

Foote Mineral and FMC Lithium, and even ran his own business at Battle-ground Petroleum.

No matter what job he held, he brought a strong work ethic and a big heart. He was incredibly active in his community and his faith as a part of the Dixon Presbyterian Church and Victory Baptist. He was also a member of the Shriners, a Mason, and a member of the Progressive Club.

When he had free time, he could be found fishing, competing in tractor pulls, or spending time with his family.

Roger was a good man who cared deeply about the people around him, especially his family. He certainly left Kings Mountain a better place, and he will be missed by all those who knew him.

#### INVESTMENT OF PROLEC GE WAUKESHA

(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, there is a lot of energy and excitement in Wayne County, North Carolina, as we celebrate a significant economic investment. Prolec GE Waukesha, Incorporated, announced a \$140 million investment which will strengthen eastern North Carolina's economy and enhance our national energy infrastructure.

The investment aims to double the production of medium power transformers and address the urgent needs of our country's electric grid. The construction of a new state-of-the-art facility will create over 330 new jobs in various fields, from engineering to production.

Young people and professionals are craving these opportunities in the East and good-paying jobs. These jobs will average nearly \$72,000 a year.

Congratulations to Prolec GE Waukesha, Incorporated. I am so excited about our energy future.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FONG). 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 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1523

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BRESNAHAN) at 3 o'clock and 23 minutes 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.

#### ACCELERATING NETWORKING, CYBERINFRASTRUCTURE, AND HARDWARE FOR OCEANIC RE- SEARCH ACT

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1223) to require a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1223

*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 "Accelerating Networking, Cyberinfrastructure, and Hardware for Oceanic Research Act" or the "ANCHOR Act".

#### SEC. 2. PLAN TO IMPROVE CYBERSECURITY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director, in consultation with other Federal agency owners and the head of any university or laboratory that owns or operates a vessel of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a plan to improve the cybersecurity and telecommunications of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan required by subsection (a) shall include—

(1) an assessment of the telecommunications and networking needs of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, consistent with the typical scientific mission of each vessel;

(2) in accordance with guidance issued by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and the National Institute for Standards and Technology, an assessment of cybersecurity needs appropriate for—

(A) the operation of vessels within the U.S. Academic Research Fleet; and

(B) the specific research functions and activities of such vessels;

(3) an assessment of the costs necessary to meet the needs described in paragraphs (1) and (2), including—

(A) any necessary equipment costs in excess of current expenditures, such as satellite communications equipment, software, high-performance computing infrastructure shipboard and shoreside, or enterprise hardware;

(B) estimated personnel costs in excess of current expenditures, including any necessary training, support, or logistics; and

(C) the estimated impact on daily charter rates associated with the costs described in subparagraphs (A) and (B);

(4) an assessment of the time required to implement any upgrades required to meet the needs described in paragraphs (1) and (2) under varying budgets and funding scenarios;

(5) an assessment of opportunities for the adoption of common solutions or consortial licensing agreements, or for the centralization of elements of fleet cybersecurity, telecommunications, or data management at a single facility; and

(6) in consultation with any non-Federal owners of a vessel of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, a spending plan for the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research, non-Federal owners of vessels of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, users of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, or any combination thereof, to provide funding to cover the costs described in paragraph (3).

(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Director in preparing the plan required by subsection (a), shall, as appropriate, consider the following:

(1) The network capabilities, including speed and bandwidth targets, necessary to meet the scientific mission needs of each class of vessel within the U.S. Academic Research Fleet for such purposes as—

(A) executing the critical functions and communications of each vessel;

(B) providing network access for the health and well-being of deployed personnel, including communications to conduct telemedicine (including mental health care), counseling, interviews with crisis response providers, and other remote individual care and services;

(C) as necessary to meet operations, uploading any scientific data to a cloud-based server or shoreside server, including the copying of data off ship for disaster recovery or risk mitigation purposes;

(D) conducting real-time streaming to enable shore-based observers to participate in ship-based maintenance or research activities;

(E) scientific instrumentation so that it is possible to conduct scientific surveys and seafloor mapping with fully remote subject matter experts;

(F) critical operational technology by manufacturers and vendors so that it is possible to carry out maintenance and repairs to systems with limited expertise on each vessel, with fully remote subject matter experts advising; and

(G) enabling video communications to allow improved outreach to, and other educational services for, K-12 students, including occasional remote classroom teaching for instructors at sea to improve oceanographic access for students.

(2) In consultation with the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Director of the National Institute for Standards and Technology, and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appropriate—

(A) the cybersecurity recommendations in the report of the private scientific advisory group known as JASON entitled "Cybersecurity at NSF Major Facilities" (JSR-21-10E) and dated October 2021 as applied to the U.S. Academic Research Fleet;

(B) aligning with international standards and guidance for information security, including the use of encryption for sensitive information, the detection and handling of security incidents, and other areas determined relevant by the Director;

(C) facilitating access to cybersecurity personnel and training of research and support personnel; and

(D) the requirements for controlled unclassified or classified information.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION OF AND REPORT ON PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director, in coordination with the Office of Naval Research, non-Federal owners of vessels of the Academic Research Fleet, users of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet, or any combination thereof, may support upgrades to the cyberinfrastructure and cybersecurity of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet consistent with the plan required by subsection (a).

(2) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than two years after the submission of the plan required by subsection (a), the Director shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report describing the progress made in implementing the plan.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the National Science Foundation.

(2) OCEANOGRAPHIC RESEARCH VESSEL.—The term “oceanographic research vessel” has the meaning given the term in section 2101 of title 46, United States Code.

(3) U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET.—The term “U.S. Academic Research Fleet” means the United States-flagged vessels that—

(A) are operated as oceanographic research vessels by research universities and laboratories;

(B) have achieved designation as a member vessel of the U.S. Academic Research Fleet through the standard U.S. Academic Research Fleet evaluation process; and

(C) have been accepted into, and are active participants within, the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. FONG) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1223, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 1223, the Accelerating Networking, Cyberinfrastructure, and Hardware for Oceanic Research Act, also known as the ANCHOR Act.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill because it addresses a critical and urgent need: safeguarding the integrity of our Nation’s academic research fleet and ensuring that the valuable data collected at sea remains secure from emerging threats. This is about protecting the future of American science, innovation, and national security.

Our research fleet is a cornerstone of America’s scientific advancement. Since the 1960s, these vessels have supported federally sponsored missions that impact everything from human health and energy development to ocean hazards and national security. They are laboratories at sea, collecting data that fuels critical decisionmaking here on land.

However, these ships face modern challenges. Right now, they lack the secure cyberinfrastructure needed to protect sensitive data and communicate reliably across global networks.

That leaves them vulnerable to cyber threats from foreign adversaries, which have been on the rise and will continue to evolve with emerging technology.

Data is the heartbeat of scientific progress. It informs policy. It drives discovery. It strengthens our ability to respond to crises. We need it to compete and win on the world stage. We must ensure that this data is protected, that our researchers have the tools they need, and that the outcomes of their work remain in secure hands.

The ANCHOR Act directs the National Science Foundation to create a comprehensive plan to upgrade the cybersecurity and communication systems on these vessels to add another layer of protection where it is desperately needed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my cosponsor, Representative HALEY STEVENS, for supporting our bipartisan effort to protect our Nation’s scientific edge and security.

Today, let’s take a critical step to safeguard our research fleet, protect our data, and secure the future of American innovation by voting in support of the ANCHOR Act.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the ANCHOR Act. The U.S. Academic Research Fleet, the ARF, is made up of an impressive array of marine research assets and even more impressive than that fleet is the invaluable research that it conducts.

This diverse fleet is managed and operated by a diverse group that includes the NSF, the Office of Naval Research, Federal research laboratories, and U.S. universities.

These fleets have unique cyberinfrastructure and networking challenges and vulnerabilities. This bill would require assessment of equipment and personnel costs and time requirements needed to upgrade the fleet and develop a proposal for funding these upgrades.

The House already passed this bill by a voice vote last Congress, and I hope it will do so again. This technological struggle has been a real detriment and had a real impact on these fleets.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the sponsor of this bill as well as Ms. STEVENS, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

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

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), the chair of the Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be here to support H.R. 1223, the ANCHOR Act, sponsored by my colleagues, Representatives Fong and Stevens.

The ANCHOR Act tackles the critical need for improved cybersecurity across

the U.S. Academic Research Fleet. This fleet of 17 vessels carries out vital research in diverse marine environments, from the Great Lakes to the polar regions.

The groundbreaking research conducted aboard these vessels has largely shaped our understanding of the ocean. Scientists study ecosystems and food webs, offshore energy resources, wave dynamics, natural hazard forecasting and response, and the deep ocean floor.

These scientists and technical experts operate a wide range of specialized equipment, including deep-towing systems, underwater cameras, and state-of-the-art acoustic sensors, often sailing to some of the world’s most remote locations.

Ensuring secure and reliable communication and data transmission systems, regardless of location, presents a unique challenge. Each vessel needs tailored cybersecurity infrastructure to safeguard its scientific equipment and protect data, both on board and during transmission to shore.

Unfortunately, the fleet currently lacks the necessary infrastructure. This bill would change that. The ANCHOR Act directs the National Science Foundation to develop a plan for much-needed upgrades to the Academic Research Fleet, including cybersecurity enhancements and modernization of telecommunications equipment.

This plan must consider the type of research conducted on each vessel, the location, any specialized equipment, and network bandwidth needs. It is essential to protect taxpayer-funded research conducted by the fleet from nefarious actors.

We have made significant strides securing research at our agencies and university campuses. Now we must ensure the research being done off of our coasts is fully protected.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues for their efforts on this issue, and I urge my fellow Members to support this bill.

□ 1530

Mr. FONG. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) control the remainder of my time.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter dated January 30, 2024, titled: “Institutional Support for U.S. Academic Research Fleet Cyber Infrastructure.”

JANUARY 30, 2024.

#### INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT FOR U.S. ACADEMIC RESEARCH FLEET CYBER INFRASTRUCTURE

The U.S. Academic Research Fleet (ARF) is critical in the exploration and understanding of our planet. The ARF consists of 17 oceangoing research vessels that serve multiple federal agencies, coordinated under

the auspices of the University-National Oceanographic Laboratory System (UNOLS). These ships are fundamentally important to America's global research objectives, and conduct federally-sponsored basic research addressing urgent societal issues involving human health and safety, offshore energy and resources, national security, ocean hazards, biological and physical ocean processes, and all scientific endeavors requiring observations at sea.

As directors, deans, and presidents of academic institutions with students, faculty, and staff that use ARF oceanographic research vessels we urge Congress to ensure the ARF has ongoing support to enable satellite communications, shoreside and shipboard digital infrastructure, and technical support for the safe, secure, and effective operation of our research vessels.

As globally-ranging laboratories that operate in the most remote areas of the world, research vessels face unique challenges in providing capable networking and require specialized infrastructure. Scientists and their sensors must communicate in real-time with others on board, as well as with scientists, services and devices in the cloud or on shoreside networks. 21st century oceanographic science and vessel operations require mission-critical cyberinfrastructure to meet operational objectives and enable scientific innovation in seagoing research.

Additionally, as U.S. strategic assets increasingly become targets for cyberattacks (including the ARF), robust cyber-infrastructure is critical. The sensitive research conducted on these ships ensures the nation remains a world leader in innovation and national security, and foreign competitors, such as China, are seeking opportunities to acquire it via offensive cyber operations.

Our analysis indicates that ARF funding must be increased \$53M annually (roughly 50% over existing levels) to support capabilities required for robust, performant and secure networking. Our assessment is rooted in findings by the JASON advisory group study (2021), which was commissioned by NSF to evaluate and make recommendations regarding the ability of NSF's major facilities to provide high-quality data to the research community while mitigating cybersecurity threats. The ARF is unique among large facilities because of its geographical diversity, mobility, global reach, and distributed administration. These factors all contribute to the scope of resources required to meet research needs.

Sincerely,

Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Sciences  
College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences/Oregon State University  
College of Fisheries and Ocean Sciences/  
University of Alaska Fairbanks (UAF)  
Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University  
Large Lakes Observatory, University of Minnesota Duluth  
Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium  
Rosenstiel School of Marine, Atmospheric, and Earth Science/University of Miami  
School of Ocean, Earth, Science and Technology/University of Hawai'i  
Scripps Institution of Oceanography/UC San Diego  
University of Rhode Island—Graduate School of Oceanography  
University of Washington—School of Oceanography  
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, again, I thank Mr. FONG and Ms. STEVENS for their leadership on this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1223, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The U.S. Academic Research Fleet enables us to use state-of-the-art equipment worldwide to conduct cutting-edge science that cannot be performed on land. This fleet is a key factor in making the U.S. research enterprise a global leader.

However, our leadership is currently at risk, as it is widely recognized that our adversaries are willing to compromise, undermine, or steal our research. They aim to exploit our discoveries and surpass us as leaders in global technology. We cannot afford to let that happen.

To continue making groundbreaking discoveries, we must equip our research vessels with the cybersecurity infrastructure necessary to maintain the integrity of their data and equipment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support 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 California (Mr. FONG) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1223.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

#### CLEAN ENERGY DEMONSTRATION TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2025

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1453) to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require reporting regarding clean energy demonstration projects, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1453

*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 "Clean Energy Demonstration Transparency Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. PROJECT MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.

Subsection (h) of section 41201 of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 18861) is amended by adding at the end following new paragraph:

“(3) FURTHER REPORTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this paragraph and at least semiannually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate a report, and make publicly available in digital online format, that contains, for the period covered by each such report, for each covered project or other demonstration project administered or supported by the program, the following:

“(i) A copy of any initial contracts or financial assistance agreements executed between the Department and an award recipient, including any related documentation, as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(ii) A list of any material, technical, or financial milestones that have or have not been met.

“(iii) Any material modifications to the scope, schedule, funding profile (including cost-share requirements), project partners or participating entities, or budget of the project.

“(B) STREAMLINING.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary may synchronize the reports required under subparagraph (A) with other required reports, such as those required under—

“(i) paragraph (1); and

“(ii) section 9005(e) of the Energy Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 7256c(e); enacted as division Z of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BABIN. 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 on H.R. 1453, the bill which is now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1453, the Clean Energy Demonstration Transparency Act of 2025, sponsored by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY).

This sensible legislation will provide Congress with the necessary tools to effectively oversee the Department of Energy's growing number of large demonstration projects. DOE established the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, or OCED, to carry out the technology demonstration projects authorized in the Energy Act of 2020 and the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. These projects include bipartisan initiatives like the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program and the Long-Duration Energy Storage Demonstration Initiative.

This bill requires the Secretary of Energy to submit semiannual reports to Congress on all demonstration projects managed by OCED. These reports must include details on contracts, milestones, schedules, funding profiles, and cost-share agreements.

Historically, DOE's applied energy offices have managed these programs, ensuring a seamless transition from