

of engineers, teachers, entrepreneurs, servicemembers, and community leaders.

I commend the school board: Megan Wright, Gene Trent, John Thomas, Katye Campbell, and their chairman, Matt Susin, for their incredible work along with our superintendent, Dr. Mark Rendell.

Their leadership and their passion make this A grade possible.

RECOGNIZING BREVARD COUNTY MEDAL OF MERIT RECIPIENTS

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding group of young leaders in our Space Coast.

Recently, I had the privilege of honoring the 2026 Brevard County Medal of Merit recipients, a tradition established by my predecessor, the late Congressman Bill Posey.

Each year, local high schools select one graduating senior who exemplifies academic achievement, character, leadership, and service to others.

These students have distinguished themselves not just in the classroom but by setting an example to others in their school.

As a former history teacher, I have always believed that education not only opens doors but it is the ultimate civil right and opportunity.

These students recognized in this Medal of Merit program represent the best of our public schools, and they are why I am very excited about the future of America. I congratulate this year's recipients and wish them the very best in their future academic endeavors. I know they will serve us well.

RECOGNIZING DENNIS WOYTOWITZ

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a very important man in our community, Dennis Woytowicz of Cocoa, Florida, who is making a real difference on Florida's Space Coast and the health of the Indian River Lagoon.

As the founder of Space Coast Water Sweep, Dennis has dedicated himself to locating and removing derelict crab traps and marine debris that threaten wildlife and the lagoon.

Working under a permit authorized by the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Dennis and his volunteers help remove these hazards from our waterways. Dennis also created an online tool that allows other citizens to submit photos and solve problems.

I thank Dennis and his volunteers of Space Coast Water Sweep for their commitment to preserving the Indian River Lagoon.

HIGHLIGHTING INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS FOR INDIAN RIVER LAGOON

Mr. HARIDOPOLOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight an innovative effort on Florida's Space Coast to improve the health of the Indian River Lagoon.

The city of Titusville has partnered with local organizations and businesses to pilot a new water treatment technology that uses nanobubbles to im-

prove water quality and also reduce harmful nutrients in our lagoon.

The Indian River Lagoon is one of North America's most diverse estuaries. It supports marine wildlife, recreational fishing, tourism, and thousands of local jobs.

This project brings together local government, private industry, and community stakeholders to test new solutions that could help restore and preserve this national treasure.

From launching astronauts into space to developing new technologies here at home, innovation is part of what we are on the Space Coast.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 25 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Lord, make our love increase. In the face of the trials and testing which we inevitably encounter, let our faith enable us to stand firm and united, and may the overflow of our mutual love strengthen us to work toward the common good of our communities and our country.

Strengthen our hearts that we will withstand all that dares to divide and distract us from working together despite our differences. Rather, may our unique gifts and our varied perspectives be used to build up this body in its service both to this Nation and to You.

May we strive for wholeness and holiness, that we may appear blameless in Your presence.

In the sure hope of the perfection that is ours when we pray in Your name, we offer ourselves to You this day.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. SCHOLTEN)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SCHOLTEN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-165)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to North Korea that was declared in Executive Order 13466 of June 26, 2008, expanded in scope in Executive Order 13551 of August 30, 2010, addressed further in Executive Order 13570 of April 18, 2011, further expanded in scope in Executive Order 13687 of January 2, 2015, and under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13722 of March 15, 2016, and Executive Order 13810 of September 20, 2017, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2026.

The existence and risk of the proliferation of weapons-usable fissile material on the Korean Peninsula; the actions and policies of the Government of North Korea that destabilize the Korean Peninsula and imperil United States Armed Forces, allies, and trading partners in the region, including its pursuit of nuclear and missile programs; and other provocative, destabilizing, and repressive actions and policies of the Government of North Korea, continue to constitute an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13466 with respect to North Korea.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 22, 2026.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 119-166)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001, under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 13304 of May 28, 2003, which was expanded in scope in Executive Order 14033 of June 8, 2021, and under which additional steps were taken in Executive Order 14140 of January 8, 2025, is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2026.

The acts of extremist violence and obstructionist activity, and the situation in the Western Balkans, which stymies progress toward effective and democratic governance and full integration into transatlantic institutions, outlined in these Executive Orders, continue to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13219 with respect to the Western Balkans.

DONALD J. TRUMP.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, June 22, 2026.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1432

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HARIDOPOLOS) at 2 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair

will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

#### EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2025

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 629) to amend the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 to remove barriers to agricultural producers in accessing funds to carry out emergency measures under the emergency conservation program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 629

*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 "Emergency Conservation Program Improvement Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY CONSERVATION PROGRAM.

Section 401 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2201) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by inserting "AND OTHER EMERGENCY CONSERVATION MEASURES" after "FENCING";

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting "or for other emergency measures to replace or restore farmland or conservation structures requiring an immediate response (as determined by the Secretary)," after "replacement of fencing"; and

(ii) by striking "option of receiving" and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting the following: "option of receiving, before the agricultural producer carries out the repair, replacement, or restoration—

"(A) with respect to a payment to the agricultural producer for a replacement, 75 percent of the cost of the replacement, as determined by the Secretary; and

"(B) with respect to a payment to the agricultural producer for a repair or restoration, 50 percent of the cost of the repair or restoration, as determined by the Secretary."; and

(C) in paragraph (2), by striking "60-day" and inserting "180-day"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(c) WILDFIRE DETERMINATION.—A wildfire that causes damage eligible for a payment under subsection (a) includes—

"(1) a wildfire that is not caused naturally, if the damage is caused by the spread of the wildfire due to natural causes; and

"(2) a wildfire that is caused by the Federal Government.".

#### SEC. 3. IMPROVING THE EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM.

Section 407 of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 (16 U.S.C. 2206) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(2), by striking "wildfires," and inserting "wildfires (including a wildfire that is not caused naturally, if the damage is caused by the spread of the wildfire due to natural causes, and a wildfire that is caused by the Federal Government).";

(2) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (f); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (d) the following:

"(e) ADVANCE PAYMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall give an owner of nonindustrial private forest land the option of receiving, before the owner carries out emergency measures under this section, not more than 75 percent of the cost of the emergency measures, as determined by the Secretary.

"(2) RETURN OF FUNDS.—If the funds provided under paragraph (1) are not expended by the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date on which the owner of nonindustrial private forest land receives those funds, the funds shall be returned within a reasonable timeframe, as determined by the Secretary."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. 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 the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 629, the Emergency Conservation Program Improvement Act of 2025, introduced by Senator FISCHER of Nebraska.

The Emergency Conservation Program and the Emergency Forest Restoration Program are two critical cost-share programs available to landowners following a natural disaster. Given the natural disasters we have witnessed, including wildfires, hurricanes, and flooding, these programs have remained critically important.

Wildfires continue to present significant challenges, especially in the West, due to their increasing intensity and the extensive number of acres burned each year. Forest managers and wildfire experts have predicted that 2026 will be a particularly challenging fire year. So far this year, we have already witnessed approximately 2.7 million acres burned in over 34,000 fires, and it is only June.

Recently, devastating wildfires have occurred in the plains of Nebraska, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas, instead of just being confined to the forest and mountains of the West. This year, we saw approximately 300,000 acres burn after multiple wildfires ignited in Oklahoma and Kansas this past February.

In addition, due to Hurricanes Helene and Milton, we have observed significant needs for emergency assistance resulting from the devastation in southeastern States, including the Carolinas, Georgia, and Florida. Natural disasters have inflicted great damage on private property across the country at no fault of the landowners.