

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.

This legislation will allow the IBWC to access more funding sources so it can maintain these assets and, in turn, help provide cleaner water for our warfighters to train in and strengthen our security posture along our southern border.

Enacting the bill would help advance the Trump administration's priorities as outlined in the President's fiscal year 2026 budget request.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of 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. 1948, as amended, bipartisan legislation to assist the U.S. section of the International Boundary and Water Commission, or IBWC, in carrying out its critical water-related missions.

This bill allows IBWC to accept contributed funds from other Federal and State agencies, giving the Commission the authority other Federal infrastructure agencies already have.

This authority will allow the IBWC to partner with other Federal agencies and non-Federal interests to carry out critical water-related projects, including projects for wastewater treatment, water conservation, and flood control. I support H.R. 1948, as amended, and urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS).

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, H.R. 1948, allows the International Boundary and Water Commission, or IBWC, to accept up to \$5 million per year from other Federal agencies or outside entities like cities, States, and nonprofit organizations for wastewater treatment and flood control projects like those that would fight the cross-border sewage crisis in and around San Diego and Coronado.

The IBWC has jurisdiction over the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant in San Diego, where longstanding operational and maintenance failures have allowed raw sewage to flow from the Tijuana River onto San Diego's beaches. This has created a public health crisis that strains local resources, poses significant environmental risks, and forces servicemembers to train in polluted sewage water.

Under current law, Federal agencies, State governments, and local entities cannot transfer funds to projects under IBWC's jurisdiction. This leaves IBWC solely reliant on annual appropriations or emergency funding to build and maintain its facilities.

My office, along with the rest of the San Diego delegation and our California senators, have worked hard to secure \$360 million in emergency fund-

ing to help address chronic issues at the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant. This bill would provide another tool to ensure that San Diego and Coronado do not need to move from emergency to emergency to secure adequate funding for this plant.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who have helped move the ball forward on this issue, including the San Diego delegation, our California senators, and my colleagues who are former Navy SEALs, who understand the harm of training in these polluted waters.

I also thank the cities of San Diego, Coronado, Imperial Beach, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce, San Diego Coastkeeper, WILDCOAST, and other San Diegans who have made stopping this catastrophe a top priority.

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

Mr. LARSEN of Washington. Mr. Speaker, the IBWC plays a crucial role in addressing water needs across the U.S.-Mexico border. I support H.R. 1948, as amended, to ensure the IBWC has the authority necessary to carry out its critical work and urge my colleagues to support this bill, as well.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1948 is a strong, bipartisan bill that advances the Trump administration's priorities that helps the IBWC effectively manage critical water infrastructure along the southern border.

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. 1948, 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.

SECURE OUR PORTS ACT OF 2025

Mr. EZELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 252) to amend title 46, United States Code, to prohibit certain contracts for port operations and management, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 252

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 "Secure Our Ports Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON CERTAIN CONTRACTS FOR PORT OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subchapter II of chapter 700 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"§ 70015. Prohibition on certain contracts for port operation and management"

"(a) *IN GENERAL.*—An owner or operator of a facility for which a facility security plan is required under section 70103(c) of this title may not enter into a contract for the ownership, leasing, or operation of such facility with an entity that is—

"(1) a Chinese, Russian, North Korean, or Iranian state-owned enterprise; or

"(2) a foreign entity for which any percentage is owned by a country listed in paragraph (1).

"(b) *DEFINITIONS.*—In this section, the terms 'facility', and 'owner or operator' have the meanings given such terms in section 70101 of this title."

(b) *CLERICAL AMENDMENT.*—The analysis for chapter 700 of title 46, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 70014 the following:

"70015. Prohibition on certain contracts for port operation and management."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. EZELL) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CARBAJAL) 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. 252, 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, H.R. 252 takes important steps to strengthen the security of our supply chains by limiting the ability of the Chinese, Russian, North Korean, or Iranian state-owned entities to own, lease, or operate port terminals in this country.

This legislation will ensure that our ports remain safe from both cyber and physical threats, which increases our national security posture.

I commend my colleague from California (Mr. CALVERT) for leading on this issue and working to strengthen our Nation's posture against our adversaries.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, if the port congestion and vessel backlogs associated with the COVID-19 pandemic taught us anything, it is the importance of a resilient supply chain.

H.R. 252, the Secure Our Ports Act, works to minimize interference in U.S. ports from foreign adversaries. In order to ensure the free flow of cargo into and out of our country, we must ensure full control over and investment in our ports.