

STANDING UP FOR LIFE

(Mr. LAMALFA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, today marks 52 years since that fateful Roe v. Wade decision, a decision that has tragically ended countless unborn lives. The Supreme Court, not too long ago, did find that it was unconstitutionally put in place, not legislated, but done by the stroke of a pen at a court.

This week, thousands of people across the country are coming together in Washington for the March for Life, showing their unwavering commitment to standing up for the unborn and pushing for a culture that values and protects life.

Every life is precious. It is our duty to defend those who can't speak for themselves, even though there are those that would say it is just a clump of cells. Well, those clumps of cells always, always, every time develop into a human, not a puppy, not a waffle, always a human. For people to try and deny that science is ridiculous.

That is why I am honored to receive the A+ rating by the Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life Scorecard for the 118th Congress, a recognition of my own dedication, but that of so many of my colleagues, as well, that we all back each other up on.

Protecting life doesn't stop there. We need to make sure that mothers have the information they need and the support they need so they can make informed decisions, rather than glossed over by abortionists.

JEEP STELLANTIS' REINVESTMENT IN AMERICA

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I can hear the cheers rising in Toledo, Ohio, the 100-year legacy home of Jeep, of Jeep Wrangler, Jeep Gladiator. And I can hear the cheers coming from Shawn Fain, the President of the United Autoworkers Nationwide; and regionally, Bruce Baumhower, the Local 12 president; Dave Green, the regional leader of Region 2B; and Tony Totty, the president of Local 14.

This afternoon, Chairman John Elkan from Jeep Stellantis announced plans by Jeep Stellantis to reinvest in industrial America. In Toledo, Ohio, they will invest in order to produce—and I am reading directly from his remarks—taking, “product actions for Jeep Wrangler and Jeep Gladiator in our Toledo assembly complex, and more components critical to our production in the Toledo machining plant.”

This means jobs, living-wage jobs, jobs with retirement benefits, jobs in the middle class. He also announced in

Belvidere, Illinois; Detroit, Michigan; and Kokomo, Indiana similar investments.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the leaders of Jeep Stellantis and their union workers for keeping their word to America's workers. God bless them, and God bless America.

HITTING THE GROUND RUNNING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KENNEDY of Utah). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. 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 the topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, with President Trump officially in the White House and the inauguration festivities behind us, House Republicans are hitting the ground running this week on critical bills to protect the most vulnerable among us and to respond to the devastating wildfires ravaging throughout southern California.

Just to capture what just happened maybe 30 minutes ago, in the House of Representatives, we just passed the final version of the Laken Riley Act, which is commonsense, immigration border security protocols that put the lives of Americans first.

It is so commonsense, I am going to highlight: There are two people, and primarily probably just one, that made this so we couldn't do this a year and a half ago when it should have been done in the 118th Congress.

We just had over a dozen Democrats in the Senate vote for this bill. We had numerous Democrats in the House also support this bill. What is the difference today versus 6, 8 months ago when we tried to pass this? It is Senator SCHUMER.

Senator SCHUMER, as the leader of the Senate, would not allow for this bill to come up. He told those 12 Democrats in the Senate, I am not going to give you a chance to actually vote for sensible border security about the life lost of a Georgian because of absolutely insane border falter from President Biden.

CHUCK SCHUMER basically said to a big portion of his Democratic Senators: I am not going to give you a chance to vote on something sensible. The House sent it over to us. We are not going to vote on it.

One change was made. Senator JOHN THUNE was put in the leadership position where he, with Republican Senators, decided to bring this to the floor, and a dozen or so Senators came on board from the Democrat side and voted for something sensible.

I wish the American people would truly understand that that is why elections are so important. That is why you put conservative leadership over in the Senate coupled with what we are doing in the House to provide sensible legislation, not extreme legislation like when it gets highlighted.

□ 1730

Mr. Speaker, it is literally going to make a positive impact, and that is just the second day. President Trump now has something to sign and show the American people that he hears us and he is ready to go and move about this.

I commend the bipartisan group of individuals from the Democratic Party in the House and the Senate that were willing to sort of buck the trend and say let's do this. I am very excited about that. I make that point. Obviously, I am a little frustrated it took so much time. It should have been brought up under Senator CHUCK SCHUMER when he was the majority leader. That is clearly not the way he is going to govern.

Who knows if President Trump would have signed it. If the Senate leaders are going to push, you can sometimes get something across the finish line in the White House, even in an opposing White House.

We got that done today. This week we are focusing on Congresswoman WAGNER's Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, another very commonsense piece of legislation that protects the fundamental right to life by ensuring that babies who survive an attempted abortion receive the same medical care health providers would have administered to a fetus born at the same age.

If a baby survives an abortion, this bill says to that physician they have to administer the same healthcare treatments that they would in any other labor situation. This legislation also requires that healthcare providers transport the child to the hospital and report abortion violations to law enforcement.

As southern California continues to struggle with devastating wildfires, House Republicans are also supporting Chairman WESTERMAN's Fix Our Forests Act which enhances resiliency after wildfires and reduces regulatory burdens that hinder active forest management.

I am grateful to my colleagues for joining me this evening to discuss these necessary pieces of legislation. I gladly yield to my colleague from Wisconsin (Mr. VAN ORDEN).

Mr. VAN ORDEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I look at this issue from a different perspective. I was a combat medic in the United States Navy SEALs teams for over two decades. If I had encountered an enemy combatant that was injured on the battlefield, and I have, if I did not render medical aid

to the best of my ability, up to and including to the detriment of my own troops, I would be subject to prosecution.

When we talk about the most innocent amongst us, unborn children, who survive the most traumatic circumstances imaginable, an attempted abortion, when we say as a body that we will not render medical aid to that human child, we are less of a people.

Unfortunately, tomorrow we are going to hear many of my Democrat colleagues say that this bill is to restrict a woman's right to have an abortion. That is a lie. We are going to hear many of my Democrat colleagues say that this is vindictive. That is a lie. We are going to hear many of my Democrat colleagues say that Republicans want to burden women who find themselves in a place where they feel like they must abort their unborn human child. That is a lie. Enough.

This is about the sanctity of human life, the dignity of a child, and our ability as a nation and as a body to express humanity to someone who has done nothing wrong, not to themselves, not to our culture, not to our society.

I implore my Democrat colleagues to look at the life of a human child that has survived possibly the most traumatic circumstance, an attempted abortion, and think of that child as someone that is a child of God, that is the apex of creation because that is exactly what that child is. They deserve all of the respect that we can possibly give them because they are our children.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for his passion. It is always appreciated.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the good gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing more of his perspective on what is ravaging through his State. Our hearts go out to those affected. As we hear many conversations about the California wildfires, we constantly hear that concern for the human element of this and a sincere desire to find improvements in how we can support them now and address this going forward.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding the time. I appreciate it a lot.

If viewers watch this channel a whole lot, they might see me on the floor talking about forestry and water, whether it is California or the whole West. I know it greatly affects my colleague from Utah, too. The forest fires and lack of forest management is appalling.

Why do we have to suffer this year after year when we know what actually works? When the Forest Services should be doing its job and treating more acres in a timeline that is much more rapid, when we want to say increase the pace and scale of doing so. It just doesn't happen.

We know they face lawsuits all the time. At some point we have to beat

the lawsuits, let them come, but get the work done. Be bold. Be strong. Take them on. At some point it has got to be proven that what we are doing is the right thing, even though there is a liberal judge in San Francisco or somewhere that is trying to say that we have to restudy once again for a salamander or something like that.

When we have the kind of destruction that we see time and time again in our forests, especially in the Western States, then we will just keep suffering it. There is no reason for that. We have been working on the Fix Our Forests Act this week. My colleague and chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, Mr. WESTERMAN, has been working a long time on this. It is a very practical bipartisan plan to tackle the wildfire crisis and finally start managing the forest correctly. We see the destruction.

One fire in my district called the Dixie fire 3 years ago was a million acres. Several other fires were in the six-digit number such as the North Complex. The Camp fire was several hundred thousand acres but also took 85 lives in the town of Paradise.

What we see is the destruction in Los Angeles. It is unspeakable what is going on down there. Unfortunately, I have already lived that in 3½ communities of mine in the North State that were almost completely lost in fires the last few years.

It is heartbreaking, and it is mostly avoidable. We are going to have fires. They are going to happen. If we have managed lands, it is much easier to put fire out and control it.

When we look at the picture here, a managed forest is a better forest. It is better for the forest health itself. It is better for the wildlife in it. It is much easier to control fire and put fire out with the way fires behave. When we see this managed forest here on the far side of the poster, this is thin. This is how forest used to look 120 years ago.

We have let them fill in too much because we have had the stance of putting out all fires or at least we did for a while. The forest became built up like this. It is very dense. It is hard for the wildlife to even get through there. The old standard was could a cowboy ride a horse through there like the first explorers who came to the West. They can't now.

This is a tinderbox. Trees compete for very limited water supply, especially in a drought period. When they compete for limited water, it harms the tree. The tree struggles, and then it becomes weak. It becomes susceptible to insects waiting to take advantage. They know a weak tree.

A tree's self-defense mechanism is the sap that it produces when it is healthy. When that sap is there, if a borer tries to bore into that tree, the sap tends to push that insect out. It works pretty well. If the tree is weak, it doesn't make as much of that sap. The tree gets killed over time.

There is an area in eastern-central California, east of Fresno. We have

gone camping up there before. This area all looks green. If we look at that area, about every other tree is gray. If lightning ever hits that, if something happens there, it will be yet the next fire. They keep happening.

The Park fire that happened in Chico, California, near my home, 400,000 acres. It blew from that area east of Chico all the way up to basically right near Lassen Volcanic National Park. We can't get used to these six-digit numbers for fires. The amount of resources it takes, the amount of firefighters, and the amount of people who put themselves in a dangerous way to do this is unnecessary.

Let's defeat these environmental lawsuits. Let's defeat these naysayers because this makes sense here. This doesn't. We keep losing this. We see the issue. Let's take southern California since that is the topic right now and for good reason. We have to manage these grasslands and these brushlands that are around. They are not forested per se. That is a little farther east of L.A. and those areas. It is the same thing. If this brush is managed, then they have a better chance, when the Santa Ana winds come up every year, of being able to control or stop the fire. It won't be perfect every time, but it gives them a fighting chance.

They had been doing it. For some reason this year they suspended that work. There were budget cuts. What are they spending the money on? That has been a hot topic of giving California money and yet it seems they are not helping themselves.

That is my home State, and I have been frustrated for a long time. They spend a lot of money on a lot of other things. They want more Federal money. They are still wasting money on the high-speed rail. They want to give more money to illegal immigration and benefits for that. The State is trying to set aside \$50 million to fight Trump. What is that all about?

They want to ask for money here and say we are putting conditions on them. They are not acting properly. They not acting in a way that is responsible when they should be focused on things that are keeping the public safe. The water supply that ran out in the area by the Pacific Palisades didn't need to run out. Maybe they should upgrade their fire hydrant systems with larger lines that can hold more water at a time, but they are not doing that.

The lake that was nearby was empty for almost a full year. When we see the work that needs to be done not getting done, what is everyone supposed to do? What are the other 49 States supposed to say? Oh, keep doing what they are doing; we will give them money. All the complaining around here is about conditions.

When you don't do that, this is what you get. We have seen it in vivid colors and coverage here. Thankfully, the wind had subsided somewhat in southern California. They are getting their water around it somewhat, but the

wind can come back. Who knows what it will hit next.

When we talk about what we need to do in the Fix Our Forests Act, we need to pass this legislation. I can't believe the arguments on that side of the aisle against it. It doesn't make any sense because we need to manage these lands.

The Federal Government is in charge through the Forest Service of 193 million acres. Their ambitious goal is to treat 2 million per year. That is 1 percent per year. If we do the math, that takes 100 years to get over all that. Although this is the city situation, it doesn't look that much different when I was in my home district next to a town named Canyon Dam which had that same orange glow 5 minutes before the town of Canyon Dam disappeared. There is no reason for this.

The Fix Our Forests Act would be a very important step in managing forests in a way that is successful. In only 2 days, President Trump has been leading the charge on the executive orders. He is not playing around with the climate change game. He is not playing all that. Instead, he wants to move toward water supply for California, move toward forest management. We will be working with him on that more. He gets it.

This is him in Paradise, California, saying: Why aren't they managing these lands? Governor Newsom stands there empty-handed 6 years later after that fire with empty promises and with very little land having been managed the way it should.

□ 1745

I am really glad we have President Trump, who understands this and is going to do everything he can to help. We will help supply him the legislation, such as the Fix Our Forests Act with the things it does.

Particularly, it expands the clearance zone for hazardous trees around power lines, a bill I have been carrying personally as one of the fires in my district, known as the Carr fire, was caused by that, as were two others, the power lines and things.

It directs the Forest Service to expand the use of livestock grazing. There is a concept. We know it works, and it works all through the West. They try to shut that down and say you don't get the permit for that, that it might affect the species. It actually has been found to help species when the cattle keep the noxious weeds and such down.

They have made it more and more difficult to keep those grazing permits and grazing abilities there, including a very heinous one going on in a northern California park right now where they are kicking the growers and the cattle people off the land after many years.

We are also talking about looking at having a Western headquarters for the Forest Service instead of in Washington, D.C. They need to be based where the forests mostly are, where the

problem usually is. The idea is to migrate the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, USDA. Why don't we put them where the issue is, especially the Forest Service? That is an idea that is in this bill, as well.

It will take advantage of local expertise, people who actually know and live with the conditions. They know the wind patterns and what things look like, instead of a fire team maybe coming from somewhere else and maybe not making the right call on how they should treat the area.

The Fix Our Forests Act is a giant step in the right direction. I support it wholeheartedly and ask my colleagues to jump in on it to have it be a bipartisan effort. There is nothing wrong with this bill. Let's do it.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I will quickly touch on it, as well. I anticipate there will be some clear bipartisan support on this. If we are looking at it through a lens of common sense, we should get an abundance of it.

I reflect back to Monday when President Trump, during his inaugural address, said we will be the party of common sense. It is something that I want to sincerely communicate as I wrap up here.

There are a lot of games that get played in Washington. There are a minority and a majority and a lot of back and forth that goes on. I have experienced both. I have experienced it all, from the White House switching, the Senate switching back and forth, and the House going back and forth.

There are a lot of games. There are a lot of times that the majority will put in a bill that has some poison pills in it for the minority, and it becomes an entire messaging bill, a party-line exercise.

I was subject to it for my first term. Not every bill from the majority was like that. I joined on, in a very bipartisan way, sometimes not even from the majority of my side.

You have to look at the policy. I have seen a sincere effort from us not to go down the poison pill route, just to get them to say they are going to vote against it and then we go out there in the public world and use it for campaign purposes.

This Fix Our Forests Act is such a sincere, commonsense approach from Chairman WESTERMAN, who is a forester by trade. He has delved into this issue. He knows more about it than virtually anybody here in Congress. He can dive in and talk about how we can protect, preserve, and enhance our forest health, while also protecting our communities, by putting the type of forest breaks in there, controlled burns, things like that that have proven to be very successful.

My State goes through this all the time. We have seen devastation happen, and we have learned from it. That is all we are asking to do in this moment, is to take a look.

Honestly, I hope it ends up being a net positive. With all the destruction

and the sadness that has gone on and the devastation in California right now, I hope it has captured the attention in all 50 of our States to recognize there are better ways to do this and that it is not a partisan exercise.

That is what we are trying to accomplish this week with Chairman WESTERMAN's Fix Our Forests Act, a commonsense bill that works to prevent destructive wildfires, improve emergency response by providing new tools and advanced technology, and cut burdensome regulations and hinder active forest management.

I have served under Chairman WESTERMAN on the Natural Resources Committee. He leads with a really sensible approach to solving problems. It is something we absolutely need more of back here.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues tonight for being here to help share the message of what we are trying to accomplish this week.

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

CELEBRATING ACHIEVEMENTS IN TEXAS' SIXTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ELLZEY) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. ELLZEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a deep sense of pride and gratitude for the people of this great Nation and the incredible achievements of my constituents in the Sixth Congressional District of Texas.

Our country is rich with individuals who embody the values of service, dedication, and unity. Today, I have the honor of celebrating some of those remarkable people.

The United States is home to the most generous people on Earth. We are home to the most productive people on the planet who worship freely and then volunteer their remaining time to help others in need.

Our Nation is a beacon of compassion and hope for the rest of the world. We are blessed with heroes who save lives daily, not only our police officers and firefighters but also our teachers, medical professionals, construction workers, and so many others.

Acts of heroism happen in our country every day by folks who want to see others succeed, our country grow, and our communities thrive.

These quiet acts of courage and service often go unnoticed, but they are the