

U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Ukraine.

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

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. 25-45, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of the United Kingdom for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$861 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MARY BETH MORGAN,
(For Michael F. Miller, Director).

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-45

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 the United Kingdom.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment* \$0.

Other \$861 million.

Total \$861 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase: Equipment and services to support Contractor Logistics Support sustainment for the United Kingdom's C-17 (Globemaster III) aircraft fleet.

Major Defense Equipment (MDE): None.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will be included: engine components, parts, and accessories; major and minor modifications; computer program identification numbers; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (UK-D-QDZ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: UK-D-QDQ.

(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: None.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: August 26, 2025.

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

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

United Kingdom—C-17 Globemaster III
Aircraft Sustainment Support

The Government of the United Kingdom has requested to buy equipment and services to support contractor logistics support sustainment for the United Kingdom's C-17 (Globemaster III) aircraft fleet. The following non-MDE items will be included: engine components, parts, and accessories; major and minor modifications; computer program identification numbers; spare parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; classified and unclassified software delivery and support; classified and unclassified publications and technical documentation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$861 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a key NATO Ally that is an important force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve the United Kingdom's capability to meet current and future threats by ensuring the operational readiness of the Royal Air Force. Its C-17 aircraft fleet provides strategic airlift capabilities that directly support U.S. and coalition operations around the world. The United Kingdom will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services 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 Arlington, VA. 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 the United Kingdom.

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

GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE LEGAL OPINION

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD a letter containing the legal opinion of the Government Accountability Office, No. B-337330, titled U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management—Applicability of the Congressional Review Act to 2024 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision, dated August 25, 2025.

The letter provides notification that the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management 2024

Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision is a rule subject to the Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. Sec. 801 et seq.

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, Bureau of Land Management—Applicability of the Congressional Review Act to 2024 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision.

File: B-337330.

Date: August 25, 2025.

DIGEST

In December 2024, the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) issued the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision (2024 ROD). The 2024 ROD adopts a framework for managing the Oil and Gas Leasing Program in Alaska's 1.5-million-acre Coastal Plain, pursuant to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act.

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 adopts the definition of "rule" under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA) but excludes certain categories of rules from coverage. We conclude that the 2024 ROD meets the APA definition of a rule, and no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the 2024 ROD is subject to CRA's submission requirements.

DECISION

In December 2024, the U.S. Department of the Interior (Interior), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) released a record of decision entitled, Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision (2024 ROD). We received a request for a decision as to whether the 2024 ROD is a rule for the purposes of the Congressional Review Act (CRA). As discussed below, we conclude that the 2024 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 April 14, 2025. Interior did not provide a response with its legal views regarding its compliance with CRA, but has provided additional factual information.

BACKGROUND

Alaska Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program

The Alaska "Coastal Plain" is a 1,563,500-acre area within the 19.3-million-acre Arctic National Wildlife Refuge on Alaska's North Slope. Section 20001 of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), required the Secretary of the Interior to "establish and administer a competitive oil and gas program for the leasing, development, production, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain." TCJA required that the Secretary conduct at least two oil and gas lease sales within 10 years of the Act's passage: an initial sale not later than four years after enactment, and a second lease sale not later than seven years after enactment. TCJA instructed the Secretary to offer not fewer than 400,000 acres area-wide in each lease sale, which were to be located in the areas with the highest potential for the discovery of hydrocarbons. Furthermore, TCJA required the Secretary to authorize "up to 2,000 surface acres of [f]ederal land on the Coastal Plain to be covered by production and support facilities (including airstrips

and any area covered by gravel berms or piers for support of pipelines) during the term of the leases under the oil and gas program.” The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) manages the lands in the Coastal Plain, while BLM manages the Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

2020 ROD

To implement the provisions of TCJA, BLM issued the August 2020 Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Record of Decision (2020 ROD), which determined “where and under what terms and conditions” leasing would occur under the program. To inform its decision, BLM prepared the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program Environmental Impact Statement (2019 EIS), in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321–4347.

The 2020 ROD adopted a plan from the 2019 EIS that made approximately 1,563,500 acres, or the entire Coastal Plain program area, available for oil and gas leasing, as well as for potential future exploration, development, and transportation. On December 7, 2020, BLM published a notice of the first oil and gas lease sale in the Federal Register, for which it would be accepting bids pursuant to the 2020 ROD. The first sale was completed, and a total of nine tracts were leased to three lessees.

On January 20, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order No. 13990, which called for a temporary moratorium on federal activities relating to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, citing legal deficiencies underlying the program, including with respect to the 2019 EIS. The Executive Order stated that the Secretary of the Interior was to review the program and conduct a new environmental analysis. Subsequently, on June 1, 2021, the Secretary of the Interior issued Secretary’s Order No. 3401, which announced that in light of identified legal deficiencies in the 2019 EIS and 2020 ROD, Interior would be conducting a new environmental impact analysis relating to the program. While the new environmental impact assessment was pending, the Secretary directed that all Interior activities related to the program be temporarily halted.

Interior sent notices to the three lessees from the first oil and gas lease sale, suspending operation of the leases while the new environmental impact assessment was conducted. Two leases were subsequently cancelled and rescinded at the request of two of the lessees, and the remaining seven leases held by the third lessee were cancelled by Interior due to “pre-leasing legal deficiencies.” At the time of the 2024 ROD, BLM noted that there were no leased tracts within the program area.

2024 ROD and Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)

On August 4, 2021, BLM published a notice in the Federal Register of its intent to prepare the 2024 SEIS to address the deficiencies identified in Secretary’s Order No. 3401 with respect to the environmental impact of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program. In conjunction with the USFWS and after a public comment period, BLM released the final 2024 SEIS on November 6, 2024. On December 9, 2024, BLM released the final 2024 ROD, which adopted one of the alternatives analyzed in the 2024 SEIS. The 2024 ROD “determines which lands to make available for leasing under the Coastal Plain program and the terms and conditions (i.e., lease stipulations and required operating procedures) to be applied to leases and authorizations for specific oil and gas activities.”

The selected management plan, Alternative D2, makes available for oil and gas leasing the required minimum 400,000 acres

of land with the highest potential for hydrocarbons, as prescribed by TCJA, and makes the remaining 1,163,500 acres in the Coastal Plain unavailable for leasing or exploration. Of the 400,000 acres made available for leasing, 58 percent was to be subject to “no surface occupancy” stipulations, 21 percent was to be subject to controlled surface use stipulations, 0.78 percent was to be subject to timing limitations, and approximately 20 percent was to be subject to standard lease terms and conditions. Alternative D2 further authorized 995 acres for surface development, in accordance with the limitation in TCJA capping surface development at 2,000 acres. The 2024 ROD adopts the management plan BLM identified as “the best combination of management options to meet the purpose of and need for the Coastal Plain [O]il and [G]as [L]easing [P]rogram in consideration of the statutory requirements and management concerns identified through the Leasing SEIS process.”

In addition to determining what lands are available under the Oil and Gas Leasing Program, the 2024 ROD also prescribes the terms and conditions of oil and gas activities in the program area through lease stipulations and required operating procedures (ROPs). The stipulations generally require lessees to take particular actions in designated parts of the Coastal Plain to minimize effects of the program on wildlife and the environment and prescribes procedures and standards to evaluate compliance. For example, lease stipulations identify the goals of protecting “the water quality, quantity, and diversity of fish and wildlife habitats and populations associated with springs and aufeis across the Coastal Plain” and minimizing “disruption to polar bear denning habitat and disturbance to bears using near shore areas.” Similarly, the ROPs identify a variety of objectives and required actions taken to achieve them, such as reducing air quality impacts, ensuring that permitted activities do not create human health risks by contaminating subsistence foods, and protecting grizzly bear, polar bear, and seal denning and birthing locations.

Finally, the 2024 ROD was signed by the Acting Deputy Secretary of Interior and states that it is a final agency action. The 2024 ROD notes that future on-the-ground actions associated with exploration for or development of oil and gas resources in the program area will require further NEPA analysis based on specific proposals and would be addressed in separate decisions.

Recent Actions Regarding the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program

After issuance of the 2024 ROD, the statutorily mandated second lease sale for the Coastal Plain was held and no bids were received by the deadline, January 6, 2025.

On January 20, 2025, President Trump signed Executive Order No. 14153, entitled, *Unleashing Alaska’s Extraordinary Resource Potential*. In the Executive Order, the President directed the Secretary of the Interior to, among other things, withdraw Secretary’s Order No. 3401, rescind the cancellation of leases within the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, and initiate additional leasing through the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program. The Executive Order also states that the Secretary shall rescind the 2024 SEIS, place a moratorium on any activities and privileges granted under the 2024 ROD, and reinstate the 2019 EIS and 2020 ROD.

To implement the Executive Order, the Secretary of the Interior issued Secretary’s Order No. 3422, revoking Secretary’s Order No. 3401 and requiring the Assistant Secretaries of the Department of the Interior to submit an action plan describing the steps

necessary to effectuate the provisions of the Executive Order relating to the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program.

On July 4, 2025, the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBA) was enacted. Section 50104 of OBBA states that in addition to the oil and gas lease sales required by TCJA, the Secretary is also required to conduct not fewer than four additional lease sales under the program within 10 years of enactment of OBBA. Such section further specifies that in conducting these lease sales, the Secretary shall offer the same terms and conditions as contained in the 2020 ROD. In a response to GAO, Interior stated that it is currently taking action to comply with the directives in the OBBA.

The Congressional Review Act

CRA, enacted in 1996 to strengthen congressional oversight of agency rulemaking, requires federal agencies to submit a report on each new rule to both houses of Congress and to the Comptroller General for review before a rule can take effect. The report must contain a copy of the rule, “a concise general statement relating to the rule,” and the rule’s proposed effective date. CRA allows Congress to review and disapprove of federal agency rules for a period of 60 days using special procedures. If a resolution of disapproval is enacted, then the new rule has no force or effect.

CRA adopts the definition of a rule under the Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which states that a rule is “the whole or a part of an agency statement of general or particular applicability and future effect designed to implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy or describing the organization, procedure, or practice requirements of an agency.” However, CRA excludes three categories of rules from coverage: (1) rules of particular applicability; (2) rules relating to agency management or personnel; and (3) rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

Interior did not submit a CRA report to Congress or the Comptroller General on the 2024 ROD.

DISCUSSION

To determine whether the 2024 ROD is a rule subject to review under CRA, we first address whether it meets the APA definition of a rule. As explained below, we conclude that it does. We then consider whether the 2024 ROD falls within any CRA exceptions. We conclude that it does not. Therefore, the 2024 ROD is a rule subject to review under CRA.

The 2024 ROD is a Rule Under APA

Applying APA’s definition of “rule,” the 2024 ROD meets all of the required elements. First, the 2024 ROD is an agency statement as it was issued by BLM, a federal agency.

Second, the 2024 ROD is of future effect as it is to be used to guide future oil and gas leasing activities in the Coastal Plain program area. The 2024 ROD designates the land to be subject to future lease sales under the program, as well as the lease stipulations and ROPs that will apply to future leases and authorizations for specific oil and gas activities in the program area. While the 2024 ROD notes that it does not authorize “specific on-the-ground oil and gas exploration or development activities,” decisions made with respect to those future activities will be governed by the decisions made in the 2024 ROD. Therefore, the 2024 ROD has future effect.

Finally, the 2024 ROD implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy. The 2024 ROD implements and prescribes policy by defining a new area for oil and gas leasing under the program—reducing the available

land from 1,563,500 acres, as outlined in the 2020 ROD, to 400,000 acres. The 2024 ROD also addresses the use of the program area, identifying stipulations and ROPs to be applied to leases and authorizations for specific oil and gas activities in the program area. We have previously determined that where an agency action goes beyond mere restatement of existing policy, it satisfies this element of the definition. While some lease stipulations and ROPs have not significantly changed from the 2020 ROD to the 2024 ROD, others have been amended to include additional requirements, or have been newly added altogether. For example, the 2024 ROD includes Lease Stipulation 12, which focuses on the effects of oil and gas activities on ice-rich soils and yedoma deposits. This lease stipulation is not found in the 2020 ROD. These changes to the program area and limitations on program activities implement and prescribe policy.

Our conclusion here is consistent with our previous decisions finding that similar land use programs and resource management plans (RMPs) implement, interpret, or prescribe law or policy. For instance, in B-238859, Oct. 23, 2017, we found that an amendment to the Forest Service's Tongass Land and Resource Management Plan (Tongass Amendment) implemented law by establishing new criteria for the sale of timber to non-agency parties, including by directing the areas of the forest in which timber harvest may occur. We explained that with the Tongass Amendment, the Forest Service set forth its policy for timber sales and thus implemented its statutory responsibility under the National Forest Management Act of 1976.

Similarly in B-329065, Nov. 15, 2017, we concluded that four RMPs issued by BLM prescribed policy by establishing available uses for the areas that each RMP covered. We noted that each RMP implemented provisions of FLPMA and other applicable statutory and regulatory provisions. The same can be said of the 2024 ROD at issue here. The 2024 ROD implements the requirements of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program laid out in TCJA by designating the statutorily required minimum 400,000 acres with the highest potential for hydrocarbons available for future lease sale. The 2024 ROD itself states that it "continues implementation of the Congressional directive to the Secretary in [TCJA] to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas program." The 2024 ROD also prescribes policy by authorizing or foreclosing specific activities or land use within the program area and by establishing the boundaries of the area available for oil and gas activities. As such, the 2024 ROD meets the third element of APA's definition of "rule." Having satisfied all the required elements, the 2024 ROD meets the APA definition of a rule.

CRA Exceptions

We must next determine whether any of CRA's three exceptions apply. CRA provides for three types of rules that are not subject to its requirements: (1) rules of particular applicability; (2) rules relating to agency management or personnel; and (3) rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice that do not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties.

(1) Rule of Particular Applicability

Consistent with our previous decisions, the 2024 ROD is a rule of general applicability, rather than particular applicability. In B-238859, Oct. 23, 2017, the Forest Service proffered that its Tongass Amendment was a rule of particular applicability because it applied to a single national forest. We disagreed, noting that the Tongass Amendment governed all natural resource management activities in the forest, all projects approved

to take place, and all persons or entities using the forest. As such, it was a rule of general applicability.

The 2024 ROD is likewise not a rule of particular applicability. The 2024 ROD, like the Tongass Amendment, only applies to one defined program area: the Coastal Plain. However, the 2024 ROD governs all oil and gas activities in the program area and will govern all leases and permits for the Oil and Gas Leasing Program. While we have previously explained that specific actions taken with respect to individual leases under the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program may constitute rules of particular applicability, the decisions made in the 2024 ROD apply to the program as a whole and do not make specific determinations based on the facts or circumstances of any individual lessee. The 2024 ROD describes the bounds of the project area, the environmental priorities of the agency in administering the program, and the terms and conditions to be applied to all leases and authorizations under the program through lease stipulations and ROPs. Therefore, the 2024 ROD is a rule of general applicability, rather than particular applicability.

(2) Rule of Agency Management or Personnel

The 2024 ROD is not a rule of agency management or personnel. We have previously held that rules that fall into this category relate to purely internal matters. Because the 2024 ROD is concerned with the administration of the Coastal Plain Oil and Gas Leasing Program, including the authorization and limitation of activities taking place in the program area, rather than management of BLM itself or its personnel, it does not meet CRA's second exception.

(3) Rule of Agency Organization, Procedure, or Practice with No Substantial Effect on Non-Agency Parties

Lastly, the 2024 ROD is not a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice that does not substantially affect the rights or obligations of non-agency parties. We have previously explained that this exception was modeled on the APA exception to notice-and-comment rulemaking requirements for "rules of agency organization, procedure, or practice." The purpose of the APA exception is to ensure "that agencies retain latitude in organizing their internal operations," so long as such rules do not have a substantial impact on non-agency parties.

Following this interpretation in the CRA context, we have only applied CRA's third exception to rules that primarily focus on the internal operations of an agency. For instance, in B-329926, Sept. 10, 2018, we found that updates to a Social Security Administration (SSA) hearings manual governing SSA adjudicators' use of information from the internet qualified as a rule of agency organization, procedure, or practice. There, the manual outlined procedures for SSA employees to follow in processing and adjudicating benefits claims. Because the manual was directed to and binding only on SSA officials without imposing new burdens on claimants, we concluded that the manual met CRA's third exception.

In contrast, rules that are directed at and primarily concerned with the behavior of non-agency parties do not fall within this category. Thus, in B-274505, Sept. 16, 1996, we declined to apply CRA's third exception to a Forest Service memorandum on the Emergency Salvage Timber Sale Program, because it was not limited to the Forest Service's methods of operations. Instead, the memorandum established the standards by which program determinations would be made, thus directly affecting the area for and number of timber sales that would result in contracts. Similarly, in B-238859, Oct. 23,

2017, we declined to apply CRA's third exception to the Tongass Amendment, because it was directed at land and resource use by non-agency parties.

Here, the 2024 ROD does entail some changes to agency procedure. For example, the 2024 ROD establishes the terms under which BLM would conduct future lease sales. The 2024 ROD also notes that in order to administer the program, BLM shall coordinate with USFWS, appropriate federal, state, and North Slope Borough agencies, tribal governments, and others. These elements of the 2024 ROD may be considered to have a purely internal effect on BLM. However, like the Forest Service memorandum in B-274505, Sept. 16, 1996 and the Tongass Amendment in B-238859, Oct. 23, 2017, the 2024 ROD is not limited to changes in internal agency operations. The 2024 ROD circumscribes the behavior of non-agency parties that choose to participate in the program, including by limiting the areas of the Coastal Plain available for oil and gas activities and by imposing terms and conditions on those activities through lease stipulations and ROPs. These elements of the 2024 ROD are primarily focused on non-agency parties rather than BLM's internal operations.

We must also consider whether the 2024 ROD substantially affects the rights and obligations of non-agency parties. When analyzing this prong of the exception, we have previously stated that "the critical question is whether the agency action alters the rights or interests of the regulated entities." Along similar lines, courts have determined that "[a]n agency rule that modifies substantive rights and interests can only be nominally procedural, and the exemption for such rules of agency procedure cannot apply."

In previous decisions, we have consistently concluded that where an RMP designates use by non-agency parties in the areas it governs, it has a substantial effect. For instance, in B-275178, July 3, 1997, we reached this conclusion by noting that the Forest Service's RMP provided a "management prescription" giving general direction on what may occur within an area allocated to a particular land use designation. Similarly, in B-329065, Nov. 15, 2017, we concluded that four BLM RMPs had a substantial effect on non-agency parties where the plans limited the use of public land and prescribed where mining and off-highway vehicles were permitted in the areas they governed.

Consistent with this caselaw, the 2024 ROD has a substantial effect on non-agency parties. Its purpose is to "continue[] implementation of the Congressional directive to the Secretary in [TCJA] to establish and administer a competitive oil and gas program for the leasing, development, production, and transportation of oil and gas in and from the Coastal Plain area of the Arctic Refuge." It does this by establishing the scope of the program area and by outlining the lease stipulations and ROPs to be imposed on future use of the land. The 2024 ROD reduces the area available for the program from 1,563,500 acres to 400,000 acres, foreclosing non-agency parties from new oil and gas leasing in those areas and thereby altering their substantive rights and obligations.

Although the 2024 ROD would only affect non-agency parties that voluntarily choose to bid for and enter into leases for the program, rather than the public at large, we have previously concluded that rules establishing requirements for voluntary programs may still substantially affect non-agency parties that choose to participate. Accordingly, the 2024 ROD fails to meet CRA's third exception.

CONCLUSION

The 2024 ROD is a rule for purposes of CRA because it meets the definition of a rule

under APA and no CRA exception applies. Therefore, the 2024 ROD is subject to CRA's requirement that it be submitted to Congress and the Comptroller General before it can take effect.

EDDA EMMANUELLI PEREZ,
General Counsel.

RECOGNIZING GREATEST GENERATION WEEK AND 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE END OF WWII

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize Greatest Generation Week and the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II. I am honored to have the opportunity to speak about this truly significant milestone marking the end to one of the most tumultuous and tragic global events in history. It was the resilience and patriotism of millions of Americans, both soldier and citizen, that shaped a generation and the future of this Nation. On the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II, we pay tribute to our fellow Americans, and the "greatest generation," that united under the banner of our flag to fight tyranny and injustice.

On September 2, 1945, U.S. Army General Douglas MacArthur accepted the formal surrender of Japan aboard the USS *Missouri*. For those of the "greatest generation," this date represents the culmination of 1,226 days of arduous and demanding sacrifice. During World War II, over 16 million Americans served in uniform. In fields and factories, American workers produced the materials for victory in quantities previously unimagined. Michigan became an arsenal for democracy as our assembly lines became the frontlines of an unprecedented war effort. Untold others sacrificed at home by rationing, purchasing war bonds, or contributing to the war effort in countless small ways.

As we commemorate the 80th anniversary of the end of that costly war, we wish to express our deep gratitude to those remaining members of the "greatest generation" who willingly bore such burdens for our freedom. As we honor the living among us, we must also remember the dead. Over 400,000 Americans made the ultimate sacrifice during World War II, and of these, the remains of over 70,000 have never been located. To this day, the bodies of over 2,400 Michiganders remain unrecovered in distant battlegrounds and beneath the waves.

It is my great honor to extend my gratitude to the servicemembers and civilians that have sacrificed for our country. I ask all my colleagues to join me in recognition of Greatest Generation Week and commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.

RECOGNIZING THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF HUDSON, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to wish the town of Hudson, ME,

a very happy 200th birthday. The people of Hudson are proud of their hometown and the generations of hard-working and caring people who have made it such a wonderful place to live, work, and raise families.

Hudson's incorporation in 1825 was but one milestone on a long journey of progress. For thousands of years, the region, with its pristine waters and vast forests, was the hunting grounds of the Penobscot Tribe. Early settlers began arriving around 1800 and turned those resources into busy lumber mills, followed by a furniture factory and cooper shops.

The wealth produced by the land, and by hard work and determination, was invested in a church and several schools to create a true community. In 1824, the settlement became a plantation—a pre-incorporation designation unique to Maine—called Jackson, in honor of the hero of the War of 1812 who would later become our Nation's seventh President. In 1825, the plantation was fully incorporated as Kirkland, after an early settler. Finally, in 1855, the name was changed to Hudson, recognizing the Massachusetts hometown of many residents.

During the Civil War, Maine contributed a higher percentage of its population to abolishing slavery and preserving our Union than any other State, and Hudson played a significant role in contributing soldiers and supporting the war effort. Today, the Veterans Memorial Park stands as an inspiring tribute to all the men and women of Hudson who have defended our freedom throughout history.

Little Pushaw Pond, Pushaw Lake, and the lovely connecting stream running through fields and forest give Hudson a refreshing rural feel. At the same time, the nearby city of Bangor and the flagship University of Maine campus at Orono offer the arts and entertainment activities that make life in Hudson truly the best of both worlds.

The energy that so many have devoted to this year's exciting bicentennial celebration is but one example of the spirit that has guided Hudson from its founding to today. Thanks to those who came before, Hudson, ME, has a wonderful past. Thanks to those who are there today, it has a bright future.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNUAL BETHLEHEM FAIR

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the 100th annual Bethlehem Fair and recognize the steadfast stewardship of the Bethlehem Fair Society.

Connecticut is known for its many fall fairs, a symbol of the State's strong agrarian roots. While recognized today for our exemplary manufacturing industry, agriculture remains an important, vital part of our econ-

omy. Every year, I attend many of these fairs—including the Bethlehem Fair—to meet with the people of Connecticut and demonstrate my deep appreciation for our farmers and crafters.

The Bethlehem Fair was founded in 1924 by Paul L. Johnson and has grown to be a truly remarkable institution in the local community and indeed all of Connecticut. Located at the historic Bethlehem Fair Grounds, the fair has anything and everything a fairgoer could want.

The fair has all the offerings of a classic farmer's market, from stands of local fruits, vegetables, and other agricultural products to exhibits of livestock that include beef and dairy cattle, poultry, goats and sheep, and even rabbits and cavies. The fair also has a packed schedule of events and competitions, including amusement rides, an antique tractor pull, competitions such as the Lumberjack Contest and the "Ag-Olympics," and other entertainment such as art and photography shows, live music, and a vintage museum.

Notably, the fair places a great importance on providing an educational experience. Youth from across the area flock to the fair to learn about farming and agriculture as both an occupation and a tradition and consider the future of farming. Building on this, the fair sponsors the Bethlehem Fair Scholarship Foundation, which each year awards over \$20,000 in scholarships to graduates who plan to major in agribusiness or home economics. Scholarships are awarded to students who have made outstanding contributions to their community, including through academic achievement, participation in school and community activities, and volunteering at the Bethlehem Fair.

The Bethlehem Fair is an exceptional community-building event. It gives local businesses the opportunity for sponsorship and to market their products. It connects the people of Connecticut and gives them a place to share experiences and learn from each other. And it uniquely promotes a spirit of altruism and giving back.

The Bethlehem Fair continues to be a landmark event in Connecticut, and I have no doubt that it will remain that way for many years to come. I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the 100th annual Bethlehem Fair and the hard work for the Bethlehem Fair Society. •

TRIBUTE TO JAY AND SUSAN WOOD

• Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Jay and Susan Wood of Powell County as Montanans of the Month. Jay and Susan have made it their mission to ensure Montana's veterans never go hungry and have delivered more than 44,000 pounds of food to veterans across 16 Montana counties in 2025 so far. In May alone, they distributed 5,400