at Amtrak. This legislation will make sure Amtrak publicly discloses these salary bonuses given to Amtrak executives annually.

I do thank my good friend from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) for his service to this country. He has been incredibly helpful to us in the Subcommittee on Aviation.

As you know, we passed a significant 1,000-page, 5-year aviation authorization this year on a strong bipartisan basis. My friend from New York was integral in putting that legislation together.

I really do appreciate his friendship and support, despite what he says about me, over the last few years. I wish him well in his next endeavors.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. GRAVES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8689, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to require Amtrak to include information on base pay and bonus compensation of certain Amtrak executives, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF LAW REVISION COUNSEL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that the Speaker appointed, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 285c, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, Mr. Brian Lindsey as Law Revision Counsel for the House of Representatives, effective October 2, 2024.

PROVIDING FOR THE PRINTING OF A REVISED EDITION OF THE RULES AND MANUAL OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR THE ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I send to the desk a resolution and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1611

Resolved, That a revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress be printed as a House document, and that three thousand additional copies shall be printed and bound for the use of the House of Representatives, of which nine hundred eighty copies shall be bound in leather with thumb index and delivered as may be directed by the Parliamentarian of the House.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 39 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, December 10, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

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. CRANE (for himself, Mr. HUNT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. OGLES, and Mr. LANGWORTHY):

H.R. 10330. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Daniel Penny, who protected women and children of the city of New York, New York, from violence on May 1, 2023; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 10331. A bill to prohibit health insurers, including Medicaid managed care organizations and other private health plans, from imposing arbitrary time caps on reimbursement for anesthesia services and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana:

H. Res. 1611. A resolution providing for the printing of a revised edition of the Rules and Manual of the House of Representatives for the One Hundred Nineteenth Congress; considered and agreed to.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CRANE:

H.R. 10330.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 6