

Belt and Road Initiative. No less than 10 nations have signed agreements of various kinds to open their nations up to Chinese influence.

Russia, as well, has developed a multipolar world order. Its deployment of disinformation and its use of mercenaries have undermined democratic stability and driven conflict on the continent of Africa. Moscow's increasing ambitions to position itself as an ally to African countries and stoke anti-Western sentiment has assisted to turn the continent into a flash point in the global strategic competition between Russia and the West.

Russia's support of authoritarian governments, including its backing of a string of coups in recent years, is undermining the continent's democratic aspirations. Meanwhile, the involvement of Russia's Wagner Group is driving conflict, worsening human rights abuses, and spurring growing militarization in governance: Nigeria in 2023, Mali in 2022, Sudan in 2021, Guinea in 2023, Burkina Faso in 2024, all coups in the last few years with tremendous influence by Russia and China in that.

The undersea cable linking the American East Coast and Africa via the United States Virgin Islands would serve as both a national security instrument and a digital commerce expressway to boost America's global political, economic, and military advantages. Such undersea cable development would facilitate similar links that could be developed in the U.S. Virgin Islands which already has links between the Virgin Islands, South America, and the mainland United States.

We also need to be clear about the minerals that are in Africa that are being extracted continually by both Russia and China. Niger is the world's seventh largest producer of uranium. The Ministry of Mines says that Mali has one of the largest deposits of gold, and lithium, as well; cobalt in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; Sudan, which also has tremendous minerals; and Burkina Faso with bauxite and phosphate. These are things being exploited by our adversaries on the continent, which we must have our own dedicated interest in.

The DiasporaLink Act is an opportunity to assure that the United States can continue its work countering the proliferation of Chinese influence in the global telecommunications space. The use of the U.S. Virgin Islands, which not only has those cables, but also has a National Guard installation on the island of St. Croix with a nearby military support airport could expand and support that interest, as well.

I thank the Energy and Commerce Committee for reviewing this at the subcommittee level, having it go through the committee process, the regular order process that this House so desperately wants, and after working together, it unanimously coming out of committee here to the floor.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure for the interest not only

of our country but for the democracy in the African Continent, as well.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close. I just want to emphasize that H.R. 3385 is a matter of national security. I thank Representative PLASKETT for painting such a clear picture of that risk. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTI. Mr. Speaker, again to highlight, H.R. 3385, as stated in the bill, the report shall include an assessment of the digital security, the national security, and the economic opportunities associated with a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable. This is again essential for our security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3385, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCCORMICK). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3385, 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 direct the Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ENERGY EMERGENCY LEADERSHIP ACT

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3277) to amend the Department of Energy Organization Act with respect to functions assigned to Assistant Secretaries, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3277

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 "Energy Emergency Leadership Act".

SEC. 2. FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED TO ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 203 of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7133(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(12) Energy emergency and energy security functions, including—

"(A) responsibilities with respect to infrastructure, cybersecurity, emerging threats, supply, and emergency planning, coordination, response, and restoration; and

"(B) upon request of a State, local, or tribal government or energy sector entity, and in consultation with other Federal agencies as appropriate, provision of technical assist-

ance, support, and response capabilities with respect to energy security threats, risks, and incidents."

(b) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Energy shall ensure that the functions of the Secretary described in section 203(a)(12) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (as added by this Act) are performed in coordination with relevant Federal agencies.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DUNCAN. 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 in the RECORD on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3277, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act. Sponsored by Representatives WALBERG and BLUNT ROCHESTER, H.R. 3277 has strong bipartisan support, passing out of the Energy and Commerce Committee 48-0 last May.

The bill is necessary to strengthen the Department of Energy's important energy emergency mission. It does so by requiring that the well-established energy emergency and cybersecurity functions at the DOE are organized under the leadership of an Assistant Secretary confirmed by the Senate.

This bill amends the Department of Energy Organization Act to establish in law this Assistant Secretary level of leadership at the Department of Energy's emergency response and cybersecurity functions.

This bill will ensure the Department has focused and accountable leadership to protect the public more fully from fuel and electricity supply disruptions against natural or manmade hazards, including emerging threats from our foreign adversaries to the Nation's electric grid.

Under this legislation, the DOE will carry out its responsibilities in coordination with other agencies with improved coordination across the Department, better interagency collaborations, and greater accountability to the United States Congress.

Establishing accountable leadership of this DOE mission is an important step in the face of increased threats, vulnerabilities, and interdependencies of energy infrastructure and end-use systems.

Protecting energy security requires defense in depth. This means a strong energy sector, strong State capabilities, and ensuring sector agencies like the Department of Energy have the tools that they need to respond to energy emergencies.

A vote for H.R. 3277 is a vote for ensuring accountable DOE leadership

over energy emergencies for the benefit of public safety and welfare and for stronger cybersecurity protections within the energy systems.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3277, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act. This is a bipartisan bill that passed the House in the 117th Congress and is necessary to protect our energy grid from cyberattacks. Our energy infrastructure and grid have seen a number of attacks over the past few years from state actors and other malicious actors. We must defend our grid from cyberattacks.

H.R. 3277 establishes a new Assistant Secretary position at the Department of Energy responsible for cybersecurity and emergency response issues. H.R. 3277 would give the new Assistant Secretary jurisdiction over all energy emergency and security functions related to energy supply, infrastructure, and cybersecurity. This includes responsibilities related to coordination, response, and restoration.

Given today's national security concerns, it is crucial that all of these responsibilities rest with an Assistant Secretary at the Department of Energy, the agency with sector expertise.

The bill would also vest the Assistant Secretary with the authority to provide DOE technical assistance and support to State, local, or Tribal governments upon request, and it would require the Assistant Secretary and DOE to coordinate with other relevant Federal agencies in carrying out the bill's provisions.

DOE already does great work to protect our energy infrastructure. The Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response has been at the forefront of protecting our grid and coordinating responses to attacks. By codifying an Assistant Secretary for cybersecurity and emergency response issues, this legislation would go a long way in helping to protect the Nation's electric infrastructure from hackers and other bad actors that attempt to disrupt our energy grid and harm our economy, our daily lives, and our overall national security.

I commend Representatives BLUNT ROCHESTER and WALBERG for their bipartisan efforts to protect our energy infrastructure. I hope we can continue to work together on cybersecurity matters moving forward to defend our country from the ongoing threat of cyberattacks.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), one of the authors of the bill.

□ 1715

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from South Carolina for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 3277, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act. Working with my good friend, Representative LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, this bipartisan legislation was introduced to help address an ever-growing need.

We live in a world where energy infrastructure is constantly facing threats. As we become more reliant on technology in all aspects of our grid, it is important to understand the magnitude of the risks associated with this dependence.

We face the persistent threat of cyberattacks, like the Colonial Pipeline, which paralyzed multiple regions of our country for an entire week in 2021. Our energy infrastructure is the most targeted critical infrastructure sector, facing 39 percent of cyber incidents.

The sophistication and sheer numbers of cyberattacks are growing by the year, but these aren't the only threats. In addition, our energy systems have become increasingly more complex. They have also become more vulnerable to all manner of hazards, including natural disasters, physical attacks, and global shortages. According to *The Wall Street Journal*, physical attacks on energy infrastructure catapulted by 71 percent from 2021 to 2022.

We need to make sure the Department of Energy is properly equipped to combat these threats and respond in case of an emergency.

The FAST Act provided the DOE with several new energy security authorities to respond to physical attacks and cyberattacks on our critical energy infrastructure. The Trump administration built on this authority by creating the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, or CESER.

This legislation would amend the Department of Energy Organization Act to require the Secretary of Energy to assign energy emergency and energy security functions to an Assistant Secretary of CESER, including responsibilities concerning infrastructure and cybersecurity.

Strengthening our cyber defense and emergency response capabilities in the energy sector has never been more important. We must do everything we can to protect energy reliability, and this bipartisan legislation is a simple yet effective step that needs to be taken.

For too long, the Department of Energy's emergency functions have long been oriented around oil supply shocks, but defense and response to physical attacks and cyberattacks have not been defined as a clear function. This can lead to downstream effects causing confusion and complications to the Department seeking to address the threats.

This legislation would help elevate energy emergency and cybersecurity

responsibilities as a core function for the Department and better protect our grid and critical energy infrastructure. It would strengthen coordination across the Department, ensure more effective interagency communication, and increase accountability to Congress and the American people.

We live in a modern world with modern threats requiring modern solutions. H.R. 3277 is a necessary response to these threats.

Last Congress, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act passed the House with overwhelming support from Members on both sides of the aisle. Since then, threats have only increased; the stakes have risen; and there is consensus to get this done.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense legislation.

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA).

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3277, the Energy Emergency Leadership Act, which is an important step in ensuring America's electrical grid is secure.

The Energy Emergency Leadership Act requires the Department of Energy to establish a new Assistant Secretary position that has dedicated focus on preparing and responding to physical attacks and cyberattacks on the grid.

As co-chair of the bipartisan Grid Innovation Caucus, I am encouraged that we have this opportunity to highlight the great bipartisan work emerging from the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Dedicated leadership and coordination are necessary for ensuring security. Our electrical grid is fundamental to our everyday lives, and protecting the grid from both cyber and physical attacks is a cause that deserves our full attention.

It is too easy to take for granted the reliability of our power grid and the stability and safety it provides for us every single day. Without this infrastructure, we would not be able to stay connected with loved ones, heat and light our homes, or engage in everyday commerce that keeps our economy moving and workers employed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan and the gentlewoman from Delaware for leading this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Energy Emergency Leadership Act to strengthen the resilience of our power grids, fortify the United States' national security, and protect American families.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, energy security should be handled by the Department of Energy. This is important for our national security.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, it is an important time to address cybersecurity in this Nation. The energy infrastructure that we have is vulnerable. The gentleman from Michigan mentioned the Colonial Pipeline incident, which affected my State of South Carolina.

Republicans generally aren't about growing government, creating new positions, and whatever, but it is important to raise this to the level of Assistant Secretary to put the emphasis where the Nation needs it to be at the Department of Energy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG) and the gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER) for authoring this bill. I thank the minority on the Energy and Commerce Committee, as well as the majority members, for supporting this through the full committee, and I would love for all of my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DUNCAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3277.

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.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO VENEZUELA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-114)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 of March 8, 2015, with respect to the situation in Venezuela is to continue in effect beyond March 8, 2024.

The situation in Venezuela continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it

is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13692 with respect to the situation in Venezuela.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, JR.
THE WHITE HOUSE, March 5, 2024.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE MEXICO-UNITED STATES INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, clause 10 of rule I, and the order of the House of January 9, 2023, of the following Members on the part of the House to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group:

- Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Oregon
- Mr. MIKE GARCIA, California
- Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ, Texas
- Ms. ESCOBAR, Texas
- Mr. CARBAJAL, California

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. VAN ORDEN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motions to suspend the rules with respect to the following measures:

- H.R. 3391;
- H.R. 3838; and
- Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

GABRIELLA MILLER KIDS FIRST RESEARCH ACT 2.0

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3391) to extend the Gabriella Miller Kids First Pediatric Research Program at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 384, nays 4, not voting 44, as follows:

[Roll No. 60]
YEAS—384

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|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Adams | Davidson | Jackson (NC) |
| Aguilar | Davis (IL) | Jackson (TX) |
| Alford | Davis (NC) | Jacobs |
| Allen | Dean (PA) | James |
| Amo | DeGette | Jayapal |
| Amodei | DeLauro | Jeffries |
| Armstrong | DelBene | Johnson (GA) |
| Arrington | Deluzio | Johnson (LA) |
| Auchincloss | DeSaulnier | Johnson (SD) |
| Babin | DesJarlais | Jordan |
| Bacon | Diaz-Balart | Joyce (OH) |
| Baird | Dingell | Joyce (PA) |
| Balderson | Doggett | Kamlager-Dove |
| Balint | Duarte | Kean (NJ) |
| Banks | Duncan | Keating |
| Barr | Dunn (FL) | Kelly (IL) |
| Barragán | Edwards | Kelly (MS) |
| Bean (FL) | Ellzey | Kelly (PA) |
| Beatty | Emmer | Khanna |
| Bentz | Escobar | Kiggans (VA) |
| Bera | Eshoo | Kildee |
| Bergman | Españillat | Kiley |
| Beyer | Estes | Kilmer |
| Bice | Evans | Kim (CA) |
| Biggs | Ezell | Krishnamoorthi |
| Bilirakis | Feenstra | Kuster |
| Bishop (GA) | Ferguson | Kustoff |
| Blumenauer | Finstad | LaHood |
| Blunt Rochester | Fischbach | LaLota |
| Boebert | Fitzgerald | LaMalfa |
| Bonamici | Fitzpatrick | Landsman |
| Bost | Fleischmann | Langworthy |
| Bowman | Flood | Larsen (WA) |
| Boyle (PA) | Foster | Larson (CT) |
| Brown | Foushee | Latta |
| Brownley | Fox | LaTurner |
| Buchanan | Frankel, Lois | Lawler |
| Buck | Franklin, Scott | Lee (FL) |
| Bucshon | Frost | Lee (NV) |
| Budzinski | Fry | Lee (PA) |
| Burchett | Fulcher | Leger Fernandez |
| Burgess | Gaetz | Lesko |
| Burlison | Gallagher | Letlow |
| Bush | Gallego | Levin |
| Calvert | Garamendi | Lieu |
| Cammack | Garbarino | Lofgren |
| Caraveo | Garcia (TX) | Loudermilk |
| Carbajal | Garcia, Mike | Lucas |
| Cárdenas | Gimenez | Luetkemeyer |
| Carey | Golden (ME) | Luttrell |
| Carson | Goldman (NY) | Lynch |
| Carter (GA) | Gonzalez, | Mace |
| Carter (LA) | Vicente | Magaziner |
| Carter (TX) | Good (VA) | Malliotakis |
| Cartwright | Gooden (TX) | Maloy |
| Caspar | Gottheimer | Mann |
| Case | Granger | Manning |
| Casten | Graves (LA) | Mast |
| Castor (FL) | Graves (MO) | Matsui |
| Castro (TX) | Green (TN) | McBath |
| Chavez-DeRemer | Green, Al (TX) | McCaul |
| Cherfilus- | Griffith | McClain |
| McCormick | Grothman | McClellan |
| Chu | Guest | McClintock |
| Clark (MA) | Guthrie | McCollum |
| Clarke (NY) | Hageman | McCormick |
| Cleaver | Harder (CA) | McGarvey |
| Cline | Harris | McGovern |
| Clyburn | Harshbarger | McHenry |
| Clyde | Hayes | Meeks |
| Cohen | Hern | Menendez |
| Cole | Higgins (LA) | Meuser |
| Collins | Hill | Mfume |
| Comer | Himes | Miller (IL) |
| Connolly | Hinson | Miller (OH) |
| Correa | Horsford | Miller (WV) |
| Costa | Houchin | Miller-Meeks |
| Courtney | Houlahan | Mills |
| Craig | Hoyer | Molinaro |
| Crane | Hoyle (OR) | Moolenaar |
| Crawford | Hudson | Moore (AL) |
| Crenshaw | Huffman | Moore (UT) |
| Crow | Huizenga | Moore (WI) |
| Cuellar | Issa | Morelle |
| D'Esposito | Ivey | Moskowitz |
| Davids (KS) | Jackson (IL) | Moulton |