

(2) in section 2(b)(3)(A), by striking “this section” and inserting “subsection (d) of the first section”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOSAR. 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. 131, the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 131, the Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act, sponsored by Representative BOEBERT of Colorado.

The Arkansas Valley Conduit, or AVC is a 130-mile pipeline that serves 39 communities and 50,000 people east of Pueblo, Colorado. Once completed, it will deliver water to an area of the State that faces severe water quality issues.

The AVC was authorized by Congress as part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project in 1962. Over 60 years later, construction on this project has barely started, largely due to cost increases that have outpaced the community's ability to pay.

In 2009, Congress amended the original legislation to help address the project's increasing price tag. Unfortunately, rising construction costs over the past few years have continued to delay this critical water project.

The legislation before us today would further modify the repayment contract to ensure that these communities have reliable access to domestic water supplies. These communities have been waiting for over six decades for a reliable water source. H.R. 131 will ensure this project can finally be completed.

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

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

H.R. 131 seeks to address a long-standing water challenge in southeastern Colorado. The Arkansas Valley Conduit is a 130-mile pipeline first authorized in 1962 to deliver water from the Pueblo Reservoir to communities facing ongoing water supply and quality issues. Despite decades of work, the project remains unfinished, primarily due to financial constraints.

This bill would revise certain repayment terms to provide additional flexibility for local stakeholders to help finance the project and begin delivering clean, reliable water to rural communities.

My Democratic colleagues and I are committed to addressing the barrier

that rural communities face in securing clean water. That is why we passed historic water infrastructure investments under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Since 2022, the IIJA has provided \$500 million for the Arkansas Valley Conduit. These investments are critical for ensuring communities across the West have reliable access to clean drinking water, especially as climate change is continuing to make drought conditions worse.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Representative BOEBERT, for bringing this forward. I urge support for H.R. 131, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. BOEBERT), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for his support on this bill.

I rise to speak in favor of my bill, H.R. 131, Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act, to help complete construction of a critical infrastructure project that will provide tens of thousands of southeast Colorado residents with access to clean water.

Southeast Coloradans have waited decades for the completion of the Arkansas Valley Conduit. While we have made a lot of progress in the recent years and the first two segments of the project are under construction, we still have a long way to go.

This bipartisan and bicameral legislation will help the Bureau of Reclamation and local governments finally complete this major water project. Rural communities in southeastern Colorado need and deserve access to clean, reliable, and affordable water they can utilize on a daily basis.

Once completed, the Arkansas Valley Conduit will provide 7,500-acre-feet of water per year to as many as 50,000 Coloradans across 40 different communities in Pueblo, Otero, Bent, Kiowa, Prowers, and Baca Counties.

The Arkansas Valley Conduit was originally approved for construction as a part of the Fryingpan-Arkansas Project that was signed into law by President John F. Kennedy in 1962. Congress amended this law in 2009 to tackle water quality concerns and make clear that 35 percent of total project costs would be repaid with interest from miscellaneous revenues.

The original 1962 law also made clear that the costs of annual operation and maintenance for this important project would be paid for by the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District.

Radium, uranium, and other naturally occurring elements are found in the surface and groundwater in southeastern Colorado, and the water quality is problematic year-round because of its salinity, selenium, sulfate, hardness, and manganese levels.

The Bureau of Reclamation has found these contamination levels are so se-

vere that local communities could see the costs of their drinking water triple without this legislation.

The Finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit Act will ease the burden of inflation costs that have caused the original \$640 million estimate of construction in 2019 to rise to more than \$1.3 billion. There have been a number of modifications to the proposed Arkansas Valley Conduit over the years that have reduced the cost by as much as \$200 million.

I thank the Bureau of Reclamation and the Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District for working with us in drafting this critical legislation. I am grateful to have their support as we work to get this bill signed into law.

Access to clean water is not a luxury. It is a necessity. Southeast Colorado families and businesses deserve a reliable and sustainable water supply.

It is time we fully and finally fulfill the promises the Federal Government made to the communities I represent in Colorado and finish the Arkansas Valley Conduit.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair for his support and I urge adoption.

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

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, this bill provides increased financial flexibility for the construction of the long-overdue water infrastructure improvements in rural Colorado. I thank Ms. BOEBERT for her diligent work and attention to these issues.

Arizona is no second citizen to this. We want to see this happen and help everybody.

I urge my colleagues to support 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 Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 131, 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.

#### LA PAZ COUNTY SOLAR ENERGY AND JOB CREATION ACT

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1043) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal land in Arizona to La Paz County, Arizona, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1043

*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 “La Paz County Solar Energy and Job Creation Act”.

**SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

In this Act:

(1) **COUNTY.**—The term “County” means La Paz County, Arizona.

(2) **FEDERAL LAND.**—The term “Federal land” means the approximately 3,400 acres of land managed by the Bureau of Land Management and designated as “Federal Land to be Conveyed” on the map.

(3) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map prepared by the Bureau of Land Management entitled “BLM Arizona—La Paz County Land Conveyance Map” and dated June 29, 2023.

**SEC. 3. CONVEYANCE TO LA PAZ COUNTY, ARIZONA.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding the planning requirement of sections 202 and 203 of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1712, 1713) and in accordance with this section and other applicable law, as soon as practicable after receiving a request from the County to convey the Federal land, the Secretary shall convey the Federal land to the County.

(b) **RESTRICTIONS ON CONVEYANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be subject to—

(A) valid existing rights; and

(B) such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary.

(2) **EXCLUSION.**—The Secretary shall exclude from the conveyance under subsection (a) any Federal land that contains significant cultural, environmental, wildlife, or recreational resources.

(c) **PAYMENT OF FAIR MARKET VALUE.**—The conveyance under subsection (a) shall be for the fair market value of the Federal land to be conveyed, as determined—

(1) in accordance with the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.); and

(2) based on an appraisal that is conducted in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(d) **PROTECTION OF TRIBAL CULTURAL ARTIFACTS.**—As a condition of the conveyance under subsection (a), the County shall, and as a condition of any subsequent conveyance, any subsequent owner shall—

(1) make good faith efforts to avoid disturbing Tribal artifacts;

(2) minimize impacts on Tribal artifacts if they are disturbed;

(3) coordinate with the Colorado River Indian Tribes Tribal Historic Preservation Office to identify artifacts of cultural and historic significance; and

(4) allow Tribal representatives to rebury unearthened artifacts at or near where they were discovered.

(e) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Bureau of Land Management.

(2) **CORRECTIONS.**—The Secretary and the County may, by mutual agreement—

(A) make minor boundary adjustments to the Federal land to be conveyed under subsection (a); and

(B) correct any minor errors in the map, an acreage estimate, or the description of the Federal land.

(f) **WITHDRAWAL.**—The Federal land is withdrawn from the operation of the mining and mineral leasing laws of the United States.

(g) **COSTS.**—As a condition of the conveyance of the Federal land under subsection (a), the County shall pay—

(1) an amount equal to the appraised value determined in accordance with subsection (c)(2); and

(2) all costs related to the conveyance, including all surveys, appraisals, and other ad-

ministrative costs associated with the conveyance of the Federal land to the County under subsection (a).

(h) **PROCEEDS FROM THE SALE OF LAND.**—The proceeds from the sale of land under this section shall be—

(1) deposited in the Federal Land Disposal Account established by section 206(a) of the Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (43 U.S.C. 2305(a)); and

(2) used in accordance with that Act (43 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.).

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. GOSAR. 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. 1043, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 1043, the La Paz County Solar Energy and Job Creation Act.

My bill requires the Secretary of the Interior to convey 3,400 acres of BLM land to La Paz County, Arizona, for rural economic and solar development.

If you have ever visited southwest Arizona, Mr. Speaker, you will know it is pretty darn sunny. Conveying the land to the county for solar maximizes the potential for renewable energy generation and unlocks employment opportunities for county residents.

It is simple: energy and jobs.

This conveyance is vital to the financial future of La Paz County.

Only established in 1983, La Paz is home to nearly 17,000 residents with a median household income of \$49,000 per year. It is primarily a farming economy, with nearly 78 percent of cash receipts derived from the sale of crops, like sugarcane and alfalfa hay.

As Arizona expands its technology and semiconductor industries, it is critical to meet the needs of our electric grid, and I believe we must take an all-of-the-above energy approach to ensure the grid's reliability.

In fact, on July 9, Arizona's largest utility providers, APS and SRP, reported a State record of energy demand as we were hit by a heat wave. Luckily, Arizona did not have a blackout, but we must meet the growing needs for electricity.

Mr. Speaker, this has been a legacy priority of mine since 2015. In 2019, the House passed the first allotment of this land for the county, and now my bill conveys the remaining acres to provide the maximum benefit of renewable energy production and a vibrant local economy.

Importantly, this bill respects the land's cultural and Tribal significance. It requires consultation with the Colorado River Indian Tribes if any Tribal artifacts are uncovered during the conveyance process. However, it also enhances the partnership between the county and the Tribes for years to come.

At a time when Congress is exploring all opportunities for cost savings, the La Paz County Solar Energy and Job Creation Act is a win-win. The county receives opportunities for jobs and economic development, and the Federal Government receives a fiscal benefit for otherwise undeveloped lands.

My neighbors in La Paz County need a hand up, and I hope that I can count on my colleagues to lend a helping hand.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask my friends to support this legislation, H.R. 1043, and our Nation's domestic energy dominance, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 1043, the La Paz County Solar Energy and Job Creation Act, introduced by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR).

This bill would allow the Department of the Interior to convey approximately 3,400 acres of BLM land in La Paz County in Arizona for renewable energy generation and energy storage. La Paz County has significant solar energy potential and is working to develop the largest solar installation in the United States.

This project represents a step toward our clean energy future and underscores the support for renewable energy development and infrastructure, particularly at the State and local level.

H.R. 1043, led by Congressman GOSAR and Arizona Senators GALLEGO and KELLY, reflect the kind of bipartisan cooperation we need more of in Congress.

After Republicans' reckless budget bill rolled back critical renewable energy programs, I hope this bill signals at least a partial recognition that in America we must keep building, not dismantling our clean energy capacity where possible.

The legislation will help power thousands of homes with affordable, reliable energy, support the creation of good-paying jobs, and boost local economy all while reinforcing our commitment to energy independence.

Importantly, this bill ensures that the Colorado River Indian Tribes and the Tribal Historic Preservation Office are actively consulted to protect any culturally significant artifacts. This is the right way to approach land transfers: collaborative, respectful, and forward thinking.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bipartisan, future-focused bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOSAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Mr. Speaker, American energy is America First. My bill means more American jobs, more American energy, and more American prosperity.

On January 20, 2025, his very first day in office, President Trump declared a national energy emergency to expedite permitting and emergency regulations to unlock domestic energy production. Now it is time for Congress to do its part.

This modest land conveyance will empower the people to meet the national demand for energy generation with countless jobs and the capacity to power thousands of American homes.

I thank the chairman of the committee, Mr. WESTERMAN, committee staff, and my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee for helping me bring this legislation to the floor today. A special thank you to my Arizona delegation cosponsors, my good friends, Representatives BIGGS and SCHWEIKERT.

Mr. Speaker, I once again ask all my colleagues to support my legislation, H.R. 1043, the La Paz County Solar Energy and Job Creation Act. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. GOSAR) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1043.

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.

**SMALL ENTITY UPDATE ACT**

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3382) to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study and rulemaking on the definition of the term “small entity” under the securities laws for purposes of chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.  
The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3382

*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 “Small Entity Update Act”.*

**SEC. 2. STUDIES, REPORTS, AND RULES REGARDING SMALL ENTITIES.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—*In this section—*  
(1) *the term “Commission” means the Securities and Exchange Commission; and*  
(2) *the term “small entity”—*  
(A) *has the meaning given the term in section 601 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to the activities of the Commission; and*  
(B) *includes any definition established by the Commission of the term “small business”, “small organization”, “small governmental jurisdiction”, or “small entity” under paragraph (3), (4), (5), or (6), respectively, of section 601 of title 5, United States Code, with respect to the activities of the Commission.*

(b) **STUDIES AND REPORTS.**—*Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and again 5 years thereafter, the Commission shall—*

(1) *conduct a study of the definition of the term “small entity” with respect to the activities of the Commission for the purposes of chapter 6 of title 5, United States Code, which shall consider—*

(A) *the extent to which the definition of the term “small entity”, as in effect during the period in which the study is conducted, aligns with the findings and declarations made under section 2(a) of the Regulatory Flexibility Act (5 U.S.C. 601 note);*

(B) *the amount by which financial markets in the United States have grown since the last time the Commission amended the definition of the term “small entity”, if applicable; and*

(C) *how the Commission should define the term “small entity” to ensure that a meaningful number of entities would fall under that definition; and*

(2) *submit to Congress a report that includes—*  
(A) *the results of the applicable study conducted under paragraph (1); and*

(B) *specific and detailed recommendations on the ways in which the Commission could amend the definition of the term “small entity” to—*

(i) *be consistent with the results described in subparagraph (A); and*

(ii) *expand the number of entities covered by such definition.*

(c) **RULEMAKING.**—*Concurrently with, or after the completion of, each study required under subsection (b), the Commission shall, subject to public notice and comment, revise the rules of the Commission consistent with the results of such study.*

(d) **INFLATION ADJUSTMENTS.**—*After the Commission issued the final rule revisions required under subsection (c), and every 5 years thereafter, the Commission shall adjust any dollar figures under the definition of small entity established by the Commission to reflect the change in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the Department of Labor.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. 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.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bill, H.R. 3382, the Small Entity Update Act.

Small businesses are the backbone of this country. Everyone on both sides of the aisle knows that. They drive innovation and job creation in our districts, but they are often limited from reaching their full capacity or capability because of overregulation.

The bill introduced by our subcommittee chair, ANN WAGNER, addresses this challenge by directing the SEC to carry out a study and a rulemaking to modernize the definition of

a small entity and ensure that small firms are given tailored, proportional oversight.

□ 1650

Mr. Speaker, years ago I had the privilege of serving as a nonexecutive chairman for a small-cap public company board of directors. I know firsthand the critical need for attention for what we are dealing with here today.

The bipartisan bill of the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) will empower our small businesses to focus on growth, hiring, and innovation, rather than unnecessary red tape.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, if appropriate, this bill directs the SEC to carry out a study in rulemaking on its definitions of small entities under the Regulatory Flexibility Act. This study in rulemaking would ensure that the commission more carefully accounts for impacts on small businesses when engaging in rulemaking.

The Regulatory Flexibility Act provides small entities with a greater opportunity to participate in the development of certain regulations and will result in more small businesses being included in the definition of small entities under the act. In effect, it gives them a louder voice when it comes to development of SEC regulations that directly apply to them.

Democrats worked to secure important language, ensuring investor protection remains a key focus of the bill. It balances the needs of facilitating capital formation and, of course, protecting our small businesses, which are so critical and are the lifeblood of our country and the jobs in our country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for agreeing to these changes when this bill was marked up in committee.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the CBO estimate on this bill.

H.R. 3382, SMALL ENTITY UPDATE ACT, AS REPORTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES ON JUNE 3, 2025

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—		
	2025	2025–2030	2025–2035
Direct Spending (Outlays) .....	0	0	0
Revenues .....	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (–) in the Deficit .....	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays) ..	*	*	**

\* = between –\$500,000 and \$500,000.  
\*\* = not estimated.