

grateful Nation, I extend my deepest appreciation to Major Smith for his dedicated service and wish him every success in his future endeavors.

COMMERCE, JUSTICE, SCIENCE, ENERGY AND WATER DEVELOPMENT; AND INTERIOR AND ENVIRONMENT APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2026

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, January 8, 2026

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the FY2026 Energy and Water Development Appropriations bill, division B of H.R. 6938. This bipartisan agreement protects funding for Democratic priorities, reasserts Congress's power of the purse, and rejects Republicans' poison pill riders.

Due to the perseverance of my colleagues, Ranking Members DELAURO and KAPUR, the legislation before us today provides a critical \$2.4 billion increase over FY2025 to address rising energy costs for American families, strengthen our water infrastructure, and improve climate resilience.

This bill represents a stark contrast to the dangerous proposal that passed the House in September. House Republicans previously advanced H.R. 4553, a fiscal year 2026 Energy and Water bill that would have devastated Minnesota families, Minnesota's clean energy economy, and advanced President Trump's attacks on clean energy. I voted against that harmful legislation, which would have raised energy costs and weakened our national security.

The contrast is especially stark when it comes to programs that help vulnerable Minnesotans. Last year, House Republicans voted for a 44 percent cut to the Weatherization Assistance Program, which helps low-income households lower their utility bills by improving home energy efficiency. Thankfully, the bill before us today provides more than \$3 million for this program which will help roughly 1,200 Minnesotans weatherize their homes each year, saving families about \$372 annually on their energy bills.

Our global competitors like China are investing hundreds of billions of dollars in clean-energy development. We must do the same. The bill before us today makes the United States competitive by investing \$3 billion in energy efficiency and renewable energy programs at the Department of Energy, rejecting President Trump and Congressional Republicans' crusade on clean energy.

As more than 62,000 Minnesotans work in clean energy, I am glad to see that this bill protects Minnesota's clean energy economy. The clean energy sector in Minnesota has been growing five times faster than Minnesota's overall job growth and Federal investments in clean energy and energy efficiency will directly support these good-paying jobs.

Since taking office, Trump has been jeopardizing clean-energy jobs in Minnesota by terminating clean-energy incentives in his so-called "One Big Beautiful Bill," canceling grants, and illegally withholding funds from state, local and tribal governments. These ac-

tions are stalling clean-energy projects and eliminating high-wage jobs.

We cannot afford to abandon these investments during a worsening climate crisis. American families are already struggling with high energy bills. But the need to develop our own homegrown clean and sustainable energy isn't just a matter of economic security; it's also about our national security.

The Department of Defense considers climate change to be a top national security concern. Climate change is making nations around the world more unstable and less safe. It's also hurting our military readiness here at home, with sea-level rise and extreme weather flooding our bases. Permafrost thaw is making Alaskan runways unusable. Radar stations are at risk of falling into the sea.

America can, and must, meet the new age frontiers of energy and water, and invest in our workers, protect our water, and power our future. I thank my colleagues for their overwhelming bipartisan support for this bill, and I urge the Senate to move with haste to get this legislation to the President's desk to be signed into law.

We don't have the luxury of ignoring the very real effects of climate change happening around us—especially when they're affecting our lives and livelihoods and our national security. Future generations will pay the highest costs if we fail to act.

As your representative, I will continue to fight for these critical investments because Minnesotans deserve better. Our children and grandchildren deserve better.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan agreement.

RECOGNIZING JOE HENGSTLER

**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2026

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Joe Hengstler, the Executive Director of Olde Town Arvada Business Improvement District, who sadly passed away on September 23, 2025 after his battle with esophageal cancer.

Joe was affectionately known as "The Mayor of Olde Town." He was instrumental in establishing the heart and soul of Arvada's most iconic and historic destination. Friends, family, and community members knew Joe as a true leader who was always ready to pick up a shovel and get to work to put his projects into action.

Joe cultivated a thriving hub for local businesses. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Joe transformed Olde Town to ensure that business owners had the tools and environment to persevere through economic hardship. Olde Town innovated and implemented new physical distancing rules and created unique events to bring the community to Olde Town. The community showed up for the small businesses while still prioritizing safety. This innovation and our community's support for small businesses had a lasting impact as Olde Town continues to thrive.

Joe will be remembered for his enthusiasm, ambition, and optimism. He is survived by his wife, Megan, their daughter Juniper, his mother Camilla Hengstler, his sister Erika Huber,

and his brother Bob Hengstler. I know I join our community in my hope that Joe's loved ones continue to find comfort in the stories that friends and family are sharing. He undoubtedly had an impact on those around him, and in that way, he'll continue to live on with us.

HONORING MRS. BARBARA ANNE DORSEY'S 90TH BIRTHDAY

**HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, January 9, 2026

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with immense pride and profound appreciation to honor a remarkable woman on the momentous occasion of her 90th birthday—Mrs. Barbara Anne Dorsey. Mrs. Dorsey is more than a friend; she is the embodiment of love, community service, and dedication to nurturing the future. An event to honor her birthday will be held on Saturday, January 10, 2026, in Columbus, Georgia at the Green Island Country Club.

Mrs. Dorsey was born on January 10, 1936, in Hawkinsville, Georgia, and spent her formative years in Winter Haven, Florida before moving to Columbus, Georgia. It was here, surrounded by family and the nurturing spirit of her community, that her passion for music and education first took root. Growing up, she became an active member of Fourth Street Baptist Church and a musician at Shady Grove Baptist Church, where she discovered her love for serving others and sharing her musical gifts. From her earliest days, Mrs. Dorsey carried a melody in her heart, playing the clarinet and captivating those around her with the joy of music.

After completing her education at Spencer High School, Mrs. Dorsey attended Fort Valley State College, where she not only honed her teaching skills but also began to shape her future as an educator and community leader. She became a devoted mother, embracing the roles that define family—one that has grown cherished, with each name she earned—Barbranne, Bootsie, Aunt Barbara, Mama Barbara, Grandma and Gigi. Each moniker captures not just her identity but the love and bonds she has cultivated through the years.

In the span of her impressive career, Mrs. Dorsey made her mark at Manly Taylor Elementary School, where she embarked on a journey that would touch the lives of countless young minds. Her devotion extended beyond the classroom, as she served with passion in the Project Head Start summer program. Mrs. Dorsey understood that early education lays the foundation for a lifetime of growth and success. Through her nurturing spirit, she empowered her students, instilled hope, and ignited the flames of curiosity.

I am reminded of the inspiring words of Mary McLeod Bethune, who said, "The true measure of the success of any society can be determined by the contributions of its women." Mrs. Dorsey's life resonates with this idea; her unwavering commitment to education, service, and community upliftment has forged a legacy that will be felt for generations to come.

Mrs. Dorsey's life has not been confined to one place or role. With an indomitable spirit, she embraced many responsibilities within her

faith community, serving as a youth director, choir director, pianist, and Girl Scout leader. Her unwavering commitment shone brightly as she transformed lives—not just by imparting knowledge but by nurturing faith and confidence among young souls. She led the Columbus College Baptist Student Union choir, instilling leadership and cultivating spiritual growth that reverberated through her community.

As a schoolteacher, she shaped young minds at Brown Avenue Elementary, Bibb Elementary, and St. Mary's Road Elementary. Her outstanding commitment led to her recognition as Teacher of the Year at St. Mary's Road Elementary—a celebration of her dedication, creativity, and tireless efforts in advancing education. With each lesson, Barbara fulfilled a critical role in shaping not just knowledge, but also character, integrity, and self-worth among her students.

Even in retirement, Mrs. Dorsey's passion for teaching and music did not fade. After retiring from St. Mary's Road Elementary in 1998, she enriched young lives through private piano lessons, igniting their imaginations and fostering a love for music. Sharing her talents at Girls Inc. and the historic Liberty Theater, she found joy in bringing smiles and laughter through the power of song.

Mrs. Dorsey's steps have truly been ordered by God. In her later years, she became a member of the South Columbus United Methodist Church where she continues to share her love of God and people.

Mrs. Dorsey has accomplished great things in her life but none of it would have been possible without the grace of God, her children: Gayle Daniels, Faye Boyer, Veleta Pasley, Belva Dorsey-Mott, Nicol Lewis, and Joni Dorsey, her nine grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

On a personal note, Mrs. Dorsey and her family have been friends and supporters for many years. She has been a beacon of hope in my life, oftentimes providing meals for me that nourished not only my body but my spirit. I will be forever grateful for her and her family's fidelity and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with the more than 765,000 people of Georgia's 2nd Congressional District in honoring Mrs. Barbara Ann Dorsey on her 90th birthday. Mrs. Barbara Anne Dorsey is not just a woman celebrating a milestone; she is a treasure within our hearts and our community. As we gather to honor her 90th birthday, I extend my heartfelt gratitude for her friendship, her unwavering dedication to nurturing young minds, and the profound love she has shared with everyone who has had the privilege to know her.

I wish a happy 90th Birthday to Mrs. Dorsey. May her life continue to inspire those around her, illuminating paths with her love and wisdom, and may her legacy of kindness and service endure for generations to come.

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**RECOGNIZING RYAN NESSELRODT,  
PH.D.**

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**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 9, 2026*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition and appreciation of Dr. Ryan

Nesselrodt, Ph.D. upon his completion of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Science & Technology Fellowship. Dr. Nesselrodt served as a fellow in my Washington, D.C. office from September 2024 to December 2025, displaying remarkable technical knowledge, flexibility, and creative thinking.

As an integral member of my legislative staff, Dr. Nesselrodt assisted my work on the House Committee on Armed Services and the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, particularly my work on the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation. His exceptional analytical skills and scientific background made him an invaluable advisor for the office on a variety of issues, ranging from plutonium pit production to geothermal energy to the maritime industry.

Throughout his fellowship, Dr. Nesselrodt was the driving force behind several critical legislative efforts. He drafted key provisions on nuclear weapons policy that were adopted as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. He also was responsible for drafting and introducing the "Geothermal Tax Parity Act," which would incentivize geothermal energy production. In addition, he was instrumental in building support among industry stakeholders and Members for my "SHIPS for America Act." His work often required balancing competing legislative priorities, and he was always able to develop a range of sound policy options for my consideration.

Beyond drafting legislative language, Dr. Nesselrodt proved to be a critical voice in policy debate. He consistently offered thoughtful perspectives often not considered by other members of the team. His arguments, grounded in strategic realities, have been essential in helping the office promote responsible, effective policies.

Dr. Nesselrodt is a dedicated public servant, an extraordinary researcher, and a skilled communicator. He is precisely the kind of future leader and innovative thinker we need. I expect Dr. Nesselrodt's fellowship in my office will inspire and inform his future endeavors, and I am confident he will make invaluable contributions in his new role.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of California's 8th Congressional district, I extend our deepest appreciation to Dr. Nesselrodt for his dedicated service as an AAAS Science & Technology fellow. He will always remain a deeply valued member of Team Garamendi.

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**HONORING EVA SCHLOSS**

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**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 9, 2026*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, in a heartfelt tribute, Dr. Doyle Stevick of the Anne Frank Center of the University of South Carolina paid tribute to Eva Schloss, age 96, of London. King Charles cited "May her memory be a blessing to us all." I include in the RECORD the following tribute:

The Anne Frank Center mourns the passing of Mrs. Eva Schloss, who left us on Saturday morning at the age of 96. Eva had a profound impact around the world, co-founding the Anne Frank Trust in the United Kingdom and speaking all over. She also had

a profound if lesser-known impact upon South Carolina and the Anne Frank Center.

Born in Austria on May 11, 1929, just 31 days before Anne Frank, Eva Geiringer fled with her family to Amsterdam, living in the same neighborhood as the Frank family. Betrayed on her 15th birthday and sent to Auschwitz, Eva managed to survive with her mother. When Auschwitz was liberated, she searched for her father and brother, who had been murdered, but recognized Otto Frank. Eight years later, Otto would marry her mother, Elfriede.

Eva bottled up her anger about what was done to her, her family, and her community for 40 years before beginning to speak. But once she did, she spent the next 40 years changing attitudes, changing lives.

Around 2015, Rabbi Hesh Epstein told me that he had been trying to bring Eva to Columbia for years. I replied, "Let me see what I can do!" I had been fortunate to get to know Dr. Dienke Hondius, a historian at the Anne Frank House, and the woman who first nudged Eva to share her story. She reached out directly, and we were exceptionally fortunate that Eva agreed to speak in South Carolina both for the Jewish community, interviewed by Dr. Lily Filler, and for school children on the USC campus in 2017.

Eva had spoken to audiences of 200–300 people before, but when President Harris Pastides interviewed her at the Koger Center, 56 busloads of school children, mostly middle school students born in 2005, were in attendance.

The Jerry and Anita Zucker Family Foundation generously donated 2,000 copies of Eva's autobiography (Eva's Story) for the students in attendance, and a signed nameplate was inserted into each copy. With 2,000 school students born in 2005, I imagined the many hundreds of them who would also live to 90, and in the year 2095 be able to tell their great-grandchildren, 'I personally heard Anne Frank's stepsister describe her survival at Auschwitz.' That will be 150 years after Auschwitz was liberated. We've only recently reached 150 years since slavery. The administration was understandably concerned about whether so many middle schoolers would behave appropriately. They gave her three standing ovations.

President Emeritus Pastides wrote that 'I have met several brave souls who survived the darkest days of the Holocaust and all demonstrated concern and love for persons who have suffered in other times and places. Eva epitomized that by delving into the history of slavery in our country and demonstrating a kinship with descendants of enslaved people. Her visit to our university was an honor for our community. May she rest in eternal peace.'

Eva had a generous heart and an infectious curiosity. She loved visiting the Horseshoe and learning about the University.

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**RECOGNIZING KEVIN JACOVETTA**

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**HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, January 9, 2026*

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize retired firefighter Kevin Jacovetta, who passed away on September 19, 2025 from cancer. Kevin, or "KJ", served Arvada Fire for over 33 years. He joined as a volunteer in 1988, was hired as a full-time firefighter in 1999, and held the roles of firefighter/EMT, engineer, and acting officer throughout his career.