

America's future is bright as we unleash responsible natural resources development to meet our energy and mineral leads, to create jobs, and to drive economic growth across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. 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. 4553 and that I may include tabular material on the same.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WESTERMAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 672 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4553.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FINE) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1615

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4553) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, with Mr. FINE in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of

the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to bring the fiscal year 2026 Energy and Water Development bill to the floor today.

I begin by thanking my good friend and Ranking Member MARCY KAPTUR for her partnership throughout this process. I realize we have some bona fide differences and issues on this bill, but we always have very cordial discussions. I do appreciate her very much.

Mr. Chairman, this bill provides a total of \$57.3 billion to safeguard the United States' national security, strengthen our economy, and unleash American energy dominance.

The bill delivers strong support for our national defense and provides \$25.3 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration prioritizing and continued modernization of the nuclear weapons stockpile and the United States Navy nuclear fleet.

The bill strengthens our Nation's energy security by advancing American leadership in deploying new nuclear technologies and supporting the administration's efforts to make full use of our Nation's vast fossil fuel resources.

This bill will reduce reliance on foreign materials and secure the full supply chain of critical minerals.

The bill furthers our Nation's scientific and technological leadership, providing \$8.4 billion for the Department of Energy's Office of Science.

At the same time, the bill reduces funding by 25 percent across numerous other department programs, including the applied energy technology offices, to ensure taxpayer resources are focused on the highest priority research and development projects.

The bill also strengthens our economy and promotes public safety providing \$9.9 billion for the Army Corps of Engineers, including full funding of the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund activities and the highest priority ongoing construction projects on the inland waterways system. Funding for the Bureau of Reclamation is prioritized to projects that increase water supply and support drought resilience.

Finally, the bill provides a number of provisions to codify President Trump's executive actions to protect American values and prevent our resources and intellectual properties from falling into the hands of foreign adversaries.

This legislation reflects a clear commitment to fiscal responsibility while safeguarding our national security and increasing economic prosperity for all of our citizens.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1620

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I also compliment the chair of our subcommittee, Mr. FLEISCHMANN of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, for his very gentlemanly behavior on both sides of the aisle so that we can actually move bills, which is our public responsibility.

I thank our diligent staff for all their hard work on this bill. I have to say I am very proud that ours is one of the first three bills to come to the floor. They are long delayed, not because we didn't do our work. We are ready. We want to pass funding for the new fiscal year, which begins on October 1.

I also thank the minority staff, Scott McKee, Anisha Singh, and Adam Wilson, and my personal staff, Kaitlin Ulin, TJ Lowdermilk, and Margaret McInnis. I thank them all, and I thank them for putting up with me.

Engineered energy and water systems undergird America's way of life. Energy and water are not optional but essential to sustaining life.

Of late, we have been piercingly reminded about our subcommittee's purpose. July brought nearly double the usual flood warnings, the second highest in 40 years. On July Fourth, Kerr County, Texas, sadly, saw one of the deadliest flash floods in U.S. history, with 117 lives lost. These tragedies inform us of the power of water and wild energy in our atmosphere.

Let me be clear: No matter how much Members on the other side of the aisle want to pretend that climate change is not happening, for the record, the last 10 years are the 10 hottest in recorded history. Think about that.

Our Great Lakes, the region I represent, comprise the largest body of freshwater on Earth. Specifically, Lake Erie, the southernmost of the lakes, no longer freezes over. Some of our favorite sports, ice boating and ice fishing, are now becoming a memory of the past, and hockey is now played indoors.

America's electric grid is old and under deep strain. The Energy Information Administration documented that the U.S. just set new records twice in July for peak electricity demand. The old grid system is being tested by hotter weather and higher usage. When the grid strains, costs rise and the most vulnerable families suffer first. How would you like to be in Tucson at 120 degrees week after week?

Unchecked growth in data centers alone could raise average U.S. electricity generation costs by roughly 8 percent by 2030. This is not hypothetical. It is happening as we meet today.

In Ohio, rapid demand growth from Big Tech data centers pushes electricity prices dramatically higher every month. Starting this July, households in Ohio saw their monthly energy bills increase a minimum of 10 percent. Some more than doubled. Families noticed a massive increase in monthly bills. I have one constituent

who called and told us that her family's bill moved from \$230 a month to \$494 in July. This cost of energy increase is not sustainable for working families.

Sadly, this Republican energy and water bill does not meet our Nation's energy and water imperative for the future nor for the present. We must invest faster in modern infrastructure to become energy independent in perpetuity. That is our awesome—underline “awesome”—responsibility. We must reduce energy costs by investing in modern grid resilience and an all-of-the-above energy portfolio.

This bill fails to address the cost-of-living crisis currently underway. Overall, household electric bills nationally are up 10 percent. That is just since January. In places like northern Ohio, I am hearing that, for many people, the total for energy and water bills has doubled. Every family in this country knows that. Even higher energy bills lie ahead for families and businesses.

China is investing record levels in energy, making its products more competitive. Sadly, this bill retreats from U.S. global energy leadership. What do I mean? The bill cuts \$1.6 billion, or 47 percent, from the Department of Energy's energy efficiency and renewable energy programs. This undermines our Nation's imperative to deliver clean, affordable, and secure energy to the American people.

Our Nation should lead, not lag, in the global race toward energy independence in perpetuity. We must build an abundant clean energy future.

This bill eliminates funding for the Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations, which means building the future. It revokes \$5.1 billion of bipartisan infrastructure law resources from the Department of Energy, which will cede the U.S. global lead in hydrogen, direct air capture, battery recycling, and consequent energy savings possible in every public and private structure.

Already, U.S. businesses have delayed or canceled—this is a shocking number—more than \$33 billion in investments in energy projects this year. That is lost economic growth. Over 64,000 jobs have already been lost or stalled in the clean energy sector. That is uncalled for.

In May, this administration revoked \$3.7 billion in Federal energy investment for 24 energy projects already signed, sealed, and delivered across America, including for manufacturing companies to become more energy-efficient and including over \$100 million for Libbey Glass, Owens-Illinois Glass, and Kraft Heinz across our region of Ohio alone.

President Trump promised he was going to help American manufacturing. That revocation actually goes completely in the opposite direction.

Thus, I must strongly oppose these additional Republican cuts to vital energy production and conservation—and America's future—through the U.S. Department of Energy.

Shortchanging these advances pushes our Nation backward and raises already high energy prices even more for consumers.

In other areas, this bill dangerously shortchanges our national security. The bill slashes \$412 million from the Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation account. This effectively guts our efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, detect covert nuclear threats, and uphold arms control agreements that keep us safe. All of those cuts are a big gift for Iran, Russia, China, and North Korea.

Additionally, this bill turns its back on communities still living with the toxic legacy of America's atomic past by zeroing out the Army Corps program to clean up radioactive waste at early nuclear sites. This is deadly.

It slashes \$779 million from nuclear cleanup efforts. That is three-quarters of a billion dollars. This will delay the cleanup that these communities have been promised for decades. I will note that one of these American atomic waste sites is in the village of Luckey, Ohio, not so far from my district.

Finally, this bill includes numerous controversial poison pill riders that are so extreme that they cannot gain bipartisan support and become law.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. America can and must meet the new age frontiers of energy and water. Nature is signaling. Times are changing. We must not turn back the clock but seize the baton for future generations to come.

Now is the moment to keep America on a steady path forward for an all-of-the-above energy, water, and nuclear security portfolio.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. MRVAN), a very hardworking member of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Chair, I thank Ranking Member KAPTUR, Chairman FLEISCHMANN, and all the staff for their thoughtful and dedicated efforts in the drafting of this measure.

Recently, I joined constituents in Indiana's Lowell Labor Day parade, in Laborers' Local 81's summer picnic in Valparaiso, and an Ironworkers' picnic and bingo in Crown Point. The issue at the top of everyone's mind is the rising cost of their utility bills.

I choose to serve on Appropriations' Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Subcommittee because I believe that energy and water will be two of the greatest challenges for our national security and economic stability in the years ahead.

I understand the role of the Indiana State regulators, but I also believe that the Federal Government and this bill have a role to promote the availability of a variety of energy resources in order to drive down costs.

The Department of Energy has a critical role in conducting research in en-

ergy innovation, including for wind, solar, and nuclear, and also to ensure that we maximize the efficiency of all of our energy sources, including oil, gas, and coal. More efficient energy production means lower prices.

□ 1630

It is deeply disappointing that this measure follows the administration's lead to abandon the transformational projects like the hydrogen hub in my district. Industry, the USW, the building trades, other labor organizations, along with communities throughout my district, were planning for and relying on massive economic development investments, only to see this project undermined because the Republican majority's tax and investment policy is now: Do not invest in our future but, rather, give more handouts to the privileged, wealthy, and few at the expense of the working class.

Let's be clear. The Federal Government should be building, not blocking projects that strengthen our economy, lower costs, and create American jobs.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to reject this legislation and, instead, work in a bipartisan manner to promote long-term economic prosperity in our communities.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), the hardworking and highly able distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the authorizing committee.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I thank our ranking member, Ms. KAPTUR, for the time, but also agree with her in urging my colleagues to vote “no” on this really terrible bill.

Today, we are debating one of the worst Energy and Water appropriations bills I have ever seen. Usually, when you are in charge, they are very good, actually, but this one is terrible.

I think it sets a dangerous precedent. It hurts our constituents by increasing their energy costs, just as so many are already seeing huge hikes to their bills. It weakens national security, and it undermines the critical work that the Army Corps of Engineers does to keep our coastal communities safe.

Mr. Chairman, I will focus on the cuts to shore protection. Republicans are making a massive cut to the shore protection funding that allows the corps to fund beach replenishment projects in places like the Jersey shore in my district.

This Republican bill woefully underfunds replenishment projects by hundreds of millions of dollars. Just recently, Hurricane Erin slammed our coasts, washing away dunes and eroding beaches, a stark reminder of why replenishment funding is so critical.

Mr. Chairman, House Republicans are abandoning coastal communities at a time when climate change is accelerating erosion and increasing the risks of devastating storms.

I have to stress that beach replenishment projects and shore protection projects aren't luxuries. They are lifelines. We don't do them so people can sunbathe. We do them to protect the homes, the businesses, and the public infrastructure.

Towns in my district and in red and blue districts throughout our country alike depend on beach replenishment to prevent damage from coastal storms. It is that simple.

We can't let a bunch of climate-denying Republicans in Congress gamble with New Jersey or other coastlines. I think about it like a slot machine on the Atlantic City boardwalk: We will just hope that the storm doesn't come, and we will be okay.

Mr. Chairman, that is not what happens. The reality is that places like the Jersey shore need protection from the next big storm and making drastic cuts like these are simply dangerous.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), who works so hard on all climate issues. I thank the gentlewoman so very much for speaking today.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank the ranking member for yielding me time and thank her for everything that she does to protect the pocketbooks of American families.

Mr. Chairman, American families and small business owners deserve lower electric bills, but Republicans in Congress are really sticking it to folks with higher costs at every turn, especially in this spending bill.

Mr. Chairman, Representative KAPTUR is right. Household electric costs and energy prices have risen 10 percent this year. In some places, they have more than doubled, driven by Trump's tariffs; new demand from Big Tech AI data centers; and expensive, old, polluting plants.

Back home in Florida, Florida's largest utility has proposed the largest utility rate hike in U.S. history, amounting to \$10 billion, that will raise Floridians' electric bills by hundreds of dollars every month.

Mr. Chair, Republicans in Congress are now making it worse. Their big, ugly bill, which was passed in July, already is projected to crush working families with higher costs, and now their spending bill adds insult to injury by slashing home improvement weatherization savings.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for the time.

Let's talk about how Republicans in Congress are making it worse, harder for families to afford the cost of living, especially when it comes to their electric bills. Their big, ugly bill, which was passed in July, already is projected

to crush working families with higher costs.

Mr. Chair, this spending bill adds insult to injury by slashing home improvement weatherization savings and taking a hatchet to cleaner, cheaper energy and the important initiatives to modernize the grid.

If my colleagues care about helping their neighbors out of the affordability squeeze, they will vote "no" on the Republican spending bill.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER), who is a genius who just happens to be a Member of Congress, as well, so the country is twice blessed.

Mr. FOSTER. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise first with an acknowledgement that, due to the efforts of the ranking member and chair of the Subcommittee on Water and Energy Development and Related Agencies, this bill could have been far worse. That is not the bar that we should set for ourselves.

I am particularly concerned about the 17 percent cut in the funding for the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation within NNSA.

This cut comes on top of last year's continuing resolution, where this office was cut by 7 percent and was only one of a few accounts to see its budget reduced by that bill.

The Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation is involved in critical nuclear security work, which is actively keeping us safe, from securing nuclear material worldwide to verifying that other countries and various rogue actors are not developing nuclear weapons.

It would be nice if we lived in a world where a miraculous Golden Dome could keep us safe from nuclear weapons, but we do not. We depend on being able to detect and enforce violations of nonproliferation agreements.

This bill leaves wide open opportunities for countries like Iran and other nefarious actors to more easily get their hands on the materials needed to build nuclear weapons. With tensions mounting in the Middle East and the internet containing significant bomb-making instructions which are much more accessible to terrorist groups, this is not the time when America can afford to step back.

Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, at this time, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), my friend.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today to offer my support for this year's Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act.

Mr. Chair, I will talk about Texas for just a minute. The Texas Gulf Coast

boasts 23 commercial seaports, 7 of America's largest petroleum refineries, 3 LNG plants, and 60 percent of the Nation's strategic petroleum reserve.

As the energy capital of the world, we understand the critical importance of this very important, very good bill. Our hardworking families on the Texas Gulf Coast depend on a robust energy sector, as do most Americans. Even other countries depend on our energy sector.

This legislation, Mr. Chairman, will help us to continue to lead in producing the cleanest, most affordable oil, as well as gas. Many of the projects within this bill will advance many of President Trump's goals. It is working. He is making progress. We are making progress. His goal is to advance returning to an era of American energy independence.

Let me repeat that. America will be, once again, energy independent.

We will be revitalizing critical ports. We will be revitalizing the waterways that serve, actually, as a lifeblood for maintaining our dominance in the global marketplace. It is just that simple, Mr. Chairman.

This great Energy and Water Development appropriations bill, let me tell you what it will do. It will bolster our economic strength. It will bolster our economic strength, which suffered the last 4 years, under the current administration. It will create jobs. It will create jobs that are much needed by Americans.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

□ 1640

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Chair, this is going to create jobs, not just for Texas but for the entire Nation.

The gentleman across the aisle just mentioned Iran, that somehow this is going to help make it easier for Iran in the nuclear realm.

I think Iran just discovered that President Donald J. Trump is serious when he says they will not be allowed to get a nuclear weapon. I think they probably figured that out by now.

Mr. Chair, I will end by saying kudos to the Energy and Water appropriations bill under this committee. We appreciate the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

Mr. Chair, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill as we continue along the path of making America great once again.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, this Energy and Water bill costs American households, undermines U.S. global leadership, and weakens national security. Sadly, this Republican Energy and Water bill does not meet our Nation's imperative for the future.

In closing, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. America can do better,

and we must lead in the new frontiers of energy and water. We must keep this country secure. Our Nation's future depends on all of these.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member and the Members who have spoken on this bill.

In closing, I urge strong support of this great bill. This bill helps all of America regain energy dominance. It fulfills the great agenda that President Trump has set out not only for nuclear but for energy. It is a bill that helps all Americans with community projects for both Republican and Democratic districts. It reaches out and does great things for energy, for water, for the Bureau of Reclamation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I want to thank all of the Energy and Water appropriations subcommittee staff for their hard work, in particular Scott McKee, Anisha Singh, and Adam Wilson.

I am opposed to this bill. Not only will it raise energy costs for American households and businesses, hurt our competitiveness, jeopardize our energy independence and weaken our national security, we are holding this debate weeks before the end of the fiscal year, with no path forward to prevent a shutdown and Congress's authority being attacked by unchecked Office of Management and Budget Director Russ Vought and a lawless Administration.

Since taking office, the Trump Administration has stolen resources, appropriated by this committee, for programs and services across the federal government that help to grow the middle class, protect the working class, support small businesses, and make sure billionaires and corporations play by the rules and pay their fair share.

The cost-of-living crisis is felt by every American family—middle class families, working families, rural families, seniors and other vulnerable Americans. But the president is not laser focused on the cost of-living crisis.

President Trump has attacked and destroyed programs created by Congress and funded by the Appropriations Committee that protect our national security and help increase domestic energy production. They are substituting Congress' decisions and judgment with their own, turning Article I of the Constitution on its head.

These cuts are not only felt in Washington, D.C. They affect all of our constituents.

Just a few months ago, states across New England, including my state of Connecticut, were ready to begin an ambitious and collaborative effort to increase energy transmission capacity across our region, to build resiliency and lower energy bills.

Nearly \$400 million was going to be invested through the Department of Energy's Grid Innovation Program to provide onshore connections for offshore wind power, improve the electric grid, and install energy storage through a project called Power Up New England.

But the President's Day One executive order abruptly halted offshore wind energy

projects in their tracks, and the Department of Energy froze Power Up New England's grant. That project was expected to bring enough energy online to power about 2 million homes, and reduce energy costs for customers by up to \$1.5 billion per year.

Energy demand is higher than ever and only increasing. Cheap, reliable energy is key to affordability. The future lies with low-cost wind and solar, not more expensive oil, gas, and coal. We have to increase energy supply or costs will continue to rise for the American people—and we will be dependent on importing energy to meet our goals.

Instead of focusing on ways to help lower energy costs, House Republicans are using this bill to further gut critical federal resources and advance their own ideological agenda.

Their cut of nearly half the budget for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy is a direct attack on the programs that lower energy bills for working families, create good-paying jobs in our communities, and keep America competitive.

This bill revokes funding that supports hydrogen energy, batten, recycling, and energy improvements in public schools, as well as support for public-private clean energy projects.

Their bill undermines the very programs that help us stop the spread of nuclear weapons, detect nuclear activity, and uphold arms control efforts that make America and the world safer—and it underfunds efforts to clean up sites contaminated by our Nation's early atomic energy program.

All of this after Republicans passed the Big Ugly Bill, a law that gives massive tax breaks to billionaires and the biggest corporations while driving up home energy bills for families by as much as 30 percent.

I cannot support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to vote NO. Instead of working with Democrats to lower prices and invest in technology that promotes our energy independence, House Republicans are pushing a bill that raises energy costs for families and businesses, and eliminates good-paying jobs.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate is expired. Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The bill shall be considered as read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4553

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

The following appropriations shall be expended under the direction of the Secretary of the Army and the supervision of the Chief of Engineers for authorized civil functions of the Department of the Army pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related efforts.

INVESTIGATIONS

For expenses necessary where authorized by law for the collection and study of basic

information pertaining to river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related needs; for surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of proposed river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, and aquatic ecosystem restoration projects, and related efforts prior to construction; for restudy of authorized projects; and for miscellaneous investigations, and, when authorized by law, surveys and detailed studies, and plans and specifications of projects prior to construction, \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

CONSTRUCTION

For expenses necessary for the construction of river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, shore protection, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; for conducting detailed studies, and plans and specifications, of such projects (including those involving participation by States, local governments, or private groups) authorized or made eligible for selection by law (but such detailed studies, and plans and specifications, shall not constitute a commitment of the Government to construction); \$2,555,000,000, to remain available until expended; of which \$84,883,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of construction costs for facilities under the Dredged Material Disposal Facilities program; and of which such sums as are necessary to cover 25 percent of the costs of construction, replacement, rehabilitation, and expansion of inland waterways projects shall be derived from the Inland Waterways Trust Fund, except as otherwise specifically provided for in law: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES

For expenses necessary for flood damage reduction projects and related efforts in the Mississippi River alluvial valley below Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as authorized by law, \$490,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$6,705,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of eligible operation and maintenance costs for inland harbors: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the operation, maintenance, and care of existing river and harbor, flood and storm damage reduction, aquatic ecosystem restoration, and related projects authorized by law; providing security for infrastructure owned or operated by the Corps, including administrative buildings and laboratories; maintaining harbor channels provided by a State, municipality, or other public agency that serve essential navigation needs of general commerce, where authorized by law; surveying and charting northern and northwestern lakes and connecting waters; clearing and straightening channels; and removing obstructions to navigation, \$6,140,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$3,381,412,000, to be derived from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund, shall be to cover the Federal share of eligible operations and

maintenance costs for coastal harbors and channels, and for inland harbors, of which \$40,000,000, shall be for the design and construction to replace Federal dredges, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purposes in the revolving fund established by the first section of the Act of July 27, 1953 (33 U.S.C. 576); of which such sums as may be necessary shall be derived from amounts collected in this or prior fiscal years under section 210 of the Flood Control Act of 1968 (16 U.S.C. 460d-3) and are not otherwise appropriated shall be for resource protection, research, interpretation, and maintenance activities related to resource protection in the areas at which outdoor recreation is available; of which such sums as become available from fees collected under section 217 of Public Law 104-303 shall be used to cover the cost of operation and maintenance of the dredged material disposal facilities for which such fees have been collected; and of which \$62,000,000, to be derived from the general fund of the Treasury, shall be to carry out subsection (c) of section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2238c) and shall be designated as being for such purpose pursuant to paragraph (2) of section 14003 of division B of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (Public Law 116-136): *Provided*, That 1 percent of the total amount of funds provided for each of the programs, projects, or activities funded under this heading shall not be allocated to a field operating activity prior to the beginning of the fourth quarter of the fiscal year and shall be available for use by the Chief of Engineers to fund such emergency activities as the Chief of Engineers determines to be necessary and appropriate, and that the Chief of Engineers shall allocate during the fourth quarter any remaining funds which have not been used for emergency activities proportionally in accordance with the amounts provided for the programs, projects, or activities: *Provided further*, That the Secretary shall not deviate from the work plan, once the plan has been submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

REGULATORY PROGRAM

For expenses necessary for administration of laws pertaining to regulation of navigable waters and wetlands, \$221,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

FLOOD CONTROL AND COASTAL EMERGENCIES

For expenses necessary to prepare for flood, hurricane, and other natural disasters and support emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to such disasters as authorized by law, \$40,000,000, to remain available until expended.

EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For expenses necessary for the supervision and general administration of the civil works program in the headquarters of the Corps of Engineers and the offices of the Division Engineers; and for costs of management and operation of the Humphreys Engineer Center Support Activity, the Institute for Water Resources, the United States Army Engineer Research and Development Center, and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Finance Center allocable to the civil works program, \$226,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which not to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation purposes and only during the current fiscal year; of which \$10,000,000, shall be for the design and construction to replace Federal dredges, in addition to amounts otherwise made available for such purposes, and shall be transferred to and merged with funds available for such purposes in the revolving fund established by

the first section of the Act of July 27, 1953 (33 U.S.C. 576): *Provided*, That no part of any other appropriation provided in this title shall be available to fund the civil works activities of the Office of the Chief of Engineers or the civil works executive direction and management activities of the division offices: *Provided further*, That any Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies appropriation may be used to fund the supervision and general administration of emergency operations, repairs, and other activities in response to any flood, hurricane, or other natural disaster.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE ARMY FOR CIVIL WORKS

For the Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works as authorized by 10 U.S.C. 7016(b)(3), \$6,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That not more than 75 percent of such amount may be obligated or expended until the Assistant Secretary submits to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress the report required under section 101(d) of this Act and a work plan that allocates at least 95 percent of the additional funding provided under each heading in the report accompanying this Act, to specific programs, projects, or activities.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCE AND INNOVATION PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For administrative expenses to carry out the direct and guaranteed loan programs, notwithstanding section 5033 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

In addition, fees authorized to be collected pursuant to sections 5029 and 5030 of the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014 shall be deposited in this account, to remain available until expended.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) None of the funds provided in title I of this Act, or provided by previous appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title I of this Act that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2026, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that:

- (1) creates or initiates a new program, project, or activity;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;
- (3) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;
- (4) proposes to use funds directed for a specific activity for a different purpose, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;
- (5) augments or reduces existing programs, projects, or activities in excess of the amounts contained in paragraphs (6) through (10), unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;
- (6) INVESTIGATIONS.—For a base level over \$100,000, reprogramming of 25 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$150,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: *Provided*, That for a base level less than \$100,000, the reprogramming limit is \$25,000: *Provided further*, That up to \$25,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(7) CONSTRUCTION.—For a base level over \$2,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$3,000,000 per project, study or activity is allowed: *Provided*, That for a base level less than \$2,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$300,000: *Provided further*, That up to \$3,000,000 may be reprogrammed for settled contractor claims, changed conditions, or real estate deficiency judgments: *Provided further*, That up to \$300,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses;

(8) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—Unlimited reprogramming authority is granted for the Corps to be able to respond to emergencies: *Provided*, That the Chief of Engineers shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of these emergency actions as soon thereafter as practicable: *Provided further*, That for a base level over \$1,000,000, reprogramming of 15 percent of the base amount up to a limit of \$5,000,000 per project, study, or activity is allowed: *Provided further*, That for a base level less than \$1,000,000, the reprogramming limit is \$150,000: *Provided further*, That \$150,000 may be reprogrammed into any continuing study or activity that did not receive an appropriation;

(9) MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES.—The reprogramming guidelines in paragraphs (6), (7), and (8) shall apply to the Investigations, Construction, and Operation and Maintenance portions of the Mississippi River and Tributaries Account, respectively; and

(10) FORMERLY UTILIZED SITES REMEDIAL ACTION PROGRAM.—Reprogramming of up to 15 percent of the base of the receiving project is permitted.

(b) DE MINIMIS REPROGRAMMINGS.—In no case should a reprogramming for less than \$50,000 be submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(c) CONTINUING AUTHORITIES PROGRAM.—Subsection (a)(1) shall not apply to any project or activity funded under the continuing authorities program.

(d) Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress to establish the baseline for application of reprogramming and transfer authorities for the current fiscal year which shall include:

- (1) A table for each appropriation with a separate column to display the President's budget request, adjustments made by Congress, adjustments due to enacted rescissions, if applicable, and the fiscal year enacted level;
- (2) A delineation in the table for each appropriation both by object class and program, project and activity as detailed in the budget appendix for the respective appropriations; and
- (3) An identification of items of special congressional interest.

SEC. 102. The Secretary shall allocate funds made available in this Act solely in accordance with the provisions of this Act and in the report accompanying this Act, including the determination and designation of new starts.

SEC. 103. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to award or modify any contract that commits funds beyond the amounts appropriated for that program, project, or activity that remain unobligated, except that such amounts may include any funds that have been made available through reprogramming pursuant to section 101.

SEC. 104. The Secretary of the Army may transfer to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Fish and Wildlife Service may accept and

expend, up to \$8,733,000 of funds provided in this title under the heading "Operation and Maintenance" to mitigate for fisheries lost due to Corps of Engineers projects.

SEC. 105. None of the funds in this Act shall be used for an open lake placement alternative for dredged material, after evaluating the least costly, environmentally acceptable manner for the disposal or management of dredged material originating from Lake Erie or tributaries thereto, unless it is approved under a State water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1341): *Provided*, That until an open lake placement alternative for dredged material is approved under a State water quality certification, the Corps of Engineers shall continue upland placement of such dredged material consistent with the requirements of section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211).

SEC. 106. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to carry out any water supply reallocation study under the Wolf Creek Dam, Lake Cumberland, Kentucky, project authorized under the Act of July 24, 1946 (60 Stat. 636, ch. 595).

SEC. 107. Additional funding provided in this Act shall be allocated only to projects determined to be eligible by the Chief of Engineers.

SEC. 108. As of the date of enactment of this Act and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary of the Army shall not promulgate or enforce any regulation that prohibits an individual from possessing a firearm, including an assembled or functional firearm, at a water resources development project covered under section 327.0 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on the date of enactment of this Act) if:

- (1) the individual is not otherwise prohibited by law from possessing a firearm; and
- (2) the possession of the firearm is in compliance with the law of the State in which the water resources development project is located.

SEC. 109. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce section 370 of Public Law 116-283 with respect to civil works projects.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT

CENTRAL UTAH PROJECT COMPLETION ACCOUNT

For carrying out activities authorized by the Central Utah Project Completion Act, \$23,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$4,000,000 shall be deposited into the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Account for use by the Utah Reclamation Mitigation and Conservation Commission: *Provided*, That of the amount provided under this heading, \$1,950,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for expenses necessary in carrying out related responsibilities of the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2026, of the amount made available to the Commission under this Act or any other Act, the Commission may use an amount not to exceed \$2,186,000 for administrative expenses.

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The following appropriations shall be expended to execute authorized functions of the Bureau of Reclamation:

WATER AND RELATED RESOURCES (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For management, development, and restoration of water and related natural resources and for related activities, including the operation, maintenance, and rehabilitation of reclamation and other facilities, participation in fulfilling related Federal re-

sponsibilities to Native Americans, and related grants to, and cooperative and other agreements with, State and local governments, federally recognized Indian Tribes, and others, \$1,710,630,000, to remain available until expended, of which \$23,899,000 shall be available for transfer to the Upper Colorado River Basin Fund and \$7,679,000 shall be available for transfer to the Lower Colorado River Basin Development Fund; of which such amounts as may be necessary may be advanced to the Colorado River Dam Fund: *Provided*, That such transfers, may be increased or decreased within the overall appropriation under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the total appropriated, the amount for program activities that can be financed by the Reclamation Fund, the Water Storage Enhancement Receipts account established by section 4011(e) of Public Law 114-322, or the Bureau of Reclamation special fee account established by 16 U.S.C. 6806 shall be derived from that Fund or account: *Provided further*, That funds contributed under 43 U.S.C. 395 are available until expended for the purposes for which the funds were contributed: *Provided further*, That funds advanced under 43 U.S.C. 397a shall be credited to this account and are available until expended for the same purposes as the sums appropriated under this heading: *Provided further*, That of the amounts made available under this heading, \$3,237,000 shall be deposited in the San Gabriel Basin Restoration Fund established by section 110 of title I of division B of appendix D of Public Law 106-554.

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT RESTORATION FUND

For carrying out the programs, projects, plans, habitat restoration, improvement, and acquisition provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, such sums as may be collected in fiscal year 2026 in the Central Valley Project Restoration Fund pursuant to sections 3407(d), 3404(c)(3), and 3405(f) of Public Law 102-575, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That the Bureau of Reclamation is directed to assess and collect the full amount of the additional mitigation and restoration payments authorized by section 3407(d) of Public Law 102-575: *Provided further*, That none of the funds made available under this heading may be used for the acquisition or leasing of water for in-stream purposes if the water is already committed to in-stream purposes by a court adopted decree or order.

CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA RESTORATION (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For carrying out activities authorized by the Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, consistent with plans to be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, \$32,000,000, to remain available until expended, of which such amounts as may be necessary to carry out such activities may be transferred to appropriate accounts of other participating Federal agencies to carry out authorized purposes: *Provided*, That funds appropriated herein may be used for the Federal share of the costs of CALFED Program management: *Provided further*, That CALFED implementation shall be carried out in a balanced manner with clear performance measures demonstrating concurrent progress in achieving the goals and objectives of the Program.

POLICY AND ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for policy, administration, and related functions in the Office of the Commissioner, the Denver office, and offices in the six regions of the Bureau of Reclamation, to remain available until September 30, 2027, \$64,000,000, to be derived from the Reclamation Fund and be nonreimbursable as provided in 43 U.S.C. 377, of which not

to exceed \$5,000 may be used for official reception and representation expenses: *Provided*, That no part of any other appropriation in this Act shall be available for activities or functions budgeted as policy and administration expenses.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISION

Appropriations for the Bureau of Reclamation shall be available for purchase and replacement of not to exceed 30 motor vehicles, which are for replacement only.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SEC. 201. (a) None of the funds provided in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources, or provided by previous or subsequent appropriations Acts to the agencies or entities funded in title II of this Act for Water and Related Resources that remain available for obligation or expenditure in fiscal year 2026, shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

- (1) initiates or creates a new program, project, or activity;
- (2) eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(3) increases funds for any program, project, or activity for which funds have been denied or restricted by this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(4) restarts or resumes any program, project or activity for which funds are not provided in this Act, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress;

(5) transfers funds in excess of the following limits, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress:

(A) 15 percent for any program, project or activity for which \$2,000,000 or more is available at the beginning of the fiscal year; or

(B) \$400,000 for any program, project or activity for which less than \$2,000,000 is available at the beginning of the fiscal year;

(6) transfers more than \$500,000 from either the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category or the Resources Management and Development category to any program, project, or activity in the other category, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress; or

(7) transfers, where necessary to discharge legal obligations of the Bureau of Reclamation, more than \$5,000,000 to provide adequate funds for settled contractor claims, increased contractor earnings due to accelerated rates of operations, and real estate deficiency judgments, unless prior approval is received from the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress.

(b) Subsection (a)(5) shall not apply to any transfer of funds within the Facilities Operation, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation category.

(c) For purposes of this section, the term "transfer" means any movement of funds into or out of a program, project, or activity.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (a) and (b), the amounts made available in this title under the heading "Bureau of Reclamation—Water and Related Resources" shall be expended for the programs, projects, and activities specified in the "House Recommended" columns in the "Water and Related Resources" table included under the heading "Title II—Department of the Interior" in the report accompanying this Act.

(e) The Bureau of Reclamation shall submit reports on a quarterly basis to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of

Congress detailing all the funds reprogrammed between programs, projects, activities, or categories of funding. The first quarterly report shall be submitted not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 202. (a) None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to determine the final point of discharge for the interceptor drain for the San Luis Unit until development by the Secretary of the Interior and the State of California of a plan, which shall conform to the water quality standards of the State of California as approved by the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, to minimize any detrimental effect of the San Luis drainage waters.

(b) The costs of the Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and the costs of the San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program shall be classified by the Secretary of the Interior as reimbursable or nonreimbursable and collected until fully repaid pursuant to the “Cleanup Program—Alternative Repayment Plan” and the “SJVDP—Alternative Repayment Plan” described in the report entitled “Repayment Report, Kesterson Reservoir Cleanup Program and San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program, February 1995”, prepared by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation. Any future obligations of funds by the United States relating to, or providing for, drainage service or drainage studies for the San Luis Unit shall be fully reimbursable by San Luis Unit beneficiaries of such service or studies pursuant to Federal reclamation law.

SEC. 203. (a) Title III of subtitle J of the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (Public Law 114-322) is amended—

(1) In section 4007(i), by striking “2021” and inserting “2027”; and

(2) In section 4013—

(A) in paragraph (1), by deleting “section 4004, which shall expire 10 years after the date of its enactment” and inserting “section 4004, which shall expire on December 16, 2034”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “on or before December 16, 2026” after “4009(c)”.

(b) Section 1602(g)(1) of the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (43 U.S.C. 390h) is amended by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$177,500,000”.

(c) Section 4(a)(2)(F)(i) of the Water Desalination Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C. 10301 note; Public Law 104-298) is amended by striking “\$30,000,000” and inserting “\$106,500,000”.

SEC. 204. Section 9504(e) of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 10364(e)) is amended by striking “\$920,000,000” and inserting “\$1,000,000,000”.

SEC. 205. (a) Title I of Public Law 108-361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) (118 Stat. 1681), as amended by section 204 of division D of Public Law 117-103, shall be applied by substituting “2026” for “2022” each place it appears.

(b) Section 103(f)(4)(A) of Public Law 108-361 (the Calfed Bay-Delta Authorization Act) is amended by striking “\$30,000,000” and inserting “\$35,000,000”.

SEC. 206. Section 9106(g)(2) of Public Law 111-11 (Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009) shall be applied by substituting “2026” for “2022”.

SEC. 207. Section 301 of the Reclamation States Emergency Drought Relief Act of 1991 (43 U.S.C. 2241) shall be applied by substituting “\$130,000,000” for “\$120,000,000”.

SEC. 208. Section 10609(a) of the North-western New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act (subtitle B of title X of Public Law 111-11) shall be applied by substituting “\$1,815,000,000” for “\$870,000,000” and “2026” for “2024”.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

ENERGY PROGRAMS

ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy efficiency and renewable energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,830,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$223,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

CYBERSECURITY, ENERGY SECURITY, AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for energy sector cybersecurity, energy security, and emergency response activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$28,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

ELECTRICITY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for electricity activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$225,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$19,700,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction: *Provided further*, That funds under this heading allocated for the purposes of section 9 of the Small Business Act, as amended (15 U.S.C. 638), including for Small Business Innovation Research and Small Business Technology Transfer activities, or for the purposes of section 1001 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended (42 U.S.C. 16391(a)), for Technology Commercialization Fund activities, may be reprogrammed without being subject to the restrictions in section 301 of this Act.

GRID DEPLOYMENT

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for grid deployment in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7191 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$6,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

NUCLEAR ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for nuclear energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition

or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,795,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$88,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction: *Provided further*, That for the purpose of section 954(a)(7) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended, the only amount available shall be from the amount specified as including that purpose in the “Bill” column in the “Department of Energy” table included under the heading “Title III—Department of Energy” in the report accompanying this Act.

FOSSIL ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out fossil energy research and development activities, under the authority of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition of interest, including defeasible and equitable interests in any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition or expansion, and for conducting inquiries, technological investigations and research concerning the extraction, processing, use, and disposal of mineral substances without objectionable social and environmental costs (30 U.S.C. 3, 1602, and 1603), \$687,500,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount \$70,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

NAVAL PETROLEUM AND OIL SHALE RESERVES

For Department of Energy expenses necessary to carry out naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities, \$13,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, unobligated funds remaining from prior years shall be available for all naval petroleum and oil shale reserve activities.

STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Strategic Petroleum Reserve facility development and operations and program management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$294,628,000, to remain available until expended.

SPR PETROLEUM ACCOUNT

For the acquisition, transportation, and injection of petroleum products, and for other necessary expenses pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, as amended (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), sections 403 and 404 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2015 (42 U.S.C. 6241, 6239 note), section 32204 of the Fixing America’s Surface Transportation Act (42 U.S.C. 6241 note), and section 30204 of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 6241 note), \$100,000, to remain available until expended.

NORTHEAST HOME HEATING OIL RESERVE

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for Northeast Home Heating Oil Reserve storage, operation, and management activities pursuant to the Energy Policy and Conservation Act (42 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.), \$7,150,000, to remain available until expended.

ENERGY INFORMATION ADMINISTRATION

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities of the Energy Information Administration, \$135,000,000, to remain available until expended.

NON-DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for non-defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying

out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$337,700,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That in addition, fees collected pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of section 5 of the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C. 6939f(b)(1)), and deposited under this heading in fiscal year 2026 pursuant to section 309 of title III of division C of Public Law 116-94 are appropriated, to remain available until expended, for mercury storage costs.

URANIUM ENRICHMENT DECONTAMINATION AND DECOMMISSIONING FUND

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out uranium enrichment facility decontamination and decommissioning, remedial actions, and other activities of title II of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, and title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992, \$844,380,000, to be deposited into and subsequently derived from the Uranium Enrichment Decontamination and Decommissioning Fund, to remain available until expended, of which \$0 shall be available in accordance with title X, subtitle A, of the Energy Policy Act of 1992.

SCIENCE

For Department of Energy expenses including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment, and other expenses necessary for science activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, and purchase of not more than 35 passenger motor vehicles, \$8,400,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$226,831,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

NUCLEAR WASTE DISPOSAL

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for nuclear waste disposal activities to carry out the purposes of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982, Public Law 97-425, as amended, \$12,040,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund.

ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY—ENERGY

For Department of Energy expenses necessary in carrying out the activities authorized by section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (Public Law 110-69), \$350,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$40,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

TITLE 17 INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

Such sums as are derived from amounts received from borrowers pursuant to section 1702(b) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 under this heading in prior Acts, shall be collected in accordance with section 502(7) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974: *Provided*, That for necessary administrative expenses of the Title 17 Innovative Technology Loan Guarantee Program, as authorized, \$35,000,000 is appropriated, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That up to \$35,000,000 of fees collected in fiscal year 2026 pursuant to section 1702(h) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and used for necessary administrative expenses in this appropriation and shall remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That to the extent that fees collected in fis-

cal year 2026 exceed \$35,000,000, those excess amounts shall be credited as offsetting collections under this heading and available in future fiscal years only to the extent provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced (1) as such fees are received during fiscal year 2026 (estimated at \$70,000,000) and (2) to the extent that any remaining general fund appropriations can be derived from fees collected in previous fiscal years that are not otherwise appropriated, so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at \$0: *Provided further*, That for the cost of loan guarantees for the construction of small modular reactors or advanced nuclear reactors eligible under section 1703(b)(4) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16513(b)(4)), \$150,000,000 is appropriated, to remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the Department of Energy shall not subordinate any loan obligation to other financing in violation of section 1702 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 or subordinate any Guaranteed Obligation to any loan or other debt obligations in violation of section 609.8 of title 10, Code of Federal Regulations: *Provided further*, That the amounts provided under this paragraph are in addition to those provided in any other Act: *Provided further*, That for amounts collected pursuant to section 1702(b)(2) of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, the source of such payment received from borrowers may not be a loan or other debt obligation that is guaranteed by the Federal Government: *Provided further*, That none of such loan guarantee authority made available under this paragraph shall be available for commitments to guarantee loans for any projects where funds, personnel, or property (tangible or intangible) of any Federal agency, instrumentality, personnel, or affiliated entity are expected to be used (directly or indirectly) through acquisitions, contracts, demonstrations, exchanges, grants, incentives, leases, procurements, sales, other transaction authority, or other arrangements, to support the project or to obtain goods or services from the project: *Provided further*, That the preceding proviso shall not be interpreted as precluding the use of the loan guarantee authority provided under this paragraph for commitments to guarantee loans for:

(1) projects as a result of such projects benefitting from otherwise allowable Federal income tax benefits;

(2) projects as a result of such projects benefitting from being located on Federal land pursuant to a lease or right-of-way agreement for which all consideration for all uses is:

(A) paid exclusively in cash;

(B) deposited in the Treasury as offsetting receipts; and

(C) equal to the fair market value as determined by the head of the relevant agency;

(3) projects as a result of such projects benefitting from Federal insurance programs, including under section 170 of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954 (42 U.S.C. 2210; commonly known as the "Price-Anderson Act"); or

(4) electric generation projects using transmission facilities owned or operated by a Federal Power Marketing Administration or the Tennessee Valley Authority that have been authorized, approved, and financed independent of the project receiving the guarantee:

Provided further, That none of the loan guarantee authority made available under this heading shall be available for any project unless the Director of the Office of Management and Budget has certified in advance in writing that the loan guarantee and the project comply with the provisions under this heading.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY VEHICLES MANUFACTURING LOAN PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing Loan Program, \$13,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

TRIBAL ENERGY LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM

For Department of Energy administrative expenses necessary in carrying out the Tribal Energy Loan Guarantee Program, \$6,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

INDIAN ENERGY POLICY AND PROGRAMS

For necessary expenses for Indian Energy activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$75,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated under this heading, \$14,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION

For salaries and expenses of the Department of Energy necessary for departmental administration in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), \$304,653,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, including the hire of passenger motor vehicles and official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, plus such additional amounts as necessary to cover increases in the estimated amount of cost of work for others notwithstanding the provisions of the Anti-Deficiency Act (31 U.S.C. 1511 et seq.): *Provided*, That such increases in cost of work are offset by revenue increases of the same or greater amount: *Provided further*, That moneys received by the Department for miscellaneous revenues estimated to total \$100,578,000 in fiscal year 2026 may be retained and used for operating expenses within this account, as authorized by section 201 of Public Law 95-238, notwithstanding the provisions of 31 U.S.C. 3302: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$204,075,000.

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of the Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$90,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

WEAPONS ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for atomic energy defense weapons activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$20,661,993,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$149,244,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION (INCLUDING RESCISSION OF FUNDS)

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other incidental expenses necessary for defense nuclear nonproliferation activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department

of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,993,060,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the unobligated balances from prior year appropriations available under this heading \$9,422,000 is hereby rescinded.

NAVAL REACTORS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For Department of Energy expenses necessary for naval reactors activities to carry out the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition (by purchase, condemnation, construction, or otherwise) of real property, plant, and capital equipment, facilities, and facility expansion, \$2,171,023,000, to remain available until expended, of which, \$96,740,000 shall be transferred to "Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy", for the Advanced Test Reactor: *Provided*, That of such amount made available under this heading, \$61,540,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for Federal Salaries and Expenses in the National Nuclear Security Administration, \$500,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, including official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$17,000.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL CLEANUP

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses necessary for atomic energy defense environmental cleanup activities in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$6,521,396,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$310,000,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

OTHER DEFENSE ACTIVITIES

For Department of Energy expenses, including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment and other expenses, necessary for atomic energy defense, other defense activities, and classified activities, in carrying out the purposes of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including the acquisition or condemnation of any real property or any facility or for plant or facility acquisition, construction, or expansion, \$1,179,950,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of such amount, \$391,354,000 shall be available until September 30, 2027, for program direction.

POWER MARKETING ADMINISTRATIONS

BONNEVILLE POWER ADMINISTRATION FUND

Expenditures from the Bonneville Power Administration Fund, established pursuant to Public Law 93-454, are approved for official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$5,000: *Provided*, That during fiscal year 2026, no new direct loan obligations may be made.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHEASTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, including transmission wheeling and ancillary services, pursuant to section 5 of the

Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the southeastern power area, \$9,285,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944, up to \$9,285,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southeastern Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than \$0: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$81,819,000 collected by the Southeastern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

For expenses necessary for operation and maintenance of power transmission facilities and for marketing electric power and energy, for construction and acquisition of transmission lines, substations and appurtenant facilities, and for administrative expenses, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500 in carrying out section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), as applied to the Southwestern Power Administration, \$59,766,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302 and section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), up to \$49,366,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Southwestern Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than \$10,400,000: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$80,000,000 collected by the Southwestern Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

CONSTRUCTION, REHABILITATION, OPERATION AND

MAINTENANCE, WESTERN AREA POWER ADMINISTRATION

For carrying out the functions authorized by title III, section 302(a)(1)(E) of the Act of August 4, 1977 (42 U.S.C. 7152), and other related activities including conservation and

renewable resources programs as authorized, \$311,035,000, including official reception and representation expenses in an amount not to exceed \$1,500, to remain available until expended, of which \$311,035,000 shall be derived from the Department of the Interior Reclamation Fund: *Provided*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, section 5 of the Flood Control Act of 1944 (16 U.S.C. 825s), and section 1 of the Interior Department Appropriation Act, 1939 (43 U.S.C. 392a), up to \$247,663,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended, for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the Western Area Power Administration: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than \$63,372,000, of which \$63,372,000 is derived from the Reclamation Fund: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$475,000,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration pursuant to the Flood Control Act of 1944 and the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to recover purchase power and wheeling expenses shall be credited to this account as offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of making purchase power and wheeling expenditures: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred (excluding purchase power and wheeling expenses).

FALCON AND AMISTAD OPERATING AND MAINTENANCE FUND

For operation, maintenance, and emergency costs for the hydroelectric facilities at the Falcon and Amistad Dams, \$6,510,000, to remain available until expended, and to be derived from the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund of the Western Area Power Administration, as provided in section 2 of the Act of June 18, 1954 (68 Stat. 255): *Provided*, That notwithstanding the provisions of that Act and of 31 U.S.C. 3302, up to \$6,282,000 collected by the Western Area Power Administration from the sale of power and related services from the Falcon and Amistad Dams shall be credited to this account as discretionary offsetting collections, to remain available until expended for the sole purpose of funding the annual expenses of the hydroelectric facilities of these Dams and associated Western Area Power Administration activities: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated for annual expenses shall be reduced as collections are received during the fiscal year so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than \$228,000: *Provided further*, That for purposes of this appropriation, annual expenses means expenditures that are generally recovered in the same year that they are incurred: *Provided further*, That for fiscal year 2026, the Administrator of the Western Area Power Administration may accept up to \$1,072,000 in funds contributed by United States power customers of the Falcon and Amistad Dams for deposit into the Falcon and Amistad Operating and Maintenance Fund, and such funds shall be available for the purpose for which contributed in like manner as if said sums had been specifically appropriated for such purpose: *Provided further*, That any such funds shall be available without further appropriation and without fiscal year limitation for use by the Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission for the sole purpose of operating, maintaining, repairing, rehabilitating, replacing,

or upgrading the hydroelectric facilities at these Dams in accordance with agreements reached between the Administrator, Commissioner, and the power customers.

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to carry out the provisions of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7101 et seq.), including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, official reception and representation expenses not to exceed \$3,000, and the hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$520,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law, not to exceed \$520,000,000 of revenues from fees and annual charges, and other services and collections in fiscal year 2026 shall be retained and used for expenses necessary in this account, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated from the general fund shall be reduced as revenues are received during fiscal year 2026 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation from the general fund estimated at not more than \$0.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—DEPARTMENT
OF ENERGY

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 301. (a) No appropriation, funds, or authority made available by this title for the Department of Energy shall be used to initiate or resume any program, project, or activity or to prepare or initiate Requests For Proposals or similar arrangements (including Requests for Quotations, Requests for Information, and Funding Opportunity Announcements) for a program, project, or activity if the program, project, or activity has not been funded by Congress.

(b)(1) Unless the Secretary of Energy notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 full business days in advance, none of the funds made available in this title may be used to—

(A) make a grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling \$1,000,000 or more;

(B) make a discretionary contract award or Other Transaction Agreement totaling \$1,000,000 or more, including a contract covered by the Federal Acquisition Regulation;

(C) provide nonoperational funding through a competition restricted only to Department of Energy National Laboratories totaling \$1,000,000 or more;

(D) provide nonoperational funding directly to a Department of Energy National Laboratory totaling \$25,000,000 or more;

(E) issue a letter of intent to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D);

(F) announce publicly the intention to make an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D); or

(G) issue a letter to terminate an allocation, award, or Agreement in excess of the limits in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (D).

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress within 15 days of the conclusion of each quarter a report detailing each grant allocation or discretionary grant award totaling less than \$1,000,000 provided during the previous quarter.

(3) The notification required by paragraph (1) and the report required by paragraph (2) shall include the recipient of the award, the amount of the award, the fiscal year for which the funds for the award were appropriated, the account and program, project, or activity from which the funds are being drawn, the title of the award, and a brief de-

scription of the activity for which the award is made.

(c) The Department of Energy may not, with respect to any program, project, or activity that uses budget authority made available in this title under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs”, enter into a multiyear contract, award a multiyear grant, or enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement unless—

(1) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement is funded for the full period of performance as anticipated at the time of award; or

(2) the contract, grant, or cooperative agreement includes a clause conditioning the Federal Government's obligation on the availability of future year budget authority and the Secretary notifies the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 3 days in advance.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (e), (f), and (g), the amounts made available by this title shall be expended as authorized by law for the programs, projects, and activities, and in the amounts specified in the “Bill” column in the “Department of Energy” table included under the heading “Title III—Department of Energy” in the report accompanying this Act.

(e) The amounts made available by this title may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Department shall notify, and obtain the prior approval of, the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program, project, or activity funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$5,000,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(f) None of the funds provided in this title shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that—

(1) creates, initiates, or eliminates a program, project, or activity;

(2) increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act; or

(3) reduces funds that are directed to be used for a specific program, project, or activity by this Act.

(g)(1) The Secretary of Energy may waive any requirement or restriction in this section that applies to the use of funds made available for the Department of Energy if compliance with such requirement or restriction would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver.

(h) The unexpended balances of prior appropriations provided for activities in this Act may be available to the same appropriation accounts for such activities established pursuant to this title. Available balances may be merged with funds in the applicable established accounts and thereafter may be accounted for as one fund for the same time period as originally enacted.

SEC. 302. Funds appropriated by this or any other Act, or made available by the transfer of funds in this Act, for intelligence activities are deemed to be specifically authorized by the Congress for purposes of section 504 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094) during fiscal year 2026 until the enact-

ment of the Intelligence Authorization Act for fiscal year 2026.

SEC. 303. None of the funds made available in this title shall be used for the construction of facilities classified as high-hazard nuclear facilities under 10 CFR Part 830 unless independent oversight is conducted by the Office of Enterprise Assessments to ensure the project is in compliance with nuclear safety requirements.

SEC. 304. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to approve critical decision-2 or critical decision-3 under Department of Energy Order 413.3B, or any successive departmental guidance, for construction projects where the total project cost exceeds \$100,000,000, until a separate independent cost estimate has been developed for the project for that critical decision.

SEC. 305. None of the funds made available in this title may be used to support a grant allocation award, discretionary grant award, or cooperative agreement that exceeds \$100,000,000 in Federal funding unless the project is carried out through internal independent project management procedures.

SEC. 306. No funds shall be transferred directly from “Department of Energy—Power Marketing Administration—Colorado River Basins Power Marketing Fund, Western Area Power Administration” to the general fund of the Treasury in the current fiscal year.

SEC. 307. (a) The Secretary of Energy may not establish any new regional petroleum product reserve unless funding for the proposed regional petroleum product reserve is explicitly requested in advance in an annual budget submitted by the President pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, and approved by the Congress in an appropriations Act.

(b) The budget request or notification shall include—

(1) the justification for the new reserve;

(2) a cost estimate for the establishment, operation, and maintenance of the reserve, including funding sources;

(3) a detailed plan for operation of the reserve, including the conditions upon which the products may be released;

(4) the location of the reserve; and

(5) the estimate of the total inventory of the reserve.

SEC. 308. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to draw down and sell petroleum products from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (1) to any entity that is under the ownership, control, or influence of the Chinese Communist Party; or (2) except on condition that such petroleum products will not be exported to the People's Republic of China.

SEC. 309. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act may be used by the Secretary of Energy to award any grant, contract, cooperative agreement, or loan of \$10,000,000 or greater to an entity of concern as defined in section 10114 of division B of Public Law 117-167.

(b) The Secretary shall implement the requirements under subsection (a) using a risk-based approach and analytical tools to aggregate, link, analyze, and maintain information reported by an entity seeking or receiving such funds made available by this Act.

(c) This section shall be applied in a manner consistent with the obligations of the United States under applicable international agreements.

(d) The Secretary shall have the authority to require the submission to the agency, by an entity seeking or receiving such funds made available by this Act, documentation necessary to implement the requirements under subsection (a).

(e) Chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork

Reduction Act”), shall not apply to the implementation of the requirements under this section.

(f) The Secretary and other Federal agencies shall coordinate to share relevant information necessary to implement the requirements under subsection (a).

SEC. 310. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to admit any non-U.S. citizen from Russia or China to any nuclear weapons production facility, as such term is defined in section 4002 of the Atomic Energy Defense Act (50 U.S.C. 2501), other than areas accessible to the general public, unless 30 days prior to facility admittance, the Department of Energy provides notification to the Committees on Appropriations and Armed Services of both Houses of Congress.

SEC. 311. (a) None of the funds made available by this Act or otherwise made available for fiscal year 2025 for the Department of Energy may be obligated or expended to procure or purchase computers, printers, or interoperable videoconferencing services needed for an office environment in which the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, or any subsidiary or parent entity of the manufacturer, bidder, or offeror, of the equipment is an entity, or parent company of an entity in which the People’s Republic of China has any ownership stake.

(b) The prohibition in subsection (a) also applies in cases in which the Secretary has contracted with a third party for the procurement, purchase, or expenditure of funds on any of the equipment and software described in such subsection.

SEC. 312. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to finalize, administer, implement, or enforce the final rule entitled “Clean Energy for New Federal Buildings and Major Renovations of Federal Buildings” published by the Department of Energy in the Federal Register on May 1, 2024 (89 Fed. Reg. 35384).

SEC. 313. Of the unobligated balances from amounts previously made available to the Department of Energy in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58), the following funds shall be transferred from the following programs in the specified amounts to “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy”, and, in addition to amounts otherwise made available, shall be available for the not more than two competitive awards for Generation 3+ small modular reactor deployment projects described in section 311(a)(1)(A) of division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118–42), the two awards for demonstration projects made prior to the date of enactment of this Act under the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program, as authorized under section 959A of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (42 U.S.C. 16279a), and Risk Reduction for Future Demonstrations, as described under the heading Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program in the explanatory statement accompanying division C of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (Public Law 116–94)—

(1) \$672,652,992 from the unobligated balances under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy” provided to implement sections 40208, 40314, 40511(a), and 40541 of such Act;

(2) \$981,479,556 from the unobligated balances under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy”;

(3) \$1,000,000,000 from the unobligated balances under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Fossil Energy and Carbon Management” provided to implement section 40308 of division D of such Act;

(4) \$1,500,000,000 from the unobligated balances under the heading “Department of En-

ergy—Energy Programs—Carbon Dioxide Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Program Account”;

(5) \$950,000,000 from the unobligated balances under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations” provided to implement sections 41004(a) and 41004(b) of such Act;

Provided, That amounts transferred pursuant to this section shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118–5.

TITLE IV

INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

APPALACHIAN REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary to carry out the programs authorized by the Appalachian Regional Development Act of 1965, as amended, and for expenses necessary for the Federal Co-Chairman and the Alternate on the Appalachian Regional Commission, for payment of the Federal share of the administrative expenses of the Commission, including services as authorized by 5 U.S.C. 3109, and hire of passenger motor vehicles, \$162,535,255, to remain available until expended.

DEFENSE NUCLEAR FACILITIES SAFETY BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board in carrying out activities authorized by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended by Public Law 100–456, section 1441, \$45,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027, of which not to exceed \$1,000 shall be available for official reception and representation expenses.

DELTA REGIONAL AUTHORITY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Delta Regional Authority and to carry out its activities, as authorized by the Delta Regional Authority Act of 2000, notwithstanding sections 382F(d), 382M, and 382N of said Act, \$25,274,232, to remain available until expended.

DENALI COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Denali Commission including the purchase, construction, and acquisition of plant and capital equipment as necessary and other expenses, \$13,815,497, to remain available until expended, notwithstanding the limitations contained in section 306(g) of the Denali Commission Act of 1998: *Provided*, That funds shall be available for construction projects for which the Denali Commission is the sole or primary funding source in an amount not to exceed 80 percent of total project cost for distressed communities, as defined by section 307 of the Denali Commission Act of 1998 (division C, title III, Public Law 105–277), as amended by section 701 of appendix D, title VII, Public Law 106–113 (113 Stat. 1501A–280), and for Indian Tribes, as defined by section 5304(e) of title 25, United States Code, and in an amount not to exceed 50 percent for non-distressed communities: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding payment of a non-Federal share in connection with a grant-in-aid program, amounts under this heading shall be available for the payment of such a non-Federal share for any project for which the Denali Commission is not the sole or primary funding source, provided that such project is consistent with the purposes of the Commission.

NORTHERN BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Northern Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$33,319,727, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That such

amounts shall be available for administrative expenses, notwithstanding section 15751(b) of title 40, United States Code.

SOUTHEAST CRESCENT REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$16,253,526, to remain available until expended.

SOUTHWEST BORDER REGIONAL COMMISSION

For expenses necessary for the Southwest Border Regional Commission in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$4,063,381, to remain available until expended.

GREAT LAKES AUTHORITY

For expenses necessary for the Great Lakes Authority in carrying out activities authorized by subtitle V of title 40, United States Code, \$4,063,381, to remain available until expended.

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Commission in carrying out the purposes of the Energy Reorganization Act of 1974 and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, \$952,700,000, including official representation expenses not to exceed \$30,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amount appropriated herein, not more than \$11,494,000 may be made available for salaries, travel, and other support costs for the Office of the Commission, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided further*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$804,509,977 in fiscal year 2026 shall be retained and used for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, and shall remain available until expended: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2026 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than \$148,190,023.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For expenses necessary for the Office of Inspector General in carrying out the provisions of the Inspector General Act of 1978, \$18,795,000, to remain available until September 30, 2027: *Provided*, That revenues from licensing fees, inspection services, and other services and collections estimated at \$14,885,000 in fiscal year 2026 shall be retained and be available until September 30, 2027, for necessary salaries and expenses in this account, notwithstanding section 3302 of title 31, United States Code: *Provided further*, That the sum herein appropriated shall be reduced by the amount of revenues received during fiscal year 2026 so as to result in a final fiscal year 2026 appropriation estimated at not more than \$3,910,000: *Provided further*, That of the amounts appropriated under this heading, \$1,572,000 shall be for Inspector General services for the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board.

NUCLEAR WASTE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For expenses necessary for the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, as authorized by Public Law 100–203, section 5051, \$4,000,000, to be derived from the Nuclear Waste Fund, to remain available until September 30, 2027.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—INDEPENDENT AGENCIES

SEC. 401. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall comply with the July 5, 2011, version of Chapter VI of its Internal Commission Procedures when responding to Congressional requests for information, consistent with Department of Justice guidance for all Federal agencies.

SEC. 402. (a) The amounts made available by this title for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission may be reprogrammed for any program, project, or activity, and the Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress at least 30 days prior to the use of any proposed reprogramming that would cause any program funding level to increase or decrease by more than \$500,000 or 10 percent, whichever is less, during the time period covered by this Act.

(b)(1) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may waive the notification requirement in subsection (a) if compliance with such requirement would pose a substantial risk to human health, the environment, welfare, or national security.

(2) The Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress of any waiver under paragraph (1) as soon as practicable, but not later than 3 days after the date of the activity to which a requirement or restriction would otherwise have applied. Such notice shall include an explanation of the substantial risk under paragraph (1) that permitted such waiver and shall provide a detailed report to the Committees of such waiver and changes to funding levels to programs, projects, or activities.

(c) Except as provided in subsections (a), (b), and (d), the amounts made available by this title for "Nuclear Regulatory Commission—Salaries and Expenses" shall be expended as directed in the report accompanying this Act.

(d) None of the funds provided for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission shall be available for obligation or expenditure through a reprogramming of funds that increases funds or personnel for any program, project, or activity for which funds are denied or restricted by this Act.

(e) The Commission shall provide a monthly report to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress, which includes the following for each program, project, or activity, including any prior year appropriations—

- (1) total budget authority;
- (2) total unobligated balances; and
- (3) total unliquidated obligations.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used in any way, directly or indirectly, to influence congressional action on any legislation or appropriation matters pending before Congress, other than to communicate to Members of Congress as described in 18 U.S.C. 1913.

SEC. 502. (a) None of the funds made available in title III of this Act may be transferred to any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(b) None of the funds made available for any department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may be transferred to accounts funded in title III of this Act, except pursuant to a transfer made by or transfer authority provided in this Act or any other appropriations Act for any fiscal year, transfer authority referenced in the report accompanying this Act, or any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Govern-

ment may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality.

(c) The head of any relevant department or agency funded in this Act utilizing any transfer authority shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations of both Houses of Congress a semiannual report detailing the transfer authorities, except for any authority whereby a department, agency, or instrumentality of the United States Government may provide goods or services to another department, agency, or instrumentality, used in the previous 6 months and in the year-to-date. This report shall include the amounts transferred and the purposes for which they were transferred, and shall not replace or modify existing notification requirements for each authority.

SEC. 503. (a) None of the funds made available in this Act may be used to maintain or establish a computer network unless such network blocks the viewing, downloading, and exchanging of pornography.

(b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall limit the use of funds necessary for any Federal, State, Tribal, or local law enforcement agency or any other entity carrying out criminal investigations, prosecution, or adjudication activities.

SEC. 504. (a) No federal monies shall be expended in furtherance of any agreement among private entities for consolidated interim storage of spent nuclear fuel that is not specifically authorized under federal law until such time that host state and local governments and any affected Indian tribes have formalized their consent.

(b) Provided that the prohibition provided for in this section shall not apply to facilities presently storing commercial spent nuclear fuel, pursuant to a license issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as of the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) For purposes of this section, "spent nuclear fuel" shall have the same meaning as provided in section 2 of the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 (42 U.S.C. 10101).

SEC. 505. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives, training, programs, offices, officers, policies, or other executive agency functions, or to carry out any program, project, or activity that promotes or advances Critical Race Theory or any concept associated with Critical Race Theory.

SEC. 506. (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 7 of title 1, United States Code, section 1738C of title 28, United States Code, or any other provision of law, none of the funds provided by this Act, or previous appropriations Acts, shall be used in whole or in part to take any discriminatory action against a person, wholly or partially, on the basis that such person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief, or moral conviction, that marriage is, or should be recognized as, a union of one man and one woman.

(b) DISCRIMINATORY ACTION DEFINED.—As used in subsection (a), a discriminatory action means any action taken by the Federal Government to—

(1) alter in any way the Federal tax treatment of, or cause any tax, penalty, or payment to be assessed against, or deny, delay, or revoke an exemption from taxation under section 501(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 of, any person referred to in subsection (a);

(2) disallow a deduction for Federal tax purposes of any charitable contribution made to or by such person;

(3) withhold, reduce the amount or funding for, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any Federal grant, contract, subcontract, cooperative agreement, guarantee, loan, scholarship, license, certifi-

cation, accreditation, employment, or other similar position or status from or to such person;

(4) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny, any entitlement or benefit under a Federal benefit program, including admission to, equal treatment in, or eligibility for a degree from an educational program, from or to such person; or

(5) withhold, reduce, exclude, terminate, or otherwise make unavailable or deny access or an entitlement to Federal property, facilities, educational institutions, speech fora (including traditional, limited, and non-public fora), or charitable fundraising campaigns from or to such person.

(c) ACCREDITATION; LICENSE; CERTIFICATION.—The Federal Government shall consider accredited, licensed, or certified for purposes of Federal law any person that would be accredited, licensed, or certified, respectively, for such purposes but for a determination against such person wholly or partially on the basis that the person speaks, or acts, in accordance with a sincerely held religious belief or moral conviction described in subsection (a).

SEC. 507. None of the funds made available by this Act or any other Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce any COVID-19 mask or vaccine mandates.

SEC. 508. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be used to fly or display a flag over or within a facility of the federal government other than the flag of the United States, flag bearing an official U.S. Government seal or insignia, or POW/MIA flag.

SEC. 509. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act may be made available to finalize any rule or regulation that meets the definition of section 804(2)(A) of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 510. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act or any other Act may be available to classify or facilitate the classification of any communications by a United States person as mis-, dis-, or mal-information; or partner with or fund nonprofit or other organizations that pressure or recommend private companies to censor lawful and constitutionally protected speech of United States persons, including recommending the censoring or removal of content on social media platforms.

SEC. 511. Section 225(c)(2)(A)(ii) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2228(c)(2)(A)(ii)) is amended by striking "at recreation site at which the fee is collected" and inserting "at any recreation site or facility that is located at the civil works project at which the fee is collected".

SPENDING REDUCTION ACCOUNT

SEC. 512. \$0.

This Act may be cited as the "Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2026".

The CHAIR. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. No amendment to the bill shall be in order except those printed in House Report 119-232, amendments en bloc described in section 3 of House Resolution 672, and pro forma amendments described in section 4 of that resolution.

Each amendment printed in the report shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and

controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 672, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time for the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee to offer amendments en bloc consisting of amendments printed in the report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, except as provided by section 4 of House Resolution 672, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

During consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees may offer up to 10 pro forma amendments each at any point for the purpose of debate.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC OFFERED BY MR. FLEISCHMANN OF TENNESSEE

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 672, I offer amendments en bloc as designee of Chairman COLE.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc consisting of amendment Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 34, 35, and 36, printed in House Report 119-232, offered by Mr. FLEISCHMANN of Tennessee:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON OF TEXAS

Page 28, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$50,000,000) (increased by \$50,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS. CAMMACK OF FLORIDA

Page 38, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,500,000)".

Page 7, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,500,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. DEXTER OF OREGON

Page 27, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. FRY OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Page 33, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$5,000,000) (reduced by \$5,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. VICENTE GONZALEZ OF TEXAS

Page 3, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$40,000,000) (reduced by \$40,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. VICENTE GONZALEZ OF TEXAS

Page 3, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$27,000,000) (reduced by \$27,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. HERNÁNDEZ OF PUERTO RICO

Page 27, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$75,000,000) (increased by \$75,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. HERNÁNDEZ OF PUERTO RICO

Page 3, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$35,000,000) (reduced by \$35,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MR. HIGGINS OF LOUISIANA

Page 5, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$50,000,000) (increased by \$50,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. HILL OF ARKANSAS

Page 5, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,000,000) (increased by \$3,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MRS. HOUGHIN OF INDIANA

Page 38, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 28, line 21, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

On page 7, line 10, after the dollar amount insert "(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 5, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MRS. KIGGANS OF VIRGINIA

Page 28, line 9, after the dollar amount insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. LAMALFA OF CALIFORNIA

Page 5, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,000,000)".

Page 38, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. LAMALFA OF CALIFORNIA

Page 3, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

Page 38, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MR. LANGWORTHY OF NEW YORK

Page 3, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$500,000) (reduced by \$500,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MR. MOULTON OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 5, line 8, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$3,000,000) (increased by \$3,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 34 OFFERED BY MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA

Page 32, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$11,000,000) (reduced by \$11,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 35 OFFERED BY MR. STEUBE OF FLORIDA

Page 3, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$100,000,000) (increased by \$100,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 36 OFFERED BY MR. TAYLOR OF OHIO

Page 60, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$500,000) (increased by \$500,000)".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) and the gen-

tlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, this bipartisan en bloc amendment was developed in coordination with the minority. It contains noncontroversial amendments addressing important issues at agencies funded in this bill. These amendments have been agreed to by both sides.

Mr. Chair, I respectfully support its adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this bipartisan amendment and offer the comment that I wish all legislation could be accomplished in this manner.

This en bloc contains noncontroversial amendments from Members of both parties. I have no objections and urge support of the amendment.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TAYLOR), my friend.

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment, which would require the Appalachian Regional Commission to conduct the study on the inclusion of low Earth orbit satellites to be used for economic development.

The United States should be encouraging and embracing new technological advances that help bridge the broadband gap across rural regions, ensuring all Americans are connected to the modern economy.

Many towns and communities within my district in southern Ohio still lack access to broadband, which, frankly, is unacceptable. Without reliable internet access, students face challenges in completing homework, patients can't receive telehealth services, businesses are less incentivized to invest in their communities, and people can't work from home.

My amendment, which is included in this en bloc, will help show that low Earth orbit satellites have the capabilities to provide adequate broadband access to communities and create economic development within the Appalachian region.

As a co-chair of the Rural Broadband Caucus, I am committed to connecting folks as quickly as possible whether that be through fiber, wireless service, or satellites.

Congress should be implementing a technologically neutral broadband approach and the inclusion of this new technology will provide additional avenues to provide broadband to people in my district and across the Appalachian region and finally give them access to the modern economy.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank Congressman TAYLOR for coming to the floor, who is a fellow Buckeye. It is great to have southern Ohio and northern Ohio on the floor at the same time.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. DEXTER).

Ms. DEXTER. Mr. Chair, I thank the ranking member for her time.

Mr. Chair, data centers are sucking up our most precious resource: water.

Larger data centers can each drink up to 5 million gallons per day or about 1.8 billion gallons annually, usage equivalent to a town of 10,000 to 50,000 people.

At a time when the climate crisis is driving water scarcity even in places not used to shortages, we cannot afford to ignore this grave threat. As the top Democrat on the House Natural Resources Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, I am not ignoring this threat.

Today, I am grateful for the inclusion of my amendment in the en bloc that gives the Federal Government the tools it needs to understand and address how new technological demands are straining our communities' water. It is a simple, commonsense step, and in the face of an otherwise catastrophic bill that slashes clean energy incentives and raises prices, I am grateful to find consensus around safeguarding water for our communities.

This amendment is one small step in the right direction. I will not stop fighting to protect water, to protect our children's future, and to protect our planet.

Mr. Chair, I urge the adoption of this amendment en bloc.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), my friend and also the chairman of the House Financial Services Committee.

□ 1650

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Chair, I first say thanks to the distinguished chair and thanks to Members on both sides of the aisle for bringing this important bill to the floor, H.R. 4553, our Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act.

Mr. Chair, my amendment today includes funding to the operations and management account under title I of this bill, which is the funding for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Specifically, I would like to highlight my application that the Little Rock Army Corps has submitted on behalf of a river in my district, the Little Red River, for the Sustainable Rivers Program.

Mr. Chair, the Little Red River has become home to a sizable and attractive wild brown trout population. It is a regional mecca for trout fishing in the mid-South.

For example, the Little Red River is home to the former world record 40-pound brown trout. Over 25 miles of fly-fishing water and over 1,000 fish per square mile brings anglers of all sizes, types, and ages to Arkansas.

Mr. Chair, because of Arkansas' many rivers, lakes, and other natural beauties, recreational fishing that is done on the Little Red River now contributes \$1.2 billion and 10,000 jobs to the Arkansas economy. However, de-

spite this beloved place in Arkansas' heritage, this river's existing tail water trout fishery has been struggling for years.

After careful conversations with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, the Little Rock Army Corps of Engineers, and groups representing recreational fishing, I want to voice my support for the Little Red River's application to the Sustainable Rivers Program.

The Sustainable Rivers Program would allow the Little Rock Army Corps to plan effectively for the environmental stewardship that correctly assesses water trends and helps the Little Rock Corps decisionmakers make good, low-risk decisions for the benefit of this trout fishery.

It also prevents the need for new and required equipment, environmental reviews, such as those required under the National Environmental Protection Act, and changes to the current water control plan.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas.

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Mr. Chair, additionally, this program would build upon the previous success that the Arkansas delegation achieved in the last Congress for the White River Basin Comprehensive Study.

Mr. Chair, I thank the leadership of the committee, I thank the Rules Committee, and Chair FOXX for adding this amendment under consideration for the floor today and approved by the Rules Committee. I urge a "yes" vote.

Ms. KAPTUR. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Representing the largest fishery on the Great Lakes where we have white fish, perch, and pickerel, I would be very interested in the gentleman letting us know how long brown fish grow. What is their length?

Mr. HILL of Arkansas. Well, a 40-pound trout is not anything like the deep freshwater fish of the Great Lakes, but if you had a 26-inch fish, that is a huge brown trout. I was fortunate enough to be out in Wyoming looking for rainbow trout, and if you found one that was 15 inches, you would be flabbergasted. I am proud that Arkansas held the record for the brown trout for about 25 years.

This Sustainable Rivers Program is an important program through the Corps of Engineers for our freshwater fishery in Arkansas and across the country, and I thank the gentlewoman for the consideration.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, we ought to have a fish day up here on Capitol Hill to make everybody feel better.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), my friend.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, my amendment increases and decreases \$50 million for the Corps of Engineers in order for me to bring attention to the failure of the Corps of Engineers to dredge a particular section of river that winds through the heart of my district.

The Vermilion River, for a 17-mile stretch, is prone to flood. The Flood Control Act of 1941 established that this river should be maintained at 9-foot deep and 100-foot wide.

In 1956, the Army Corps of Engineers classified the project as an operation and management project to be maintained at 9-foot deep and 100-foot wide for a 17-mile stretch of a river that runs through a density of population and has never been maintained. The river has been dredged one time in that period of time. In 1997, they dredged 1 mile.

When I came into office, I focused on getting it done. The Corps said they needed money. I asked how much. They said: Well, we really need science first. We need to study it first.

All right. How much do you need for studying it?

I got them that, a quarter of a million. They had data done by a top IT university in the entire world with 500,000 data points. Across 17 miles of river, it was determined that dredging needed to happen, so the Corps of Engineers said: Okay, we need \$50 million to accomplish this.

I got them the \$50 million. They have been sitting on that money, Mr. Chair, for 4 years, and we have had enough. I believe the Corps of Engineers is not in compliance with Federal law nor are they in compliance with the will of this body nor are they performing according to the funding of this body, and I intend to do something about it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. ARRINGTON), the chairman of the House Budget Committee and my dear friend.

Mr. ARRINGTON. Mr. Chairman, my amendment makes good on President Trump's executive order to supercharge U.S. energy dominance by harnessing advanced nuclear technologies.

In the heart of west Texas, at Abilene Christian University, we are building a first-of-its-kind molten salt research reactor, a game changer, no doubt, for making nuclear energy safer, more efficient, and deployable.

This project, Mr. Chair, isn't just pie in the sky. It has generated over \$110 million in private investment, \$112 million from the State of Texas, and just last month, thanks to the leadership and vision of Secretary Chris Wright, has received a conditional commitment from DOE to provide its fuel.

This is the only molten salt reactor to ever receive a construction permit from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the first research reactor to

receive an NRC construction permit in over 30 years. All that is needed now for this reactor to become operational is for the Federal Government to do what it has always done for every research reactor in the country for decades, which is to provide the fuel at no cost to the university. That is to those reactors that have met those stringent requirements.

Mr. Chair, this advanced nuclear technology is the best chance for America to beat China in the very important nuclear power race and secure our Nation's future energy security.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

God bless west Texas, and go Wildcats.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD), who also is the vice chairman of this Appropriations subcommittee.

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Chairman, I thank our chairman for his great work on this bill. I am happy to say that this bill supports the much-needed transition away from the policies of the previous administration in regard to energy and water and puts us on the right path, which is much needed, to support the President's agenda.

It does this in a few ways. It cuts waste, fraud, and abuse. It preserves our nuclear stockpiles so America can continue the President's mandate of peace through strength, and it works to restore our energy dominance and security that President Trump accomplished in his first administration. Yet, the Biden administration worked to undermine us at every step along the way.

Mr. Chair, \$5.1 billion in green new energy scam funds are being transferred to various nuclear programs, including the Advanced Reactor Demonstration Program, which helps companies get closer to building nuclear facilities. This is extremely important.

We saw how the EV mandates and the policies of the previous administration spent billions and billions building only a handful of charging stations, again undermining America's energy dominance.

In the base of this bill, there is \$50 million for the ARDP demonstration programs and \$77 million for risk-reduction projects. We secured close to \$5 billion in Army Corps projects that improve navigation and operating waterways for vessels which strengthens our economy, helps us to export, and helps us to lead on the world stage.

Projects like the Matagorda and Corpus Christi Ship Channel projects provide waterways for imports and exports, resources like LNG, crude oil, fertilizers, chemicals, and petrochemicals. The Corpus Christi Ship Channel alone exports the highest amount of crude oil in the country and is one of the top exporters of LNG to our allies and friends around the world, being the

number one energy export port in the world.

□ 1700

Water is going to be a major issue as we continue to go forward and develop. There is language in here that points to desalination projects to help receive research and development funds so we can continue to lead, grow, and develop, and it contains language for the Bureau of Reclamation to develop seawater desalination facilities as we continue to move forward.

Mr. Chair, I thank the chairman for his leadership on this and for the great work in supporting the President's agenda.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MACKENZIE). The gentlewoman has the only time remaining.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I thank the Chair for his good measure today.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. FLEISCHMANN).

The en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The Chair understands that amendment No. 7 will not be offered.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. GRIFFITH

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in House Report 119-232.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk, amendment No. 8.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Page 29, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$6,875,000)".

Page 38, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$6,875,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is a necessary amendment. It addresses the importance of all types of energy research and development, R&D, funding at the Department of Energy, DOE, specifically, the energy research being conducted at the Office of Fossil Energy.

Any effective plan to handle increased energy demand must take into account our Nation's vast supply of coal and natural gas and our talent for technological innovation.

Artificial intelligence and the data centers to support it are going to require a boatload of additional power. While we don't know the exact amount of electricity we need, we know it is going to be a lot more than we have today because our country is facing in-

creased electricity demand for the first time in 10 years. The appetite of AI and data centers is enormous. AI needs to be developed, controlled, and led by the United States of America, not an adversarial or competitive nation like China.

China is projected to increase its emissions for the foreseeable future and reportedly began construction in 2024 on coal units equivalent to 94.5 gigawatts of power. That is a lot, Mr. Chairman.

Additionally, China is financing a number of coal-fired plants in Africa and other countries with emerging economies. China is responsible for 93 percent of new coal power plant construction, and I don't believe that we should let our expertise and our vast amounts of coal in this country, good, clean coal, wither.

As I have said before, in the developing world, more energy means more hope and less poverty, and that helps us, as well. We take for granted, in this case, that our lights are going to come on when we hit that switch and turn it on. That is not always going to be the case if we don't continue to use all-of-the-above energy strategies.

Developing countries don't want to force their people to live in poverty because of a lack of energy, so they are going to use coal. What we can do is produce that coal. We can help them if we unleash our technological advantages and help find better ways to use coal and natural gas more cleanly. We should use our expertise in finding ways to control emissions with carbon capture and other pollution control technologies.

That is why DOE funding for fossil and renewable research is vital. We need to produce and then export the best, cleanest, and efficient energy technology to the world. It helps us, and it helps places like India and sub-Saharan Africa, where many of their people don't have a steady supply of electricity. Nobody can blame them for using dirty coal and those Chinese technology plants, which are not as good as the U.S. plants, because they want to make sure their people have a chance at prosperity, as well.

DOE plays an important role in this R&D, but we can do a lot more for fossil energy innovation and exploration. That is what the amendment does.

In the past few fiscal years, the delta between renewable energy research and fossil energy has really widened for the research that we are doing.

I am advocating with this amendment that we shouldn't ignore our fossil fuel efficiency and carbon mitigation research.

My amendment increases the fossil energy account by \$6,875,000, or 1 percent, with an offset from the departmental expenses account.

To be clear, I am not against renewable energy research. I just believe we shouldn't be putting all of our eggs in one basket.

I urge my colleagues to support an all-of-the-above energy policy and,

more importantly, an all-of-the-above research policy at DOE so that we can expand our ability to deal with the energy demand increases and that we can have research for a commodity that we have the world's greatest supply of, coal and natural gas.

We ought to use it. God blessed us with this resource. We ought to use it. We ought to use it cleanly. We ought to use it responsibly. We ought to be able to export our technologies to the rest of the world. If we don't do the research, we can't do it.

I ask everybody to support this all-of-the-above policy plan and support my amendment.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GRIFFITH).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. MCCORMICK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in House Report 119-232.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to close the Toto Creek, Bolding Mill, Duckett Mill, Old Federal, Van Pugh South Campground, Sawnee, or Bald Ridge Creek campgrounds located at Lake Sidney Lanier, Georgia.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I rise to offer an amendment to H.R. 4553.

Mr. Chair, my amendment No. 21 is to the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act for fiscal year 2026.

My amendment No. 21 prevents the Army Corps of Engineers from closing campgrounds around Lake Lanier. My amendment will ensure that these campgrounds are open for my constituents and people from all over the country to enjoy the outdoors in Georgia's Seventh District.

Lake Lanier is the most visited lake of 464 federally operated lakes in the United States, with well over 10 million annual visitors from all over the country. The Army Corps runs the lake and the campgrounds and parks surrounding it.

This summer, the Corps closed many of the campgrounds around the lake, citing a lack of manpower and resources. Congress had provided \$8.7 billion in annual appropriations for 2025, which was actually \$1.5 billion more than the agency's own requested budget. They cited safety concerns and manning issues, which we addressed ap-

propriately, although they announced the closures after they actually did it.

Thanks to the efforts of myself, Congressman CLYDE, and our amazing local officials, State legislators, and county commissioners, we were able to reverse most of these closures and keep almost all of our parks open under the control of our local governments.

Congressman CLYDE and I also introduced the Lanier Parks Local Access Act to cut red tape and allow local partners to efficiently allocate budgetary resources properly across all campgrounds.

Nevertheless, the Army Corps of Engineers should never be able to shut down our facilities without any accountability.

In today's day and age, where people are hooked on their cell phones and electronics, it is more important than ever to protect our outdoors so that our constituents can touch grass instead of a computer screen.

In short, citizens should never be denied access to the very parks that they fund.

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

□ 1710

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, in rising in opposition to this amendment, I do so because the amendment prohibits funds provided by this act from being used to close campgrounds or parks operated by the Army Corps of Engineers that are located at or around Lake Sidney Lanier in Georgia.

I can certainly understand the strong interest in preventing the Corps from closing campgrounds and parks in any particular area and certainly this one. The Corps is one of the Nation's leading Federal providers of outdoor recreation. They do not provide it in my district, though it would be nice if they did.

In this place, the Corps' recreation sites receive more than 260 million visits each year and include more than 400 lake and river projects in 43 States. They have a very broad reach.

Unfortunately, the Corps of Engineers' recreation funding has declined in recent years, and I support the notion that we do not want the Corps to close recreation sites due to lack of funding.

However, this is an issue that affects hundreds of sites across dozens of States. Then there are places like I represent where we don't have any Corps sites but we would like one.

I don't believe we should begin the practice of using funding prohibitions to carve out special designations but, instead, should develop a comprehensive solution to address the challenge of funding Corps recreation sites.

For this reason, at this moment I oppose the amendment. I look forward to working with my colleagues to develop

a solution to the larger challenge at the Corps. The door is open if we can find other sources of funding.

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Chair, in order to address my peers' concerns, I will restate in the middle of this where I said specifically \$8.7 billion in annual appropriations in 2025, which was \$1.5 billion more than they requested. This is not underfunded. This is not declining. This is actually more than appropriate to keep those parks open.

They had a manning issue, which was brought on by themselves, by not manning when they had the appropriate funds. Then when the President put a limitation on that, we addressed that. It was opened up again. We actually helped them recruit and staff. We actually opened up to local governance, as well. It is not like we didn't provide multiple solutions to keep those campgrounds open.

They also have objections to safety issues because of the inability of safety vehicles getting to those places. Ironically, by limiting the access, the traffic is more congested and is made more unsafe.

I happen to be a safety officer, trained in Monterey in the military, to ensure these kinds of things were actually addressed. I want to make sure they are not only funded but also very safe and manned appropriately.

Mr. Chair, all those issues were actually taken into consideration. I don't think this is a partisan issue at all. I definitely want to see people have access to those very funded things. This actually produces funds. This actually is a moneymaker for the government and is well-funded and should be well-staffed.

There shouldn't be any objections to this from the standpoint of the concerns that my colleague has. I think we did address those things appropriately.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 23 printed in House Report 119-232.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used to implement or enforce the final rule entitled "Comprehensive Plan and Special Regulations With Respect to High Volume Hydraulic Fracturing; Rules of Practice and Procedure Regarding Project Review Classifications and Fees" published by the Delaware River Basin Commission on April 21, 2021 (86 Fed. Reg. 20628).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman

from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, this amendment prohibits the use of funds to implement or enforce the Delaware River Basin Commission's rule to ban hydraulic fracturing within the Delaware River Basin.

The best way to combat high energy prices is to produce more energy in America and in places like my own Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the second largest natural gas producer in the Nation.

Unfortunately, unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats at the Delaware River Basin Commission have instituted a hydraulic fracturing ban for a portion of the State of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, stripping away property and mineral rights from Pennsylvanians in contravention of the will of the State's own legislature.

The result is a prohibition on the development of critical shale plays in eastern Pennsylvania that can bring desperately needed natural gas to market and the unconstitutional taking of the mineral rights of Pennsylvanians, all while keeping prices high.

To be clear, this amendment simply prohibits the Delaware River Basin Commission from implementing or enforcing its hydraulic fracturing ban but does not impact the ability of the States in the Delaware River Basin Commission to regulate hydraulic fracturing as they see fit.

During previous debates on this issue, mistruths were spread about the impact of this policy change on the water reservoirs that serve New York City. These claims are false and easily disproven by the facts.

The safety of hydraulic fracturing has been demonstrated through its extensive use across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and across the country for decades now.

The Obama-era EPA determined that the practice did not pose a threat to drinking water.

Simple geography and hydrology make this outcome an impossibility. All of New York City reservoirs are upriver from Pennsylvania or on the Hudson River, which does not connect to Pennsylvania, precluding any impact in Pennsylvania from reaching these reservoirs.

Mr. Chair, the intention of this amendment and its primary impact will be unleashing Pennsylvania's full energy potential by allowing Pennsylvanians in the river basin to use their property and mineral rights as they see fit as free Americans, subject to the laws passed by their elected Representatives.

It is time to stop this underhanded attack on property rights, representative government, and State sovereignty and restore American security. Opposition to this amendment is support for the hydraulic fracturing

ban and for higher energy, in particular, natural gas prices for our constituents.

Mr. Chair, I urge passage of this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition because this amendment, as I understand it, creates a funding prohibition related to the Delaware River Basin Commission.

The Delaware River Basin Commission is a Federal interstate compact agency charged with managing the water resources of the Delaware River Basin on a regional basis without regard to political boundaries.

As established by law through the Delaware River Basin Compact that went into effect in 1961, which is a half century ago, the Commission consists of the Army Corps of Engineers and the four basin State Governors. Those States include Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York. Each is a significant place in the union.

The Corps of Engineers and these States work as equal partners for planning, development, and regulatory action for the river basin. Given the Commission's statutory mission, it analyzed the risks to water resources posed by high-volume hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling techniques.

We know something about this in Ohio; that is for sure.

Through a public rulemaking process, the Commission developed regulations related to high-volume hydraulic fracturing within the Delaware River Basin.

As a reminder, the Commission consists of the Governors of the four basin States—Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York—and the North Atlantic Division commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

□ 1720

It does not strike me as the proper role for Congress, particularly through an appropriations rider, to overrun or overrule regional and local governments on this matter.

While the commission's work could be further discussed, I am also concerned that this implicates funding provided to the Delaware River Basin Commission as community project funding on behalf of a Member of this body.

For those reasons, Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to think about all this. I will be voting against this amendment, but I think there is a little more homework that has to be done on this one.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have done my homework for years now, and it is the same song every time because nothing changes. While I agree with

the gentlewoman from Ohio—she does know something about this and, of course, it is allowed in Ohio, but she said that it is not appropriate to overrule regional and local governments, but that is exactly what the DRBC does. It overrules regional and local government.

By the way, it overrules the Commonwealth Government. While the Governor has a say, there are four other voting members who can overrule that Governor. Quite honestly, what we don't need is somebody from another State telling us how to run our business.

There is no political accountability. We don't vote for people in Delaware, New Jersey, and New York. They are wonderful people, and we appreciate them, but our job is to represent Pennsylvania. That is what I am doing. Pennsylvanians want to have access to their land and to their mineral rights, and they should have it, not unelected and unaccountable bureaucrats.

Mr. Chair, I urge passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 24 printed in House Report 119-232.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of the bill (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. ____ None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for the Delaware River Basin Commission.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment eliminates earmarked funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission.

Unfortunately, this bill includes an earmark providing nearly three-quarters of a million dollars to the Delaware River Basin Commission, marking just the third time the Federal Government has provided the DRBC funding since 1998.

The unelected, unaccountable bureaucrats at the DRBC have unilaterally instituted a hydraulic fracturing

ban for a portion of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, stripping away property and mineral rights from Pennsylvanians in direct contravention of the will of the Pennsylvania Commonwealth's legislature.

The result is a prohibition on the development of critical shale plays in eastern Pennsylvania that can bring desperately needed natural gas to the market and the unconstitutional taking of the mineral rights of American citizens.

This attack on Pennsylvania energy and American energy is at a time when residential natural gas prices are near record highs, and my friends on the other side of the aisle literally run ads saying that I increase their energy prices while they do it every single day and they are just about ready to do it again.

It creates significant inflation for my constituents and the constituents of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and it empowers our enemies abroad.

The earmark in this bill rewards the radical commissioners with money from the very taxpayers and ratepayers the DRBC is attacking.

Providing funds to such an out-of-control, radical commission is a step in the wrong direction that incentivizes others to follow its lead, and it keeps our energy costs high.

This amendment would prohibit Federal funding for the DRBC, ensuring that we do not further incentivize this commission to attack American energy and the rights of Pennsylvania's citizens.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, as I am listening to this debate, and I haven't studied the maps completely, it sounds like Pennsylvania's effluent flows into points east of Pennsylvania.

Is that correct, Congressman?

Mr. PERRY. Will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. That is correct.

Ms. KAPTUR. We understand this challenge from Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana. We have our own tristate issues there.

This amendment prohibits funding for the Delaware River Basin Commission. It is hard to oppose the gentleman from Pennsylvania, but established by law through the Delaware River Basin Compact that went into effect in 1961, the commission consists of the Army Corps of Engineers and the four basin State Governors. Those States include Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and New York.

I guess any State could disagree, but the purpose of a commission is to try to get people to work together.

The effluent that is flowing from Pennsylvania into New Jersey may have to be tested for its content.

I don't really know, but the Corps of Engineers in these States work as equal partners for planning, development, and regulatory actions for the river basin.

While the commission's work could be further discussed, my strongest reason for opposition to this amendment is that the underlying bill provides \$715,000 to the Delaware River Basin Commission as community project funding on behalf of a Member of this body.

The community project funding process allows Members of Congress to request funding for their community to meet urgent needs that they identify, and there is a rigorous process for the vetting and inclusion of community project funding including strict transparency and accountability rules.

I am a little surprised that one Member would target another Member's community project funding through an amendment on the floor.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to work together and to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, the community funding process, just understand if you are not familiar with congressional jargon, that equals earmark. That is three-quarters of a million dollars to this organization that heretofore hasn't needed the money because they extort members of the States that they exist in all kinds of fees, applications, and licensing agreements from townships and other municipalities for private individuals. That is how they are paid for. Yet now we are going to pay three-quarters of a million dollars from the Federal Government when we are \$37 trillion in debt.

While I am happy to agree that we should test the effluent, I am good with that, but apparently we don't care about the effluent from Ohio to Pennsylvania or from Pennsylvania to Ohio where we conduct the same activity. Oh, by the way, there have been no cases of any issue where hydraulic fracturing caused some effluent issue that I know of or that I imagine my counterpart on the other side of the aisle can speak to.

As a matter of fact, I said that the Obama-era EPA said that it was completely safe.

While I agree that we should do those things, and if there is a problem we absolutely have to get after it, but we are just throwing money at this thing when there is no evidence that there is a problem. There is zero evidence that there is a problem, number one, and there is zero evidence that they need any of this money, but there is \$37 trillion of evidence that we don't have the money to pay for it.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 25 printed in House Report 119-232.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$350,000,000)".

Page 74, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$350,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would eliminate funding for the Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy, or ARPA-E, program.

Modeled after the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, known as DARPA, the agency funds research and development of advanced energy technologies.

It sounds like a noble goal.

Despite a purported goal to identify and promote revolutionary advances in energy, the agency is more focused on misguided, ineffective climate and so-called green priorities.

For years, ARPA-E has drifted from its mission and provided grants to companies and projects that are neither high risk nor something that the private sector cannot and does not support.

Among recent awards, ARPA-E has supported the Net-Zero Game Changers Initiative, which is subsidizing climate-warming refrigerants and Jetsons-style electrification of aviation.

With all due respect, as a member of the Transportation Committee, if they want to electrify aviation, God bless them. Let them and the Wright brothers from the gentlewoman's great State of Ohio invest. It is always better when the private sector invests. It is always more efficient, and the outcomes are always better.

□ 1730

The Trump administration has also called for the elimination of this program, and rightly so, recognizing the private sector's primary role in taking risks to commercialize breakthrough energy technologies with actual, real market potential, not made-up ones by the good idea fairy from the Federal Government.

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, my colleague's amendment would eliminate the Advanced Research Projects Agency, or ARPA-E.

ARPA-E's mission is to fund projects that are not yet addressed in the private sector but can bring about a transformational shift in current energy technologies.

Nearly 75 percent of ARPA-E awards go to small businesses and academia. ARPA-E projects have led to over 1,200 patents being issued and have attracted more than \$14 billion in followup funding from the private sector. I have actually witnessed this with many companies, Mr. Chair, and this has been a very successful program.

Perhaps to ease my colleague's concerns and his great desire to reduce funding, the bill already includes a 24 percent reduction from fiscal year 2025 to ARPA-E funding. Therefore, I must respectfully oppose the amendment, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I certainly appreciate the chairman's view. I think his view is actually the same as mine, recognizing that it has already had a 24 percent reduction. Quite honestly, that is great that it has produced all of these patents, but wouldn't it be better if the private sector produced those patents? Right now, the American taxpayer is paying for those patents, but you know who is not getting any of the money, the royalties, or the licensing for those patents? The very taxpayers who pay the bill.

Again, I get that many see this as a great jobs program, and it provides a lot of great things for America, but those things should be provided by the private sector because we simply cannot afford to pay for all of this stuff. Something has to give.

The private sector wants to make money. It wants to get patents. It wants to license things. Good for them. They should do it. The American taxpayer doesn't want to pay for it. If they are paying for it, where is the return on the investment?

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

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further pro-

ceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 26 printed in House Report 119-232.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 37, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$13,000,000)".

Page 74, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$13,000,000)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, this amendment eliminates funding for the Advanced Technology Vehicle Manufacturing Loan Program and transfers that savings to spending reduction. This is another wasteful, so-called green energy handout program that should be and must be eliminated.

The ATVM Loan Program has been plagued by a failure to produce viable products, political favoritism, inefficient use of taxpayer funds, a failure to create promised jobs, and a significant potential for fraud and misrepresentation.

Unfortunately, this is to be expected from this kind of program. The very nature of the program ensures that it will be the government selecting winners and losers based on political considerations, as opposed to actual marketable technologies.

Instead, we can and must empower the market to provide consumers with products they actually want rather than forcing them to adapt to whatever technology the bureaucrats and good idea fairies in Washington, D.C., think they want or demand that they want.

Despite the massive amount of subsidies provided through this program and others to electric vehicles, it is clear that the majority of the American people do not want them.

The government-funded EV bubble appears to be deflating. The truth is, 98 percent of all cars on the road today are gas-powered, and 97 percent of all annual car purchases are gas-powered.

I am not against EVs. If you want to buy one, God bless you, go buy one. It is just that the Federal Government should not be involved in it. What is the proper role of the Federal Government in buying your car? I submit it is not the proper role.

Despite literally paying folks to produce and buy these cars, overall market penetration has been minimal, sales are slowing, and consumer sentiment is moving away from EVs.

According to McKinsey & Company, the place where the last Secretary of Transportation worked, 46 percent of

current battery electric vehicle owners are likely going back to internal combustion engine vehicles for their next purchase.

Consumer Reports found EVs to be associated with 79 percent more problems than conventional vehicles. It is absolutely clear that this program has failed, and we need to stop the forcing of Americans to transition to EVs, even though we think that they should and they don't want to.

It is long past time to finally bring an end to the green new scam and defund this misguided program, as well as all the other DOE loan programs that pick winners and losers based on politics rather than markets.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I say to the fine gentleman from Pennsylvania that I drive a conventionally powered car. I put gasoline in my car. I don't have a favorite. I had a brother who was a race car driver, so he tried everything.

This amendment, though, would strike all funding provided in our bill to oversee and administer the Advanced Technology Vehicles Manufacturing program, ATVM for short.

All I have to say is that we need lots of hands on deck in inventing the new overground transportation systems for this country because, globally, we are falling behind, and the companies know it.

This program is currently responsible for carefully vetting and conducting oversight of more than \$30 billion in loans that are either active or have conditional commitments. There are ATVM loan projects across the country, across industrial America—my colleague and I share that, both bounty and struggle—in Ohio, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, New York, Michigan, and Indiana. These are projects that support the production of advanced vehicles, vehicle components, and critical minerals.

I am actually fast at the task of building a Toledo car because I don't want all of those gizmos they put on the cars today. You are forced to buy it when you go in, but you don't want it. Then, if it breaks, it costs \$500 or more to get it fixed. People don't want all of that stuff. If they want the stuff, let them select it.

However, the ATVM program is projected to add almost 40,000 jobs nationwide, and we need it. Today, we are faced with an amendment to undercut those investments and jobs across our country.

Even for those who do not support the critical work of this program, eliminating this funding is truly cutting off our nose to spite our face.

Mr. Chair, if you want to increase fraud or hinder the ability of the Federal Government to interact with private business quickly and efficiently,

then, by all means, vote for this amendment. I, however, will vote against it because we must continue to invest in the manufacturing expertise of this country. I underline “manufacturing,” not “copying.” I mean building, creating, innovating. I want to make sure we do so as efficiently and responsibly as possible.

Without the necessary support to advance and oversee these investments, we risk our national security by letting our international competitors, China in particular, outpace our efforts at home.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this misguided amendment.

I have staff members who drive hybrids. They like those. I don't like the particular hybrid one of them drives because it is too close to the ground and you feel the road too much.

□ 1740

We all have opinions based on what size we are and how we can see out the windows and all, but I really do think that anything that has to do with advanced technology vehicle manufacturing is something I do not want to displace in the array of options that we have as a country. There is too much at stake here.

We have just seen the rebirth of the steel industry and are fighting for that every day. I was just up at the Soo Locks in Michigan looking at our ability to move steel and other material from Duluth all the way down through the seaway and then out to the world. We are working very hard on reinvesting in manufacturing America.

Madam Chair, I would not at all support the elimination of this program or the cutting short of this program at a time when America really needs it. So much of our componentry has been shipped offshore because they pay cheap wages. They pay penny wages, and they can move componentry.

Madam Chair, I had something happen to my car, and they took out the part. Sure enough, a foreign part failed. I could have been killed. You look at this, and I thought: I know this wasn't made in our country. Where was it made? You can guess.

We have to restore American manufacturing. I think that this is one way that we can do it.

We also have to invent new fuels. We, in our region, flew the first biofuel F-16 aircraft in this country. It didn't crash. They loved it. We are inventing the new fuels of the future, biofuels.

Half of the corn and soy in my region goes into fuels. It is a good thing it does because we have lost our agricultural markets to Brazil and Argentina selling to China, so our farmers aren't exporting into China anymore because of what is happening globally in the marketplace.

For manufacturing America, I oppose the amendment because I want invention here. I want manufacturing here.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The Acting CHAIR (Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia). The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, the gentlewoman from Ohio and I certainly agree that we shouldn't be forced to buy things for vehicles that we don't want. They are heavier. They are more technologically sensitive. I mean, you are essentially driving a computer around. Like the gentlewoman said, when it breaks, you are paying through the teeth for the whole thing. We certainly agree on that.

Yet, Madam Chair, that is all being forced on us by Washington, D.C. It comes out of this town. That requirement and those mandates come from this town.

To the 40,000 jobs that this supports, Americans are great at building cars. I don't care whether you drive a hybrid, an electric vehicle, or a traditionally powered vehicle, including diesel. That should be your business. Yet, this picks the winner and says: You are going to drive an electric vehicle, subsidizes it, subsidizes the manufacture of it, and then subsidizes the purchase of it.

Madam Chair, no one is subsidizing the purchase of my vehicle. It has 340,000 miles on it.

Even Elon—I talked to him, once a darling of the left, now much supported by the right—agrees that there should be no subsidies for these vehicles. He doesn't want subsidies on anything, and I agree with him on that.

As far as being in competition with China, unfortunately, China provides the vast majority of what makes these vehicles work. We are buying this stuff from our enemies. Let's buy it from Americans and let Americans determine what they want. What they have said is that they don't want EVs forced down their throats.

If they want to buy one, they can buy one. If they don't, then they can buy whatever they want. I am just saying that the government shouldn't be involved in paying for it. It is not fair to people who don't buy them and have to pay for them anyhow.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 27 printed in House Report 119-232.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 33, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$35,000,000)”.

Page 74, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$35,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, Federal loan guarantee programs transfer the risk of the loans to the taxpayer, pure and simple. As with any government subsidy, they reduce market discipline of loan recipients. You are not worried if you are getting a loan because the taxpayers are going to pay it. You don't care whether you produce anything or not.

The checkered past of the DOE's loan guarantee program demonstrates that it is not immune from these concerns. Among the most egregious examples of title 17 loan failures are Solyndra, Fisker Automotive, and A123 Systems. All three entities received hundreds of millions of dollars in loan guarantees, paid for by the taxpayer, before filing for bankruptcy and leaving the taxpayer holding the bag and getting nothing for it.

To add insult to injury, A123 Systems and Fisker Automotive were purchased by Chinese companies for pennies on the dollar. The taxpayers paid, and China was enriched, meaning the CCP was the ultimate beneficiary.

Madam Chair, this is crazy that we are even talking about this. What government supports another government that says that they are your enemy or that you are their enemy? China has said that we are their enemy. Yet, we are selling them, at pennies on the dollar, these taxpayer subsidized failures. It is outrageous.

Madam Chair, the so-called Inflation Reduction Act provides for approximately \$11.7 billion for the Loan Program Office to issue new loans. This additional funding raises significant concerns that the program will, once again, be used as a piggy bank for energy sources and vehicles that the American people don't want and that drive up costs to consumers.

People will ask why everything costs so much. It is because we are subsidizing it. When you are guaranteeing the loan and the loan fails and you are on the hook for it, the American taxpayer doesn't know that they cosigned these loans, but they did.

Like I said, to add insult to injury, then China gets the place. It is unbelievable that we should even have this conversation, but we do.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Tennessee is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Chair, this amendment would effectively eliminate the administrative expenses for the loan guarantee program.

That would do two things: First, it would prevent any new loans for nuclear projects. Second, it would remove the Department's ability—this is very important—to conduct oversight for the existing loan portfolio. That is moneys that have already been loaned.

As the Chair may know and my colleagues on both sides of the aisle know, I am a champion for nuclear energy in this great Nation of ours, and I am so proud of the way that we are moving forward. This program is so critically important to the development of our new nuclear technologies.

The administration is counting on the Department's loan programs to revitalize the nuclear industry and deliver advanced reactors to the electric grid for years to come.

Nuclear energy represents our best option to meet our energy demands for the future in a safe, efficient, and cost-effective way. This loan program will be an important part of that strategy.

In addition, eliminating the loan program's administrative expenses would jeopardize the government's ability, again, to receive loan payments and ensure the financial health of the existing portfolio. We must ensure proper oversight of taxpayer funding.

Madam Chair, for these reasons, I must respectfully oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, I certainly respect the chairman of the committee and his views, and I say this: Next year, when I offer this amendment, I will leave some room in there for administrative purposes to oversee the loans that are already out there. That is a fair argument.

Yet, I would say this, too: I am the proud Representative of Three Mile Island, which is going to be reopened without any government assistance. It is privately owned. They made a deal with Microsoft, which just proves the point.

The American taxpayer already pays the rates for electricity. They are already paying the investors for the investment in nuclear, and I am a great supporter of nuclear. I just don't think it should be the position of the Federal Government to take money out of people's pockets to pay for these things.

□ 1750

Madam Chair, maybe you live in an area where you are not serviced by nuclear power. Maybe you live in south central Pennsylvania where Three Mile Island is going to reopen, but all the money and all the power is going to go to Microsoft. Why should the consumer pay for that?

I am sorry. We have figured out how to do nuclear power and do it well in

the United States of America. Quite honestly, probably one of the only times it is screwed up is when the Federal Government gets involved with it. I understand the chairman's position and I appreciate it.

Madam Chair, I still urge adoption of the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Madam Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 28 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 28 printed in House Report 119-232.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 62, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$13,319,727)".

Page 74, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$13,319,727)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, I rise to offer this amendment to reduce funding for the Northern Border Regional Commission, or the NBRC, to fiscal year 2019 levels.

We are changing up here a little bit. We are looking for ways to reduce spending so the American people can keep their money, so we don't have to go further into debt. This is just another unnecessary, redundant program. Like the other regional commissions, the NBRC provides economic development assistance to projects in various States, in this case, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, and Vermont.

These commissions simply serve as a slush fund for parochial and regional projects with little to no national nexus. There is no Federal connection to these things.

Let's take a look at some of the funded programs taken from the 2022 annual report, which is the latest one available: \$304,000 to purchase a sound system for an auditorium in New Hampshire, over \$350,000 to expand rail yard capacity in upstate New York, another \$350,000 for a sailing center on Lake Champlain.

Madam Chair, these projects are probably awesome. They are probably

all great. Some of them ought to be funded by private investments and others should be funded by States or localities. Instead of pandering to special interest groups, we must pare back these wasteful programs that only serve as a boondoggle for a limited slice of Americans.

The sailing center on Lake Champlain sounds awesome, but most south central Pennsylvanians aren't going there, but they are paying for it. They get to pay.

Let's be clear: This amendment does not zero out the commission's funding. It simply reduces the funding to pre-pandemic, pre-Biden spending levels.

I think most people agree we are spending too much money. Let's start there and see how we can do better.

Madam Chair, I urge adoption, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Chair, the gentleman's amendment reduces funding for the Northern Border Regional Commission by \$13 million.

The Northern Border Regional Commission is a Federal-State partnership focused on economic and community development within the most distressed counties in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, and New York.

Except for New York—but New York in the north is different than New York in the south—many of these States don't have very many Members of Congress.

When you look at Vermont, I actually have more citizens in my district than the State of Vermont does in its entirety. The Northern Border Commission really does focus on places that often get ignored simply because those States don't have enough people in them to warrant the kind of attention maybe Pennsylvania gets because of its number of people, or California.

The NBRC was created by Congress in 2008 to provide infrastructure and economic development assistance to projects in counties that had varying degrees of economic and demographic distress. These investments lead to new jobs being created.

I have seen what it has done, for instance, in the Appalachian Regional Commission. It has taken a while, but I think many of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle from these States, where these commissions function, will agree and say it is the first time that kind of help has come in creating new businesses and trying to create roads that didn't exist and try to promote economic development in really some of the forgotten corners of America.

It is critical to support the rise of all Americans to become part of a thriving middle class. In some parts of the country, it is more difficult than others.

I can guarantee where there has been deindustrialization because of the outsourcing of production, there ought to

be a whole separate set of activities that occur in those areas of the country, whether it is Kenosha, Wisconsin, whether it is Toledo, Ohio, or Flint, Michigan. One of the reasons the public is so unstable politically is because they are looking for an answer and neither party has been able to fully accommodate the needs of those places.

I think we are becoming more sensitive to it, and these commissions provide us a very important means to do it.

Madam Chair, I oppose the gentleman's amendment. Actually, I think part of Pennsylvania, is it not covered by the Appalachian Regional Commission? Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PERRY. I will get to that one later.

Ms. KAPTUR. I just think that when you look at some of the money that goes out to different places in the country, Pennsylvania hits higher than Ohio does actually. For us, the Appalachian Regional Commission in southern Ohio has been just terribly important.

Has it been the most important vehicle for restoring what was lost or trying to convert to other economic activities? No. Are we crawling forward? Yes. At least we are not falling behind even more.

Madam Chair, I thank the gentleman for offering this amendment, but I have to oppose it.

Madam Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Madam Chair, I certainly appreciate the gentlewoman's arguments. I just say that there is a guy named "Friedman" who was traveling overseas. He came upon a public works project. Everybody was down in the ditch with shovels digging—many men digging with shovels, and he said to the person running the thing: What is with all of the shovels? Why don't you buy them some equipment so they can get this work done faster? The guy said: This produces a lot of jobs.

Mr. Friedman said: Why don't you give them all teaspoons instead and you can have even more jobs, or at least the job can last longer.

Of course, throwing money around produces jobs. As far as it being infrastructure, a sound system for an auditorium, while it is infrastructure, I don't think—many people think of infrastructure as roads, bridges, airports, ports, things like that, not a sound system or a sailing center. Those are nice things to have, but those are parochial. Those are local interests that should be provided at least by the State, not the people in the Federal Government. We have lost sight of the role of the Federal Government, which is why this amendment is in order.

Mr. Chair, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. ROGERS of Alabama). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 29 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 29 printed in House Report 119-232.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 63, line 9, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,063,381)".

Page 74, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,063,381)".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

□ 1800

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to offer this amendment to halve the funding for the Southwest Border Regional Commission, again trying to save some money by not spending money on redundant things.

Yet again, this commission serves as a duplicative slush fund for parochial interests, this time for projects in the southern border regions of Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas.

This commission only had its first chairman confirmed in 2022 and was only funded starting in fiscal year 2021, so it is relatively recent.

Look, I know folks on this side of the aisle care about the border. I imagine and hope that folks on the other side of the aisle care about the border. However, the answer to solving the border problems is to actually enforce our Nation's immigration laws, not to give \$4 million to a commission that does not even appear to have an operational website.

By the way, this current administration, the Trump administration, is handling the border, so we don't need to waste another \$4 million on this commission.

The commission received \$250,000 in FY21 but is now being funded at \$4 million in this bill for zero results.

Can anybody show or tell me what the results of this commission are?

Again, this amendment simply strikes this figure in half, so even though it is wasteful and useless generally speaking, I am only taking away half, which is still \$2 million.

I don't care whether you are from Ohio or south central Pennsylvania, \$2 million is a lot of money.

Mr. Chair, I urge support of the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, this amendment reduces funding for the Southwest Border Regional Commission by \$2 million.

The Southwest Border Regional Commission was established by Congress in 2008 to address economic distress along the southern border regions of some pretty important places—Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas. In December 2022, the Senate confirmed the first Federal co-chair for the commission.

Think about the delay in the co-chair—that took a large number of years—which enables the commission to convene and begin other activities. I would place the burden there on the executive branch for waiting such a long time to nominate someone and on the Senate to actually clear the name.

These investments lead to new jobs being created, and many of these places have very small towns that don't even have parking lots in their little bakeries or their restaurants. It is critical to support the rise of all Americans to become part of a thriving middle class, especially in the forgotten towns and regions of our country.

I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment on behalf of people who are trying to better their way of life, against all odds.

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

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, of course, all these States—Arizona, California, New Mexico, and Texas—are on the border. If we are funding this organization to deal with the border, I don't know what to say other than it is duplicative. If you disagree with that, I am not sure what to say to anybody about that.

I have been to each one of these States, and of course, people who own a bakery want a parking lot. I had a business, too, and I wanted trucks and employees, and I needed tools. Do you know what I didn't do? I didn't go to the Federal Government for that. I sucked it up and paid into my business from the money that I made conducting my business, and I grew my business. That is America, not calling on the Federal Government to send a couple of million dollars because I want to make things nice for myself. We get it. We hope all Americans can do great things and make it nice for themselves.

Our government is out of money. It is broke, \$37 trillion and climbing. We don't have any money. All this is borrowed money, Mr. Chairman. Every cent of it is borrowed. Who borrows money to do things they don't need to do that somebody else in the government is already doing?

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 30 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 30 printed in House Report 119-232.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 63, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$16,003,526)”.

Page 74, line 5, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$16,003,526)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 672, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I offer this amendment to reduce funding for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, the SCRC, to fiscal year 2019, so not zeroing it out, just taking it back to prepandemic levels, so we can try to afford some of the stuff that we are borrowing money, again, to pay for.

Again, this commission serves as a duplicative slush fund for parochial interests. People say: Where does all of my tax money go? Here is another example. This time, it is for projects in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Again, many of these projects are worthy. The question is, should the Federal Government be paying for them, especially when the Federal Government doesn't have any money? The commission operates duplicative programs that are better addressed at the State and local levels.

From 2010 to 2020, the SCRC received \$250,000 annually, all without having an appointed Federal co-chair. Just think about that. I know \$250,000 is nothing around this place, but there was nobody at the wheel that whole time. That number has now ballooned to a whopping \$16.25 million in this bill.

There is absolutely no reason for that dramatic increase in funding, especially when funding projects with no national nexus, like electric vehicle charging stations, stormwater management, and green infrastructure, according to their own 2023-2027 strategic plan.

There is a charging station down the street from me. The owner of the place put it in. He probably got money from the Federal Government. That is probably why he did it. He probably wouldn't have done it on his own. I have to pay for it. How is it fair to me?

I don't own an electric vehicle. A lot of people don't own one, yet we are paying for this one.

Our constituents simply do not have the money for these projects that have no impact on their lives because they don't live there. In many cases, it drives up inflationary spending, which is the \$37 trillion I keep referencing.

Every time we borrow money here, it makes everybody else's prices go up. We have to quit borrowing it, especially to pay for things that we can't afford, don't need, and somebody else is already doing.

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Ohio is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, this amendment reduces funding for the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission by \$16 million, a commission that was established in 2008, but unfortunately, the Governors of the respective States did not appoint those who were to manage the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission until just a couple of years ago, so there was no way that it could get off the ground.

If you have traveled in that region of America, you would come back a different person, so I urge you to do that.

The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission's mission is to build sustainable communities and strengthen economic growth across the Southeast region, including places in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia. The Southeast Crescent Regional Commission invests in the region's economic future through a grant program, publishing research related to the region, and income-producing learning experiences.

Many people there have never started a business, but they want to. You must have had a good father or mother to help you get into business—I don't know—but it is important that opportunity be seeded in all parts of our country to help communities seize opportunity, address economic disparity, and advance prosperity. It is critical to support the rise of all Americans to become part of a thriving middle class, where possible.

Mr. Chair, I also wanted to mention the gentleman voted for the big billionaire bonanza bill that added \$4 trillion to the U.S. debt.

Mr. Chair, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I certainly thank the gentleman for her viewpoints and comments. I have lived in Florida and Georgia—they are wonderful States—and traveled through all the rest.

I have an awesome mother who helped me in that business and was a part of it. I don't know my father. That is American ingenuity. That is striving

even against all odds, like the government, your taxes, your insurance, your payroll, your receivables. We have done it, and we did it without the help of the Federal Government. Many people want to do it. Some people get help from the Federal Government. It is unfair to those who do not.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

□ 1810

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FLEISCHMANN) having assumed the chair, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4553) making appropriations for energy and water development and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2100

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MORAN) at 9 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Passage of H.J. Res. 104;

Passage of H.J. Res. 106; and

Passage of H.J. Res. 105.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.