

companies: Libbey Glass, Owens-Illinois Glass, and Kraft Heinz.

Let's talk about Libbey. This historic company holds deep roots in my hometown of Toledo, long known as the Glass City. Glass requires lots of energy. The firm has been working for years to maintain competitiveness in a terrible international glass environment while reducing its environmental footprint.

Making glass requires huge amounts of power, as I said, and the funding Libbey was awarded would have helped it transition to more powerful glass furnaces with cleaner manufacturing technologies. These jobs are union jobs with living wages and benefits that strengthen Ohio as a hub for advanced industry.

Owens-Illinois Glass, another recognized heritage glassmaking firm, is headquartered in Perrysburg, Ohio. It had similar plans at its Zanesville, Ohio, plants to remain viable and globally competitive.

Third, Kraft Heinz, a giant in the food industry, is in Fremont, Ohio.

I simply do not understand how canceling these projects makes America great again. Instead, it emboldens our foreign competitors.

I invite President Trump to Ohio to visit these companies. He can change these decisions by his Secretary of Energy.

America can't look in the rearview mirror. We have to look forward to America's new energy future, and the Department of Energy's misguided decisions will really hurt American advanced manufacturing.

Ohio knows what it means to get left behind. We have seen the effects of globalization. We have lived it. We have seen the effects of outsourcing and automation. The United States simply should not be hurting our legacy companies.

HIGH-SPEED RAIL BOONDOGGLE

(Mr. LAMALFA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, what began as a concept to connect California's two largest cities with high-speed rail has become a national embarrassment and one of the most expensive boondoggles in modern infrastructure history.

After more than 17 years and \$6.9 billion in just Federal money, and overall \$17 billion raised over 17 years, not a single mile of high-speed rail track has been laid, just a few bridges built.

A report released today by Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy and the Federal Railroad Administration confirmed what many of us have been saying for years and years: This project is not viable. It is riddled with mismanagement, massive cost overruns, missed deadlines, fantasy-level ridership projections, and even promising 1.1 million jobs in the process. After they got pinned down in committee at

the State legislature, they finally admitted it was 1 million job-years.

If you do the math on that, Mr. Speaker, they claim 10,000 workers there currently, so that would mean about 100 years to equal 1 million job-years. They seem to be right on track for 100 years in building this project.

It is still \$7 billion short just to build a sliver of this segment between Merced and an almond orchard somewhere outside of Bakersfield, hardly the world-class system voters were promised back in 2008.

The original vision for the project from S.F. to L.A. also included spurs to Sacramento and San Diego possibly, which would have been about an 800-mile network.

Now, well after a decade, what is left is simply the 119-mile stretch through the Central Valley I just mentioned, which doesn't really connect any major metro areas. That segment is years behind.

The whole project should have been done by 2020. They are hoping to get that Central Valley Project done by maybe 2030.

That project, the Central Valley part by itself, would be \$38.5 billion. The original concept of the whole thing was \$33 billion from S.F. to L.A.

The total estimated cost today is a staggering \$128 billion. As I mentioned, over a 17-year period from 2008 to now, they have raised only \$17 billion. They are short \$110 billion. They think they are going to come to the Federal Government and ask for that here? Are they going to hit the taxpayers for more? Are they going to pass more bonds to raise \$110 billion—what?—five or six times more than what they have already raised over 17 years?

There is no serious plan to even secure that kind of money. There is no credible timeline to finish the construction. There is no evidence that the California High-Speed Rail Authority is even capable of delivering or operating the system. The authority has failed to meet even the most basic terms of its Federal grant agreement.

That is why I am so pleased that Secretary Duffy has taken a good hard look at this and has come up with the conclusions they have.

They have not acted in good faith. They have downplayed the risks. They have run out of time and money. Basically, the voters—the people, everybody—have been lied to in order to keep this project alive.

□ 1030

Even Governor Newsom, about the first week or two he was in office as Governor, for a moment there he said, you know, maybe we need to relook at this thing because it is not going very well. He must have got a hot set of phone calls from some angry donors, or somewhere in the system in Sacramento, because he got right back on track, so to speak.

The Trump administration is right to put this project on notice, claw back

whatever Federal money is still unwasted in that, and make sure that not a single dollar goes toward this boondoggle.

As a Californian, I can see plenty of other needs that California has that are grave, such as our water infrastructure, our electricity infrastructure, our highways, and our levies that prevent floods. I would probably dwell mostly on the water supply situation, as more and more of it seems to be devoted to fish, running it right out to the Pacific Ocean. Less and less agriculture is being planted and operated in California, including the issue in the San Joaquin Valley where more acres are taken out, which creates a higher dust situation, which contributes to more of what is known as Valley fever, a big problem. Instead, they want to put so-called solar farms—calling solar panels "farms" is an insult anyway.

So much of the Nation's food supply comes from California, the specialty crops: tomatoes, almonds, pistachios, so many things that America consumes. Many of these crops are 100 percent grown in California or 90-plus percent grown in California. Yet, they still want to keep wasting money on this high-speed rail boondoggle that, as I said, is \$110 billion short of today's projections of finishing this thing when they have only raised \$17 billion over 17 years.

Certainly, the California High-Speed Rail Authority has shown that it can't deliver on this project. Shift the money to something else. California could build 25 large dams and store enough water to grow everything it could ever want to grow in California. It is time to focus on infrastructure that really makes a difference for Californians, the American people, and keeping food on the table.

RECOGNIZING FAUQUIER HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025

(Mr. SUBRAMANYAM of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Fauquier High School class of 2025.

Last month, the 301 graduates and their families gathered at the packed Jiffy Lube Live to celebrate this milestone.

This senior class has a lot to be proud of, including beating their teachers in the students versus faculty basketball game.

The graduates excelled not only in the classroom but also on the field and in their ability to persevere through challenges. Whether they are heading into the workforce, trade school, college, or embarking on their service at institutions like the Air Force Academy or Virginia Military Institute, the values of hard work and determination that they learned as a Falcon will always be with them.

I congratulate the class of 2025 at Fauquier High School.

RECOGNIZING RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate the Rappahannock County High School class of 2025.

This year's graduating class is a remarkable group of students, including future firefighters, servicemembers, college and trade school students, and workers ready to contribute across many sectors.

In their time at Rappahannock County High School, they have achieved a lot of great things, including bringing home a Class 1 State title for the women's basketball team and winning a Scholastic Bowl regional championship. Whether on the field, in the classroom, in the drama club, or as part of one of Rappahannock County High School's bands, I know they will carry the lessons they have learned as a Panther to whatever comes next.

I congratulate the class of 2025.

RECOGNIZING KETTLE RUN HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 287 graduates in Kettle Run High School class of 2025.

The graduates, as Cougars, have balanced life as students, teammates, and coworkers, and through it all they have learned the value of perseverance. They have excelled across a wide range of fields: In band, in chorus, and in orchestra, on the stage and in the art room. They brought home a golf State championship and led the football team all the way to the State championship game.

They left their mark on Kettle Run, and I look forward to watching all that they will accomplish in the future.

I congratulate the class of 2025 of Kettle Run High School.

RECOGNIZING LIBERTY HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2025

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 347 graduates of Liberty High School's class of 2025.

The graduates, as Eagles, have achieved so much and, most importantly, have learned how to tackle whatever challenges come next.

As their principal said to them:

You are bold, you are brilliant, and roughly a third of you are bilingual. And you are all just enough unhinged to change the world.

Whether their next stop is college, trade school, the workforce, or the military, I can't wait to see what their future has in store, and I look forward to watching them change the world. The graduates should always remember that once an Eagle, always an Eagle.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Liberty High School class of 2025.

EFFECTS OF TARIFFS IN VIRGINIA

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, in his inauguration address, President Trump declared that America was entering a golden age, a new chapter of economic prosperity.

For Virginians, and millions across the country, that promise remains

unfulfilled. Instead of prosperity, Americans are facing economic hardship and uncertainty.

This administration's steep tariffs are taking a real toll here in Virginia.

I heard from a constituent, like the one who started his own small business selling action figures. After a lot of success selling preorders of the action figures, his business is now facing budget shortfalls because they don't know what the tariffs on China will be from month to month. They don't want to raise prices on customers, but the tariffs have made it impossible to plan for his business and for his future.

They are not alone. Businesses, small and large, are feeling the pain all across the Commonwealth. They are unable to plan, unable to predict what this administration is going to do, and in many cases unable to keep their employees, or keep their doors open in some cases. This uncertainty is weighing on a lot of families as well. According to one poll, 59 percent of Virginians expect to face financial difficulty in the years ahead. This doesn't sound like the golden age. It sounds like fool's gold.

MERIT-BASED HIRING

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of merit-based hiring, especially in the Federal Government, because this administration, which has talked a lot about the evils of diversity and fired veterans left and right, is now focusing its hiring efforts exclusively on one thing, blind loyalty to the President. It is like DEI for MAGA.

According to a recent memo from the Office of Personnel Management, all of the civil servant applicants will now be required to answer a series of questions explaining which of the President's executive orders are their favorites and how they will advance the President's pet projects.

Now, to be fair, there are other countries that do similar loyalty tests, like North Korea, the former Soviet Union, and Iran, just to name a few, but those are authoritarian regimes. That seems to be this administration's model.

I ask instead that everyone should swear loyalty to this country and not to the President, and instead of spying on Federal workers and contractors and firing ones who aren't the most blindly loyal that the best are chosen, the brightest, the most qualified people to serve our Nation, to keep us healthy, safe, and secure.

PROTECTING FEDERALISM

(Ms. GREENE of Georgia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the House about a clause that is in the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

This clause would take away States' rights to make laws or regulate AI for 10 years. I think federalism is something that must always be protected, and I warn against the dangers of pro-

tecting a tech industry where we have no idea what the future of this industry will hold.

AI is rapidly developing. AI has developed quickly over the past few years. Imagine what it will be 1 year from now, 5 years from now, and 10 years from now.

When people look to the future, they cannot take away States' rights to regulate or make laws to protect the people in their State or to regulate businesses that operate in their State. That would be destroying the very foundation of this country, which is federalism. Federal power must always be limited and State power protected.

Now, the pushback and the reasons that I have been told about this is that American tech and AI companies must be able to compete with China. Well, American tech and AI companies can compete with China, and they should compete with China. However, don't destroy federalism in order to allow them to do that. That would be a fool's errand.

Here is how this can work: Governors and State legislatures can make their States friendly for tech companies in AI, bringing these companies in by making it easy for these companies to operate in their States. That is how it has been done for every single innovation, industry, manufacturing, and all companies across America. You don't destroy federalism for one industry. You protect it and allow States to compete to bring those companies into their States. That is the right way to handle this going forward.

Here is a lesson for us all. No matter what political party holds office and is in charge, my colleagues should all watch carefully the bills that are passed and should be mindful about protecting not only State rights but the rights of the American people and looking to the future.

When I was a freshman Member of Congress in 2021, I was told that America would be at war with China within 5 years. Well, here we are approaching 5 years later. I don't think America should have to go to war with China. America can beat China economically.

Ask yourself: Why do we send our food to be processed over in China? Why do we rely on China to produce our critical supply chain like medicines? Why would we depend on this country for the American people's supplies, and why would we go to war with them when we can be innovative right here at home, in America, producing critical chain supplies, medicines, and processing our own food?

A war is nothing America should ever strive for, look for, or prepare to have to engage in. Americans should conduct ourselves here at home in a way where we don't have to go to war, we don't have to depend on foreign countries, and we never destroy federalism for the future of an industry that we have no idea what it will do.

With this warning, I urge all of my colleagues that when the House gets to