

these events do not just damage land. They threaten livelihoods, local economies, and our Nation's food and fiber supply.

Too often, when disaster strikes, the programs designed to help, including the Emergency Conservation Program and the Emergency Forest Restoration Program, are slowed by red tape, delays, and barriers to access.

My bill, H.R. 1011, takes a common-sense approach to fixing that. This legislation ensures that producers, forest landowners, and family forestry businesses can access advance payments of up to 75 percent of recovery costs so they can begin rebuilding immediately rather than waiting months for reimbursement.

It expands the types of emergency conservation practices that qualify for assistance, recognizing that recovery goes far beyond repairing fences. It includes restoring farmland, rehabilitating conservation structures, and stabilizing land after devastating events.

It also ensures that wildfire damage can qualify for assistance when natural conditions cause fires to spread, providing fairness and certainty for landowners facing increasingly severe fire seasons.

For forest landowners and family forestry businesses, this bill provides critical flexibility to remove debris, re-plant trees, and restore working lands without unnecessary delay.

Mr. Speaker, timing matters. We are quickly approaching both hurricane and wildfire seasons. Communities across the country are preparing for what may come. When disaster hits, recovery cannot wait. Producers and landowners need tools that match the urgency of the moment. This bill delivers exactly that.

For a farmer whose fields have been washed out, for a rancher rebuilding miles of fencing, and for a family forestry business working to recover from a storm or wildfire damage, this legislation means faster recovery, less financial strain, and a stronger path forward.

I also recognize the bipartisan leadership behind this effort. In the Senate, I thank Senator DEB FISCHER and Senator BEN RAY LUJÁN for leading this important legislation. Here in the House, I am grateful for the support of my colleagues, Representatives MARIE GLUESENKAMP PEREZ, DON BACON, MIKE FLOOD, and ADRIAN SMITH. This is what bipartisan, solutions-oriented policymaking looks like.

H.R. 1011 removes barriers, cuts through delays, and ensures that disaster assistance works when it is needed most. It strengthens the resilience of rural America because when our producers and forest landowners recover faster, our communities recover faster.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this practical, bipartisan solution and stand with the farmers, ranchers, forest landowners, and family forestry businesses who feed, fuel, and sustain our Nation.

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

I thank my colleagues for their support, specifically my colleague from Louisiana, on behalf of the farmers, ranchers, and forestry caretakers in my State. This bill is important, and I am so glad that she brought it forward.

Before we vote, I want my colleagues to see what I saw. I stood in a field where 20,000 saplings ready to be planted drowned before they ever had a chance to grow. I saw thousands of coffee trees lost, including heritage trees planted by the original owners generations ago, gone in a single storm. I saw banana fields buried in water and silt. I saw fruit contaminated and roots rotting in the ground. I saw livestock lost, mature animals and their young, newly born, swept away, with only empty pens left.

Even where crops are still standing, farmers don't know if they are safe. They are unsure of what flood waters carried into their soil and are unsure if their land will produce food again next season or the season after that.

This is not just damage. This is devastation. These are livelihoods hanging in the balance.

Farmers told me how they tried to fight back, saving seedlings by hand, rushing to harvest whatever they could before it was gone, and building up pens in the middle of the storm just to keep their animals from drowning.

□ 1520

These aren't just fields as we all know here. These are fields that feed families. For some, these are fields that are also their homes, and now they are asking a simple question: Can we recover?

Make no mistake, Hawaii needs help now, but farmers in every State and district are one disaster away from asking those same questions because disasters don't discriminate.

While the bill we are considering today will not make disaster-impacted producers whole overnight, it would help the Federal Government deliver support faster and give farmers and ranchers the resources they need to continue growing the food, fuel, and fiber that keeps this country running.

Our farmers are not asking for a handout. They are asking for a fair shot. That is what this bill delivers, not delayed help, not paperwork and waiting, but real support when it actually matters most. That is because disasters aren't slowing down, and neither should we.

Our farmers are doing everything that they can to hold on, making sure that we have food on our table and fuel in our tanks, clothes to wear at the end of the day, and real cotton grown here in America.

The question is whether we will meet them with the urgency they deserve. By passing this bill, we can say yes.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional

speakers, I am prepared to close, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WIED). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1011.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

EDWARD L. RAMSEY OLNEY POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6310) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3570 Olney Laytonsville Road in Olney, Maryland, as the "Edward L. Ramsey Olney Post Office Building".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6310

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

SECTION 1. EDWARD L. RAMSEY OLNEY POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3570 Olney Laytonsville Road in Olney, Maryland, as the "Edward L. Ramsey Olney Post Office Building".

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill which would rename a post office in Olney, Maryland, after Edward L. Ramsey.

Mr. Ramsey was a dedicated public servant, retired Army sergeant, and valued member of the Olney community. Even into retirement, Mr.

Ramsey continued to serve his community by working at his local post office in Olney.

This bill would rename that post office where Mr. Ramsey tirelessly supported his neighbors.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 6310, as well, introduced by my colleague, Mr. RASKIN.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN).

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and the gentleman from Texas for his remarks.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 6310. This is a bipartisan bill to rename the Olney Post Office after Sergeant Edward Lawrence Ramsey.

Mr. Ramsey was a true American patriot. After serving honorably for more than two decades in the U.S. Army, he brought his passionate commitment to public service to Montgomery County, Maryland, where he served as a postal clerk for 27 years, first in Glen Echo and then in the beautiful town of Olney.

Mr. Ramsey's dedication to our community and his magnificent spirit brought joy and connection to generations of families, friends, community members, and colleagues throughout his career in the Postal Service.

Many have shared with me inspiring stories of Mr. Ramsey's work in the community. He often worked on the holidays to guarantee continued stellar postal service. He would cover for colleagues who couldn't make it to work because of a storm. He regularly dropped by the post office to ensure that things were going well for his colleagues and for customers even when he, himself, wasn't on duty. When a customer could not afford postage, it was always Mr. Ramsey who always quickly covered the cost out of his own pocket. He even helped resolve special after-hours requests for many customers whom he considered his friends.

It is no surprise for me to learn that visitors to the Olney Post Office would often wait in his line, a longer line, just to visit with him and to enjoy his vibrant and warm presence.

Mr. Ramsey's kindness and his enthusiasm for his work extended to his postal colleagues who became like an extended family to him.

Mr. Ramsey was a dedicated and devoted husband to his wife of 31 years, Sharon Mosley Ramsey, and a proud father of four sons, Edward Spencer, Lance Stanton, Hunter Shane, and Marcus.

Mr. Ramsey passed away in January of 2022 following a medical emergency he experienced while on duty at the Olney Post Office. We will hold his memory in our hearts, and we hope it will be a blessing to his loved ones and family.

We are forever thankful to Mr. Ramsey for his 47 years of dedicated service to our Nation and to our community in Maryland. Renaming this post office the Edward L. Ramsey Olney Post Office Building will honor Mr. Ramsey's outstanding life and legacy, and it will be a beacon to people in our community forever.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of our colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 6310.

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his remarks. I encourage my colleagues to join me in honoring the life of Mr. Ramsey by naming the post office in Olney, Maryland, after him, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, renaming this post office after Mr. Ramsey will ensure his service to our Nation and his community in Maryland will survive for generations.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this 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 Texas (Mr. GILL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6310.

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.

□ 1530

JAMES J. HOWARD POST OFFICE

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1431) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2407 State Route 71, Suite 1, in Spring Lake, New Jersey, as the "James J. Howard Post Office".

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1431

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

SECTION 1. JAMES J. HOWARD POST OFFICE.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2407 State Route 71, Suite 1, in Spring Lake, New Jersey, shall be known and designated as the "James J. Howard Post Office".

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GILL) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SUBRAMANYAM) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GILL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill, which would rename a post office in Spring Lake, New Jersey, for Congressman James J. Howard.

Howard served our country in the U.S. Navy before beginning a career in education, where he worked his way up from teacher to acting principal in Wall Township, New Jersey.

In 1964, Howard was elected to represent New Jersey's Third Congressional District. During his time in Congress, Congressman Howard became known for his strong advocacy for his district and the environment.

As chairman of the House Public Works and Transportation Committee, Congressman Howard championed important legislation related to highway safety and antidrunk driving.

He passed away in 1988 and is survived by his wife, Marlene, and his three daughters.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today also in support of H.R. 1431, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) to name the post office in Spring Lake, New Jersey, after Mr. James Howard.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Virginia for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill to name the post office in Spring Lake, New Jersey, after my predecessor and mentor, Congressman Jim Howard. I thank Representative SMITH and the rest of the New Jersey delegation for cosponsoring the bill.

As Representative of New Jersey's Third District for over 20 years, from 1965 to 1988, Jim Howard was a strong force in Congress. Through his work as the chairman of the Public Works and Transportation Committee, he wrote and passed legislation that genuinely saved thousands of lives: laws to tackle drunk driving, passenger safety, and the first-ever 55-mile-per-hour speed limit on Federal highways.

Jim also came up with his Howard Plan, which was the very first time mass transit and highway legislation were combined into one surface transportation bill, because he recognized that rebuilding our infrastructure wouldn't just improve people's lives, it would mean economic growth and jobs throughout the country.