

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**NORTHWEST STRAITS MARINE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025**

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2860) to reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act to promote the protection of the resources of the Northwest Straits, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2860

*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 “Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act of 2025”.

**SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF NORTHWEST STRAITS MARINE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE ACT.**

The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act (title IV of Public Law 105-384; 112 Stat. 3458) is amended—

(1) in section 402, by striking “Commission (in this title referred to as the ‘Commission’)” and inserting “Commission.”;

(2) by striking sections 403, 404, and 405; and

(3) by inserting after section 402 the following:

**“SEC. 403. DEFINITIONS.**

“In this title:

“(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term ‘Commission’ means the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission established by section 402.

“(2) **MARINE RESOURCES COMMITTEE.**—The term ‘marine resources committee’ means a county government committee that assists in assessing marine resource and conservation needs.

“(3) **NORTHWEST STRAITS REGION.**—The term ‘Northwest Straits region’ means the marine waters of the Strait of Juan de Fuca and of Puget Sound from the Canadian border to the south end of Snohomish County.

“(4) **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 enactment of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act of 2025 pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 5131).

“(5) **UNDER SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Under Secretary’ means the Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere.

**“SEC. 404. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION.**

“(a) **COMPOSITION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Commission shall be composed of 14 members, except as provided in paragraph (2), who shall be appointed as follows:

“(A) One member appointed by a consensus of the members of a marine resources committee for San Juan County, Washington.

“(B) One member appointed by a consensus of the members of a marine resources committee for Island County, Washington.

“(C) One member appointed by a consensus of the members of a marine resources committee for Skagit County, Washington.

“(D) One member appointed by a consensus of the members of a marine resources committee for Whatcom County, Washington.

“(E) One member appointed by a consensus of the members of a marine resources committee for Snohomish County, Washington.

“(F) One member appointed by a consensus of the members of a marine resources committee for Clallam County, Washington.

“(G) One member appointed by a consensus of the members of a marine resources committee for Jefferson County, Washington.

“(H) Two members appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission and in consultation with the Tribal governments affected by this title, to represent the interests of such Tribal governments.

“(I) One member appointed by the Governor of the State of Washington to represent the interests of the Puget Sound Partnership.

“(J) Four members appointed by the Governor of the State of Washington who—

“(i) are residents of the State of Washington; and

“(ii) are not employed by a Federal, State, or local government, excluding an institution of higher education.

“(2) **ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.**—The Commission may, as determined necessary to improve the ability of the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission under section 405(b), appoint members in addition to those appointed under paragraph (1). Any such additional member shall be appointed by a consensus of the members of a marine resources committee that is not described in such paragraph.

“(b) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy in the Commission shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

“(c) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Commission shall select a Chairperson from among its members.

“(d) **MEETING.**—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson, but not less frequently than quarterly.

“(e) **LIAISON.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Under Secretary, in consultation with the Commission, shall appoint an employee of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—

“(A) to serve as a liaison between the Commission and the Department of Commerce;

“(B) to coordinate programs of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with activities related to the goal of the Commission described in section 405(a); and

“(C) to perform additional liaison functions benefitting the Commission and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which may include, as agreed to by the Commission and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, attending meetings and other events of the Commission as a nonvoting participant.

“(2) **LIMITATION.**—Service as a member of the Commission by the employee appointed under paragraph (1)—

“(A) is limited to the employee’s service as a liaison; and

“(B) does not obligate the employee to perform any duty of the Commission under section 405(b).

“(f) **ADMINISTRATION.**—The Commission may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of Washington for staffing and administrative services for the purposes of supporting the duties of the Commission under section 405(b).

**“SEC. 405. GOAL AND DUTIES OF THE COMMISSION.**

“(a) **GOAL.**—The goal of the Commission is to protect and restore the marine waters, habitats, and species of the Northwest Straits region to achieve ecosystem health and sustainable resource use by—

“(1) designing and recommending projects that are driven by the best available science, local priorities, community-based decisions, and the ability to measure results;

“(2) building awareness and stewardship and making recommendations to improve the health of the marine resources of the Northwest Straits region;

“(3) maintaining and expanding diverse membership and collaboration with partner organizations, such as the Puget Sound Partnership;

“(4) expanding partnerships with Tribal governments and continuing to support Tribal treaties, cultures, and subsistence and Tribal treaty rights; and

“(5) recognizing the importance of economic and social benefits that are dependent on marine environments and sustainable marine resources.

“(b) **DUTIES.**—The duties of the Commission are the following:

“(1) To provide resources and technical support for marine resources committees.

“(2) To work with such marine resources committees and appropriate entities of Federal, State, and local governments and Tribal governments to provide advice in developing regional programs to monitor the overall health of the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits region.

“(3) To collect marine resources data and identify factors adversely affecting or preventing the restoration of the health of the marine ecosystem and coastal economies of the Northwest Straits region to inform decisionmakers.

“(4) To develop scientifically sound restoration and protection recommendations, informed by local priorities, that address such factors.

“(5) To serve as a public forum for the informal discussion of policies and actions, with respect to the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits region, of Federal, State, or local governments, Tribal governments, or the Government of Canada.

“(6) To inform appropriate authorities and local communities about the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits region and about issues relating to the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits region.

“(7) To consult with all affected Tribal governments in the Northwest Straits region to ensure that the work of the Commission does not violate Tribal treaty rights.

“(c) **COORDINATION AND COLLABORATION.**—The Commission—

“(1) shall carry out the duties described in subsection (b) in coordination and collaboration, as appropriate, with Federal, State, and local governments and Tribal governments, including by—

“(A) providing technical support and assistance to any Tribal government seeking representation and participation on the Commission; and

“(B) supporting the work and duties of the liaison to the Commission under section 404(e); and

“(2) may enter into cooperative agreements with nonprofit entities, such as the Northwest Straits Foundation, to provide assistance, including financial assistance, in carrying out the duties described in subsection (b).

“(d) **LIMITATIONS.**—Nothing in this title provides the Commission with authority to issue regulations or implement any Federal law or regulation.

“(e) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Each year, the Commission shall prepare, submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Natural Resources and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and the Under Secretary, and make available to the public a report describing—

“(A) the activities carried out by the Commission during the preceding year; and

“(B) the progress in achieving the benchmarks described in paragraph (2).

“(2) BENCHMARKS.—The benchmarks described in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) Protection and restoration of marine, coastal, and nearshore habitats within the Northwest Straits region.

“(B) Protection and restoration of marine resources populations to healthy, sustainable levels.

“(C) Improvement of the water quality of the Northwest Straits region.

“(D) Collection of high-quality data and promotion of the use and dissemination of such data for the purposes of ecosystem monitoring.

“(E) Promotion of stewardship and understanding of marine resources of the Northwest Straits region through education and outreach, including by targeted outreach to underresourced communities.

**“SEC. 406. SUNSET.**

“The authority to carry out this title shall terminate on the date that is 7 years after the date of the enactment of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act of 2025.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2860, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act of 2025.

The Northwest Straits Advisory Commission was first authorized by Congress in 1998. Initially, it was created to respond to discussions about a potential marine sanctuary that was proposed in that region of Washington State.

In the years since, this commission has worked with local communities to conserve marine resources.

H.R. 2860 reauthorizes this commission; establishes clear goals for the commission's work; and modifies its membership, including two representatives from the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2860 reauthorizes the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Act. This legislation promotes the protection and restoration of marine ecosystems in the Northwest Straits region of Washington State.

The Northwest Straits region is a special place. It encompasses the marine waters of the Strait de Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound, a region of priceless biodiversity that is home to iconic species such as salmon, tufted puffins, and orcas. It has been stewarded by communities for generations.

However, over the 20th century, the region's environmental health has declined due to habitat loss, reductions in wildlife populations, declining water quality, and the impacts of climate change. We must do everything we can to address these issues.

This bill takes a comprehensive approach to restore and protect the area. It leverages local knowledge and community engagement, while providing Federal resources and technical assistance to support and strengthen these ongoing efforts.

This bill provides funding for projects that strengthen and proactively protect these ecosystems and support critical restoration. It also fosters collaboration by utilizing and reinforcing partnerships with Tribal Governments, local communities, and State and Federal agencies. It supports local communities' efforts to address environmental degradation, respond to the threats posed by climate change, and protect marine ecosystems.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN).

Mr. LARSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 2860, the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative Reauthorization Act.

The Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Initiative started as a bipartisan, homegrown idea. Thanks to the foresight and hard work of Democratic Senator PATTY MURRAY and my predecessor here in the U.S. House of Representatives, former Representative Jack Metcalf, and local stakeholders, Congress created the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Commission in 1998.

The commission works with seven county-based marine resources committees, or MRCs, in northwest Puget Sound. Five of these seven MRCs are in the five counties I represent in northwest Washington State.

Over the past 20 years, the commission's bottom-up approach has ensured that local communities and Tribes have the resources and expertise that they need to keep marine habitats healthy and recover endangered and threatened species, including the southern resident killer whales and salmon.

My bill would reauthorize the Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Commission for 7 years, ensuring the com-

mission can continue its work to restore the marine ecosystem of the Northwest Straits region, including by restoring shoreline in Skagit County, conserving Olympia oysters in Whatcom County, monitoring kelp beds in Island County, removing derelict vessels in San Juan County, and surveying forage fish eggs in Snohomish County.

Mr. Speaker, all of these projects work in tandem, or work together, throughout the Puget Sound in order to increase the whole health of the Puget Sound. Not only do these projects restore the environment, but they are also supporting local jobs.

According to the commission, the Northwest Straits region creates 16,000 jobs in Washington's commercial and recreational fishing industries and \$150 million in economic input for the State's aquaculture industry.

The commission partners with ports, local authorities, State agencies, marine-based businesses, and Tribes on everything from trapping invasive European green crab that threaten local shellfish economies, to helping boaters identify and communicating eelgrass locations, which are poor anchorage sites but important for commercial and recreational marine species.

This is locally driven, job-creating work that Congress should continue to support.

I thank Representative EMILY RANDALL for co-leading this bill; Senators MURRAY and CANTWELL for their partnership in the Senate; and Representatives MARILYN STRICKLAND, SUZAN DELBENE, ADAM SMITH, PRAMILA JAYAPAL, and KIM SCHRIER, all my colleagues here in the House, for cosponsoring this bill.

I thank the many partner organizations in our State, whose advocacy and hard work got the bill to this point, particularly the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission and the Puget Sound Partnership.

Finally, I thank Ranking Member HUFFMAN, Chair WESTERMAN, and the entire House Natural Resources Committee—the members of the committee and the staff—for working with my office to move this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill to keep the momentum going to restore marine habitat, protect Washington State's environment, and create more jobs in northwest Washington State.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill to reauthorize the Northwest Straits Advisory Commission.

I commend my colleague, the gentleman from the State of Washington (Mr. LARSEN), not only for his work on this bill but for his leadership to pass the successful highway transportation reauthorization bill recently.

Again, I support the legislation. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2860, as amended.

The question was taken. The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. WESTERMAN. 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.

HONORING ROBERT "BOBBY" KILDUFF, JR.

(Ms. PRESSLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Boston firefighter Robert "Bobby" Kilduff, Jr.

Bobby was a marine veteran, a proud third-generation firefighter, and a dedicated father to two beautiful children. For 24 years, he served the Boston Fire Department and kept the people of Boston safe.

Tragically, Bobby died last week while in service to our community battling a large fire at a home in Dorchester.

My husband, Conan, and I extend our deep condolences to his daughter, Hanna Jane; his son, Mason; his partner, Jess; his extended family; and the Boston Firefighters Local 718 as they grieve this loss.

His 24-year-old daughter spoke passionately at his funeral in Boston yesterday. She said: "My dad represents everything our world can be if we look out for each other, if we reach out to

help first and ask questions later." "He used to say that the only thing he loved more than being a firefighter was being our dad."

Bobby's humanity, empathy, and strength saved the lives of so many of our Boston neighbors. As we mourn this loss, may we carry his example forward in word and deed.

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ADJOURNMENT

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, June 3, 2026, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the first quarter of 2026 pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND MAR. 31, 2026

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent). Rows include members like Jason Smith, Jimmy Panetta, Tom Suozzi, etc.

1 Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

2 If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JASON SMITH, May 21, 2026.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-3658. A letter from the Counsel, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's interim final order — Order Preempting the Illinois Interchange Fee Prohibition Act [Docket ID: OCC-2026-0431] (RIN: 1557-ZA10) received April 29, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-3659. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation, Department of Energy, transmitting the Agency's interim final rule — Petroleum-Equivalent Fuel Economy Calculation [EERE-2025-VT-0073] (RIN: 1904-AF47) received May 4, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3660. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Office of State and Community Energy Programs, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rescinding the Grant Programs for

Schools and Hospitals and Buildings Owned by Units of Local Government and Public Care Institutions Regulations [DOE-HQ-2025-0022] (RIN: 1930-AA02) received May 4, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-3661. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Office of Critical Minerals and Energy Innovation, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Exempt Power Supplies Under the EPS Service Parts Act of 2014 [EERE-2025-BT-STD-0010] (RIN: 1904-AF80) received May 4, 2026, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-