

be at this place today without the members not only on my team but on Senator MERKLEY's team, and the broader Interior Appropriations staff. They have worked extraordinarily hard and extraordinarily well together.

I want to thank the members of my team, led by Daniel Mencher, Sarah Jorgenson, and Anna Smith; and their counterparts on the minority side, Melissa Zimmerman, Ryan Hunt, Rishi Sahgal, and Anthony Sedillo. These folks worked day and night, around the clock, through Christmas, through New Year's, and they have produced a very, very strong bill.

We overcame some long odds—again, some really long nights—to move this forward and to fund the Department of the Interior, the Forest Service, EPA, and related Agencies. But what we agreed to is going to help our people, our communities, our economy, our security, and our lands and our wildlife. It is something we should all be proud to support.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

The motion was agreed to.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6938) making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30th, 2026, and for other purposes.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 4208

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I call up my amendment No. 4208 and ask that it be reported by number.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 4208.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 1 day after the date of enactment.”

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 4209 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4208

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 4209 to amendment No. 4208.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike “1 day” and insert “2 days”

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### MOTION TO COMMIT WITH AMENDMENT NO. 4210

Mr. THUNE. I move to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] moves to commit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations with instructions to report back forthwith with an amendment numbered 4210.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

At the end add the following.

“This Act shall take effect 5 days after the date of enactment.”

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask that the reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on the motion to commit with instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 4211

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have an amendment to the instructions.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 4211 to the instructions of the motion to commit H.R. 6938.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike “5 days” and insert “6 days”

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent the reading be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. THUNE. I ask for the yeas and nays on my amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

#### AMENDMENT NO. 4212 TO AMENDMENT NO. 4211

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I have a second-degree amendment at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. THUNE] proposes an amendment numbered 4212 to amendment No. 4211.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

Strike “6 days” and insert “7 days”

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask consent the reading be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. I send a cloture motion to the desk with respect to Calendar No. 299, H.R. 6938.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 299, H.R. 6938, a bill making consolidated appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes.

John Thune, Susan M. Collins, Tom Cotton, Mike Rounds, Mike Crapo, Katie Boyd Britt, Jim Banks, Tommy Tuberville, David McCormick, Steve Daines, Markwayne Mullin, John Barasso, John R. Curtis, Roger F. Wicker, Deb Fischer, Jon Husted, Pete Ricketts.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

#### ARMS SALES NOTIFICATION

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-101, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Denmark for defense articles and

services estimated to cost \$45 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
*Director.*

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-101, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Denmark for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$45 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
*Director.*

Enclosures.

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. BRIAN MAST,  
*Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,  
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-101, concerning the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Denmark for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$45 million. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
*Director.*

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-101

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Denmark.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$42 million.

Other \$3 million.

Total \$45 million.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

One Hundred (100) AGM-114R Hellfire missiles.

Three (3) AGM-114R Captive Air Training Missile units.

Six (6) M299 launchers.

Two (2) MHU-191 A/M trailers.

Three (3) BRU-14 bomb racks.

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: containers, training aids, weapon software, training, support equipment, spare and repair parts, publications and technical documentation, and transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Navy (DE-P-AEJ).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: January 8, 2026.

\* As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

POLICY JUSTIFICATION

Denmark—AGM-114R Hellfire Missiles

The Government of Denmark has requested to buy up to one hundred (100) AGM-114R Hellfire missiles; three (3) AGM-114R Captive Air Test Missiles; six (6) Hellfire (Longbow) M299 Hellfire Launchers; two (2) MHU-191/M trailers; and three (3) BRU-14 bomb racks. The following non-MDE items will be included: containers, training aids, weapon software, training, support equipment, spare and repair parts, publications and technical documentation, and transportation; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistical support services; and other related elements of logistical and program support. The estimated total cost is \$45 million.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy goals and national security objectives of the United States by improving the security of a NATO Ally that is a force for political stability and economic progress in Europe.

The proposed sale will improve Denmark's capability to meet current and future threats by ensuring aviation forces' interoperability with United States and other allied forces as well as their ability to contribute to missions of mutual interest by delivering follow-on support and sustainment. By operating the AGM-114R Hellfire missiles, Denmark contributes to global readiness and enhances the capability for the U.S. forces operating globally alongside them. Denmark will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractor will be Lockheed Martin Missile and Defense, Ocala, FL. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations.

Implementation of the proposed sale will not require the assignment of U.S. Government and contractor representatives to Denmark on a temporary basis in conjunction with program technical oversight and support requirements.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-101

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The Hellfire missile is a precision air-to-ground missile primarily used to target a variety of threats including tanks, armored vehicles, bunkers, and even other aircraft. The AGM-114R provides a semi-active laser guidance system and a multi-purpose warhead, allowing it to effectively engage a wide range of targets, including armored vehicles, fortified positions, and soft targets.

2. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

3. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific

hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

4. A determination has been made that Denmark can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

5. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to the Government of Denmark.

RECOGNIZING AMERICAN POSTAL WORKERS CHICAGO LOCAL 0001

Ms. DUCKWORTH. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the recent 250th anniversary of the U.S. Postal Service, USPS, and the 120th anniversary of the American Postal Workers Union, APWU, Chicago Local 0001.

Our Nation's Postal Service, first established by the Second Continental Congress on July 26, 1775, and later modernized by Congress to become the U.S. Postal Service on July 1, 1971, was created to connect individuals and communities across the country.

Today, USPS continues to serve communities and is relied on for its ability to conduct last-mile deliveries that have rapidly increased in the era of e-commerce. As USPS passes this incredible milestone, we must ensure that USPS continues to grow by improving its on-time performance, seeking new business to grow mail volumes, and investing in the Postal Service's most valuable asset, its dedicated workforce.

In my home State of Illinois, APWU Chicago Local 0001 and other unions began organizing to strengthen worker rights and protections over 100 years ago, when labor protections barely existed. The leadership, dedication, and great sacrifices made by APWU Chicago Local 0001 empowered postal workers to negotiate fairer wages, establish safer workplaces, and secure far better health benefits. Simply put, APWU Chicago Local 0001 has been instrumental in advancing postal workers' rights, safety and dignity.

I ask my colleagues in the Senate to join me in commemorating the USPS's 250th Anniversary and commending and thanking the dedicated postal workers—past and present—of APWU Chicago Local 0001, who have served their fellow APWU sisters and brothers over the past 120 years, and helped connect communities throughout Illinois and across our great Nation.

HONORING CORPORAL GRADE ONE MATTHEW "TY" SNOOK

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Mr. President, today I rise to honor the life of Corporal Grade One Matthew "Ty" Snook.

Corporal Grade One Snook was killed in the line of duty on December 23,