

ourselves after—that selfless service and what they did not just at home in their communities but for what they did for the State of West Virginia and what they did for our Nation.

They are the examples of what makes this Nation great—individuals willing to put their lives on the line for something bigger than themselves, for that foundation of what we all believe in, in this Nation: what our Constitution guarantees, those freedoms and liberties that make the United States the greatest Nation the world has ever known.

Mr. Speaker, we are blessed to live in a nation that has individuals like Sarah and Andy who are willing to put their lives on the line for those principles. Our Nation was a nation founded on an idea—an idea that all are created equal and that we have those inalienable rights given to us by our creator, and folks are willing to sacrifice everything in order to preserve those basic liberties and freedoms. This is just incredible.

When we gather together today to remember the selfless sacrifices of Sarah and Andy, it should make us all come together in the sense of what makes this Nation great. It should make us all never forget how thankful we are for those who serve our Nation in uniform, and not just those who serve in the military but those who came to Sarah and Andy's call when they were injured, those first responders and those law enforcement individuals. We are blessed to have a nation of people willing to give of themselves for the greater purpose. That is, again, what makes this Nation great.

As we know, Sarah and Andy were two of those great group of people who I referred to. Unfortunately, in some sense, there are not as many people who are interested in serving today, although we have recently seen a resurgence in that, which is great—people willing to do something that is greater than just themselves. We see before us that selfless sacrifice which reminds us again of what makes this Nation great, and we must never forget those sacrifices.

For the sacrifice of Sarah and Andy, who were viciously gunned down just blocks away from the White House, we will never forget their service to our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, instead of remembering them as victims of a hate crime, we must remember, again, their selfless service and sacrifice, their bravery, and their courage. That should make us all admire them as individuals and admire those who are willing to make that ultimate sacrifice.

We grieve with Sarah's friends and family. We pray that their grief begins to subside and that they can remember Sarah for the incredible legacy that she has left behind and for all the good that she has done here on Earth.

We stand with Andy and his friends and family in support of his recovery. It is great to hear from Mr. MOORE that

he is back home and back on that steady path to recovery. This is all great news.

We thank both of them for their selfless sacrifice to our Nation. We thank the citizens of West Virginia for what they do in providing that National Guard presence. We also thank our Nation that puts together these great men and women to serve a greater cause.

Mr. Speaker, again, I wish our Nation the best in the years to come. I wish all of those who selflessly serve our Nation nothing but God's continued blessings.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 923, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 AMENDMENTS ACT

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 216) to amend the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Foundation, to amend the Marine Debris Act to improve the administration of the Marine Debris Program of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 216

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 "Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act".

SEC. 2. MODIFICATIONS TO THE MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM OF THE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449) is amended—

(1) by inserting before section 3 the following:

"Subtitle A—NOAA And Coast Guard Programs"; and

(2) by redesignating sections 3 through 6 as sections 101 through 104, respectively.

(b) GRANTS, COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS, CONTRACTS, AND OTHER AGREEMENTS.—Section 101(d) of the Marine Debris Act (33 U.S.C. 1952(d)), as redesignated by this Act, is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading by striking "AND CONTRACTS" and inserting "CONTRACTS, AND OTHER AGREEMENTS";

(2) in paragraph (1) by striking "and contracts" and inserting ", contracts, and other agreements";

(3) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (B)—

(i) by striking "part of the" and inserting "part of a"; and

(ii) by inserting "or (C)" after "subparagraph (A)"; and

(B) in subparagraph (C) in the matter preceding clause (i) by inserting "and except as provided in subparagraph (B)" after "subparagraph (A)"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

"(7) IN-KIND CONTRIBUTIONS.—With respect to any project carried out pursuant to a contract or other agreement entered into under paragraph (1) that is not a cooperative agreement or an agreement to provide financial assistance in the form of a grant, the Under Secretary may contribute on an in-kind basis the portion of the costs of the project that the Under Secretary determines represents the amount of benefit the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration derives from the project."

SEC. 3. MODIFICATIONS TO THE MARINE DEBRIS FOUNDATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title I of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224) is transferred to appear after section 104 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as redesignated by this Act.

(b) STATUS OF FOUNDATION.—Section 111(a) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended, in the second sentence, by striking "organization" and inserting "corporation".

(c) PURPOSES.—Section 111(b) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred and redesignated by this Act, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3) by inserting "Indian Tribes," after "Tribal governments,"; and

(2) in paragraph (4) by striking "title II" and inserting "subtitle C".

(d) BOARD OF DIRECTORS.—

(1) APPOINTMENT, VACANCIES, AND REMOVAL.—Section 112(b) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (5) as paragraphs (2) through (6) respectively;

(B) by inserting before paragraph (2), as redesignated, the following:

"(1) RECOMMENDATIONS OF BOARD REGARDING APPOINTMENTS.—For appointments made under paragraph (2), the Board shall submit to the Under Secretary recommendations on candidates for appointment.";

(C) in paragraph (2), as redesignated, in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking "and considering" and inserting "considering"; and

(ii) by inserting "and with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce," after "by the Board,";

(D) by amending paragraph (3), as redesignated, to read as follows:

"(3) TERMS.—Any Director appointed under paragraph (2) shall be appointed for a term of 6 years.";

(E) in paragraph (4)(A), as redesignated, by inserting "with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce" after "the Board"; and

(F) in paragraph (6), as redesignated—

(i) by inserting "the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development," after "Service,"; and

(ii) by inserting "and with the approval of the Secretary of Commerce" after "EPA Administrator".

(2) GENERAL POWERS.—Section 112(g) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)(A) by striking "officers and employees" and inserting "the initial officers and employees"; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)(i) by striking "its chief operating officer" and inserting "the chief executive officer of the Foundation".

(3) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—Section 112 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(h) CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.—

“(1) APPOINTMENT; REMOVAL; REVIEW.—The Board shall appoint and review the performance of, and may remove, the chief executive officer of the Foundation.

“(2) POWERS.—The chief executive officer of the Foundation may appoint, remove, and review the performance of any officer or employee of the Foundation.”.

(e) POWERS OF FOUNDATION.—Section 113(c)(1) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A)—

(1) by inserting “nonprofit” before “corporation”; and

(2) by striking “acting as a trustee” and inserting “formed”.

(f) PRINCIPAL OFFICE.—Section 113 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) PRINCIPAL OFFICE.—The Board shall locate the principal office of the Foundation in the National Capital Region, as such term is defined in section 2674(f)(2) of title 10, United States Code, or a coastal shoreline community.”.

(g) BEST PRACTICES; RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Section 113 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act and amended by subsection (e), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) BEST PRACTICES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Foundation shall develop and implement best practices for conducting outreach to Indian Tribes and Tribal Governments.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The best practices developed under paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) include a process to support technical assistance and capacity building to improve outcomes; and

“(B) promote an awareness of programs and grants available under this Act.

“(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act may be construed—

“(1) to satisfy any requirement for government-to-government consultation with Tribal Governments; or

“(2) to affect or modify any treaty or other right of any Tribal Government.”.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 118(a) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred by this Act, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by inserting “and \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2025” after “through 2024”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “and State and local government agencies” and inserting “, State and local government agencies, regional organizations, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and foreign governments”.

(i) REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 9(a) of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449) is amended by striking “for” the first place it appears and all that follows through “carrying out” and inserting “for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2029 for carrying out”.

SEC. 4. TRANSFERS.

(a) SAVE OUR SEAS 2.0 ACT.—Subtitle C of title I of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224) is transferred to appear after section 119 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449) as transferred and redesignated by this Act.

(b) MARINE DEBRIS ACT.—The Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449) is amended—

(1) by transferring sections 7, 8, 9 (as amended), and 10 to appear after section 127, as transferred by this Act, and redesignated as sections 131, 132, 133, and 134, respectively; and

(2) by inserting before section 131, as so transferred and redesignated, the following:

“Subtitle D—Administration”.

SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 131 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as trans-

ferred and redesignated by this Act, is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (1);

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), (4), (5), (6), and (7) as paragraphs (5), (6), (7), (11), (12), and (13), respectively;

(3) by inserting before paragraph (5), as so redesignated, the following:

“(1) CIRCULAR ECONOMY.—The term ‘circular economy’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).

“(2) COASTAL SHORELINE COMMUNITY.—The term ‘coastal shoreline community’ means a city or county directly adjacent to the open ocean, major estuaries, or the Great Lakes.

“(3) EPA ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘EPA Administrator’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).

“(4) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’ has the meaning given that term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).”;

(4) by inserting before paragraph (11), as so redesignated, the following:

“(9) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘nonprofit organization’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).

“(10) POST CONSUMER MATERIALS MANAGEMENT.—The term ‘post-consumer materials management’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).”;

(5) by inserting after paragraph (13), as so redesignated, the following:

“(14) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘Tribal Government’ means the recognized governing body of any Indian or Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, community, component band, or component reservation, individually identified (including parenthetically) in the list published most recently as of the date of the enactment of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

“(15) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘Tribal organization’ has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

“(16) UNDER SECRETARY.—The term ‘Under Secretary’ has the meaning given such term in section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224).”;

(6) in paragraph (13), as so redesignated—

(A) by redesignating subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) as subparagraphs (C), (D), and (E); and

(B) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following:

“(B) Indian Tribe.”.

(b) TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 2(7) of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224) is transferred to section 131 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), inserted after paragraph (7) (as redesignated), and redesignated as paragraph (8).

(2) REDESIGNATION.—Section 2 of the Save Our Seas 2.0 Act (Public Law 116-224) is amended by redesignating paragraphs (8) through (11) as paragraphs (7) through (10), respectively.

(c) NON-FEDERAL FUNDS.—Paragraph (8)(D) of section 131 of the Marine Debris Act (Public Law 109-449), as transferred and redesignated by this Act, is amended by striking “(as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304))”.

SEC. 6. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Sections 1 and 2 of the Marine Debris Act, sections 101, 102, and 104

of the Marine Debris Act, as redesignated by this Act, and section 133 of the Marine Debris Act, as transferred and so redesignated by this Act, are amended by striking “Administrator” and inserting “Under Secretary”.

(b) SECTION 103.—Section 103 of the Marine Debris Act is amended by—

(1) striking “Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration” and inserting “Under Secretary”;

(2) striking “Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency” and inserting “EPA Administrator”; and

(3) in subsection (e)(3) by striking “section 3” and inserting “section 101”.

(c) SECTION 123.—Section 123 of the Marine Debris Act, as transferred and so redesignated by this Act, is amended by striking “title I” and inserting “subtitle B”.

(d) SECTION 133.—Section 133 of the Marine Debris Act, as transferred and so redesignated by this Act, is amended by striking “sections 3, 5, and 6” and inserting “sections 101, 103, and 104”.

(e) SECTION 134.—Section 134 of the Marine Debris Act, as transferred and so redesignated by this Act, is amended by striking “Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency” and inserting “EPA Administrator”.

(f) TRIBAL GOVERNMENT.—Subtitle A of the Marine Debris Act, as designated in this Act, is amended by striking “tribal government” and inserting “Tribal Government”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. FIGURES) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Dakota.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD on this bill.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act continues important work that began last Congress, in the 118th Congress, to protect and preserve the quality of our oceans from marine debris.

This bill will enhance the capabilities of NOAA to address the adverse impacts of marine debris on the U.S. economy and navigational safety, but it will not impose any new mandates on industry or local government.

This bill also clarifies the proper functioning of the Marine Debris Foundation and requires it to establish its principal office here in Washington, D.C., or in a shoreline coastal community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I too rise in support of S. 216, the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act.

Mr. Speaker, before I express support for that, I will associate myself with the comments of my colleagues for the previous resolution, condemning the violence against members of the National Guard from West Virginia and condemning that horrific act that took the life of Army Specialist Sarah Beckstrom and has left Air Force Staff Sergeant Andrew Wolfe gravely injured.

Mr. Speaker, as it relates to the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act, this bill will improve the administration of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Marine Debris Program and the Marine Debris Foundation so that it can respond more effectively to the growing threats facing our coastal regions, of which I represent one in Mobile, Alabama.

Each year, more than 11 million tons of plastic debris enters the oceans, endangering the livelihood of communities, small businesses, fishermen, and our food chain that rely on healthy waterways. Along Alabama's coastal communities, we understand how critically important reliable waterways are.

This legislation takes practical steps to support the Federal programs responsible for removing debris and protecting the safety and resilience of our coastal communities.

The bill improves NOAA's Marine Debris Program by giving the agency clear authority to use new and existing tools to address pollution more effectively and allowing NOAA to work faster and in closer partnership with State and local governments, as well as Tribal nations, nonprofits, and regional organizations.

The bill requires the Marine Debris Foundation to develop and implement best practices for engaging with Tribal Governments to ensure that they are included in the programs and funding designed to protect the water resources.

Finally, this legislation extends vital funding for marine debris removal efforts through 2029. It keeps programs running, supports long-term planning, and gives communities confidence that Federal partners are committed to protecting our waters and natural resources.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support my colleagues who have worked on this important bipartisan legislation both here in the House, as well as the Senate. I look forward to seeing it passed into law, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1530

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

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. BONAMICI).

Ms. BONAMICI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative FIGURES for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as the co-chair of the bipartisan Oceans Caucus, I rise enthusiastically today in support of S. 216,

the Senate companion to my bipartisan legislation, the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act.

Marine debris does not stay in one place. A plastic bottle tossed inland can end up hundreds of miles away, wrapped around a propeller, tangled in fishing gear, or broken down into microplastics that end up in the food we eat. Across the country, communities see the damage every day.

In the Pacific Northwest, crews use Marine Debris Program grants to remove abandoned and derelict vessels—rusting tankers that leak fuel, collapse into waterways, and scatter debris with every storm. These removals protect ports, safeguard workers, and prevent thousands of pounds of plastic and fiberglass from entering the ocean.

In Alaska and the Gulf Coast, the program targets ghost fishing gear, including abandoned nets and traps. One abandoned net can trap fish, seabirds, and marine mammals for decades. Through this program, local partners recover that gear, return usable materials to fishers and anglers, and stop the cycle of loss.

In the Great Lakes, communities use these funds to intercept plastic before it reaches open water, cleaning up shorelines, restoring habitats, and keeping microplastics out of the drinking water systems that serve millions of people.

This program doesn't stop at cleanup. It fuels economies and strengthens resilience. Since its creation in 2006, the Marine Debris Program has removed more than 36,000 metric tons of debris. According to NOAA, last year, the program's removal projects drove more than \$474 million in tourism and \$248 million in recreational value in just the four States in which it operates.

The Marine Debris Program supports research and innovation that address microplastics and microfibers, the invisible pollution shed from tires, textiles, and everyday products. These particles show up in ocean sediments, seafood, and even human bloodstreams. This program helps the scientists track them, understand them, and stop them at the source.

The Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act reauthorizes the Marine Debris Program so communities can keep doing this important work. It also makes targeted, responsible administrative fixes to the Marine Debris Foundation, so the public-private partnerships deliver results faster and more effectively.

The Senate passed this bipartisan bill unanimously earlier this year, and today, Congress can send it to the President's desk.

We often think of plastic pollution as an overwhelming problem, and we haven't made the strides necessary to solve it. The Marine Debris Program and the Marine Debris Foundation are proven tools that make a difference.

When Congress invests in practical solutions to save our seas by empow-

ering local leaders, scientists, fishers, and cleanup crews, it makes measurable progress. This bill protects ecosystems, jobs, and public health.

Mr. Speaker, clean water and a healthy ocean support every community in this country, coastal and inland. I thank my colleagues, Representatives RADEWAGEN and MOYLAN, for co-leading this legislation, and Senators SULLIVAN and WHITEHOUSE for leading it in the Senate. I urge my colleagues to support the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FIGURES. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, passing this bill is an important step that we can take right now to help address the health and resilience of coastal communities like those that I represent. I support S. 216, the Save Our Seas 2.0 Amendments Act, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, Ms. BONAMICI said it right. This legislation will enable NOAA to continue addressing the adverse impacts of marine debris on our country's maritime economy and will ensure safe navigation on America's waterways. Importantly, this legislation will promote clean water and the protection of our natural resources without imposing new mandates on industry or local governments.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 216.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4183) to authorize appropriations for the Federal Maritime Commission for fiscal years 2026 through 2029, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4183

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 "Federal Maritime Commission Reauthorization Act of 2025".