

(7) FEDERAL PERMITTING IMPROVEMENT STEERING COUNCIL.—The term “Federal Permitting Improvement Steering Council” has the meaning given the term “Council” in section 41001 of the FAST Act (42 U.S.C. 4370m).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CRANK. 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. 4503, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4503, the ePermit Act, which will establish a governmentwide technology strategy to improve Federal permitting processes and timelines. I thank my colleagues, Representatives JOHNSON and PETERS, for their strong bipartisan work on this legislation.

Today’s digital landscape for Federal permitting is out of date, consisting of diverse and isolated systems spread across different Federal agencies. Generally, these systems are not interoperable or sufficiently accessible for project sponsors or the general public.

To address these issues, the Trump administration issued a memorandum titled: “Updating Permitting Technology for the 21st Century.” The Council on Environmental Quality, or CEQ, subsequently issued a Permitting Technology Action Plan. The plan sets the foundation for the seamless exchange of information between agencies, simplified interactions for applicants, and greater transparency and predictability on environmental review and permitting schedules for project sponsors and stakeholders.

The ePermit Act would codify key aspects of CEQ’s action plan and provide Federal agencies with direction on implementation of electronic permitting systems. It would also instruct CEQ to work with other agencies to establish a unified interagency data system for environmental permitting and integrate AI into agencies’ permitting processes.

As the world increasingly adopts new technology solutions to boost productivity and improve project outcomes, the Federal Government must do the same or risk being left behind.

The ePermit Act takes a strong step in the right direction by modernizing Federal permitting technology in a project-agnostic manner.

Again, I thank my colleagues, Representatives JOHNSON and PETERS, for this commonsense bipartisan bill. I ask my colleagues to join me in support.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the ePermit Act sponsored by my colleague, Representative DUSTY JOHNSON, and co-led by Representative SCOTT PETERS.

The ePermit Act will help enhance and deploy technology to improve permitting processes all across the Federal Government. Perhaps more importantly, the bill is an example of what can be accomplished with a bipartisan approach to problem solving and good-faith negotiations.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act directed the Biden administration to study the possibility of improving digital tools for permitting. Representatives JOHNSON and PETERS partnered to turn those Biden administration recommendations into good legislation. The current administration has helped finalize the bill with further input from both Democrats and Republicans.

Again, I strongly support this bill, and I hope to do more of this kind of important bipartisan work in the future.

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

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I will admit to being pretty excited that the ePermit Act is on the floor today, not just because it is my bill but because America needs this.

For years, both parties have agreed that our permitting system is too slow. It is too complicated. Frankly, it is too stuck in the past. That is too bad because, really, the story of America has been in no small part a history of big ideas and big projects. It is time for us to get back to that: for more housing, for more broadband, for more critical infrastructure that will power this American economy for decades to come.

Too often in the last few years, our permitting process has stood in the way of that. Here we are, arguably the most technologically advanced nation in the world. Yet, our agencies have been using decades-old fragmented systems that simply were not built for the kind of scale and complexity that we see with modern projects.

It is almost laughable. We have got modern agencies. We have multiple agencies that will look at the same project using different data standards, using different approaches, and different systems. Believe it or not, they are still trading old, outdated, mostly static PDFs.

Perhaps not surprisingly, this creates confusion, delay, and a lack of transparency for project developers, for communities, for the public, and for

our own Federal agencies. Sometimes they don’t even know with specificity what is going on at a particular stage in the process.

This bill, the ePermit Act, addresses those problems. Because of this bill, we will modernize and digitize our permitting process with uniform data standards and a unified permitting portal so that agencies can work together and so that the public and communities can see what is actually happening.

Of course, as the gentlewoman mentioned, we are not starting from scratch. I was involved when Congress recognized the importance of these digital solutions in the Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023. She is right that the Trump administration has prioritized this work, and we have worked with the administration to bring legislative clarity to that vision.

Let’s be honest. There are many parts of the siting and permitting process that Republicans and Democrats disagree on, but this is not one of them. A more efficient and a more transparent permitting system is bipartisan. Our diverse coalition of cosponsors and supporting stakeholders shows just that.

I thank Mr. PETERS for being a good partner on this legislation. I thank Chairman WESTERMAN and Ranking Member HUFFMAN for their support.

Mr. Speaker, the ePermit Act is a win for builders, a win for transparency, a win for communities and the public, and a win for America’s competitiveness. I urge my colleagues to join us in letting America build again.

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

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, this is an important piece of legislation. I urge my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4503, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PUBLIC LANDS MILITARY READINESS ACT OF 2025

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5131) to extend military land withdrawals in Alaska, New Mexico, and California for a period of 25 years and to make technical corrections to descriptions for certain military land withdrawals, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5131

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Public Lands Military Readiness Act of 2025”.

**SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF CERTAIN MILITARY LAND WITHDRAWALS AND CORRECTION OF CERTAIN LAND DESCRIPTIONS.**

(a) **EXTENSION OF WITHDRAWAL AND RESERVATION FOR MILITARY USE OF CERTAIN LANDS.**—

(1) **YUKON TRAINING AREA, DONNELLY TRAINING AREA EAST, AND DONNELLY TRAINING AREA WEST, ALASKA, AND MCGREGOR RANGE, FORT BLISS, NEW MEXICO.**—Section 3015(a) of the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999 (title XXX of Public Law 106–65; 113 Stat. 892) is amended by striking “25 years after the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “on November 6, 2001” and inserting “on November 6, 2051”.

(2) **FORT IRWIN MILITARY LANDS.**—Section 2910(a) of the Fort Irwin Military Land Withdrawal Act of 2001 (title XXIX of Public Law 107–107; 115 Stat. 1339) is amended by striking “25 years after the date of the enactment of this Act” and inserting “on December 31, 2051”.

(b) **CORRECTION OF LAND DESCRIPTIONS.**—

(1) **MCGREGOR RANGE MILITARY LANDS.**—Section 3011(d)(2) of the Military Lands Withdrawal Act of 1999 (title XXX of Public Law 106–65; 113 Stat. 892) is amended by striking “608,385 acres of land” and inserting “approximately 605,401 acres of land”.

(2) **FORT IRWIN MILITARY LANDS.**—Section 2902(c) of the Fort Irwin Military Land Withdrawal Act of 2001 (title XXIX of Public Law 107–107; 115 Stat. 1336) is amended—

(A) by striking “110,000 acres” and inserting “117,710 acres”; and

(B) by striking “as ‘Proposed Withdrawal Land’ on the map entitled ‘National Training Center—Proposed Withdrawal of Public Lands for Training Purposes’, dated September 21, 2000” and inserting “on the map entitled ‘Fort Irwin Withdrawal’ dated February 28, 2025”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. CRANK. 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. 5131, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5131, the Public Lands Military Readiness Act of 2025, sponsored by Representative BEGICH of Alaska.

This is an important bill that ensures our military continues to have access to the lands they need to train, test, and remain ready to deter and defeat our Nation’s adversaries abroad.

□ 1650

H.R. 5131 extends critical land withdrawals for an additional 25 years at Fort Greely and Fort Wainwright in Alaska, Fort Irwin in California, and the McGregor Range at Fort Bliss in New Mexico. These lands provide unique training environments, restricted airspace, and infrastructure that cannot be replicated elsewhere.

They are essential for Arctic operations, brigade-level exercises, missile defense testing, and joint training with our allied forces.

The importance of this legislation cannot be overstated. It is vital that we continue to allow the Army to use these unique areas. Fort Greely and Fort Wainwright in Alaska have the only Arctic training environments in this Nation. Fort Irwin, in California’s Mojave Desert, houses the National Training Center, the Army’s premier site for brigade-level, force-on-force training exercises. Finally, the McGregor Range in southern New Mexico supports Patriot missile live-fire exercises, aerial gunnery, and large-scale mobilization training. Without these vital training areas, we would risk losing our military’s strategic advantage over hostile foreign nations.

I commend Representative BEGICH for his leadership on this effort. His bill provides long-term certainty to the U.S. Army so they can continue training and testing effectively as they prepare for the threats of tomorrow. By advancing this legislation, he is not only helping Alaska, but the entire Nation, by ensuring we have the most capable, prepared Armed Forces in the entire world.

I also thank the U.S. Army for their continued service to our Nation and for their collaboration on this effort. They strongly support this bill, and we were grateful to work alongside them to advance this legislation.

This is a good bill. It strengthens national security, provides certainty for our servicemembers, and ensures America remains prepared to deter aggression and protect our interests around the world. This legislation also directly reflects the priorities set forth in President Trump’s executive order on prioritizing military excellence and readiness, which reaffirmed America’s commitment to the military superiority necessary to counter new and emerging threats.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BEGICH for his hard work on this legislation which helps our military. I urge my colleagues to support his bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,  
Washington, DC, December 8, 2025.

HON. BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WESTERMAN: H.R. 5131, the “Public Lands Military Readiness Act of 2025”, was referred primarily to the Committee on Natural Resources, with an additional referral to the Committee on Armed Services.

H.R. 5131 contains provisions within the Committee on Armed Services’ Rule X jurisdiction. As a result of your having consulted with the Committee and to expedite this bill for floor consideration, the Committee on Armed Services will forego action on the bill. This is being done based on our mutual understanding that doing so will in no way diminish or alter the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services with respect to the appointment of conferees, or to any future jurisdictional claim over the subject matters contained in the bill or similar bills.

I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding, and would request that you include a copy of this letter and your response in the committee report or in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of this bill. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

MIKE ROGERS,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
Washington, DC, December 8, 2025.

HON. MIKE ROGERS,  
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ROGERS: I write regarding H.R. 5131, the “Public Lands Military Readiness Act of 2025,” which was ordered reported by the Committee on Natural Resources on November 20, 2025.

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Armed Services and appreciate your willingness to forgo further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Armed Services will not formally consider H.R. 5131 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill and will include such letters in the committee report on H.R. 5131. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5131, legislation introduced by my colleague from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH). This important bill will extend the public land withdrawals for several military installations that operate on public lands in Alaska, California, and New Mexico.

Our public lands do a lot. As we have already discussed on the floor of the House today, they mean a lot to the American people.

One critical function that many Americans may not know about is their role in supporting military training, readiness, and other strategic missions throughout the country.

The use of these lands, as made possible by the extensions provided by this bill, is incredibly important to the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense. I thank the majority for working with us in a bipartisan manner to ensure swift consideration of these provisions.

A version of this language is expected to be included in this year’s final version of the National Defense Authorization Act, which is expected to get a floor vote very soon. This will ensure that the critical operations at each of these installations proceed without interruption.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative BEGICH for his work on this bill. I urge swift passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. BEGICH), who is the lead sponsor on this bill.

Mr. BEGICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 5131, the Public Lands Military Readiness Act of 2025. This is a bipartisan, commonsense measure that ensures our Armed Forces retain access to some of the most essential training lands in the United States.

For decades, public lands in Alaska, New Mexico, and California have been withdrawn from military use under statute. These withdrawals are not permanent, they must be renewed by Congress, and several of them are now scheduled to expire.

If Congress fails to act, then critical training areas at Fort Wainwright and Fort Greely in Alaska, the McGregor Range in New Mexico, and Fort Irwin in California would lose their legal status for military use.

H.R. 5131 solves that problem by extending these withdrawals for 25 more years and making necessary technical corrections to land descriptions to ensure accuracy and proper management.

In Alaska alone, this bill protects more than 850,000 acres of world-class training terrain used by the 11th Airborne Division, the Army's only Arctic-designated division. These soldiers must train in extreme cold, remote, and challenging environments in order to be prepared for real-world missions in the high north. There is simply no substitute for the terrain and conditions Alaska provides.

This legislation does not expand the military footprint or limit public access beyond what is already established. Importantly, this bill does not bypass environmental review. In fact, the military has engaged in robust consultation with Tribes, local communities, conservation groups, and stakeholders across Alaska, New Mexico, and California.

What this bill does is straightforward. It preserves readiness, strengthens national security, and upholds responsible stewardship of public lands, all while ensuring the continuity of training operations that our servicemembers rely on to stay prepared and to stay safe.

At a time when global threats are ever-present, particularly in the Arctic, Congress must ensure our military can train as they fight. H.R. 5131 accomplishes exactly that.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support, and I urge all Members to join me in voting "yes" on this important legislation.

Ms. RANDALL. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CRANK. Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank Representative BEGICH for his leadership on the Public Lands Military Readiness Act of 2025. This bill ensures that our military's capabilities and readiness will remain strong as we move into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 5131, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. CRANK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5131, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1700

#### OFFICER ANTHONY MAZURKIEWICZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 323) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 Prospect Street in Avon, New York, as the "Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz Memorial Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 323

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. OFFICER ANTHONY MAZURKIEWICZ MEMORIAL POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 80 Prospect Street in Avon, New York, shall be known and designated as the "Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz Memorial Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz Memorial Post Office Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. RANDALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Avon, New York, for Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz.

Officer Mazurkiewicz served with the Rochester Police Department for 29 years. Officer Mazurkiewicz was also an active member of the Rochester Police Locust Club for his entire career.

Officer Mazurkiewicz was tragically shot and killed while on duty while conducting surveillance duty. He is survived by his loving wife of 28 years, Lynn, four children, and three grandchildren.

I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 323. Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz was born in 1967 and was a 29-year veteran of the Rochester Police Department. He received the Rochester Police Department Life Saving Award, Officer of the Month Award, 17 Excellent Police Service Awards, and 7 Unit Commendation Awards.

Officer Mazurkiewicz and his partner were shot while undercover investigating a double homicide. His sacrifice while serving in the line of duty deserves to be honored.

I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Officer Mazurkiewicz by naming a post office in Avon, New York, after him.

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

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. TENNEY).

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative GILL for yielding. I rise in strong support of my bill today, H.R. 323, to rename the post office in Avon, New York, as the Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz Memorial Post Office Building.

It is appropriate to name this post office after Anthony Mazurkiewicz. A grateful community should always find ways to honor those who made the ultimate sacrifice in its service.

Officer Anthony Mazurkiewicz, also known as Tony, was born on November 7, 1967, in Amsterdam, New York. Officer Mazurkiewicz was a graduate of Avon High School and SUNY Brockport.

Officer Mazurkiewicz then began his law enforcement career in 1988 as a jail deputy with the Monroe County Sheriff's Department in Rochester, New York. In 1993, he joined the Rochester Police Department as a patrol officer, serving both Clinton and Goodman sections until he transferred to the tactical unit in 2002.

During his distinguished career as an officer with the Rochester Police Department, Officer Mazurkiewicz was the recipient of the Rochester Police Department Life Saving Award, Officer of the Month Award, 17 Excellent Police Service Awards, 7 Unit Commendation Awards, 32 Chief's Letters of Commendation, and the Good Conduct Award for 29 years of service without a sustained complaint.

Beyond his duties as an officer with the Rochester Police Department, Officer Mazurkiewicz was also an active member of the Rochester Police Locust Club, a very distinguished club, for his entire 29-year career. This included