

way that may undermine our values, national security, and economic prosperity.

We cannot allow that to happen. History has shown us that early developers and adopters of technology define the marketplace, drive innovation, and reap the economic benefits. That is why America must lead here.

Moreover, as we have seen with the Salt Typhoon cyberattack, foreign adversaries often see our communications networks and devices as the entry points to disrupt our daily lives and conduct espionage campaigns.

In the Salt Typhoon cyberattack, which was backed by China, several American telecommunications networks were infiltrated to gain access to detailed information about President Trump, former Vice President Harris, other political leaders, and American surveillance information.

It is imperative that American interests are at the table as new wireless standards are crafted, including those that have cybersecurity and national security implications.

I thank Representatives DINGELL, CLARKE, KEAN, and WALBERG for their bipartisan work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1765, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KEAN), the Representative from the Seventh Congressional District.

Mr. KEAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1765, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act.

The United States has long been a leader in the development and deployment of the wireless infrastructure that connects Americans and the world.

America led the way in the development and the deployment of 5G, an important tool in our communications arsenal that connects millions to everyday needs, emergency services when needed, and to one another.

Make no mistake, our adversaries are aggressively working to exert their own influence, their own values, and their own interests on the global wireless stage. As the next generation of wireless technologies take shape, it is critical that America leads and does not follow.

This bipartisan bill will cement our continued leadership by directing the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or NTIA, to encourage participation by trusted stakeholders in the international standards-setting bodies, like 3GP and IEEE, that develop technical standards for 5G and next-generation wireless.

Through this bill, NTIA will partner with these trusted stakeholders, representing companies, engineers, and policymakers from America and our allies, to offer technical expertise to American-led innovators.

By ensuring that our companies, engineers, and policymakers have a seat

at the table, we can promote fair competition, protect our national security, and prevent our adversaries, like China, from shaping the future of global communications to their advantage and to our detriment.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the partnership of Representatives DINGELL, WALBERG, and CLARKE, as well as the work of the Energy and Commerce Committee, on this matter.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), the sponsor of this bill and a member of our committee.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, the chair of the subcommittee, BOB LATTA, and our ranking member, FRANK PALLONE, for helping to move this and for recognizing me today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the 5G and Beyond Caucus bill, H.R. 1765, the Promoting United States Wireless Leadership Act.

As a co-chair of the 5G and Beyond Caucus, it is good to see that we actually have bipartisan agreement in this body that the United States must be a leader in the development and deployment of cutting-edge technologies.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative TOM KEAN, who we just heard from, Representative TIM WALBERG, and Representative YVETTE CLARKE for their work on this legislation. They are my co-leads on this bill and are also members of the 5G and Beyond Caucus.

This bipartisan bill ensures the United States remains at the forefront of innovation by playing a central role in setting international wireless standards in emerging technologies such as 6G, and what is to come.

Today's policy decisions have lasting effects on the global wireless technology development of tomorrow. Today, we are taking concrete, proactive steps to lower the barriers of entry for U.S. companies and other stakeholders to promote American ingenuity at international standards-setting bodies as they develop the next generation of wireless technologies.

Mr. Speaker, let's be clear. Our global competitor is China. As 5G has become the backbone of our digital infrastructure, China has aggressively positioned itself as the global leader for this technology. To accomplish this, the Chinese Government has streamlined spectrum management, invested heavily in telecom infrastructure, and launched diplomatic efforts to shape international standards in its favor.

To maintain our technological edge, we must invest now in setting standards for the next generation of wireless technology, which is 6G. We need to counter China's influence. We must work to ensure that we shape these global standards as they will define the future of telecommunications technologies.

This bill will do exactly that. It will have a real impact on our global competitiveness, 6G deployment, and our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see that today we are making real progress, and I strongly urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 1765.

□ 1610

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge bipartisan support for this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I also encourage a "yes" vote on the 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 Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1765, 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.

HYDROPOWER LICENSING TRANSPARENCY ACT

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3657) to amend the Federal Power Act to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to annually submit to Congress a report on the status of ongoing hydropower relicensing applications, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3657

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 "Hydropower Licensing Transparency Act".

SEC. 2. ANNUAL LICENSING STATUS REPORT.

The Federal Power Act is amended by inserting after section 36 (16 U.S.C. 823g) the following:

"SEC. 37. ANNUAL LICENSING STATUS REPORT.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall submit to Congress a report on the status of—

"(1) the licensing process for each new license, and for each subsequent license for which sections 14 and 15 have been waived, for which the existing licensee has notified the Commission under section 15(b)(1) at least 3 years prior to submission of the report that such existing licensee intends to file an application for such new license or subsequent license, but such new license or subsequent license has not yet been issued under section 15; and

"(2) the licensing process for each original license under section 4(e) for which a citizen, association, corporation, State, Indian Tribe, or municipality has notified the Commission, pursuant to applicable regulations, at least 3 years prior to submission of the report that such citizen, association, corporation, State, Indian Tribe, or municipality intends to file an application for such original license, but such original license has not yet been issued under section 4(e).

"(b) INCLUSIONS.—Each report submitted under subsection (a) shall include, with respect to the licensing process for each new license and

subsequent license described in such subsection and the licensing process for each original license described in such subsection—

“(1) the date the notice of intent described in such subsection was provided to the Commission;

“(2) any docket number assigned with respect to such licensing process;

“(3) whether any application for such new license, such subsequent license, or such original license has been filed;

“(4) information regarding the status of any such application, including the date the Commission anticipates it will issue such original license, such subsequent license, or such new license;

“(5) the date of any upcoming proceeding or other meeting related to such original license, such subsequent license, or such new license; and

“(6) a description of any ongoing or completed actions required of the existing licensee, citizen, association, corporation, State, Indian Tribe, municipality, the Commission, the fish and wildlife agencies referred to in section 15(b), and any other agencies.

“(c) **DISAGGREGATION OF INFORMATION BY LICENSE TYPE.**—The information included in each report submitted under subsection (a) shall be disaggregated by whether the information relates to a new license, or a subsequent license, issued under section 15 or an original license issued under section 4(e).”

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3657, the Hydropower Licensing Transparency Act, led by the gentleman from Idaho's First District and the gentlewoman from Washington's Eighth District.

Hydropower is critical to our Nation's energy mix, supplying power to approximately 30 million homes and businesses and accounting for 40 percent of the Nation's black start capacity.

However, the average age of a hydropower facility in the United States is 60 years. Therefore, hundreds of projects will be up for relicensing between now and 2035.

Hydropower developers must go through an extensive permitting process in order to license and relicense projects. While important, this process can significantly increase the cost and timeline of relicensing these important energy sources. In fact, the average permitting length of an original license process spans from 5 to 7 years, and the average relicensing process takes between 7 and 10 years.

To increase transparency surrounding the status of hydropower licensing and relicensing applications, H.R. 3657 would require an annual report from FERC to Congress detailing the status of projects that have filed a notice of intent for original or new licenses. This will better inform Congress on the status of applications and highlight obstacles to the efficient permitting and deployment of hydropower projects.

It is imperative that projects are relicensed in a timely manner to ensure clean and reliable hydropower dams remain online for years to come.

I thank the gentlewoman from Washington's Eighth District and the gentleman from Idaho's First Congressional District for their leadership on this very important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3657, 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 today in support of H.R. 3657, which will provide transparency into the hydropower licensing process at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, FERC.

Today, FERC is responsible for issuing licenses for hydropower dams, but it is often dependent on other regulatory entities, such as the Army Corps, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, or State water agencies, to provide information and approvals that FERC relies on to issue licenses. It can also be dependent on the dam developer itself to give FERC necessary information.

With all these different entities involved in the process, it is often difficult to monitor from the outside and understand where things stand on a particular project.

This bill helps to bring more transparency to the process. It requires an annual report to Congress on the status of each license application and outstanding actions that are required of regulatory agencies or the applicants themselves. This is particularly important now because 15 percent of the electric capacity at hydropower dams will come up for relicensing in the next decade.

Forecasts for electricity demand also seem to be increasing by the day, and that is why it is critically important that we have transparency into where the hangups are in the hydropower licensing process.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative SCHRIER for her hard work on this bipartisan bill. I also thank Representative FULCHER, Chairs GUTHRIE and LATTA, and Republican committee staff for accommodating commonsense, bipartisan amendments to the bill, such as expanding it to cover new hydropower projects.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER), who is the sponsor of the bill.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member PALLONE and Chairwoman LATTA for their leadership.

I am from Washington State, and in the Pacific Northwest, hydropower makes up the majority of our energy mix. That is why I am very proud to lead this effort to enhance transparency and really help streamline the non-Federal hydropower licensing process with my colleague from Idaho, Representative FULCHER.

This bill will support the proper permitting of clean, abundant, and affordable energy by allowing Congress, Tribes, resource agencies, and ratepayers to better track the status of the relicensing process for new and existing hydropower license applications.

Every 30 to 50 years, hydropower dams must relicense their dams with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in order to continue operating a facility. Hydropower dams in my district are critical to keeping the lights on and keeping the power flowing, and several, including the Rock Island Dam at Chelan County PUD, are due for relicensing at the end of 2028.

The relicensing process is typically very lengthy, in part for good reason. The public comment period needs to be robust for all parties to weigh in. Without that input, we risk potentially devastating environmental consequences on regional ecosystems.

With relicensing activity set to double in the coming decade and the process typically taking 7 to 10 years to complete, there are crucial reforms that are needed to cut red tape without compromising careful consideration. Otherwise, we could risk not having the affordable power we need when we need it.

The bill also includes annual reporting to track progress on new hydropower licenses, which are the most sensitive to licensing costs and delays. Existing projects have a revenue stream to pull from that allows the licensee to fund these processes, but new projects are completely sourced by the developers.

This commonsense, bipartisan bill takes the first step by enhancing transparency and tracking progress on any given licensing process for all parties involved.

I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on comprehensive, bipartisan hydropower licensing reform, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on the bill. I am prepared to close if the gentleman is, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I urge bipartisan support for this important bill related to hydropower dams, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Speaker, all the reports that we have across this country state that we have been producing more power, not less, and hydropower plays an important role in our structure of energy in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a “yes” vote on this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATTA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3657, 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.

□ 1620

SINKHOLE MAPPING ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 900) to direct the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a program to map zones that are at greater risk of sinkhole formation, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 900

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 “Sinkhole Mapping Act of 2025”.

SEC. 2. SINKHOLE HAZARD IDENTIFICATION.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purpose, the Director of the United States Geological Survey shall establish a program to—

(1) *study the short-term and long-term mechanisms that cause sinkholes, including extreme storm events, prolonged droughts causing shifts in water management practices, aquifer depletion, and other major changes in water use; and*

(2) *develop maps that depict zones that are at greater risk of sinkhole formation.*

(b) *USE OF CERTAIN DATA.*—In developing maps under subsection (a)(2), the Director of the United States Geological Survey shall utilize 3D elevation data (as that term is defined in section 2 of the National Landslide Preparedness Act (43 U.S.C. 3101)) collected pursuant to section 5 of that Act (43 U.S.C. 3104).

(c) *REVIEW OF MAPS.*—Once during each 5-year period, or more often as the Director of the United States Geological Survey determines is necessary, the Director shall assess the need to revise and update the maps developed under this section.

(d) *WEBSITE.*—The Director of the United States Geological Survey shall establish and maintain a public website that displays the maps developed under this section and other relevant information critical for use by community planners and emergency managers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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 H.R. 900, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Representative SOTO's bill, H.R. 900, the Sinkhole Mapping Act of 2025.

Sinkholes are a natural hazard that cost the United States Government approximately \$300 million per year and pose a serious threat to public safety.

Sinkholes occur when there is a lack of proper external surface drainage so when a heavy rainstorm comes through and the ground cannot drain the water properly a void may form underground. From that point on, it is often simply a waiting game until the ground gives out and a dangerous sinkhole develops.

This bill would require the Director of the United States Geological Survey to establish a program that examines the short- and long-term causes of sinkholes. This research would provide the government with more accurate data on the costs incurred from these hazards.

The program would also create maps of areas most at risk of sinkholes, analyze the areas with the greatest risk of experiencing a sudden sinkhole and make maps publicly available to help community planners and government agencies prepare for and avoid these catastrophes.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the such time as I may consume.

I am excited to see Representative DARREN SOTO's Sinkhole Mapping Act on the floor today. This bipartisan legislation will direct the U.S. Geological Survey to study both the short- and long-term causes of sinkholes, including extreme weather events, droughts, and groundwater depletion.

Right now, there is no national, comprehensive mapping to track and predict sinkholes, leaving communities across the country more vulnerable to sudden and serious damage. Sinkholes can open without warning and wreak havoc on our infrastructure, damaging roads, bridges, buildings, and utilities and putting people's lives and livelihoods at risk.

We have seen this firsthand on the Oregon coast at Cape Kiwanda, where ocean wave erosion has carved into the sandstone. In 2023, two sinkholes appeared there measuring up to 25-feet wide and 30-feet deep each.

Thankfully, State and local officials acted quickly, identified the problem, and put safety precautions in place to protect the public.

With effective sinkhole mapping, we can do even more. We can identify at-risk areas before disaster strikes and take preventive action, like ground stabilization, to protect lives and reduce the cost of damage.

This bill is a commonsense, forward-looking investment in our commu-

nities and infrastructure, especially as climate change increases the risk of sinkholes across the country.

I thank my colleagues, Representatives SOTO and BILIRAKIS, for introducing this bill and their leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 900, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOYLE) for her leadership.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 900, the Sinkhole Mapping Act, a bipartisan piece of legislation which I introduced with my fellow Floridian, GUS BILIRAKIS.

Mr. Speaker, sinkholes pose a significant problem for Florida and many States, yet we don't have a comprehensive mapping system to help first responders and community planners, as was mentioned by our chairman, Chairman WESTERMAN. I thank him for bringing this bill today.

Sinkholes cost over \$300 million a year. We see that in Florida homes, community centers, and businesses being affected by this. Having a database that displays potential sinkholes in our Sunshine State and across the Nation would absolutely be critical. That is what this bill does.

This bill directs the U.S. Geological Survey to study the short- and long-term mechanisms that trigger sinkholes. This includes extreme storms, prolonged droughts, shifts in water management practices, ongoing aquifer depletion, and other major water uses. It is all about having a public website displaying maps depicting zones at greater risk of sinkhole formation, helping save lives and helping us have more resilient communities.

I thank Chairman WESTERMAN, Ranking Members HUFFMAN and HOYLE, as well as Representatives BILIRAKIS, FROST, CASTOR, WILSON, COSTA, HARDER, FITZPATRICK, and BELL for joining me.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote.

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, Mr. SOTO's bill will help leverage modern technology and mapping data to gain a better understanding of the sinkhole hazards facing the country and empower local communities to prepare for and mitigate these hazards.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the 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 Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 900, as amended.