

low-quality junk to fill that void—content that is instead carefully engineered to keep kids watching and shorten their attention spans.

Actually, do you know what, it makes sense. Maybe getting our kids hooked on brain-rot TV is part of the Republican plan. After all, if our kids are watching PBS, they might learn to count, and if our kids learn to count, how will Republicans ever convince anyone that trillions of dollars in tax cuts are free?

So I know. Let's not forget. President Trump wants Senate Republicans to rip up investments they themselves—they themselves—helped secure to advance America's global leadership. Apparently, being the leader of the free world is now just too expensive.

The reality of that matter is that these are investments that pay off for our own country, from supporting American farmers and companies that provide the food assistance that saves lives; to stopping dangerous viruses and epidemics while they are still far overseas, away from us, before they have a chance to threaten American lives; to preventing conflict, avoiding chaos and crisis that can cause a dangerous spiral; to strengthening our ties with key partners and defending our interests in international organizations.

We don't just make these investments because they are the right thing to do; we do it because it is the smart thing to do for America. But it is worth saying that it is the right thing to do as well.

It is unthinkable wrong that this President is willing to shell out trillions for some of the richest people in the world, only to turn around and say that less than a penny a day is too expensive to protect hundreds of thousands of little girls from HIV. It is wrong for Republicans to say, "Oh, we have got to get those corporate executives a bigger bonus," only to turn around next week and say, "Oh, we don't really have to worry about the work our farmers do to help those starving kids." It is also foolish to think that this is just a luxury or just charitable work. Our farmers know better. Americans who contract infectious diseases abroad know better. The companies in our States that work overseas to stabilize conflict-affected communities alongside the DOD know better. It is bad strategy and a surefire way to hand China the upper hand. But we cannot lose sight of the fact that it is just plain wrong.

Let's be clear. If they cut this funding, Republicans will not just be turning America away from the world; they will be turning the world away from America.

Do Republicans really want to cause needless suffering or slash bipartisan funding and break commitments we already made together to save a quick buck? Is America's credibility so cheap to them?

They talk about peace through strength as if they are carrying on Ronald Reagan's legacy. Reagan spent about a half a percent of our GDP on foreign assistance. Today, we spend less than half that.

Keep in mind that cuts proposed here are really a drop in the bucket compared to the tsunami of spending and tax giveaways that Republicans just passed. I mean, you could cut every single penny the U.S. has spent on foreign assistance since World War II, and it would not add up to the cost of the tax cuts the Republicans passed last week. And that is all saying nothing about how pushing this through won't just cut bipartisan investments; it will cut out the heart of the basic principles that make bipartisan deals possible. How are we supposed to negotiate a bipartisan deal if Republicans turn around and put it through the shredder in a partisan vote?

This entire package next week should be rejected outright. There is nothing about it that is serious except for the threat it poses to our communities.

To suggest even for a second that Republicans are doing this to address the debt is laughable, and I encourage the American people to laugh at anyone who pretends as much because you could cut the equivalent of this bill every single day for an entire year and it still would not match the cost of the billionaire tax cuts the Republicans passed last week.

So, to my Republican colleagues, instead of doing Trump's dirty work, instead of doing Russell Vought's bidding, let's do our jobs. Reject these partisan cuts to bipartisan funding and turn our focus squarely to the job ahead: writing bipartisan, full-funding appropriations bills.

Do you know what? If there is a discrete pot of funding that is not being spent well, if there are cuts that make sense to include, if there are things that need to be updated and things that need to be reformed, let's have a conversation about what makes sense to rescind and improve as we write those bills in committee, the way we have always done.

My Democratic colleagues and I have said for months that we are willing to discuss rescissions in our bipartisan spending bills. We have done this in a bipartisan fashion for years no matter who has been in the White House or which party has had the majority in either Chamber.

My commitment to Chair COLLINS and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle remains the same: I am willing to work with you to include rescissions in our bipartisan spending bills as we continue to work on the fiscal year 2026 process.

Instead of moving forward with this partisan rescissions package, let's reject that package and have these discussions and work together. Let's move forward on the bipartisan appropriations process and address all of those decisions there.

I yield the floor.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative business and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY
COOPERATION AGENCY,
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-59, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Israel for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$510 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,
Director.

Enclosures

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-59

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Israel.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$500 million.

Other \$ 10 million.

Total \$510 million.

Funding Source: Foreign Military Financing

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Three thousand eight hundred forty-five (3,845) KMU-558B/B Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) guidance kits for the BLU-109 bomb body.

Three thousand two hundred eighty (3,280) KMU-572 F/B JDAM guidance kits for the MK 82 bomb body.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: U.S. government and contractor engineering, logistics, and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (IS-P-AVR).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: June 30, 2025.

*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Israel—Munitions Guidance Kits and Munitions Support

The Government of Israel has requested to buy three thousand eight hundred forty-five (3,845) KMU-558B/B Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) guidance kits for the BLU-109 bomb body and three thousand two hundred eighty (3,280) KMU-572 F/B JDAM guidance kits for the MK 82 bomb body. The following non-MDE items will also be included: U.S. government and contractor engineering, logistics, and technical support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$510 million.

The United States is committed to the security of Israel, and it is vital to U.S. national interests to assist Israel to develop and maintain a strong and ready self-defense capability. This proposed sale is consistent with those objectives.

The proposed sale will enhance Israel's capability to meet current and future threats by improving its ability to defend Israel's borders, vital infrastructure, and population centers. This proposed sale will increase the interoperability with U.S. forces and conveys U.S. commitment to Israel's security and armed forces modernization. Israel will have no difficulty absorbing this equipment into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be The Boeing Company, located in St. Charles, MO. Part of the JDAM guidance kit requirement may be transferred from U.S. government stock. At this time, the U.S. government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. government or contractor representatives to Israel.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-59

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. Joint Direct-Attack Munitions (JDAM) consist of a bomb body paired with a warhead-specific guidance kit containing an Inertial Navigation System (INS)/Global Positioning System (GPS) guidance capability with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Module (SAASM) or M-Code that converts unguided free-fall bombs into accurate, adverse weather "smart" munitions. The JDAM weapon can be delivered from modest standoff ranges at high or low altitudes against a variety of land and surface targets during the day or night. The JDAM can receive target coordinates via preplanned mission data from the delivery aircraft, by on-board aircraft sensors (e.g., forward-looking infrared, radar) during captive carry, or from a third-party source via manual or automated aircrew cockpit entry.

a. The KMU-558 guidance kit is paired with a BLU-109 class warhead to assemble a GBU-31 JDAM.

b. The KMU-572 guidance kit is paired with a MK 82 class warhead to assemble a GBU-38 JDAM.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is UNCLASSIFIED.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Israel can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Israel.

U.S. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE LEGAL OPINION

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the GAO Congressional Review Act legal opinion dated May 28, 2025.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DECISION

Matter of: U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service—Applicability of the Congressional Review Act to Record of Decision for Barred Owl Management Strategy.

File: B-337059.

Date: May 28, 2025.

DIGEST

In August 2024, the U.S. Department of the Interior, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) issued a record of decision titled, Record of Decision for Final Barred Owl Management Strategy Implementation and Issuance of a Migratory Bird Treaty Act Special Purpose Permit in Washington, Oregon, and California (Barred Owl ROD or ROD). The ROD announced FWS's decision to adopt a barred owl management strategy to improve the survival and recovery of northern spotted owls and to prevent declines in California spotted owls, both of which compete with barred owls. The Barred Owl Management Strategy adopted by the ROD provides a framework for federal, state, or tribal gov-

ernment agencies, or private landowners, to implement barred owl management through the lethal removal of barred owls.

The Congressional Review Act (CRA) requires that before a rule can take effect, an agency must submit the rule to both the House of Representatives and the Senate, as well as the Comptroller General. CRA incorporates the Administrative Procedure Act's (APA) definition of a rule for this purpose, with three exceptions. We conclude that the Barred Owl ROD is a rule for purposes of CRA because it meets the APA definition of a rule, and no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the ROD is subject to CRA's submission requirements.

DECISION

In August 2024, the U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) announced its decision to adopt a barred owl management strategy. Record of Decision for Final Barred Owl Management Strategy Implementation and Issuance of a Migratory Bird Treaty Act Special Purpose Permit in Washington, Oregon, and California (Aug. 2024) (Barred Owl ROD or ROD). We received a request for a decision as to whether the Barred Owl ROD is a rule for purposes of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). As discussed below, we conclude that the ROD is a rule subject to CRA's submission requirements.

Our practice when rendering decisions is to contact the relevant agencies to obtain factual information and their legal views on the subject of the request. Accordingly, we reached out to Interior on February 4, 2025, and received Interior's response on March 18, 2025.

BACKGROUND

Barred Owl ROD

The Barred Owl ROD documents FWS's decision to adopt the Final Barred Owl Management Strategy (Barred Owl Management Strategy or Strategy) and issue an associated permit under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) to implement the Strategy. The ROD states that the purpose of the action "is to reduce barred owl populations to improve the survival and recovery of northern spotted owls" (a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act) "and to prevent declines in California spotted owls" (proposed for listing under the Endangered Species Act). The ROD explains that barred owls, a non-native invasive species in western North America, compete with northern and California spotted owls, and this competition "is a primary cause of the rapid and ongoing decline of northern spotted owl populations" and poses a similar risk to California spotted owls as barred owl populations expand southward.

The Barred Owl Management Strategy provides a framework for federal, state, or tribal government agencies, or private landowners, to implement barred owl management. The Strategy involves the lethal removal of barred owls from specific areas and describes removal protocols and a monitoring plan for FWS as well as governmental and non-governmental entities designated by FWS. The Strategy provides for barred owl management in all provinces in the northern spotted owl range and throughout the California spotted owl range.

The MBTA prohibits the lethal removal of protected migratory bird species, including the barred owl, unless authorized by FWS in accordance with 50 C.F.R. parts 13 and 21. As part of the Barred Owl ROD, FWS approved the issuance of a Special Purpose Agency Species Protection Permit to the FWS Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office under the MBTA to implement the Strategy in Washington, Oregon, and California, and to authorize the lethal removal of barred owls by