

This bill will help ensure we keep that flow of investment strong and that such investments support quality, good-paying jobs right here at home. It must be coupled with Federal trade policies coming from the White House and this Congress that encourages stability in the marketplace, protects our relationships with close trading partners, and lowers costs for American families.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Representatives KELLY and EVANS for their leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from the State of Colorado (Mr. EVANS), a true public servant.

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in strong support of my bipartisan bill, the Global Investment in American Jobs Act.

Mr. Speaker, this is a critical piece of legislation that will help bolster American competitiveness in the face of increasing economic aggression from the Chinese Communist Party, all while helping to create jobs in my home State of Colorado and all across the Nation.

First and foremost, I extend my gratitude to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) for helping to introduce this bill with me. I am proud to work with her in a bipartisan fashion to advance this bill first through the Energy and Commerce Committee and now onto the House floor.

In Colorado alone, there are more than 126,000 workers that are the direct result of foreign direct investment. Of these workers, 31 percent work in manufacturing roles. These jobs, like other good, blue-collar jobs in my district, provide stable, good-paying careers to constituents to help provide for their families. Oftentimes, these jobs are obtainable to folks with a high school degree after a quick and affordable career technical education course.

My bill tasks the Secretary of Commerce with conducting an interagency review to help create a more favorable environment for foreign direct investment, ultimately boosting our economy and benefiting American workers.

International companies are beginning to recognize what most of us have known for decades. The American worker is among the most talented in the world. Whether it is energy, technology, or chemicals, Americans produce some of the highest quality products in the cleanest, most efficient, and socially responsible ways possible.

With the resurgence in America's manufacturing industry, global investors are now clamoring to pump money into emerging industries in the U.S. Congress needs to ensure that we as a Nation are striking the right approach in courting international companies and facilitating responsible investments.

This legislation doesn't just help create good-paying jobs. It also helps to ensure that America remains competitive with the Chinese Communist Party by retaining our technological advantage in research and development.

International employers in the U.S. account for more than \$80 billion in research and development. With this bill, Congress can take a major step in seeing this number increase over the coming years.

This isn't just something that we should consider doing. It is necessary. In the face of increasingly unscrupulous tactics from the Chinese Communist Party such as rampant intellectual property theft, corporate espionage, the use of slave labor, and environmentally reckless energy practices, it is imperative for the United States to leverage every available tool to bolster American industry, such as this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Global Investment in American Jobs Act to maintain Americans' competitive edge, invest in our domestic talent, bring more jobs home, and drive innovation to usher in the next era of manufacturing dominance in the United States.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I know in my district that foreign direct investment is important in creating jobs. I would certainly say that nationally this is an important piece of legislation. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a "yes" vote on this particular bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1679.

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.

WASTEWATER INFRASTRUCTURE POLLUTION PREVENTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY ACT

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2269) to require certain products to be labeled with "Do Not Flush" labeling, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2269

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 "Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act" or the "WIPPES Act".

SEC. 2. "DO NOT FLUSH" LABELING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—A covered entity shall label a covered product clearly and conspicuously with the label notice and symbol, in accordance with subsections (b) and (c).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) CYLINDRICAL PACKAGING.—In the case of a covered product sold in cylindrical or near-cylindrical packaging, and intended to dispense individual wipes—

(A) the symbol and label notice shall be displayed on the principal display panel in a clear and conspicuous location reasonably visible to the user each time a wipe is dispensed; or

(B) the symbol shall be displayed on the principal display panel and the label notice, or a combination of the label notice and symbol, shall be displayed on a flip lid in a manner that covers at least 8 percent of the surface area of the flip lid.

(2) FLEXIBLE FILM PACKAGING.—In the case of a covered product sold in flexible film packaging, and intended to dispense individual wipes—

(A) the symbol shall be displayed on the principal display panel and, if the principal display panel is not on the dispensing side of the packaging, on the dispensing side panel; and

(B) the label notice shall be displayed on either the principal display panel or the dispensing side panel, in a clear and conspicuous location reasonably visible to the user each time a wipe is dispensed.

(3) RIGID PACKAGING.—In the case of a covered product sold in a refillable tub or other rigid packaging that may be reused by a customer, and that is intended to dispense individual wipes, the symbol and label notice shall be displayed on the principal display panel in a clear and conspicuous location reasonably visible to the user each time a wipe is dispensed.

(4) PACKAGING NOT INTENDED TO DISPENSE INDIVIDUAL WIPES.—In the case of a covered product sold in packaging that is not intended to dispense individual wipes, the symbol and label notice shall be displayed on the principal display panel in a clear and conspicuous location reasonably visible to the user of the covered product.

(5) BULK PACKAGING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a covered product sold in bulk at retail, the symbol and label notice shall be displayed on both the outer packaging visible at retail and the individual packaging contained within the outer packaging.

(B) EXEMPTION.—The following shall be exempt from the requirements of subparagraph (A):

(i) Individually packaged covered products that are contained within outer packaging, are not intended to dispense individual wipes, and have no retail labeling.

(ii) Outer packaging that does not obscure the symbol and label notice on individually packaged covered products contained within.

(6) PACKAGING OF COMBINED PRODUCTS.—

(A) OUTER PACKAGING.—The outer packaging of combined products shall be exempt from the symbol and label notice requirements of subsection (a).

(B) PACKAGES LESS THAN 3 BY 3 INCHES.—In the case of a covered product in packaging smaller than 3 inches by 3 inches (such as an individually packaged wipe in tear-top packaging) and sold as part of a combined product, if a symbol and label notice are placed in a prominent location reasonably visible to the user of the covered product, such covered product shall be considered to be labeled clearly and conspicuously.

(c) REASONABLE VISIBILITY OF SYMBOL AND LABEL NOTICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered entity shall ensure that—

(A) packaging seams or folds or other packaging design elements do not obscure the symbol or label notice;

(B) the symbol and label notice are each equal in size to at least 2 percent of the surface area of the principal display panel; and

(C) the symbol and label notice have high contrast with the immediate background of the packaging so that such symbol and label notice may be seen and read by an ordinary individual under customary conditions of purchase and use.

(2) PROXIMITY OF SYMBOL AND LABEL NOTICE.—A covered entity may display a symbol and label notice either adjacent to or on separate areas of the principal display panel.

(3) EXCEPTION.—Paragraph (1)(C) does not apply to an embossed symbol or label notice on the flip lid of a covered product sold in cylindrical or near-cylindrical packaging.

(d) REPRESENTATIONS OF FLUSHABILITY.—With respect to a covered product, a covered entity may not make any express or implied representation that such covered product can or should be flushed.

(e) ENFORCEMENT BY FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of this section or any regulation promulgated under this section shall be treated as a violation of a regulation under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)) regarding unfair or deceptive acts or practices.

(2) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—The Commission shall enforce this section and any regulations promulgated under this section by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties, as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section, and any person who violates this section or any regulation promulgated under this section shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act.

(3) REGULATIONS.—The Commission may promulgate regulations under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, to implement this section. In developing the regulations, the Commission may consult with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, or any other agency as appropriate.

(4) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit the authority of the Commission under any other provision of law.

(f) PREEMPTION OF STATE LAWS.—No State or political subdivision of a State may directly or indirectly establish or continue in effect, under any authority, requirements with respect to the “Do Not Flush” labeling of covered products that are not identical to the requirements of this section and the regulations promulgated under this section.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMBINED PRODUCT.—The term “combined product” means two or more products sold in shared retail packaging, of which—

(A) at least one of the products is a covered product; and

(B) at least one of the products is another consumer product intended to be used in combination with such covered product.

(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

(3) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered entity” means a manufacturer, wholesaler, supplier, individual or group of individuals, or retailer that is responsible for the labeling or retail packaging of a covered product that is sold or offered for retail sale in the United States.

(4) COVERED PRODUCT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “covered product” means a premoistened, nonwoven disposable wipe sold or offered for retail sale—

(i) that is marketed as a baby wipe or diapering wipe; or

(ii) that is a household or personal care wipe (including a wipe described in subparagraph (B)) that—

(I) is composed entirely, or in part, of petrochemical-derived fibers; and

(II) has significant potential to be flushed.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The wipes described in this subparagraph are—

(i) antibacterial wipes and disinfecting wipes;

(ii) wipes intended for general purpose cleaning or bathroom cleaning, including toilet cleaning and hard surface cleaning; and

(iii) wipes intended for personal care use on the body, including hand sanitizing, makeup removal, feminine hygiene, adult hygiene (including incontinence hygiene), and body cleansing.

(5) HIGH CONTRAST.—The term “high contrast” means, with respect to the symbol or label notice, that such symbol or label notice—

(A) is either light on a solid dark background or dark on a solid light background; and

(B) has a contrast percentage of at least 70 percent between such symbol or label notice and the background, using the formula $(B1 - B2) / B1 * 100 = \text{contrast percentage}$, where B1 is the light reflectance value of the lighter area and B2 is the light reflectance value of the darker area.

(6) LABEL NOTICE.—The term “label notice” means the written phrase “Do Not Flush”.

(7) PRINCIPAL DISPLAY PANEL.—The term “principal display panel” means the side of a product package that is most likely to be displayed, presented, or shown under customary conditions of display for retail sale, and—

(A) in the case of a cylindrical or near-cylindrical package, the surface area of which constitutes at least 40 percent of the product package, as measured by multiplying the height by the circumference of the package; or

(B) in the case of a flexible film package in which a rectangular prism or near-rectangular prism stack of wipes is housed within the film, the surface area of which is measured by multiplying the length by the width of the side of the package when the flexible packaging film is pressed flat against the stack of wipes on all sides of the stack.

(8) STATE.—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, and each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States.

(9) SYMBOL.—The term “symbol” means the “Do Not Flush” symbol, as depicted in the most recent edition of the Guidelines for Assessing the Flushability of Disposable Nonwoven Products published by the Association of the Nonwoven Fabrics Industry (INDA) and the European Disposables And Nonwovens Association (EDANA), or an otherwise equivalent symbol adopted by the Commission through rulemaking under this section.

(h) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to a covered entity beginning on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

□ 1500

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on this particular bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2269, the Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act, or the WIPPEES Act, led by Representative McCLAIN. The bipartisan, bicameral bill mandates wet wipe manufacturers to label their products as nonflushable. In doing so, it will provide consumers with clearer guidance, thereby saving local water utilities millions of dollars a year from preventable sewer blockages.

I appreciate Chairperson McCLAIN's efforts to advance the WIPPEES Act, along with Senator MERKLEY and Representative MULLIN.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this bill, H.R. 2269, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 2269, the WIPPEES Act.

The improper disposal of nonflushable wipes can damage plumbing and lead to environmental contamination and pollution. Environmentalists from across the country have expressed the need for manufacturers to clearly label their wet wipe products so consumers know how to properly dispose of them.

This bill ensures that wipe manufacturers, and other covered entities, clearly and conspicuously label nonflushable wipes as just that.

By requiring these labels on the packaging of all nonflushable wipes, this bill will help ensure our plumbing and wastewater treatment facilities do not break down as a result of these wipes.

However, the implementation and enforcement of this bill requires a strong, independent, and bipartisan Federal Trade Commission. House Republicans have stood by in silence as this critical agency is being compromised by President Trump's illegal attempts to remove the two Democratic commissioners from their posts, undermining the legitimacy and transparency of the FTC.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my Republican colleagues to stand up for the two representatives, or I should say for the restoration of an independent FTC, to ensure this bill and the many others that are tasked with implementing are fully effective and enforced without fear or favor. We need a strong FTC.

I commend Representatives MULLIN and McCLAIN for their leadership of

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. McCLAIN).

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for my bill, the Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act, better known as the WIPPES Act.

This commonsense, bipartisan bill addresses a costly and growing problem in our communities. Every year, Michiganders' water utilities spend over \$18 million responding to clogs and damage caused by nonflushable wipes. These products, when disposed of incorrectly, create massive blockages in our wastewater systems, which lead to backups, environmental hazards, costly repairs, and, ultimately, higher rates for our constituents.

The solution is simple: clear, honest labeling.

This bill does not ban wipes. It does not burden small businesses. It simply requires manufacturers to label packaging for wipes that aren't designed to be flushed.

This legislation isn't just about preventing clogged pipes. It is about protecting taxpayer dollars and ensuring our infrastructure can last for years to come.

The WIPPES Act passed the House last Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support, and I am proud to lead this legislation alongside Congressman KEVIN MULLIN again this Congress and call on the Senate to take it up.

Functioning infrastructure and lower utility costs are not partisan issues. They are priorities we should all share.

Let's pass the WIPPES Act. Let's give our local public works departments, utilities, and consumers the tools they need to keep our systems flowing and our communities safe.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge support for this legislation. I do think that from an environmental point of view and to protect our waste treatment facilities this is important legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I encourage a "yes" vote on this particular 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 Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2269.

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.

AWNING SAFETY ACT OF 2025

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1767) to require the Consumer Product Safety Commission to promulgate a mandatory consumer product safety standard with respect to retractable awnings.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1767

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 "Awning Safety Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD FOR RETRACTABLE AWNINGS.

(a) CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY STANDARD REQUIRED.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Consumer Product Safety Commission shall promulgate, under section 553 of title 5, United States Code, a final consumer product safety standard for fixed and free-standing retractable awnings within the jurisdiction of the Commission to protect against the risk of death or serious injury related to the hazards associated with such awnings, including the risk of death or serious injury related to the awning unexpectedly opening and striking a person while removing the bungee tie-downs for the cover of the awning.

(b) CPSC DETERMINATION OF SCOPE.—The Consumer Product Safety Commission shall specify the types of retractable awning devices within the jurisdiction of the Commission that are within the scope of subsection (a) as part of a standard promulgated under this section, as reasonably necessary to protect against hazards associated with retractable awnings.

(c) TREATMENT OF STANDARD.—A consumer product safety standard promulgated under subsection (a) shall be treated as a consumer product safety rule promulgated under sections 7 and 9 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2056 and 2058).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on this particular bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1767, the Awning Safety Act of 2025, led by my good friend, Representative BALDERSON.

This legislation directs the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a consumer product safety standard for retractable awnings to help prevent serious injuries and deaths.

Motorized awnings pose a known hazard to the public, so the CPSC issued a

recall covering 270,000 units following reports of injuries and one tragic death unfortunately. These preventable incidents occur when the tie-downs on the awning unexpectedly release, causing the awning to strike the consumer.

Coming from the State of Florida, I know how important this is, and I know how popular awnings are, but they have to be safe for consumers. Consumers should not have to fear that their awning might suddenly spring open and cause harm. This bill will make sure they won't have that problem.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this particular bill. I commend the primary sponsor, my good friend, Mr. BALDERSON, from the great State of Ohio.

H.R. 1767 should be passed by this body and sent over to the Senate.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of H.R. 1767, the Awning Safety Act.

In 2019, the Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a recall of 270,000 motorized awnings sold in the United States that had caused six injuries and, tragically, one death. While I commend the CPSC for taking action to protect Americans from this hazardous product, we must do more to ensure that awning products available to consumers are safe, regardless of brand or manufacturer. American families should be able to enjoy the shade without fear of injury or death from the awning that they use.

Now, the Awning Safety Act would require the CPSC to create a safety standard for fixed and free-standing retractable awnings. While the CPSC has taken action through individual recalls on occasion, there is no voluntary or mandatory standard to these awnings, and injuries continue to mount.

In 2023, Dr. Michael Hnat was the father of a former committee Republican staffer, and I believe that she is in the gallery today with her mother. Dr. Hnat was tragically killed as the result of an accident involving a retractable awning. We must act to ensure that other American families do not suffer a similar tragedy because of problems with retractable awnings.

However, compliance with this bill depends on the existence of a strong, bipartisan, and independent CPSC to protect Americans from unsafe products. At the same time as my Republican colleagues praise this bill, they have continued to remain silent on President Trump's willingness to risk the safety of American children and families by attempting to unlawfully remove Democratic CPSC commissioners and planning to eliminate the CPSC altogether.

I am pleased a district court recently upheld the law and reinstated the Democratic commissioners to their posts, but the Trump administration is