

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1182, the Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety and Oversight Improvements Act.

The bill requires the Secretary of Transportation to advance a rule-making to make the standards for foreign manufacturers of compressed gas cylinders sold in the U.S. the same as standards for the domestic makers of these same cylinders.

Compressed gas cylinders are used every day in life for medical, auto, defense, oil and gas, residential, firefighting, and other purposes.

In January, the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration issued a safety advisory notice regarding unsafe cylinders being sold online to consumers, shippers, and heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning folks. These were not manufactured to American or even United Nations standards and lacked certification markings.

Using these unsafe compressed gas cylinders could cause significant damage to property, physical injury, or even death. PHMSA determined that the unmarked empty cylinders being sold in the United States on major commercial websites are primarily manufactured by non-U.S. companies. This bill requires a consistent standard for both domestic and foreign manufacturers of compressed gas cylinders.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bipartisan bill and urge my colleagues to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON).

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety and Oversight Improvements Act.

Mr. Speaker, for far too long, manufacturers in Ohio and across the Nation have had to compete on an unfair playing field. This bill restores fairness for American producers by cracking down on the import of counterfeit and dangerous gas cylinders into the United States.

My bill also holds foreign manufacturers to the same safety and inspection standards that domestic manufacturers are already required to meet.

Simply put, there is no reason that the United States Government should make it easier to manufacture these critical products abroad than it is to produce them here at home.

To be sold in interstate commerce, the Department of Transportation requires compressed gas cylinders to be manufactured to specific standards and properly stamped. Currently, the Department of Transportation's Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA, inspects facilities in the United States at least once per year to ensure compliance with safety requirements. However, for

cylinders manufactured in foreign countries and then sold and imported into the United States, PHMSA only inspects those facilities once every 5 years.

Over time, certain foreign producers have deliberately evaded safety and regulatory standards to gain a competitive advantage over domestic producers, potentially jeopardizing public safety in the process.

This bill ensures that PHMSA has the necessary tools to conduct more frequent inspections at foreign manufacturing facilities and to hold bad actors accountable.

I thank my friend, the chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, for his support in moving this bill forward. I also thank my colleague from Illinois (Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY), my co-lead on this legislation, for his partnership and commitment to advancing this important legislation.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I will close by saying that I support the Compressed Gas Cylinder Safety and Oversight Improvements Act. I encourage my colleagues to do the same, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1182 will better protect the public from the dangers of poorly manufactured and mislabeled compressed gas cylinders.

This legislation will also better ensure fair competition for American manufacturers and workers.

Further, H.R. 1182 improves transparency by requiring all applications to be subject to public review and input. It ensures that the United States regulators have access to any and all pertinent information regarding applicants.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON) for leading this important bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of 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 Mississippi (Mr. EZELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1182.

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.

#### TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2025

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1373) to require certain meetings of the Tennessee Valley Authority to be transparent and open to the public, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1373

*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 "Tennessee Valley Authority Transparency Act of 2025".*

#### SEC. 2. TRANSPARENCY AND AVAILABILITY OF MEETINGS.

*Section 2(g)(2) of the Tennessee Valley Authority Act of 1933 is amended to read as follows:*

*"(2) MEETINGS.—*

*"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board shall meet at least 4 times each year.*

*"(B) TRANSPARENCY.—*

*"(i) OPEN MEETINGS.—For purposes of applying the requirements of section 552b of title 5, United States Code, to the Board, the term 'meeting' shall include all deliberations of the members of the Board, a committee of the Board, and a subcommittee of the Board, including any such deliberations that are not scheduled for the purpose of taking an action that will determine or result in the joint conduct or disposition of official business of the Corporation, notwithstanding subsection (a)(2) of such section.*

*"(ii) NOTICE OF MEETINGS.—*

*"(I) PUBLICATION.—For purposes of section 552b of title 5, United States Code, public announcement of meetings shall include publication on the website of the Board.*

*"(II) EMERGENCY MEETINGS.—Notwithstanding section 552b(e)(1) of title 5, United States Code, the requirement to make public announcement at least one week prior to a meeting shall not apply if the chairman of the Board designates the meeting as an emergency special meeting.*

*"(iii) PUBLICLY AVAILABLE INFORMATION.—The Board shall publish on the website of the Board any information required to be disclosed or made available to the public, or publicly certified, under section 552b of title 5, United States Code.*

*"(iv) EXEMPTIONS.—For purposes of applying section 552b of title 5, United States Code, to any portion of a meeting of the Board, and to any information pertaining to such portion of a meeting, the Board may make a determination in accordance with such section not to disclose to the public under such section the following information:*

*"(I) Information containing or relating to power availability requests.*

*"(II) Information containing or relating to contract negotiations, including labor relations and procurement actions, the disclosure of which would imperil or compromise the competitive position of the Corporation."*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EZELL. 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 in the RECORD on H.R. 1373, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressmen BURCHETT and COHEN for their continued work in the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to make the

Tennessee Valley Authority transparent for its customers. This bill is the latest in those efforts.

Specifically, this bill puts into law practices that make more meetings open to the public and ensures that minutes from those meetings are publicly available after the fact.

The bill also contains limited exceptions for meetings involving sensitive information in order to protect TVA's competitiveness and ability to carry out its mission for its customers.

Mr. Speaker, I support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1373, as amended, bipartisan legislation to promote additional transparency of board meetings of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

I thank Representatives COHEN and BURCHETT of Tennessee for their leadership on this bill and their tireless work to improve the TVA.

TVA is the Nation's largest government-owned wholesale power producer, supplying power to 10 million people across the States of Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, Virginia, and Kentucky.

This legislation requires TVA's board meetings to be open to the public when possible, which will increase transparency for the communities impacted by TVA's decisions.

Mr. Speaker, I support H.R. 1373, as amended, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman EZELL for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan Tennessee Valley Authority Transparency Act.

TVA is a congressionally chartered American public power company that provides electricity to over 10 million people in Tennessee and six surrounding States.

Despite TVA's significant role in our daily lives, it holds most of its meetings behind closed doors. I believe Americans are sick and tired of these dadgum backroom dealings, Mr. Speaker.

The TVA Transparency Act requires all board meetings to be held in public and for TVA to provide at least 7 days' notice so that people know when and where the meetings occur.

This bill provides greater accountability to the American people while retaining reasonable FOIA—for those who don't understand what "FOIA" is, that is the Freedom of Information Act—and Sunset Act protections.

I have always advocated for more transparency at TVA, first in the State legislature, then as a mayor, and now as a Congressman.

I thank my good friend, Representative COHEN, who I don't see in here today, for his continued support. STEVE and I were in the Tennessee General Assembly together. We raised the speed limit in Tennessee. We brought Isaac Hayes to the floor of the Tennessee State Senate. The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) is the first person who ever fed me lobster, oddly enough. He has been a great friend, and he also called my momma when my daddy died. I am very close to STEVE. Even though our political allegiances are about as far apart as they can get, he is still my good friend.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this bipartisan bill and restore public trust in TVA.

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Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, in closing, Congress must ensure that TVA's operations are transparent.

I support H.R. 1373, as amended, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1373, the TVA Transparency Act is a commonsense bill that makes Tennessee Valley Authority more transparent while ensuring it can serve its customers effectively.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of 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 Mississippi (Mr. EZELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1373, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION AUTHORITY

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1948) to authorize the International Boundary and Water Commission to accept funds for activities relating to wastewater treatment and flood control works, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1948

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION AUTHORITY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Commission is authorized to accept funds from a Federal or non-Federal entity, including through a grant or funding agreement, to study, design, construct, operate, or maintain wastewater treatment works, water conservation projects, or flood control works, and related

structures, consistent with the functions of the Commission.

(b) DEPOSIT.—Any funds accepted by the Commission under this section shall be deposited into the account in the Treasury of the United States entitled "International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico" and shall be available until expended to carry out the activities described in subsection (a).

#### (c) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) LIMIT ON REIMBURSEMENT.—The Commission may not provide credit towards the non-Federal share of the cost of a project, or reimbursement, to non-Federal entities for funds accepted under this section in an amount that exceeds a total of \$5,000,000 in any fiscal year.

(2) SOURCE OF FUNDS.—The Commission may not accept funds under this section from any non-Federal entity—

(A) that is domiciled in, headquartered in, or organized under the laws of, or the principal place of business of which is located in, a foreign country of concern; or

(B) that has in place any agreement with a foreign country of concern.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than the last day of each fiscal year, the Commission shall submit to the Committees on Foreign Relations and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report on the funds accepted under this section that includes a description of—

(1) the activities carried out with such funds; and

(2) costs associated with such activities.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMISSION.—The term "Commission" means the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, United States and Mexico.

(2) FOREIGN COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term "foreign country of concern" has the meaning given that term in section 10638 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19237).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Mississippi.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. EZELL. 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 in the RECORD on H.R. 1948, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1948 would allow the United States section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, or IBWC, to receive additional funding from other Federal and non-Federal partners to support water and wastewater infrastructure.

The IBWC is already authorized to receive funds from the Environmental Protection Agency, but this bill will allow the IBWC to partner with other agencies and entities, such as the Department of Homeland Security, to address the maintenance backlog for critical water infrastructure.