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No. 168

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GUEST).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
November 14, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MICHAEL GUEST to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2024, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

RECOGNIZING THE 60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE NATIONAL BOY SCOUT MEMORIAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 60th anniversary of the National Boy Scout Memorial in our Nation's Capital.

The Boy Scouts of America aims to prepare young people for lives of impact and purpose.

Since the Boy Scouts' founding in 1910 here in Washington, D.C., the organization has grown to become one of the largest youth organizations in the United States with over 1 million Scouts.

The United States Congress passed a congressional charter in 1916, officially establishing the Boy Scouts of America. The mission remains steadfast: "to prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetimes by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law."

In 1959, the 50th anniversary year of Scouting, Lyndon Baines Johnson, then-Senate majority leader, introduced a measure to establish the memorial. Scouts from across the Nation displayed their dedication and passion for Scouting by raising 100 percent of the funding needed to complete the statue.

Scouts who were able to collect \$5 in dimes sent in their collections and had their names printed on special scrolls.

The legacies of these Scouts and their dedication lives on, with all the scrolls still residing inside the boxes at the statue's base.

The sculpture sits at the location of the 1937 National Scout Jamboree, the very first jamboree. It was dedicated on November 7, 1964, and over 1,000 Scouts, leaders, family members, military personnel, members of government, and guests were present.

This weekend I was proud to attend the 60th anniversary ceremony.

Officially named the "Boy Scout Commemorative Tribute," it was the very first statue or memorial in D.C. dedicated to a living or ongoing cause, not a past leader or event.

The three statues represent the fundamental principles of Scouting. The young Scout in the middle symbolizes all Scouts past, present, and future, and is a beacon for good. The male and female figures symbolize the strength for both manhood and womanhood.

The male represents ideals of physical, mental, and moral fitness, citizenship, honor, and courage, while the female represents enlightenment, love of fellow man, justice, and freedom.

As a proud Eagle Scout and a Scout Master for over 30 years, Scouting has been an essential part of my young and adult life. Even in my current role as U.S. Representative for Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District and chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture, I use the lessons and values learned in Scouting to guide my decisionmaking.

The Scout Oath tells us that we have a duty to God, to country, to others, and to self, and this is a checklist I use when voting on the House floor.

Scouting enables the next generation of youth to develop leadership skills, connect with their community, build self-confidence, and gain numerous other benefits for themselves and their country.

The Scouting program is one of the best youth organizations for cultivating a sense of responsibility and allows youth to become engaged citizens who care and respect their communities.

I will always cherish the time I spent in Scouting and value its role in shaping me into who I am today.

Mr. Speaker, for more than 100 years, Scouting has instilled essential values into our young people. This organization has helped develop academic skills, self-confidence, ethics, and citizenship skills that continue influencing these Scouts' adult lives.

The impact of Scouting cannot be measured. This monument stands as a powerful tribute, not just to the Boy Scouts themselves, but to the values they carry and their positive impact on our communities, Nation, and the world.

Let this memorial remind us of our responsibility to support and inspire the next generation to dedicate themselves to a lifetime of service.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H5977

ECONOMIC DREAMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) for 5 minutes.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about an urgent challenge facing our Nation, one that, if left unresolved, could lead to an economic and moral disaster.

This challenge is the uncertain future of our Dreamers, individuals who embody the very spirit of the American Dream. These Dreamers were brought to this country as children through no fault of their own. They grew up with our kids, attended our schools. They pledged allegiance to our flag, the only flag that they have ever known. If given the chance, many would die for it as many have done through their service in the military. They share the same hopes, the same dreams, and the same dedication to building a better America as all of us.

They contribute as taxpayers, small business owners, educators, artists, and aspiring public servants. During the pandemic, they stepped up as essential workers. They served as doctors, nurses, and first responders to keep our communities healthy and safe.

Instead of being recognized and celebrated, they live under the fear of constant threat, not because of their actions, but because of our inaction. They live in fear, fear that at any moment their lives could be uprooted by the stroke of a pen or a court decision or a tweet.

Every day they contribute to our communities, strengthen our economy, and make America a place worth living in.

Let's make one thing clear, Mr. Speaker: Immigrants, including Dreamers, are a tremendous economic force for good in this country, regardless of what some people in the majority may say or want to believe.

One study found that immigrants account for 17 percent of the U.S. GDP, or more than \$3.3 trillion. Make no mistake: Dreamers pay their fair share and more.

Since 2012, when President Obama created the DACA program, DACA recipients have paid some \$20 billion in Federal and payroll taxes and a further \$13 billion in State and local taxes.

In my very own home State of Texas, which has the second highest number of DACA recipients, Dreamers contribute over \$16 billion annually to our State's economy.

Let's be clear, Mr. Speaker: The U.S. economy cannot afford to lose this workforce, the talent, and the drive that Dreamers bring to this country.

In Texas alone, if DACA were to end, it would result in an estimated 2,600 job losses every single month, including 200 healthcare jobs and 100 educators.

That is nothing short of a national failure. Congress has a responsibility to act and pass solutions. Bipartisan bills like mine, the American Dream and Promise Act, could pass in this

House today if only it were brought to a vote.

This legislation would provide Dreamers with the security they deserve and ensure our economy remains competitive.

According to some estimates, creating a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers would increase the GDP by over \$799 billion in 10 years. That is not chump change. It would create more than a quarter of a million jobs.

Unfortunately, very few Republicans are working with us or are even willing to sit down and talk so that we can move forward on this issue.

For the sake of our economy and our future, I hope that course changes.

Mr. Speaker, please work with me and my Democratic colleagues to get this done. I know we can take care of Dreamers and immigrants who contribute to our economy and do more together to secure our border.

To close, I will share the story of three fellows who served in my office this past year. They served our constituents, upheld our Constitution, and exemplified what it means to be an American, all while knowing we could never even hire them in the end full time.

They are Dreamers. They are bright, young, dedicated people who deserve a permanent place here without fear of deportation. They and their families deserve better.

It is time for Congress to work together on a bipartisan basis to pass the American Dream and Promise Act and to keep the American Dream alive. We cannot let it die. We cannot let it go cold.

Let's step up and act with courage. Let's pass the American Dream and Promise Act to secure our border and unleash the economic potential of Dreamers across the country.

ENSURING OUR CORRECTIONS OFFICERS GET THE MENTAL HEALTH CARE THEY DESERVE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 9929, the Corrections Officer Blake Schwarz Suicide Prevention Act.

This critical legislation, which I introduced, creates a grant program to fund mental health screenings and provide essential resources for corrections officers, men and women who face some of the most dangerous and mentally taxing work in law enforcement.

Correction officers are exposed daily to verbal, physical, and sexual abuse, creating an environment that takes a profound toll on their mental health.

Tragically, suicide rates among these officers are far higher than the national average. It is unacceptable that those who protect our communities are left without the support they need to protect their own well-being.

This bill is backed by the National Fraternal Order of Police, representing over 377,000 officers who stand with us in calling for action.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in passing this vital legislation, ensuring our corrections officers get the mental health care they deserve.

HONORING WORLD WAR II VETERAN HENRY LANGREHR ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of World War II veteran Henry Langrehr, who turned 100 on November 4.

As a native of Clinton, Iowa, Henry left school in 1942 to join the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division, and at 19 years of age, was one of the first paratroopers to jump in during the landing at Normandy.

Following the battle, Henry was wounded and taken as a prisoner of war, sent to Czechoslovakia to work in a camp mining coal, which he later escaped in a harrowing runaway. Following his escape, he returned to Clinton and began a successful career in business.

All in all, Henry has been the recipient of two Bronze Stars, two Purple Hearts, and the French Legion of Honor.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in wishing Henry, a true American hero and an example of Iowa's best, a very happy birthday.

CONGRATULATING HEAD COACH KIRK FERENTZ ON HIS 200TH BIG TEN CONFERENCE WIN

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Iowa Football Head Coach Kirk Ferentz on recording his 200th win in the Big Ten Conference, moving him into second place of all time.

Coach Ferentz's historic victory came at home against the Washington Huskies where the Hawkeyes dominated with a 40-16 win.

Since then, Iowa has earned two more victories, bringing Coach Ferentz's total to 202 wins, just three shy of an all-time record for the Big Ten coaching victories.

Coach Ferentz has led Iowa since 1999, guiding the team to two Big Ten championships and earning four Big Ten Coach of the Year honors, along with the prestigious AP College Football Coach of the Year award.

Beyond wins, Coach Ferentz has built a culture of excellence that has shaped countless young athletes, and I know personally that he considers these athletes like his family.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Coach Ferentz on his remarkable achievement. We look forward to celebrating his future success as the all-time winningest coach in the Big Ten.

Go Hawkeyes.

□ 1015

RECOGNIZING MEGHAN PURCELL

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the hard work and dedication of Meghan Purcell.

Mrs. Purcell has worked as an art teacher at Mark Twain and Herbert Hoover Elementary Schools in the Bettendorf Community School District for the past 15 years.

Her outstanding performance has earned her the title of Iowa's Outstanding Elementary Art Educator of the Year. It is educators like her that shape the minds of young future generations and lead us toward excellence. Her dedication to the education of Iowa's youth has been inspirational. She has been honored as the district's employee of the quarter and received the National Artsonia Educational Leadership Award.

She has attended six National Art Education Association national conventions and presented workshops on curriculum design and bookmaking techniques at the 2024 National Art Education Association conference in Minneapolis.

It is my hope that she can continue to inspire educators across the Nation to go above and beyond in our institutions of learning. Mrs. Purcell knows that it is the pursuance of excellence that sets us apart. It would serve us all well to remember that.

HONORING RICHARD BAILEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. PETERS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. PETERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Richard Bailey of Coronado, who will conclude his service as mayor this December.

Since first being elected to the Coronado City Council in 2012 and later as mayor in 2016, Mayor Bailey has demonstrated a steadfast commitment to working with Congress to achieve clean beaches for Coronado.

Known for his dedication to local issues and his role in representing Coronado on the SANDAG board, Mayor Bailey has tirelessly advocated for his constituents. I very much appreciate the help he has provided me by reaching out to his contacts in Congress on the other side of the aisle to help us get funds approved to fix and expand the South Bay International Wastewater Treatment Plant, which cleans sewage that crosses our border.

We had several meetings here at the Capitol and at home, and he has been a critical partner in our work to stop this terrible environmental and public health crisis.

It is an enormous challenge, but Mayor Bailey is known for taking challenges. He is also known for becoming the first American mayor to reach Everest Base Camp shortly after finishing the Boston Marathon.

His leadership has strengthened the city of Coronado and has set a standard for service.

As Mayor Bailey moves toward his next chapter, we thank him for his years of public service and for the positive legacy he leaves behind. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing

Mayor Richard Bailey's contributions and wishing him all the best in the future.

RECOGNIZING KENZIE WILLEN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kenzie Willen from Cumberland County High School in Burkesville, Kentucky.

Kenzie was runner-up in the Kentucky High School Girls State Golf Tournament. This was a very competitive golf tournament. I knew several of the girls in the golf tournament from around the State, and Kenzie finished second overall. In Kentucky we don't have classes. Every school competes against every school—the big schools against the little schools.

Kenzie's achievement was the highest athletic achievement in the history of tiny Cumberland County High School.

Kenzie was also recently named the KHSAA Fourth Region Girls Athlete of the Year. Kenzie's parents, Lannie and Kristi Willen, are good friends of mine and are leaders in the great community of Burkesville, Kentucky.

Mr. Speaker, I again congratulate Miss Kenzie Willen from Cumberland County High School.

THANKING AMERICAN VOTERS

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the voters of America for overwhelmingly turning out to reelect a Republican majority in the United States House of Representatives.

I had the honor of serving this Congress as chairman of the House Oversight Committee, and I plan on serving my final 2 years as chairman in the next Congress.

The House Oversight Committee passed 23 good government bills through this House body, most of which received bipartisan majorities. The House Oversight Committee also led many successful investigations and probes, including our bipartisan PBM investigation—that is pharmacy benefit managers.

Our investigation revealed, along with our three bipartisan committee hearings, that the pharmacy benefit managers were actually doing the opposite of what they were created to do. They were created to help lower the price of prescription drugs when, in fact, in many instances they have actually increased the price of prescription drugs.

I believe our work on the House Oversight Committee will lead to significant reforms for the PBM industry in this next Congress.

We also had many other successful investigations, the most high profile of which was the Biden family influence peddling investigation, which revealed that the Biden family received tens of millions of dollars from our adversaries around the world, and according to the two IRS whistleblowers, never paid a penny of taxes on it. Despite the Presi-

dent of the United States saying he didn't know anything about it and never met with any of these people, he met with every single one of them.

We achieved many of our objectives with respect to providing the American people with the truth. We provided the American taxpayers with badly needed oversight, despite massive—and I repeat that, Mr. Speaker, massive—opposition from the Biden-Harris administration, as well as constant disruption and dishonesty from Ranking Member JAMIE RASKIN.

I hope that this next Congress on the House Oversight Committee we can work together to get the backs of the American taxpayers to provide the badly needed oversight that the American people deserve and that Congress is supposed to provide.

I am excited about the future because I am confident that the Trump administration will be more transparent than this current administration has and cooperate with us and do things like provide information when we request it.

We work for the American people. We work for the taxpayers. The taxpayers have taken it on the chin, Mr. Speaker. They expect Congress to provide oversight. They expect good government. They expect efficiency and transparency with their hard-earned tax dollars that they send here to Washington, D.C. They have not been getting that, Mr. Speaker.

I also look forward to working with Elon Musk and the new government efficiency task force. I think there are lots of opportunities there, Mr. Speaker, to save significant amounts of tax dollars. We cannot continue to operate in this body spending \$1.5 to \$2 trillion a year more than we take in. It is not sustainable, and it has led to excessive spending.

The American people spoke loud and clear. They want good government. They want efficiency and transparency. Mr. Speaker, I pledge that the House Oversight Committee will work together to see that the American people get the efficiency and transparency in the government that they deserve.

ANTI-SEMITISM IS RETURNING WITH A VENGEANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING) for 5 minutes.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I am deeply concerned that history is repeating itself. Anti-Semitism, Jew hatred, the demonizing, terrorizing, and killing of innocent Jews, especially women and children, is returning with a vengeance.

I want to take us back 83 years to December 15 of 1941 in Liepaja, Latvia.

For 3 terrifying days, German Nazis and Latvian collaborators rounded up thousands of Jewish women and children, forced them to march in the freezing cold to a beach on the Baltic Sea, ordered them to strip off their

clothing, and shot them dead in groups of 10 while others looked on terrified.

This horrific massacre has been memorialized by a brilliant Jewish artist in my community, Victoria Carlin Milstein, in a sculpture she has named "She Wouldn't Take Off Her Boots." The sculpture, which stands in LeBauer Park in downtown Greensboro shows a grandmother, her daughter, and her three granddaughters, arms locked together, awaiting their gruesome fate. All are barefoot, except the grandmother, who in an act of defiance, refused to take off her boots.

The sculpture was based on a haunting photograph taken by the Nazis to document their cruelty. The artist has placed a bronze camera in front of the statue so each person can look through the camera lens and see exactly what the photographer saw before the family was shot. Each person who looks through that camera is a witness to the unimaginable cruelty that was inflicted on innocent Jews while others stood by either complicit or silent.

A film has been made about the creation of this sculpture and a curriculum written to educate students and teachers about this dark time in history when 6 million Jews were murdered in the Holocaust.

Tragically, we are experiencing the violent cruelty of anti-Semitism today.

On October 7, 2023, thousands of men from Gaza invaded Israel and tortured, burned, and murdered more than 1,200 innocent people. These Hamas jihadi terrorists driven by Jew hatred subjected women and girls of all ages to unimaginable acts of torture, mutilation, rape—violence intended to dehumanize and humiliate Jewish women and girls before they were murdered.

Just like the Nazis 83 years ago in the Liepaja massacre, the Hamas terrorists filmed their horrific acts to memorialize their unspeakable cruelty.

These acts should shock the conscience of the entire world, and yet for too long, the world stood silent. Despite overwhelming evidence, some continue to minimize or deny these war crimes.

Another Jewish woman, Sheryl Sandberg, made a film to show the world what happened on that terrible day, to allow the victims to tell their stories. Just like looking through the camera in front of Victoria's statue, we can all watch Sheryl's film and bear witness to the horrors of anti-Semitism.

I am proud of these Jewish women who have taken action to make sure we do not allow these atrocities to be denied or forgotten.

We must all take heed of the words of Elie Wiesel, which are inscribed on the base of Victoria's statue: "The opposite of love is not hate, it is indifference."

As a nation, we must not be indifferent to the alarming rise of anti-Semitism across our country and around the world—from Los Angeles to New York to Amsterdam to Lithuania to Israel.

I call on my colleagues and all Americans to speak out against anti-Semitism and hate in all its forms and take action. Let us not be indifferent.

RELEASE KEITH SIEGEL

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, it has been over a year since Hamas launched a brutal attack on our ally Israel, slaughtering 1,200 innocent people and taking hundreds of innocent people hostage.

Today, the families of these hostages continue to live in unthinkable anguish, desperate for their loved ones to return home safely.

Among them is the family of Keith Siegel from my home State of North Carolina.

On October 7, Keith and his wife, Aviva, were kidnapped from their home in K'far Aza and held captive together in inhumane conditions underground lacking food, water, and even air.

After 51 days, Aviva was released in a hostage exchange, but Keith, now 65 years old, remains in those horrific tunnels.

We must continue to fight for the return of Keith and all 100 hostages. We must keep them in our hearts and speak up for them.

WILLCOX SOFTBALL TEAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Willcox softball's little league team for their perseverance and their hard work.

After winning back-to-back Arizona Little League State titles, this team was crowned as this West Region Champions and were invited to play at the World Series Tournament.

Unfortunately, they came up a little short in a 5-2 defeat in one of the elimination games, but we are so proud of them.

While they were not able to make it all the way, I know that Cochise County and the entire State of Arizona is incredibly proud of the Willcox softball's first World Series appearance.

They are only the fifth team from southern Arizona to ever make it this far. They have made our district proud with their resilience and competitive spirit. They must keep up the great work.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATING UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
PRESIDENT DR. SURESH GARIMELLA

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the new president of the University of Arizona, my alma mater, Dr. Suresh Garimella.

I have met and spent time with him, and I am deeply impressed with what I have experienced. Dr. Garimella is a tireless champion for students who is well suited to lead the university into an even brighter future. He is a passionate educator who fosters the creativity of his students and empowers

them with the tools to pursue their own American Dream.

Throughout his career, he has personally mentored 90 graduate students and 50 post-doctoral scholars, many of whom were placed in prestigious faculty positions across the United States and the world.

Additionally, Dr. Garimella serves on the National Science Board, which acts as an independent body of advisers to Congress and the President on policy matters related to science and engineering.

I am grateful for Dr. Garimella's leadership and look forward to working with him to support the university and its students.

Bear Down.

CONGRATULATING MO SHELDON RETIRING

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mo Sheldon, who will be stepping down as CEO of Northern Cochise Community Hospital at the end of this month, and thank her for all of her invaluable work.

Mo joined the hospital in 2020 and has successfully led them over the past 4 years, including during their transition to Tucson Medical Center in 2021.

In FY24, Mo and I worked closely to secure \$859,000 in Federal funds for much-needed upgrades and repairs to the main entry area and emergency department, which are over 50 years old.

Mo is a pillar of her community, and she has dedicated herself to serving her patients and strengthening the healthcare system in our rural communities. Mo will be dearly missed, but her legacy of servant leadership will continue to echo far into the future.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mo for her commitment, dedication, and hard work. It truly made a difference in our communities. Laura and I wish her all the best in this next chapter in her life.

WATER IS LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, we all know that water is life. Safe, accessible, affordable drinking water is a human right.

In 2021, I was proud to work with Representative DEBBIE DINGELL and the Committee on Energy and Commerce in helping establish the low-income household water assistance program, a \$1.2 billion financial assistance program to help pay off bills and debts to keep people's water connected, especially during the pandemic.

The program, of course, saved countless lives, but the money has run out. Millions of Americans all across our Nation are still struggling to keep up with their bills, and many are having their water shut off as we speak.

We already have a permanent program right now for gas and electric utilities for our families called LIHEAP, but we have nothing for water utilities. The cost of water has gone up more than 40 percent nationwide in the last decade, and increased 285 percent in Detroit since 1980.

With this bill, called the Half-Century Update for Water Access and Affordability Act, we are establishing a bill that would dedicate funding every year to keep people's water flowing. The program, Mr. Speaker, would include direct financial assistance, bill payments, and debt relief. What I also love is that it is going to help with water efficiency upgrades, like plumbing repairs that are much-needed in very old homes all across our Nation.

We are going to set up a community advisory committee made up of residents, nonprofits, utilities, and other local stakeholders that will help advise the EPA on how to set up and implement these programs.

Mr. Speaker, the act will also go to help fund local nonprofits to help with technical assistance to help many of our families. We are also going to collect the data that is necessary to improve this program every year to make the biggest impact.

This bill would also ban the practice of water shutoffs as punishment for not being able to afford your bills. It is inhumane to have our families in the richest country in the world not have access to water.

We always seem to have the money, Mr. Speaker, to send more bombs and weapons, but not support working families who can't live without water.

CELEBRATING UNITED COMMUNITY HOUSING COALITION'S 50 YEARS OF SERVICE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I celebrate United Community Housing Coalition's 50 years of service to our communities.

It is an amazing organization that, in the past five decades, worked on life-saving housing assistance for many thousands of our neighbors throughout Detroit and southeastern Michigan. The United Community Housing Coalition has been a critical organization, helping families retain their homes, helping folks become homeowners, and helping to protect neighborhoods from abandonment and blight.

UHC serves as a beacon of hope for many of our residents in building a sense of community and empowerment. Their efforts in one of the most difficult times during the recession helped many Detroiters understand their legal rights, avoid foreclosure, fight eviction, organize, and secure housing.

I am proud of these 50 years of extraordinary service to our families. Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in recognizing UHC's impact as we continue to strive toward a future where everyone has a safe and secure place to call home.

BLINKEN'S 30-DAY HUMANITARIAN DEADLINE

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, let's talk about "Biden's 30-day humanitarian deadline."

The Biden administration has continued to ignore reports from its own experts, international human rights organizations, and the United Nations that the Israeli Government is blocking humanitarian aid into Gaza in violation of U.S. and international law.

ProPublica published a detailed account of how the U.S. State Department submitted report after report to Congress that contradicted the findings of the Department's own experts and those of other agencies.

The Israeli Government is using starvation as a weapon of war. Look at this picture. It is evidence that blocking U.S. humanitarian aid is clearly happening, and it is a blatant violation of section 620(i) of the Foreign Assistance Act.

In a letter to the Israeli Government on October 13, Secretary Blinken acknowledged that the Israeli Government is violating U.S. law by blocking aid and gave them 30 days to comply. The letter demanded that 350 trucks be allowed into Gaza per day. Guess what? According to Israel's own data and own government, only 57 trucks were allowed into Gaza per day in October. If that is even true, this is the lowest amount of aid into Gaza in a year.

On November 1, top United Nations officials said the entire Palestinian population in northern Gaza is at imminent risk of dying from disease, famine, and violence.

This week, Mr. Speaker, Secretary Blinken exposed his lie by announcing that there will be no change to any policy, despite admitting that the Israeli Government has still failed to comply with all of their demands.

Secretary Blinken has continued to lie to Congress and should resign. U.S. law is very clear: No nation blocking U.S. humanitarian assistance can receive U.S. weapons. The Biden-Harris administration cannot pick and choose when they comply with our own laws.

Children are forced to eat pet food and bug-infested flour. Look at this, and do not turn your back on again being complicit to this war crime.

Blinken says there is no need to change our own policy. Shameful.

HONORING FRANCO CUPINI'S 80TH BIRTHDAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 80th birthday of Mr. Franco Cupini.

Born in the heart of Rome, he was determined to make his mark on the world through his culinary talents. He learned the intricacies of Italian cuisine and earned himself a position at Villa Madama, of the Presidential palace, serving President Giovanni Leone and other distinguished government dignitaries.

He moved to the United States in 1968, bringing the flavors of Italy to the Midwest with his brother, Carlo. They owned several restaurants, and he solidified his place as a top-tier chef at the Ritz Carlton in St. Louis.

In 2003, Franco and his son Eddie opened up a restaurant in Kansas City in Westport, Cupini's. We eat there often.

What began as a modest 1,500-square-foot deli quickly became a local treasure. Over the next 21 years, the restaurant grew in size, dedication, and quality. Franco was a repeat guest on our morning show on Fox4 News.

Franco's love for his homeland is a testament to his lifelong dedication and passion. His story is one of hard work, determination, and a love for good food.

I wish Franco Cupini a happy birthday, and I thank him for keeping the culinary spirit of Italy alive and well.

Ciao, bello.

CELEBRATING ERICA SHADWELL

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding educator from Columbia, Missouri, Ms. Erica Shadwell, who participated and was selected as part of the prestigious Fulbright Teacher Exchange Program for the 2023–2024 academic year.

Ms. Shadwell is a dedicated teacher at Ann Hawkins Gentry Middle School and really shared her expertise and passion for education with students in Ghana, fostering cross-cultural understanding and enriching the lives of countless students.

The Fulbright Program is a beacon of international exchange and cooperation, and Ms. Shadwell's selection reflects her exceptional dedication and commitment to education. Her work represents the excellence of Missouri's educators and the importance of building bridges between our communities and the entire world.

We are proud of Ms. Shadwell's achievements and her role as an ambassador of knowledge. Her efforts will inspire students, both in Missouri and abroad.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in congratulating Erica Shadwell on this remarkable achievement and wishing her the very best in this exciting and impactful endeavor.

HONORING CORPORAL GERALD "JERRY" NEWTON WILSON

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Corporal Gerald "Jerry" Newton Wilson, a true American hero from Macks Creek, Missouri, whose remains, after more than seven decades, have finally returned home.

Corporal Wilson was born on December 18, 1930, and enlisted in the Army in 1948, serving bravely in the Korean war with Fox Company. He was reported missing in action on July 25, 1950, following a fierce ambush by North Korean forces near Yongdong.

For decades, Mr. Speaker, his family endured the heartache of uncertainty with his remains resting unidentified in the U.N. Military Cemetery until the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency confirmed his identity in 2018.

On October 11, 2024, his remains were returned to Camdenton, accompanied by a tribute procession from across our State, an honor for a soldier who gave his life in the line of duty.

Corporal Wilson's sacrifice and unwavering faithfulness to his country

remind us of the true cost of freedom. May he rest in peace as we welcome him home.

HONORING LARRY DOBSON

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Larry Dobson, a remarkable leader and selfless servant in Missouri, for receiving the Lieutenant Governor's Senior Service Award.

Born on July 4, 1948, in Harrisonville, Missouri, Larry's dedication to education and community service shaped countless lives across our great State. From his impactful career as an educator and guidance counselor in the Raymore-Peculiar District and Blue Springs School District to his steadfast commitment to Peculiar United Methodist Church, Larry has embodied the spirit of service.

He has contributed more than 50 years to numerous community boards, including Caring Hearts of Peculiar and the Missouri Bluebird Society, where he has worked tirelessly to enrich his community and uplift others.

Larry's motto is: "Do unto others as you would have others do unto you," the Golden Rule, a guiding principle that has certainly inspired a lot of us and him over the years.

Today, we celebrate Larry Dobson's legacy and his profound impact on the great State of Missouri.

CREATING A SHADOW CABINET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, last week is done. As Democrats, we simply failed to convince the American people we have better ideas to solve their problems, but we do.

Now, we need to dust ourselves off and get ready to fight. We can't let Donald Trump's extreme MAGA agenda go unanswered or unopposed. Zone defense isn't going to work. We are going to have to go man on man.

Here is an idea on how to organize our opposition. We need to borrow from our British friends and appoint a shadow cabinet to fight back against the worst abuses of a second Trump administration.

The special relationship between the United States and Britain extends not just to our strength on the global stage but also to our shared commitment to democracy. Across the Atlantic, the British have something we don't: a team from the opposition that mirrors the government's own Cabinet members.

They watch the Cabinet closely, publicly challenging, scrutinizing, and offering new ideas. It is another form of checks and balances, a quiet guardrail that holds those in power accountable. With a shadow cabinet, there is no hiding.

Each decision by the government faces a ready counterpoint, not just from the media and voters, but also from political leaders poised to step in.

Shadow cabinet members can also become the clear point people for advocacy and grassroots organizers, making it easier to unify and amplify the solutions that those in power are ignoring.

It is democracy's insurance policy, and it strengthens the government, too. There is no room for lazy ideas when rivals stand ready to step in.

What would a shadow cabinet look like here in the United States? We certainly would make it our own, an American version. We have an amazing wealth of talent on the Democratic side of the aisle in Congress, people loyal to the Constitution and ready to be the watchdogs for an out-of-control Trump administration.

Democratic Leaders HAKEEM JEFFRIES and CHUCK SCHUMER in the Senate could appoint 26 Members of Congress to go one on one with each member of Donald Trump's Cabinet.

□ 1045

If Trump attempts to weaponize the justice system against his political opponents with Matt Gaetz at the helm, we could see incoming Senator ADAM SCHIFF as our shadow attorney general, arguing against replacing our independent prosecutors with Trump loyalists.

If Trump seeks to eliminate the Department of Education, Congresswoman JAHANA HAYES, a former teacher of the year, could step up as shadow education secretary to loudly defend public education in the United States.

If Trump orders MARCO RUBIO to hand Ukraine and much of Eastern Europe to Vladimir Putin, Congressman GREG MEEKS, as shadow secretary of state, could be a strong voice in support of maintaining international relationships and protecting democracy at home and abroad.

Senator MICHAEL BENNET as shadow treasury secretary and Congresswoman SUZAN DELBENE as shadow commerce secretary could help ensure the middle class and small businesses have a voice in government and call out Trump's proposed tax cuts for billionaires and corporations.

As shadow defense secretary, Congressman ADAM SMITH, a great Representative for the people of Washington, and not a FOX News host, could counter Trump's threat to use military force against his political opponents and work to ensure the Department of Defense stays loyal to the Constitution and not some wannabe dictator.

Senator TAMMY DUCKWORTH could argue against cuts to the Department of Veterans Affairs that would delay the benefits and care our servicemembers have so rightly earned.

If Trump hands over the EPA to Big Oil ally Lee Zeldin, we could see Congresswoman KATHY CASTOR pushing back for environmental protection and conservation to protect the air we breathe and the water we drink.

If Trump pushes to ban abortion nationwide, Congresswoman ROSA DELAURIO could step in as shadow sec-

retary of health and human services to defend women's right to choose and argue against the gutting of Medicare by Trump and his cronies.

Mr. Speaker, new times require new solutions. The shadow cabinet isn't just about opposing extreme MAGA attacks on our government; it is also about making clear what we stand for, not just what we are against. It is time to show, not just to say, what we believe in: justice, accountability, and democracy.

IN REMEMBRANCE OF WILLIAM NOEL "BILLY" LAWLESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in solemn remembrance of William Noel "Billy" Lawless, a member of the Irish Senate, immigration activist, successful entrepreneur, pillar of the community, and proud Irish American.

Born in Galway, Ireland, where he was raised on a dairy farm, Billy saw President John F. Kennedy give a speech as a young boy when our first Irish-American U.S. President visited Ireland in 1963.

After that experience, he knew he wanted to move abroad to the United States. In the meantime, he prospered in Galway, becoming a beloved part of his community, successfully owning and operating a restaurant and pub.

His boyhood dream of coming to America persisted. At 48 years old, he made it a reality. An accomplished rower in his own right, set to represent Ireland in the 1976 Olympic Games until he withdrew to care for his ill father, it was his daughter moving to the East Coast to row that helped him make the final decision.

Billy arrived in the U.S. in the late 1990s. He opened The Irish Oak pub in Chicago, Illinois. Billy would go on to open many successful restaurants and be a leader in the Chicago hospitality industry.

However, that was not the only thing that occupied his time. He had begun to hear a common story: people who had overstayed their visas but didn't want to leave the communities that they had grown to love so much in the United States. His Irish heritage informed his commitment to others who struggled for citizenship like himself.

Billy became a leader in the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights and cofounded the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform. In 2014, he introduced President Barack Obama at the Copernicus Center for a speech on immigration reform. That same year, both he and his beloved wife, Anne, proudly became American citizens, one of the world's great privileges.

For St. Patrick's Day celebrations, you could often find him honoring the holiday at the White House.

Billy used his voice and identity as an immigrant himself to help others.

He successfully lobbied for a bill in Illinois that made driver's licenses available to individuals regardless of immigration status. He worked with the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition where he collaborated with business leaders to persuade elected officials to support immigration reform, creating a bipartisan base of support.

In 2016, he became the first senator based overseas in the Irish Senate after his appointment by Enda Kenny, then Ireland's Taoiseach, giving a voice to the Irish diaspora that enriches every corner of our diverse Nation.

His businesses and restaurants live at the center of Chicago's hospitality industry, and his legacy of fighting for immigration reform continues to have ripple effects throughout the Nation.

I am grateful for our years of friendship, strengthened by our shared commitment to our Irish culture.

While serving as a senator, our Buffalo Irish community welcomed Billy and Anne to see how we honored and lived our shared heritage. We visited the James Joyce Collection at the University at Buffalo, a literary treasure honoring the Irish novelist, and many Irish monuments in Buffalo, including the Fenian Invasion Monument and the Western New York Irish Famine Memorial.

I join the long list of those inspired and heartened by his compassion and dedication, which he used to make his community and our country a better place.

Billy Lawless was a consummate gentleman, a visionary, and a brilliant international leader.

He leaves behind his wife, Anne; his four children, Amy, Clodagh, Billy Jr., and John Paul; and his eight grandchildren.

May Senator Billy Lawless rest in peace and may his vision for ever-closer ties between the United States and Ireland continue to flourish.

PRESIDENT-ELECT TRUMP'S CABINET APPOINTMENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COHEN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, this week, I came back to Washington with the idea of trying to give President Trump a chance, an open mind, hold my tongue a bit. It has been difficult, and it will get more difficult, it appears.

I first got inspired to get into government because of John Kennedy. I knew every single one of John Kennedy's Cabinet members. They are referred to in a book as the best and the brightest. That is what we used to have in our Cabinet of the United States of America was the best and the brightest.

What we have seen with the nominations that have come forth and the request for changes in the Senate's confirmation policy really is scary and should be of concern to the American people. It is a red light on the possibility of loss of democracy and the im-

plementation and institution of autocracy.

Mr. Trump asked the Senate leadership to give him a 2-week period where he could make Senate recess appointments, something that is permitted in the Constitution but was permitted because of the idea that back when they wrote the Constitution, if the Senate took a recess, it could take weeks or months before they could all get back to Washington by trains or horses, or however they traveled back in those days, in the late 1700s, to conduct business.

That is not the case anymore. The Supreme Court has ruled in a case about 10, 15 years ago that—I think it was Justice Scalia who was the lead on the Court—this should only take place in intersession, between the times the Senate ends a term and begins a new term, and that is simply whenever they decide to take off.

President Trump has asked. Senate leaders, candidates, and the Senate leader who was chosen, Mr. THUNE, all said they would do it when Mr. Trump asked them to do it, to have a period where he could have his appointments for Cabinet to come forward and be approved because of lack of action by the Senate in what is called a recess appointment. That is a dereliction of the Constitution, and anybody that goes along with it should be questioned.

The Senate is to act as a check and balance on the President and his nominations and appointments of Cabinet members. The Senate meets, has hearings, and votes to confirm or not to confirm nominees.

To not have hearings, to not have votes because at least some of his Cabinet recommendations are so abhorrent that they would scare the American people, and have a spectacle of bringing forth the facts about their backgrounds, lack of experience, and the lack of character that they have shown in their times in government and life here on this planet—to not have hearings and to not have votes is a dereliction and an offense to the Constitution that has the Senate as a check and balance before nominees are approved.

The worst was yesterday when Matt Gaetz was recommended for Attorney General. After his recommendation, and he flew back and forth to Washington with President-elect Trump, he announced his resignation from this body. By so doing, he thwarted an ethics investigation that has been going on in the House Ethics Committee concerning alleged conduct that he had had with a 17-year-old girl, sexual conduct, his involvement in activities using illegal drugs, use of his congressional powers for the benefit of people illegally, use of campaign funds for personal activities, and other offenses that would call for the expulsion of a person from this House.

By his resigning from the House, that investigation ends because the Committee no longer has jurisdiction over him. He will become a nominee for At-

torney General to go through the recess process where all of these facts won't come forth.

I would hope that our Ethics Committee and the chair of the Ethics Committee, who has done a great job on other occasions, and I have great respect for, would release the results of that study to the American public because they should see it. They should see the work that has been done, and they should see the type of person who is going to be brought up for Attorney General of the United States, even if the Senate doesn't want to bring it forth with hearings.

As I understand it, the report would be eye-opening and extremely damaging and should be released to the American public. They have a right to see it.

The recommendation of Tulsi Gabbard to be the head of intelligence, when she has mostly been known for controversial statements supporting our foes around the world, from Syria to Russia to Iran, is disturbing and challenging.

The suggestion that the Department of Defense should be led by the host of Fox & Friends on weekends, as his main contribution to society, is scary to our soldiers, who need the best and brightest at the helm.

□ 1100

MOURNING THE LOSS OF VERNON LEON DAVIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Vernon Leon Davis. Leon Davis was a firefighter for over 30 years in Blackshear, Georgia.

Mr. Davis worked his way up to assistant fire chief of Blackshear while working part time over his expansive 30-year career.

Sadly, Mr. Davis passed in the line of duty while helping the Blackshear community during Hurricane Helene. This hurricane has hit Georgia and the Southeast region of the United States hard. Without the tremendous efforts and service of people like Mr. Davis, our communities would not be able to recover.

Mr. Davis was known to be an exceptional man by his family, friends, and all the people he worked with throughout his career. He has deeply touched the Blackshear community and will be greatly missed by many.

Our community is forever indebted to Mr. Davis' service, and I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends.

CELEBRATING HOWARD YOUNG'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Howard Young's 100th birthday.

Born on November 25, 1924, in Louisiana, Howard Young has lived an incredible life. Howard grew up in Louisiana during the toughest of times,

the Great Depression, and those experiences shaped Howard for the rest of his life. His upbringing instilled in him a love for his church, hard work, and helping those in need.

At 17, Howard joined the Navy and served our Nation in the Pacific theater in World War II. After his service, he left the Navy and moved to Houston where he entered college.

Even after his retirement at 58, Howard is well-known throughout the community for his busy schedule of volunteering for organizations, including the United Way, the Alzheimer's Association, his church, the VA, and many more.

Howard is also a local celebrity in the GOP and often quips that he became a Republican after Governor Huey Long levied taxes on food during his childhood in Louisiana.

Today, I ask that we all come together to celebrate this great man and congratulate him on 100 years of a good life.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF EDWARD H. ZIPPERER

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss of Ed Zipperer. Ed was born in Savannah, Georgia, on August 8, 1931, where he grew up working on his family's vegetable farm along Highway 17.

Ed attended Savannah High School where he was a standout in football. He then played at Clemson University before earning an agricultural engineering degree from the University of Georgia.

He went on to coach basketball in 1965, forming one of the few racially integrated teams in the State. For games on the road, Ed even bought a hot dog machine to feed his team.

Ed continued making a difference in his community by serving in the State senate from 1967 to 1975.

Ed was instrumental in creating the Skidaway Island State Park, Fort McAllister State Park, and Kings Ferry Ogeechee River public recreational area. His dedication has helped to preserve land in south Georgia for generations to come.

Additionally, Ed was the president of Chatham County Farm Bureau for 45 years.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we take a moment to mourn Ed Zipperer and thank him for his life of service that will always be remembered by the people of south Georgia.

CELEBRATING THE WORK OF GERALD "JERRY" COURI

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the work of Gerald "Jerry" Couri, the now former GOP deputy chief counsel for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on the Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.

Jerry's impressive tenure in the House of Representatives began before me and several of my colleagues here today, during the 101st Congress.

After graduating from Marquette University, Jerry worked for Representatives Scott Klug and Paul

Gillmor, handling environmental issues related to the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. Couri then served on the committee for 23 years, specializing in chemical management and playing a large role in rewriting the Toxic Substances Control Act.

While we honor Jerry's dedication to the committee for all these years, we recognize nothing surpasses his love for Marquette basketball and his lovely wife and children.

On behalf of my office and the committee, I thank Jerry for his faithful service to the committee and the U.S. House of Representatives.

We wish Jerry the best in his next endeavors.

HONORING THE BRAVE FIRE CREWS OF THE HUDSON VALLEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and thank the brave fire crews who are battling the outbreak of wildfires that are currently devastating the Hudson Valley, centered in Greenwood Lake, Warwick, parts of western Ulster County, and have now spread into New Jersey, as well.

Undaunted by the great personal peril they are facing, these heroes are willingly putting their own lives on the line to protect our neighbors and our communities.

Each and every member of our fire and emergency response crews is saving lives, and I thank them. Their every action has spared families and property from heartbreak. They are preserving our Hudson Valley as our cherished home. I thank them for their unparalleled selflessness.

I also thank Orange County Executive Steve Neuhaus and his entire fire services and emergency management team for their around-the-clock, 24/7 work in regard to protecting the safety of our community.

We have also seen an outpouring of support from throughout the entire region across multiple States. Firefighters traveling in from across the Northeast see our community in need and are answering the call to help.

They are putting their own lives at risk to protect communities that aren't even their own communities.

I recognize the profound service, sacrifice, and life of one of those very heroes.

Daniel Vasquez was an 18-year-old State Parks aide from neighboring Ramapo in Rockland County who just a few days ago laid down his own life at the age of 18 to protect our Greenwood Lake community from the catastrophic fire raging in Sterling Forest.

Daniel was truly the best of what the Hudson Valley is: hardworking, genuine, compassionate, and a reliable shoulder to lean on for anyone and everyone who needed one. He was widely known throughout the region for his

prowess and power on the baseball field as the captain of his high school baseball team. He was even more widely known for the limitless friendship and brotherhood he extended to every person he met.

I join the entire Hudson Valley in mourning the tragic loss of such a young, bright life. I send my deepest condolences to his family and friends and my thanks. We are forever indebted to him in our community for his unwavering bravery and heroism.

To all those in our community who are facing unimaginable loss, the Hudson Valley takes care of each other, leans on each other, and carries each other through anything. This has been true for centuries of our history, it remains true today, and I am confident it will be true for many more to come.

My thoughts are with those facing such loss and with our fire crews who still at this moment throughout all last night and into this morning are putting their lives on the line while wildfires are still raging.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOHN LODGE STONEMAN

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of World War I veteran John Lodge Stoneman who was finally given a proper burial at our brand new Ulster County Veterans Cemetery last Thursday, November 7, more than 62 years after his passing.

In 1917, John courageously answered his Nation's call to service as the U.S. entered the Great War. He put his life on the line for years, and our Nation and our community owe him a debt of gratitude we can never repay.

His legacy deserves the absolute highest place of reverence and honor, but, unfortunately, his remains for over 61 years had remained unclaimed since his passing in 1962. Through tireless efforts, Wiltwyck Cemetery volunteer Kathy Wade pieced together the story of John's entire life. I am so grateful that my office and team were able to help assist her in obtaining his military records so he could finally receive, decades later, the honorable burial he was long overdue.

I thank Kathy and the countless other community members who made it their mission to lay Mr. Stoneman in his final resting place, especially our great Ulster County Veteran Services Agency, our Ulster County Sheriff's Department, the Patriot Guard Riders, the VFW, and The American Legion, who all worked together from across our community.

Thanks to their work, John Lodge Stoneman will now rest alongside his fellow heroes and ensure his place in American history is recognized for years to come.

ST. MICHAEL'S ACADEMY, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARTER of Georgia). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, everybody knows when it comes to ribbons, blue is the best color to receive. Our Department of Education gives out blue ribbons to the very best schools across the Nation, and that is exactly what they did for St. Michael's Academy of Fernandina Beach, Florida.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor St. Michael's Academy for earning the highest honor an American school can achieve: the National Blue Ribbon Award.

With only 356 schools selected from a pool of over 100,000, St. Michael's has done it, and they have proven, once again, that they are an excellent, outstanding academic institution.

We already knew that Fernandina Beach was home to the best beaches and shrimp around, but now we know that education is also at the very top of its list.

Schools don't get this prestigious honor by having students with great test scores or just running the 100-yard dash very quickly. In order to win this award, schools need straight As in every category, and that is exactly what St. Michael's has done. They have managed to crush their report card.

I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me in recognition of St. Michael's Academy and their continued tradition of academic excellence.

May St. Michael's Academy keep up the good work, and let's keep the blue ribbons coming.

BRYCEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, A BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, good teachers get apples, but great teachers get to work at Bryceville Elementary School.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Bryceville Elementary School in Nassau County, Florida, for earning the highest honor an American school can achieve, the National Blue Ribbon Award.

Out of more than 100,000 schools nationwide, the Department of Education honored only 356 with the National Blue Ribbon Award this year.

The National Blue Ribbon Award is given to schools with not only the highest test scores, but also those that have closed the achievement gap, ensuring that every single student can succeed.

Bryceville Elementary School is a small school with big accomplishments. Their teachers and leadership work incredibly hard to deliver the best possible experience for their students, and now the whole Nation knows just how great Bryceville is.

I ask my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, to join me today in recognizing Bryceville Elementary School for their stunning example of northeast Florida academic excellence.

May they keep up the good work, and let's keep the blue ribbons coming.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 11 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. GIMENEZ) at noon.

PRAYER

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

Rise up, O Lord, and show us Your compassion. Reveal Your steadfast love in our lives this day, that our eyes would be opened to Your abiding presence with us and in all that the day sets before us.

Be patient with us if we are slow to acknowledge and appreciate Your guiding hand in our comings and goings. Be tolerant of us and grant us Your wise counsel as we strive to be faithful in confronting the decisions facing us this season.

Don't abandon us, but in Your mercy wait for us to come to You. Wait for us as we come to realize that nothing we do today is more important than opening our hearts to receive the grace You want to lavish on us.

Nothing is more demanding of us than Your command to share Your love with those around us, that all would know of the justice and peace You desire to grant to Your people.

In Your righteous name we pray.
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.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on November 13, 2024, at 3:38 p.m.

That the Senate passed S. 2581.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,
Acting Clerk.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

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

MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign, as United States Representative for Florida's First Congressional District, effective immediately, and I do not intend to take the oath of office for the same office in the 119th Congress, to pursue the position of Attorney General in the Trump Administration.

Enclosed please find the letter I have transmitted to Florida Governor Ron DeSantis.

Respectfully,

MATT GAETZ,
Member of Congress.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

Governor RON DESANTIS,
State of Florida, The Capitol,
Tallahassee, FL.

DEAR GOVERNOR DESANTIS: I hereby resign, as United States Representative for Florida's First Congressional District, effective immediately, and I do not intend to take the oath of office for the same office in the 119th Congress, to pursue the position of Attorney General in the Trump Administration.

Respectfully,

MATT GAETZ,
Member of Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under clause 5(d) of rule XX, the Chair announces to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. Gaetz), the whole number of the House is 433.

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.

MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as Military Families Month. With more than 5.2 million military families in the United States, this month is necessary to acknowledge the tremendous sacrifices our military families make.

These families are the unseen strength behind our Nation's military. While the focus is often on those in uniform, we must never overlook loved ones who carry the weight of their absence, move wherever duty calls, and keep life steady even when things around them feel uncertain.

In times of peace and conflict, these families stand as pillars of strength embodying the values of courage, dedication, and selflessness. Let's recognize the sacrifices they make—the birthdays, the holidays, and the milestones missed.

Let's thank them for their support and commitment to our country, and let's promise them our own support in return.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking our veterans, servicemembers, and military families for their service and sacrifice to our country.

May God bless our military families, our servicemembers, and our great country.

CONGRATULATING LOS ANGELES DODGERS

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

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the World Series champion Los Angeles Dodgers.

Last month, to most baseball fans' delight, our Dodgers completed a gentleman's sweep to defeat the New York Yankees in the World Series.

This season was nothing short of remarkable.

Shohei Ohtani's contract broke records, and he continued to break more in the Dodger blue.

Ohtani became the first MLB player to record at least 50 home runs and 50 steals in a season and broke Shawn Green's team home run record.

Just wait until he can pitch for us.

From Ohtani and Freddie Freeman playing through injuries to Walker Buehler's improbable return, this team battled and defied the odds to make history.

We are celebrating this team from L.A. to Korea to the Dominican Republic to Japan.

Haters can talk trash all they want, but there is no COVID season asterisk next to this one.

The L.A. Dodgers are your World Series champions, and we will run it back next year.

HONORING BRADEN DREILING

(Mr. LATURNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LATURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the pride of Hays, America, a dedicated staffer of 7 years, my longest-serving staffer, and my real life friend, Braden Dreiling.

Braden and I met when I was a State senator and he was a front desk staffer for the majority leader.

Our professional relationship rose from a Cracker Barrel lunch and grew into a true partnership. He has been my chief and my most trusted confidante. He is also always the first and the last in the room, always wanting and expecting the best from me. He always has a level head regardless of circumstances.

Braden and his wife have two beautiful daughters, and although his service in Washington is coming to a close, I know that he will make his friends and family proud as his service to Kansas will continue on.

INFLATION CRUSHES AMERICANS

(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, the irresponsible policies of Biden and HARRIS have cost American families \$13,000 a year.

However, with the return of President Donald Trump partnered with Speaker MIKE JOHNSON and Senator leader JOHN THUNE, Republicans will drive down prices and increase jobs for American families.

Due to Kamalaflation, prices have risen over 20 percent—22 percent in South Carolina alone. Americans are spending more on everyday necessities compared to President Trump just 3 years ago. Eggs are up 69 percent. Gasoline is up 38 percent or more. Baby food and formula is up 31 percent. Chicken is up 25 percent.

Leading the Trump-Vance innovations will be the talented Elon Musk and Vivek Ramaswamy co-leading the newly created Department of Government Efficiency.

In conclusion, God bless our troops as the global war on terrorism continues. Open borders for dictators put all Americans at risk of more 9/11 attacks imminent, as warned by the FBI. Trump will reinstate the existing laws to protect American families with peace through strength.

FEMA MUST PROVIDE AID TO EVERYONE IN NEED

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I want to discuss for a moment a recent report of a FEMA supervisor—and maybe

there is more than one—instructing workers to skip over certain homes with particular political signs or affiliations at their house. It really shouldn't matter what your political affiliation may be, but the idea of skipping over certain homes in a hurricane-ravaged zone or any other disaster is pretty offensive.

What we are hearing is that at least 20 people in this example in Florida—20 different homes—missed out on critical aid they should have gotten just the same as anybody else.

We know FEMA's mission is to assist any American that has been in a declared disaster area and help them through that difficult time regardless of any political affiliation or any other type of affiliation.

Under the Biden administration, the agency's priorities, at least with some staff, have shifted away from disaster preparedness and instead has shifted toward political discrimination.

We need to focus FEMA once again—and they have done a lot of good work on a lot of things, but if this is happening under an organization, not only should resignations or firings happen, but those that do such a thing should be prosecuted for this kind of discrimination. That needs to happen because people need to have confidence that FEMA is doing the right thing.

CRITICAL MINERAL CONSISTENCY ACT OF 2024

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1568, I call up the bill (H.R. 8446) to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1568, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources, printed in the bill, is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 8446

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 "Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. CRITICAL MATERIALS INCLUDED AS CRITICAL MINERALS.

Section 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)(A), to read as follows: "(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'critical mineral' means—

"(i) any mineral, element, substance, or material designated as critical by the Secretary under subsection (c); and

"(ii) a critical material as determined by the Secretary of Energy under paragraph (2)(A)."; and

(2) in subsection (c)(5), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) INCLUSION OF CRITICAL MATERIALS.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which the Secretary of Energy determines a non-fuel mineral, element, substance, or material to be a critical material under subsection (a)(2)(A), the Secretary shall update the list of critical minerals published under paragraph (3) to include such critical material.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 8446.

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 today in support of H.R. 8446, the Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2024.

H.R. 8446 introduced by Representative CISCOMANI would amend the Energy Act of 2020 to add critical materials from the Department of Energy Critical Materials List to the United States Geological Survey's critical minerals list.

Currently, each agency uses different metrics when constructing their respective lists.

DOE's methodology for critical material determination is forward-looking. It accounts for international demand scenarios and growth trajectories specifically for energy technologies.

On the other hand, currently USGS' process only uses historic data to determine supply risk to the U.S. economy and national security.

By law, all the minerals on USGS' list are automatically included in DOE's Critical Materials List. H.R. 8446 would enable the process to work in the other direction by placing critical materials on the critical minerals list.

The Critical Mineral Consistency Act is a straightforward solution that enables each agency to retain responsibility for reviewing minerals under their respective purviews while clarifying persistent confusion over critical minerals versus critical materials. As you can see, even speaking about it on the floor, it is easy to get the two confused.

The bill cuts across jurisdictional red tape while preserving each agency's discretion and expertise in adding items to its list.

Both critical minerals and critical materials are just that, critical. With-

out reliable access to essential materials such as cobalt and lithium for batteries and copper and aluminum for transmission lines, the U.S. risks failing to meet future economic and energy demands. Such a situation would lead to increased dependence on the market decisions of adversarial nations for critical minerals and materials.

H.R. 8446 passed out of the Natural Resources Committee on a bipartisan vote because both sides of the aisle understand the importance of critical minerals and materials.

I encourage my colleagues to once again come together to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 8446. This bill has a fairly innocuous seeming purpose on its face. It would amend the Energy Act of 2020 to add critical minerals as designated by the Department of Energy to the USGS, which is the agency that handles minerals issues for the United States, to a list of critical minerals.

□ 1215

My colleagues across the aisle will argue that this bill is simply for consistency and to streamline, that we have too many lists to manage critical minerals and materials, which, of course, are so important to our country, so it is important to harmonize these lists and make sure that we are operating the Federal Government in a streamlined manner.

It is critical that the American people understand that this is not the full story. In fact, this bill is the direct result of years of heavy lobbying and influence on the critical minerals list because, as you see, the critical minerals list is defined as all nonfuel minerals that are used as essential materials for national security or that may pose a supply chain vulnerability to disruption. The critical minerals list is designed to focus attention and vital resources on the most essential and at-risk mineral supply chains.

USGS' critical minerals list and DOE's Critical Materials List may sound similar, but they have different purposes because of the differences in how these lists are used and the Federal mandates for these agencies. They have different purposes that are not interchangeable.

The Energy Act of 2020 directed USGS to update the list of critical minerals to guide its use for infrastructure investments under the legislation that we passed here in 2021. As directed by a separate provision in the Energy Act of 2020, the Department of Energy undertook its own assessment of critical materials that were specific to energy needs because that is what the Department of Energy focuses on.

USGS is the agency that has existed since the 19th century here in the

United States to take stock of, identify, and support the Federal Government in understanding our geology and minerals and what we do with them.

It affects the entire economy. It may sound very simple to streamline and combine these lists, but not only do they have different purposes, they have far-ranging consequences. The importance of the USGS critical minerals list cannot be overstated. This list drives billions of dollars in Federal investment and permitting decisions.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you a little bit about what happens if you get placed on the USGS list, which does not apply to the DOE list. It means that companies are eligible for millions of dollars in tax credits and grants under various bills that Congress has passed, including the Inflation Reduction Act, the CHIPS and Science Act, and many others. It also allows for permit streamlining under previous legislation that Congress has passed.

What that essentially translates into is expedited reviews. Folks at home may be saying, well, isn't that a good thing? If you look at the environmental, social, and cultural impacts of mines and how they affect communities, you need a Federal process that makes it possible for our communities to weigh in.

There is a public comment process so that you can go and say that we don't want this mine in this place. For our Tribes, it puts into place a Federal consulting process so that our Tribes can protect their sacred and ancestral lands. For communities, they can comment on the environmental and water impacts of potential mine operations. For our public lands, it means we can protect the sites that are used for recreation for fishing and the values that we hold dear for both environmental and recreational purposes.

Importantly, it also affects the impact of whether or not, after mines go in, there is liability and legal remedy for the pollution that mines cause.

If our public is not able to comment on mines during the permitting process, they will not have judicial standing if these mines are abandoned or there is not appropriate care taken in the aftermath of the mine operations and efforts to close the mine down and remediate the lands. That means that the public taxpayers and the people are left holding the bag, not the multinational mining corporations that are seeking to open these lands for mining.

When you look at it in its totality, the very seemingly simple act of just saying let's harmonize these two lists and put it all under the rubric of the Department of Energy's list may seem like a simple no-brainer. What it amounts to, in its totality, is a massive multimillion-dollar giveaway to multinational corporations that are seeking to mine public lands in the United States.

It should be no surprise that it is industry lobbyists that have been working to get this change in the law for

years. We have seen many different incarnations of this bill, some of which have been very explicit about copper, in particular, being added to the list, and some of which are a little more opaque like the bill we see in front of us today.

It is very clear that the copper industry is driving this bill in front of us today. We have to be realistic. Copper is an incredibly important resource. It is used in everything from our transmission lines to our electronics, consumer products, and cars and trucks. Even though it is designated as a critical material for energy purposes under the DOE list, it is not currently on the USGS list because it is not at risk of supply chain disruption.

In fact, the United States is a net exporter of copper. Let me repeat that. Copper is not at risk of supply chain disruption. We are exporting our copper.

So why is industry pushing so hard to open new mines on our public lands? Well, guess what? There is a lot of money to be made, and it turns out that the major holder of the two companies that are pushing for this bill is the Chinese Government. How ironic is that?

In fact, we know that over 10 percent of one of the largest copper mining multinational companies in the world that is seeking to open a copper mine in Arizona is pushing for this bill to expedite the permitting, reduce the timelines, and make sure that the public and Tribes cannot comment on whether or not they want the mine there.

We know that there are mine sites that have been identified that would be on sacred lands, and we know that it would have devastating impacts for the water supply of the State of Arizona and the entire Southwest.

In addition to that, copper mining is an incredibly disruptive activity. It is pollution heavy. It impacts the landscape. Smelters are notorious for emitting air pollutants. In Arizona, arsenic levels have been recorded at 150 times higher than State health guidelines, posing higher cancer risks to communities. We know the well-known impacts to water and to acid mine drainage in our communities.

On top of all of this—and I think this is the part that should raise all of our concerns—is that the copper industry is trying to use its influence through lobbying and through campaign donations to our colleagues.

It should be of no surprise that the primary sponsor of this bill and the other bills like it come from the very State where these mine companies are seeking to mine are on sites that have already been identified as unsuitable for copper mining. They are Tribal sacred sites, in a number of cases.

There have literally been decades of effort from the copper industry because there are high-quality copper deposits in many of these places, including in Oak Flat, which is a place that has

been held sacred by the Apache people since time immemorial.

Why are our friends across the aisle trying to advance a lobbying bill on behalf of a multinational set of corporations, which are held, in part, by Chinese Government inholdings on American lands that would violate the basic human, cultural, and religious rights of our indigenous communities? I will let the American people decide why they think that is happening, but it is certain that we just came out of an election, isn't it?

I think it is crucial that people understand this isn't a simple streamlining bill. This isn't about just harmonizing this list with that list. This is about foreign influence on the mining industry, on the copper industry, here in the United States.

I ask my colleagues across the aisle who have voted time and time again on this very floor to prevent foreign companies held by our adversaries, including China, from buying American lands, from trying to take American water rights, why on Earth would you be advancing a bill that would literally give away mining concessions to companies that are held by foreign adversaries? Why would you do it when we know that our communities have already resoundingly said that they do not want these mines in our communities, that they will harm our cultures, communities, waters, and public lands?

I look forward to hopefully getting some answers to these questions, but the American people should understand what this bill actually is, and I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 8446.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. There were a lot of claims made from my friends across the aisle about what this bill does or what its intent and purpose are. I think I need to clarify some of this.

First off, I heard the claim that this bill would cost billions and billions of dollars to the taxpayer. I am not going to ask to submit that for the record because it is already part of the record. It is the CBO score for this bill that says, at most, it is a \$2 million cost to administer the program, which actually seems high to me, but it is far from billions of dollars of handouts to anyone. That is what the Congressional Budget Office said. That is what I am repeating here.

Also, a claim was made that we are exporting copper. I include in the RECORD the link from the U.S. Geological Survey's "Mineral Commodity Summaries 2024," which shows that we import 46 percent of the copper that comes into the country. That is on page 64 of that report. <https://pubs.usgs.gov/periodicals/mcs2024/mcs2024.pdf>

Mr. Speaker, it was mentioned about the demand for copper, and I do agree with that. We have an insatiable de-

mand for copper. A lot of that is created by some of the massive spending programs that our friends across the aisle passed a few years ago.

There are estimates that say we need to mine more copper than we have mined in the history of the world in the next 20 to 30 years. There is a big demand for copper, and we are blessed in the United States because we have that copper here that we can use to create jobs, grow our economy, and help national security.

This bill is not about copper, but if we want to talk about copper, I think we have a very strong position on our side of the aisle on how we see copper and how copper can play an important role in the economy going forward.

Also, there was talk about DOE's list and USGS' list. I want to clarify that the critical minerals on USGS' list automatically go into DOE's Critical Materials List. This bill would take DOE's Critical Materials List and make it synonymous with USGS' critical minerals list.

By the way, USGS supports this legislation. You would think if this administration's USGS had a problem with doing that, they wouldn't have supported the bill.

I know there were a lot of claims made, but I think it is important that we get the facts out here in the debate.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. CISCOMANI), the author of this bill.

□ 1230

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for yielding me time and for clarifying a series of those points that were expressed by our friends on the other side of the aisle that he clarified so well.

I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 8446, the Critical Mineral Consistency Act. This bill, which passed with bipartisan support through the House Committee on Natural Resources and was recently introduced in the Senate, also with bipartisan co-leads, would require the U.S. Geological Survey to incorporate critical materials identified by the Department of Energy into the USGS critical minerals list.

Under the Energy Act of 2020, items appearing on the USGS critical minerals list are automatically included on the DOE's Critical Materials List. However, items on the DOE list are not reciprocated to the USGS list. This discrepancy is confusing to mineral producers and makes it unclear which minerals are critical to the United States' mission.

In addition to creating unnecessary confusion, the disconnect between the two lists puts our domestic supply chain at risk. Other countries like China and Peru have specifically articulated and invested in the minerals they deem critical. Meanwhile, here in the United States, several minerals are indisputably essential to our national security and clean energy economy, such as copper, electrical steel,

flourine, silicon, and silicon carbide. They are all listed as critical materials and not critical minerals, making them ineligible for expedited permitting processes and other benefits.

This legislation would create some consistency within our agencies and signal to the world that we are taking seriously the importance of domestic production for our critical minerals like copper.

In Arizona, copper is one of the State's five Cs, alongside climate, cattle, cotton, and citrus. Copper mining is embedded in our State's history, and today Arizona remains a leader in copper production, providing the Nation and the world with the copper it needs to operate.

Despite Arizona being a leader in copper production, dozens of potential copper mines in America remain untapped due to the burdensome regulations by the Federal Government. Handicapping our own domestic mineral production and relying on imports from foreign countries not only harms our national security and economy but it also hurts the environment because we know when we mine in America, we do it safer and we do it cleaner than just about anywhere else in the world.

According to various reports, the world is expected to need around 50 million metric tons of copper annually by 2035 due to the growing energy demands. Another recent study found that without increased domestic production, the U.S. will be 60 percent reliant on imports of copper by 2035. That is alarming.

In a world where foreign wars have created massive instability in the global economy, we should not be reliant on other countries for critical minerals that are used in everything from military vehicles to our electrical grid infrastructure.

It is high time we take tangible steps to onshore mineral production, and this legislation does just that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense bill.

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

I think this is a really important debate for the American people to hear. I want to first address the comments that were made about these companies, which are seeking to get access to public lands for copper and other minerals, as being confused.

Let's talk about the specific corporations that have been lobbying for this bill and variations of this bill for years. Freeport, which is one of the largest copper mining companies in the United States, is worth \$61 billion. Rio Tinto, an international conglomerate, the very one that is held by Chinese Government holdings, is worth \$159 billion.

I ask my friends across the aisle: Do you really believe that a multinational corporation that is worth \$159 billion in multiple countries and continents is confused about permitting? I don't think so. Mr. Speaker, \$159 billion is 18

times the annual budget of the State of Arizona.

Come on, guys. We are not fools. These companies have spent decades lobbying to open public lands and specifically the sites that they are looking to mine on in Arizona. In fact, it is why places like Oak Flat were set aside, because they are cultural, sacred lands of Tribes. The copper industry, 100 years ago, had tried to mine on those lands, but we recognized as a Nation that we don't want to mine on every single inch of American lands because there are places where it is not suitable. It is not suitable for cultural reasons. It is not suitable for environmental reasons. It is not suitable because we don't want to look at a giant hole miles across in our backyards.

Now, we need mining and we need minerals, but let's be clear: These companies are not confused. They spend millions of dollars every year lobbying the United States Congress and giving campaign donations to our friends who are running for Congress. This is not confusion. This is influence. Let's be very clear about what we are talking about.

Now, I want to also address the claim that this is not about copper. Well, last night I went onto Congress.gov. The American people can go do this. There are like six different variations of this same bill. Some of them actually specifically name copper and some do not. Guess what? It is the same sponsors, literally the same sponsors of this bill.

I can appreciate and I always try to take my friends at face value. Okay. You are saying this has nothing to do with copper, but I encourage the American people to actually go do their own search because this same bill has many iterations.

Now, let's talk a little bit about the statutory and the cost considerations of this bill. Again, we heard the claim this is just about streamlining definitions, no big deal. Let me repeat: The USGS list not only confers the benefit of billions of dollars in potential tax subsidies and grants under many different Federal programs, which the Department of Energy list does not, but it will permit actual streamlining and reduction of timelines, public review, and judicial review of mining operations, which effectively means for all of you out there who are listening, you don't get a say if this multinational corporation, which the Chinese Government partially holds, gets to put a mine in your backyard.

My friends across the aisle are always asking us to have common sense. Does this make common sense to you out there? Of course not.

The public has a right to comment. The public has a right to be participants in decisions that the Federal Government makes on our public lands.

Tribes have a fundamental right, under the Constitution, treaty, and trust responsibilities, to help inform and decide whether or not we mine our

Tribal lands, or lands that are important to our Tribes.

The public has a right to say we don't want this because it is going to impact our future livelihoods.

Our friends claim that, oh, this is just a simple definitional change and streamlining.

It is really about taking away fundamental rights.

Now, I think it is instructive that we had a lot of conversation before the election about Project 2025, and our friends across the aisle kept trying to distance themselves from it and say, oh, we are not actually planning to do that.

However, we printed out some of Project 2025 today, and I want to point you to some of the choice sections on page 376. They want to pursue critical minerals. Oh, yeah, that is right. On page 537, there is a whole section in Project 2025 about opening Tribal lands to critical minerals mining.

Does that sound familiar?

Ironically, also, on page 725 of Project 2025, there is an extensive discussion about how the Chinese Government is plundering mines and critical minerals here in the United States.

It sure does make you wonder why my friends are pushing this in the final hours of this Congress as we are headed toward the closure of this Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Again, we are talking about copper. So let's talk about copper a little bit. This chart shows that in 1995, we produced 2.3 million tons of copper, and China produced 0.7 million tons. That is about three times more copper that we produced in the United States in 1995.

In 2020, China was up to 9.8 million tons a year, and we were at 0.9 million tons. You can see our overall production actually went down; China's skyrocketed. In 2020, they were producing 11 times more copper than we produced here in the United States. It is not because we don't have copper deposits in the United States, it is because people don't want copper mining and production in their backyard. However, if you are building a copper mine, you don't get to choose where the copper is located. It has long ago been determined that the copper in these places, sometimes it is on Federal lands, sometimes it is on private land.

The reason our production has gone down is because we can't permit new copper mines. We also can't permit copper refineries. The other side of this story is we have 2 copper refineries in the United States today and China has over 50.

With estimates that we need to produce more copper going forward in the next couple of decades than has been produced in the history of the world, you can see where that production is going to come from unless we

decide to mine the copper in our country, unless we decide to build responsible mines where there aren't human rights violations, where there aren't environmental violations, where we do things better, safer, and more efficient than anywhere else in the world.

Someone who knows how critical these minerals are to our defense and to our way of life here in America is the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN).

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Critical Mineral Consistency Act. This measure is an essential step forward to secure our supply chains, and in so doing to protect our national security and economic competitiveness.

Today, critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, and graphite are the building blocks of everything from advanced weapons systems to consumer electronics. Every advanced economy depends on these resources, but the challenge we face is that these minerals are in limited supply and overwhelmingly sourced from China.

Our dependence on the Chinese Communist Party for these materials puts our energy independence, technological leadership, and national security at risk. China has deliberately developed its control over these supply chains to build leverage against Western economies. It has been developing these capacities for decades, and it is already using it.

China placed export controls on gallium, germanium, and graphite just last year, and it announced new controls on antimony in August. They will continue to put us at risk unless we act.

Currently, the United States Geological Survey and Department of Energy each maintain separate lists of critical minerals leading to inconsistency in policy and program funding. These lists used different standards to determine what made a mineral or material critical, and this misalignment led to crucial elements like copper being listed by one agency while being ignored by the other.

This bill is a simple but significant step forward to streamline interagency coordination, improve efficiency, and ensure that Federal efforts to stockpile, recycle, and develop alternative supplies of these minerals are focused on the same priorities.

We must ensure that our Nation has the resources it needs to remain a global leader in defense, energy, and innovation. We cannot be at the mercy of China that uses forced labor and destroys environments around the world. My colleagues would like for China to continue to use forced labor. They would like for us to continue to see them increase the production of copper. They would like to see us continue to advocate for human rights violations and using forced labor and also to make sure, too, that they are destroying environments.

Thank you to the folks on the other side of the aisle for your stand on human rights, not so much.

□ 1245

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as I may consume. To my colleagues across the aisle: Absolutely. You are so right. We do want to prevent our foreign adversaries like China from working to out-compete us and to make sure that they do not have access to control our supply chain. This makes it particularly confusing that the bill you are trying to advance today is about copper. I want the public to know that they said that it is not about copper, but they just happen to have all the talking points about copper right there printed out ready to talk about copper.

It is about copper. This is about the copper industry, who has been lobbying for this bill for decades; and, in particular, several large multinational conglomerates, including Rio Tinto, which is one of the largest in the world, which is held, in part, by the Chinese Communist Party who would like to mine on specific sites in the State of Arizona that have already been identified as unsuitable, unsuitable for cultural reasons, unsuitable for Tribal reasons, unsuitable for water reasons, and unsuitable for public lands reasons.

They can say that this is just about harmonizing lists, but the Department of Energy does not have purview over permitting on our public lands. The Department of Energy's legislative mandate as created by this body is to oversee our Nation's energy systems.

The Department of the Interior, where USGS sits, who manages our public minerals and our understanding of them, is the Federal agency that makes the permitting decisions, the legal decisions, the executive decisions, and the Tribal consultations that affect when, where, and how minerals are accessed on our public lands.

This is about a lobbying effort by multinational corporations to move the list in such a manner that it will open up public lands to mining on sites they have already identified in which the public has, in various ways, already said no, no thank you, or they want a process for the public to actually weigh in on.

I hope that my friends across the aisle, because it does sound like we have a lot in agreement, will agree that the Chinese Communist Party is buying up minerals and mining projects around the world. In fact, the Chinese Government has been stockpiling critical minerals for years which has created a crisis for the United States.

Yes, while they are mining copper in their land, we have to ask ourselves: Why is a multinational company that the Chinese Government is massively bought into and trying to open copper mines in the United States getting a free pass by U.S. Congressmen on the House floor?

Mr. Speaker, I really would like to know why this is happening.

I hope that we can agree that we should not be allowing that kind of foreign influence in our permitting decisions.

Mr. Speaker, for this reason, and at the appropriate time, I would like to offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee.

It was noted a moment ago that USGS supported this bill. I want to tell you all that we contacted USGS last night based on the testimony that they submitted. While they said that they agreed with concepts in the bill, that it needed technical changes in order for them to actually support it.

If the House rules permitted, I would have offered a motion with an important amendment to this bill.

My amendment, my motion to recommit, is common sense. It would prohibit any Federal benefits associated with being on the critical minerals list, what this bill is trying to accomplish, from going to our foreign adversaries, including companies they own and the subsidiaries of these companies.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment into the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in voting for the motion to recommit so that we can protect our Nation's natural resources and our supply chain from our economic adversaries abroad.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am going to read directly from USGS's testimony on this bill in committee: "As a possible way to manage the two lists, the USGS supports this bill."

That is verbatim from their testimony in committee.

Also, we can talk about copper for a long time because it is the poster child of misguided principles and misguided regulations in our country. However, there is more on the list than just copper.

Let's talk about electrical steel. Electrical steel goes into transformers.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to build new transmission lines and transmission systems, then you have to have transformers. You can't build transformers without electrical steel. It is not on the critical minerals list, but it is on the Critical Materials List.

What about fluorine?

Nuclear reactors and electronics depend on fluorine. It is on the Critical Materials List. It is not on the critical minerals list.

Here is a good one: silicon carbide. Congress passed this massive bill to subsidize semiconductor companies to build chips factories here in the United States. Actually it was called the CHIPS bill. We are going to build chips facilities in the United States, but we can't produce the silicon carbide needed to put into those chips facilities.

It is about a lot more than copper, but copper is the big material that is out there that should be obvious to everyone that if we are going to have a more electrified economy, if we are going to build more electronics, and if we are going to have more renewable energy systems and transmission lines, then copper is absolutely critical to it, and that is why there is such a large projected demand for copper.

Fortunately, we actually have copper in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER) who has I believe the largest copper deposit and largest cobalt and nickel deposits in the world located in his district, but decades of permitting and we are still not producing copper, cobalt, or nickel from those mines. Also I believe they have platinum and palladium.

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, hailing from the great State of Minnesota, Minnesota has the most mineral wealth of any State in our Nation with the exception of Alaska.

I have heard my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about how they support mining. I disagree that they support mining.

Do you know why, Mr. Speaker?

It is because this administration, Mr. Speaker, hasn't opened up one mine and, again, not one mine in the United States of America under the Biden administration. They say they support mining so long as it never happens.

Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, any mining done in the United States of America must follow our environmental standards and our labor standards.

It was mentioned moments ago about the Chinese Communist Party. I want to bring one more mineral. It is antimony. One month ago, the Communist country of China stopped exporting antimony to the United States, antimony that is made for semiconductors, antimony that is used in our explosive devices for our military, antimony that is used for our medical instrument devices manufactured here in the United States.

We have antimony mines in the United States potentially if we are allowed to mine them.

Furthermore, in the Inflation Reduction Act, the \$7.4 billion, Mr. Speaker, that was put toward electric charging stations, we have got 11 of them. The government has actually installed 11 charging stations for EV vehicles across this Nation. They were \$7.4 billion.

Furthermore, the Democrats and this administration have removed the Buy American requirements for those charging stations.

Do you know why, Mr. Speaker?

It is because they won't let us mine here, and the percentage of minerals needed to meet the IRA demands can't be met unless we mine here in the United States of America.

Mining is our past, our present, and our future. Mr. Speaker, not only has this administration stopped mining in Minnesota, but they have stopped it in North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, Washington, Oregon, New Mexico, California, and Pennsylvania. The list goes on and on.

This is the most antimining administration in the history of this country, and we are going to suffer for it. Right now, we need antimony to replenish our ammunition. We are struggling right now. That is why the Biden administration's USGS supports this H.R. 8446, the Critical Mineral Consistency Act introduced by my good friend, Mr. CISCOMANI from Arizona. He understands.

We have to have the political will in this country, Mr. Speaker, to be able to mine here safely under our regulations. We need permitting reform, which is going to allow us to mine here, process here, and manufacture here, right here in America using our jobs, our economy, and our workers, which is going to benefit our economy, our communities, and our strategic national security.

Why would anybody not want to mine in this country using the best environmental standards and the best labor standards in the world?

They are caving to the radical left, the antimining stance of their party. On January 20, the Americans are going to see a different attitude toward extracting these minerals that we are blessed with in this great country. We are blessed with these minerals.

No other country is like us, no other country. If we have the political will to meet these needs, then we can do it.

Mr. Speaker, I stand strongly in support of H.R. 8446. I stand strongly in support of domestic mining.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I want to remind you and others this is the most antimining administration in the history of this country, and it is going to end. We have to hold our strategic national security in the palm of our own hands. I will be doggone if I am going to allow China to control our destiny or other foreign nations.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I stand here, once again, today to oppose H.R. 8446, a bill that ignores science, ignores the facts, and would add copper to the critical minerals list to help wealthy multinational corporations, some of which are held by our foreign adversaries, to gain critical benefits, Federal tax breaks, and access to our Federal lands and Tribal sacred sites.

There have been some claims today about the Department of the Interior and the USGS's stance on this bill. I want to be clear that while the USGS did respond to the bill and share information about how to harmonize the list, they identified specific issues with the bill about its scientific integrity.

Let's be clear. USGS scientists used peer-reviewed methodology to determine whether or not copper or any other mineral here in the United States should be considered a critical mineral and be given the benefits that come along with being included on that list.

Now, while copper and many of the minerals discussed here are important to our economy, they are important to our national security, and they are important to the future of this Nation, they do not currently have the same supply chain vulnerabilities that other minerals on that list have and, therefore, do not qualify for the permitting and subsidy benefits that come with being included on that list.

I think that the American people would agree with all of the things that my colleagues said, that we should not be giving giveaways to our foreign adversaries who are trying to stockpile these minerals right now.

Why on Earth would we advance a bill that would give companies that the Chinese Government holds financial interest in access to copper and other critical minerals here in the United States?

It is crazy.

Designating copper as a critical mineral will divert precious resources and attention away from other critical supply chains that need it critically right now. It will open permitting, environmental review processes, and Tribal consultation. We know from history because it has told us in every chapter and every generation that it is our most vulnerable communities without power, influence, and money who will suffer the consequences, and, in this case, particularly our Tribal communities who have sacred lands that they have protected for countless generations.

While my colleagues may claim that this bill is necessary to support and build up our domestic supply chain, we have already seen how foreign influence is trying to grab a hold of U.S. copper. There are no safeguards in this bill, and I cannot emphasize it enough: This bill will allow foreign actors through their financial holdings, including our adversaries, to benefit from the U.S. public lands and resources and materials that they are trying to take and stockpile, and it will leave our communities with pollution and devastation.

□ 1300

We just heard an argument that everything is going to change on January 20. If my colleagues don't know, January 20 is Inauguration Day.

Project 2025, it turned out, was real: critical minerals, opening public lands,

opening Tribal lands, not protecting sites that we already knew were precious for sacred and other reasons.

We just heard it right here on the floor: It is all going to change on January 20.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues: Who is going to benefit? At what cost to our communities? At what cost to the American people?

Mr. Speaker, there were claims made on this floor today about Democrats not caring about our supply chain and about our people. We have one of the largest copper mines in the United States in New Mexico. We support our miners. We support our laborers.

I would not be standing here on the House floor if my mother had not been one of the first women operating engineers to work at a coal-fired power plant in New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I do not appreciate the assertions that we have heard here today that we are trying to attack workers, that we are trying to attack American sovereignty and national security, and that we don't care about our economy and supply chain because we are here fighting for the people. We are fighting for our communities. We are fighting for our Tribal nations.

Mr. Speaker, we will see changes on January 20. That is why we have to stop this bill, so that it doesn't give carte blanche to Chinese financial holdings to mine with impunity on our public lands.

That is why I oppose this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, what do we know about copper? It is extremely important to move forward with any of the technology that Americans are going to require, or certainly what government is likely to require, on electric vehicles and electrification of everything.

At a time when the demand for copper is going to skyrocket to be exponentially more, the U.S. is actually producing less copper than it has been.

If my colleagues want to talk about a process of trying to get more copper on line in this country, if it takes over two decades to get a mine from an idea to operating and to get through the permit process, certainly it is not like China or someone else is going to come in and just run roughshod over people to get the permit process done because it is hard to get a copper mine open in this country.

If that can't get done, then how in the heck are we going to meet any of these standards for electrification or CO₂ reduction by 2045 or 2050 if it takes over two decades? We have already missed the target on just producing the copper if it takes that long to open a copper mine.

Simply harmonizing two lists—we are not even talking about the same bill—between DOI and DOE, it is crazy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LOPEZ). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, to harmonize these two lists on whether copper is important or not between DOI and DOE, it is silly. We are not even talking about the same thing here. This is a simple bill to at least get the copper into the conversation so we can meet these extreme environmental goals people seem to want in California and on the other side of the aisle. It is crazy to not at least harmonize that and have a better conversation about how to produce copper in this country.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I believe that we have thoroughly debated the merits and significant impacts of this bill on the American economy and national security, as well as our communities. I point out that my colleague started this debate by saying this is not about copper and ended this debate showing us it is, indeed, about copper and the companies that own them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the spirited debate. I hope we will protect our national security. I hope we will pass my motion to recommit. I hope we will stop this bill and the devastating impacts that it will bring.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. In closing, I go back to this idea of what mining in America could mean to America. We know that it has national security implications. We know that it has critical implications on being able to grow our energy sector, to grow our economy.

I want to look at just strictly the mining and manufacturing component from mining. I have already submitted this report for the record, page 4, which USGS, along with Commerce, puts out every year. It shows how much material we mine in the U.S., how much we export, and how much we import. The net value last year was \$129.7 billion. Of all the ore that we mined and the exports and imports, it was worth \$129.7 billion.

That is a lot of wealth, but it pales in comparison to the amount of wealth that is generated when that raw material is converted into a metal. That material was worth \$890 billion when it was refined into metal.

When we talk about generating wealth, we are generating income for local communities and American workers not just by mining that ore but by processing it into metal, where we can increase it by eight or nine times the value, which means income for rural Americans.

This same report shows us that \$890 billion worth of value created from this material, along with another \$102 billion worth of material that we had to import, created an impact on our economy of \$3.9 trillion. Think about that.

When we use the resources that we have, it creates jobs in extracting those resources and in processing and refining those resources, and it creates jobs throughout our economy on manufacturing the goods and products that come from those resources.

I don't want it to be lost on anyone that, historically, and this year is no exception, the U.S. Treasury receives about 16.5 percent of the GDP in tax revenue. When we look at budget issues in America, for every trillion dollars we grow our economy, we are creating another \$165 billion going to the side of the ledger that we want it to go to, the income side, to help out with our budget.

At the same time, when we are promoting things that create high-paying jobs, we are taking money off of the other side of the ledger through social welfare programs. President Reagan said it best: The greatest social welfare program ever invented was a job.

It is time that we have these jobs in America, using American resources, refining those resources, and manufacturing products from them.

That takes me back to H.R. 8446. Both lists aim to identify vital minerals susceptible to supply shocks. With this bill, each agency will continue to review minerals and materials for redesignation regularly, just as Congress intended.

It was mentioned that there is no science behind this. We are trusting these agencies, USGS and DOE, to go through the same processes they have always gone through, but to put these lists together to have a comprehensive list.

These lists were not meant to be static snapshots of siloed industries. They are meant to be flexible tools that foster collaboration between sectors and agencies to promote the well-being of our ever-changing supply chain.

H.R. 8446 allows each agency the latitude to perform its own independent analysis. For example, DOE's most recent iteration of the Critical Materials List contains copper, electrical steel flooring, silicon, and silicon carbide. USGS' critical mineral list does not contain those. These materials are used in power generation, electrical wiring, semiconductors, solar panels, transformers, defense applications, really all over and all throughout our society.

We must continue to find ways to release China's stranglehold on our critical mineral supply chain. They have exploited their position on multiple occasions by instigating commodity dumping to make U.S. and our allied nations' critical mineral production uneconomical.

H.R. 8446 will provide the Federal Government with a clearer and more holistic snapshot of the materials we need to safeguard our economy, energy, and national security.

Mr. Speaker, I again thank Mr. CISCOMANI for all of his work on this

legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters of support from the following organizations: the National Association of Manufacturers, U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Mint Innovation, and the Copper Development Association.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
OF MANUFACTURERS,
Washington, DC, November 13, 2024.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE: On behalf of the National Association of Manufacturers, the largest manufacturing trade association in the United States, representing manufacturers in every industrial sector and in all 50 states, I respectfully urge you to vote "yes" on H.R. #8446, the Critical Minerals Consistency Act.

Manufacturers need robust, secure and reliable access to critical minerals and materials (including lithium, cobalt, copper, nickel and silicon) to make innovative products that power modern life, such as computer electronics and cell phones, batteries for storage, solar panels and household appliances. The U.S. has enormous mineral wealth, including some of the world's largest deposits of lithium and copper, and this legislation will help America remain a natural resources superpower.

Under the Energy Act of 2020, Congress directed the Department of the Interior (DOI) to identify and maintain a list of critical minerals to be routinely updated by the U.S. Geological Service (USGS). Unfortunately, the items that appeared on this list did not align with a separate critical materials list that was established under the same law to be maintained by the Department of Energy (DOE). This is causing confusion among producers because eligibility for certain grant programs, tax credits, loan guarantees or improved permitting processes are only granted to items on the DOI list.

This legislation is a priority for manufacturers to shore up supply chains of key minerals and materials by adding copper, electrical steel, silicone and silicone carbide to the national critical minerals list. These are materials that are irreplaceable in crucial energy, technology and national security applications from electrical equipment and batteries to grid transformers and semiconductors. American manufacturing is too often reliant on foreign sources of raw and refined inputs of these materials, when we can and must be doing more to produce them domestically.

H.R. 8446 provides necessary clarity by creating parity between the DOE critical materials list and the DOI critical minerals list and ensures that key minerals to America's national and energy security, like copper, electrical steel and silicone, are not left out.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

CHRIS NETRAM,
Managing Vice President, Policy.

U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS,

Washington, DC, November 14, 2024.

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES: The U.S. Chamber of Commerce strongly supports H.R. #8446, the Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2024, a to streamline interagency operations and eliminate the disparity in benefits available to critical materials and critical minerals by the Federal government. The Chamber will consider including votes related to this legislation in our annual How They Voted scorecard.

Currently, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the Department of En-

ergy (DOE) develop separate lists of what qualifies as critical minerals and materials. Critical materials that are only on the DOE list are not eligible for the more extensive benefits granted to the critical minerals listed by the USGS. Reconciling the two lists would lead to expanded access to critical materials like copper, and would simplify and streamline interagency coordination efforts to determine which elements and minerals are critical to U.S. national and economic security.

Rapidly increasing demand for critical minerals coupled with mounting geopolitical instability makes developing a strong, reliable, domestic critical minerals supply chain vital to America's future. Our current attempts to secure the mineral supply chain rely too heavily on foreign sources while slowing or halting completely the ability to expand domestic mining. To bolster domestic supply chains and ensure stable long term economic growth, we must invest in, rather than constrain by bureaucracy, the responsible development of our abundant natural resources.

We applaud the work of the House Committee on Natural Resources to develop this legislation and we urge you to vote in favor when this bill comes to the House floor.

Sincerely,

RODNEY DAVIS,
Senior Vice President, Government
Affairs,
U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

MINT INNOVATION,
November 13, 2024.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WESTERMAN: On behalf of Mint Innovation, an electronic waste recycling and biotechnology company for metals recovery founded in New Zealand in 2016 with a commercial facility located in Sydney, Australia that will this week announce plans to build its first domestic operation in Longview, Texas, we write to you to endorse H.R. 8446, the Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2024.

Mint Innovation is a clean biotechnology pioneer transforming waste into value to empower a resilient future. Mint's proprietary low-carbon, local and circular solution recovers critical metals and materials from electronic waste, such as printed circuit boards. Mint's technology uses a combination of naturally occurring biomass and smart chemistry to recover high value and critical metals, namely gold and copper.

As we establish a network of domestic facilities here in America, we will also be able to recover Tin and Silver as well as Praseodymium, Neodymium, Terbium, Dysprosium and Tantalum from our byproducts. As we further develop the technology to recycle black mass in lithium-ion batteries, we will add Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel and Graphite to our list of recovered metals. We do this in a low-impact, cost-effective way, strengthening and securing local supply chains.

As national critical mineral security concerns grow and natural reserves dwindle, solutions that recover critical metals close to the source make more sense than ever, and key policies and legislation, such as H.R. 8446, the Critical Minerals Consistency Act of 2024, will allow emerging technologies to break new ground in critical mineral production and electronic waste processing.

We applaud the work of Reps. Ciscomani, Newhouse, Crane, Biggs, Lesko and Curtis for their work to ensure parity between Critical Materials, as defined by the Department of Energy (DOE), and Critical Minerals, as

defined by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).

Thank you,

JASON PRICE,
Chief Operating Officer, Mint Innovation.

COPPER DEVELOPMENT
ASSOCIATION INC.,

June 11, 2024.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Chairman, Committee on Natural Resources,
House of Representatives, Washington DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN WESTERMAN: I write to you on behalf of the Copper Development Association (CDA) to share our strong endorsement and support of HR 8446, the Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2024. CDA is the U.S.-based not-for-profit association of the global copper industry, bringing the value of copper and its alloys to society to solve the challenges of today and tomorrow. We influence the use of copper and copper alloys through research, development, and education, as well as technical and end-user support. We are the voice of the copper industry.

Today, the U.S. copper industry supports more than 395,000 direct, indirect, and induced jobs and more than \$160 billion in economic output. The U.S. copper industry is a key national driver contributing mightily to the economic success and national security of the United States. Copper is also referred to as the "metal of electrification" because of its high electrical conductivity and use across all energy transition applications including EV batteries and storage, wind energy, solar photovoltaics, transmission and distribution, and other low-carbon energies such as hydrogen.

These characteristics and the projected doubling in demand for copper by 2035 are some of the reasons why the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) added copper to their Critical Materials list last year. While this recognition is certainly welcome, exclusion from the USGS Critical Minerals list has kept copper from being eligible for benefits, include DOE Title 17 financing, FAST-41 permitting support, and others. HR 8446 eliminates this disadvantage by adding copper and other important clean energy materials to the USGS list.

HR 8446 not only has our support, but several bipartisan energy and electrification groups in Washington also favor the legislation. These include:

Zero-Emission Transportation Association (ZETA), National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA), Business Council on Sustainable Energy (BCSE), and Transformer Manufacturers Association of America (TMAA).

We are also heartened by the fact that USGS themselves in their written testimony to the House Committee on Natural Resources supports HR 8446 as they wrote "As a possible way to manage the two lists, the USGS supports this bill."

Given the support for the legislation by us and others, including USGS themselves, we are hopeful the Committee will vote favorably to support HR 8446.

Regards,

ADAM ESTELLE,
President & CEO.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I also note for the record the support of the following organizations: the Business Council for Sustainable Energy, the National Electrical Manufacturing Association, the Zero Emission Transportation Association, the Transformer Manufacturing Association of America, and the National Mining Association.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1568, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Stansbury of New Mexico moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8446 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

The material previously referred to by Ms. STANSBURY is as follows:

Ms. Stansbury moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8446 to the Committee on Natural Resources with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Add at the end the following:

SEC. 3. NO FEDERAL BENEFITS TO FOREIGN ADVERSARIES FOR CRITICAL MINERAL PROJECTS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Federal Government may not provide any critical mineral related Federal benefit to an entity that—

- (1) is a foreign entity of concern; or
- (2) is a subsidiary of a foreign entity of concern.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED NATION.—The term “covered nation” has the meaning given such term in section 2533c(d) of title 10, United States Code.

(2) CRITICAL MINERAL RELATED FEDERAL BENEFIT.—The term “critical mineral related Federal benefit” means any tax credit, grant, loan, loan guarantee, or expedited permitting that is available on the basis of the designation of a mineral, element, substance, or material as critical pursuant to section 7002 of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606).

(3) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term “foreign entity of concern” has the meaning given such term in section 40207(a)(5) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (42 U.S.C. 18741(a)(5)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. STANSBURY. 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 question will be postponed.

HARNESSING ENERGY AT THERMAL SOURCES ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1568, I call up the bill (H.R. 7409) to amend the

Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to waive the requirement for a Federal drilling permit for certain activities, to exempt certain activities from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1568, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7409

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 “Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources Act” or the “HEATS Act”.

SEC. 2. NO FEDERAL PERMIT REQUIRED FOR GEOTHERMAL ACTIVITIES ON CERTAIN LAND.

The Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 (30 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 30. NO FEDERAL PERMIT REQUIRED FOR GEOTHERMAL ACTIVITIES ON CERTAIN LAND.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not require an operator to obtain a Federal drilling permit for geothermal exploration and production activities conducted on a non-Federal surface estate, provided that—

“(1) the United States holds an ownership interest of less than 50 percent of the subsurface geothermal estate to be accessed by the proposed action; and

“(2) the operator submits to the Secretary a State permit to conduct geothermal exploration and production activities on the non-Federal surface estate.

“(b) NO FEDERAL ACTION.—A geothermal exploration and production activity carried out under subsection (a)—

“(1) shall not be considered a major Federal action for the purposes of section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969;

“(2) shall require no additional Federal action;

“(3) may commence 30 days after submission of the State permit to the Secretary;

“(4) shall not be subject to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973; and

“(5) shall only be considered an undertaking under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code (commonly referred to as the ‘National Historic Preservation Act’), if, with respect to the State in which the activity occurs, there is no State law in effect that addresses the preservation of historic properties in such State.

“(c) ROYALTIES AND PRODUCTION ACCOUNTABILITY.—(1) Nothing in this section shall affect the amount of royalties due to the United States under this Act from the production of electricity using geothermal resources (other than direct use of geothermal resources) or the production of any byproducts.

“(2) The Secretary may conduct onsite reviews and inspections to ensure proper accountability, measurement, and reporting of the production described in subsection (a), and payment of royalties.

“(d) EXCEPTIONS.—This section shall not apply to actions on Indian lands or resources managed in trust for the benefit of Indian Tribes.

“(e) INDIAN LAND.—In this section, the term ‘Indian land’ means—

“(1) any land located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancharia; and

“(2) any land not located within the boundaries of an Indian reservation, pueblo, or rancharia, the title to which is held—

“(A) in trust by the United States for the benefit of an Indian tribe or an individual Indian;

“(B) by an Indian tribe or an individual Indian, subject to restriction against alienation under laws of the United States; or

“(C) by a dependent Indian community.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7409.

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 today in support of H.R. 7409, the Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources Act, or the HEATS Act.

First, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), my friend, for being a leader on this issue and working with my staff and me to bring this bipartisan bill to the floor.

H.R. 7409, the HEATS Act, is a commonsense bill that would expedite the development of geothermal energy on non-Federal lands containing Federal minerals.

Currently, geothermal operators on non-Federal land producing any amount of Federal resources must abide by all Federal laws and permitting processes, even if the share of Federal minerals is minuscule.

Under this bill, such projects would still undergo a rigorous State permitting process but would not be bogged down by duplicative and burdensome Federal permitting processes.

H.R. 7409 stipulates that geothermal wells on non-Federal lands are not subject to NEPA, ESA, or NHPA if the United States holds an ownership interest of less than 50 percent of the geothermal estate and the operator receives a drilling permit from the respective State.

Notably, the bill would not impact the royalty paid to the Federal Government. Therefore, it would not reduce the Federal revenues generated by geothermal production. In fact, it would actually increase Federal revenues by reducing the administrative responsibilities of Federal agencies and expediting the permitting process for geothermal development.

Enhanced geothermal systems, or EGS, are created by injecting fluid deep underground in carefully controlled conditions to create new fractures and causing preexisting fractures to open, increasing permeability below the surface. The process employs established technology already commonly utilized in the energy sector, and the DOE estimates that EGS could generate 60 gigawatts of electricity by 2050, which represents 8.5 percent of the U.S. generation capacity.

The best geothermal reservoirs suitable for EGS are located in States with Federal minerals, including Colorado, California, Utah, Nevada, Idaho, New Mexico, and Oregon.

□ 1315

Mr. Speaker, Federal streamlining efforts like this bill will be necessary to realize EGS' full potential. Federal minerals, however, come with red tape.

This bill provides a rational approach to streamlining the development of a proven renewable energy source. This commonsense bill will help spur geothermal energy development and promote American energy independence as part of an all-of-the-above energy strategy. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise once again in opposition to another Natural Resources bill which, much to my dismay, I would love to have the opportunity to work on, on a bipartisan basis. Unfortunately, this bill is another technical bill that is masquerading as an effort to support energy development on public lands but is another assault on permitting processes, and, specifically, on the National Environmental Policy Act, or NEPA.

Under this bill, a geothermal project that starts on non-Federal surface lands and drills into Federal subsurface would not need a Federal drilling permit if the subsurface makes up less than 50 percent of the total area drilled.

If your eyes crossed when you heard me describe that technical language, let me explain. The Federal Government manages our Federal lands on the surface. That is where the soil, the trees, and all of that is. There is a separate permitting process for the subsurface. That is where we find oil and gas, other valuable minerals, and, in this case, geothermal resources that we may want to develop for energy sources. They are two different permitting processes.

What this says is if you have a power plant or some other energy source on a piece of private land that is adjacent to or nearby Federal lands, you don't have to go through the permitting process to figure out whether or not the drilling from here down, across, and under our Federal lands would be harmful. That is crazy.

Mr. Speaker, wouldn't we want to know as a scientific basis and a community basis whether or not the drilling under our Federal lands would be harmful for our communities? Of course we would. That is why we have Federal permitting laws. That is why we conduct scientific assessments on whether or not drilling or permitting of resource extraction in the subsurface is a good or bad idea.

As we have seen in some cases, it can cause seismic activity with certain oil and gas operations. In other cases, it can cause contamination of groundwater. In other cases, it can cause subsidence of the surface which could damage a national park or some sort of sacred site for a community or just your viewshed.

Taking away the permitting process means that folks can do things on private lands, using our Federal resources, without having to ask the public if they think it is a good idea. I am a fan of geothermal. It is a great energy resource. There is nothing wrong with geothermal, but all of our energy resources have a footprint. They all look like something.

In this case, as you can see in this picture, geothermal is also an industrial activity. So what we are talking about is building these kinds of facilities which might be an energy facility on a piece of private land, next to your favorite national park, next to your favorite BLM lands where you like to go fishing, next to Tribal lands that are sacred and important to our Tribal communities.

Don't you want the ability to weigh in with the Federal Government about whether or not you want this to be happening in your backyard? Again, it is just common sense. Why are we running bills that are trying to take away commonsense protections for our public and for the communities that would be impacted by them?

Mr. Speaker, I have great respect for Representative KIM. We have worked on a bipartisan basis on many issues including fire and science. Like I said, I am a fan of geothermal. In fact, we have been working on a bipartisan basis with our Republican colleagues on a number of geothermal permitting bills. In fact, there are two of them that passed by voice vote here on the House floor.

Representative CURTIS' GEO Act supports efficient approval of geothermal permit applications without sacrificing environmental and community review. A lot of Members on this side of the aisle think that is a good idea. Why are we not trying to pass that bill? Maybe it has something to do with what was said during the last debate about what happens on January 20.

Representative STEEL's H.R. 6474 would create a narrow categorical exclusion—again, more technical language—for geothermal exploration and development in recently studied or developed areas, giving geothermal parity with oil and gas development.

Again, going back to the science, if we have already done an assessment of subsurface and we know it is not going to have impacts, maybe it makes sense to have some sort of streamlined purpose.

Mr. Speaker, to give carte blanche to private entities that might want to use Federal resources without creating a process to look at the scientific integrity, the potential environmental impacts, the potential community impacts, to not provide a legal process for communities to weigh in and potentially hold them accountable just doesn't make sense.

We do have a problem with this particular approach. We would support responsible, well-balanced stewardship of our geothermal resources that do protect the public interest and do protect our Federal lands. This bill is not really about that.

Mr. Speaker, while I have great respect for the intent, which I hope is good, behind this bill, we do need to protect the public interest as we develop these large-scale projects, big or small, that are adjacent to and that would impact the Federal subsurface.

No matter what, we are seeing time and time again in the final waning hours of this Congress that our friends are trying to advance bills that we know are really a setup for the next administration. I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill. We have other bills that would address the needs of this industry.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, if we lived in a place called Utopia, a lot of this might be possible. I come from an engineering background. Some of the things I remember from those classes long ago, laws like energy can't be created or destroyed, it just changes form.

It would be nice if we could get electricity in the wire without a geothermal plant or to mine coal or to mine gas or to build the solar farm. We haven't figured out how to do that yet.

If we want energy, we are going to have to use the sources that we have got where they are. If we want minerals, we are going to have to get them out of the ground. That can be a good thing because that can create jobs, that can create economic growth. We can do it in a responsible way.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does not remove all permitting. It requires landowners to still get permits from States. It has protections built in for the environment. It gives States and local communities a bigger seat at the table than to rely on some permit coming out of Washington, D.C., to develop a project that has a slight interest in Federal minerals.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) and commend her for bringing this bill forward.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman WESTERMAN for yielding and for his leadership in moving this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of my bipartisan bill, H.R. 7409, Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources Act, or the HEATS Act.

Geothermal energy is a clean, renewable source of energy that can generate electricity, heat homes and buildings, and power industrial processes. More geothermal energy production will lower our environmental footprint and benefit the climate.

Despite having a similar extraction process to that of oil and gas, geothermal energy is constrained by Federal permitting restrictions. Currently geothermal operators on non-Federal land that produce any Federal resources are subject to all Federal laws and permitting processes, even if minimal amounts of Federal minerals are present.

My State of California is a major producer of geothermal energy and has ample energy resources below the earth ready to be tapped into. The current Federal permitting process and State regulations have hurt progress in harnessing this clean energy source.

The HEATS Act would waive Federal drilling permit requirements for geothermal wells that are on State and private lands. This means geothermal operators would not need a Federal drilling permit for wells that are on State and private lands on which the subsurface geothermal estate is less than 50 percent Federal.

Operators must still go through a rigorous permitting process at the State level. They will, however, no longer be burdened by the Federal process, allowing us to harness this untapped energy source faster.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7409 is a common-sense measure that will lower costs for Americans, reduce emissions, protect our national security, and expand our energy portfolio. The Natural Resources Committee passed the HEATS Act by a bipartisan vote, and I look forward to this bill passing out of the House in a timely bipartisan manner.

I thank my colleague Representative DUARTE for co-leading the HEATS Act with me and, also, House Committee on Natural Resources Chairman WESTERMAN for his commitment to accelerating geothermal production and promoting energy independence.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 7409.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will start by agreeing with my colleague across the aisle. We do not live in a Utopia where energy just magically appears.

I completely agree that we are in a massive transition where we have to explore all options to produce and to supply the energy needs that our Nation needs in order for people to survive and to thrive, as long as it is done

in a way that informs the community, it is done in a responsible, environmentally friendly way, and a way that does not affect climate. Of course we want our communities to have a say in what we do.

I want to address what we heard: Well, it will be protected under the States. We are not talking about State resources. We are talking about Federal resources. The United States public lands belong to all of us. The surface, our national parks, our favorite streams on BLM lands and in our national forests, the subsurface belongs to the American people.

All of the things that we have been talking about today are the American people's resources. The minerals that will be mined are the American people's minerals. The geothermal resources are the American people's resources. Even the oil and gas are the American people's resources.

The reason why we have permitting processes is because the American people get to decide: Do we want to give the great riches of this Nation over to private companies who want to provide a good or service to the American people? The American people get to decide because those are our resources.

Mr. Speaker, that is why we have Federal processes to determine, one, if it is a good idea from a scientific and engineering standpoint; and two, to decide if it is going to impact our communities adversely.

Imagine going to your favorite stream to go fishing and find out that a permit for subsurface materials had caused the bottom to drop out and a land subsidence that destroyed your favorite fishing spot and nobody ever told you because the geothermal plant had gone in a few miles away and drilled underneath it.

That is why we have Federal permitting processes. It is so that the American people can decide if this is what we want to do with our precious lands, our precious resources, and the things that belong to all of us.

Mr. Speaker, there are solutions here in Congress. There are solutions that are supported by the vast majority of Members across the aisle that would protect the public interest, that would protect the environment, and would protect American interests in our resources.

Unfortunately, permit streamlining that does away with subsurface permit authority and public comment of our democratically owned natural resources is not the solution. For these reasons, I oppose this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1330

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I guess things depend on the perspective from which you look at them. They took the geothermal plant picture down that was up on the other side of the aisle, but I will point out that if that plant were to be built on Federal

lands, it would go fully under Federal permitting process.

We are talking about facilities that are built on State or private lands that are close to Federal lands. What we are really talking about is not what is on the surface; it is what is below the surface.

If the geothermal energy that is going to this facility, if 50 percent or less of that is coming off of the Federal estate, then the developer would not have to go through the Federal permitting process but would go through the State permitting process.

They would still pay the Federal Government the royalty for the geothermal energy that is coming off of the Federal estate, but they just wouldn't have to go through the Federal permitting process.

You can look at that and say, oh, they are being exempted from the Federal permitting process, but if you look at it from the other perspective, why should a State or private landowner be subject to the Federal permitting process on their private or State land just because less than half of the energy that is going into this facility is coming off of the Federal Government?

Should the Federal Government be dictating to States and private businesses and private landowners what gets developed on their land?

Again, I guess it is just the perspective of how you look at it, but the one thing we know is, you can't harvest and harness this renewable geothermal energy that could make up 8½ percent of our electricity generation without getting it out of the ground and having a facility to utilize that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7409, the HEATS Act, introduced by my good friend from California, Mrs. KIM.

This is an important piece of legislation that will increase our energy security and reliability and help lower energy costs for Americans across this great Nation.

As is the case with much of our domestic energy production, geothermal energy is often developed on checkerboard parcels of land. Such a project often has a footprint encompassing Federal, State, and private lands.

When that is the case, it is a headache for our energy producers as it often means more red tape and more regulatory hoops for energy developers to jump through.

These duplicative regulatory requirements increase the time it takes to get projects online, along with price tags for these projects to get moving. Ultimately, that means higher energy costs for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today will help fix this project for geothermal projects by cutting down on the number of duplicative regulatory reviews a project developer needs to go through.

This bill would prevent the BLM from having to permit geothermal wells on State and private lands where the Federal Government holds an ownership interest of less than 50 percent of the geothermal estate. These projects, which have already gone through a rigorous State permitting process, would not be bogged down by the duplicative and burdensome Federal process.

Contrary to what some may argue, this bill doesn't waive the permitting process; it simply reduces the redundancy.

It is a commonsense fix. It will bring much-needed geothermal energy production online, providing much-needed energy to the American people at a much lower cost.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. While I appreciate that part of the debate has been framed as a difference in perspective, it is actually a difference in the actual facts on the page of what the bill says.

Let me read to you from the bill that is being proposed to be passed right now.

In General, the Secretary—they are talking about the Department of the Interior—shall not require an operator to obtain a Federal drilling permit for geothermal exploration and production activities conducted on non-Federal subsurface estates.

I know this is confusing. They are talking about those lands that the Feds manage for the American people. The claim that was just made was that, oh, this isn't about exempting Federal permitting, that is what the bill says. Mr. Speaker, I am reading from their bill.

Now, it has the specific reasons under which the permit would be allowed to be excluded, and, as was stated, it says: "The United States holds an ownership interest of less than 50 percent of the subsurface estate. . . ."

Now, I love when my colleagues across the aisle claim that industry is so confused and that is why we have to streamline these bills.

I ask the American people: When you hear this language, does it sound streamlined? I don't think so.

Mr. Speaker, I have a very high-tech drawing I will use to help the American people understand what they are talking about here.

You have got this geothermal energy producer. Here is a good example of a power plant using geothermal. If they are taking subsurface geothermal resources from private lands, let's say this side, and over 50 percent of their geothermal resources are coming from the private side, they are saying, if you drill down underneath this plant and go under your favorite national park, your favorite stream on BLM lands, your favorite place to go fishing on public lands, they don't have to get a

permit. They can just do it. That is what the bill says.

This isn't a difference of perspective, it is literally what the bill is trying to do, and that is to exempt Federal permit requirements on the Federal subsurface estate adjacent to private lands.

The claim that State permitting would apply is not true. State permitting only applies to private lands. State permitting requirements do not apply to Federal lands. Even if you have a State permitting regime like States that protect the environment, it is not going to help you over here on the Federal estate.

If you live in a State where there are not State environmental protections for the environment, then guess what? You are screwed.

That is why we are trying to protect the Federal estate and the community and environmental interests here. We are not trying to stop geothermal. As I said, we are fans. Let's do this, but let's do it in an environmentally responsible and community-informed way.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I appreciate the gentlewoman pointing out the language on page 3 of the bill. I will point that out too because it says, "The Secretary shall not require an operator to obtain a Federal drilling permit for geothermal exploration and production activities conducted on a non-Federal surface estate. . . ."

I think most people would agree that we don't want the Federal Government telling States and private landowners that they have to obtain a Federal permit to extract energy off of their land. That is exactly why we are proposing this bill, and it is not coming from the standpoint that the government knows best, that somebody sitting here in D.C. in a nondescript cubicle should be telling somebody thousands of miles away how to develop their land. No.

We shouldn't require Federal permitting on State and private land, which is what we are talking about. That is what this bill would do. It is only in the case where when you get below the surface, if more than 50 percent of the geothermal energy is coming off of Federal land, then you still have to go through the Federal permitting.

If it is less than 50 percent, then the State permitting would rule. It is a commonsense bill. It would promote economic development. It would promote renewable energy development. It is a bill that needs to be passed.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DUARTE), who also worked closely on this bill.

Mr. DUARTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 7409, the HEATS Act.

This bill will assist working families, small businesses, and the geothermal

energy producers streamline the permitting process for one of the cheapest and cleanest energy sources. We are talking about steam coming out of the ground and creating electricity. That is what we are talking about today.

Geothermal is a big word. Let's not miss that. This is simply turning steam out of the ground into electricity.

One of the cheapest and cleanest energy sources in the United States is prioritized and supported by the Federal Government. During a Natural Resources hearing earlier this year, I asked Federal regulators what we, the people, gain by requiring a Federal permitting process on geothermal energy, one of the cleanest, cheapest energy sources in the world.

There was no coherent answer. Instead of restricting geothermal energy, we should be supporting and encouraging advancements in this field. Currently, the Bureau of Land Management is practicing regulation by imagination, with no real instances of negatives of geothermal energy production.

I am proud to work with Representative KIM to take the necessary steps to make it easier to produce clean, affordable geothermal energy in California.

California produces more geothermal energy than any other State, but the Bureau of Land Management is preventing California from growing our clean energy to our fullest potential. This bill ensures that geothermal energy producers do not need to obtain a Federal permit if they are drilling on land that is not owned by the Federal Government.

With this commonsense change, we can grow our geothermal energy production. This would provide cheaper energy to working families, create good-paying jobs in California, and cement California and the United States as a global clean energy leader.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7409. It is a commonsense bill that will lower energy costs for working families.

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I will go back to the language of the text. As I read the text as it appears on the page as introduced, it is seeking to exempt Federal permitting requirements for the subsurface estate, so that means Federal resources.

They are saying, if it is private land on top but public on the bottom, you don't have to get a permit. That is what they are saying.

Now, I know that boggles the mind for some folks, but that is essentially an American resource. The people of this country should have a say as to whether or not they want an energy plant to go in, for drilling to happen under their lands, for resources to be extracted. It is just common sense.

Mr. Speaker, I will also make the point that there were some comments

made about the administration trying to restrict geothermal. That is just patently untrue.

This is not about trying to restrict or trying to stop geothermal; this is just about maintaining the existing requirements that we have in protecting American resources in the subsurface so that the taxpayers get a fair shake and that the American public can say whether or not they think it is a good idea to have a private company drilling and removing resources under our feet. It is common sense.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 7409 is another loophole disguised as permitting reform and streamlining. It would create a path for geothermal projects to bypass critical environmental and community reviews based on arbitrary line drawings and new convoluted, not streamlined, language regarding the Federal subsurface estate.

It sets a dangerous precedent. I know they keep saying this is about streamlining and making it easier. This bill is not common sense when you read it. It would allow more energy projects to move forward without community input and oversight.

We have already worked on bipartisan solutions. We already have some bills that we all agree on, but here we are debating, in the final hours of this Congress, a bill that would do away with just basic, commonsense public input through the process.

□ 1345

We didn't spend a lot of time talking about it today, but the Federal agency that manages our subsurface, the Bureau of Land Management, has raised legitimate concerns about this bill, opposes this bill, and has warned that it would undermine our ability to enforce safety regulations, to uphold environmental laws, to do Tribal consultation, and to ensure that these projects are aligned with our multiple-use mandate, meaning we can protect our public lands for other uses.

As experts on the process, we have to listen to these folks. This is what they do every day.

We understand that there are opportunities to improve permitting. It is part of why we passed the Inflation Reduction Act. It is part of why we are making an over \$1 billion investment in expediting the permitting process and helping to get energy projects on the ground.

We are in the middle of a major energy transition, but we can't do that in an irresponsible manner by fast-tracking projects that need public input.

All energy projects have impacts, and this bill takes away the opportunity to just take a look and give the opportunity for the public to weigh in.

We have to keep this in mind as we move forward and work to build a more

just and sustainable future where our communities continue to have a say in what we do with the Federal estate, whether it is on the top or it is underneath our feet.

For these reasons I urge a "no" vote on H.R. 7409, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I would like to urge my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 7409. The HEATS Act would expedite geothermal energy production by removing the requirement that geothermal operators receive a Federal drilling permit for wells on State and private lands where the subsurface geothermal estate is less than 50 percent Federal.

Operators would still be required to receive State permits and approval but would be exempt from Federal permitting regulations like NEPA, the ESA, and section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. That is a mouthful of words, but let's look at in practicality.

We are talking about a geothermal production facility that is going to have a footprint on the surface of the land. It is going to be on the surface of State or private land. Then we are going to drill a hole thousands of feet into the ground, an 8- to 12-inch in diameter hole that is going to go a mile or so deeper, maybe 2 miles deep into the ground. Then it is going to turn horizontal, and it is going to start picking up geothermal energy from a large area.

What my friends across the aisle seem to want to do is to invoke a NEPA permit on a hole in the ground 2 miles deep. They want to be able to implement the ESA because of a hole in the ground 2 miles deep. They want to do a National Historic Preservation assessment because of a hole in the ground 2 miles deep.

What they really want to do is be able to link this private facility on State or private land back to the Federal Government so they can use these laws that are well-intentioned, well-meaning laws to stop that facility from being built on State or private land.

There is no environmental benefit of doing an ESA analysis on a hole in the ground 2 miles deep. There is no historical preservation that is going to be improved by permitting a hole 2 miles deep, not when this has already been through a robust State permitting process and these States have requirements and regulations for developing energy resources within their borders. What this does is it eliminates duplicative bureaucracy at the Federal level that has no intent or purpose other than to impede geothermal energy development.

This bill will lower emissions and energy costs for American families and strengthen U.S. energy independence. Accelerating renewable geothermal production and deployment is a win for our economy, our national security, and the environment.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1568, the previous question is ordered on the bill.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. Stansbury of New Mexico moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7409 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Ms. STANSBURY. 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 question are postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Motion to recommit on H.R. 8446;
Passage of H.R. 8446, if ordered;
Motion to recommit on H.R. 7409; and
Passage of H.R. 7409, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

CRITICAL MINERAL CONSISTENCY ACT OF 2024

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 8446) to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, and for other purposes, offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 199, nays 206, not voting 27, as follows:

[Roll No. 461]

YEAS—199

Adams Golden (ME) Ocasio-Cortez
 Aguilar Goldman (NY) Omar
 Allred Gomez Pallone
 Amo Gonzalez, V. Panetta
 Auchincloss Green, Al (TX) Pappas
 Balint Harder (CA) Pelosi
 Barragán Hayes Peltola
 Beatty Himes Perez
 Bera Horsford Peters
 Beyer Houlihan Pettersen
 Bishop (GA) Hoyer Phillips
 Blumenauer Hoyle (OR) Pingree
 Blunt Rochester Huffman Pocan
 Bonamici Ivey Pressley
 Boyle (PA) Jackson (IL) Quigley
 Brown Jackson (NC) Ramirez
 Brownley Jacobs Raskin
 Budzinski Jayapal Ross
 Bush Jeffries Ruiz
 Caraveo Johnson (GA) Ruppersberger
 Carbajal Kamlager-Dove Ryan
 Carson Kaptur Salinas
 Carter (LA) Kelly (IL) Sarbanes
 Casar Kennedy Scanlon
 Case Khanna Schakowsky
 Casten Kildee Schiff
 Castor (FL) Kilmer Schneider
 Castro (TX) Kim (NJ) Scholten
 Cherfilus-McCormick Krishnamoorthi Schrier
 Kuster Scott (VA)
 Chu Landsman
 Clark (MA) Larsen (WA) Sewell
 Clarke (NY) Larson (CT) Sherman
 Cleaver Lee (CA) Sherrill
 Clyburn Lee (NV) Slotkin
 Cohen Lee (PA) Smith (WA)
 Correa Lee Carter Sorensen
 Costa Leger Fernandez Soto
 Courtney Levin Spanberger
 Craig Lieu Stansbury
 Crockett Lofgren Stanton
 Crow Lynch Strickland
 Cuellar Magaziner Stueck
 Davids (KS) Manning Suozzi
 Davis (IL) Matsui Swalwell
 Davis (NC) Sykes
 Dean (PA) McBath Cárdenas
 DeGette McClellan Takano
 DeLauro McCollum Thanedar
 DelBene McGarvey Thompson (CA)
 Deluzio McGovern Thompson (MS)
 DeSaulnier McIver Titus
 Dingell Meeks Tlaib
 Doggett Menendez Tokuda
 Escobar Meng Tonko
 Eshoo Mfume Torres (CA)
 Espaillat Moore (WI) Torres (NY)
 Fletcher Morelle Trahan
 Foster Moskowitz Trone
 Foushee Mrvan Underwood
 Frankel, Lois Mullin Vargas
 Frost Nadler Vasquez
 Gallego Napolitano Veasey
 Garamendi Neal Velázquez
 García (IL) Neguse Waters
 García (TX) Nickle Watson Coleman
 García, Robert Norcross Williams (GA)
 Wilson (FL)

NAYS—206

Aderholt Burlison Diaz-Balart
 Alford Calvert Duarte
 Allen Cammack Duncan
 Amodei Carey Dunn (FL)
 Arrington Carl Ellzey
 Babin Carter (GA) Emmer
 Bacon Carter (TX) Estes
 Baird Chavez-DeRemer Ezell
 Balderson Ciscomani Fallon
 Banks Cline Feenstra
 Barr Cloud Ferguson
 Bean (FL) Clyde Finstad
 Bentz Cole Fischbach
 Bergman Collins Fitzgerald
 Bice Comer Fitzpatrick
 Billirakis Crane Fleischmann
 Bishop (NC) Crawford Flood
 Boebert Crenshaw Fong
 Bost Curtis Foy
 Buchanan D'Esposito Franklin, Scott
 Bucshon Davidson Fry
 Burchett De La Cruz Fulcher
 Burgess DesJarlais Garbarino

Gimenez Letlow Rouzer
 Gonzales, Tony Lopez Roy
 Good (VA) Loudermilk Rulli
 Gooden (TX) Lucas Rutherford
 Gosar Luetkemeyer Salazar
 Graves (LA) Luna Scalise
 Graves (MO) Luttrell Schweikert
 Green (TN) Mace Scott, Austin
 Greene (GA) Malliotakis Self
 Griffith Maloy Sessions
 Grothman Mann Simpson
 Guest Mast Smith (MO)
 Guthrie McCaul Smith (NE)
 Hageman McClain Smith (NJ)
 Harris McClintock Smucker
 Harshbarger McCormick Spartz
 Hern Meuser Stauber
 Higgins (LA) Miller (IL) Steel
 Hill Miller (OH) Stefanik
 Hinson Miller (WV) Steil
 Houchin Miller-Meeks Steube
 Hudson Mills Strong
 Huizenga Molinaro Tenney
 Issa Moore (AL) Thompson (PA)
 James Moore (UT) Tiffany
 Johnson (SD) Moore (UT) Timmons
 Jordan Moran Turner
 Joye (OH) Murphy Valadao
 Joyce (PA) Nehls Van Drew
 Kean (NJ) Newhouse Van Dуйne
 Kelly (MS) Norman Van Orden
 Kelly (PA) Nunn (IA) Wagner
 Kiggans (VA) Obernolte Walberg
 Kiley Ogles Weber (TX)
 Kim (CA) Owens Webster (FL)
 Kustoff Palmer Wenstrup
 LaHood Pence Westerman
 LaLota Perry Wied
 LaMalfa Pfluger Williams (NY)
 Lamborn Posey Williams (TX)
 Langworthy Reschenthaler Wilson (SC)
 Latta Rodgers (WA) Wittman
 Lawler Rogers (AL) Womack
 Lee (FL) Rogers (KY) Yakym
 Lesko Rosendale Zinke

NOT VOTING—27

Armstrong Garcia, Mike Rose
 Biggs Gottheimer Sánchez
 Bowman Granger Scott, David
 Brecheen Grijalva Waltz
 Cárdenas Jackson (TX) Wasserman
 Cartwright Keating Schultz
 Connolly LaTurner Wexton
 Donalds Massie Wild
 Edwards McHenry
 Evans Porter

□ 1419

Messrs. NORMAN, OGLES, WENSTRUP, STRONG, NUNN of Iowa, and PALMER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. CORREA, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Messrs. VARGAS, MOSKOWITZ, DOGGETT, SWALWELL, BEYER, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mrs. DINGELL changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 245, nays 155, not voting 32, as follows:

[Roll No. 462]
 YEAS—245

Golden (ME) Moskowitz
 Gonzales, Tony Murphy
 Gonzalez, V. Nehls
 Good (VA) Newhouse
 Gooden (TX) Norcross
 Graves (LA) Norman
 Graves (MO) Nunn (IA)
 Green (TN) Obernolte
 Greene (GA) Ogles
 Griffith Owens
 Grothman Palmer
 Guest Panetta
 Guthrie Pappas
 Hageman Peltola
 Harris Pence
 Harshbarger Perez
 Hern Peters
 Higgins (LA) Pettersen
 Hill Pfluger
 Himes Posey
 Hinson Reschenthaler
 Horsford Rodgers (WA)
 Houchin Rogers (AL)
 Houlihan Rogers (KY)
 Huizenga Rosendale
 Issa Rouzer
 James Rulli
 Johnson (SD) Johnson (SD)
 Jordan Rutherford
 Joyce (OH) Salazar
 Joyce (PA) Scalise
 Kaptur Schneider
 Kean (NJ) Scholten
 Kelly (MS) Schrier
 Kelly (PA) Schweikert
 Kiggans (VA) Scott, Austin
 Kiley Self
 Kim (CA) Sessions
 Kustoff Sherrill
 LaHood Simpson
 LaLota Slotkin
 LaMalfa Smith (MO)
 Lamborn Smith (NJ)
 Langworthy Smucker
 Larsen (WA) Sorensen
 Larson (CT) Spanberger
 Latta Stauber
 Lawler Steel
 Lee (FL) Stefanik
 Lee (NV) Steil
 Lesko Letlow
 Lopez Loudermilk
 Lucas Luetkemeyer
 Luna Tenney
 Diaz-Balart Luttrell
 Duarte Mace
 Duncan Malliotakis
 Dunn (FL) Maloy
 Ellzey Mann
 Emmer Manning
 Estes Mast
 McCaul Van Dуйne
 McClain Van Orden
 McClintock Vasquez
 McCormick Veasey
 McHenry Wagner
 Meuser Walberg
 Miller (IL) Weber (TX)
 Miller (OH) Webster (FL)
 Miller (WV) Wenstrup
 Flood Westerman
 Fong Wied
 Foy Williams (NY)
 Franklin, Scott Williams (TX)
 Fry Wilson (SC)
 Fulcher Wittman
 Gallego Womack
 Garbarino Yakym
 Gimenez Morelle Zinke

NAYS—155

Brown Cherfilus-McCormick
 Brownley Brownley
 Bush Chu
 Carbajal Clark (MA)
 Balint Clarke (NY)
 Barragán Carson
 Beatty Carter (LA)
 Beyer Casar
 Bishop (GA) Case
 Blumenauer Casten
 Blunt Rochester Castor (FL)
 Bonamici Castro (TX)
 Crow

Davids (KS) Kim (NJ) Quigley
 Davis (IL) Krishnamoorthi Ramirez
 Dean (PA) Kuster Raskin
 DeGette Landsman Ross
 DeLauro Lee (CA) Roy Adams
 DelBene Lee (PA) Ruiz Aguilera
 DeSaulnier Lee Carter Allred
 Dingell Leger Fernandez Amo
 Doggett Levin Auchincloss
 Escobar Lieu Salinas
 Eshoo Sarbanes Balint
 Espallat Lynch Scarbanes Barragan
 Fletcher Magaziner Beatty
 Foster Schiff Horsford
 Foushee Matsui Bera
 Frankel, Lois McClellan Bishop (GA)
 Frost McCollum Sherman Blumenthal
 Garamendi McGarvey Smith (WA) Blunt Rochester
 Garcia (IL) McGovern Soto Bonamici
 Garcia (TX) McIver Stansbury Boyle (PA)
 Goldman (NY) Meeks Strickland Brown
 Gomez Menendez Sykes Brownley
 Green, Al (TX) Meng Takano Budzinski
 Hayes Mfume Thanedar Bush
 Hoyer Moore (WI) Thompson (CA) Caraveo
 Hoyle (OR) Moulton Thompson (MS) Carbajal
 Huffman Mullin Casar
 Ivey Nadler Case
 Jackson (IL) Napolitano Tlaib
 Jackson (NC) Neal Tokuda
 Jacobs Neguse Tonko
 Jayapal Nickel Torres (NY)
 Jeffries Ocasio-Cortez Trahan
 Johnson (GA) Omar Trone
 Kamlager-Dove Pallone Underwood
 Keating Vargas
 Kelly (IL) Perry Velazquez
 Kennedy Phillips Waters
 Khanna Pingree Watson Coleman
 Kildee Pocan Williams (GA)
 Kilmer Pressley Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—32

Armstrong Gosar Porter
 Biggs Gottheimer Rose
 Bowman Granger Sanchez
 Cardenas Grijalva Scott, David
 Cartwright Harder (CA) Smith (NE)
 Connolly Hudson Strong
 Donalds Hunt Waltz
 Edwards Jackson (TX) Wasserman
 Evans LaTurner Schultz
 Garcia, Mike Massie Wexton
 Garcia, Robert Mrvan Wild

□ 1427

Ms. KAPTUR changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.
 The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HARNESSING ENERGY AT THERMAL SOURCES ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 7409) to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to waive the requirement for a Federal drilling permit for certain activities, to exempt certain activities from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes, offered by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 198, nays 206, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 463]
 YEAS—198
 Adams Golden (ME) Omar
 Aguilera Goldman (NY) Pallone
 Allred Gomez Panetta
 Amo Gonzalez, V. Pappas
 Auchincloss Green, Al (TX) Pelosi
 Balint Hayes Peltola
 Barragan Himes Hudon
 Beatty Horsford Perez
 Bera Houlahan Pettersen
 Beyer Hoyer Phillips
 Bishop (GA) Hoyle (OR) Pingree
 Blumenthal Huffman Pocan
 Blunt Rochester Ivey Pressley
 Bonamici Jackson (IL) Quigley
 Boyle (PA) Jackson (NC) Ramirez
 Brown Jacobs Raskin
 Brownley Jayapal Ross
 Budzinski Jeffries Ruiz
 Bush Johnson (GA) Ruppertsberger
 Caraveo Kamlager-Dove Ryan
 Carbajal Kaptur Salinas
 Carson Kelly (IL) Sarbanes
 Carter (LA) Kennedy Scanlon
 Casar Khanna Schakowsky
 Case Kildee Schiff
 Casten Kilmer Schneider
 Castor (FL) Kim (NJ) Scholten
 Castro (TX) Krishnamoorthi Schrier
 Cherfilus-Kuster Scott (VA)
 McCormick Landsman Sewell
 Larsen (WA) Larson (CT)
 Clark (MA) Lee (CA)
 Clarke (NY) Lee (NV)
 Cleaver Lee (PA)
 Clyburn Lee Carter
 Cohen Leger Fernandez
 Correa Levin
 Costa Courtney
 Craig
 Crockett
 Crow
 Cuellar
 Davids (KS)
 Davis (IL)
 Davis (NC)
 Dean (PA)
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 McGovern
 McIver
 Meeks
 Menendez
 Meng
 Mfume
 Moore (WI)
 Morelle
 Moskowitz
 Moulton
 Mrvan
 Mullin
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal
 Neguse
 Nickel
 Norcross
 Garcia, Robert Ocasio-Cortez

NAYS—206

Aderholt Ezell
 Alford Fallon
 Allen Feenstra
 Amodei Fergusson
 Arrington Chavez-DeRemer
 Babin Cismocomani
 Bacon Cline
 Baird Cloud
 Balderson Clyde
 Banks Cole
 Barr Collins
 Bean (FL) Comer
 Bentz Crane
 Bergman Crawford
 Bice Crenshaw
 Bilirakis Curtis
 Bilirakis D'Esposito
 Bishop (NC) Davidson
 Boebert Bost
 Bost Brecheen
 Brecheen Buchanan
 Buchanan Diaz-Balart
 Bucshon Duarte
 Burchett Duncan
 Burgess Dunn (FL)
 Burlison Ellzey
 Calvert Emmer
 Cammack Estes

Guthrie Maloy Salazar
 Hageman Mann Scalise
 Harris Mast Schweikert
 Harshbarger McCaul Scott, Austin
 Hern McClain Self
 Higgins (LA) McClintock Sessions
 Hill McCormick Simpson
 Hinson McHenry Smith (MO)
 Houchin Meuser Smith (NE)
 Hudson Miller (IL) Smith (NJ)
 Huizenga Miller (OH) Smucker
 Issa Miller (WV) Spartz
 James Miller-Meeks Stauber
 Johnson (SD) Mills Steel
 Jordan Molinaro Stefanik
 Joyce (OH) Moolenaar Steil
 Joyce (PA) Mooney Steube
 Kean (NJ) Moore (AL) Strong
 Kelly (MS) Moore (UT) Tenney
 Kelly (PA) Moran Thompson (PA)
 Kiggans (VA) Murphy Tiffany
 Kiley Nehls Timmons
 Kim (CA) Newhouse Turner
 Kustoff Ryan Norman
 LaHood Nunn (IA) Valadao
 LaLota Obernolte Van Drew
 LaMalfa Ogles Van Duyne
 Lamborn Owens Van Orden
 Langworthy Palmer Wagner
 Latta Pence Walberg
 Lawler Perry Weber (TX)
 Lee (FL) Pfluger Webster (FL)
 Lesko Posey Wenstrup
 Letlow Reschenthaler Westerman
 Lopez Rodgers (WA) Wied
 Loudermilk Rogers (AL) Williams (NY)
 Lucas Rogers (KY) Williams (TX)
 Luetkemeyer Rosendale Wilson (SC)
 Luna Rouzer Wittman
 Luttrell Roy Womack
 Mace Rulli Yakym
 Malliotakis Rutherford Zinke

NOT VOTING—28

Armstrong Gosar Porter
 Biggs Gottheimer Rose
 Bowman Granger Sanchez
 Cardenas Grijalva Scott, David
 Cartwright Harder (CA) Waltz
 Connolly Hunt Wasserman
 Donalds Jackson (TX) Schultz
 Edwards Keating Wexton
 Evans LaTurner Wild
 Garcia, Mike Massie

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1433

Mr. BEYER changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. NEGUSE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 225, nays 181, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 464]

YEAS—225

Banks Bost
 Alford Barr Brecheen
 Allen Bean (FL) Buchanan
 Amodei Bentz Bucshon
 Arrington Bergman Budzinski
 Babin Bice Burchett
 Bacon Bilirakis Burgess
 Baird Bishop (NC) Burlison
 Balderson Boebert Calvert

Cammack	Harris	Norman
Caraveo	Harshbarger	Nunn (IA)
Carey	Hern	Oberholte
Carl	Higgins (LA)	Ogles
Carter (GA)	Hill	Owens
Carter (TX)	Hinson	Palmer
Chavez-DeRemer	Houchin	Panetta
Ciscomani	Hoyer	Pappas
Cline	Hudson	Peltola
Cloud	Huizenga	Pence
Clyde	Issa	Perez
Cole	James	Perry
Collins	Johnson (SD)	Pfluger
Comer	Jordan	Phillips
Correa	Joyce (OH)	Posey
Costa	Joyce (PA)	Reschenthaler
Crane	Kean (NJ)	Rodgers (WA)
Crawford	Kelly (MS)	Rogers (AL)
Crenshaw	Kelly (PA)	Rogers (KY)
Cuellar	Kiggans (VA)	Rosendale
Curtis	Kiley	Rouzer
D'Esposito	Kim (CA)	Roy
Davidson	Kustoff	Rulli
Davis (NC)	LaHood	Rutherford
De La Cruz	LaLota	Salazar
DesJarlais	LaMalfa	Scalise
Diaz-Balart	Lamborn	Schweikert
Duarte	Langworthy	Scott, Austin
Duncan	Latta	Self
Dunn (FL)	Lawler	Sessions
Ellzey	Lee (FL)	Simpson
Emmer	Lesko	Smith (MO)
Estes	Letlow	Smith (NE)
Ezell	Lopez	Smith (NJ)
Fallon	Loudermilk	Smucker
Feenstra	Lucas	Spartz
Ferguson	Luetkemeyer	Stauber
Finstad	Luna	Steal
Fischbach	Luttrell	Stefanik
Fitzgerald	Mace	Steil
Fitzpatrick	Malliotakis	Steube
Fleischmann	Maloy	Strong
Flood	Mann	Suozzi
Fong	Manning	Tenney
Foxx	Mast	Thompson (PA)
Franklin, Scott	McCaul	Tiffany
Fry	McClain	Timmons
Fulcher	McClintock	Turner
Garbarino	McCormick	Valadao
Gimenez	McHenry	Van Drew
Golden (ME)	Meuser	Van Duyne
Gonzales, Tony	Miller (IL)	Van Orden
Gonzalez, V.	Miller (OH)	Wagner
Good (VA)	Miller (WV)	Walberg
Gooden (TX)	Miller-Meeks	Weber (TX)
Gosar	Mills	Webster (FL)
Graves (LA)	Molinaro	Wenstrup
Graves (MO)	Moolenaar	Westerman
Green (TN)	Mooney	Wied
Greene (GA)	Moore (AL)	Williams (NY)
Griffith	Moore (UT)	Williams (TX)
Grothman	Moran	Wilson (SC)
Guest	Moulton	Wittman
Guthrie	Murphy	Womack
Hageman	Nehls	Yakym
Harder (CA)	Newhouse	Zinke

NAYS—181

Adams	Cleaver	Gomez
Aguilar	Clyburn	Green, Al (TX)
Allred	Cohen	Hayes
Amo	Courtney	Himes
Auchincloss	Craig	Houlahan
Balint	Crockett	Hoyle (OR)
Barragán	Crow	Huffman
Beatty	Davids (KS)	Ivey
Bera	Davis (IL)	Jackson (IL)
Beyer	Dean (PA)	Jackson (NC)
Bishop (GA)	DeGette	Jacobs
Blumenauer	DeLauro	Jayapal
Blunt Rochester	DelBene	Jeffries
Bonamici	Deluzio	Johnson (GA)
Boyle (PA)	DeSaulnier	Kamlager-Dove
Brown	Dingell	Kaptur
Brownley	Doggett	Keating
Bush	Escobar	Kelly (IL)
Carbajal	Eshoo	Kennedy
Carson	Españillat	Khanna
Carter (LA)	Fletcher	Kildee
Casar	Foster	Kimler
Case	Foushee	Kim (NJ)
Casten	Frankel, Lois	Krishnamoorthi
Castor (FL)	Frost	Kuster
Castro (TX)	Gallego	Landsman
Cherfilus-	Garamendi	Larsen (WA)
McCormick	Garcia (IL)	Larson (CT)
Chu	Garcia (TX)	Lee (CA)
Clark (MA)	Garcia, Robert	Lee (NV)
Clarke (NY)	Goldman (NY)	Lee (PA)

Lee Carter	Omar	Soto
Leger Fernandez	Pallone	Spanberger
Levin	Pelosi	Stansbury
Lieu	Peters	Stanton
Lofgren	Petterson	Stevens
Lynch	Pingree	Strickland
Magaziner	Pocan	Swalwell
Matsui	Pressley	Sykes
McBath	Quigley	Takano
McClellan	Ramirez	Thanedar
McCollum	Raskin	Thompson (CA)
McGarvey	Ross	Thompson (MS)
McGovern	Ruiz	Titus
McIver	Ruppersberger	Tlaib
Meeks	Ryan	Tokuda
Menendez	Salinas	Tonko
Meng	Sarbanes	Torres (CA)
Mfume	Scanlon	Torres (NY)
Moore (WI)	Schakowsky	Trahan
Morelle	Schiff	Trone
Moskowitz	Schneider	Underwood
Mrvan	Scholten	Vargas
Mullin	Schrier	Vasquez
Nadler	Scott (VA)	Veasey
Napolitano	Sewell	Velázquez
Neal	Sherman	Waters
Nenguse	Sherrill	Watson Coleman
Nickel	Slotkin	Williams (GA)
Norcross	Smith (WA)	Wilson (FL)
Ocasio-Cortez	Sorensen	

NOT VOTING—26

Armstrong	Garcia, Mike	Porter
Biggs	Gottheimer	Rose
Bowman	Granger	Sánchez
Cardenas	Grijalva	Scott, David
Cartwright	Horsford	Waltz
Connolly	Hunt	Wasserman
Donalds	Jackson (TX)	Schultz
Edwards	LaTurner	Wexton
Evans	Massie	Wild

□ 1441

So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 461, YEA on Roll Call No. 462, YEA on Roll Call No. 463, and NO on Roll Call No. 464.

□ 1445

CHAMPION OF THE WEEK: THE KNIGHTS AND CHRIS POLLACK

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

Mrs. SYKES. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable achievements of the Archbishop Hoban Knights varsity golf team and, in particular, the outstanding senior member, Chris Pollack, as the Ohio 13th Congressional District's Champion of the Week.

At the Ohio High School Athletic Association State Championships held at the NCR Golf Course in Kettering, Ohio, the Knights secured their second Division I State title in school history, a true testament to their hard work.

The team triumphed with an impressive 17-stroke victory, finishing with a total score of 595. Their closest competitor led on the first day, but ultimately, the Knights prevailed to win their second championship. This victory is especially commendable given the challenging conditions on the second day, where rain and cold temperatures significantly impacted the field.

Senior Chris Pollack captured the individual State championship with a remarkable score of 142. He edged out his competitor by just two strokes, maintaining his composure to shoot a consistent 71 for both days of the competition, ultimately finishing as the tournament medalist.

Chris will continue his impressive golf career at Florida Southern College, an NCAA Division I institution in the State of Florida. This senior certainly has a bright future ahead of him.

Again, I congratulate the Archbishop Hoban Knights varsity golf team, Coach Quinn Parker, senior Chris Pollack, and the entire Archbishop Hoban High School for their remarkable State championship in the Division I golf finals. They are truly what skill and dedication mean and what makes Ohio's 13th Congressional District the birthplace of champions.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JUDGE FRED B. MILLER

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Judge Fred Miller, a beloved Blair County, Pennsylvania, judge, a dedicated public servant, and an incredible supporter of the community, who unfortunately passed away just this week.

Throughout his distinguished career, Judge Miller personified compassion, honesty, fairness, and integrity from the bench. During his more than two decades of service, Judge Miller applied the law fairly and impartially.

In addition to his professional expertise and achievements, Judge Miller will be remembered for his personal warmth, his sense of humor, and his remarkable ability to foster lifelong friendships.

As we remember Judge Miller, we also keep his loved ones in our prayers, including his wife, Tracy; his son, Grant; his parents, Dr. William and Melissa Miller; as well as his siblings, Norman and Veronica.

Today, please join me and all Members of Pennsylvania's 13th Congressional District in remembering the remarkable life of Judge Fred Miller.

HONORING DR. RUDY LOMBARD

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, since joining the United States Congress, I have sought to designate a postal facility in the name of Dr. Rudy Lombard in recognition of his legacy as a champion of civil rights.

Simultaneously, I was exploring other options of honoring him in other ways. After consultation with Dr.

Lombard's family, I am suspending my efforts to rename the post office, as we decided that the Algiers Ferry Terminal would be more suitable for this tribute.

This terminal, at the foot of Canal Street in New Orleans, is where Dr. Rudy Lombard likely embarked on many of his direct actions to fight for civil rights. As a native of Algiers, I can think of no better tribute for a man who dedicated his life to justice, equality, and the people of New Orleans.

Dr. Rudy Lombard was a civil rights hero. Born in Algiers in 1939, he grew up confronting the harsh realities of racial discrimination, a challenge that would shape his path as a relentless activist.

His courage shone brightly as a college student at Xavier University, where he led the now-legendary sit-in against segregation at McCrory's Five-and-Dime, alongside the CORE Four, Lanny Goldfinch, Cecil Carter, Jr., and Oretha Castle. His brave actions helped dismantle the framework of injustice, culminating in the landmark Supreme Court victory.

Naming the Algiers Ferry Terminal after Dr. Lombard would not only honor his legacy but will also serve as a constant reminder of the power of collective action.

The ferry has been a vital part of Algiers, connecting communities and enabling access. I implore the New Orleans Regional Transit Authority to take this action so it will connect us with the values of Dr. Rudy Lombard and those things that he embodied: equity, courage, and progress.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL CURT POWELL

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

Ms. McCLELLAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the lifetime of service of one of my constituents, Lieutenant Colonel Curt Powell, who was the 2024 Veteran of the Year for Virginia's Fourth Congressional District.

Lieutenant Colonel Powell held a variety of staff and command-level positions during his 23-year career in the U.S. Marines. He served two combat deployments in Somalia and Lebanon, including the ill-fated amphibious unit peacekeeping mission that was attacked in October 1983.

Lieutenant Colonel Powell also served as a White House advance officer under President Clinton, where he planned Presidential helicopter missions worldwide and served as the sole representative upon Marine One, responsible for coordinating with the Secret Service and White House Communication Agency.

Today, Lieutenant Colonel Powell continues his incredible record of service as the founder of a mentorship program at the Chesterfield County vet-

eran treatment docket, an important organization that provides resources and support for veterans suffering from mental health issues or substance abuse disorders.

Lieutenant Colonel Curt Powell has spent his life helping those around him, and I thank him for his profound contributions to our country, to our Commonwealth, and to his community.

I am honored to name him the 2024 Fourth Congressional District Veteran of the Year.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH AND NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

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

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, as we recognize National Veterans and Military Families Month and National Family Caregivers Month, we must recommit ourselves to helping our Nation's veterans, our real heroes.

It is important for Congress to pass the Veterans Caregiver Application and Appeals Reform Act, also known as the CARE Act. The CARE Act cuts red tape for our disabled veterans who apply through the VA caregivers program with veteran service organizations' assistance.

The CARE Act also requires the VA to ensure medical specialists are carefully reviewing applications and providing full transparency to our veterans as it pertains specifically to denials.

We must always lend a helping hand to our veterans and their families. Support of the CARE Act does exactly that, Madam Speaker.

TAKING A KEY STEP FORWARD

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank the overwhelming majority of our colleagues who voted to pass the Social Security Fairness Act, necessary bipartisan legislation to ensure retired public servants do not lose out on essential earned Social Security retirement benefits for which they have worked hard.

As a key step forward, the bipartisan Social Security Fairness Act eliminates the harmful windfall elimination provision and the government pension offset, which reduce or eliminate Social Security benefits for millions of Americans who worked as public servants, including police officers, firefighters, and educators.

The next step is for Congress to fund the financing gap and work in partnership with affected States.

More than 2 million Americans and 165,000 Ohioans are impacted by the

windfall provision, and 800,000 nationwide are impacted by the government pension offset.

In a time of severe partisanship, I am pleased to note that 327 Members of the House voted for this bipartisan legislation. Let this be an example of collaboration and working across the aisle to find the big middle.

The House has done our work, and now I urge swift Senate passage so this legislation can be sent to the President's desk to be signed into law.

CELEBRATING MANCHESTER POLICE CHIEF ALLEN ALDENBERG'S RETIREMENT

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

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the impressive and impactful career of Manchester Police Chief Allen Aldenberg as he retires.

Throughout his life, Chief Aldenberg dedicated his efforts to serving others. In a military career spanning 30 years, he commanded from the company level to the brigade level and deployed in support of key operations to combat terrorism and protect our Nation after 9/11. He was awarded a Bronze Star medal for his service in Iraq from 2009 to 2010.

As a law enforcement officer for 27 years, including 4 years as chief in Manchester, Chief Aldenberg has worked with his officers, department staff, city leadership, and community members to make Manchester safer and stronger.

Madam Speaker, I wish him well in his next endeavor as the new chief military and veterans service officer at Easterseals Military and Veterans Campus. I join all Granite Staters in thanking Chief Aldenberg for his exceptional leadership and commitment to the people of Manchester and the State of New Hampshire.

I congratulate Chief Aldenberg on a job very well done.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JEN GIATTINO

(Mr. MENENDEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a dedicated public servant and friend, Hoboken Council President Jen Giattino, who passed away last week.

Jen was more than an elected official. She was someone who cared deeply for Hoboken and was a pillar for her community.

She was a champion for the unhoused, a compassionate advocate for small business owners, and a warm-hearted, generous presence throughout the city that she served and loved.

Her legacy will live on in Hoboken and the hearts of all those who had the privilege of knowing her.

In this difficult time, my thoughts are with her husband, Joe; her sons, Joe, Jack, and Alex; and her family, friends, and the people of Hoboken who adored her.

In her memory, let us live by the example that she set: compassion, generosity, and care for others.

□ 1500

ADVOCATING FOR PROGRESSIVE POLICIES FOR OUR VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. LESKO). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent for all Members to have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order hour.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, today, I want to take a moment to remind us why we are here.

On my first day of Congress, which feels like so, so many years ago but was about 23 months ago, I made a commitment to represent, advocate, defend, and fight for the people. I made a promise to legislate with a vision for a better future for the constituents of my district. That includes veterans.

As a proud member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, my goal continues to be the same: Advance policies that improve the lives of veterans and ensure that they have access to every benefit they have earned and that has been promised to them.

However, I continue to be disappointed with so much extreme rhetoric from many of my colleagues to the right of me who choose to put politics over the lives of veterans, effectively watering down the protections and stonewalling progress on bills that would assist them.

The Congressional Progressive Caucus and I remain determined to do what is right for our veterans. That means advocating for better access to healthcare, fighting for our veterans experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness, and advocating for our women veterans and their unique needs. Above all, when our veterans come home, we ensure they can lead a happy, fulfilling life after service.

Madam Speaker, we have delivered. I am proud to say that since Representative TAKANO's Honoring our PACT Act was signed into law, the Department of Veterans Affairs, the VA, has delivered more than \$6.8 billion in PACT Act benefits to veterans. Over 5.7 million veterans have received new toxic exposure screenings. Over 740,000 new veterans have enrolled in VA healthcare.

This means that more veterans are getting the care and benefits they rightfully earned.

The success of the PACT Act demonstrates what is possible when Congress prioritizes people over partisan politics, and it shows what can be done for veterans when Congress and agencies work together to deliver for our constituents.

Where the Department of Veterans Affairs succeeds also provides us with a broader vision and useful roadmap for what we can achieve for all Americans. The VA provides a basic housing allowance, population-specific healthcare, job assistance and training, and targeted interventions to prevent and address homelessness.

I believe that Congress can and should replicate the most promising parts of the VA to ensure the same base level of material and social support for our everyday working families. I believe we can eradicate poverty, prevent and end homelessness, and ensure that no person goes hungry or lives without essential healthcare.

It is actually possible for all Americans to lead a happy, fulfilling life and to retire with dignity. It starts with legislating with compassion and a commitment to the flourishing of our neighbors.

Despite Republican efforts to stop progress and turn the clock back 100 or more years, let me just say the Congressional Progressive Caucus and I will hold the line. We will defend our veterans. We will ensure they have every single benefit that veterans deserve, and we will honor their service with action.

I want to talk about the last 23 months and the work that I have done here in Congress. When I became an elected official, first as a State representative and now in Congress, I made a commitment. That commitment was to remain rooted in the community that I was elected to serve. Since joining the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, I have seen how critical it is for veterans and the families of veterans to receive the full benefits of our Nation's promise to them and what they have earned.

I am proud to say that during my freshman year—no longer a freshman in a couple of months—I have advocated for and introduced pieces of legislation that expand veteran access to education, healthcare, and housing.

Last year, I introduced the Student Veteran Benefits Restoration Act, which would reinstate GI benefits for students who pursued a degree at a college or university that defrauded them. I am proud to say this bill was voted on and passed by the House in April.

While the final negotiated bill is more limited in scope than I would have wanted, I do think it represents an ongoing commitment to work to ensure that veterans receive full access to the educational benefits that they have earned. I am committed to building on this momentum and continuing this fight into the 119th Congress.

This year, I am proud to have introduced the Servicemember Student Loan Affordability Act, with Senator DURBIN leading this effort in the Senate. What this bill would do is amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to limit the interest rate on student loans incurred by servicemembers before they go into military service. It will consolidate and refinance it during military service.

I was in my district on Veterans Day with veterans and veteran-serving organizations, and I heard how much they need for us to invest in them and address the issues of homelessness. As a matter of fact, I heard that, in the last year, we have seen another increase in homelessness among the veteran community.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to announce that I am introducing a new bill to create permanent housing opportunities for our veterans. The bill would expand the services that the grant per diem providers give to include prevention services and also allow for capital grants to be used to convert units into permanent housing.

I am eager to work with the committee around the bill introduction, and I am excited to be able to share more details on the bill very soon.

I voted to advance critical legislation that will bring solutions to the policy failures that leave our veterans and their families desperate and frustrated. During every hearing and every markup, I remain intentional in my efforts to ensure that we fulfill the promises our Nation has made to our veterans.

That work has to continue next Congress. In my opinion, that is how we honor service through action.

I want to talk a little bit about healthcare. One of the most pressing issues our veterans face is access to quality healthcare. Healthcare is a basic need that we must deliver for our veterans. Accessible healthcare for veterans shouldn't be considered a privilege but a right for those who have served their country.

Expanded health services will allow veterans to receive timely treatments for various medical conditions without having to worry about financial burdens or lengthy waits for appointments. Improved access to mental health services is also critical to address issues such as PTSD and other psychological conditions caused by military service.

Expanding healthcare for veterans will also help reduce the long-term costs associated with providing care for aging veterans, ensuring they receive the care they need in later life.

Veterans should be provided access to high-quality medical treatment, regardless of economic status or geographic location, so that they can all benefit from high-quality healthcare services without undue financial burden or delays in treatment.

To show appreciation and respect for their sacrifice and service to their country, our Nation is responsible for

providing vital care for veterans. It is why, during the October recess, I convened veterans. What they have said to me is that the gaps that they continue to experience are unacceptable, gaps like dental care and dental coverage, wait times for physical and mental health appointments, challenges to healthcare enrollment, and a greater need for outreach to underserved veterans.

It is why I co-led the Expanding Health Care Providers for Veterans Act with Representative TLAIB, to make it easier for the VA and State veterans homes to hire employees on H-1B visas when they cannot find a suitable applicant in the United States. Specifically, the bill designates the Department of Veterans Affairs and State veterans homes as cap-exempt institutions for the purposes of the H-1B visa program.

I am also proud to cosponsor numerous bills around veterans healthcare, including the 9-8-8 Implementation Act. Madam Speaker, 988 is the new nationwide suicide prevention line, and the 9-8-8 Implementation Act would offer more Federal support to the crisis line, including resources to veteran-specific departments of the crisis line.

Providing quality, accessible healthcare is how we honor our veterans with action.

To hear a little bit more about this work that many of us are doing to ensure that our veterans are getting the services they deserve, we will hear from some of my colleagues very soon.

Madam Speaker, while we do that, I want to talk to you a little bit more about some of our veterans who currently continue to see so many challenges.

I want to make sure that I am clear. I am here to represent all veterans, especially the veterans who are most vulnerable. That means first-generation veterans. That means women veterans. That means veterans of color. That also means veterans who, we don't want to admit, have been deported after having served this country, after nearly dying for this country and experiencing PTSD. They have lost their green cards and, today, are separated from their families.

As the evidence has shown, veterans of color have served this country honorably for decades. Due to intentional segregation and racism, they were unable to use the benefits promised to them. That is why I commend my colleague, Congressman CLYBURN, for putting forward the VA Housing Loan Forever Act, to do the right thing and restore equity to veterans of color.

Similarly, women veterans were locked out of receiving the benefits they earned due to their service not being properly recognized. That is why, when I go back to my district and when I sit in those hearings, I always center the voices of our veterans, particularly those most impacted. As a member of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, ensuring that our women in uniform are recognized for their contributions

and sacrifices. Having full access to their benefits must be a priority.

It is why I was proud to offer and have passed an amendment to the Jax Act out of subcommittee. What does this amendment do? It directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to submit a report regarding gender disparities and covered claims for traumatic brain injuries and post-traumatic stress disorder, particularly among those who have engaged in combat since 1990.

I also want to shed light on an issue that I hold close to my heart, and that is our veterans who are seeking legal pathways to citizenship. You heard me a few moments ago talk about those who have been deported and are now separated from their families after having served their country. To me, it is unimaginable that they are at risk of deportation or have been deported because, despite their service and sacrifice, too many undocumented veterans have faced deportation due to a failed immigration system that does not honor who we say we are as a nation.

Now, you ask, how are they serving if they are not a U.S. citizen? You don't have to be a U.S. citizen to die for this Nation. You will get a green card, and you will be able to do that. If you come back to the country you love, the country you call home, and something happens, if there is a fight at a bar, if you are dealing with PTSD and there is something that happens to you, you can immediately lose your green card and be deported.

Let me say this to you: As we celebrate our veterans, we must remember those who today find themselves living in exile, separated from their families and often struggling to access the benefits and support they earn through their service.

Madam Speaker, it is time to return these veterans home and deliver justice and support. It is why I am proud to cosponsor Representative TAKANO's Veteran Service Recognition Act, which would allow noncitizen servicemembers to apply for naturalization during basic training, establishing a review process for those who are in removal proceedings, and provide an opportunity for a noncitizen veteran who has been removed or ordered removed and who has not been convicted of a serious crime to obtain legal permanent resident status.

□ 1515

Today, I call my colleagues, Republican and Democrat, who say that they care about our veterans to stand with us and to cosponsor this incredibly important piece of legislation because that is how we honor every veterans' service with action for: Sergio Andrade, Jiji Thomas Kurian, Elsworth Alexander Smith, Mark Osmond Isaacs, Gerardo Emeterio Lopez Flores. The time to act is today.

In a moment, I will yield to one of my colleagues who every day fights like hell for our veterans, so you can

hear directly from them on the work that they are doing.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania, Mr. CHRIS DELUZIO.

Mr. DELUZIO. Madam Speaker, it is, of course, an honor for all of us to serve here, but, of course, maybe no greater honor than to stand up for our fellow veterans.

I think this country has a sacred obligation to care for all who served. I am proud of my time in uniform, and I often talk about a simple lesson I learned in the Navy: ship, shipmate, self. You put the mission and the country first. You put others before yourself. I think that is fundamentally at the heart of the ethos of service.

I come from western Pennsylvania where so many homes and families have a picture of someone who has worn the uniform, someone who has served or shares the values of hard work and patriotism and sacrifice. It is pretty common but becoming a little rarer for us maybe to talk about it as we should.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for convening us for this important fight for veterans. It is so central to our work here in the House and certainly in this Congress.

This work should be bipartisan in so many ways, and I think it often is, not always, but it often is. I introduced a bill with colleagues from both sides of the aisle, Saving Our Veterans Lives Act, which is about us putting together a coalition to tackle the crisis, the problem of veteran suicide. It has got a coalition that I think tells you it can succeed, from gun safety groups to the National Shooting Sports Foundation, and Veterans Service Organizations. That is a coalition that is broad, that tells you this is a serious effort.

What this bill would do is authorize a VA program to give free firearm lockboxes to veterans who want them. This is something that we know can save veterans' lives. We have seen that if you limit the ease by which someone at risk, someone in crisis can get to their gun, you prevent suicide deaths. We know that firearms are the most common means used by my fellow veterans to die by suicide. We should take some action like this.

Madam Speaker, 73 percent of male veteran suicide deaths and more than half, 52 percent of female, are with firearms. Those rates greatly exceed those for nonveterans.

A little bit more than half of veterans report owning one or more guns themselves. Of those, more than half report storing it loaded or unsecured.

I think this intervention can be one that can save veterans' lives and earn support on both sides of the aisle.

Madam Speaker, I was proud to introduce the Save Our Veterans Lives Act. It is a simple, straightforward, bipartisan idea, a commonsense one, to save lives and to fight back against veteran suicide. Something that I think we all share as a priority.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for her leadership on these issues.

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, as we talk about the faces of our veterans and the impact and challenges that they are going through at this moment, I am also reminded of so many of them who come back home and continue to provide public service, who continue to show up for their community and for their neighbors and families.

As we recommit to fighting for every single veteran, I will take the time to recognize a servicemember in my district, someone who is using her platform to advocate for the care and benefits of those who came before her.

Madam Speaker, today, I will honor my constituent, U.S. Army Major Karen Hernandez, who serves our country and our community with dedication and courage.

The daughter of Mexican immigrants and a proud first-generation college graduate, Major Hernandez embodies, like the daughters and sons of immigrants, the values of resilience, of integrity, and an enduring commitment to community and to service.

Since enlisting in 2008 as a medical service officer for the 108th Multifunctional Medical Battalion, Karen has commanded field hospitals and played a vital role in Illinois' COVID-19 response.

In our communities, as the executive director of Chicago Veterans, she helps servicemembers transition back to civilian life. She advocates for them to receive the promised benefits that they earned.

Whether it is supporting humanitarian efforts or empowering veterans, Hernandez leads with selflessness and Hernandez leads with courage.

On behalf of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I commend Karen Hernandez for her remarkable service and for her leadership, both in and beyond

the military. "Thank you, Karen." "Gracias, Karen."

As I wrap up, I thank all of my colleagues who are continuously working and looking past the partisan politics. I especially thank the Progressive Caucus and the Special Order hour because what the American people continue to ask of us is to stop talking at them. What the American people continue to say is, stop promising things. What the American people are saying is, we are tired of your darn fights online because you want to go viral. What the American people are saying is, we need you to move from words to action.

Madam Speaker, I will end with this: The future that we seek is possible. Accessible, affordable healthcare is possible. Every person having a safe, clean home is possible. A country where no one goes hungry can be possible. Quality education and jobs that provide living wages, a humane, assured, legal pathway to citizenship, all of this is what our veterans deserve and all of it is what our veterans have earned.

It is also what every person who has contributed to this country deserves, and that includes my friends, our neighbors, who for years have served our communities and our economies with the reassurance of permanent protections. I am talking about our Dreamers.

Right now, there are 530,000 DACA recipients, approximately 500,000 people eligible for DACA barred from applying, and 80,000 unprocessed applicants who, for years, have lived in a legal limbo, many of them here since the age of 2.

These Dreamers are not children anymore. Wesdin Hernandez, my brother-in-law, is not a child. He is actually 40 years old. They work, they provide for their families, and they invest in our economies, contributing at least \$2.1 billion to Social Security and Medicare every single year.

Today, we must be courageous and exhaust every avenue possible to keep

the 11.3 million Americans in DACA-impacted families together and provide a pathway to citizenship and security for Dreamers. Whether through passing the American Dream and Promise Act or through bold executive action, we must honor with action all who have put their lives in service to our Nation and our communities, and those are Dreamers and those are veterans, full stop.

As we near the end of the year, I am reminded why I stand on the House floor today. I stand here to amplify the voices of the people in my community who sent me here, to be the only Latina in the room representing veterans who look like they could be my family members, to be the person who lifts as she climbs, to be the person who never forgets where she comes from, to be the person who says proudly, it doesn't matter if one person is impacted or a million, it is the one that I am here fighting for.

Our veterans deserve better, and they demand urgency. Our country deserves better, and I refuse to stand down in the face of injustice and hate because I, "the Congresswoman," "la congresista" of Illinois' Third Congressional District, I choose to fight for the future we deserve. I choose to fight for a future that is possible. I choose to fight so that our veterans are honored through service and action.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 24 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, November 15, 2024, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the second, third, and fourth quarters of 2024, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DR. BRIAN MONAHAN, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 2 AND JULY 6, 2024

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Dr. Brian Monahan	7/2	7/4	Estonia		703.78		(3)				703.78
	7/3	7/3	Latvia				(3)				
	7/4	7/8	Lithuania		1,437.31		(3)				1,437.31
	7/6	7/6	Poland				(3)				
Committee total											2,141.09

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.

³ Military air transportation.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DR. BRIAN MONAHAN, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 30 AND AUG. 10, 2024

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 Dr. Brian P. Monahan and Committee total.

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.

B.P. MONAHAN, Oct. 30, 2024.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO JAPAN, THE PHILIPPINES, QATAR, AND FINLAND, EXPENDED BETWEEN SEPT. 27 AND OCT. 6, 2024

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 list various members and their travel details to Japan, Philippines, Qatar, and Finland.

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.

3 Military air transportation.

HON. VERN BUCHANAN, Nov. 4, 2024.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2024

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 list various members and their travel details to Germany, Poland, Ukraine, The Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Italy, Romania, Armenia, Malta, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Poland.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2024—

Continued

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include Hon. David Trone, Hon. Ben Cline, Hon. Ed Case, Susan Adams, David Bortnick, Erin Kolodjeski, Laurie Mignone, and Committee total.

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. TOM COLE, Oct. 30, 2024.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2024

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include Hon. John Joyce, Nathan Hodson, Mary Martin, Brandon Mooney, Waverly Gordon, Joseph Wright, Hon. John Curtis, and Committee total.

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. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS, Oct. 31, 2024.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2024

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows include Daniel Markus, Erik Ashida, Mary Vigil, Janice Kaguyutan, McCoy Pitt, Nico Ruiz, Hon. Michael McCaul, Hon. Joe Wilson, Charles Carroll, Allison Schwartz, Anubhav Gupta, Leslie Shedd, Rachel Walker, Hon. Michael McCaul, Hon. Young Kim, Hon. Joe Wilson, Charles Carroll, Anubhav Gupta, Allison Schwartz, Leslie Shedd, Rachel Walker, Christine Kortokrax, Maggie Goessler, Erik Ashida, Christine Kortokrax, Maggie Goessler, Erik Ashida, Christine Kortokrax, Maggie Goessler, Erik Ashida, Gabriella Zach, Laura Fullerton, Philip Bednarczyk, Gabriella Zach, Philip Bednarczyk, and Brendan Shields.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2024— Continued

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 Marcus Towns and Committee total.

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. MICHAEL T. McCAUL, Oct. 31, 2024.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2024

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 Hon. Brad Wenstrup, Mitchell Benzine, Marie Policastro, and Committee total.

* Hotel only. 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. JAMES COMER, Oct. 31, 2024.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON RULES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2024

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).

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return.

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. MICHAEL C. BURGESS, Oct. 28, 2024.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2024

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 Hon. Rick Crawford, Griffin Decker, Kelly Repair, Hon. Josh Gottheimer, Edyt Dickstein, Kathryn King, Hon. Mike Turner, Hon. Elise Stefanik, Hon. Darin LaHood, Hon. Austin Scott, Hon. Dan Crenshaw, Hon. Jim Himes, Hon. Stacey Plaskett, Hon. Chrissy Houlahan, Hon. Jimmy Gomez, Adam Howard, Mike Calcagni, Kelli Parks, Eliott Walden, Jonathan Clifford, Alex Igleheart, Jeff Naft, Kathryn King, Hannah Snyder, Jeff Lowenstein, Kara Benson, Nora Kohli, Hon. Darin LaHood, Rick Trimble, Hon. Rick Crawford, Adam Howard, Kelly Repair, Meghan Green, Hon. Elise Stefanik, Hon. Ami Bera, Jae Jo.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN APR. 1 AND JUNE 30, 2024—Continued

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 Matt Pylypciw, Rocco DiCicco, Hon. French Hill, etc.

In accordance with title 22, United States Code, Section 1754(b)(2), information as would identify the foreign countries in which Committee Members and staff have traveled is omitted.
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. MICHAEL R. TURNER, Oct. 23, 2024.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2024

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 Hon. Josh Gottheimer, Jae Jo, Griffin Decker, etc.

In accordance with title 22, United States Code, Section 1754(b)(2), information as would identify the foreign countries in which Committee Members and staff have traveled is omitted.
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. MICHAEL R. TURNER, Nov. 5, 2024.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-6038. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Recreational Fishing for Chinook Salmon in the Cook Inlet Exclusive Economic Zone Area [Docket No.: 240417-0111] (RTID 0648-XE003) received No-

vember 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6039. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — West Coast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries off West Coast States; West Coast Salmon Fisheries; Measures to Keep Fishery Impacts Within the Conservation Objective for the California Coastal Chinook Salmon [Docket No.: 240807-0215] (RIN: 0648-BM68) received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec.

251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6040. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Cook Inlet; Final 2024 Harvest Specifications for Salmon [Docket No.: 240612-0158; RTID 0648-XD877] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6041. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Crab Rationalization Program; Correction [Docket No.: 240529-0147] (RIN: 0648-BM81) received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6042. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Habitat Conservation — GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Framework Adjustments to Northeast Multispecies, Atlantic Sea Scallop, Monkfish, Northeast Skate Complex, and Atlantic Herring Fisheries; Southern New England Habitat Area of Particular Concern Designation [Docket No.: 240130-0029] (RIN: 0648-BM51) received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6043. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — HMS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; General Category January Through March Quota Transfer [Docket No.: 220919-0193; RTID 0648-XD628] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6044. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Inseason Adjustment to the 2024 Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Pollock, Atka Mackerel, and Pacific Cod Total Allowable Catch Amounts [Docket No.: 230306-0065] (RTID: 0648-XD597) received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6045. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Greater Atlantic, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Northeast Multispecies Fishery; Gulf of Maine Cod Trimester Total Allowable Catch Area Closure and Possession Limit Adjustments for the Common Pool Fishery [Docket No.: 230810-0190; RTID 0648-XD575] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6046. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 230224-0053; RTID 0648-XD708] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6047. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — West Coast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Magnuson-Stevens Act Provisions; Fisheries Off West Coast States; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery Management Plan; Amendment 30; 2023-24 Biennial Specifications and Management Measures; Correcting Amendment [Docket No.: 230217-0046] (RIN: 0648-BL48) received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6048. A letter from the Branch Chief, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 230224-0053; RTID 0648-XD069] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6049. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — West Coast, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's inseason action rule — Inseason Action for 2023-2024 Commercial Pacific Bluefin Tuna Biennial Catch Limit in the Eastern Pacific Ocean [Docket No.: 220801-0167; RTID 0648-XD342] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6050. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Jig Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 240227-0061; RTID 0648-XE015] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6051. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — West Coast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries of the West Coast; 2024 Catch Sharing Plan; Inseason Action [Docket No.: 240327-0090; RTID 0648-XE116] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6052. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Pot Gear in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 230224-0053; RTID 0648-XD654] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6053. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Quota Transfer From Virginia to Massachusetts [Docket

No.: 231215-0305; RTID 0648-XD770] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6054. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Southeast Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; 2024 Recreational Accountability Measure and Closure for Gag in the South Atlantic [Docket No.: 230914-0219; RTID 0648-XD744] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6055. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Sablefish Managed Under the Individual Fishing Quota Program [Docket No.: 240227-0061 and 240304-0068; RTID 0648-XD758] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6056. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — West Coast, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Harvest Specifications for the Central Subpopulation of Northern Anchovy [Docket No.: 240415-0107; RTID 0648-XD112] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6057. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 240304-0068; RTID 0648-XD798] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6058. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Coastal Fisheries Cooperative Management Act Provisions; American Lobster Fishery; Removal of American Lobster Effort Control Measures [Docket No.: 240520-0141; RIN: 0648-BM92] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6059. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Herring Fishery; Adjustments of 2024 Specifications [Docket No.: 240228-0062; RTID 0648-XD699] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6060. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GARFO, National Oceanic

and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Mid-Atlantic Bluefin Tilefish and Golden Tilefish Fisheries; 2024 Specifications [Docket No.: 240315-0081] (RIN: 0648-BM55) received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6061. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFSS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska Region, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 240227-0061; RTID 0648-XD883] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6062. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFSS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — SERO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; 2024 Recreational Accountability Measure and Closure for Gulf of Mexico Red Grouper [Docket No.: 100217095-2081-04; RTID 0648-XD915] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6063. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFSS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — Alaska, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Trawl Sablefish in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No.: 240304-0068; RTID 0648-XD853] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6064. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFSS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — HMS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Angling Category Retention Limit Adjustment [Docket No.: 220919-0193; RTID 0648-XD871] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6065. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFSS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — HMS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's temporary rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Fisheries; Closure of the Angling Category Southern New England Area Trophy Fishery for 2024 [Docket No.: 220919-0193; RTID 0648-XD926] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6066. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFSS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Island Fisheries; Modification of Seabird Interaction Mitigation Measures in the Hawaii Deep-Set Longline Fishery [Docket No.: 231010-0243; RTID 0648-BL34] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6067. A letter from the Fisheries Regulations Specialist, NMFSS, Office of Sustainable Fisheries — GARFO, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Monkfish Fishery; 2024 Monkfish Specifications [Docket No.: 240205-0038; RTID 0648-XD564] received November 1, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5103. A bill to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to approve or deny spend plans within a certain amount of time, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-733). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6107. A bill to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern; with an amendment (Rept. 118-734). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 8413. A bill to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land at Swanson Reservoir and Hugh Butler Reservoir in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-735). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6843. A bill to expand the boundaries of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to include Lafourche Parish, Louisiana (Rept. 118-736). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 7332. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in certain State parks, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 118-737). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6826. A bill to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center (Rept. 118-738). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BALDERSON (for himself, Mr. HERN, and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 10120. A bill to nullify certain inter-agency guidance related to climate-related financial risk management for large financial institutions; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FROST (for himself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 10121. A bill to establish youth advisory councils for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Commerce with respect to environmental issues as those issues relate to youth communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia (for himself and Mrs. MILLER of Illinois):

H.R. 10122. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to implement the industry-recognized apprenticeship program process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:
H.R. 10123. A bill to establish an inter-agency committee to harmonize regulatory regimes in the United States relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 10124. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish and administer a pilot program to provide grants to support Food is Medicine programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself and Mr. KILEY):

H.R. 10125. A bill to increase penalties for the commission of financial crimes using artificial intelligence; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MATSUI (for herself, Mr. GRIMALVA, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 10126. A bill to fully fund the Prevention and Public Health Fund and reaffirm the importance of prevention in the United States healthcare system; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:
H.R. 10127. A bill to suspend normal trade relations with the People's Republic of China and to increase the rates of duty applicable with respect to articles imported from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, Armed Services, Energy and Commerce, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SABLON (for himself and Mr. MOYLAN):

H.R. 10128. A bill to authorize grants to be made on an equitable basis to highest courts to assess and improve the handling of foster care and adoption proceedings, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SEWELL (for herself and Mr. KIM of New Jersey):

H.R. 10129. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program regarding treating pregnancy as a qualifying event for enrollment in TRICARE Select; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 10130. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide that aliens who are not qualified aliens are ineligible for certain assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. ESPALLAT, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, and Mrs. HAYES):

H. Con. Res. 132. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of November 11 through November 17, 2024, as “National Caregiving Youth Week” to raise awareness and encourage national recognition of children and adolescents under 18 years of age who serve as a primary or secondary caregiver for family or household members; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H. Res. 1570. A resolution reaffirming the validity and applicability of the Twenty-second Amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H. Res. 1571. A resolution supporting the recognition of November as “National Bread Month” and celebrating bread as a nutritious, affordable, and culturally significant staple food; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MORAN:

H. Res. 1572. A resolution honoring the selfless acts of adoption, fostering, and unconditional love by Bishop W.C. Martin, First Lady Donna Martin, and the Bennett Chapel Missionary Baptist Church of Possum Trot, Texas, toward the children in their community, and recognizing families across America who strive to foster, adopt, and better the lives of vulnerable children in the foster care system; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. PEREZ (for herself and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine):

H. Res. 1573. A resolution establishing the Select Committee on Electoral Reform; to the Committee on Rules.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BALDERSON:

H.R. 10120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:
Financial Services

By Mr. FROST:

H.R. 10121.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and 18 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish youth advisory councils for the purpose of providing recommendations to the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior, Department of Energy, Department of Agriculture, and Department of Commerce with respect to environmental issues as those issues relate to youth communities, and for other purposes.

By Mr. GOOD of Virginia:

H.R. 10122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Amending the National Apprenticeship Act to create Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs.

By Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana:

H.R. 10123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

To establish an interagency committee to harmonize regulatory regimes in the United States relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

By Ms. KELLY of Illinois:

H.R. 10124.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Secretary of Agriculture in collaboration with the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish competitive grant funding for Food is Medicine programs around the country to improve health outcomes through nutrition while lowering healthcare costs.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 10125.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Criminal Justice

By Ms. MATSUI:

H.R. 10126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

health care

By Mr. MOOLENAAR:

H.R. 10127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the Constitution of the United States of America

The single subject of this legislation is:

• The bill ends MFN for China. There is no annual vote for recertification. It codifies tariffs in statute and creates a new tariff column for China.

• The new column creates a minimum 35% ad valorem for non-strategic goods and a minimum 100% ad valorem for all strategic goods.

◦ Phase-in period: The new tariff Column rates are phased-in over five years with 10 percent of the tariff increase implemented in year one, 25 percent of the increase implemented in year two, 50 percent of the increase implemented in year four, and 100 percent of the increase implemented in year five.

◦ Strategic Goods: Strategic goods are listed in the bill by HS code. They were based on the White House’s Advanced Technology Product list and China’s Made in China 2025 plan.

• The bill ends current De Minimis treatment for covered nations (including China) and requires customs brokers for other de minimis shipments.

• It will provide Tariff Revenue to U.S. farmers and manufacturers injured by Chinese retaliation. Additional revenue will be used to purchase key munitions important to a Pacific conflict

By Mr. SABLAN:

H.R. 10128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Extends grants under the Court Improvement Program to the Marianas, Guam, and American Samoa

By Ms. SEWELL:

H.R. 10129.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Military

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 10130.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to provide that aliens who are not qualified aliens are ineligible for certain assistance, and for other purposes.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 208: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 244: Ms. STRICKLAND.
H.R. 303: Mr. PHILLIPS.
H.R. 603: Mr. KILEY.
H.R. 800: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 827: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 1062: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 1077: Ms. SPANBERGER.
H.R. 1232: Mr. AMO.
H.R. 1572: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts and Mr. SELF.
H.R. 1781: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 2413: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 2584: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 3024: Mr. VAN DREW.
H.R. 3481: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
H.R. 3537: Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 3633: Mr. TONKO and Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 3970: Mrs. MCIVER and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 3998: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 4249: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 4303: Mrs. NAPOLITANO and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.
H.R. 4422: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 4483: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 4562: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H.R. 4969: Mr. BEAN of Florida.
H.R. 5029: Mr. NICKEL.
H.R. 5074: Mrs. HAYES and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 5357: Mrs. HAYES.
H.R. 5371: Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 5406: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 5563: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. DELUZZO.
H.R. 5589: Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 5625: Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. NICKEL, and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 6031: Ms. TITUS.
 H.R. 6134: Ms. PEREZ.
 H.R. 6205: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 6429: Mr. BRECHEEN.
 H.R. 6576: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 6672: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 7025: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 7297: Mr. FOSTER.
 H.R. 7384: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 7543: Mr. AMO.
 H.R. 7585: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.
 H.R. 7629: Mr. PETERS.
 H.R. 7801: Mr. NEHLS and Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia.
 H.R. 8028: Ms. SPANBERGER.
 H.R. 8061: Ms. BROWN.
 H.R. 8092: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 8103: Mrs. RAMIREZ.
 H.R. 8231: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 8312: Mr. PHILLIPS.
 H.R. 8371: Mr. LAHOOD.
 H.R. 8383: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 8469: Mr. LANDSMAN.
 H.R. 8488: Ms. TOKUDA.
 H.R. 8514: Mr. LEVIN.
 H.R. 8691: Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. OMAR.
 H.R. 8702: Mr. NORCROSS.
 H.R. 8706: Mr. FINSTAD.
 H.R. 8715: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. CISCOMANI.
 H.R. 8848: Mr. MRVAN.
 H.R. 8869: Mrs. LUNA.
 H.R. 8886: Mr. POCAN.
 H.R. 8936: Mr. LIEU.
 H.R. 8993: Ms. SPANBERGER.
 H.R. 8995: Mrs. HINSON.
 H.R. 9021: Ms. CHU.
 H.R. 9047: Mr. TIFFANY.
 H.R. 9093: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 9096: Mr. MANN and Mrs. FOUSHEE.
 H.R. 9120: Mr. EVANS.
 H.R. 9125: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.
 H.R. 9211: Ms. SPANBERGER.
 H.R. 9214: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 9228: Ms. CHU, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 9233: Ms. TLAIB and Mr. CLEAVER.
 H.R. 9274: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
 H.R. 9275: Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CARSON, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. MULLIN, and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 9324: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 9369: Mr. MOSKOWITZ.
 H.R. 9394: Mr. D'ESPOSITO and Mr. CARBAJAL.
 H.R. 9523: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.
 H.R. 9525: Mr. DELUZIO.
 H.R. 9535: Mr. TAKANO.
 H.R. 9568: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 9573: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.
 H.R. 9578: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 9647: Mr. VARGAS.
 H.R. 9687: Mr. MANN.
 H.R. 9745: Mrs. HINSON.
 H.R. 9855: Mr. MFUME.
 H.R. 9864: Mr. MAGAZINER.
 H.R. 9884: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 9907: Ms. PINGREE.
 H.R. 9920: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
 H.R. 9950: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida and Mrs. WAGNER.
 H.R. 9977: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 9982: Mrs. HAYES and Ms. TOKUDA.
 H.R. 9998: Mr. MCGARVEY.
 H.R. 10024: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.R. 10041: Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 10065: Mrs. FLETCHER.
 H.R. 10073: Mr. MEUSER and Mrs. TRAHAN.
 H.R. 10077: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.
 H.R. 10079: Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, and Mrs. HAYES.
 H.R. 10084: Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BROWN, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. NORTON, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.
 H.R. 10089: Mr. ARRINGTON.
 H.R. 10097: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
 H.J. Res. 72: Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia and Ms. PLASKETT.
 H.J. Res. 210: Mr. ROUZER.
 H. Res. 376: Mr. LAHOOD.
 H. Res. 561: Mr. LIEU, Mr. DELUZIO, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
 H. Res. 1131: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
 H. Res. 1436: Mrs. HAYES.
 H. Res. 1496: Ms. TOKUDA.
 H. Res. 1554: Mr. KHANNA.



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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Ever-loving and eternal God, a source of the light that never dims and of the love that never fails, draw near to us today. Lord, we know not what the future holds, but You do. We rejoice that You hear and answer prayers as we watch the unfolding of Your prevailing providence. Lord, continue to be the sustaining presence in all of our tomorrows, bringing us to the destination of Your choosing. Today, use our lawmakers for Your glory. Strengthen them in all goodness that they may experience the joy of your Eternal Presence.

We pray in Your merciful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer 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.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,

Washington, DC, November 14, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Cathy Fung, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, our Republican colleagues officially decided who will lead their conference beginning in the new year.

Once again, I congratulate Senator THUNE on being chosen by his colleagues as the next Republican leader.

I have served with Senator THUNE in this Chamber for many years, and I am glad to say we have found common

ground on a number of different issues, including veterans' assistance, strengthening our national security, and more recently the Kids Online Safety bill, among other bills.

We have gotten along well and worked together in the past. I look forward to finding ways to work together in the future. We will have our differences for sure, and we will make those differences known on a regular basis here on the Senate floor, but my friend from South Dakota can rest assured our side of the aisle will always seek to work in good faith and seek common ground whenever possible. But if the Senate is to be successful in the years to come, if we are to continue to be productive and effective in representing the American people as well as we have over the past 4 years, there are a few things the new Republican majority should not forget. Hopefully, they won't.

Most importantly, Senate Republicans should continue to prioritize bipartisanship when they enter into the majority next year. On my first day as majority leader, I pledged to make bipartisanship a key part of how the Senate does its business. I said then—I have said it many times since—the Senate works best when both sides work together. Four years later, Democrats have not only kept our promise, but we have proven that bipartisanship can work in very significant ways. This majority was the most productive majority the Senate has had in decades, but that could not have happened had we not made the conscious choice to reach across the aisle.

It was bipartisanship that cleared the way for the biggest infrastructure bill in a generation. It was bipartisanship that got the CHIPS and Science bill done and now hundreds of thousands of jobs are returning to the United States and we are making those chips here.

It was bipartisanship that held the line against Putin and defended Ukraine.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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It was bipartisanship that made sure we saw zero government shutdowns under this administration. The list goes on: marriage equality, the first gun safety bill in decades, Kids Online Safety. All of these accomplishments were possible because Democrats were willing to work with the other side.

We still have work to do in this Chamber before the year is out, but I am proud of the record we have built over the last 4 years, one that we accomplished by reaching across the aisle whenever the chance presented itself.

I earnestly hope the next few years are as fruitful and collaborative as the last four. I earnestly hope bipartisanship continues because that is the only way we will be successful in the Senate, but that will be up to Senate Republicans to decide for themselves.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. President, now on Senate business, there is much the Senate has yet to accomplish before the end of the year. It will be a busy time.

Government funding is scheduled to run out on December 20. Both sides must work together to prevent a shutdown before then. Nobody wants to hear the words “Christmastime shutdown” a few weeks from now. I can’t think of something the American people would want less during the holidays. Just as we have done repeatedly over the past couple of years, both sides must compromise and work together to make sure the government remains funded.

We also need to pass the National Defense Authorization Act—the NDAA—to provide for our troops and hold the line against America’s adversaries. I hope our Republican colleagues work with us to advance key policies to outcompete the Chinese Communist Party and secure America’s leadership on some of the most cutting-edge technologies of our time, from AI to innovations in biotech and quantum computing and more. We have gotten the NDAA done over the last six decades without fail, and we must do it again this year.

Another issue that requires our attention is disaster aid funding, to support communities across the country in times of disaster. No State or community is immune from disaster. We have seen that over the last few years—from hurricanes in Florida and wildfires in Hawaii, floods in the Northeast, droughts on the west coast, and everywhere in between. If we want to help these communities recover and rebuild after disasters, we must pass comprehensive, robust funding that leverages all programs across the Federal Government to help our communities in need.

It has been a hallmark of America that when one of the regions of our country, one of the parts of our country—the towns, the villages, the counties, the States—have had real trouble because the hand of God, through weather and disaster, has affected them, the whole country rallies to

their side. That has been a tradition. A few haven’t abided by it on instances on the other side, but it is a tradition we must keep, and, hopefully, we can move forward on disaster aid.

We also need to make progress on the farm bill, and I commend Chair STABENOW for her bipartisan work on this matter. Democrats are serious about getting a farm bill done, one that represents the needs of everyone, from farmers and ranchers to hungry Americans.

Finally, as we continue to work through these matters, the Senate continues to make progress on confirming President Biden’s highly qualified nominees. Today, the Senate will confirm another judge on the U.S. Tax Court and the Director of the Office of Government Ethics, and we will advance Embry Kidd’s nomination for circuit court judge for the 11th Circuit.

So, Mr. President, we have a lot of work to do on several fronts, but I am encouraged, so far, by the cooperation on both sides.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

INSTITUTIONAL THANKS

Mr. MCCONNELL. Yesterday, Senate Republicans elected leaders to steer our incoming majority through the 119th Congress. Senator THUNE, Senator BARRASSO, Senator COTTON, Senator CAPITO, Senator LANKFORD, and Senator TIM SCOTT have earned the trust and support of their colleagues.

I would like to congratulate each of them and reiterate that the entire Republican conference stands united and ready to tackle the important work of the country.

As I have said before, I am very much looking forward to taking on this next chapter from a different seat here on the floor. But before the year is out, I would like to continue thanking the many individuals and teams who have served this institution so well during my time as Republican leader.

I have had the privilege of working with consummate experts and relying on the professionalism of so many unsung heroes.

Take the Office of the Sergeant at Arms. Under the leadership of a distinguished career Army officer, Karen Gibson, and with the deep bicameral experience of senior staff like Jennifer Hemingway, the SAA shoulders enormous responsibilities—from the day-to-day security procedures to telecommunications infrastructure.

I am particularly grateful to the staffs of the Protocol Office, whose

work helps us navigate the most solemn and visible occasions; the Chief Information Office, telecom, and the Help Desk, who keep essential communications and technology across the Senate running smoothly; Capitol facilities, including Gary “Tiny” Richardson, who clean and maintain this magnificent building and the campus around it with unfailing care; the Employee Assistance Program, who help dedicated public servants around the Senate access important resources; the doorkeepers and Press Gallery, who carefully control access to this Chamber and make constituents feel welcome here in the Gallery; the Appointment Desk, who greet and direct a steady stream of distinguished individuals—in particular Patty Reilly, who has made a habit of sharing a daily word of motivation with my chief of staff; the Senate Recording Studio and Photo Studio, who capture the Senate for posterity; the Office of Printing, Graphics, and Direct Mail and State office operations, who put Senate business within reach for the American people; and the Office of Security, Emergency Preparedness, and Continuity, whose careful attention, training, and planning ensure that the Senate is able to discharge its constitutional duties even under the most trying circumstances.

So to everyone whose work under the Sergeant at Arms keeps the Senate safe and operating smoothly, thank you very much.

Now, every day, my team also relies on the work of several more teams working under the leadership of the Secretary of the Senate, Ann Berry, and her professional staff, like Sydney Butler. Stretching from here on the floor to outposts across the Senate campus, the Secretary’s Office is involved in a dizzying array of critical operations.

I would like to thank the staffs of the Senate Library, who collect and maintain a rich archive of institutional knowledge and help Senators and staff tap into it; the Senate Historical Office, the Office of the Senate Curator, and the Office of Conservation and Preservation—including the frame shop—who dedicate deep expertise to understanding the Senate’s history and maintaining its home here in the Capitol for posterity; the Office of Senate Security, who maintain our ability to conduct oversight and address highly sensitive matters of national security here in the Capitol; the Office of Interparliamentary Services—particularly Sally Walsh—who support Senate delegations and conferences overall; the Office of Printing and Document Services, the Daily Digest, and the Office of the Official Reporters of Debate, who carefully transcribe, format, and preserve Senate proceedings, and the Office of Captioning Services who make them accessible to all Americans; the Stationery Room and the Senate Gift Shop, who keep every office supply closet well-stocked and offer mementos for every occasion; the Disbursing Office, who diligently process all Senate

compensation and patiently answer all manner of staff questions; the faculty and staff of the Page School, under the leadership of Principal Joshua Dorsey, who make the page program such an enriching experience for bright, aspiring public servants throughout the year; and, of course, the Secretary's most visible teams here on the Senate floor, from our formidable Parliamentarian Elizabeth McDonough, and her capable team: Leigh Hildebrand, Christy Amatos, and Josh Moscow; our Bill Clerk Lindsey Gibmeyer and her team: Ryan Lefferts, Mark Amato, and Emily Harris; Enrolling Clerk Cassie Byrd, along with Allys Lasky; Executive Clerk Rachel Creviston, along with Alaina Skalski and Chris Ferrari; Journal Clerk Megan Pickel, along with Adam Gottlieb and Skyler Mansell; and our dulcet-toned Legislative Clerks John Merlino and Mary Anne Clarkson.

So to all of you who devote yourselves to the important work of the Secretary's Office, thank you so much.

There are, of course, still many more proud members of the Senate family who deserve our thanks, including the youngest members of the institution.

Mr. President, if I may speak directly to our impressive class of pages here on the floor, it is not easy throwing a full-time job on top of full-time schoolwork, and we are so grateful for your interest in public service and for all you do to keep this place humming. We are glad you are here, and we will be proud to watch as you step into careers of leadership and service.

I also want to thank Chaplain Black—Barry Black—and his staff, including Suzanne Chapuis, an honorary member of the McTeam, who tend with grace and care to the spiritual needs of a flock who so often carry heavy weights, as well as the staffs of the Architect of the Capitol, who manage the many moving pieces of an ancient building and its many occupants; the Rules Committee, who oversee the protocol that keeps the Senate a safe and smoothly functioning environment for conducting the American people's business; the Congressional Budget Office and the Congressional Research Service, whose work informs many of the most consequential votes we have; the Office of Legislative Counsel, who work often in demanding circumstances, under tight deadlines, to put the will of the Senate and the Nation on paper; the Office of Senate Legal Counsel and the Chief Counsel for Employment, whose sober assessments and reliable representation are a tremendous access to the Members and staff of the article I branch; the Office of the Attending Physician, whose care helps the Senate meet mundane ailments and grave public health challenges alike; the Food Service Program, who feed thousands of daily meals, both delicious and nutritious, and greet staff and visitors alike with a smile; and the Training and Development Office, who help cultivate professional excellence among Senate staff at all stages of their careers.

Now, I could go on thanking the outstanding members of the Senate staff a good while longer, and in the coming weeks, I will, but for today, I will close with the men and women who form the Senate's first line of defense. The U.S. Capitol Police—and in particular the Senate Division—make all of the other work we do possible. They ensure that the Senators and their staff can work in safety, that members of the public can visit in safety, and that this institution carries on in the face of very real threats to its security.

As I look back on my time in party leadership, I am particularly grateful for the devoted service of the members of the Dignitary Protection Division, who safeguard the continuity of our government by surrounding me and other senior leaders with around-the-clock security.

Sometimes, it has meant spending long hours on the road. Other times, it has meant making split-second decisions to avert danger. In every case, I have been so fortunate to have these professionals on duty.

So to members of my detail past and present, to members of the Senate Division here in the Chamber and across the campus, and to the entire force of the Capitol Police, my staff and I are deeply grateful for your service and your sacrifice.

So, as I said, the work of thanking the outstanding staff that have made my job easier over the years continues. I will look forward to paying tribute to more of them very soon.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WARNER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The Republican whip.

2024 ELECTION RESULTS

Mr. THUNE. Last Tuesday, the American people spoke, and they spoke decisively. They made it clear that they have had enough of the failed Biden-Harris-Schumer agenda, and they chose Donald Trump and Vice President-elect VANCE to lead our country, along with Republican majorities in the House and Senate.

I congratulate President Trump and Vice President-elect VANCE on their tremendous victory.

It is difficult to overstate what President Trump did in this election. Republicans improved our margins in three out of every four counties in the United States and grew support with nearly every demographic group. President Trump won more Hispanic support than any Republican President ever before, and younger voters played a crucial role in his victory.

The Republican coalition is broad and strong and growing.

The American people handed President Trump and Senate Republicans a decisive victory, and now the real work begins: delivering on our agenda. That starts with ending the Biden-Harris border crisis and deporting illegal immigrants.

Also at the top of the list is strengthening our economic and fiscal future. The last 4 years of Democrat inflation have been very difficult for working Americans, and so Republicans will be focused on doing everything we can to expand economic opportunity and to increase growth. That starts with taking action via reconciliation to preserve the tax relief Republicans delivered for Americans during the first Trump administration. It is also time to check the bureaucratic machine here in Washington, DC.

A key element of making America prosperous again is taking a hatchet to the regulatory apparatus choking our economy, starting with the 1,000 Biden-Harris regulations that have already cost Americans nearly \$2 trillion. And of course a major focus of both the Trump administration and the Republican Congress will be restoring American strength to promote peace at home and abroad. That includes restoring American energy dominance for the sake of both economic growth and our national security.

Yesterday, my colleagues chose me to lead Republicans here in the Senate during the 119th Congress. I am honored by the trust they have placed in me, and I will work every day here in the Senate to serve my colleagues and to advance President Trump's agenda.

My philosophy of leadership is inspired by my dad. Some of you know that I played basketball growing up. I remember one game particularly. I had 36 points and 12 rebounds. At one point in the game, there was a time when it came down to fast break, and I pulled up and made a shot off the glass. After the game, my dad pointed that out, and he said, "You know, Chris was open, wide open, under the basket, and you should have given him the ball."

That was my dad. He hated ball hogs. He wanted me and my siblings to be team players. He always believed that if there was somebody else who had a better shot than you did, that you got him the ball. That is my goal as leader: to pass the ball to the best-positioned player, to empower everybody on the team.

We have a lot of brilliant people in the Republican conference, brimming with ideas and knowledge, and it will be my job to make sure that they have the chance to use those ideas and that knowledge to strengthen our country and make life better for the American people. That is what I focused on as chairman of Senate Commerce Committee, it is what I have focused on as whip, and it is what I plan to do as leader.

The leader's office will be a resource, not a roadblock, for Members seeking to achieve their legislative goals. That

starts with empowering committees, which will in turn ensure that individual Members at all levels of seniority have a real voice in the legislation we consider.

As whip, I have consistently advocated for our Members' amendments, resulting in over 100 amendment votes this Congress. In the majority, we can do better, and I will continue my commitment to amendments as leader.

The committee process is key to developing strong legislation, but all Members of the Senate—and not just the Members of a particular committee—should have a voice in final legislation through amendments on the floor. Members should assume that amendment votes will be the norm. That will mean taking tough votes at times, but that is part of our jobs.

Members should also expect a return to regular order in the Senate next year. I will devote serious time in the summer to floor consideration of appropriations bills so that we don't constantly wind up with an end-of-the-year pileup and problematic continuing resolutions.

Needless to say, the floor priority at the start of the year will be confirming President Trump's nominees, and Members should expect an aggressive schedule until those nominees are confirmed.

I know communication has been a concern for Members of our conference. As whip, I have tried to be very accessible, whether that is by phone or in person, and that is something I intend to continue as majority leader. That includes regular, substantive updates for Members and staff. Neither Members nor staff should be left without information, wondering what is coming next.

I plan to have regular meetings with Speaker JOHNSON and with the White House to ensure smooth coordination and a strong working relationship between the House, the Senate, and the administration as we work together to implement President Trump's agenda.

I will have more to say on all of this down the road, but for now, I want to once again thank my colleagues for the trust they have placed in me. I will work every day to honor that trust and to serve our Members and the American people.

I want to also express my gratitude to Leader MCCONNELL for his tireless service to the Republican Party and to the Senate. I am glad that, while he may be stepping down as leader, he will still be serving here in the Senate.

I want to again congratulate President Trump and Vice President-elect VANCE. They ran a tremendous race, and it will be my honor to work with them to advance our Republican agenda.

I want to say a special word of congratulations to Vice President-elect VANCE, who has been our colleague here in the Senate for the past couple of years. He made an impact right out of the gate and has been a stalwart ad-

vocate for his constituents. Now he will be a stalwart advocate for the American people. I look forward to continuing to work with him in his new role as Vice President.

A big thing that drew me into politics was Ronald Reagan. His philosophy of limited government and peace through strength resonated with me. But I was also drawn by his sense of humor, his optimism, and his belief in America. I suspect that a lot of people who voted for President Trump in this election were attracted in part by the fact that President Trump conveys a lot of that optimism and faith in our country.

It has been a tough 4 years for the American people, but, like President Trump and Ronald Reagan, I believe that America's best days lie ahead. I look forward to working with my Republican colleagues here in the U.S. Senate and with President Trump and Vice President VANCE to build a strong and prosperous America and a bright new dawn for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 6651

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I come to the floor today, and I am ultimately going to be offering a unanimous consent for the body, but beforehand, I want to talk a little bit about what happened in North Carolina with the storm of Hurricane Helene. It actually starts a couple of days earlier when a weather system came into Western North Carolina and dumped inches and inches of rain on several—more than a dozen—major river basins and saturated the land.

Now we have Hurricane Helene come in through the Florida Panhandle, through Georgia, through South Carolina, and into North Carolina. It largely maintained the integrity of a category 1 storm, tropical storm, a couple hundred miles inland in a mountain range. It is a first-of-a-kind storm that is the most deadly in North Carolina history—and, folks, we have been hit by Florence, Matthew, Hugo; I can go through a long list—over 102 people dead, some still missing. We have families who are disconnected and will likely not even have electricity.

There is a community called Big Creek. Asheville is without drinkable water today. Businesses are suffering. The Small Business Administration is out of money. They are telling people who have had claims processed that "Your claim has been approved" and that as soon as the Federal Government replenishes the Small Business Administration account, then they will get the money. Think about that. If you are one of thousands of people in Western North Carolina in a land mass the size of the State of Massachusetts—ladies and gentlemen, that is how big the land mass was that had devastating storms. Mr. President, 102 people died, and hundreds of businesses are out of business.

I have a 20-mile segment of I-40 that is impassable. It is not from rockslides; it is because the land underneath the roads no longer exists. There are 5 miles that are going to have to be repaired. Twenty years ago, when we had a three-tenths-of-a-mile segment, it took 7 months to repair it. And that was just removing a landslide; the integrity of the roadbed was there. We don't have that anymore.

We have 80 miles of rail tracks gone. We have hundreds of businesses out of business right now. We have a major water system that hopes to have drinkable water by Christmas. We have people suffering. We have businesses suffering. We have a disaster that we have to respond to, and a lot of work is going to have to be done before the end of this Congress and certainly in the next Congress, when the nearly \$50 billion between State and Federal dollars is going to have to be appropriated just to help North Carolina, not to mention the \$3 billion of agricultural damage in Georgia, and I can go down the list to Florida.

We have a lot of work to do, but, folks, this is a time where you don't question what we are doing. You don't question how you pay for it. You get the money there, and you get these communities back on track.

I am not saying that we shouldn't be paying for this. We absolutely should. And up here in the rarified air of Washington, DC, we could say "Well, let's just, you know, be responsible about this and let these people suffer until we get it," but that is not how it works in Western North Carolina. They need help now, today.

I will talk a little bit more about that before I offer my unanimous consent request, but before I do, if I may, I would like to pass it over to Senator BUDD. I believe Senator BUDD will pass it over to Senator WARNER, and then I would like to reserve recognition at that time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, I want to thank my friend Senator TILLIS for his partnership not just for today but throughout this whole crisis in our State.

Hurricane Helene represents one of the worst natural disasters ever to happen to our State—in particular, Western North Carolina. More than, as he mentioned, 100 people were killed and hundreds more injured, and some are still missing.

Thousands of North Carolinians lost their homes and their family businesses. Every day that I was present in the region, I was stunned by the enormity of the damage. It is unlike anything I have ever seen.

Now, I went to college at Appalachian State in Boone, and you learn very quickly how tough these mountain folks are. They are proud. They are self-sufficient people. The citizens of Western North Carolina are some of the toughest, most resilient people

around. They don't look for handouts. They don't complain. So when there is a need like this, government needs to be ready, needs to be there to help them.

They have to be able to access the loans from the SBA so they can continue to rebuild and recover their communities. Now, this program provides victims with low-interest loans to replace lost property or to rebuild their businesses or their homes or shops. This is very important because very few Helene victims—they don't have flood insurance, and it covers—you know, anything that covers a disaster of this magnitude.

Now, it is critical that this program be funded and effectively managed to get loan dollars flowing to those in need immediately, but, as my colleague mentioned, the SBA announced on October 15 that it ran out of money.

Now, every day that this fund sits empty, it further slows the process of rebuilding the lives for thousands of North Carolinians, and that is why we are here. We have to replenish it, and we need to do it now.

So I stand ready to work with my Senate colleagues to cut through the delays and provide the folks of Western North Carolina and the whole Appalachia region the resources they need as quickly as possible. So in this spirit, I strongly want to support Senator TILLIS's RELIEF Act to refill the SBA's Disaster Loan Program, and I hope the Senate can pass it today. I also strongly support the quick approval of a supplemental bill to help fund the long-term recovery for the folks in Western North Carolina. Congress should take up this bill without any further delay.

I either yield to Senator TILLIS or to Senator WARNER.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I thank my friends from North Carolina, Senator BUDD and Senator TILLIS.

Let me acknowledge in front of you that you guys got hit the hardest, but we got hit as well in southwest Virginia, and we have got communities that without this relief are going to die.

I want to echo what both of my colleagues have said in that this RELIEF Act is bipartisan. It is what we do as a matter of course when an entity like the SBA runs out of money. Since October 15, 34,000 businesses across the country have applied for SBA relief. Many of them have gotten approved, but they get a response that says: We will give you money when Congress does its job. This is done as a matter of course, and, frankly, the SBA screwed up a little bit on not getting better numbers before we broke before the election.

Let me take one moment and tell you about a community in particular in southwest Virginia.

Damascus, VA, was an old town. Basically, its economy had disappeared. It

came back because there is something called the Creeper Trail, with biking and hiking. I bike this trail.

And, Senator TILLIS, parts of that trail are gone now. We have 34 road trestles, and 18 of them are damaged or gone. We have got part of our road that gets to the top of the mountain that is gone as well. I went to Damascus, and I went to 10 jurisdictions in southwest Virginia, but in this little town, every business and home was affected. One guy had three businesses—two restaurants and a bed and breakfast. He paid out of his pocket to try to keep his workers on, even though it will be months before anything happens, even if the money were there.

We owe it to the folks in Damascus, across southwest Virginia, in North Carolina, and across all of the jurisdictions in our country that have been hard hit to do our job. Just like the folks in western North Carolina, the folks in southwest Virginia are proud, and they have an enormous amount of self-help. But this kind of assistance, whether it is FEMA dollars or SBA loans, is not charity; it is their right as Americans. It is what we pay our taxes for. Instead, thousands of Virginians who have asked for that right to apply for this loan have gotten a note, saying: We can't send you the money until Congress does its job.

We have a chance today for unanimous consent to take this bipartisan piece of legislation, to pass it through, and get those businesses the funds they deserve.

I thank my colleague.

I yield back to the senior Senator from North Carolina.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, there are 233 people dead—102 in North Carolina, 7 still unaccounted for; the total damage estimated to be between \$30 and \$48 billion across seven States; in North Carolina, 1,400 landslides, 6,000 miles of road damage. One million-plus houses and businesses lost utilities. Some municipalities, like Asheville, like I said earlier, may not have drinkable water. This is a major urban center in western North Carolina that may not have drinkable water for tens of thousands of people before the end of August. That includes businesses that are struggling right now—think restaurants.

Struck during the peak of western North Carolina's season, the majority of our revenue occurs in western North Carolina, starting in October and ending in November. We have lost that. They are gone. A lot of these people lost loved ones who have businesses. Now they are just trying to keep their businesses afloat while they are going to funerals. And we tell them: Well, we have just got to wait for Congress before we can send you a check, because for the first time in this body we are going to demand a pay-for for disaster recovery.

Down about where the pages are sitting, a few months ago, BRIAN SCHATZ

came to me—he is a Senator from Hawaii—and he said: THOM, I hope you will support me on the supplemental for the fires in Maui.

I said: Count me in, BRIAN, because—do you know what?—I have no doubt—and count me in every time for a disaster supplemental because this is when we cut the crap and do our jobs. So count me in because I am pretty sure, before this season is over, I am going to have to come to you for help in North Carolina.

I had no idea that it was going to be a record-setting deadly storm, but if we want to keep these communities vibrant—Asheville will come back. It has the critical mass. Canton, Clyde, Burnsville—I can list dozens of towns that are hanging in the breach. Let's give them a chance. And if we don't, then businesses are going to make the right business decision. There are two here, OK? We have the small businesses, and, hopefully, they can bridge the gap and recover.

Again, these are also people who have lost loved ones, and many of them lost their own homes. So while they are trying to figure out a place to live, they are all trying to figure out how they can run their businesses and how they can keep people employed.

Now, big businesses are looking at what the business network—or what the ecosystem is going to look like. We have major employers who may make the decision to leave if we don't send a signal that we are going to be there to help them recover.

I could go on ad nauseam, but I am telling you, when I tell you it is a crisis in North Carolina when a major road like I-40 is going to be down for years, I can't tell people, just because I don't like the way it gets appropriated, it sucks for you that you may have to go out of business while I try to fix the dysfunction in Washington. This is a time for us to act and do like we have done every time with a disaster supplemental.

So—oh. And, by the way, in advance, Senator PAUL is going to offer an amendment that I love so much I would like to marry it. I am also going to object to it because it is the right amendment at the wrong time. I am looking forward to having that incorporated in a vehicle that my Democrat colleagues are going to hate that I hope we get passed in the next Congress, but there is no time for that now. I have said that, in spite of the fact that I support it, I want to be the one to object to it because I want mission certainty here. My mission is to get this disaster supplemental for the Small Business Administration passed through like we have on every other disaster supplemental to this day.

Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 465, H.R. 6651. I further ask that the Tillis-Warner substitute amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the

bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I lived for 4 months in Asheville and worked at the VA hospital, so I have fond feelings for western North Carolina. I have an uncle who lives just up the road from Asheville. I know about the devastation. One of my best friends from my wedding lives in Asheville as well.

But the thing is, the reason why we won't do this in a responsible way is because the Senate voted to send all of your money to Ukraine. The Senate voted to send \$200 billion to Ukraine.

I have been all over the mountains of Appalachia. When I ask people, "Would you rather your Senators take care of you here in Asheville or here in Pikeville or here in Appalachia or would you rather them send your money to Ukraine?"

I don't get anybody wanting to send a penny to Ukraine.

Look, you can have all kinds of sympathy in the world for Ukraine and hostility toward Russia being the aggressor nation, but we don't have the money. We are \$2 trillion in the hole. Interest this year is going to be \$1 trillion.

As far as passing this, I am willing to let it pass today. He is going to object to passing his own bill today simply because it gets paid for. How crazy is that? He will not even let the other side object to it. He is going to object to his own bill. I am willing to let the bill pass, but take some of the fluff and boondoggle subsidies from the Green New Deal and put it into here. The money is sitting here. We put it into here for disasters. We help Asheville today.

"Oh, no. It is not the time or the place to pay for things."

The question before the Senate is whether, on behalf of the American people, we should borrow and spend an additional \$810 million for small business loans.

Do you know who gets small business loans right now? Ukraine. We are funding—"60 Minutes" did a special on this—a purse and dress store in Ukraine. We fund the Ukrainian Government's pensions. Look, half of our State governments are short in pensions. Our U.S. Government is short in pensions, and we are funding them in Ukraine.

So some of the same people who want this immediately—now, now, now, now; we don't want to pay for it—are happy to pay for crap all over Ukraine, including government salaries and pensions and small business loans to Ukraine.

Do you know what? The job of legislators is to make decisions to set priorities. We don't have an infinite amount of money, but we do have enough

money to take care of them in Asheville and in Virginia. Simply pay for it, but realize the people assembled will object to their own bill today. I am offering their bill. All we have got to do is take some money that is laying around in a pot of money—Green New Deal boondoggle money going to big corporations—and put it in for a disaster. We can do that today. If you still want to subsidize green energy, come back and do that next year. Pay for it now.

We don't have to borrow hundreds of millions of dollars to bail this program out, but Congress has a habit of refusing to do what you and I would do if faced with a new and large expense: Congress refuses to cut elsewhere even when saying yes to every new spending proposal and program that has led to record high inflation. Americans have been forced to learn the hard way that they are the ones who have to pay for Congress's addiction to spending.

So I offer a fiscally responsible path to pay for the bill and spare Americans from increasing the hidden tax of inflation.

My amendment would rescind \$810 million from the Department of Energy's boondoggle green new energy deals. It is a \$4.75 billion program that has had repeated bankruptcies in it previously. It is absurd to force taxpayers to subsidize rich companies—with vast resources of their own—to gamble on energy projects that the private sector finds too risky. And, actually, it should be about priorities: the people in Asheville or the Green New Deal. No. This is the best time to put them in contrast, not some other time when people are not hurting, when people can't see the contrast.

Everybody in Asheville should wake up today and find out their Senators are going to reject the disaster money because it is paid for. That is it. They are going to reject taking it from the Green New Deal boondoggle and sending it to Appalachia. It can go today. It can go in 10 minutes. I approve of the money. Just take it from somewhere where it is being wasted. Ideally, I would take it from Ukraine, but that is not available right now, but a lot of the money went to Ukraine also.

A 2015 report from the Government Accountability Office found that when five companies defaulted on these Green New Deal loans, the government—the taxpayers—lost \$800 million. It is not a good program to begin with, but it is an easy place to go looking for something that is more important, like the people of Asheville in North Carolina.

This money would have nearly covered today's disaster loan funding, but it was needlessly squandered previously, but there is still money in the fund today. I offered this identical amendment to pay for another bill a month ago, and every Republican voted for it. So I don't understand why Republicans would rise today and object to a pay-for they all voted for last

month. If the Small Business Administration must have this additional money, the least we can do is respect the taxpayers and act as good stewards for their money.

Therefore, I ask the Senator to modify his request to include my amendment, which is at the desk, as this would allow the bill to pass if my amendment is attached to it; that the amendment be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as further amended, be agreed to; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator so modify his request?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I was wondering if the Senator from Kentucky would yield for two questions, and then I would like to speak on the—

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Kentucky yield?

Mr. TILLIS. I think I know the answer to this, Senator PAUL, but I just want to confirm it. Do you recall how you voted on the PACT Act?

Mr. PAUL. I don't think we have—we have an objection. You know, I have asked for a unanimous consent. He either objects, or he doesn't object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from Kentucky yield?

Mr. PAUL. I don't have the floor.

Mr. TILLIS. I thought he did.

Mr. PAUL. I have made a motion.

Mr. TILLIS. And I reserve the right to object to that motion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator from North Carolina object—

Mr. TILLIS. I have subsequently asked the Chair—

The PRESIDING OFFICER.—to the modification?

Mr. TILLIS. I have subsequently asked the Chair—

Mr. PAUL. You have got to respond to the motion.

Mr. TILLIS.—if the Senator from Kentucky—

Mr. PAUL. I have made a motion to pass the bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Order in the Senate. This is not debatable.

The Senator from Kentucky has not agreed to yield.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. In reserving the right to object, the question I would have asked him is how he voted on the PACT Act. I don't know the answer to it. I think he voted against it. I am not sure. The other question I was going to ask him is has he ever voted for a disaster supplemental that wasn't offset. Those were the two questions I was going to ask. I will find it out later on.

Look, our State motto is "Esse Quam Videri." It says, "To be rather than to seem."

This is a disingenuous offer to amend my bill. Let me tell you why. Maybe it will even be in a fundraising campaign later this week: "I am fighting to dismantle the Green New Deal, and Tillis objected to doing that today."

This bill, if it got amended, has no prayer. I came to the Senate to make a difference, not to make a point. I get the point.

There are a lot of things in the Inflation Reduction Act and in the Green New Deal that need to be clawed back, and I look forward to, under President Trump's leadership, having that vote.

I assume that Senator PAUL knows how to count votes. He has to know that he doesn't have the votes to get this bill done if it is amended.

To be rather than to seem. I am focused on getting North Carolina back on track and not playing a game on this Senate floor. I am going to object to this, Mr. President, in a minute because it is a game.

We never fund disaster supplementals because we know that people are hurting.

You take that case to Ukraine, to Asheville. You take it to Burnsville. You take it to Banner Elk. You take it to Cashiers, Senator PAUL, and I will go with you, and I will see if they are as worried about that or if they are just worried about making sure that their families have a place to live and their businesses have a chance to survive.

Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard to the modification.

Is there objection to the original request?

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. The insinuation is made that there is a better time—we will vote on this at another time; maybe, you know, young man, it is just not the time. It is not the time nor the place.

Actually, it is the time or the place, and the only vote against the disaster bill today will be the Senator from North Carolina. He will, today, vote to kill the disaster aid. He says: Well, there aren't enough votes.

We won't know because he is objecting. He isn't allowing the Democrats to object because they always object to anything that is pay-for. But, by his objection, he is not allowing the system to play out. If the Democrats want to object, we will find out that they are opposed to pay-fors, and we will further the definition of who is for not for paying for stuff and who is. But to say that we, as Republicans, are never for paying for disaster relief is to say that we are equally—or the Republicans who are for this—are equally complicit in the accumulation of \$35 trillion worth of debt.

So no matter how good the cause is—I don't care whether it is a fire or aid or a flood or rain or all the damage—it all should be paid for. It is the responsible thing to do, no matter how terrible the disaster is.

And it is not like I am saying: Well, let's just wait 2 years until we can earn enough money to pay for Asheville. We have the money. We are a rich country.

It is sitting here. I just simply ask: Take it from something here—that is a wasteful corporate bailout to green energy companies—and put it over here.

But the fact is that the Senator from North Carolina is going to kill his own bill today. He is going to vote not to allow it to be heard. And we have no idea whether there are enough votes or not. He can say there aren't enough votes, but he is now the vote that stops the spending from getting easy passage.

What we are going through is a procedure of easy passage. This is allowing things not to go to committee, not to be deliberated but to easily pass. And I am in favor of doing that because of the emergency, because of the tragedy. We allow this to easily pass by simply taking some money from a pile of money over here. If he weren't to object and the Democrats don't stand up, it passes like this.

But then it is not on me; it is on them. They decide that they don't want to pay for anything. And disasters should never be paid for? Well, that is how we have this disaster of a \$35 trillion debt, because nobody pays for anything. Nobody cares. It is never the right time.

Well, now is the right time. So if you want easy passage, you have to hear what the problems we face are.

So I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. TILLIS. Ladies and gentlemen, I have prided myself on working on a lot of legislation over the last 10 years, and I am proud of the fact that I figured out how to get votes in this Chamber and get votes in the other Chamber and get bills to the President's desk. Let me explain to you how this process works. We were going to pass a bill out of here. Even if it is not funded, I am pretty sure that the House is going to insist on some sort of a pay-for.

What we are doing here is playing a game of being disingenuous. Folks, I support what Senator PAUL does. By the way, I will be checking the fundraising emails to see if we are fighting to—that TILLIS is against the Green New Deal dismantling. Count me in for that.

What I am not for is putting a poison pill in here that prevents this bill from going to the House. My colleagues in the House intend to get a pay-for. They intend to get a pay-for. I mean, how hard is it? I have got a community college education, and I am smart enough to figure this out. So are a lot of other people from community colleges. But this is a game. It will be paid for in the House, or it won't pass. We have a majority there. So instead of facilitating the process to move it there and thus find a way to offset it, we are trying to kill it here.

I support so many provisions of the Inflation Reduction Act and the American Rescue Plan being repealed and

using the money for better purposes, and disaster recovery is one of them. But that is not what we are here to do today in this Congress with that President. That is what we are going to be here to do next year, in the next Congress, with a different President.

So I just want to set the record straight. I don't like games being played. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle know I try to be even-handed. I told Senator MARK WARNER I was going to object because it was a procedural game. And if it is characterized as anything other than that, let me know who you are because I will educate you. Thank you.

Mr. WARNER. Will the Senator yield for a question?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. TILLIS. Yes. I am back to the happy THOM now.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I just want to say, I am prepared to object as well.

And is it not the case, even when it comes to SBA—frankly, if SBA had gotten their act together a little earlier and had a better accounting so we knew how much we needed to refill the pot, we might not have been here.

But this is—if we want to change the law about how the SBA operates and disaster relief, that is a fair debate, and I will take on anyone in this Chamber. In the meantime, whether it is in your community or mine, people are sitting there with a piece of paper that says: You will get your loan, you have been approved, once Congress does its job.

Would not your bill, my bill, our bipartisan bill, if it had been able to go through today, wouldn't those folks in North Carolina, Virginia, and across our country who have been hit be one step closer—those small businesses—to getting the SBA loans that they have earned, deserved, and should be funded?

Mr. TILLIS. Without a doubt, Senator WARNER. And, quite honestly, there are some people today saying: If I have got to wait until next Congress, I have got to fold up. I am trying to find a place to live, and I am also trying to keep my business afloat.

Absolutely, it gives them hope. And our failure to act doesn't.

Mr. WARNER. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON FUNG NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Fung nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY),

and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 59, nays 37, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 261 Ex.]

YEAS—59

Baldwin	Heinrich	Romney
Bennet	Helmy	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Booker	Hirono	Schatz
Brown	Kaine	Schumer
Butler	Kelly	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Luján	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warner
Cramer	Murphy	Warnock
Crapo	Murray	Warren
Duckworth	Ossoff	Welch
Durbin	Padilla	Whitehouse
Fetterman	Peters	Wyden
Gillibrand	Reed	Young
Hassan	Risch	

NAYS—37

Barrasso	Grassley	Paul
Blackburn	Hagerty	Ricketts
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Britt	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Budd	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Capito	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	McConnell	Wicker
Fischer	Moran	
Graham	Mullin	

NOT VOTING—4

Cardin	Kennedy
Cassidy	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years.

VOTE ON HUITEMA NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Huitema nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas and nays have been requested.

Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Sen-

ator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 262 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Helmy	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schatz
Booker	Kaine	Schumer
Brown	Kelly	Shaheen
Butler	King	Sinema
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Smith
Carper	Luján	Stabenow
Casey	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Fetterman	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NAYS—46

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Collins	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Wicker
Daines	Mullin	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Cardin	Kennedy
Cassidy	Vance

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HELMY). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 464.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 464, Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Cory A. Booker, John W. Hickenlooper, Martin Heinrich, Laphonza R. Butler, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 466.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Sarah French Russell, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to desk.

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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 466, Sarah French Russell, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Mazie K. Hirono, Tina Smith, Gary C. Peters, Amy Klobuchar, Raphael G. Warnock, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Mark R.

Warner, Tim Kaine, Sheldon Whitehouse, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Peter Welch.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 651.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Rebecca L. Pennell, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 651, Rebecca L. Pennell, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Peter Welch, Cory A. Booker, John W. Hickenlooper, Martin Heinrich, Laphonza R. Butler, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Alex Padilla, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum call on the Kidd nomination be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

HONORING THE SOUTHEAST REGION LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM FROM LAKE MARY, FLORIDA, FOR WINNING THE 2024 LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL WORLD SERIES

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, as if in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 874.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 874) honoring the Southeast Region Little League baseball team from Lake Mary, Florida, for winning the 2024 Little League Baseball World Series.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 874) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 25, 2024, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the previously scheduled vote occur immediately.

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

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

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 the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 704, Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Peter Welch, Cory A. Booker, John W. Hickenlooper, Martin Heinrich, Laphonza R. Butler, Elizabeth Warren, Jack Reed, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Brian Schatz.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY),

the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO), and the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 44, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 263 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Helmy	Sanders
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Schatz
Blumenthal	Hirono	Schumer
Booker	Kaine	Shaheen
Brown	Kelly	Sinema
Butler	King	Smith
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Stabenow
Carper	Lujan	Tester
Casey	Markey	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Welch
Fetterman	Padilla	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Peters	Wyden
Hassan	Reed	
Heinrich	Rosen	

NAYS—44

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Ricketts
Boozman	Hagerty	Risch
Britt	Hawley	Romney
Budd	Hoeben	Rounds
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Collins	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Manchin	Tillis
Cruz	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—7

Braun	Kennedy	Vance
Cardin	Moran	
Cassidy	Rubio	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 44.

The motion was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

REMEMBERING

BILLY LAWLESS, SR.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, when many people think of Chicago, they think of Irish culture. Chicago's Irish American community is a thriving, invaluable part of the city. And no person represented the rich marriage of cultures more than my friend Billy Lawless. So, it is with great sadness that I share the news of his passing.

Though Billy's path would later take him to Illinois, much of his life was spent in Ireland. A native of Galway, Billy grew up in a family that owned pubs and a hotel, instilling in him a passion for the hospitality industry

from a young age. He long harbored dreams of opening a restaurant in the United States, but it was not until 1998—on the heels of his daughter earning a rowing scholarship at Boston University—that Billy made this dream a reality. He and his family moved to Chicago, and Billy soon fell deeply in love with the city, a love affair that would last until his final days.

In Chicago, Billy combined his love for the restaurant industry with his love for Ireland, opening the bar, the Irish Oak, in the Wrigleyville neighborhood. In the wake of the bar's success, he opened several other bars and restaurants across the city, establishing himself as a mainstay of Chicago culture and eventually creating the Gage Hospitality Group. But what made Billy special was that he channeled his business power into political power, using his growing success to give back to both Chicago and America's Irish communities.

Namely, Billy became a fierce advocate for undocumented Irish immigrants and a staunch proponent of immigration reform. In pursuit of these ends, he was a board member and co-founder of the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition, chair of the Chicago Celts for Immigration Reform, and he was a leader of the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights. In short, he was a tireless champion of the Irish diaspora in the United States. It was over the matter of immigration reform—a matter to which I have devoted a large portion of my policy efforts over my career in public office—that Billy and I bonded. His work on immigrant and refugee rights in Chicago was invaluable. We all owe him a debt of gratitude.

Even from across the Atlantic Ocean, his commitment to the Irish people remained steadfast. And this did not go unnoticed. In 2015, Billy joined the ranks of those such as President John F. Kennedy when he was made a Freeman of Galway, an honorary title given to valued members of the community. In 2016, then-Taoiseach Enda Kenny nominated Billy to the Seanad, the Irish Senate, where he served one term as a member of the Seanad Independent Group. In this role, he served as an overseas Irish Senator for the Irish diaspora, the first person ever to hold that title. In that role, he gave voice to the hundreds of thousands of Irish men and women living in the U.S. and across the world.

In a lot of ways, Billy represents the American dream. He came to this country with hope for prosperity. And he quickly found it. But, despite his success, he never forgot where he came from. To the contrary—it was his love for Ireland, his passion for the rights of immigrants and refugees, and his commitment to making sure America lived up to its ideals that motivated him to give back to both of the countries he considered home. He was a businessman of integrity, a political force to be

reckoned with, and most importantly, a genuinely good man. In asking how he could use his position to give back, he made our Nation better.

My wife Loretta and I send our deepest condolences to Billy's wife Anne; his four children Amy, Clodagh, Billy Jr., and John Paul; and his eight grandchildren on their tremendous loss. Billy was a lot of things. But he took most pride in being a loving husband, father, and grandfather.

Though we will no longer get to feel the warmth of his embrace, and though we will certainly feel the pain of his loss, Billy's remarkable legacy will live on across oceans—in pints of beer and the fight for immigration reform alike. We will miss him dearly.

TRIBUTE TO NANCY SAGE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, in the Jewish faith, there is a central concept known as "tikkun olam." Literally translated, it means "world repair," and it has come to represent many Jewish individuals' commitment to bettering the world around them. While I do not practice Judaism, I share this idea that each of us has a role to play in bettering our communities. And Nancy Sage has done just that in my hometown of Springfield, IL.

Executive director of the Springfield Jewish Federation for nearly a decade, Nancy has strengthened the Jewish community and improved the lives of countless people in Springfield. Prior to taking this role, Nancy had served as a volunteer for the National Jewish Federation Board. When Nancy was approached to apply for the position of executive director, she knew she could not pass up the opportunity to give back to two communities she cared deeply about: the Springfield community and the Jewish community.

In her role, she has created partnerships between the Jewish community and other religious and racial groups to address challenges such as interfaith harmony and food insecurity. An example of her leadership can be found in her work to educate her community about Julius Rosenwald as part of Springfield's Rosenwald Initiative, which brought together the Jewish and Black communities to honor the life of Springfield-born philanthropist Julius Rosenwald and his work to educate African-Americans in the rural South.

But her work has reached beyond Springfield and benefited communities across the country and world—Jewish and non-Jewish, alike. Under her leadership, the Jewish Federation of Springfield's Annual Campaign successfully raised money for the Jewish Federation of North America to bring humanitarian funds to sites of natural disaster and social upheaval. These efforts supported communities in need, regardless of religion or nationality.

But, of course, Nancy's work was primarily centered around supporting Springfield's Jewish community, mak-

ing sure that every Jewish person felt that they had a home. This work became especially important in the wake of the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack in Israel, which claimed the lives of more than 1,200 Jewish people, saw more than 250 hostages abducted, and contributed to a rise in anti-Semitism across the world. In response to her diligent, empathetic, and determined work keeping Springfield safe for all community members, the FBI awarded the Jewish Federation of Springfield with the FBI Director Community Leadership Award, which Nancy accepted on behalf of the organization. The award recognizes the achievements of those working to better their communities by promoting education and violence prevention.

But that is far from the only recognition Nancy has received for her work strengthening Jewish identity, promoting religious and cultural understanding, and supporting Springfield's diverse community. As a past chair of the Small Cities Division of the Jewish Federations of North America, she received national recognition for her professionalism and work in community building.

After nearly a decade in her role of executive director and a lifetime committed to the idea of tikkun olam, Nancy will retire from her role this year. Loretta and I join our neighbors in Springfield in thanking Nancy for her tireless work making our community stronger and more resilient. We are grateful for all you have done for our hometown.

Nancy, in your work and in the values with which you live your life, you represent the best of Springfield. I wish you and your family all the best in this new chapter of your lives.

TRIBUTE TO BARBARA EHARDT AND RECOGNIZING AMERICAN WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today, I join Idaho State Representative Barbara Ehardt to recognize and honor her enduring fight to protect title IX and the freedoms of female athletes.

For more than 50 years, title IX has been instrumental in leveling the playing field for women's sports. It has ensured safer and fairer competition and opened doors to incredible opportunities for generations of American girls and women. By recognizing the fundamental, biological differences between men and women, title IX allows each to pursue educational programs and activities equally, including athletics. Title IX is not just a bureaucratic regulation; it is a representation of our dedication to fairness and opportunity for men and women.

Representative Ehardt is quick to say that title IX changed her life. It gave her opportunities to participate and win in school athletics—eventually propelling her to a 15-year career as a NCAA Division I women's basketball coach. Representative Ehardt's story is

echoed by countless women across the county who have worked tirelessly to compete in the sport they love.

Generations of Americans have devoted themselves to promoting and advancing women's sports, including right here in the Gem State. In 2020, Idaho became first in the Nation to enact legislation that protects female athletes through the Fairness in Women's Sports Act. I thank Representative Ehardt for spearheading this bill and Idaho Governor Brad Little for signing it. The Fairness in Women's Sports Act protects the integrity of women's sports and guarantees fair competition for Idaho's female athletes.

Despite more than 50 years of progress, threats to dismantle and distort the protections in title IX persist. Today, Americans fear the loss of safety and opportunity for their daughters in education and athletics.

In Congress, I will continue to fight to protect fairness in women's athletics and defend the provisions in title IX from these dangerous attacks. We must not erase the contributions of women and girls in athletics. We must empower and provide the framework that allows young girls and women to play, compete, and win.

With the support and incredible work of people like Representative Ehardt, I am certain we will ensure these rights for women in Idaho and beyond. I am proud to deliver Representative Barbara Ehardt with this gold letter in recognition of her devotion to fairness in women's sports and selfless efforts to provide Idaho girls and women with opportunities to succeed.

REMEMBERING DR. ELEAZER ROOT

Mr. PETERS. Mr. President, I rise today to ask that the Senate join me in honoring an accomplished Revolutionary War veteran, doctor, and former president of the Columbia County Medical Society of New York, Dr. Eleazer Root. Dr. Root dedicated his life to serving his community and his country, and it is a privilege to recognize him here today in honor of his grave dedication on October 13, 2024.

On July 28, 1764, in Coventry, CT, Eleazer Root was born to Thomas Root. In the face of uncertainty for the future of North America, Root enlisted in 1779 at the young age of 15 to serve with the patriots and helped usher out an era of aristocracy and monarchy in favor of establishing a republic democracy which stands strong to this day.

Stationed in West Point, NY, Root served there for 1 year. Following his service in the war, he traveled north to Spencertown, NY. It was there he began his pursuit of a career in medicine.

Dr. Root's medical career was met with much success, made evident by his appointment as president of the county medical society in Columbia County, NY. This position served as a

testament to his expertise in medical care and leadership.

While in Spencertown, Dr. Root would go on to marry Lucinda Bostwick, also from Coventry, CT, in 1793. They then relocated within Columbia County to a city called Canaan, where they would plant their roots and raise a family. While in Canaan, their 10 children were born: 7 sons and 3 daughters. Many of Dr. Root's children would go on to share his passion for service of others, three of which followed in Dr. Root's footsteps, becoming doctors themselves.

Following his 48 years of continual, dedicated service to the greater Columbia County region, he eventually relocated to the Michigan Territory in 1834. He moved to Manchester, MI, in Washtenaw County, just 8 years after the city's establishment.

Then tragically on January 31, 1837, just 4 years after his migration to what will come to be known as the Great Lakes State, Dr. Root passed away at the age of 72. He became the first grave to be buried in the Oak Grove Cemetery in Manchester. His wife Lucinda was buried by his side 12 years later, following her passing, where they both remain to this day.

His immense passion and care for the serving his community have had lasting impacts that supersede centuries, culminating to his honoring here today on the Senate floor. He helped fight to make the Nation we see before us today and led a life of service. Dr. Root's grave serves as a poignant reminder that the freedom and independence we enjoy today was brought about by the sacrifice and service of others.

I trust that my colleagues here in the Senate will join me in honoring Dr. Eleazer Root for his contributions to the freedoms and liberties we enjoy today, as well as his lifetime of service to the public health of his local community.

RECOGNIZING THE U.S. SKI & SNOWBOARD TEAM

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the U.S. Ski & Snowboard teams as they prepare for the 2026 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games in Milano-Cortino, Italy.

For nearly 120 years, U.S. Ski & Snowboard has provided leadership, support and direction for young athletes as they work to achieve excellence in their sports. U.S. Ski & Snowboard athletes participate in 10 different Olympic sports, including alpine skiing, para snowboarding, cross country skiing, ski jumping, and many others. At a typical Winter Olympics, U.S. Ski & Snowboard athletes compose more than half of Team USA. In the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing, U.S. Ski & Snowboard athletes won 60 percent of Team USA's medals. These able-bodied and adaptive athletes share a commitment to excellence, team work, and fair competition.

To Coloradans, skiing and snowboarding are more than just sports; they are part of our State's rich history. During World War II, 15,000 soldiers traveled to Camp Hale—located between Leadville and Red Cliff, CO, in the high alpine terrain of the Rocky Mountains—to train to defeat the Nazis. These Americans formed the U.S. Army's 10th Mountain Division. Among them were the best skiers in America. The men of the 10th Mountain Division trained relentlessly in 10 feet of snow and temperatures of 50 below zero. In 1945, 10th Mountain soldiers climbed more than 1,800 feet up a Riva Ridge and scaled Mount Belvedere to surprise the Germans who believed their position in the Alps was unassailable. The 10th Mountain Division took the skills they learned in the Colorado mountains and punched a hole through the German line to clear the way for Allied victory in Europe.

After the war, veterans of the 10th Mountain Division founded Colorado's ski and outdoor recreation industries, including ski resorts like Steamboat Springs and Vail. As a result of their hard work, Steamboat Springs has produced more Winter Olympians than any other town in the United States, and Vail is now known as the birthplace of the most decorated ski racer of all time, Mikaela Shiffrin.

I ask my colleagues to join me in expressing our deepest gratitude and appreciation to the U.S. Ski & Snowboard team and its able-bodied and adaptive athletes for inspiring all of us as they compete on the international stage and for their positive representation of American ideals throughout the world.

TRIBUTE TO KRISTINE HANISCH

• Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, today, I rise to honor and recognize the extraordinary career of Kristine Hanisch, whose dedication to the U.S. Senate spans over 35 years. During her storied tenure, Kris has diligently and graciously served in the offices of four U.S. Senators: Senators Symms, Craig, Allard, and myself. She has witnessed and contributed to a significant chapter of American and Senate history.

Kris's journey from a small town in north Idaho to a senior position in the U.S. Senate is a testament to her determination and commitment to improving the lives of others. Few possess Kris's depth of knowledge about the inner workings of the U.S. Senate. Her insights and understanding of the legislative process have made her a valuable asset to our team and to the institution as a whole.

In addition to her many accomplishments, Kris was involved with, and at one point led, the Administrative Managers Steering Committee—a select, bipartisan group of administrative managers and chief clerks chosen to represent their peers in the Senate community. This committee focuses on influencing solutions that improve efficiency and modernize operations within the Senate. She was a member of the

very first advisory group that helped create the Senate personnel system, known as OTIS. Kris also participated in the peer support group through the Employee Assistance Program (EAP), demonstrating her commitment to fostering a supportive environment for her colleagues.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Kris for her exceptional service. She is truly one of a kind, and our office will not be the same without her. On behalf of myself, Vicki, and all who have worked alongside Kris in the Risch organization over the past 16 years, I want to express our deep appreciation for her contributions to Idaho and our Nation.

As Kris embarks on this new chapter in her life, we wish her all the best in her future endeavors. Thank you, Kris, for your devotion and for being an integral part of our Senate office. ●

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING S5G AT THE NAVAL REACTORS FACILITY

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, alongside my esteemed colleagues Senator MIKE CRAPO and Representative MIKE SIMPSON, I rise today to honor the formal turnover of the S5G Prototype from the Naval Reactors Idaho Branch Office (NR-IBO) and Fluor Marine Propulsion, LLC (FMP) to the U.S. Department of Energy Idaho Cleanup Project (DOE-ICP) and Idaho Environmental Coalition (IEC). This momentous occasion marks the early completion of the turnover of the S5G Prototype, a defueled naval nuclear propulsion plant that holds significant historical and strategic importance in safeguarding our national defense.

The S5G Prototype is a technological marvel born in 1961 and represents a pivotal chapter in our Nation's engineering history. Operational from September 1965 to May 1995, this remarkable prototype played a critical role in training 11,844 enlisted, officer, and civilian operators. The third and last prototype at the Naval Reactors Facility (NRF), S5G represented the pinnacle of science and technology in its generation, and the contributions to Cold War military applications and the U.S. Naval Nuclear Program is recognized by S5G's eligibility for listing in the National Record of Historic Places. The accomplishments of the S5G Prototype paved the way for the construction and commissioning of the USS *Narwhal*, SSN-671, a submarine of such versatility that much of its record is still classified.

The NRF's original, and main purpose, until 1995, was to test the concepts for nuclear propulsion and train sailors on their applications with three NRF Prototypes: S1W, A1W, and S5G. This turnover brings us to the final leg of a journey with a clear and achievable goal: the removal of all three prototypes at NRF by 2030. The journey

began with the turnover of the S1W in January 2022, followed by the turnover of the A1W Prototype in November 2023, and, now, the turnover of the final prototype, S5G.

This turnover marks the end of an era and a continued commitment from the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program to manage radioactive and hazardous materials from cradle to grave, ensuring no adverse effects on the environment or public health. Decommissioning older, non-mission-critical facilities not only reduces workforce needs, but also allows resources to be allocated more efficiently to support the core mission of the U.S. Navy.

The formal turnover of the S5G Prototype serves as a milestone and testament to the incredible results that can be achieved when people and organizations are united with a shared purpose. We extend our sincere gratitude to each person involved for their unwavering dedication and hard work. This turnover is a significant step toward ensuring the Naval Nuclear Propulsion Program continues to power maritime dominance for the Navy and our Nation well into the future. It also reaffirms our steadfast commitment to safeguarding our national defense, paying homage to our history, and preserving our national treasures. ●

RECOGNIZING SOLDIER MOUNTAIN HIGHLANDS & HUNS

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month, I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor Soldier Mountain Highlands & Huns as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for November 2024.

Soldier Mountain Highlands & Huns (SMH Ranch) is a first-generation family ranch nestled on 120 acres at the base of the Sawtooth Mountains. The fulfillment of Dennis Stitt's lifelong dream, SMH Ranch focuses on promoting a healthy lifestyle, conserving precious wild lands, and preserving the heritage of small farmers and ranchers. SMH Ranch is feeding the world one steak at a time. Stitt has proven that small farms can be profitable by producing the best steaks through environmentally enhancing soil regenerative practices. SMH Ranch prioritizes sourcing from and selling to the local community, even buying hay from farmers on the Camas Prairie. They take pride in their herd of heritage Scottish Highland cattle, which are naturally hardy and thrive on arid grasslands. In addition to their cattle production, Soldier Mountain Highland is home to an Airbnb for those who wish to learn more about the operation.

Dennis Stitt, the founder of SMH Ranch, served in the Army and Army National Guard for 39 years, including

as an engineer officer and commander at the company, battalion, and brigade level of the 116th Cavalry Brigade Combat Team and the Idaho Training Center. Dennis is active in the veteran community, serving on the boards of the Idaho chapter of the Farmer Veteran Coalition, FARE Idaho, and the Idaho Horse Council. He is the founding chair of Soldiers of the Soil LLC and Idaho Mounted Cavalry LLC. Soldiers of the Soil, a podcast dedicated to educating and inspiring veteran farmers and military trained land managers, is one of Dennis's many efforts to improve the veteran and farming community.

Congratulations to Dennis and the rest of the team at SMH Ranch on their selection as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for November 2024. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success. ●

RECOGNIZING BMW MANUFACTURING

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor BMW Manufacturing for its 30th anniversary and strong legacy of promoting economic growth, job creation, and innovative excellence in South Carolina's Upstate.

Since 1994, BMW's presence in the Upstate has demonstrated South Carolina's top-of-the-line workforce to the rest of the world. South Carolinians' focus on excellence has allowed BMW to prosper over the last 30 years and hopefully for future generations.

Today, BMW's Spartanburg plant employs nearly 43,000 jobs and produces over 1,500 vehicles daily, totaling over 400,000 yearly.

This continued partnership has grown a \$600 million investment into over \$26.7 billion in assets that flow from the automotive industry in our State, directly impacting countless local families and strengthening our State's economy.

Congratulations to Dr. Robert Engelhorn and the entire BMW Group for this incredible milestone and ongoing partnership. ●

RECOGNIZING GREENWOOD GENETICS CENTER

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor Greenwood Genetics Center as they celebrate their 50th anniversary.

Fifty years ago, the first independent center in the United States to offer comprehensive genetic services was established. Beginning as a small building tucked away in the heart of Greenwood, SC, Greenwood Genetics Center quickly blossomed in more ways than one. Greenwood Genetics Center has

made incredible strides in providing personalized, accessible, and effective genetic services since opening its doors in 1974.

Genetic medicine has transformed from a minor subspecialty to a driving force in revolutionizing medicine. Greenwood Genetic Center's research initiatives have not only significantly contributed to the understanding of genetic conditions, but have led to groundbreaking discoveries, helping transform the landscape of personalized medicine.

Today, it is my pleasure to recognize Greenwood Genetics Center and their dedication to advancing genetic research, education, and patient care. As we celebrate this remarkable milestone, we honor both the achievements of Greenwood Genetics Center but also the many lives they have touched along the way. Thank you to Greenwood Genetics Center for your profound contributions to genetic medicine and your enduring commitment to enhancing the lives of so many.●

RECOGNIZING THE INDIAN LAND MIDDLE SCHOOL 7TH GRADE VOLLEYBALL TEAM

● Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, as the junior Senator from the great State of South Carolina, it is my pleasure to honor the Indian Land Middle School 7th grade volleyball team for winning the 2024 FMAC Championship. This achievement is not only a testament to their skills on the court, but a reflection of the hard work, dedication, and teamwork demonstrated throughout the season.

Despite the many challenges faced, this team continued to support one another and show remarkable resilience. Their ability to celebrate each other's successes, whether in times of victory or moments of adversity, has fostered an atmosphere of positivity and motivation that has created a lasting impact not only on their performance but also within their school community. Whether in practice or during games, each teammate played an important role in shaping the team's success.

As the team celebrates this incredible achievement, I encourage each player to reflect on their journey and take pride in what they have accomplished together. Whether some will return next season or move on to new challenges, the memories and friendships created will always remain. The skills and lessons learned this season will undoubtedly extend beyond the volleyball court and into all aspects of life.

Congratulations to the Indian Land Middle School 7th grade volleyball team on an outstanding season.●

HONORING TONY RAY GARRISON AND BRANDON RUPPE

● Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, today I rise to remember and honor the lives of two North Carolinians: Fairview, NC,

Volunteer Fire Department Battalion Chief Tony Ray "Bones" Garrison, and his nephew Brandon Ruppe.

When Hurricane Helene hit their community and caused historic, life-threatening flooding, Tony and his nephew Brandon selflessly worked to rescue others. During the rescue attempts, Tony and Brandon were tragically killed in a mudslide.

Tony was born and raised in Buncombe County and served his community as a battalion chief with the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department and the Garren Creek Fire Department and as a member of the Buncombe County Task Force. A lifelong native of Buncombe County, Tony served his community with distinction throughout his years of service with the Fairview Volunteer Fire Department. He was known for his humility, warmth, and, most of all, his deep love for his family. He is survived by his wife of 28 years Mary Garrison, daughter Hannah Sherie Garrison, son Dylan Garrison, and mother Martha Garrison, all of Fairview.

Brandon will be remembered for his huge heart and sense of humor. Brandon had a deep love for his family and many friends, and his relatives have said, "If you knew him, you knew it." He is survived by his mother and stepfather Annette and Ricky Branks; maternal grandmother Martha Garrison; and his brothers Christopher Branks, Cody Branks, Adam Ruppe, and Daniel Ruppe.

Brandon Ruppe and Tony Ray Garrison will forever be remembered in North Carolina for the tremendous sacrifice they made in saving the lives of others. Susan and I send our deepest condolences to their loving family, friends, and colleagues. May God Bless these fallen heroes.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations and four withdrawals which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-180. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States and the United States Congress to support a \$100,000,000 supplemental funding request to

address the ongoing impacts on public health, the environment, and the local economy caused by cross-jurisdictional pollution from the Navy North Hangar Fire, to declare a national emergency due to those ongoing impacts, and to include in future federal budgets sufficient ongoing operational and maintenance funding for Navy North Hangar Fire remediation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 13

Whereas, The United States Navy owns the site of former Marine Corps Air Station Tustin, on which the North Hangar structure was located before a catastrophic fire that started on November 7, 2023; and

Whereas, The Navy North Hangar Fire burned for 24 days, deposited tons of debris, including toxic contaminants such as asbestos and lead from the Navy North Hangar, into a broad area of the community of Tustin, California, and affected over 1,500 homes and businesses, 29 schools, and 14,000 individuals; and

Whereas, The debris has been studied for exposure levels by an environmental health team that includes the South Coast Air Quality Management District, California Department of Toxic Substances Control, United States Environmental Protection Agency, Orange County Health Care Agency, United States Navy, Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, and University of California, Irvine, and that is determined to protect against significant public health risks; and

Whereas, The City of Tustin has proclaimed a state of local emergency since November 9, 2023, as a result of asbestos and lead debris contaminants deposited into the City of Tustin; and

Whereas, The Tustin Unified School District and its students were greatly impacted by school closures and disruptions due to threatening air quality conditions and the contamination impacts; and

Whereas, The Orange County Transportation Authority was impacted due to public concern for air quality; and

Whereas, The County of Orange, on November 9, 2023, proclaimed a local emergency due to the public health, environmental, and economic impacts of the pollution disaster; and

Whereas, The City of Tustin has contracted for emergency services to protect the public and environment in excess of \$80,000,000; and

Whereas, The City of Tustin is expending over 100 percent of its annual budget on this incident; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the Legislature urges the United States Congress and President Joseph R. Biden to support a \$100,000,000 supplemental funding request to address the ongoing impacts on public health, the environment, and the local economy caused by cross-jurisdictional pollution from the Navy North Hangar Fire; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges President Joseph R. Biden to declare a national emergency due to the ongoing impacts to public health, the environment, and the local economy caused by cross-jurisdictional pollution from the Navy North Hangar Fire; and be it further

Resolved, That the Legislature urges President Joseph R. Biden and the United States Congress to include in future federal budgets sufficient ongoing operational and maintenance funding for Navy North Hangar Fire remediation; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the Majority Leader of the

Senate, to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States, to the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of the Navy, to the Governor, to the Attorney General, and to the author for appropriate distribution.

POM-181. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of New Jersey urging the United States Congress to renew funding for the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 82

Whereas, Millions of Americans, many of whom are low-wage earners or live in rural areas, are without access to broadband Internet services; and

Whereas, Broadband is critical to everyday activities such as work, school, and accessing healthcare; and

Whereas, Consequently, without access to broadband Internet services, individuals struggle to improve social outcomes through education, achieve upward economic mobility, gain digital literacy skills, and receive quality healthcare; and

Whereas, To close the digital divide, in 2021, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) launched the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides a discount of up to \$30 per month toward internet service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying Tribal lands; and

Whereas, In addition, the program offers a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers, under specific circumstances, for eligible households; and

Whereas, Since its inception, the ACP has helped to expand broadband access to over 20 million households in the United States; and

Whereas, In New Jersey, as of January 2024, 335,079 households are enrolled in the ACP, which means that roughly one in 10 households in the State benefit from the program; and

Whereas, Since the ACP's launch in 2021, New Jersey alone has received nearly \$152 million in ACP funding, resulting in \$8.3 million per month in collective cost savings on broadband Internet services for all New Jersey households enrolled in the program; and

Whereas, However, the FCC announced that, without additional funding from Congress, the ACP is slated to expire in April 2024 when the program is scheduled to exhaust its \$14.2 billion budget; and

Whereas, To improve broadband access for millions of Americans, and thereby advance social, economic, and health outcomes for the underserved, Congress is respectfully urged to renew funding for the Affordable Connectivity Program; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:

1. This House respectfully urges the Congress of the United States to renew funding for the Federal Communications Commission's Affordable Connectivity Program.

2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State, shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Majority and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and every member of Congress elected from this State.

POM-182. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Alaska urging the withdrawal of proposed Bureau of Land Management regulations affecting the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and urging meaningful engagement with tribes, local

governments, and affected communities; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 20

Whereas, in 1923, President Warren G. Harding issued an Executive Order establishing Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 on the North Slope region to provide a potential supply of oil for the United States Navy; and

Whereas 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976) redesignated Naval Petroleum Reserve No. 4 as the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska and transferred responsibility for its administration to the Secretary of the Interior; and

Whereas the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska encompasses 23,500,000 acres, with boundaries extending south from Icy Cape to the drainage divide of the Brooks Range, then following the divide eastward to 156 degrees west longitude, then north to the Colville River, and following the Colville River downstream to its mouth; and

Whereas the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska falls entirely within the boundary of the North Slope Borough and includes the communities of Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Utqiagvik, and Wainwright; and

Whereas Alaska Natives have continuously inhabited the region that includes the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska for over 10,000 years; and

Whereas President Biden has signed multiple Executive Orders directing federal agencies to elevate and honor tribal self-determination and the government-to-government relationship between tribes and the federal government; and

Whereas there are nine federally recognized tribes on the North Slope and five federally recognized tribes in the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

Whereas federally recognized tribal governments have a nation-to-nation relationship with federal agencies; and

Whereas President Biden's Executive Order 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments) and Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships both require meaningful consultation and collaboration with tribal officials and require tribal voices in policy deliberations that affect tribal communities; and

Whereas the federal government is directed to consult with Alaska Native corporations on the same basis as tribes, and Alaska Native corporations own land within and directly adjacent to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska; and

Whereas North Slope municipal and tribal governments, Alaska Native corporations, and other Alaska Native organizations have requested the proposed Bureau of Land Management regulations restricting development within the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska be withdrawn pending meaningful tribal consultation, public meetings, and stakeholder engagement; and

Whereas President Biden has directed federal agencies to consider the potential benefit and harm of federal regulations, including in relation to wages and inequality; and

Whereas employment with Alaska Native corporations and their subsidiaries and high unionization rates in the energy industry directly contribute to better wages and lower rates of economic inequality; and

Whereas the 2020 National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Integrated Activity Plan and Environmental Impact Statement estimates that the exploration, development, and production of oil and gas in the reserve could generate 3,600 direct jobs and 2,750 indirect jobs annually over a period of 30 years; and

Whereas state royalties from oil and gas development in the National Petroleum Re-

serve in Alaska are allocated to the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska Impact Mitigation Fund, which is used to provide the local communities of Anaktuvuk Pass, Atkasuk, Nuiqsut, Wainwright, Utqiagvik, and the North Slope Borough with grants to mitigate impacts related to oil and gas development; and

Whereas resource development in the state has benefited rural communities by bringing family-supporting jobs and wages, increased educational opportunities, safe water and wastewater facilities, and expanded health care services to those communities; and

Whereas, because of resource development and associated revenue and infrastructure investments, compared with the national average, rural areas of the state experienced greater increases in life expectancy between 1980 and 2014 in locations where resource development activities, including oil and gas development, mining, and fisheries operations, have occurred; and

Whereas continued development of the state's renewable and oil and gas resources with rapidly advancing carbon sequestration deployment ensures that the state can meet its own energy needs and contribute to national security and global decarbonization goals; Now be it

Resolved, The Alaska State Legislature recognizes the authority of a legislative body and further recognizes that regulations are not intended to usurp codified law; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature affirms the importance of consultation among the federal government, tribal governments, local governments, and Alaska Native corporations regarding proposed federal regulations; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature concurs with local tribal governments and indigenous stakeholders that consultation regarding the proposed Bureau of Land Management regulations affecting the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska was insufficient given the potential economic impact of withdrawal of land from development and effects on the ability of tribal and local governments to fund basic infrastructure with property tax revenue; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges withdrawal of the Bureau of Land Management's proposed rule to adopt regulations affecting the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, as proposed in September 2023, asserting that the proposal (1) lacks the benefit of consultation; (2) does not align with the congressionally adopted policy of oil and gas production, subject to reasonable mitigation measures, as reflected in 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976); and (3) does not serve the public interest; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges that future proposed regulations consider the full economic impact of resource development, including jobs within the region and throughout the state, funding for apprenticeship and other workforce development programs, employment of Alaska Native corporation shareholders and tribal members, and effects on wages for working class Alaskans; and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges that future proposed regulations by the federal Bureau of Land Management align with the congressionally adopted policy of oil and gas production, subject to reasonable mitigation measures, as reflected in 42 U.S.C. 6501 (Naval Petroleum Reserves Production Act of 1976); and be it further

Resolved, That the Alaska State Legislature urges that future proposed regulations by the federal Bureau of Land Management consider the role of energy production in advancing national security and energy independence for the United States and its allies.

Copies of this resolution shall be sent to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States; the Honorable Kamala D. Harris, Vice President of the United States and President of the U.S. Senate; the Honorable Deb Haaland, United States Secretary of the Interior; the Honorable Tracy Stone-Manning, Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; Steve Cohn, Alaska State Director, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of the Interior; and the Honorable Lisa Murkowski and the Honorable Dan Sullivan, U.S. Senators, and the Honorable Mary Peltola, U.S. Representative, members of the Alaska delegation in Congress.

POM-183. A joint resolution adopted by the General Assembly of the State of Maryland urging the federal government to publish, without delay, the federal Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-eighth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and urging the United States Congress to pass a joint resolution affirming the Equal Rights Amendment as the Twenty-eighth Amendment; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE JOINT NO. RESOLUTION 1

Whereas, in 1972, the 92nd Congress of the United States, at its second session, in both houses, by a constitutional majority of two-thirds, adopted the following proposition to amend the U.S. Constitution:

“Joint Resolution Resolved by the House of Representatives and Senate of the United States of America in Congress Assembled (Two-Thirds of Each House Concurring Therein), That the following article is proposed as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States, which shall be valid to all intents and purposes as a part of the Constitution when ratified by the legislatures of three-fourths of the several States within seven years from the date of its submission by the Congress:

ARTICLE

Section 1. Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex.

Section 2. The Congress shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.

Section 3. This amendment shall take effect two years after the date of ratification.”; and

Whereas, Article V of the U.S. Constitution provides a two-step procedure for the adoption of an amendment; and

Whereas, The first requirement for the adoption of an amendment under Article V is the proposal of an amendment either by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress or by a convention called by application of two-thirds of the states; and

Whereas, The second requirement for the adoption of an amendment under Article V is ratification of an amendment by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, The U.S. Constitution does not limit the time for states to ratify an amendment and does not grant Congress the authority to unilaterally limit the time by which an amendment may be ratified; and

Whereas, A time limitation for the ratification of amendments by the states would be a substantive change to the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, To have full force and effect, a substantive change to the U.S. Constitution must be within the text of an amendment so that it may be ratified by the states as part of the requirements of Article V; and

Whereas, The time limitation on state ratifications was in the preamble section of the resolution by Congress and not within the text of the amendment presented to states for state approval; and

Whereas, Because of the placement of the time limitation, the states ratified the text of the Equal Rights Amendment but did not ratify the time limit by Congress; and

Whereas, A time limit was approved in the Equal Rights Amendment by Congress in 1972, but has not been subsequently approved by the states and thus is without force or effect; and

Whereas, in comparison, in 1978, Congress passed the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, which included a time limitation within the text of the Amendment offered to the states for ratification; and

Whereas, The time limitation for the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment ended before ratification of the amendment by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, Because the time limit was within the text of the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, the time limit had full force and effect and the amendment expired in 1985; and

Whereas, In comparison, the Twenty-first Amendment and the Twenty-second Amendment include time limitations within the text of each amendment, and the timelines were ratified by three-fourths of the states in accordance with the text of the amendments; and

Whereas, in 1789, the First Congress proposed, in accordance with Article V, the Madison Amendment relating to compensation of members of Congress; and

Whereas, Over 202 years later, the Madison Amendment was ratified by three-fourths of the states; and

Whereas, In 1992, having finally met the requirements of Article V, the Madison Amendment was published as the 27th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution by the Archivist of the United States during the Administration of President George H.W. Bush; and

Whereas, Following publication of the Madison Amendment by the Archivist of the United States, Congress affirmed the Madison Amendment as the Twenty-seventh Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, As of January 27, 2020, three-fourths of the states have ratified the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas, Unlike the District of Columbia Voting Rights Amendment, the Equal Rights Amendment does not contain a time limit in its text where it would be of full force and effect; and

Whereas, In contrast to the Madison Amendment, which took 203 years to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment took only 48 years to ratify; and

Whereas, The text of Article V of the U.S. Constitution grants the states the power of ratification, not rescission; and

Whereas, Samuel Johnson's dictionary of 1755 defines “ratify” as “to confirm; to settle”; and

Whereas, Bouvier's Law Dictionary of 1856, considered to be the first American legal dictionary, states that a ratification once done, “cannot be revoked or recalled”; and

Whereas, James Madison wrote in a July 20, 1788, letter to Alexander Hamilton that ratification is “in toto and for ever”; and

Whereas, Various attempts to rescind ratifications of provisions of the U.S. Constitution or its amendments, including the Fourteenth, Fifteenth, and Nineteenth Amendments, have never been honored; and

Whereas, The General Assembly of Maryland set a precedent for this resolution in 1961 by passing House Joint Resolution 14 urging Congress to pass the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas, Maryland was one of the early states to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment in May 1972, two months after Congress proposed it for ratification; and

Whereas, Maryland adopted the Maryland Equal Rights Amendment to the Maryland Constitution in 1972; and

Whereas, The Maryland Equal Rights Amendment is only effective to the degree that it does not conflict with federal law; and

Whereas, The Maryland Attorney General filed an amicus brief in 2022 in support of a lawsuit brought by three ratifying states to require the Archivist of the United States to certify and publish the Equal Rights Amendment as an amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and

Whereas, Over several decades, the General Assembly of Maryland has passed laws and created protections attempting to guarantee equal rights under the law for all Marylanders, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, creed, religion, or sex—which includes legal equality and protection from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and decisions regarding reproductive healthcare or other aspects of an individual's bodily autonomy; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the General Assembly of Maryland, That it is the opinion of the General Assembly of Maryland that the Equal Rights Amendment meets the requirements of Article V of the U.S. Constitution and should be recognized as the 28th Amendment; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the Administration of President Joseph R. Biden to publish, without delay, the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland urges the Congress of the United States to pass a joint resolution affirming the Equal Rights Amendment as the 28th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the General Assembly of Maryland calls on other states to join in this action by passing similar resolutions; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of Legislative Services to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, President of the United States of America, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20500; the Honorable Kamala Harris, Vice President of the United States, President of the United States Senate, Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; the Honorable Colleen Joy Shogan, Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, 700 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20408; the Maryland Congressional Delegation; and the presiding officer of each House of the legislature of each state of the United States, with the request that it be circulated among leadership of the legislative branch of the state governments.

POM-184. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire reaffirming support for the child labor amendment to the United States Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 24

Whereas, widespread child labor was common in the 1800's and into the early 1900's; and

Whereas, the United States Supreme Court ruled in 1918 in *Hammer v. Dagenhart* that Congress did not possess the authority to regulate child labor prompting the writing of the Child Labor Amendment; and

Whereas, the Child Labor Amendment authorizes Congress “to limit, regulate, and

prohibit the labor of persons under eighteen years of age” and recognizes state legislatures sharing that authority with Congress; and

Whereas, the Child Labor Amendment was passed by Congress in 1924 and sent to the states for ratification, and the New Hampshire legislature ratified it in 1933; and

Whereas, no state has ratified the Child Labor Amendment since 1937 and in 1941 the United States Supreme Court overturned *Hammer v. Dagenhart* in United States v. Darby Lumber Co.; and

Whereas, while United States v. Darby Lumber Co. remains precedent, since 2018 there has been renewed interest in the ratification of the Child Labor Amendment, including passage by the Hawaii Senate in 2021 and 2022 and introduction in several other state legislative chambers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the New Hampshire legislature reaffirms its ratification of the Child Labor Amendment to the United States Constitution; and be it further

Resolved, That the clerk of the New Hampshire house of representatives is directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and New Hampshire’s congressional delegation.

POM-185. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of New Hampshire urging the United States Congress to remove the exception from the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution: “except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted.”; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 22

Whereas, slavery and involuntary servitude are antithetical to the concept of freedom and liberty put forth by the founding fathers; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the House of Representatives hereby urges Congress to remove the exception from the Thirteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution reading “except as a punishment crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted”; and be it further

Resolved, That the house clerk forward official copies of this resolution to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and to all the members of the New Hampshire congressional delegation.

POM-186. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States to use the federal Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish the Chuckwalla National Monument, to establish a National Park Service-managed Joshua Tree National Monument adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park, and to establish the Kw’atsan National Monument; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 16

Whereas, Approximately 60 percent of land in the continental United States is in a natural state, but we are losing a football field worth of it every 30 seconds, and the decline of nature threatens wildlife, as approximately 1,000,000 animal and plant species are at risk of extinction in the coming decades across the globe, including one-third of United States wildlife; and

Whereas, The United States Geological Survey reports that only 12 percent of the

nation’s lands and inland waters are permanently protected, and other studies show that roughly 23 percent of the nation’s coastal waters are currently strongly protected, with the vast majority of ocean protections found in the Pacific Ocean along the western coast of the United States; and

Whereas, On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order No. 14008, which launched a governmentwide effort to confront climate change, restore balance on the nation’s public lands and waters, create jobs, and provide a path to align the management of the nation’s public lands and waters with national climate, conservation, and clean energy goals; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. 14008 directs the United States Department of the Interior to outline steps to achieve the President’s commitment to conserve at least 30 percent each of the nation’s lands and waters by the year 2030, known as the 30x30 goal, in order to safeguard the nation’s health, food supplies, biodiversity, and the prosperity of every community and to undertake the process with broad engagement, including agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, outdoor enthusiasts, sovereign tribal nations, states, territories, local officials, and others, to identify strategies that reflect the priorities of all communities; and

Whereas, in October 2020, Governor Newsom outlined a comprehensive and results-oriented agenda to expand nature-based solutions across California through Executive Order No. N-82-20, elevating the role of natural and working lands in the fight against climate change, advancing biodiversity conservation as an administration priority, and committing the state to the goal of conserving 30 percent of state lands and coastal waters by 2030; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. N-82-20 directs the Natural Resources Agency to coordinate the execution of the 30x30 goal with other state agencies and stakeholders through a series of actions, including the development of a strategy document by February 2022 titled “Pathways to 30x30” that sets California on the path to successfully implement our 30x30 conservation goal; and

Whereas, California tribal nations have protected and conserved their indigenous and aboriginal lands since time immemorial, utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge, also known as Indigenous Knowledge or Native Science, evolved over hundreds of thousands of years through direct contact with the environment, and are continuing the tradition of stewardship by leading efforts to establish or expand national monument land protections in California; and

Whereas, The Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano nations are leading the effort to establish the Chuckwalla National Monument to protect approximately 627,000 acres of federal public lands that reach from the Coachella Valley region in the west to the Colorado River in the east; and

Whereas, Designating the Chuckwalla National Monument would help ensure equitable access to nature, honor a cultural landscape, and protect the desert’s unique biodiversity, wildlife habitat, landscape connectivity, and history; and

Whereas, The Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano nations are calling to protect approximately 17,000 acres of public lands that are adjacent to the east side of Joshua Tree National Park, as these lands are a living landscape with interconnected cultural, natural, and spiritual significance, which sustains the well-being and survival of Indigenous peoples today; and

Whereas, The Joshua Tree expansion area would connect to the proposed Chuckwalla

National Monument and other protected places, which would help ensure land connectivity for indigenous species, and would also preserve places of cultural and historical importance, including the homelands of the Cahuilla, Chemehuevi, Mojave, Quechan, and Serrano nations; and

Whereas, The Fort Yuma Quechan Indian Tribe is leading the effort to establish the Kw’atsan National Monument, which would protect more than 390,000 acres of the tribe’s aboriginal homelands located in the County of Imperial, California; and

Whereas, The proposed Kw’atsan National Monument lands contain incredible cultural, ecological, recreational, scenic, and historic values, including trails, desert life, petroglyphs, geoglyphs, and lithics, and the establishment of a national monument would provide protections for wildlife, cultural places, sacred sites, and scenic features; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the State of California urges the President to use the federal Antiquities Act of 1906 (54 U.S.C. Sec. 320101 et seq.) to establish the Chuckwalla National Monument, to establish a National Park Service-managed Joshua Tree National Monument adjacent to Joshua Tree National Park, and to establish the Kw’atsan National Monument; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States

POM-187. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of California urging the President of the United States to use the federal Antiquities Act of 1906 to establish the Sattitla National Monument; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 17

Whereas, Approximately 60 percent of land in the continental United States is in a natural state, but we are losing a football field worth of it every 30 seconds, and the decline of nature threatens wildlife as approximately 1,000,000 animal and plant species are at risk of extinction in the coming decades across the globe, including one-third of United States wildlife; and

Whereas, The United States Geological Survey reports that only 12.9 percent of United States lands are permanently protected, and other studies show that roughly 23 percent of the ocean waters under United States jurisdiction are currently strongly protected, with the vast majority of these protected waters being in the Pacific Ocean along the Western United States;

Whereas, On January 27, 2021, President Biden signed Executive Order No. 14008, which launched a governmentwide effort to confront climate change, restore balance on our nation’s public lands and waters, create jobs, and provide a path to align the management of our nation’s public lands and waters with national climate, conservation, and clean energy goals; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. 14008 directs the United States Department of the Interior to outline steps to achieve the President’s commitment to conserve at least 30 percent each of our lands and waters by the year

2030, known as the 30x30 goal, in order to safeguard our health, food supplies, biodiversity, and the prosperity of every community and to undertake the process with broad engagement, including agricultural and forest landowners, fishermen, outdoor enthusiasts, sovereign tribal nations, states, territories, local officials, and others to identify strategies that reflect the priorities of all communities; and

Whereas, in October 2020, Governor Newsom outlined a comprehensive and results-oriented agenda to expand nature-based solutions across California through Executive Order No. N-82-20, elevating the role of natural and working lands in the fight against climate change and advancing biodiversity conservation as an administration priority and committing the state to the goal of conserving 30 percent of state lands and coastal waters by 2030; and

Whereas, Executive Order No. N-82-20 directs the Natural Resources Agency to coordinate the execution of the 30x30 goal with other state agencies and stakeholders through a series of actions, including the development of a strategy document by February 2022 titled "Pathways to 30x30," that sets California on the path to successfully implement our 30x30 conservation goal; and

Whereas, California tribal nations have protected and conserved their indigenous and aboriginal lands since time immemorial utilizing Traditional Ecological Knowledge, also known as Indigenous Knowledge or Native Science, evolved over hundreds of thousands of years through direct contact with the environment, and are continuing the tradition of stewardship by leading efforts to establish or expand national monument land protections in California; and

Whereas, The Pit River Tribe is leading the effort to establish a S ttitla National Monument, totaling approximately 205,000 acres so that the area will be recognized for its cultural, geologic, and ecological value, and its resources and wildlife preserved; and

Whereas, S ttitla is an irreplaceable resource as a major source of water for the state of California, an area of singular geological features, and home to numerous endangered species, including the bald eagle and the northern spotted owl, and is also culturally significant to the Pit River, Modoc, Shasta, Karuk, and Wintu peoples of north-eastern California, and is a spiritual center for the Pit River and Modoc Tribes who gather there for ceremonies and other important gatherings; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of California, jointly, That the State of California urges the President to use the Antiquities Act of 1906 (54 U.S.C. Sec. 320101 et seq.) to establish the S ttitla National Monument; and be it further

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United States, the United States Secretary of the Interior, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Minority Leader of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States Senate, the Minority Leader of the United States Senate, and to each Senator and Representative from California in the Congress of the United States.

POM-188. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Texas urging the United States Congress to amend federal law to allow states to provide for the consolidation of federally funded workforce development services with federally funded social safety net services; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26

Whereas, The State of Texas desires to provide the most streamlined and consolidated

customer service for those seeking work, unemployment benefits, or social safety net services; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Labor and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) currently restrict the consolidation of federally funded employment and job training services with other federally funded services such as safety net services; and

Whereas, in Texas, federally funded employment services and workforce development services are provided by local workforce development boards and the Texas Workforce Commission, and federally funded social services are provided by the Texas Health and Human Services Commission; and

Whereas, Texans seeking assistance with employment and job training services, as well as social safety net services, are forced to seek such services at more than one location of state and local government agencies, with little to no consolidation or coordination of such services; and

Whereas, The State of Texas desires to develop a consolidation plan for the delivery of workforce development and social services to its citizens in order to provide a broader and more streamlined delivery of services to those seeking such services; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the 88th Legislature of the State of Texas hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to amend federal law to allow states to provide for the consolidation of federally funded workforce development services with federally funded social safety net services; and, be it further

Resolved, That the Texas secretary of state forward official copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that this resolution be officially entered in the Congressional Record as a memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.

POM-189. A petition from the House of Councillors of the National Diet of Japan expressing their deepest sympathies on the wide-spread damage caused by the powerful hurricane Helene; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Ryan Young Park, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Sharad Harshad Desai, of Arizona, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona.

Bobby Jack Woods, of Kentucky, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky for the term of four years.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 5315. A bill to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance border secu-

rity by seeking to expand partnerships with appropriate law enforcement entities in Mexico and Central American and South American countries to combat human smuggling and trafficking operations in Mexico and such countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 5316. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the period of time for making S corporation elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 5317. A bill to direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a review of the Homeland Security Information Network, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 5318. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense, in consultation with the heads of certain agencies and organizations, to conduct a study on the health effects of indoor residential mold growth in military unaccompanied housing or other housing on military installations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 5319. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to direct the Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security to conduct an annual audit of the information systems and bulk data of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 5320. A bill to amend the National Energy Conservation Policy Act to authorize certain long-term contracts for Federal purchases of energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PETERS:

S. 5321. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a DHS Cybersecurity Internship Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. OSSOFF (for himself and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 5322. A bill to amend the United States Sentencing Guidelines applicable to human smuggling offenses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 5323. A bill to amend the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 to impose time limits on the completion of certain required actions under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 5324. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure veterans of secrecy oath programs receive the full benefits they have earned, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL:

S. 5325. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to promote assistance from persons recognized by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for individuals who file certain claims under laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 5326. A bill to fully fund the Prevention and Public Health Fund and reaffirm the importance of prevention in the United States healthcare system; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 5327. A bill to advance and protect the internationally recognized human rights of all Sudanese people, to hold perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Sudan accountable for their crimes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. KENNEDY):

S. 5328. A bill to direct the Secretary of Commerce to submit to Congress a report containing an assessment of the value, cost, and feasibility of a trans-Atlantic submarine fiber optic cable connecting the contiguous United States, the United States Virgin Islands, Ghana, and Nigeria; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. BROWN, Ms. COLLINS, and Mr. CASEY):

S. 5329. A bill to amend section 321 of the Tariff Act of 1930 to enhance transparency with respect to shipments seeking an administrative exemption from duties for low-value entries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. DUCKWORTH (for herself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KING, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 5330. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a pilot program regarding treating pregnancy as a qualifying event for enrollment in TRICARE Select; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. 5331. A bill to create a National Science Foundation scholarship-for-service Humanitarian Tech Corps, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. TILLIS (for himself, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 5332. A bill to appropriate amounts to the Disaster Loans Program Account, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. Res. 894. A resolution designating December 1, 2024, as "Drive Safer Sunday"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 1673

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1673, a bill to amend title XVIII to protect patient access to ground ambulance services under the Medicare program.

S. 2514

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2514, a bill to amend the Colorado

River Basin Salinity Control Act to modify certain requirements applicable to salinity control units, and for other purposes.

S. 2647

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2647, a bill to improve research and data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes.

S. 2757

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2757, a bill to limit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from modifying the rate of payment or reimbursement for transportation of veterans or other individuals via special modes of transportation under the laws administered by the Secretary, and for other purposes.

S. 3236

At the request of Mr. WELCH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3236, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage of ambulance services that do not include transportation.

S. 3591

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3591, a bill making appropriations to improve border security, imposing new reporting requirements relating to border security, and enhancing criminal penalties for destroying or evading border controls.

S. 4499

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4499, a bill to reauthorize grants to the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, the Boy Scouts of America, the National 4-H Council, and the National FFA Organization to establish pilot projects to expand the programs carried out by the organizations in rural areas and small towns, and for other purposes.

S. 4510

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4510, a bill to amend the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012 to delay implementation of the inclusion of oral-only ESRD-related drugs in the Medicare ESRD prospective payment system.

S. 4522

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 4522, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a public awareness campaign to increase awareness of the importance of father inclusion and engagement in improving overall health

outcomes during pregnancy, childbirth, and postpartum, and for other purposes.

S. 4630

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) were added as cosponsors of S. 4630, a bill to establish an interagency committee to harmonize regulatory regimes in the United States relating to cybersecurity, and for other purposes.

S. 4917

At the request of Mrs. BRITT, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4917, a bill to amend the Federal securities laws to enhance 403(b) plans, and for other purposes.

S. 5201

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5201, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to limit Federal funding of the procurement of certain buses under the Clean School Bus program, and for other purposes.

S. 5310

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5310, a bill to amend title 41, United States Code, to make changes with respect to the Federal Acquisition Security Council, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 74

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 74, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of the Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 158

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 158, a resolution condemning the deportation of children from Ukraine to the Russian Federation and the forcible transfer of children within territories of Ukraine that are temporarily occupied by Russian forces.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 894—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 1, 2024, AS "DRIVE SAFER SUNDAY"

Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mrs. CAPITO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

S. RES. 894

Whereas motor vehicle travel is the primary means of transportation in the United States;

Whereas every individual traveling on roads and highways needs to drive in a safer

manner in order to reduce deaths and injuries that result from motor vehicle crashes;

Whereas, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, wearing a seat belt saves more than 15,000 lives each year;

Whereas Road Safe America, a non-partisan, nonprofit organization founded after the tragic death of Cullum Owings on December 1, 2002, in a preventable truck accident, has been committed to raising awareness about the importance of driving safely;

Whereas the Senate wants all people of the United States to understand the life-saving importance of wearing a seat belt and encourages motorists to drive safely, not just during the holiday season, but every time they get behind the wheel; and

Whereas the Sunday after Thanksgiving is 1 of the busiest highway traffic days of the year: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) encourages—

(A) high schools, colleges, universities, administrators, teachers, primary schools, and secondary schools to launch campus-wide educational campaigns to urge students to focus on safety when driving;

(B) national trucking firms—

(i) to alert employee drivers to be especially focused on driving safely on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(ii) to publicize the importance of the day through use of Citizens Band (commonly known as “CB”) radios and truck stops across the United States;

(C) clergies to remind their members to travel safely when attending services and gatherings;

(D) law enforcement personnel to remind drivers and passengers to drive safely, particularly on the Sunday after Thanksgiving; and

(E) all people of the United States to use the Sunday after Thanksgiving as an opportunity to educate themselves about highway safety; and

(2) designates December 1, 2024, as “Drive Safer Sunday”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have three requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 10 a.m., to consider a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 11 a.m., to consider nominations.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 14, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. WARNER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the privileges of the floor be granted to the following member of my staff, Payton Thomas, during the pendency of the 118th Congress.

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

Mr. TILLIS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that Caleb Carlin, Preston Romanov, and Dalton Barnett, interns from Senator PAUL’s office, be granted floor privileges until December 12, 2024.

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

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to my following interns and fellows for today: Alberto Arevalo, Clara Munguia, Autumn Thatcher, Keiko Tani, Lars Eckerstrom, Mia Adams, and Elliana Rainey.

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

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT RISK REDUCTION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 519, S. 4716.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4716) to amend section 7504 of title 31, United States Code, to improve the single audit requirements.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Financial Management Risk Reduction Act”.

SEC. 2. SINGLE AUDIT IMPROVEMENTS.

Section 7504 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “, and” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) participate in and furnish information for the review under subsection (e); and

“(4) identify recipients that expend \$300,000 or more in Federal awards or such other amount specified by the Director under section 7502(a)(3) during the recipient’s fiscal year but did not undergo an audit in accordance with this chapter.”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by adding “and” at the end;

(B) by striking paragraph (2); and

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (2); and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 2 years thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on

Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report listing the recipients identified under subsection (a)(4).

“(e)(1) The Director shall designate 1 or more Federal agencies to conduct a Government-wide analysis of single audit quality, which may include a consideration of the results of reviews of single audit quality by—

“(A) Federal agencies;

“(B) inspectors general of Federal agencies;

“(C) State auditors; and

“(D) external peer reviews conducted in accordance with generally accepted government auditing standards.

“(2) Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 6 years thereafter, the Federal agencies designated under paragraph (1) shall complete a Government-wide analysis of single audit quality.

“(3) The Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives and make publicly available a summary of the results of each review under paragraph (2).

“(f) Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this subsection—

“(1) the Administrator of General Services, in coordination with the Director, the Council on Federal Financial Assistance (or any successor thereto), and key management single audit liaisons of Federal agencies designated as described in section 200.513 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor thereto), shall develop analytic tools to use audit data in the Federal clearinghouse to identify cross-Governmental risks to Federal award funds; and

“(2) the Director, in coordination with the Administrator of General Services, the Council on Federal Financial Assistance (or any successor thereto), and key management single audit liaisons of Federal agencies designated as described in section 200.513 of title 2, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor thereto), shall develop a strategy to use audit data in the Federal clearinghouse to identify cross-Governmental risks to Federal award funds.

“(g) Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Comptroller General of the United States shall complete an evaluation of—

“(1) the effectiveness of the strategy and analytic tools developed under subsection (f);

“(2) reporting burdens for auditors and audited entities and the capacity of auditors and audited entities to fulfill the requirements under this chapter; and

“(3) the responsiveness of Federal agencies to repeat single audit findings and corrective action plans.”.

SEC. 3. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act or the amendments made by this Act.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 4716), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

NATIONAL DAY OF REMEMBRANCE FOR THE WORKERS OF THE NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 889.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 889) designating October 30, 2024, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 889) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of September 25, 2024, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

FISCAL YEAR 2024 VETERANS AFFAIRS MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6324, which was received from the House and is at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 6324) to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHUMER. I further ask that the bill be considered read a third time and passed, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The bill (H.R. 6324) was ordered to a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, November 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that following the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Kidd nomination, postcloture, and that all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; and finally, that if the nomination is confirmed during Monday's session, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2024, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 3:47 p.m., adjourned until Monday, November 18, 2024, at 3 p.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING

CAROL KELLERMANN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2030, VICE KATHY K. IM, TERM EXPIRED.

ADAM JEFFREY WHITE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CORPORATION FOR PUBLIC BROADCASTING FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 31, 2030, VICE JANICE MIRIAM HELLEREICH, TERM EXPIRED.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION

LOIDA NICOLAS LEWIS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS, VICE ALEXANDER CRENSHAW, TERM EXPIRED.

STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE

DEVIN S. ANDERSON, OF UTAH, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE STATE JUSTICE INSTITUTE FOR A TERM EXPIRING SEPTEMBER 17, 2025, VICE MARSHA J. RABITEAU, TERM EXPIRED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 14, 2024:

OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS

DAVID HUITTEMA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT ETHICS FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

UNITED STATES TAX COURT

CATHY FUNG, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A JUDGE OF THE UNITED STATES TAX COURT FOR A TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS.

WITHDRAWALS

Executive Message transmitted by the President to the Senate on November 14, 2024 withdrawing from further Senate consideration the following nominations:

JENNIFER D. GAVITTO, OF COLORADO, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE STATE OF LIBYA, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JANUARY 8, 2024.

MARTIN JOSEPH WALSH, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE A GOVERNOR OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE FOR A TERM EXPIRING DECEMBER 8, 2029, VICE DONALD LEE MOAK, TERM EXPIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON FEBRUARY 29, 2024.

CARL WHITNEY BENTZEL, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A FEDERAL MARITIME COMMISSIONER FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2029, (REAPPOINTMENT), WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JULY 11, 2024.

DEVA A. KYLE, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE PENSION BENEFIT GUARANTY CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS, VICE GORDON HARTOGENSIS, TERM EXPIRED, WHICH WAS SENT TO THE SENATE ON JULY 11, 2024.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO BENJAMIN RAMEY

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart as I include into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD the Obituary for Benjamin Ramey. Ben's father, Dave Ramey, is a dear friend who worked for me for 24 years and was my Chief of Staff for most of that time. I remember when Ben was born and how incredibly proud both Dave and Jen were to have a son and sibling for their daughter, Maddie. Ben was well-liked, funny, kind, smart and a bit mischievous. He will be missed beyond measure.

On Saturday, November 16, 2024, we will celebrate the life of Ben Ramey and remember the joy and goodness he brought to so many lives. We will also mourn the loss of such a bright young man and lend our shoulders to Dave, Jen and Maddie as they navigate a world without their dear son and brother. May the outpouring of love and support provide some measure of comfort to the broken hearts of the Ramey family.

Benjamin Gregg Ramey was born in Rockville, MD on May 14, 1997. In his beautiful 27 years of life, he touched many lives with love and light. He graduated from Rockville High School in 2015 and went on to study marketing and business analytics at the University of Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business. He graduated in 2019 with his BA.

After a long and difficult struggle with various illnesses, our beloved Ben died by his own hand early in the afternoon on Saturday, October 12th.

He is survived by his parents, Jennifer and David Ramey, his sister, Maddie Ramey, eight aunts and uncles and eight cousins.

Ben was hilarious, Ben was so smart, Ben felt things deeply. Ben loved his friends and they loved him back. Ben was the cherished "Bub" of his family, the jokester, the sneaky and beloved baby of the family. Ben loved music, Ben taught kids how to play tennis. Ben loved sleeping late and Ben had a gigantic head that his cousin Will once said must contain two brains. It is, of course, impossible to summarize his life in this little box. His memory will live on in the stories we tell about him and in the moments that have not yet happened, but will happen, where we will wish more than anything that he was there, and he will not be.

He charged us not to remember him by his struggles but rather to Live . . . in Love and Light.

He lives now in Heaven, in peace . . . caressed by pure love and pure light.

CELEBRATING THE HEREFORD
INLET LIGHTHOUSE 150TH ANNI-
VERSARY

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse located in North Wildwood, South Jersey. The Hereford Inlet has served as a beacon of safety since the 17th century when it was first used by whalers to draw in and prepare their catch. Through the course of time, the need for a lighthouse became more apparent due to the high number of shipwrecks, so the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse was built and first put into use on May 11, 1874. This remarkable structure was designed by Lighthouse Boards Chief Draftsman, Paul J. Pelz, who later went on to design the Library of Congress here in Washington, D.C. Over the years, the Hereford Lighthouse has stood the test of time despite many tides, storms and hurricanes threatening to tear it down and eliminate the assurance it has provided mariners over the years, but it continues to stand strong. Currently, the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse is managed by the City of North Wildwood's Historical Commission, who are an excellent group of volunteers from the local community that have done a tremendous job maintaining the appearance of the magnificent building. Known as one of the most important structures on the Five Mile Beach of South Jersey, it continues to operate as a navigational aid and is open to the public to learn about its history, take in the ocean air, and walk the beautiful gardens to the seashore. Happy 150th Anniversary to the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse and here is to 150 more.

May God bless the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING CARL WILLIAM
"WILL" RUSH

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Carl William "Will" Rush's bravery to save an American flag from burning during the anti-Israel protests at Union Station.

On Wednesday, July 25th, several anti-Israel protests erupted around Washington D.C. in reaction to Prime Minister Netanyahu's address to Congress. Outside of Union Station, protesters vandalized the Christopher Columbus Memorial Fountain with pro-Hamas graffiti and profanity. Additionally, American flags were lowered and replaced with Palestinian flags. Once the American flag was replaced, the crowd doused it in lighter fluid and

set it on fire. During the chaos, Will grabbed the American flag from the ground and was then chased by a large group of people. Will's courage to stand up for the American flag was an incredible display of patriotism and bravery.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you to join me in recognizing Will's actions during these disruptive and violent protests. I hope that his courage will inspire other Americans to stand up for their flag and country. May God bless Will and his family in all their future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING THE DISTINGUISHED
SERVICE OF MAJOR BRENNAN
RANDEL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to extend my deepest gratitude for the service of Major Brennan Randel to my office and the United States Congress. As a Department of Defense Fellow, Brennan conducted himself with the utmost professionalism, assisting my office on a number of crucial legislative issues to include appropriations, defense policy, military construction, veterans affairs, and energy, water, and environmental issues.

By managing our office's appropriations for four separate accounts, Brennan developed a unique understanding of the federal budgeting process. Through his efforts and advice to me, the House Appropriations Committee supported my request for funding for an emergency operations center in my district and programmatic funding for several of my constituents' priorities.

Beyond his work on appropriations, Brennan took the initiative to expand his knowledge base and contribute above expectations. While defense fellows typically only cover the defense and veterans affairs policy portfolios, he asked to take on the energy, water, and environment portfolio. When Brennan discovered that the biannual Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) was due for reauthorization, he developed a plan to reach out to local stakeholders to determine how I could best advocate for our district. He then started working with community leaders and other members' staff and achieved great results; three of my requests were included in the House-passed WRDA bill, including a provision that a bipartisan pair of representatives joined my office in supporting.

Another one of Brennan's great qualities is his ability to manage a project from start to finish. When Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough came to Georgia's 2nd District for a VA clinic grand opening, Brennan took on the assignment of planning a town hall event in conjunction with the clinic grand opening. He worked with the Secretary's team to ensure the event met everyone's expectations, secured a venue, planned the event, and helped send invitations to local veteran leaders. Brennan's hard work set the stage for me

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

to host local elected leaders and local veterans service organization leaders together in an intimate discussion with the VA Secretary.

Throughout his time in my office, Brennan exemplified intelligence, diligence, compassion, and a joyful spirit of public service in all that he did. He was also lovingly supported by his wife Elizabeth, and his three children, Eva, Roman, and Maeve. They were integral supporters of his success, and I am equally grateful to them.

Following his time in my office, Brennan went on to work as a Congressional Budget Liaison for the United States Army, where he continued to make innumerable contributions to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join my wife, Vivian, and me, in extending our best wishes to Brennan and his family as he transitions to a new assignment and expressing profound thankfulness to him for his service to our great Nation.

SUPPORTING H.R. 82, THE SOCIAL SECURITY FAIRNESS ACT OF 2023

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, on November 12th the House of Representatives took an important step by passing H.R. 82 and eliminating two harmful provisions that unfairly deny workers, their spouses, and their children the Social Security benefits they deserve. These provisions—the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) and Government Pension Offset (GPO) penalties—unfairly target Social Security benefits earned by public service workers, including teachers, police officers, firefighters, and hundreds of thousands of federal retirees.

WEP unfairly penalizes retirees who have spent careers in public service but who have also paid into Social Security at some point. More than 6 million public employees are or would be affected by WEP and around 800,000 Americans would have benefits reduced or eliminated by the GPO. Social Security keeps millions of seniors, children, disabled individuals and their families out of poverty, which is why it is crucial that Congress act to remedy these penalties. That is why I voted for H.R. 82.

That is also why I cosponsor Rep. JOHN LARSON's Social Security 2100 Act, which would repeal WEP and GPO while providing the appropriate pay-for measures needed to strengthen and preserve Social Security. The Social Security 2100 Act would improve Social Security's Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) so it reflects the inflation experienced by seniors, cuts taxes for middle-income beneficiaries among other important measures, and do so by ensuring millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share of Federal Insurance Contributions Act (FICA) taxes.

Conversely, H.R. 82 would fully repeal WEP and GPO without a pay-for. The Congressional Budget Office has estimated that this would move up the date of insolvency for the combined Social Security Trust Funds. Given that the President-elect and House Republicans are unwilling to support commonsense

solutions to strengthen Social Security, it is crucial that we work to prevent benefit cuts for Social Security recipients, especially our most vulnerable citizens.

Congress must achieve the goals of protecting American federal workers while also preserving the crucial benefits that all Americans are entitled to through Social Security. H.R. 82 would cost the Social Security Trust Fund \$200 billion over 10 years, and it is imperative that Congress act to fill in this gap.

I urge the Senate to address H.R. 82's pay-for shortcomings as this bill moves forward.

FRIENDSHIP UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, Friendship United Methodist Church in Buena, New Jersey has done an outstanding job spreading the good news of Jesus for over 200 years. This extraordinary place of worship has been standing in the same place it was back in 1808, when it became one of the first Methodist Episcopal churches in the area. In the early days of South Jersey and the United States, there were not many places to worship, but the dedicated followers of Jesus Christ made sure that the people of Buena, New Jersey had a place to fellowship with their Lord. The church has endured hardships through the years and even had to close its doors at one point, but with the commitment from the ancestors of some of its original members, the house of God once again reopened in 2010 and has stood strong ever since. To this day, it is the oldest known church structure that is still in use by its congregation, and it looks forward to many more years of bringing people close to God and remembering the history- of Christianity in South Jersey.

God bless Friendship United Methodist Church and God bless the United States of America.

HONORING CARLOS LEON'S CAREER IN SERVICE

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor El Paso County Commissioner, Carlos Leon, a lifelong El Pasoan, who has dedicated his career to serving El Paso, Texas for over four decades.

Commissioner Leon began his career in 1974 with the El Paso Police Department, where he served for three decades. As a captain, he championed community policing, the law enforcement policy of fostering strong relationships between law enforcement and residents that builds trust and creates safer neighborhoods. In 1999, he was appointed Chief of Police, leading El Paso to its first national recognition as the safest city in America.

Commissioner Leon's dedication continued with his election as County Commissioner for

Precinct 1, where he has served three terms. I had the privilege of working with Commissioner Leon on the Commissioners' Court, witnessing firsthand his passion for a responsive, efficient government. He was instrumental in creating a County Administration Office to streamline and professionalize county operations, expanding healthcare access through University Medical Center clinics, and championing a \$15 minimum wage for all County employees.

It is my privilege to honor Commissioner Carlos Leon for his decades of dedicated service to the citizens of El Paso County. His leadership in public safety, infrastructure, access to healthcare, and economic equity has left a lasting impact on our community. I extend my heartfelt gratitude for his years of service and wish him and his beloved family, the very best in his well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING THE ST. ELIZABETH HORNETS, THE MISSOURI CLASS 1 SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize the St. Elizabeth Hornets softball team for their remarkable achievement of capturing the Class 1 state championship. Their commanding victory over Gallatin in the title game, with a final score of 11-1, is a testament to their hard work and extraordinary talent.

Under Coach Oligschlaeger's leadership, the Hornets showcased consistency and greatness by going 30-2. What makes winning 30 games even more impressive is that they played most of their games against schools in larger classifications. When postseason play began, the dominance continued. They astonishingly outscored their opponents 78-7.

This championship adds to the legacy of the St. Elizabeth softball program, marking the fifth in its history. The continued success of this program is an excellent example of what happens when a community comes together to embrace and support its school.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to St. Elizabeth's players, coaches, staff, and fans. The shared effort of hard work, determination, and perseverance has brought honor to the school, town, and Mid-Missouri region. This St. Elizabeth softball team season shows what can be achieved when a community comes together to support a common goal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I was absent from votes on November 13, 2024. Had I been present, I would have voted: NAY on Roll Call No. 459, and NAY on Roll Call No. 460.

CONGRATULATING RICHIE
DEMARIA, SR.

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Richard DeMaria on having May 20, 2024, officially being named “Richard DeMaria Day” in the Borough of Buena because of the incredible contributions he has given to the area. Richie has owned and operated the Landisville Liquor Store since 1957 and has made it an integral part of the Buena Borough by providing great service to the community as well as initiating and maintaining its economy. The Landisville Liquor Store has been a model for businesses and has set the standard for customer service, quality, and professionalism throughout the years. Leading up to starting the Landisville Liquor Store, he worked in his grandpop’s feed store and bar, and he was a very likeable young man playing three sports in high school and having many friends. After graduation, he joined the Navy and sailed around the world several times before coming back to Buena, buying the bar from his grandpop on credit and paying it off creating what we have today as the Landisville Liquor Store. Richie has risen above many challenges in his life to not only become a successful businessman, but also an outstanding role model family and local community. I thank Richie, for all he has done for South Jersey and congratulate him on a well-deserved new holiday.

God bless Richard DeMaria and God bless the United States of America.

HONORING THE LIFE OF ERIC
PAULSEN

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Eric Paulsen and his many contributions to our community in New Orleans and the state of Louisiana.

Eric tragically lost his battle with cancer on October 26, 2024.

For five decades, Eric kept our community informed as a local news legend, including forty years as a morning news anchor and reporter for WWL TV in New Orleans, making him one of our nation’s longest-tenured broadcasters.

For many people in Southeast Louisiana, turning to Channel 4 to hear the morning news from Eric was a part of their daily routine. For nearly half a century, Eric covered some of our region’s best and worst moments; from the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and other major storms to capturing the culture of New Orleans at Jazz Fest, he was there for Louisiana families through it all. His love and passion for the New Orleans food and music scene inspired many of his stories and earned him countless friendships across the City.

Earlier this year, Eric earned the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from the Press Club of New Orleans and was recognized by the New Orleans City Council for his out-

standing journalism and commitment to the city and surrounding regions.

In addition to his broadcasting excellence, Eric was also a fixture at so many charitable events around the city and should serve as an inspiration to all of us to strive to give back to this community that has given us so much.

Not only was Eric a true friend, but his professionalism mixed with witty humor and a deep love of the city of New Orleans made him one of a kind who will be irreplaceable.

Eric Paulsen was loved by all who met him and will be sadly missed.

INTRODUCTION OF THE COURT
IMPROVEMENT EQUITY ACT

**HON. GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO
SABLAN**

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. SABLAN. Mr. Speaker, today, I am introducing the Court Improvement Equity Act which authorizes grants to improve child welfare services in Guam, American Samoa, and my district, the Northern Mariana Islands.

As it stands, courts located in the Pacific territories are the only entities that do not receive support from the Court Improvement Program (CIP) under Title IV-B of the Social Security Act. In all other territories and states, the CIP provides a grant to the highest court of appeal to assess and improve the handling of foster care and adoption proceedings.

Every child, regardless of where they grow up in our country, has the right to a safe, secure, and nurturing family. My bill would enshrine this right by extending the same base grant currently available everywhere else to our islands.

The gentleman from Guam, Mr. MOYLAN, is an original cosponsor of the bill. I urge my colleagues to support this vital bipartisan legislation.

STOP TERROR-FINANCING AND
TAX PENALTIES ON AMERICAN
HOSTAGES ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 9495, the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act.

This legislation would grant the Secretary of the Treasury the unilateral authority to suspend the tax-exempt status of any organization deemed “terrorist supporting” without due process or evidence. U.S. law already prohibits nonprofits from providing material support to terrorists. Additionally, I am deeply concerned about how this legislation could provide President-elect Trump’s incoming administration with unchecked power to cause irreparable damage to any nonprofit he deems a threat to his own political agenda. This could be disastrous for nonprofits across the country, including those doing important work in the Fourth District like Springboard for the Arts,

the Playwrights’ Center, and the Center for Victims of Torture. More than 120 civil society groups—including the ACLU, the American Federation of Teachers, the NAACP, and the League of Conservation Voters—signed a letter opposing this bill due to the potential for abuse. I include in the RECORD this letter. I stand with them, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

SEPTEMBER 20, 2024.

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

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND LEADER JEFFRIES: We write to express our deep concerns with H.R. 9495, the Stop Terror-Financing and Tax Penalties on American Hostages Act. Specifically, this bill includes the text of H.R. 6408, legislation we strongly oppose as it raises significant constitutional concerns. Because H.R. 6408 vests vast unilateral discretion in the Secretary of Treasury, it creates a high risk of politicized and discriminatory enforcement. The executive branch already has extensive authority to prohibit transactions with individuals and entities it deems connected to terrorism and nonprofit organizations are already prohibited from providing material support to terrorist organizations. In fact, it would be a federal crime for them to do so.

Moreover, we do not oppose the provisions in H.R. 9495 that relate to preventing the IRS from imposing fines and penalties on hostages while they are held abroad. Indeed, these provisions have already passed the Senate on their own, and if the House of Representatives were to pass a version of this bill that did not include the text of H.R. 6408, it could be sent immediately to the President for his signature.

Without any evidence as to the need for this legislation, H.R. 6408 authorizes broad and easily abused new powers for the executive branch. It grants the Secretary of the Treasury virtually unfettered discretion to designate a U.S. nonprofit as a “terrorist supporting organization” and to strip it of its tax-exempt status if the Secretary finds that the nonprofit has provided material support to a terrorist group, even if the “support” is not intentional or connected to actual violence.

While the sponsors of this legislation have stated that it is needed to avoid what they refer to as “time-consuming bureaucratic process” under current law, what the bill sponsors are actually seeking to avoid is fundamental due process. If this bill were to become law, the Secretary of Treasury could strip a US nonprofit of its tax-exempt status without providing the nonprofit a meaningful opportunity to defend itself before a neutral decisionmaker. The legislation further does not require disclosure of all the reasons for such a decision or the evidence relied upon to support it. Nor would the government be required to provide any evidence in its possession that might undermine its decision, leaving an accused nonprofit entirely in the dark about what conduct the government believes qualifies as material support.

The potential for abuse under H.R. 6408 is immense as the executive branch would be handed a tool it could use to curb free speech, censor nonprofit media outlets, target political opponents, and punish disfavored groups across the political spectrum. Moreover, the addition of this authority to the tax code would allow the IRS to explicitly target and harass domestic nonprofits using its investigative authority. It is also not hard to imagine a future administration using this power in far broader circumstances that have nothing to do with the

hostilities in Gaza. And as more recent congressional oversight efforts make clear, these efforts are part of concerted attack on civil society that is targeted at more than just groups involved in the campus protests regarding Gaza. The executive branch could use this authority to target its political opponents and use the fear of crippling legal fees, the stigma of the designation, and donors fleeing controversy to stifle dissent and chill speech and advocacy. And while the broadest applications of this authority may not ultimately hold up in court, the potential reputational and financial cost of fending off an investigation and litigating a wrongful designation could functionally mean the end of a targeted nonprofit before it ever has its day in court.

The lack of guardrails creates the potential for future administrations to weaponize these powers against groups on both ends of the ideological spectrum. Even if they may never be designated as “terrorist-supporting,” let alone charged with a crime, nonprofits will curtail their activities as a precaution in order to avoid stigmatizing and financially devastating punishments. That is why we strongly urge you to oppose the inclusion of H.R. 6408 in H.R. 9495.

Sincerely,

#WelcomeWithDignity, 18 Million Rising, Advocacy for Principled Action in Government, Alliance for Peacebuilding, American Atheists, American Civil Liberties Union, American Federation of Teachers, American Friends Service Committee, American Oversight, Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Amnesty International USA, Anethum Global, Arab American Institute (AAI), Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, Asian Law Caucus, Aunties Coalition, Ayuda, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Borderlands Resource Initiative, Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law,

Center for American Progress, Center for Civilians in Conflict (CIVIC), Center for Common Ground, Center for Constitutional Rights, Center for Democracy & Technology, Center for International Policy, Center for Media and Democracy, Center for Popular Democracy, Center for Victims of Torture, Charity and Security Network, Chinese for Affirmative Action, Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW), Civil Liberties Defense Center, Coalition for Civil Freedoms, Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA), COLAGE, Colorado Immigrant Rights, Coalition Color of Change, Community Change Action, Council on American-Islamic Relations.

DAWN, DC Volunteer Lawyers Project, Defending Rights & Dissent, Demand Progress, Democratic Messaging Project, EarthRights International, Earthworks, Emgage Action, Empowering Pacific Islander Communities, Ensaaf, Equality Federation, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Faith in Action, Food Shift, Free Press Action, Freedom of the Press Foundation, Friends Committee on National Legislation, Friends of Human Rights, Greenpeace USA, HEART.

Hindus for Human Rights, Human Rights First, Human Rights Watch, ICNA Dallas, Immigration Hub, Indivisible, International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN), International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, International Refugee Assistance Project (IRAP), Islamic Association of The Colony, Islamic Center of Quad Cities, Just Foreign Policy, League of Conservation Voters, McKinney Islamic Association, Medical Center Islamic Society, Middle East Democracy Center (MEDC), MLFA, MoveOn, MPower Change Action Fund, Multicultural Center.

Muslim Advocates, Muslim Counterpublics Lab, Muslim Justice League, Muslims for Just Futures, NAACP, National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, National Disabled

Legal Professionals Association, National Education Association, National Immigration Law Center, National Iranian American Council Action, National Lawyers Guild-Mesoamérica subcommittee, National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund, National Network of Abortion Funds, National Women’s Law Center, NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice, New Georgia Project Action Fund, New Israel Fund, North American Indian Muslim Association, NTIC, Oil Change International.

Organization for Identity & Cultural Development (OICD.net), Othman Bin Affan Mosque, OPAWL—Building AAPI Feminist Leadership, Oxfam America, Palestine Legal, PASNY, Peace Action, Peace Appeal Foundation, Peace Catalyst International, Peace Direct, People for the American Way, People’s Action, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, Plus, Positive Women’s Network-USA, Presbyterian Church (USA), Office of Public Witness, Project On Government Oversight, Project South, Protect Democracy, Public Citizen.

Refreshed Refined Reformed R3 Inc, Reproductive Freedom for All (former NARAL Pro-Choice America), Restore the Fourth, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows, Shoulder to Shoulder Campaign, Southern Poverty Law Center, Stop AAPI Hate, The Interfaith Center of New York, The Seed Program by Kai, Inc., The Sikh Coalition, The United Methodist Church—General Board of Church and Society, The Workers Circle, The X-Lab, Tides Center, Tides Foundation, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), US Campaign for Palestinian Rights Action (USCPR Action), Win Without War, Women for Weapons Trade Transparency, Women’s March.

HONORING JAMES SCALICE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, this past month, it was my honor to attend the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for an incredible young man, James Scalice. James has learned an incredible amount through the merit badge program earning 41 total badges in subjects such as Life Skills, Business, and Science. Within his troop, this young man has developed leadership skills through elected positions and has learned the value of serving his community by participating in countless hours of service to his church and community. He has displayed his love for God by earning two religious emblems including “Pope Pius the twelfth” from the Catholic Diocese of Camden. With a deep love for his country and great respect for veterans, James decided to help out the American Legion Post 28 in Absecon, South Jersey for his Eagle Scout project.

RECOGNIZING DR. MARK BOUMAN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM THE FIELD MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY IN CHICAGO

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize the service of Dr. Mark Bouman

who is retiring this week from the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago. Dr. Bouman worked for the Field Museum for over 15 years, serving most recently as the Senior Environmental Social Scientist and, before that, as the Chicago Region Program Director at the Museum’s Keller Science Action Center. His work focused on efforts to build better bridges between people and nature across the Chicagoland region and the urban world.

A lifelong Chicagoan who received his undergraduate degree in Geography from Valparaiso University and a M.A. and Ph.D. in Geography from the University of Minnesota, Dr. Bouman has taught at Valparaiso, the University of Minnesota, University of British Columbia, Elmhurst College, Chicago State University, and the University of Chicago. He has received numerous awards for teaching excellence, funding for research and technical assistance projects, and authored or co-authored a myriad of peer-reviewed articles and publications.

Dr. Bouman has played a leading role in raising awareness of the incredible culturally- and environmentally-diverse Calumet region. The Calumet region is a bi-state area that spans from the Pullman National Historical Park to the Indiana Dunes National Park. It is loosely bounded by the former U.S. Steel South Works in Chicago, portions of suburban Chicago, and the Indiana counties of Lake, Porter, and LaPorte. From Lake Michigan to the Indiana Dunes to the Grand Calumet River to the Kankakee River. The Calumet is a landscape reworked for industrial use that is now undergoing vigorous restoration for recreational and educational uses to enrich the lives of its residents and visitors.

While at Chicago State University, which anchors one corner of the Calumet region, Dr. Bouman started the University’s Neighborhood Assistance Center, the Calumet Environmental Resource Center, and the GIS Laboratory. He also helped establish the Lake Calumet Ecosystem Partnership and was Project Director on a map for Chicago Wilderness that serves as an important touchstone for current planning work in the region.

Dr. Bouman’s many involvements in regional affairs have included serving as: President of the Calumet Heritage Partnership, where he has tirelessly advocated for the creation of a Calumet National Heritage Area; Co-Chair of the Calumet Stewardship Initiative, as a Member of the Working Group of Vital Lands Illinois; and as a Member of the Millennium Reserve Steering Committee.

In addition to his volunteer pursuits, Dr. Bouman is a huge Cubs fan with an encyclopedic knowledge of stats and history about the game overall, a community choir singer, and a train buff; one year, he was even given the chance to drive a train for his birthday. He’s also one of those people who shares a lot of obscure trivia, much to everyone’s delight, not just about The Calumet region but about old Hollywood movies, politics, and many other things.

Please join me in thanking Dr. Bouman for his service and extending best wishes on his retirement. I have no doubt he will continue to stay actively involved on behalf of our region.

HONORING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS (VFW) WILLIE BARRAZA POST 9173

HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Willie Barraza Post 9173 for their 75th anniversary. The Willie Barraza Post has been an important service organization to assist our veteran community, their families, and the wider El Paso community.

The Post was founded in 1949 and named after Willie Barraza, who was an Army Sergeant from Smelertown who went Missing in Action during World War II. Smelertown was located in El Paso, Texas, and housed workers of the American Smelting and Refining Company (ASARCO). Willie Barraza Post 9173 is the second oldest post in El Paso with veteran members from the Korean, Vietnam, and Global War on Terrorism.

The Willie Barraza Post is chartered with 34 World War II service members and currently has 148 members serving our border city and our military base of Fort Bliss. Their members are active participants in supporting our community. They help raise funds for local churches and scholarship opportunities for students. They also serve in recognizing veterans through participation in our district's annual Independence Day and Veterans Day parades.

Today, I want to thank the Willie Barraza Post for their service to the country and our community. I join them in celebrating their 75th Anniversary and commend them for their consistent presence in El Paso. I look forward to the continued work that they do in the coming years and decades.

PINELAND LEARNING CENTER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the great school of Pineland Learning Center in Vineland, South Jersey, which has been of incredible mentorship for children in South Jersey for over four decades. Since its founding in 1980 by the late Fred Eccleston, the school has been an outstanding outlet for students that have struggled in the traditional learning environment by providing alternative learning techniques to fit their needs. Many times, the students that come to PLC have been dealt hands in life that most adults can't even imagine and because of this they have not been able to find their full potential in a typical school setting. With the dedicated staff that Pineland has to offer, the kids are provided with a safe, structured, and consistent learning environment where they can discover their gifts and see all the possibilities life has to offer. The staff gains the children's trust by committing themselves to learning who the student is by understanding the student's personality as well as quirks and triggers that cause outbursts. This allows the kids to learn

who they are by being allowed to be themselves in a culture that feels just like a family. PLC goes beyond academics by also providing the students with work-based learning for jobs that the local community has to offer, and college fairs where many of the kids can attend universities throughout the country. It is my great honor to commend the Pineland Learning Center on many years of great service to the youth of South Jersey and I look forward to many more years of improving their lives. God bless Pineland Learning Center and God bless the United States of America.

TRIBUTE TO DAVE HOBSON

HON. JIM JORDAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues from Ohio and across the country in paying tribute to our friend, former Congressman David L. Hobson, who died on October 6.

Dave was one of the Buckeye State's most respected public servants. He worked on behalf of the people of the Seventh Congressional District for 18 years—and served in the State Senate for eight years prior to that. He took great pride in solving problems great and small on behalf of his constituents.

A longtime member of the Appropriations Committee and a Military Construction cardinal, Dave was a champion of our state's military installations of all types, ensuring that they were in the best position possible to contribute to our national defense.

Dave was himself a proud Ohio Air National Guard veteran, serving during the Berlin Wall crisis. In recognition of his service in and out of uniform, in 2022 he was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame—a high honor accorded to no more than 20 Ohioans each year.

Mr. Speaker, we are grateful that men like Dave Hobson are willing to enter the arena and commit their lives to public service. Our prayers are with his wife, Carolyn, their three children, and their grand- and great-grandchildren at this time of sorrow.

IN MEMORY OF MRS. BRENDA
DAVIS MURRELL

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart and solemn remembrance that I rise today to pay tribute to an extraordinary public servant, trailblazing leader, wife, mother, grandmother, sister, mentor and friend of longstanding, Mrs. Brenda Davis Murrell. Sadly, Brenda transitioned from labor to reward on November 9, 2024. A celebration of her remarkable life will be held at 11:00 a.m. on November 15, 2024, at Victory Baptist Church, 640 Meriwether Road, Milledgeville, Georgia.

Brenda Davis Murrell was born August 11, 1951, in Cleveland, Ohio to the late Lexie Davis, Sr. and Ms. Bobbie Davis Arnold. Her family relocated to Milledgeville, Georgia when

Brenda was 10 years old, where she began the early stages of her life's journey of achievement, service, and empowerment of others. She was a product of the Baldwin County School System where she excelled academically and graduated from Boddie High School in 1969.

Upon graduation, Brenda attended the historic Paine College in Augusta, Georgia where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology in 1973 and joined the sisterhood of her beloved Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, where she served for more than 50 years holding numerous leadership positions and leveraging her influence and vision for the sorority to make a lasting impact in communities across Georgia and beyond.

In pursuit of further knowledge and mastery, Brenda completed her master's degree in education from the University of Georgia in 1985 and armed with a keen understanding of human behavior, she began employment as a counselor within the Georgia Department of Corrections, rising through the ranks, breaking barriers, and setting unprecedented standards. Her tenacity, intellect and leadership skills earned her appointment as one of the first 3 Black and female wardens in the State of Georgia and her service as Warden at multiple institutions sealed her reputation as one of the most highly competent, effective, compassionate, and admired prison administrators in the profession. She was instrumental in implementing a wide range of transformative policies and programs which remain active today, including life changing prison ministries. Correctional officers and offenders who served under her leadership all say of Brenda that she always treated them with dignity and respect.

Her career culminated as Director of Facilities Operations for the Georgia Department of Corrections, overseeing more than 60 facilities with 10,000 employees and 47,000 offenders, reaching the zenith of her profession and setting a powerful example for future generations of leaders.

Following her retirement, Brenda continued to influence the field as a private consultant sharing her expertise with facilities and organizations nationwide. However, as she stepped away from corrections, she redirected her energy to her "first love"—DST. As a Delta, she embraced the Red Hat society, an organization dedicated to women's empowerment, embodying the message of living life boldly and with purpose.

Brenda was an avid traveler who cherished exploration, traversing continents and embarking on 19 adventures with Carnival and Caribbean Cruise lines.

A woman of unwavering faith, Brenda's life was grounded in her Christian beliefs and no matter where her career moved her, she sought out churches in her community, finding strength and kinship through worship. Her spiritual journey began at Flagg Chapel Baptist Church in Milledgeville where she served for many years as Church announcer, utilizing her distinctive voice and perfect diction there, and within her community as a respected public speaker.

Brenda loved her family. Her sons, Brandon and Bruce Butts were the loves of her life, and she was a doting grandmother, to say the least. Moreover, she loved her siblings and extended family; frequently organizing family reunions, and providing warmth, laughter, and support to all of them.

Brenda was a friend to many who were blessed by the bond of her friendship. She was frank and honest in her friendship—sharing not just what you might want to hear but what she felt you needed to hear. On a personal note, I will forever cherish the wise counsel and sage advice Brenda gave me over the last 32 years. It was at her kitchen table with Brenda and several friends, poring over maps and pages of data, and in fervent prayer, that I resolved to run for Congress in 1992. As she did for me, Brenda touched so many lives in so many ways and because she did, the world is a better place.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join my wife, Vivian, and me, along with the people of Georgia and beyond in celebrating the extraordinary life of Brenda Davis Murrell and in extending our deepest condolences to her family, friends, sorors, and all who mourn her loss. Moreover, I pray that we will all be consoled and comforted by an abiding faith and the Holy Spirit in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

CONGRATULATING JASON ANDERSON ON 20 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE CITY OF ROCHELLE

HON. DARIN LAHOOD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Jason Anderson for his 20 years of impactful service as Economic Development Director for the City of Rochelle. In this role, Anderson worked with Illinois businesses and others in the Rochelle community to attract increased economic investment and improve public infrastructure in Rochelle.

Anderson graduated from Texas A&M University with a degree in Business Administration. Before becoming the Economic Development Director, Anderson served in many roles, including Northern Illinois Regional Director for former U.S. Senator Peter Fitzgerald.

Through Anderson's tenure, the City of Rochelle saw robust improvement in their economy and infrastructure. Since 2005, there has been \$1.3 billion in capital investments made by businesses and 2,200 jobs created in Rochelle. Highlights of this economic growth include investment projects from companies like Wheatland Tube and the CHS Ethanol plant as well as the construction of the Rochelle Business Technology Park.

Additionally, the City of Rochelle has received over \$125 million in funding for infrastructure over the past two decades. Anderson's work as Economic Development Director focused specifically on infrastructure modernization of the railroad and airport. In Anderson's 10 years overseeing Rochelle's airport it received almost \$11 million in funding and the Rochelle railroad's yearly revenue quadrupled under Anderson's vision.

Jason Anderson's tireless work has left a lifelong impact on the Rochelle community and the state of Illinois. His commitment to our community is truly inspiring and I congratulate Jason on 20 years of service to Rochelle and wish him the best in all future endeavors.

RAYLEN WEAVER

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, I had the privilege of attending a masterful Eagle Scout Court of Honor for Raylen Weaver from Mullica Hill, South Jersey. Raylen has been involved in boy scouts for seven years since he was a rising fifth grader as a Webelos Scout and now in the tenth grade he has already achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. He has held multiple leadership positions which includes the Den Chief, Scribe, Patrol Leader and earning his way up to the position of Senior Patrol Leader. On his climb up to Senior Patrol Leader, he spent 59 nights camping, hiked 84 miles, and logged 76 hours of service to better his community before he is accredited with completing 130 more hours to complete his Eagle Scout project. For his project, he decided to create the Little Way Children's Garden to benefit the Mary Mother of Mercy Church in Glassboro, South Jersey. This garden is a beautiful prayer area defined by edge stones with concrete and wood benches complete with statues of St. Therese, Mary, and St. Joseph in a perfect display to benefit children of the church and parishioners. Raylen is also an avid runner and biker participating in a Duathlon and the 100-mile MS ride City to Shore. He plans to attend the Naval Academy or West Point to serve his county and continue to improve himself. I have all faith that Raylen will make his country proud and continue to make his local community proud. God bless Raylen Weaver and God bless the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING KAY GRANGER FOR HER REMARKABLE SERVICE IN CONGRESS

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, it is difficult to imagine a Congress without my good friend and longtime colleague Kay Granger—an effective and accomplished lawmaker who has diligently represented the people of Texas since 1997, when she was elected as the first Republican congresswoman from the Lone Star State.

An incredibly strong, well-informed and tenacious leader, Kay has worked tirelessly over the years to make our government more transparent and accountable while helping those in need.

Having worked closely with her over the years, I know her deep personal commitment and unwavering resolve to protect unborn children and their mothers from the violence of abortion.

During her remarkable 25 years of service on the powerful House Appropriations Committee, she has fought relentlessly to preserve critical protections for the weakest and most vulnerable, including the Hyde Amendment—which has saved more than 2.5 million lives.

She has also strongly supported the Smith Amendment, which I first authored in 1984, to

prevent U.S. taxpayer dollars from funding abortions for federal employees and their dependents, and her work on foreign aid has helped protect so many unborn babies and women in need around the globe.

As the first Republican Chairwoman on the House Appropriations Committee, Kay also led our efforts in the House on many other important matters. She worked hard to cut wasteful spending, promote fiscal responsibility, and ensure hard-earned American taxpayer dollars are spent more efficiently and effectively.

At every turn, Kay has been steadfast in her support of our courageous service members, veterans, and their families and absolutely dedicated to boosting our national security, especially while she served as Chairwoman of the House Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

She has worked tirelessly to hold public officials to account, including those at the U.S. State Department in the aftermath of the horrific attack on our diplomatic compound in Benghazi that tragically left four Americans dead.

Kay's unyielding commitment to improve the lives of her constituents and Americans across the country has truly made a difference. We will always cherish our time with her in Congress and the incredible lasting impact she has had on all of us who have known and worked with her.

CONGRATULATING THE FATHER TOLTON TRAILBLAZERS, THE MISSOURI CLASS 4 SOFTBALL STATE CHAMPIONS

HON. BLAINE LUETKEMEYER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, today, I recognize the Father Tolton softball team for their remarkable achievement of clinching the Class 4 championship. Their 24–10 season record and 5–0 shutout victory over Belton in the title game, is the culmination of all the work they put in and the great amount of talent on this team.

It is worth noting that this state championship is the second in Father Tolton's program history. Their last softball state championship came in 2020. This championship serves as an example of the upward trajectory of where the program is headed.

I extend my sincerest congratulations to the Father Tolton softball team, coaches, and its supporters. Winning a championship is a collective effort that takes an all-hands-on-deck approach. The community recognizes and highly values their dedication and passion for softball.

TONY BOCELLE

HON. JEFFERSON VAN DREW

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2024

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, it is my great pleasure to wish Tony Bocelle a happy 100th birthday after so many great years of serving our country, being a great family man, and

giving back to his community. Tony gave years of his life to his country by serving in the United States Army during World War II being in the 11th Airborne Division where he was involved in several combat missions. In his time of service, he bravely assisted in a daring prison raid in Los Banos, Philippines, which resulted in freeing nearly 3,000 American prisoners from the horrific treatment from the en-

emy's military. The operation took place on February 23, 1945, when prisoners were lined up to be executed before the 11th Airborne division made their attack and liberated the thousands of allied prisoners of war and civilians. Tony was shown homage for his service to his country on his 100th birthday on April 19th of this year when 100 flags were placed in his yard from Americans and Filipinos

thanking him for his service. Since the end of War World II, Tony has continued to be an outstanding member of society and has fathered a beautiful family that have added to their father's legacy. I wish Tony a happy birthday and I wish him 100 more extraordinary years. God bless Tony Bocelle and God bless the United States of America.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Résumé of Congressional Activity for October 2024.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S6569–S6588

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 5315–5332, and S. Res. 894. **Pages S6585–86**

Measures Passed:

2024 Little League Baseball World Series: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 874, honoring the Southeast Region Little League baseball team from Lake Mary, Florida, for winning the 2024 Little League Baseball World Series, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6577**

Financial Management Risk Reduction Act: Senate passed S. 4716, to amend section 7504 of title 31, United States Code, to improve the single audit requirements, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S6587**

Day of Remembrance for Nuclear Weapons Program Workers: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 889, designating October 30, 2024, as a national day of remembrance for the workers of the nuclear weapons program of the United States, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S6588**

Fiscal Year 2024 Veterans Affairs Major Medical Facility Authorization Act: Senate passed H.R. 6324, to authorize major medical facility projects for the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2024. **Page S6588**

Kidd Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit. **Page S6576**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 263), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S6577**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, November 18, 2024, Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, and that all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. **Page S6588**

Kasubhai Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon. **Page S6576**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit. **Page S6576**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6576**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S6576**

Russell Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Sarah French Russell, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut. **Pages S6576–77**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon. **Pages S6576–77**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S6576**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

Pages S6576–77

Pennell Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Rebecca L. Pennell, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Washington. Page S6577

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Sarah French Russell, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut. Pages S6576–77

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. Page S6576

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. Page S6576

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 59 yeas to 37 nays (Vote No. EX. 261), Cathy Fung, of California, to be a Judge of the United States Tax Court for a term of fifteen years.

Pages S6569–76, S6575–76, S6588

By 50 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 262), David Huitema, of Maryland, to be Director of the Office of Government Ethics for a term of five years.

Page S6576, S6588

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Carol Kellermann, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2030.

Adam Jeffrey White, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2030.

Loida Nicolas Lewis, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Millennium Challenge Corporation for a term of three years.

Devin S. Anderson, of Utah, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the State Justice Institute for a term expiring September 17, 2025. Page S6588

Nominations Withdrawn: Senate received notification of withdrawal of the following nominations:

Jennifer D. Gavito, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the State of Libya, which was sent to the Senate on January 08, 2024.

Martin Joseph Walsh, of Massachusetts, to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service for a term expiring December 8, 2029, which was sent to the Senate on February 29, 2024.

Carl Whitney Bentzel, of Maryland, to be a Federal Maritime Commissioner for a term expiring June 30, 2029, which was sent to the Senate on July 11, 2024.

Deva A. Kyle, of Virginia, to be Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation for a term of five years, which was sent to the Senate on July 11, 2024. Page S6588

Petitions and Memorials: Pages S6581–85

Executive Reports of Committees: Page S6585

Additional Cosponsors: Page S6586

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S6586–87

Additional Statements: Pages S6580–81

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S6587

Privileges of the Floor: Page S6587

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—263) Pages S6576–77

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:47 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, November 18, 2024. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S6588.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Finance: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of David Samuel Johnson, of Virginia, to be Inspector General for Tax Administration, Department of the Treasury, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Val Butler Demings, of Florida, William Zollars, of Kansas, and Gordon Hartogensis, of Connecticut, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, and James Graham Lake, and Nicholas George Miranda, both to be an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 4713, to amend chapter 11 of title 35, United States Code, to require the voluntary collection of demographic information for patent inventors; and

The nominations of Ryan Young Park, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Sharad Harshad Desai, to be United States District Judge for the District of Arizona, and

Bobby Jack Woods, to be United States Marshal for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Department of Justice.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 11 public bills, H.R. 10120–10130; and 5 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 132; and H. Res. 1570–1573, were introduced. **Pages H6012–13**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6013–14**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 5103, to require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to approve or deny spend plans within a certain amount of time, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–733);

H.R. 6107, to amend the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009 to authorize certain extraordinary operation and maintenance work for urban canals of concern, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–734);

H.R. 8413, to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land at Swanson Reservoir and Hugh Butler Reservoir in the State of Nebraska, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–735);

H.R. 6843, to expand the boundaries of the Atchafalaya National Heritage Area to include Lafourche Parish, Louisiana (H. Rept. 118–736);

H.R. 7332, to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain Federal land to the State of Utah for inclusion in certain State parks, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 118–737); and

H.R. 6826, to designate the visitor and education center at Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine as the Paul S. Sarbanes Visitor and Education Center (H. Rept. 118–738). **Page H6012**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Guest to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5977**

Recess: The House recessed at 11:11 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H5985**

Member Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Gaetz, wherein he resigned as Representative for the First Congressional District of Florida, effective immediately. **Page H5985**

Whole Number of the House: The Chair announced to the House that, in light of the resignation of the gentleman from Florida, Mr. Gaetz, the whole number of the House is 433. **Page H5985**

Critical Mineral Consistency Act of 2024: The House passed H.R. 8446, to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to include critical materials in the definition of critical mineral, by a yea-and-nay vote of 245 yeas to 155 nays, Roll No. 462.

Pages H5986–94, H5999–H6000

Rejected the Stansbury motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources by a yea-and-nay vote of 199 yeas to 206 nays, Roll No. 461. **Page H5999**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on the Natural Resources now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted. **Page H5986**

H. Res. 1568, providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 8932), (H.R. 7409) and (H.R. 8446) was agreed to yesterday, November 13th.

Harnessing Energy At Thermal Sources Act: The House passed H.R. 7409, to amend the Geothermal Steam Act of 1970 to waive the requirement for a Federal drilling permit for certain activities, to exempt certain activities from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, by a yea-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 181 nays, Roll No. 464. **Pages H6000–01**

Rejected the Stansbury motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Natural Resources by a yea-and-nay vote of 198 yeas to 206 nays, Roll No. 463. **Pages H6000**

H. Res. 1568, providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 8932), (H.R. 7409) and (H.R. 8446) was agreed to yesterday, November 13th.

Discharge Petition: Representative Steube presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Energy and Commerce from the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1279) entitled, a bill to make daylight savings time permanent (Discharge Petition No. 19).

Senate Referral: S. 2581 was held at the desk.

Page H5985

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H5985.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5999, H5999–6000, H6000 and H6000–01.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:24 p.m.

Committee Meetings

PREPARING FOR THE NEXT PANDEMIC: LESSONS LEARNED AND THE PATH FORWARD

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic held a hearing entitled “Preparing for the Next Pandemic: Lessons Learned and The Path Forward”. Testimony was heard from the following Department of Health and Human Services officials: Hilary Marston, M.D., Chief Medical Officer, U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Lawrence Tabak, Principal Deputy Director, National Institutes of Health; and Henry Walke, M.D., Director, Office of Readiness and Response, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

SNOWED IN: UNITED STATES DISINVESTMENT IN THE ARCTIC

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “Snowed In: United States Disinvestment in the Arctic”. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Peter W. Gautier, Deputy Commandant for Operations, U.S. Coast Guard; Vice Admiral Thomas Allan, Jr., Deputy Commandant for Mission Support, U.S. Coast Guard; and Heather MacLeod, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2024

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 3 through October 31, 2024

	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>	<i>Total</i>
Days in session	143	136	..
Time in session	644 hrs., 19'	497 hrs., 60'	..
Congressional Record:			
Pages of proceedings	6,489	5,902	..
Extensions of Remarks .....	..	1,096	..
Public bills enacted into law	40	32	72
Private bills enacted into law .....	..	..	..
Bills in conference .....	..	..	..
Measures passed, total	352	498	850
Senate bills	83	42	..
House bills	35	363	..
Senate joint resolutions	3	1	..
House joint resolutions	2	4	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	8	6	..
House concurrent resolutions	11	14	..
Simple resolutions	210	68	..
Measures reported, total	*198	376	574
Senate bills	156	1	..
House bills	37	336	..
Senate joint resolutions .....	..	..	..
House joint resolutions .....	..	10	..
Senate concurrent resolutions	1	..	..
House concurrent resolutions .....	..	2	..
Simple resolutions	4	27	..
Special reports	8	8	..
Conference reports .....	..	..	..
Measures pending on calendar	411	139	..
Measures introduced, total	2,189	3,942	6,131
Bills	1,734	3,168	..
Joint resolutions	63	111	..
Concurrent resolutions	19	50	..
Simple resolutions	373	613	..
Quorum calls	5	1	..
Yea-and-nay votes	255	270	..
Recorded votes .....	..	184	..
Bills vetoed	1	2	..
Vetoes overridden .....	..	..	..

DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 3 through October 31, 2024

Civilian nominees, totaling 366 (including 95 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	141
Unconfirmed	220
Withdrawn	5
Other Civilian nominees, totaling 1,625 (including 745 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	800
Unconfirmed	745
Withdrawn	80
Air Force nominees, totaling 5,786 (including 111 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,186
Unconfirmed	600
Army nominees, totaling 6,342 (including 1,906 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	6,326
Unconfirmed	16
Navy nominees, totaling 5,218 (including 7 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	5,212
Unconfirmed	6
Marine Corps nominees, totaling 726 (including 6 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	722
Unconfirmed	4
Space Force nominees, totaling 439 (including 2 nominees carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:	
Confirmed	438
Unconfirmed	1
<i>Summary</i>	
Total nominees carried over from the First Session	2,872
Total nominees received this Session	17,630
Total confirmed	18,825
Total unconfirmed	1,592
Total withdrawn	85
Total returned to the White House	0

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 85 written reports have been filed in the Senate, 384 reports have been filed in the House.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

3 p.m., Monday, November 18

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Friday, November 15

Senate Chamber

Program for Monday: Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Embry J. Kidd, of Florida, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Eleventh Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: Consideration of H.R. 8932—FAFSA Deadline Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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