

CATL's newest fast-charging battery, the second generation of its Shenxing lineup, is an LFP battery with a range of about 500 miles. CATL said it improved electron transmission efficiency to avoid overheating during rapid charging.

How quickly such batteries will be adopted on a wide scale is another matter, because of the need to develop the charging infrastructure. BYD has said that it is working to build 4,000 compatible stations in China and that its charging system will be initially available only for two models, limiting its uptake in the near term.

Lihong Qin, president of Chinese EV maker NIO, which uses CATL's battery cells and offers its own battery-swap system, said carmakers need to see how quickly the rapid-charging technology scales up, referring to the infrastructure build-out. "There is still a big difference between theoretical calculations and practical applications," Qin said.

Mike Dunne, who runs a namesake automotive consulting firm, said CATL's and BYD's superfast charging technologies are a genuine breakthrough, but several challenges remain.

The new technology will cost more, and frequent usage will wear out the battery cells, he said.

"It's more sizzle than steak," Dunne said. China has more than 13 million EV-charging facilities nationwide, counting both publicly and privately operated ones, state media has reported. The U.S. has around 77,300 charging locations with about 230,000 EV-charging points in total, data from the Joint Office of Energy and Transportation showed. It is unclear if the two figures are directly comparable, but industry experts widely regard China's EV-charging environment to be far ahead of the U.S.'s.

Separately on Monday, CATL introduced a new sodium-ion battery that it calls Naxtra. At the moment, mainstream EV batteries are reliant on lithium, creating a potential bottleneck around supplies of the material. CATL says sodium-ion batteries, if mass-produced, could help reduce its dependence on lithium.

Sodium-ion batteries are made from a sodium compound called soda ash, which can be produced using table salt. Unlike lithium, sodium is easily accessible everywhere. The U.S. has also been working on developing this technology.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of my amendments to H.R. 4553, the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2026, and in opposition to the underlying bill.

The bill itself cuts over \$750 million from the FY25 spending levels, revokes \$5 billion from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, zeroes out Army Corps programs that clean up radioactive waste and blocks clean energy initiatives. My four amendments support essential funding for our National Labs and our continued goal to restore the Chesapeake Bay. Specifically, three of my amendments support the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility

and the High Performance Data Facility at the Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility, commonly known as JLab, in Newport News, Virginia, and my fourth amendment supports the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' ongoing oyster restoration work in the Chesapeake Bay. Unfortunately, only one of these amendments will be considered on the floor.

My first amendment No. 41, included in the bipartisan en bloc, highlights the importance of an optimal runtime for the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility, or CEBAF. CEBAF is a world-leading facility studying the inner properties of nuclei, such as the quark and gluon structure of protons and neutrons. The research conducted at this facility has vastly improved our understanding of the fundamental make-up of matter and is actively supporting collaborative research globally in medium energy physics. Currently, numerous PhD students and researchers are waiting to use the facility for experiments, and the backlog continues to grow as more scientists hope to use this critical technology. To meet the research needs and to optimize the use of this facility, CEBAF requires an additional \$11 million to operate for an optimal runtime of 34 weeks. The current level included in the bill seriously underfunds CEBAF's operations. A funding level of \$166 million for CEBAF operations should be included in the final legislation.

My second amendment No. 42, emphasizes the need for funding critically needed infrastructure improvements at CEBAF. The workforce at JLab is rapidly growing with the increased use of CEBAF and the installation of the Department of Energy's High Performance Data Facility. For JLab to effectively support its employees and researchers, the lab needs increased funding to build a modern workspace to match the research conducted at this facility. The final appropriations bill should include \$38 million for JLab to update its CEBAF infrastructure.

My third amendment No. 44, highlights the importance of the planning and construction of the High Performance Data Facility. The High Performance Data Facility will serve as a state-of-the-art computing facility supporting the Department of Energy's Office of Science Scientific User facilities. In collaboration with Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, this project will address the forthcoming increased volume of data that will need to be processed in real time and ensure researchers have the ability to manage large quantities of data reliably and efficiently. As a result of lower than anticipated funding in fiscal year 2025, this project, which will serve the rapidly growing data infrastructure needs across the National Labs, requires additional funding and support. The final appropriations bill should include at least \$25 million to ensure that the High Performance Data Facility is completed by 2030.

My fourth amendment No. 39 emphasizes the important work being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to create new oyster habitats in the Chesapeake Bay. Oysters' natural ability to filter pollutants out of water make them an ideal partner in cleaning our Bay. The Corps serves as the lead agency for this endeavor and providing them with the necessary resources to continue growing the oyster population in the Chesapeake Bay will enable us to meet our water quality goals. The final appropriations bill should include \$7.5 million for the Corps' oyster restoration work.

I would like to thank Representatives ROBERT WITTMAN and JENNIFER KIGGANS for co-sponsoring my amendments supporting JLab, and I would like to thank Representatives ROBERT WITTMAN and SARAH ELFRETH for co-sponsoring my amendment supporting oyster restoration in the Chesapeake Bay. While I was glad to see the inclusion of my first amendment to the bipartisan en bloc, the underlying bill does not adequately fund the important work being conducted at our national labs and by the Army Corps of Engineers. This bill abandons critical research in science, diminishes the importance of clean energy, and weakens the government's ability to restore and conserve our environment. For that reason, I oppose passage of this legislation.

RECOGNIZING THE MINNESOTA ASSISTANCE COUNCIL FOR VETERANS

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans (MACV) for their grand opening of the newly renovated Robin property. Formerly the Robin Hotel, MACV has transformed the century-old property into 14 units of safe, stable housing for Veterans working to rebuild their lives.

I am immensely proud to have secured \$750,000 in Community Project Funding to support this endeavor. The Robin offers flexible housing options, ranging from transitional stays to long-term accommodation. The project is committed to providing equitable access to transportation and is thus located along the Metro Transit line to ensure easy and reliable access to community services.

For decades MACV has been unwavering in their commitment to end Veteran homelessness in Minnesota. This project is only one example of the way their work and collaboration can change lives. I want to extend my deep appreciation to Hennepin County, the Minnesota Department of Veterans Affairs, and the many community organizations that helped make this project possible.

At a time when VA benefits and the workers who serve our veterans are under attack, I am honored to work alongside MACV to support those who have served our country. Please join me in recognizing the Minnesota Assistance Council for Veterans for their outstanding efforts and in expressing our deepest gratitude to all of those who contributed to this incredible project.

RECOGNIZING JEFF NELSON ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Jeff Nelson, CEO and Managing Director of MetroLINK, on the occasion of his retirement in September 2025 after more than 35 years of dedicated service to the Quad Cities.

Mr. Nelson has transformed public transportation in our region. Under his leadership, MetroLINK became a model of innovation—connecting people to Jobs, education, and opportunity while advancing economic growth, clean energy, and smart technology.

He introduced the Channel Cat water taxi service, which has provided over one million rides, giving residents and visitors a unique way to travel the Mississippi River. He also led the adoption of electric buses, placing the Quad Cities at the forefront of sustainable transit solutions.

His vision and dedication have earned national recognition, including the American Public Transportation Association's Outstanding Public Transportation System Award. Beyond these honors, Mr. Nelson built a system that strengthens the community every day.

I thank Jeff Nelson for his decades of leadership, creativity, and commitment to the Quad Cities, and I extend my best wishes to him in retirement.

HONORING THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF GARFIELD HIGH IN EAST LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

HON. JIMMY GOMEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. GOMEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the centennial anniversary of Garfield High School located in East Los Angeles.

Since 1925, Garfield has been a cornerstone of the community, providing education and opportunity for generations of students from all walks of life. Garfield's legacy is deeply intertwined with the cultural fabric of Los Angeles, and its tradition of academic, athletic, and artistic success continues to shape California's thriving economic and cultural landscape. I thank all the extraordinary educators and staff of Garfield whose hard work and dedication on behalf of their students reminds us of the impact that education can have not only for their students, but for their communities.

Let today be a time to reflect on the achievements of the past, but also a commitment to the future. Despite new technology and a changing world, I am confident that Garfield will remain committed to fostering public education and community for years to come.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating Garfield High School on their 100th anniversary. Go Bulldogs.

HONORING THE INVESTITURE OF PRESIDENT ANDRÉS ACEBO, J.D.

HON. LaMONICA McIVER

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mrs. McIVER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Andrés Acebo, J.D., as the 13th President of New Jersey City University, located in the 10th Congressional District of New Jersey. As the youngest-ever president appointed to a public university in New Jersey, Acebo has made remarkable advancements

during his interim presidency. His innovative approach and commitment to excellence have significantly enhanced the university's impact on the local community and its academic standing. In just two years, Acebo turned NJCU's \$22.7 million deficit into financial stability, achieving its first balanced budget since 2017. His efforts led to significant credit rating upgrades from Moody's and Fitch, and he was named the top influencer in New Jersey higher education by ROI-NJ in May 2024.

Beyond financial accomplishments, Acebo's leadership has propelled NJCU to remarkable heights in social mobility, as the university ranked No. 1 in New Jersey and 10th nationally in CollegeNET's 2023 Social Mobility Index, maintaining that top state ranking and a position in the Top 20 nationally in 2024. This commitment to student success is further reflected in the graduation rates, with 1,667 students earning their degrees in Spring 2024, an impressive 8.2 percent increase in bachelor's degrees from the previous year and an additional 1,544 graduates projected for 2025. He established partnerships with peer institutions, connecting schools that share similar values and agreements, which fostered a larger higher education community. Under Acebo's leadership, NJCU's athletics also benefited positively as he transitioned the program to a new conference with CUNYAC members in 2026.

What an incredible accomplishment and a shining example of New Jersey excellence. I congratulate Andrés. He makes New Jersey proud.

CELEBRATING HABON ABDULLE ON THE 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF AYADA LEADS

HON. ILHAN OMAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the extraordinary leadership, dedication, and impact of Habon Abdulle. Her incredible and tireless work has empowered new Americans, including many women of color. I wish to specifically honor Ms. Habon Abdulle on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of Ayada Leads.

In Somali, "ayada" means "she." True to its name, Ayada Leads is committed to strengthening our democracy and civic participation by advancing women's leadership and highlighting women empowerment as integral to transformative change.

For years, Habon has been a driving force for gender equity, civic engagement, and leadership. Through her unwavering commitment, she has empowered women across various ages, states, and cultures to embrace their leadership potential. As the founder of Ayada Leads, originally known as Women Organizing Women, I know firsthand how committed Habon is to empowering women and guiding them to become strong leaders here in Minnesota and across the country.

Habon has been a trailblazer for civic engagement for more than 25 years. She is a renowned scholar in gender and politics, holding two master's degrees and a Ph.D. She has also conducted research on the cultural and structural barriers against minority women in political spheres. Habon is no stranger to the

challenges women experience in our community. But nevertheless, she continues to guide and educate women to develop their full leadership potential and is a source of inspiration for so many.

I have personally witnessed Habon's devotion and commitment to this work. A friend for many years, she also served as my mentor. She helped me harness my drive and ambition and encouraged me to do everything I could to support my community.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating Habon Abdulle's incredible contributions to our community, political education and leadership. Her work is a constant reminder of the importance of strengthening our democracy by empowering women.

RECOGNIZING CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 4, 2025

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge one of the most cherished organizations in my district and the efforts to continue their storied mission of serving with the greatest care and love. As we know, September is childhood cancer awareness month, so please join me in recognizing OSF HealthCare and their newly named OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois Cancer and Blood Disorders Institute.

This is an incredible milestone for pediatric healthcare in downstate Illinois. Located in Peoria, the institute cares for children with both cancer and blood disorders through world-class, family-centered care.

The OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois is the sole children's hospital in the downstate area that offers the full spectrum of pediatric oncology and hematology care under one roof for children and their families. These services include one of approximately 45 proton beam therapy centers in the United States and the only one serving downstate Illinois families. This allows for highly targeted radiation treatments which reduce side effects and improve long term outcomes for children.

In addition to treating childhood cancers, the hospital is a regional leader in the care of serious blood disorders such as sickle cell disease, hemophilia, and aplastic anemia. Their comprehensive programs cover major steps for care, including diagnosis, treatment, life-long management, and transition to adult care, thus ensuring every patient receives the treatment they need at every stage of life.

Every year, approximately 15,000 children in the United States, 700 in Illinois, are diagnosed with cancer, and countless others live with chronic or life-threatening blood disorders. This includes children as young as only a few months. While we are thankful that survival rates for many pediatric cancers have improved to over 85 percent, cancer remains the leading cause of disease-related death among children, and hematologic conditions continue to require complex, coordinated, and long-term care.

To unite our community in this fight, OSF Children's Hospital of Illinois has also recently launched Paint the Town Gold, an annual community-wide awareness initiative that will