

# GOVERNMENT IS TOO BIG, POWERFUL, AND UNACCOUNTABLE TO AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Mr. KNOTT of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KNOTT. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has been too big, powerful, and unaccountable to the American people for far too long. This is most clear in our Federal agencies, which have spent years acting as the investigator, prosecutor, and judge simultaneously and all without any accountability.

Put plainly: If a Federal agency wishes to stop a particular project or activity, it may do so at any time without regard to the cost that such actions incur on the parties who are being stopped. All leverage and power rests with the regulator, and there is no real recourse for the regulated.

This week, I introduced the Limiting Excessive Government Obstruction Act, also known as the LEGO Act, to stop this overreach. My bill is part of a broader effort to rein in the administrative state, to protect constitutional rights, and to eliminate the Federal bureaucracy that burdens so many Americans through restricting the creative genius that comes from real liberty.

Right now, administrative enforcement cases start and end inside the very agencies that write and enforce the rules. Government officials decide both who to target and then sit as judges over those very people.

Very few, except for specialized and expensive lawyers right here in Washington, D.C., have any idea of how to navigate a challenge to an agency action that halts a project.

As an example, let's say a farmer is visited by the EPA and instructed to stop farming, simply because the EPA alleges that the farmer is violating a specific rule. Right now, the farmer cannot challenge the order to stop farming in a court of law down the street from his home. He cannot continue farming. His only recourse is to file a challenge here in Washington before a "judge" that is funded by the EPA.

Before the challenge can be dismissed, the farmer must exhaust all administrative remedies before the EPA to show that the EPA overstepped its bounds. Not only is this unfair, but it can take years and cost millions of dollars.

That is not how our government is supposed to work.

Whether a farmer on their land or a local municipality building a bridge in a small town, we do not work at the mercy of a Federal agency or a nameless Federal bureaucrat.

My bill changes this broken system by giving the regulated party the power to proceed quickly when stopped by a governing agency.

To continue with my example, a farmer is stopped by the EPA for farming the exact same way that he has

farmed for decades. Rather than having to wait on the EPA's timeline, my bill empowers the farmer to pursue the agency order in an Article III court in front of a jury of his peers and then continue on with their livelihood. There, the farmer can seek to dismiss the regulatory effort simply by showing reasonable compliance with the law and/or the subject regulation.

The effects of this bill are all favorable:

Regulated parties will no longer be bound by the whims of the regulators.

Harmless and sound economic activity cannot be stopped by a whim.

More certainty in economic activity and projects will increase efficiency and lower costs.

The bill will compel the regulating agencies to focus only on unreasonable activity.

The farmers, contractors, builders, and States will develop many more ways to design, build, and advance in a compliant and reasonable manner.

Lastly and perhaps most importantly, it will restore the balance needed between the regulator and the regulated. If unreasonable activity is occurring, the government should be forced to prove it in an independent court, rather than a regulated party being forced to prove the government acted unreasonably in an agency forum.

Mr. Speaker, the economic miracle that we have enjoyed in the United States was never achieved by a centrally controlled planning and regulatory force. The miracle of the United States' economy was conceived by private individuals and entities who had the freedom to build, experiment, farm, and progress in a system rooted in freedom.

When the government can stop free people on a whim without any consideration of the cost, we will solidify the decline that so many of us in this country feel today.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve a government that works for, not against, them. It is time that we rein in the bureaucracy and eliminate excessive regulatory burdens imposed by our Federal Government.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

## CONGRATULATING TONY BRADS

(Mr. VINDMAN of Virginia was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Culpeper County Public Schools division superintendent Dr. Tony Brads. He has been recognized as Superintendent of the Year for the Northern Virginia Region of the Commonwealth.

This honor reflects Dr. Brad's outstanding accomplishments, as well as the respect he has earned throughout Culpeper County and Virginia's education community.

As he marks 21 years as a division superintendent, Dr. Brads is known as a

voice of reason and a tenacious advocate for students, educators, and public schools.

Under his leadership, the Culpeper Technical Education Center opened in 2021. This center has expanded opportunity and prepared students with the skills they need to succeed in today's workforce.

Dr. Brads represents the very best of public education leadership. I thank him for his commitment to improving the lives and futures of our students. I am honored to recognize him as my Constituent of the Week.

## CONGRATULATING TIM HEALEY

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate my Constituent of the Week, Tim Healey, on his retirement as principal of Charles J. Colgan Senior High School in Prince William County, the first and only principal since Charles J. Colgan Senior High School opened in 2016.

Principal Healey is ending a remarkable 37-year career with Prince William County Public Schools. Throughout his career in education, Principal Healey has fostered an environment where his unwavering belief in his students empowers them to prepare for their next chapter and inspires them to reach their fullest potential.

His leadership has shaped not only a school but a community grounded in excellence and opportunity.

On behalf of the entire Prince William community and as the dad of a student at Colgan High School, go Sharks.

I thank Principal Healey for his decades of dedicated service and his lasting impact on generations of students, families, and educators.

I wish him all the best in a well-deserved retirement.

## CONGRATULATING ANITA CROSSFIELD

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my Constituent of the Week, Anita Crossfield, on being named a recipient of the 2026 President's Award for Woman of the Year.

This award recognizes individuals whose leadership and service have enhanced and preserved the quality of life in Fredericksburg.

A native of Albania, Anita and her daughter fled wartime in 2004. Her story is similar to my own. Our families came to this greatest country in the world to pursue the American Dream.

Since then, she has earned a degree from Germanna Community College and established a successful business on Caroline Street. Anita's Cafe and Dessert Bar has become a welcoming hub in the community.

In addition to her business, Anita serves on the city's Economic Development Authority and sits on the board of the Fredericksburg Area Museum.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Anita for all she has done to strengthen Fredericksburg. Our community is grateful for all of her contributions.

## CONGRATULATING KRISTI RICE

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Kristi Rice, my

Constituent of the Week, on her appointment as head coach of the U.S. Women's Cyber Team.

A dedicated cybersecurity teacher at Spotsylvania High School, Kristi will guide and mentor cyber experts as they prepare to compete on the global stage.

This July, she will lead her all-female team at the Women's International Cybersecurity Challenge in Ireland.

In addition to this remarkable achievement, Kristi has been named Spotsylvania Teacher of the Year for 2025–2026 and is the recipient of the Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award.

These honors reflect on her exceptional leadership, deep professional expertise, and unwavering commitment to advancing cybersecurity education.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL SIDEBOTHAM

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my Constituent of the Week, Dr. Michael Sidebotham, on being recognized in the inaugural class of the Virginia Department of Education's Principals of Distinction.

This recognition honors outstanding school leaders while supporting their continued professional growth.

A longtime principal of Grafton Village Elementary School, Dr. Sidebotham was named Stafford County's Principal of the Year in 2018.

His dedication to students, staff, and families at Grafton Village has stood out.

Principals like Dr. Sidebotham play a vital role in shaping the next generation and ensuring every student has the opportunity to succeed.

I thank Dr. Sidebotham for his leadership and his unwavering commitment to education in our community.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 39 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA) at noon.

#### PRAYER

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

Bless us, O Lord, this day as we place our trust in You. Sure of Your guidance and hopeful for Your favor, we put our confidence in You.

Let our faith in You be our source of strength. Like a tree planted by the water, may everything that is within us reach to You to sustain us in the work set before us.

When the heat of argument or the intensity of debate becomes too much, may we draw from Your living waters the refreshment and calm of Your quiet presence.

When our worries and frustrations inflame our words and ignite our anger, may we find coolness in the streams of Your peace and righteousness.

Lord, search our hearts that they would be found faithful. Examine our minds that they would prove blameless. Reward us according to our conduct this day and judge us according to the fruit of our deeds.

We appeal to Your mercy and pray in Your holy name with gratitude for Your undeserved grace.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### ANNIVERSARY OF PRESIDENT TRUMP'S TAX CUTS

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, delivering on promises made by President Donald Trump and House Republicans, led by MIKE JOHNSON, this is the first anniversary of the Working Families Tax Cut Act. This big, beautiful bill cuts taxes, limits government, expands freedom, and will create jobs.

Sadly, every Democrat voted against it. This historic legislation resulted in the largest tax cut in American history, benefitting families. Millions have received historic tax refunds. More than 29 million workers claimed the no tax on overtime deduction. More than 35 million seniors have claimed no tax on Social Security. In addition, nearly 8 million have claimed no tax on tips. Promises made, promises kept.

In conclusion, God bless our troops. Trump is reinstating peace through strength, revealing war criminal Putin lies, insulting Trump and mocking Trump, with President Trump now supporting the Lindsey Graham Russian sanctions act to bankrupt the Putin oligarchs who oppress the talented people of Russia.

#### HONORING JULIA DANIELS

(Ms. ROSS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Julia Daniels, a remarkable North Carolinian whose generosity, leadership, and love for our State touched countless lives.

Born in New Bern and raised in Raleigh, Julia dedicated herself to preserving and enriching North Carolina's culture and civic institutions. She was a champion of the arts, history, and education, helping strengthen organizations, including the North Carolina Museum of Art and the North Carolina Historical Commission.

Julia was often called a professional volunteer, but her impact went far beyond that title. To many, Julia was the embodiment of grace and service. She opened her heart to causes she believed in, inspiring generations through her kindness and civic spirit.

As we mourn her passing, we also celebrate an exceptional life and a legacy that will endure across North Carolina for generations to come.

#### END HUNGER NOW

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, when schools are closed for the summer, far too many kids in America go hungry because they don't have access to nutritious breakfasts or lunches.

That is where the incredible Summer Eats program comes in. Funded by USDA and in partnership with States, local schools, and community organizations, Summer Eats provides free, nutritious summer meals to kids across the country.

Last week, I joined Project Bread on a visit to Summer Eats programs in Leominster and Turners Falls, two communities in my district. I was able to talk with young children and teens who told me they loved the meals and enjoyed the ability to spend time with their friends while school was out of session.

I thank the Spanish American Center and the Gill-Montague School District for sponsoring these successful sites.

Mr. Speaker, even with important programs like Summer Eats, 14 million kids in the United States of America, the richest country in the history of the world, are food insecure. We have