

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

basic laboratory research to applied field work. However, with the creation of OCED, these activities were placed in a new office, separating critical expertise and adding an unnecessary layer of bureaucracy.

At the same time, the infrastructure bill and the Inflation Reduction Act appropriated over \$27 billion to OCED to fund these projects.

This combination of organizational restructuring and a large influx of funding should raise concerns for every lawmaker of this institution, considering DOE's past mismanagement of demonstration projects.

Since its inception, OCED has been slow to award funding and has struggled to identify unique capabilities not already addressed by the applied energy offices. Congress lacks adequate safeguards and the capacity to conduct rigorous oversight over OCED and its demonstration projects.

For example, when the Science, Space, and Technology Committee sought more information on DOE's decision to waive the cost-share requirement for a multimillion-dollar project, the Department was not obliged to document or justify its rationale. Requiring DOE to submit semiannual reports will provide Congress with crucial tools to protect taxpayer dollars, hold OCED accountable, and ensure that projects are based on merit rather than crony favoritism.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative CAREY for his continued leadership on this issue despite no longer even sitting on the Science, Space, and Technology Committee. I also thank Representative RILEY for his work in advancing this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation, and 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 Clean Energy Demonstration Transparency Act, as well.

The bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, as mentioned, established a first-of-its-kind Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, and this new office was tasked with coordinating the Department of Energy's large-scale clean energy technology development. This office is now managing more than \$25 billion in funding to help scale emerging energy technologies that will help us tackle our most pressing climate challenges and achieve net-zero emissions as quickly as possible.

Last October, one of the initiatives supported by the office awarded \$1.1 million to a Virginia company, Roanoke Cement Company. They are working on a project for the use of clays to minimize the use of carbon-intensive components in cement production. This project has the potential to decrease carbon intensity of cement production by around 83 percent. Cement production is responsible for 2 percent of en-

ergy-related CO₂ emissions in the United States, so an 83 percent reduction in cement carbon intensity is very valuable.

This bipartisan bill authorizes simple and streamlined reporting requirements on the activities of the office, and it is a great transparency bill.

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY).

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1453, the Clean Energy Demonstration Transparency Act of 2025.

I introduced this commonsense, bipartisan legislation last Congress, which passed the House by voice vote. With more than \$25 billion in Federal funding from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the Inflation Reduction Act, and annual appropriations, the Department of Energy's Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations aims to support first-of-a-kind commercial-scale demonstrations and deploy them at viable and market-ready levels.

My bill requires semiannual reports to Congress on the status of these clean energy demonstration activities. With these reports, Congress can oversee these projects and ensure that taxpayer money is spent wisely and effectively.

Amid unprecedented Federal spending and soaring national debt, it is essential that we pass this legislation to avoid more Federal Government waste.

Overall, H.R. 1453 is a good government bill that improves accountability and transparency for the benefit of the American taxpayers. I thank Representative RILEY for being a great partner on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY) as well as the gentleman from New York (Mr. RILEY) for their work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1453, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, one of our key responsibilities in Congress is to manage taxpayer dollars wisely. I don't take that job lightly. I want to see DOE and all of our vital Federal research agencies succeed in developing revolutionary next-generation technologies.

At the same time, we need to monitor the progress of these projects well before their costs balloon to multibillions of dollars and strain research budgets.

H.R. 1453 allows us to do precisely that. It enhances transparency between DOE and Congress, giving both parties the necessary information and insights into the successes of Federal dem-

onstration projects to foster further achievements.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RILEY), his cosponsor, for leading this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1453.

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.

STRATEGIC PORTS REPORTING ACT

Mr. HUIZENGA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1701) to require the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of State to monitor efforts by the People's Republic of China to build or buy strategic foreign ports, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1701

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 "Strategic Ports Reporting Act".

SEC. 2. MAPPING AND STRATEGY REQUIRED.

(a) MAPPING OF GLOBAL PORTS.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall—

(1) develop an updated, global mapping of foreign and domestic ports identified to be of importance to the United States, because of a capability to provide military, diplomatic, economic, or resource exploration superiority; and

(2) identify any efforts by the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) or other PRC entities to build, buy, or otherwise control, directly or indirectly, such ports.

(b) SUBMISSION OF MAP.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall submit the mapping developed pursuant to subsection (a) to the appropriate congressional committees. Such submission shall be in unclassified form, but may include a classified annex.

SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STUDY AND REPORT ON STRATEGIC PORTS.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of Defense, shall conduct a study of—

(1) strategic ports;

(2) the reasons such ports are of interest to the United States;

(3) the activities and plans of the Government of the People's Republic of China (PRC) to expand its control over strategic ports outside of the People's Republic of China;

(4) the public and private actors, such as China Ocean Shipping Company, that are executing and supporting the activities and plans of the Government of the PRC to expand its control over strategic ports outside of the PRC;

(5) the activities and plans of the Government of the PRC to expand its control over