

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING HEATHER HENRY AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Heather Henry, for her unwavering commitment to public service. Heather serves as the Chief Executive Officer of California Human Development (CHD), where she leads efforts to empower seasonal farm workers and their families through workforce development, education, and economic opportunity. With over two decades of experience in non-profit management, Heather has built an impressive record of service marked by vision, compassion, and collaboration. Prior to her role at CHD, she served for eight years as President and Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board of Solano County, where she championed initiatives that strengthened local economies and helped job seekers gain the skills necessary to thrive in today's workforce. Her work in fostering partnerships and creating opportunities for economic growth has had a lasting impact on the individuals in need and the county at large. Heather also serves as Board Chair for the Solano Community Foundation and as a Board Member for Connections for Life, reflecting her deep commitment to civic engagement and equity. Her dedication to social justice, economic mobility, and community empowerment has transformed lives across Solano County and beyond. Despite the challenges of navigating complex systems and limited resources, she has consistently advocated for the underrepresented and has fought to dismantle barriers to opportunity. Her personal journey and professional accomplishments serve as a testament to her resilience and dedication to making a meaningful impact. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Heather Henry for her invaluable contributions to our community.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE BALANCING INCENTIVES ACT OF 2025

**HON. MARCY KAPTUR**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce the "Balancing Incentives Act" of 2025, Bipartisan legislation to restore fairness and integrity to America's patent system.

Innovation is the beating heart of American progress. From workshops and factories to classrooms and garages, inventors across our Nation embody the creativity, determination, and optimism that define the American spirit.

They turn ideas into opportunities and dreams into progress.

Yet too many inventors face an uneven playing field that makes it harder to protect their work. The "Balancing Incentives Act" ensures that inventors have a fair chance to defend their creations.

By doing so, we reaffirm that innovation belongs to everyone with an idea and the determination to bring it to fruition.

With the "Balancing Incentives Act," we stand up for the spirit of American ingenuity that built our middle class, that powers our industries and continues to light the way toward a more prosperous and inventive future.

By standing up for inventors, we stand up for America's future. Because what America makes and grows, makes and grows America.

I urge my colleagues to join myself and Congressman THOMAS MASSIE in supporting this vital legislation.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to note the strong relationship between the United States and Kazakhstan and to recognize Kazakhstan's Republic Day.

Republic Day commemorates Kazakhstan's declaration of sovereignty on October 25, 1990. This pivotal moment, 25 years ago, paved the way for Kazakhstan's eventual independence from the Soviet Union and symbolizes the nation's enduring commitment to self-determination, prosperity, and peace.

Over the past three decades, Kazakhstan has transformed into a thriving nation with a strong economy, a growing international presence, and a robust partnership with the United States.

The relationship between Kazakhstan and the United States is rooted in shared values of democracy, economic growth, and mutual respect. As we celebrate Kazakhstan's achievements, we reaffirm our commitment to working together in addressing global challenges and promoting peace, security, and economic development.

Our nations also share a strong commitment to interfaith harmony and global dialogue. Kazakhstan, ethnically rich and religiously diverse, has long championed peace and tolerance. Earlier this year, Astana hosted the 8th Congress of Leaders of World and Traditional Religions, welcoming over 100 delegations from 60 countries under the theme "Dialogue of Religions: Synergy for the Future."

Recently, Kazakhstan took a decisive step in its economic modernization. The national railway company, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, signed a landmark \$4.2 billion agreement with Wabtec Corporation, the largest locomotive order in recent history. This transformative

deal will support thousands of good-paying U.S. jobs and strengthen America's manufacturing base, underscoring the mutual benefits of our growing economic partnership.

Another vital area of expanding cooperation is rare earth minerals. The United States and Kazakhstan are working together to build a reliable and diversified supply chain for rare earth elements and other critical materials essential to major U.S. industries, including aerospace, defense, clean energy, and semiconductors.

Kazakhstan remains one of the United States' most reliable and trusted partners, both regionally and globally, particularly as an active member of the World Trade Organization (WTO). This long-standing partnership highlights the importance of advancing efforts to establish Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR), ensuring that Kazakhstan's economic growth is fully acknowledged and supported within the global marketplace. Doing so would cost nothing, yet send a powerful signal of strategic seriousness, eliminate lingering legal ambiguity for U.S. investors, and unlock the full potential of our bilateral trade and industrial cooperation.

As we look ahead, the upcoming C5+1 Summit on November 6, 2025, represents a critical opportunity to reaffirm U.S. leadership and engagement in Central Asia. Marking the 10th anniversary of this important diplomatic forum, the summit should deliver tangible results, demonstrating that the United States values long-term partnership.

Together, the United States and Kazakhstan are committed to fostering peace, security, and prosperity, not only in Central Asia but globally.

HONORING ANDREA SORCE AS ONE OF CALIFORNIA'S 8TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT'S WOMEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of Andrea Sorce as she is honored as one of California's 8th Congressional District's Women of the Year. Andrea has established a legacy of fierce advocacy in the community. Having served in the Peace Corps, service to others is a trait that is not new to her, has informed her impactful work in Vallejo and its surrounding areas, and continues to make a difference to this day. Andrea has worked to help those in need in her community, particularly through organizations such as the Solano County chapter of the ACLU, which she co-founded. It was through this organization that Andrea helped support families impacted by police violence. Andrea's advocacy work and civic engagement extended beyond her involvement with the Solano ACLU, as she also served as chair of

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

Vallejo's Surveillance Advisory Board and remained active in various other civic roles, including the Glen Cove Community Association and the United Democrats of Southern Solano County, where she served as vice-chair. Although the work that she has done has been crucial to the wellbeing of Vallejo and its community members, her hard work did not stop there, as she then launched a successful campaign for Mayor of the City of Vallejo. In spite of the fact that she has yet to complete a full term as Vallejo Mayor, she has already achieved impressive accomplishments during her time in this position. Constituents describe Andrea as a courageous leader, who stands for reform and lives her values, which is exemplified in her many efforts to connect with the community. Since becoming Mayor, Andrea has held over 30 public meetings to increase transparency, discuss pressing issues, and take action towards solutions. Apart from her politically-engaged work, Andrea serves her community in several other capacities as well, such as serving on: the board of Solano Transportation Authority, the Solano County Water Agency, and as the President of the Vallejo Wastewater and Flood District. When she's not actively engaging with civic issues, she also teaches at Diablo Valley College, as an economics professor. It is clear that Andrea's commitment to service, passion for advocacy, and multi-faceted approach to tackling local issues makes her a vital asset to the Vallejo and overall Solano County community. On behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional District, it is my pleasure to honor and recognize Andrea Sorce for her positive contributions to our community.

COMMEMORATING KAZAKHSTAN'S  
REPUBLIC DAY

**HON. THOMAS R. SUOZZI**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. SUOZZI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to commemorate the Republic Day of Kazakhstan and recognize its declaration of sovereignty on October 25, 1990. This pivotal moment paved the way for Kazakhstan's eventual independence from the Soviet Union and symbolizes the nation's enduring commitment to self-determination, prosperity, and peace.

From its earliest days, Kazakhstan pursued a forward-looking vision rooted in partnership, openness, and modernization. Its early alignment with the West, especially in developing a free-market economy, has shaped its remarkable transformation. Over the past three decades, Kazakhstan has emerged as a thriving nation with a dynamic economy, an active international presence, and a strong and growing partnership with the United States.

The U.S.-Kazakhstan relationship is grounded in shared values and mutual respect. As we mark Kazakhstan's national holiday, we reaffirm our commitment to deepening cooperation between our two nations to meet global challenges and advance peace, security, and prosperity.

Kazakhstan's commitment to transparency, the rule of law, and an open investment climate has made it a magnet for American business. U.S. companies remain the largest

source of foreign direct investment, helping drive Kazakhstan's diversification and sustainable development. This alignment supports the country's broader goal of becoming a resilient, innovative economy and a hub for regional growth.

Kazakhstan continues to stand as a pillar of stability in Central Asia and a leader on the world stage in nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. Despite external challenges, Kazakhstan has remained a peaceful and stabilizing force in Central Asia—a reliable partner and a model of pragmatic, balanced diplomacy.

Kazakhstan is the economic footprint of the United States in Central Asia—a partnership that is long-term, resilient, and mutually beneficial.

Recently, Kazakhstan took another decisive step in its economic modernization. The national railway company, Kazakhstan Temir Zholy, signed a landmark \$4.2 billion agreement with Wabtec Corporation—the largest locomotive order in recent history.

This transformative deal is more than an investment in Kazakhstan's infrastructure; it is a powerful endorsement of American innovation and manufacturing leadership. It will support thousands of good-paying U.S. jobs and strengthen America's manufacturing base, underscoring the mutual benefits of our growing economic partnership.

Kazakhstan is taking bold steps to position itself as a key Eurasian transit hub. The Trans-Caspian International Transport Route (the Middle Corridor), which begins in Kazakhstan and runs through Azerbaijan to global markets, is strengthening supply chain resilience for the U.S. and its partners.

Another vital area of expanding cooperation is rare earth minerals. The United States and Kazakhstan are working together to build a reliable and diversified supply chain for rare earth elements and other critical materials essential to major U.S. industries, including aerospace, defense, clean energy, and semiconductors.

Rare-earth minerals from Kazakhstan can help power the next generation of U.S. innovation, driving the transformation of the American economy built around AI, advanced manufacturing, and nuclear energy.

Energy collaboration also remains a cornerstone of our partnership. Earlier this year, Chevron's \$48 billion Future Growth Project at Kazakhstan's Tengiz field began production, underscoring the scale and depth of U.S. investment in the country's energy future. The Tengizchevroil venture—operated by Chevron represents Central Asia's largest oil development, ensuring reliable supply and creating thousands of high-skilled jobs. These projects embody the long-term, mutually beneficial nature of U.S. Kazakhstan energy cooperation.

Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev is undertaking an ambitious program of national renewal. Over the past three years, the country has implemented far-reaching political and economic reforms unprecedented in the region. Among the key changes is the introduction of a single seven-year presidential term, a step designed to enhance democratic accountability and political stability.

Our nations also share a strong commitment to interfaith dialogue. Kazakhstan—ethnically rich and religiously diverse—has long championed peace and tolerance. Earlier this year, Astana hosted the 8th Congress of Leaders of

World and Traditional Religions, welcoming over 100 delegations from 60 countries under the theme "Dialogue of Religions: Synergy for the Future."

This same spirit of openness and engagement also guides Kazakhstan's approach to the global economy. Kazakhstan's active membership in the World Trade Organization reflects its ongoing commitment to international norms and open markets. As such, it is time for the United States to grant Kazakhstan Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) by repealing the outdated Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Doing so would cost nothing, yet send a powerful signal of strategic seriousness, eliminate lingering legal ambiguity for U.S. investors, and unlock the full potential of our bilateral trade and industrial cooperation.

As we look ahead, the upcoming C5+1 Summit on November 6, 2025, represents a critical opportunity to reaffirm U.S. leadership and engagement in Central Asia. Marking the 10th anniversary of this important diplomatic forum, the summit should deliver tangible results—demonstrating that the United States values long-term partnership.

We urge the Administration to seize this moment, build on the foundation of trust and shared interests, and work with Congress to achieve outcomes that advance stability, prosperity, and lasting friendship across our nations.

Mr. Speaker, as Kazakhstan celebrates Republic Day, we honor the enduring friendship between our two countries and look forward to the continued growth of a partnership rooted in mutual respect, shared progress, and a common vision for a peaceful and prosperous world.

HONORING THE REPUBLIC DAY OF  
KAZAKHSTAN

**HON. BILL HUIZENGA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, October 24, 2025*

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on South and Central Asia, I rise today alongside my colleague and Ranking Member, Ms. Kamlager-Dove of California, to honor and congratulate the people of Kazakhstan as they mark the Republic Day of Kazakhstan, which commemorates Kazakhstan's declaration of sovereignty independent of the Soviet Union on October 25, 1990. The United States has remained committed to Kazakhstan's sovereignty, independence, and territorial integrity. Now, as a valued strategic partner of the United States, our nations work together to advance security, peace, and prosperity.

Kazakhstan inherited a massive nuclear stockpile and legacy sites for chemical and biological weapons research following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. The voluntary commitment to rapidly remove these weapons from its territory and accede to the Non-Proliferation Treaty and other key arms control measures was a model for the region and the world. Kazakhstan has also made significant contributions to UN peacekeeping missions, including independent deployments of peacekeepers from 2024. Efforts such as these to