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No. 103

House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NORCROSS).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,

June 16, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DONALD NORCROSS to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,

Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

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

Eternal God, bless us with Your abundance this day. All that we seek may we receive. Then may we see that You alone have provided for us.

We dedicate the work of our hands and our minds to Your purpose. Allow us all that we need, for in You we have the plenitude of Your abundant grace.

When we are uncertain that we have enough time, energy, or information to carry out our responsibilities to our country, our communities, or our families, remind us that You are able to bless us beyond our limited human vision, and provide for us when we fall short.

Remind us also that more than just the work that we do or the daily lives that we lead, You offer to us the wealth of spiritual prosperity available in You. May we draw from Your spirit the resources we need to face the profound challenges and meet the profane contests that seek to undermine our integrity and rob us of hope.

In all things, O God, may we call upon You and the mercy You desire to lavish upon us. In this may we find life and have it more abundantly.

In Your generous name we pray.
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. LUCAS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL MICHAEL PAREDES AND OFFICER JOSEPH SANTANA

(Mrs. NAPOLITANO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two El Monte police officers, Corporal Michael Paredes and Officer Joseph Santana, killed in the line of duty on Tuesday night. The two officers were fatally injured while investigating a domestic violence call.

Corporal Paredes started his career with the El Monte Police Department as a full-time officer in July 2000. Prior to being appointed corporal, he worked

on specialized assignments. Corporal Paredes is survived by his wife, daughter, and son.

Officer Santana began his law enforcement career with the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department as a deputy sheriff. After 3 years, he accepted a position as a police officer in the city of El Monte, allowing Santana to serve his hometown. He is survived by his wife, daughter, and twin boys.

Our hearts are filled with deep sadness today as we mourn the loss of these brave officers who paid the ultimate sacrifice while protecting our community. Their dedication will never be forgotten.

Our heartfelt prayers and condolences go out to the officers' families and all of the friends and loved ones in the El Monte community.

ROLL BACK REGULATIONS TO PREVENT FAMINE

(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, ever since the Russian invasion of Ukraine, world leaders have been warning of imminent food shortages, including our own President.

Two of the largest producers of wheat and oilseed are embroiled at war. Ukrainian civilians are fighting to protect their homes and their self-sovereignty. They aren't out planting crops as normal.

Meanwhile, there are breaking reports of Russian soldiers stealing Ukrainian wheat, selling it at marked-up costs to nations facing food insecurity in Africa.

Meanwhile, the Russian Navy has blocked grain carriers from leaving Ukraine's Black Sea port of Odessa in an effort to blackmail the world into supporting Putin's war.

☐ 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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The U.N. is trying to broker a deal that will enable Ukraine's grain to be shipped from ports such as Odessa, but Russia has said it wants Western sanctions lifted as part of the deal. Twenty million tons of Ukrainian grain is stuck in Ukraine, at risk of being stolen by Russians.

What are we doing in this country? We are not producing the way we could in California. Waters are being shifted away from farmers, and so our own wheat crops in northern California are dying out.

The Biden administration must roll back the regulations that are making it hard for farmers in this country to do what they need to do to be a part of this world solution for food, as famine will soon be upon us, especially in the 2023 crop year.

TRAGEDY IN POTTSTOWN

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

Ms. DEAN. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, May 26, an explosion erupted in the tight-knit community of Pottstown, Pennsylvania, destroying two homes and, tragically, killing five people, a grandmother and four of her grandchildren, and also seriously injuring their parents.

Today, I want to remember Francine White, 67, and her grandchildren, Alana Wood, 13, Jeremiah White, 12, Nehe-miah White, 10, Tristan White, 8.

It is hard to paint a picture with words of the devastation of a home, the people who lived there and dreamed in it, reduced to rubble, a family gone, suddenly.

Now, there is a deep hole in Hale Street, and a huge hole is left in the hearts of their neighbors. They have made a vigil on their block and spent countless hours trying to make sense of the tragedy.

Pottstown, I know you have always been a strong community. You are Pottstown Strong. Know that I will be with you, with your neighbors, as we figure out how this happened to be sure it never happens again.

My prayers are with the family and the entire community of Pottstown. May their memories be a blessing.

AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE PAYING FOR PRESIDENT'S MISTAKES

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

Mr. SMITH of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, the biggest challenge facing Missouri families right now is sky-high inflation. They know that President Biden and Washington Democrats have only themselves to blame for driving inflation to the highest level in 40 years.

Last month alone, inflation cost Missouri families an extra \$663. That is about the same as a monthly payment on a brand-new pickup truck.

Gas prices are the highest they have been, at over \$5 a gallon. The cost to fill up an F-150 is over \$150.

Families are paying more to put food on their tables, clothes on their backs, and gasoline in their cars. Milk is up 15 percent. Bread is up 14 percent. Bacon is up 18 percent.

Just yesterday, the Federal Reserve raised interest rates for the third time since March. This is yet another price increase for families, farmers, and small businesses.

The American people cannot afford to keep paying for President Biden's mistakes.

RECOGNIZING CONTRIBUTIONS MADE BY DREAMERS

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 10-year anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, more commonly known as DACA.

Ten years ago, President Obama and Democrats reaffirmed America's tradition as the land of opportunity by creating DACA. Since that day, brave young immigrants, known as Dreamers, have provided massive contributions on their path to the American Dream.

DACA gave Dreamers a chance to do that, to dream big. It allowed them to use their talents, giving them a chance to seek higher education, work, and, most importantly, protection from deportation. They were there for us on the front lines, working as healthcare workers, all kinds of workers, to help us through the pandemic, and we thank them.

While we celebrate DACA as a significant temporary achievement for all of America, it is by no means a substitute for fixing our broken immigration system.

Mr. Speaker, I promise to continue our fight for comprehensive immigration reform so that we can finally keep families together permanently.

CELEBRATING DREAMERS ON DACA'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, I rise today to call for immediate action to protect our Nation's Dreamers.

Yesterday, we marked the 10th anniversary of the DACA program with a relentless focus on our goal to provide a pathway to citizenship for our Nation's Dreamers.

Over the last 5 years, we have seen persistent attacks on DACA, and the need to act could not be more urgent.

You see, DACA has been a rocket booster for our economy. In my district

alone, Dreamers contribute nearly \$300 million in GDP. They are doctors, lawyers, essential workers, engineers, businessowners, and job creators. They make America stronger, and they shouldn't have to live in fear of deportation.

I call on 10 Republican Senators to do what is right: Support the House-passed bipartisan Dream and Promise Act, pass it in the Senate, and bring humanity back to our immigration system and restore American values.

To all the Dreamers who are watching, know that I celebrate you. I stand with you, and fight for you.

Estan en casa. You are home. Home is here.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL PTSD AWARENESS 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 June as National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month. During the month of June, we raise awareness for those suffering from post-traumatic stress disorders.

After a trauma or life-threatening event, it is common to have reactions such as upsetting memories, increased jumpiness, or trouble sleeping. If these reactions do not go away, or if they get worse, you might suffer from PTSD.

PTSD is especially prevalent for those who have served in the military, affecting nearly 30 percent of Vietnam veterans and up to 20 percent of veterans who served during the global war on terror.

As a former rehabilitation specialist, I know firsthand the incredible strides individuals can make when they have access to appropriate rehabilitation.

PTSD Awareness Month is not only an opportunity to raise awareness about PTSD; it is also an opportunity to raise awareness about treatment options.

I applaud all the organizations that raise awareness about this important issue during June. There is help and support for those who have PTSD.

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF JAMES JOYCE'S "ULYSSES"

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

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the centennial of James Joyce's "Ulysses," arguably one of the great literary accomplishments in history. The time-honored epic was published in its entirety on Joyce's 40th birthday, February 2, 1922.

Born in Dublin and educated at University College Dublin, his words transcend countries across the world. The

story is read and studied worldwide, and Joyce himself has become an intrinsic part of world culture.

Through a stream of consciousness writing style, and with humor and parody, Joyce has kept literary thinkers and historians engaged with interpreting his words, even 100 years later.

In 265,222 words, Joyce chronicles the simple and even mundane encounters of protagonist Leopold Bloom on one ordinary day in Dublin: Thursday, June 16, 1904. Yet, Joyce does it with such wit, linguistic exuberance, and high regard for the ordinary and often overlooked details that readers remain captivated.

I am one of those readers.

June 16, today, is considered by Joyce fans as Bloomsday, and festivals are taking place in Dublin, here in the States, and around the world.

As such, let me wish all of you a happy Bloomsday.

□ 0915

MEAT AND POULTRY SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR ACT OF 2022

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1170, I call up the bill (H.R. 7606) to establish the Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters within the Department of Agriculture, 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 1170, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Agriculture printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–50, modified by the amendment printed in part E of House Report 117–366, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

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

H.R. 7606

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Secretary defined.

TITLE I—MEAT AND POULTRY SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR

Sec. 101. Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters.

TITLE II—ADDITIONAL NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

Sec. 201. Additional nutrient management assistance.

TITLE III—AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEM SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND CRISIS RESPONSE TASK FORCE

Sec. 301. Agriculture and Food System Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response Task Force.

TITLE IV—BIOFUEL INFRASTRUCTURE AND AGRICULTURE PRODUCT MARKET EXPANSION

Sec. 401. Biofuel infrastructure and agriculture product market expansion.

TITLE V—YEAR-ROUND FUEL CHOICE

Sec. 501. Ethanol waiver.

TITLE VI—PRODUCING RESPONSIBLE ENERGY AND CONSERVATION INCENTIVES AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (PRECISE)

Sec. 601. Conservation loan and loan guarantee program.

Sec. 602. Assistance to rural entities.

Sec. 603. Environmental Quality Incentives Program.

Sec. 604. Conservation Stewardship Program.

Sec. 605. Delivery of technical assistance.

TITLE VII—BUTCHER BLOCK ACT

Sec. 701. Assistance for new and expanded livestock or poultry processors.

Sec. 702. New and expanding livestock or poultry processing grants.

TITLE VIII—LOWER FOOD AND FUEL COSTS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

SEC. 2. SECRETARY DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Agriculture.

TITLE I—MEAT AND POULTRY SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR

SEC. 101. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR COMPETITION MATTERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by inserting after section 216 (7 U.S.C. 6916) the following:

“SEC. 217. OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR COMPETITION MATTERS.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Department an office, to be known as the ‘Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters’ (referred to in this section as the ‘Office’).

“(b) **SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR FOR COMPETITION MATTERS.**—The Office shall be headed by the Special Investigator for Competition Matters (referred to in this section as the ‘Special Investigator’), who shall be a senior career employee appointed by the Secretary.

“(c) **DUTIES.**—The Special Investigator shall—

“(1) use all available tools, including subpoenas, to investigate and prosecute violations of the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) by packers and live poultry dealers with respect to competition and trade practices in the food and agricultural sector;

“(2) serve as a Department liaison to, and act in consultation with, the Department of Justice and the Federal Trade Commission with respect to competition and trade practices in the food and agricultural sector;

“(3) act in consultation with the Department of Homeland Security with respect to national security and critical infrastructure security in the food and agricultural sector;

“(4) maintain a staff of attorneys and other professionals with appropriate expertise; and

“(5) in carrying out the requirements of this subsection, coordinate with the Office of the General Counsel and the Packers and Stockyards Division of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

“(d) **PROSECUTORIAL AUTHORITY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding title 28, United States Code, the Special Investigator shall have the authority to bring any civil or administrative action authorized under the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.) against a packer.

“(2) **EFFECT.**—Nothing in this section alters the authority of the Secretary to issue a subpoena pursuant to the Packers and Stockyards Act, 1921 (7 U.S.C. 181 et seq.).

“(3) **NOTIFICATION.**—With respect to any of the actions brought under this subsection in Federal district court, the Special Investigator shall notify the Attorney General.”.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(11) The authority of the Secretary to carry out section 217.”.

(c) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.**—Subtitle A of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 is amended by redesignating the first section 225 (relating to Food Access Liaison) (7 U.S.C. 6925) as section 224A.

TITLE II—CROP NUTRIENT USE AND PRECISION AGRICULTURE PRACTICE ADOPTION ASSISTANCE

SEC. 201. CROP NUTRIENT USE AND PRECISION AGRICULTURE PRACTICE ADOPTION ASSISTANCE.

(a) **PAYMENTS.**—During the period beginning on the date of enactment of this section and ending on September 30, 2023, the Secretary shall make payments under this section to producers—

(1) to assist in reducing the costs associated with the utilization of crop nutrients; or

(2) to adopt precision agriculture practices to address the utilization of crop nutrients or water availability.

(b) **AMOUNT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—A payment to a producer under this section shall not exceed 100 percent of the costs of the activity for which the assistance is provided.

(2) **COST SHARE.**—If the Secretary determines that a producer is receiving other Federal funds for the activity for which the assistance is provided, a payment to the producer under this section shall be in an amount that does not, in combination with such other funds, exceed 100 percent of the costs of such activity.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$500,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 and 2023.

SEC. 202. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this title shall be construed as a conservation or environmental program within the meaning of section 5(g) of the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (15 U.S.C. 714c(g)).

TITLE III—AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEM SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND CRISIS RESPONSE TASK FORCE

SEC. 301. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEM SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND CRISIS RESPONSE TASK FORCE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle B of title II of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6931 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 229. AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEM SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND CRISIS RESPONSE TASK FORCE.

“(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish within the

Department of Agriculture and Food System Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response Task Force (in this section referred to as the ‘Task Force’).

“(b) MISSION.—The mission of the Task Force shall be to—

“(1) help to promote the leadership of the United States with respect to the stability of the agriculture and food system supply chain;

“(2) encourage a government-wide approach through partnerships and collaboration with the private sector, labor organizations, the governments of countries that are allies or key international partners of the United States, States or political subdivisions thereof, and Tribal governments in order to—

“(A) promote the resilience of the agriculture and food system supply chain; and

“(B) identify, prepare for, and respond to shocks to the agriculture and food system supply chain;

“(3) monitor the resilience, diversity, security, and strength of the agriculture and food system supply chain;

“(4) support the availability of agriculture and food system supply chain goods for domestic manufacturers, domestic producers, and domestic enterprises in the United States and in countries that are allies or key international partners;

“(5) assist the Federal Government in preparing for and responding to shocks to the agriculture and food system supply chain;

“(6) support the creation of jobs with competitive wages in the United States agriculture and food system sector; and

“(7) coordinate executive branch actions necessary to carry out the functions described in paragraphs (1) through (6).

“(c) SPECIAL ADVISOR ON SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCE AND CRISIS RESPONSE.—The head of the Task Force shall be the Special Advisor on Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response (in this section, referred to as the ‘Special Advisor’) who shall be appointed by the Secretary.

“(d) AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD SYSTEM SUPPLY CHAIN EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

“(1) EVALUATION.—The Special Advisor, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Transportation, shall conduct an evaluation of the stability and reliability of the agriculture and food system supply chain. The evaluation shall focus on the items listed in subsection (b).

“(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Special Advisor shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a report on the evaluation conducted under subsection (a) that includes the following:

“(A) An evaluation of—

“(i) the strengths of the agriculture and food system supply chain;

“(ii) the weaknesses of the agriculture and food system supply chain;

“(iii) current and potential future critical bottlenecks in the agriculture and food system supply chain, including transportation bottlenecks in the distribution of agricultural inputs, processed and unprocessed food and food input products, and consumer-ready food products;

“(iv) workforce challenges and opportunities in the agriculture and food system supply chain; and

“(v) the overall stability and reliability of the agriculture and food system supply chain.

“(B) A discussion of existing Federal legal barriers, if any, that negatively impact the stability and reliability of the agriculture and food system supply chain.

“(C) Specific recommendations to improve the security, safety, and resilience of the agri-

culture and food system supply chain, including recommendations that address challenges identified under paragraph (1) and that also address—

“(i) long-term strategies;

“(ii) industry best practices;

“(iii) risk-mitigation actions to prevent future bottlenecks and vulnerabilities at all levels of the agriculture and food system supply chain; and

“(iv) legislative and regulatory actions that would positively impact the security and resilience of the agriculture and food system supply chain.

“(e) TERMINATION.—The Task Force shall terminate on the earlier of—

“(1) the date on which the report required by subsection (d) is submitted; or

“(2) September 30, 2023.”

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 296(b) of the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 7014(b)), as amended by section 101, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(12) The authority of the Secretary to establish in the Department the Agriculture and Food System Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response Task Force in accordance with section 229.”

TITLE IV—BIOFUEL INFRASTRUCTURE AND AGRICULTURE PRODUCT MARKET EXPANSION

SEC. 401. BIOFUEL INFRASTRUCTURE AND AGRICULTURE PRODUCT MARKET EXPANSION.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$200,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 and 2023, to remain available until expended, to carry out this section.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall use the amounts made available pursuant to subsection (a) to provide grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible entities described in subsection (c)—

(1) to install, retrofit, or otherwise upgrade fuel dispensers or pumps and related equipment, storage tank system components, and other infrastructure required at a location to ensure the environmentally safe availability of fuel containing ethanol blends at levels greater than 10 percent (as determined by the Secretary) or fuel containing biodiesel blends at levels greater than 5 percent (as determined by the Secretary); and

(2) to build and retrofit distribution systems for ethanol blends, traditional and pipeline biodiesel terminal operations (including rail lines), and home heating oil distribution centers or equivalent entities—

(A) to blend biodiesel; and

(B) to carry ethanol and biodiesel.

(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Entities eligible to receive a grant under this section are transportation fueling facilities and distribution facilities, including fueling stations, convenience stores, supermarket retailer fueling stations, fleet facilities, as well as fuel terminal operations, midstream partners, and heating oil distribution facilities or equivalent entities.

(d) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of the total cost of carrying out a project for which a grant is provided under this section shall be not more than 75 percent.

(e) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not limit the amount of funding an eligible entity may receive under this section, except that such funding is subject to the availability of appropriations.

TITLE V—YEAR-ROUND FUEL CHOICE

SEC. 501. ETHANOL WAIVER.

Section 211 of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7545) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f)(4)—

(A) by striking “(4) The Administrator, upon” and inserting the following:

“(4) WAIVER.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, on”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) REID VAPOR PRESSURE.—A fuel or fuel additive that has been granted a waiver under subparagraph (A) prior to January 1, 2017, and meets all the conditions of that waiver other than any limitations of the waiver with respect to Reid Vapor Pressure, may be introduced into commerce if the fuel or fuel additive meets all other applicable Reid Vapor Pressure requirements.”; and

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “or more” after “10 percent”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “additional alcohol or”; and

(B) in paragraph (5)(A), by inserting “or more” after “10 percent”.

TITLE VI—PRODUCING RESPONSIBLE ENERGY AND CONSERVATION INCENTIVES AND SOLUTIONS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT (PRECISE)

SEC. 601. CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

Section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1924) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(3), by redesignating subparagraphs (F) and (G) as subparagraphs (G) and (H), respectively, and inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

“(F) the adoption of precision agriculture practices, and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology;”;

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) producers who use the loans to adopt precision agriculture practices or acquire precision agriculture technology, including adoption or acquisition for the purpose of participating in the environmental quality incentives program under subchapter A of chapter 4 of subtitle D of title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985.”;

(3) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) 90 percent of the principal amount of the loan in the case of—

“(A) a producer that is a qualified socially disadvantaged farmer or rancher or a beginning farmer or rancher; or

“(B) loans that are used for the purchase of precision agriculture technology.”; and

(4) in subsection (f)—

(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—The Secretary”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) COORDINATION WITH NRCS.—In making or guaranteeing loans under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that there is coordination between the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service.”.

SEC. 602. ASSISTANCE TO RURAL ENTITIES.

Section 310B(a)(2) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932(a)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and” at the end of subparagraph (C);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(E) expanding precision agriculture practices, including by financing equipment and farm-wide broadband connectivity, in order to promote best-practices, reduce costs, and improve the environment.”.

SEC. 603. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY INCENTIVES PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—Section 1240A(6)(B)(v) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa—

1(6)(B)(v)) is amended by inserting “(including the adoption of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology)” after “planning”.

(b) PAYMENTS.—

(1) OTHER PAYMENTS.—Section 1240B(d)(6) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(d)(6)) is amended—

(A) by striking “A producer shall” and inserting the following:

“(A) PAYMENTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—A producer shall”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) CONSERVATION LOAN AND LOAN GUARANTEE PROGRAM PAYMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—A producer receiving payments for practices on eligible land under the program may also receive a loan or loan guarantee under section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to cover costs for the same practices on the same land.

“(ii) NOTICE TO PRODUCER.—The Secretary shall inform a producer participating in the program in writing of the availability of a loan or loan guarantee under section 304 of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act as it relates to costs of implementing practices under this program.”.

(2) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR HIGH-PRIORITY PRACTICES.—Section 1240B(d)(7) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(d)(7)) is amended, in the subsection heading, by inserting “STATE-DETERMINED” before “HIGH-PRIORITY”.

(3) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—Section 1240B(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) INCREASED PAYMENTS FOR PRECISION AGRICULTURE.—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Secretary may increase the amount that would otherwise be provided for a practice under this subsection to not more than 90 percent of the costs associated with adopting precision agriculture practices and acquiring precision agriculture technology.”.

(c) CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS.—Section 1240B(j)(2)(A)(i) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-2(j)(3)(A)(i)) is amended by inserting “(which may include the adoption of precision agriculture practices and the acquisition of precision agriculture technology)” after “incentive practices”.

SEC. 604. CONSERVATION STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM.

(b) SUPPLEMENTAL PAYMENTS FOR RESOURCE-CONSERVING CROP ROTATIONS AND ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT.—Section 1240L(d) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3839aa-24(d)) is amended—

(1) in the subsection heading, by striking “AND ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT” and inserting “, ADVANCED GRAZING MANAGEMENT, AND PRECISION AGRICULTURE”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “; or” and inserting a semicolon;

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) precision agriculture.”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), by striking “or advanced grazing management” and inserting “, advanced grazing management, or precision agriculture”.

SEC. 605. DELIVERY OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

Section 1242(f) of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3842(f)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) SOIL HEALTH PLANNING.—The Secretary shall emphasize the use of third-party providers in providing technical assistance for soil health planning, including planning related to the use of cover crops, precision conservation management, comprehensive nutrient management planning, and other innovative plans.”.

TITLE VII—BUTCHER BLOCK ACT

SEC. 701. ASSISTANCE FOR NEW AND EXPANDED LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY PROCESSORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make or guarantee a loan for the purpose of—

(1) increasing capacity of livestock and poultry processing, facilitating economic opportunity for livestock and poultry producers through processing activities, and diversifying processing ownership;

(2) increasing the customer base or revenue returns of livestock and poultry producers through investment in processing capacity;

(3) improving, developing, or financing livestock and poultry processing capacity or employment including through the financing of working capital; or

(4) promoting the interstate trade and local sales of processed livestock and poultry by financing improvements to meet relevant Federal, State, and local regulatory standards.

(b) ELIGIBILITY; GENERAL LIMITATIONS.—

(1) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—An entity shall be eligible for a loan or guarantee under this section if the entity is—

(A) a public, private, or cooperative organization organized on a for-profit or nonprofit basis;

(B) an Indian tribe on a Federal or State reservation, or any other federally recognized Indian tribal group; or

(C) an individual.

(2) FACILITY LOCATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a facility constructed, expanded, modified, refurbished, or re-equipped with proceeds from a loan made or guaranteed under this section shall be in a rural area.

(B) EXCEPTION.—A facility constructed, expanded, modified, refurbished, or re-equipped with proceeds from a loan made or guaranteed under this section may be in a non-rural area if—

(i) the primary use of the loan involved is for the facility, and the facility will increase the customer base or revenue returns of livestock and poultry producers that are located within 300 miles of the facility;

(ii) the loan involved will be used to increase the capacity in livestock and poultry processing in a region; and

(iii) the principal amount of the loan involved does not exceed \$50,000,000.

(C) RURAL AREA DEFINED.—In this paragraph, the term “rural area” has the meaning given the term in section 343(a)(13) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1991(a)(13)).

(3) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF LOAN INVOLVED.—A loan of more than \$50,000,000 may not be made or guaranteed under this section.

(B) LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY.—A loan may not be made or guaranteed under this section to an entity that is owned in partnership or in whole by—

(i) a foreign entity; or

(ii) an entity that currently processes over 5 percent of the daily harvest of any species.

(c) SPECIAL RULES APPLICABLE WITH RESPECT TO COOPERATIVES.—

(1) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF LOAN INVOLVED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (b)(3), a loan of not more than \$100,000,000 may be made or guaranteed for a cooperative organization under this section.

(B) CONDITIONS APPLICABLE IF LOAN INVOLVED IS FOR MORE THAN \$50,000,000.—A loan of more than \$50,000,000 may not be made or guaranteed for a cooperative organization under this section unless the loan is used to carry out a project that significantly increases the livestock and poultry processing in a region, where insufficient processing capacity exists, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) INTANGIBLE ASSETS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In determining whether a cooperative organization is eligible for a loan or guarantee under this section, the Secretary may consider the market value of a properly appraised brand name, patent, or trademark of the cooperative.

(B) ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE.—In the sole discretion of the Secretary, if the Secretary determines that the action would not create or otherwise contribute to an unreasonable risk of default or loss to the Federal Government, the Secretary may take accounts receivable as security for the obligations entered into in connection with a loan made or guaranteed under this section, and a borrower may use accounts receivable as collateral to secure such a loan.

(3) PURCHASE OF COOPERATIVE STOCK.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make or guarantee a loan in accordance with this section to an individual farmer or rancher for the purpose of purchasing capital stock of a farmer or rancher cooperative undertaking an eligible project under this section.

(B) PROCESSING CONTRACTS DURING INITIAL PERIOD.—A cooperative described in subparagraph (A) with respect to which a farmer or rancher receives a guarantee to purchase stock under subparagraph (A) may contract for services to fulfill any eligible purpose under this section, during the 5-year period beginning on the date the cooperative commences operations, in order to provide adequate time for the planning and construction of the processing facility of the cooperative.

(C) FINANCIAL INFORMATION.—A farmer or rancher from whom the Secretary requires financial information as a condition of making or guaranteeing a loan under subparagraph (A) shall provide the information in the manner generally required by commercial agricultural lenders in the geographical area in which the farmer or rancher is located.

(d) CONDITIONS APPLICABLE WITH RESPECT TO USING LOAN INVOLVED FOR REFINANCING.—A borrower may use 25 percent of a loan made or guaranteed under this section to refinance a loan made for a purpose described in subsection (a) if—

(1) the borrower is current and performing with respect to the loan to be refinanced;

(2) the borrower has not defaulted on any payment required to be made with respect to the loan to be refinanced;

(3) none of the collateral for the loan to be refinanced has been converted; and

(4) there is adequate security or full collateral for the loan to be refinanced.

(e) LOAN APPRAISAL.—The Secretary may require that any appraisal made in connection with a loan made or guaranteed under this section be conducted by a specialized appraiser that uses standards that are similar to standards used for similar purposes in the private sector, as determined by the Secretary.

(f) PREFERENCE.—In making or guaranteeing a loan under this section, the Secretary shall give a preference to applicants that have experience in livestock and poultry processing and can quickly scale-up to increase overall processing capacity in the region involved.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2025.

SEC. 702. NEW AND EXPANDING LIVESTOCK OR POULTRY PROCESSING GRANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to—

(1) expand, diversify, and increase capacity in livestock or poultry processing activities;

(2) improve compliance with livestock and poultry processing statutes (including the regulations issued thereunder), such as the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 661) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 454);

(3) identify and reduce barriers to entry for new livestock and poultry processors; or

(4) update, expand, or otherwise improve existing facilities.

(b) **ELIGIBLE GRANTEE.**—An entity shall be eligible for a grant under this section if the entity is—

(1) a governmental entity;

(2) a public, private, or cooperative organization organized on a for-profit or nonprofit basis; or

(3) an Indian tribe on a Federal or State reservation or any other federally recognized Indian tribal group.

(c) **USE OF FUNDS.**—An entity to which a grant is made under this section may use the grant funds to establish or support new or expanded livestock or poultry processing activity, or other activity which will increase the customer base or revenue returns of livestock and poultry producers, by undertaking a project, that—

(1) identifies and analyzes business opportunities, including feasibility studies as required for creditworthiness;

(2) identifies, trains, and provides technical assistance to existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs and managers or processing facilities;

(3) provides technical assistance to gain compliance with Federal, State, or local regulations;

(4) conducts regional, community, and local economic development planning and coordination, and leadership development; or

(5) establishes a center for training, technology, and trade that will provide training to livestock or poultry processing employees.

(d) **PREFERENCE.**—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give a preference to applicants that have experience in livestock and poultry processing and can quickly scale-up to increase overall processing capacity in the region involved.

(e) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2025.

TITLE VIII—LOWER FOOD AND FUEL COSTS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, namely:

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS

PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Office of the Secretary”, \$200,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out title IV Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act: Provided, That the Secretary may use up to 5 percent of amounts made available under this heading in this title for administrative costs, including salaries and expenses, research, data collection, and other associated costs, for carrying out such title IV: Provided further, That amounts made available for administrative costs pursuant to the preceding proviso may be transferred to “Rural Development Programs—Rural Development—Salaries and Expenses” for the purposes specified in such proviso.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

SEC. 801. In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is appropriated to the Department of Agriculture, \$500,000,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out title II, of which up to 5 percent may be used by the Secretary to provide technical assistance under such title II of the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act.

SEC. 802. Each amount appropriated or made available by this title is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 803. Unless otherwise provided for by this title, the additional amounts appropriated by this title to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 804. Each amount provided by this title is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) and section 4001(b) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022.

SEC. 805. (a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this title shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) **SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.**—The budgetary effects of this title shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) **CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105–217 and section 250(c)(7) and (c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this title shall be estimated for purposes of section 251 of such Act and as appropriations for discretionary accounts for purposes of the allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

This title may be cited as the “Lower Food and Fuel Costs Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022”.

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 Agriculture or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. **DAVID SCOTT**) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. **THOMPSON**) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. **DAVID SCOTT**).

Mr. **DAVID SCOTT** of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of H.R. 7606, the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act, and I encourage my colleagues to support this package that is comprised of multiple bills that our House Agriculture Committee has advanced in a strong, bipartisan manner.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, the last 2 years have led to drastic fluctuations in prices. Whether you look at the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic or the global disruptions associated with Putin’s war in Ukraine, American farmers, American ranchers, and consumers are, right now, facing terrible, increasing costs on the farm, at the grocery store, and at the gas station.

Our Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act tackles these price increases head on by increasing competition, options at the pump, and by providing needed support for America’s agriculture sector at every stop of our food supply chain.

Mr. Speaker, our package includes four main pillars.

One: Ensuring robust competition in the meat and poultry sector.

Two: Lowering costs at the grocery store by lowering costs for our farmers and ranchers.

Three: By empowering our farmers to help provide fuel choices and lower prices at our gas stations.

Four: Strengthening the food supply chain.

Going further into each of these pillars, first, this package will establish an Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters in the Agriculture Secretary’s office.

When we held a hearing, Mr. Speaker, it was a very powerful hearing. It was the largest viewing audience for a hearing in the history of our Agriculture Committee.

We heard overwhelming evidence that continuing the status quo when it comes to enforcement will not provide more desperately needed competition and fairness within our meat and poultry industries.

So we believe earnestly that the USDA and their expertise in agriculture issues gives them a strong footing to investigate the competitiveness in our meat and poultry sectors and to enforce existing laws to ensure a fair playing field for our family farmers, ranchers, and consumers.

Mr. Speaker, we were informed at that hearing that right now, we are losing 17,000 ranching farms every year. This has to stop.

Our bill also includes a bipartisan provision that will support the creation and expansion of processing capacity for small- and medium-sized producers to help alleviate this terrible, threatening consolidation just to a handful of four meatpacking companies. This is the core of this legislation.

Our second pillar addresses a key piece in the puzzle of rising prices. At the grocery store, there have been record increases in input costs for agricultural producers, with fertilizer prices for both specialty and row crop producers skyrocketing. This bill will help reduce their input costs so planning decisions are not impacted.

Mr. Speaker, speaking of fertilizer costs, it is very important for the Nation to know that right now, Russia produces and controls 66 percent of the fertilizer in the world. This needs to have serious, serious attention.

Our second pillar of this legislative package is the puzzle of rising prices.

Our third pillar addresses fuel costs, which is something that impacts everyone, whether you are paying more at the gas pump or seeing increasing prices in the grocery store from higher trucking and transportation costs.

This package addresses these concerns in a way that empowers our farmers and provides more choice and lower prices for our consumers at the gas pump and at the grocery store.

Mr. Speaker, our biofuels adoption and investment helps reduce our reliance on foreign oil and the supply shocks facing our gasoline supply, while also bolstering a revenue stream

for our farmers and producers across the country.

Bolstering our use of ethanol from E10 to E15 will not impact the environment, our Environmental Protection Agency confirms this, nor will it slow down the rollout of electric vehicles.

This vital package of bills makes much-needed improvements in our supply chain. A series of shocks to our beef supply chain, combined with a concentrated processing infrastructure, resulted in high prices for meat at our grocery stores and lower prices for our producers, farmers, and ranchers.

Specifically, one provision calls for the formation of an Agricultural and Food System Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response Task Force to examine our food supply chain and report back to us here in Congress on the strengths and the weaknesses that exist.

I am extremely proud of the work of our House Agriculture Committee members, both Democrats and Republicans, who have worked tirelessly to put this strong bipartisan bill together.

We have garnered for this bill extremely important bipartisan participation. This is what our Nation is hungry for; Democrats and Republicans working together to bring down these high costs for our food and our fuel. This bill is a bill that our American people want and deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I note that several of the sections in this bill codify or are complementary to ongoing and planned programs that the Department of Agriculture is carrying out or planning to carry out with existing authorities and funding. The intent behind passage of this bill is to be additive to those efforts and is in no way intended to limit or pause those programs and efforts.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 7606 because, simply put, this bill does nothing in the immediate future to lower food and fuel costs.

Long before Russia's invasion of Ukraine, America's farm families and consumers were struggling with fractured supply chains, skyrocketing input costs, and historic levels of inflation, each of which continue to contribute to increased food prices and diminished inventories.

Despite these crises, Democrats have neglected to take serious action to incentivize increased American production. In fact, we are here today to debate a bill that compounds the situation, further limiting American farmers' abilities to meet global food demand and doubling down on the idea that more spending and big government will feed the world.

Adding insult to injury, the White House has been quick to blame the private sector and alleged industry concentration for the current crisis.

Economists across the spectrum—including former Obama and Clinton administration officials—have dismissed

the strategy as misleading, at best, or otherwise, blatantly political.

So it is not surprising that at the behest of the White House, we are debating a package where the anchor piece of legislation perpetuates a tired narrative of blame, duplicates existing authorities, ignores industry and producers, and undermines the Department of Justice.

It is also not surprising the party of defund the police also has become the party of more cops for cows. At every turn, this administration has obsessively pointed the finger at the packing industry, in particular, blaming them almost singlehandedly for rising food costs.

They have done so via blog posts, contrived public events, and press briefings, all without any acknowledgment of the culpability of their own reckless spending and heavy-handed regulatory agenda.

My Democratic colleagues have dutifully played along, executing sensationalized hearings and political theatrics designed to support unvetted and controversial bills.

Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder many of us question the seriousness of the bill before us today. If this were a serious exercise, my Democratic colleagues would not have paired such an egregious example of legislative overreach with several other very thoughtful, very bipartisan bills.

If this were a serious exercise, my Democrat colleagues would not have added two unvetted Democrat amendments that are more about political point-scoring than genuine near-term policy solutions.

If this were a serious exercise, my Democrat colleagues would have worked with Republicans to form a concrete, immediate policy solution with a chance of consideration in the Senate.

Now, I know both parties understand the gravity of these issues. While we may have disagreements on policy, I was confident that we could find common-ground solutions, if given the opportunity.

□ 0930

I am dumbfounded as to why Democratic leadership would choose this moment—when consumers are deciding between gas in their cars or food on their tables—as an attempt to score political points, especially on the heels of a nearly 9 percent increase in consumer prices, the worst this Nation has seen since the Carter administration.

So, Republicans forged ahead, and we developed solutions. Earlier this week, Leader MCCARTHY and I, along with nearly 100 of our Republican colleagues, sent a letter to President Biden outlining administrative actions that he could take immediately to mitigate rising input costs, and strengthen the role that American agriculture plays in global food stability.

And yesterday, I, along with many of those same Members, introduced H.R.

8069, the Reducing Farm Input Costs and Barriers to Domestic Production Act. This bill would reverse many of the more harmful regulatory burdens spearheaded by this administration, address escalating input costs, and provide certainty to farmers, ranchers, agribusinesses, and other entities across the food and agriculture supply chain.

Specifically, the bill provides relief from EPA's unprecedented actions related to pesticides and other vital crop protection tools; offers clarity related to WOTUS regulations; rescinds the SEC's harmful proposed rule on climate-related disclosures; reinstates the 2020 NEPA streamlining; and requires an economic analysis on the costs and the benefits of GIPSA rules. These are all actions which would provide immediate relief to our farm families and households across the globe, and they all were rejected by the Rules Committee majority as amendments to the bill before us.

The letter and this bill stand in stark contrast to what we have seen from the White House and the Democrats in Congress and their efforts to scapegoat private industry for skyrocketing gas prices and sustained supply chain failures.

So, in short, the crises we are facing cannot and will not be mitigated with unfunded mandates, duplicative authorities, politicized agencies, and Big Government, all of which are laced into H.R. 7606.

I remain opposed to this bill and the process which got us here but stand willing to work with my colleagues on commonsense, near-term solutions to provide immediate relief to farmers, ranchers, foresters, and American consumers.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. 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. 7606.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER), my good friend.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for the opportunity to speak on this important bill, the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act.

American families are struggling. They are continuing to see rising gas prices even as oil and gas companies are making record profits.

Higher prices at the grocery store are making it harder to put food on the table, and a lot of this is because farmers are struggling with increasing fuel prices. Costs and availability of transportation to both domestic and export markets continue to be a challenge for the wheat, cherry, apple, and pear growers in my district.

This is a global problem, but it is a problem that we can take steps to ease right here at home. This bill provides the resources to do just that.

It addresses the cost of fuel by allowing year-round sales of higher ethanol blends, which are consistently less expensive than higher octane gas.

It addresses high food prices by helping farmers and helping our supply chain.

Fertilizer costs are at record highs since most of our fertilizer is typically sourced from Russia. This bill helps farmers spend less on inputs without lowering crop yields.

We are paying skyrocketing prices for meat at the grocery store, but farmers and ranchers don't see any of that additional profit because four companies control 80 percent of U.S. meat processing. That is unfair.

This bill expands the availability and capacity of meat processing and will create new jobs, provide more options for small- and medium-sized ranching operations, and help lower the cost of meat at the grocery store.

Finally, addressing the cost of trucking and transportation will help farmers get their crops to market.

The whole goal here is to make life a little easier for the people we represent, to help you fill up your tank and feed your family. As the only member on the House Agriculture Committee from the Northwest, I will continue to do all that I can to support farmers and lower costs for American families.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), the former chairman of the full House Agriculture Committee, who continues to this day to be an incredible advocate for agriculture and a mentor of mine as I have worked my way into this leadership role.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 7606 because American farmers and ranchers deserve real assistance, real relief, real policy solutions.

To understand my opposition, you must understand the part of the country that I represent and was raised in. The Third District of Oklahoma was the epicenter of the drought, the Dust Bowl, and the economic depression of the 1930s. This was a time when horrible weather conditions collided with misguided Federal ag and misguided Federal monetary policy to create an environment that profoundly changed the region that my family has called home for over 120 years.

I was raised on these stories, and it was their experiences that shaped my view on what the role of the Federal Government should be. The Federal Government should be passing and enacting policies that help people and businesses, not hinder them. Unfortunately, the Biden administration and House Democrats seem to not hold that same view.

During the past 5 years, American farmers and ranchers have weathered

volatile world markets, devastating natural disasters, prolonged droughts, supply chain disruptions, ever-increasing input costs, and soaring inflation.

Yet, the only thing the Biden administration and House Democrats seem interested in doing is increasing regulatory burdens, limiting access to fuel, and passing spending packages that fuel inflation.

Mr. Speaker, if House Democrats were truly interested in providing relief for American farmers and ranchers, they would join my Republican colleagues and me in calling for the Biden administration to reinstate the Trump-era Waters of the United States rule and rescind the Biden administration's WOTUS rule.

If Democrats were interested in reducing the cost of farm inputs like fertilizer and fuel, they would work with us to restore and expand domestic energy production. They would join us in calling for the Biden administration to rescind the SEC's proposed rule on climate-related disclosure.

This rule is not only a ploy to divert capital away from traditional energy investments, it also requires farmers, regardless of size, to track and report environmental data to public companies with which they work.

Finally, House Democrats are touting this bill as a solution to the issue of consolidation in the meatpacking industry. As we all know, DOJ—yes, the Department of Justice—is in the middle of an ongoing investigation into the meatpacking industry, an investigation that was launched under the Trump administration.

I feel strongly that if there is collusion, manipulation, or other wrongdoing by packers, then the existing law should be enforced under the existing authorities at USDA and DOJ. There are civil and criminal penalties if violations are found. Changing those authorities or laws in the middle of an ongoing investigation only helps to confuse and complicate the eventual DOJ findings.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this messaging bill and join with me in calling for real solutions for American farmers and ranchers.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act.

Across the country, workers are calling out sick because of COVID, truck deliveries and other shipments are facing delays, and people are panic-buying, all leading to product shortages and soaring prices.

Yet, while we know the COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly challenged our Nation's supply chain, we also know there are systemic imbalances in our economy. Decreased competition, driven by market concentration, has allowed companies to further drive up costs and their profits at the expense of

hardworking Americans in one of our most vulnerable moments.

In the beef-processing market, for example, four dominant companies control 85 percent of the market. The four largest poultry processing companies made up more than half of the market in 2015, up from 35 percent of the market in 1986.

We have seen this trend all across our economy, as large corporations have squeezed out independent businesses, eliminating competition. As a result, hardworking Americans throughout this country are paying more as food prices skyrocket, particularly for meat.

Provisions included in the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act will help us tackle this very issue and help bring prices down across the board.

The Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act and the Butcher Block Act, for example, will help strengthen our investigatory and enforcement tools to address market competition issues while also investing in additional meat processing capacity.

The PRECISE Act will improve farming efficiency and help ensure farmers' resiliency to future disruptions in fertilizer supply.

The Renewable Fuel Infrastructure Investment and Market Expansion Act and the Year-Round Fuel Choice Act will help drive down prices at the pump for Americans and increase available fuel supply.

These are just a few of the provisions in this comprehensive package that will help ease the economic burden on American families and help create an economy that works for all of us.

I urge my colleagues to come together to help hardworking Americans by driving down these costs and supporting this legislation.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I think we should see an extension, a little bigger of that poster that we saw there. That concentration occurred because of exactly what we are seeing today of government and Democrats leveling regulations. It was regulations that caused the concentration within the meatpacking industry. What happened when you put on more regulations, small- and medium-sized processors weren't able to continue to work. They couldn't cope with the compliance costs. They just couldn't handle those increased regulations.

Today, we are seeing not just additional regulations, but a whole new police officer being created under the poison pill within this legislation, special investigator bill.

I would argue that maybe we ought to blow that chart up a little more so we can see and project just how much more concentration occurs when we force more small- and medium-sized processors out of the business. It will result in increased concentration with this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN), a

great member of the Agriculture Committee who represents the Big First Congressional District.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in opposition to H.R. 7606.

I support our country's farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers because they are the lifeblood of America. They keep us food and fuel secure and therefore free and self-determining as a Nation.

I cosponsor the Year-Round Fuel Choice Act, which would address limitations on Reid vapor pressure and allow for producers to supply, and consumers to purchase, E15 year-round. I have supported this measure long before my time in Congress, and I will continue to be a strong proponent of year-round E15. A temporary waiver is not enough. We must make this decision permanent and provide certainty to producers. That bill is now part of H.R. 7606.

I cosponsor the Butcher Block Act, which would codify the authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to make grants and loans to expand meat and poultry processing capacity. I support consumer choice. That bill is now part of H.R. 7606.

In the House Agriculture Committee, I voted in favor of four other bills that are now part of H.R. 7606, but today's vote is disappointing because House Democrats ignored an effort made by Mr. DAVIS and others, one I am proud to cosponsor, to include an amendment separating these good pro-agriculture bills from a poison pill. Included in H.R. 7606 is a provision that would create a politically charged special investigator office at the U.S. Department of Agriculture to investigate and prosecute food producers in America.

You heard that right. The original H.R. 7606 and a provision in today's so-called Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act would create a new office at USDA to investigate and prosecute the people who work to feed us. I represent the Big First District of Kansas, which ranks number one in the country for the value of sales of cattle and calves at more than \$9 billion annually. We see the entire beef supply chain in the Big First, from cow-calf producers to cattle feeders and packers. Under the Packers and Stockyards Division at USDA, all of those players, all of them, are already subject to strict inspection. Under H.R. 7606, they would be subject to a type of politically charged scrutiny we expect of no other related business.

Do you think that a Democratic-controlled Congress and USDA would stop there? No. H.R. 7606 would set the horrible precedent for political administrations to inspect and prosecute anything and anyone they disagree with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, today it is packing facilities, tomorrow it is corn-

fields and biofuel facilities, or wheat growers and milling stations. I support farmers, ranchers, and agricultural producers in this country, and I am disappointed this poison pill is included.

□ 0945

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to clear up something that the gentleman just said. It is very important. The United States Department of Agriculture is the proper source to deal with this investigation. It needs to be investigated per the will of the American people, and there is no agency better equipped, better qualified, to find out what is going wrong.

According to the USDA, the language is clear on the special investigator being a career employee. It only specifies that the position be appointed by the Secretary and based on the qualifications of the individual.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG), a member of the House Committee on Agriculture.

Ms. CRAIG. Mr. Speaker, Americans across the country are justifiably frustrated by the higher prices they are experiencing at the pump, in the grocery store, and across the board.

Right now, working families in every district across this country are crying out for relief. They are tired of political games, and they are tired of partisan attacks. Our constituents don't want Congress in a food fight. They want compromise, and they want solutions.

My friends, today, we have a bipartisan, commonsense solution at our fingertips.

The Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act will lift up our constituents by lowering prices at the grocery store aisle and at the pump and creating a situation where we are seen as acting together.

My provision, the Year-Round Fuel Choice Act, will allow for the year-round sale of homegrown biofuels, which can sell for as much as 40 cents less per gallon than traditional gasoline. Why would we deny that low-cost alternative to working families who are so desperate for savings?

My Strengthening the Agriculture and Food Supply Chain Act will help lower prices at the grocery store by getting products from ships to shelves faster and shoring up our food supply chain for future generations. My friends, why would we deny these critical savings to our constituents who are simply trying to put food on the table?

The American people want action. They are calling for us to use every tool at our disposal to fight inflation and lower costs. We must respond to their call.

I appreciate the support of this package from my Democratic colleagues and many of my Republican colleagues, and I encourage all of you to vote "yes."

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

During the recent packer hearing, Chairman SCOTT mentioned that he used a chart compiled of what really was cherry-picked data with zero context to accuse all four of the major beef packing CEOs of price-fixing and collusion.

The packing executives explained the multitudes of supply and demand dynamics supporting the data, including the cyclical ebbs and flows of cattle production. Each of them denied the chairman's accusation under oath.

Despite their denial, this week at the Rules Committee, the chairman accused the packers of lying under oath. According to the chairman, a price-fixing scheme is the only plausible explanation for increased meat prices. It is no wonder I have serious doubts about this administration's ability to objectively carry out these new authorities.

I agree with the chairman, who is a dear friend. We work well together on well over 99 percent of everything that we engage on, just not this particular poison pill today. USDA is the right place to be the cop on the beat for this. In fact, they already are.

USDA already has an entire Packers and Stockyards Division charged with enforcing the Packers and Stockyard Act that has been in place since the 1930s. Based on the latest available data, they have filed and closed almost 1,900 cases just in 2020 alone. The division already consists of a team of seasoned attorneys, market specialists, and auditors, and it has the option to pursue administrative enforcement through USDA's Office of General Counsel before an administrative law judge or through the Department of Justice in Federal court.

I agree the USDA is the place for oversight of the packing industry, and it is already in place. This duplicative mandate with all the issues it brings is not warranted.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. CRAWFORD), the vice ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee.

Mr. CRAWFORD. Mr. Speaker, I think the American people need to understand two things. One, if you eat, you are involved in agriculture. And, two, food security is national security. So, we keep those things in mind as we have this conversation today. Everyone in this room is involved in agriculture.

Despite that, we have before us today a bill that makes it more difficult for our farmers and ranchers to carry out their primary mission, which is to feed, clothe, and shelter 98 percent of the population that is not engaged in agriculture. Two percent of Americans provide for 100 percent of Americans and the rest of the world. This bill doesn't truly address the challenges that they face every day.

Democrats would rather demonize producers in the private sector instead of taking responsibility for the inflation that is changing the lives of our

constituents every day everywhere in the country. Every day, our world becomes more globalized and our economies become more interconnected. As a result, the need for food security grows.

One day, Russia is weaponizing food in Ukraine, and the next day, China is buying pieces of the American agriculture supply chain.

I have said it before and will say it again: Agriculture security is national security, and we can no longer afford to stand by while our adversaries exploit the supply chain and American food security flounders under continued inflation inflicted by this administration.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote on H.R. 7606. For those of us who represent rural constituents, this should be the easiest “no” vote you ever make.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me clarify something the ranking member said. Yes, I was able to bring in all four CEOs of our meatpacking companies, and we were very grateful that they accepted our invitation. But our ranking member made a mistake. It wasn't all four that said in answer to my question about whether or not they agreed or had any agreement on pricing in our meat industry. Three said no; one said, “Not to my knowledge.”

Now, you must understand what we are dealing with here and why just that reply from them requires an investigation. That is what we are here for. That is why we did the hearing, to bring those parties in.

We must act, Mr. Speaker. As I said before, we cannot continue to lose 17,000 ranchers and farmers. Also, so many of them, thousands of them, have not made a profit in 5 years. We have a problem.

In a report, the GAO noted that the USDA's investigations were planned and conducted primarily by economists, without the formal involvement of attorneys from USDA's Office of General Counsel, or the OGC. As a result, a legal perspective that focused on assessing potential violations was generally absent when investigations were initiated and conducted. This is precisely why the special investigator bill is so important, because it alleviates an issue that has not had enough scrutiny and ensures that attorneys will be responsible for looking into possible violations.

The GAO also found that the USDA's Packers and Stockyards Act, PSA, investigations had not modernized to keep up with today's complex, competition-related concerns, with consolidation at the heart of this issue, nor had it implemented previous recommendations. It also recommended that GIPSA and USDA's Office of General Counsel work more closely together.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAL-

LONE), the distinguished chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker from New Jersey, I thank Chairman SCOTT for the time and all he has been doing with his committee to put this excellent bill together.

Today, once again, in my opinion, the House is taking action to fight high gas prices and protect consumers by empowering farmers to provide homegrown fuel choices at the pump, an option that costs consumers 40 cents less per gallon.

At a time when Americans are paying record-high prices for gas, Big Oil continues to exploit market instability caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine to rake in record profits.

Big Oil companies collectively made \$41 billion in profits during the first quarter of this year. Some of these were record highs; others were the highest profits in over a decade.

It is abundantly clear that Big Oil companies are more interested in funneling billions in profits to their shareholders and executives than in addressing record-high gas prices for American consumers.

The House has to act, Mr. Speaker, to protect American families from this profiteering. That is why we are here today, to preserve and expand the availability of a cheaper and cleaner fuel option for the driving public.

The Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act combats fuel prices by allowing for the voluntary, year-round sale of gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol, known as E15 or Unleaded 88. Blending more biofuels like ethanol into gasoline displaces demand for petroleum, helping to bring down gas prices for consumers.

Today, drivers are paying, on average, about 40 cents less per gallon to fill up their tanks with E15. This fuel provides significant savings for families during the summer driving season. Let's ensure it continues to be available at gas stations across the country.

Increasing the availability of E15 protects Americans from volatile global oil markets and eases the grip Big Oil has on American drivers.

By relying more on homegrown biofuels and less on fossil fuels, this legislation insulates American drivers from dramatic global price fluctuations, enhances our national security, creates local jobs, and bolsters true energy independence. It is a win-win across the board. It is one of the most powerful tools in our fight against global price shocks and oil and gas profiteering.

E15 is also a cleaner fuel option that emits less carbon pollution and burns cleaner than regular gasoline. Today's vote is also part of our broader effort to bring down prices while cutting climate pollution.

I thank Representatives CRAIG and AXNE for their leadership on preserving and expanding access to E15 across the country and Chairman SCOTT, once again, for including these critical E15 provisions in this package.

Mr. Speaker, let's help bring down gas prices at the pump, strengthen our Nation's rural communities, and break the grip of Big Oil by passing the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act today.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER), a member of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. ROUZER. Mr. Speaker, listening to the debate this morning reminds me of something President Ronald Reagan once said. He said: Our friends on the other side of the aisle, they know so much that just isn't so.

How interesting it is that the title of this package is the exact opposite of what this legislation is going to do. It will do nothing to bring down the cost of food and energy. Instead, it is making excuses for the crises caused by the Biden administration's attacks on American agriculture and energy.

Now, there are a few good pieces of bipartisan legislation in this package, but our friends on the other side of the aisle refuse to allow these bills to receive their individual votes. Instead, they are using the good provisions here as pawns in their political messaging.

□ 1000

One of the really harmful bills in this package, as has been discussed, the Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act, creates a duplicative office within the USDA that will only add to the regulatory burden of our food processors across the country, and that is going to increase costs.

The investigator would be granted independent litigation authority, allowing for civil suits against packers at the whim of the Secretary without even consulting with the DOJ. It should be noted, the DOJ already launched an investigation into the “Big Four” for anticompetitive practices in May of 2020 and has declined to provide Congress with an update even 2 years into that investigation.

The bottom line is increasing regulation will raise food prices, not make them more affordable. Our farm families need inputs at a fair price. They need diesel prices to come down. They need to be able to produce the food to feed this country and the world without the government making it harder and harder day in and day out. That is why this package must be defeated.

Rather than more regulation, we must unleash the full ability of American production. We must work for our farm families and do what is right and defeat this bill.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER), who is also the chair of our Conservation and Forestry Subcommittee.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise in support of my legislation, H.R. 7606, the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act.

Congress cannot shy away from addressing the urgent economic challenges that face our local communities

and our entire country, and that challenge continues to be inflation. We know how rising prices, consolidation across industries, and supply chain challenges are impacting America's families, businesses, and seniors, and as lawmakers, our job is to listen to the people we represent and then respond with legislation that can help solve those problems.

Indeed, this package, the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act, is just that. It is a compilation of bills put together by lawmakers who are responding to their constituents. I have heard from the other side of the aisle that, in fact, it would have been nice if we came together in a bipartisan way. So I would note that my colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle from Iowa, Arkansas, New York, Nebraska, Ohio, Illinois, South Dakota, Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Nebraska, Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Illinois, Iowa, Tennessee—it feels like I am practicing State capitals with my fifth grader—Nebraska, Illinois, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Illinois, Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, Indiana, Kentucky, Minnesota, Illinois, Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa, Iowa, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana, Minnesota, Iowa, Nebraska, Florida, Wyoming, Virginia, Minnesota, each of these are individual Members of Congress from the Republican side of the aisle who are leading on this issue.

In fact, two of the bills in this package are led by our Republican colleagues, and I am proud that I have joined with Congressman DUSTY JOHNSON in support of the bipartisan Butcher Block Act. I am proud to be his co-lead as he leads that important piece of legislation. It is a commonsense step toward allowing American processors the ability to expand their operations, launch a new business or just make sure they are keeping—

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, this is the first step towards lowering meat prices, but in addition to increasing processing capacity for American cattlemen and poultry producers, we need to go after anticompetitive practices in the meat industry.

That is why I am proud that this package also includes the bipartisan Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act. The bill would establish a special investigator at USDA to investigate violations of our existing antitrust laws that have been on the books for more than 100 years, and I thank Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS for co-leading this effort.

This bill has broad bipartisan support and bicameral support. So I thank Senator JON TESTER, Senator GRASSLEY, Republican; Senator JOHN THUNE, Republican; Senator HOEVEN, Republican;

and Senator ROUNDS, Republican, for joining with us in pushing this bill forward. It has support from the U.S. Cattlemen's Association, and this bill is responsive to the needs of the people I represent because the Virginia Cattlemen's Association supports this bill, as does the National Farmers Union.

Americans want lower meat prices both now and in the future. They want lower gas prices and to make biofuels accessible to more Americans. We have the opportunity to do that. I urge my colleagues to support this package.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to this bill.

To suggest that this bill is a collaborative effort is simply inaccurate. There could be a number of other ways to describe that as well, but it is unfortunate that we are at a place where we could have had an opportunity to advance some good legislation.

I am a supporter of the E15 bill. I have done a lot of work on this, and not just because gas prices are high right now, but because I think that E15 and allowing consumers more choices at the pump would actually engage consumers as it relates to energy policy and energy products.

I do have serious concerns, though, as others have mentioned, about provisions that the Democrats insisted be included in this bill, like the new, very duplicative investigative authority at USDA.

Even more concerning to me is Democrats' continued strategy of seeking to blame others for the situation on energy and the cost of virtually everything in our economy rather than acknowledging that President Biden's economic policies have actually created this mess.

Biden stimulus dollars have driven inflation. Biden's stimulus dollars paid Americans not to return to work, therefore, worsening our supply chain crisis. The President's executive orders canceling new lease options and shutting down the Keystone XL pipeline have certainly contributed to increased gas prices.

Real inflation relief legislation would actually reign in spending, get more Americans back to work, provide broad regulatory relief, and increase domestic energy production. This bill is certainly not it.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our distinguished Speaker of the House.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership in bringing this important legislation to the floor. I commend him and the members of the committee, as we just heard from Congresswoman SPANBERGER, for their very important work recognizing the needs of America's working families with their kitch-

en table issues, recognizing the needs in rural America for us to have legislation that strengthens rural America's hand in the decisions that we make as we go forward.

Mr. Speaker, as we gather here, the war continues in Ukraine. It is an unprovoked, outrageous act of aggression on the part of Putin and Russia invading the territorial borders of Ukraine.

At the same time, doing that has driven up prices here at home, driven up prices at the pump; it is a Putin price at the pump. That is the main reason, in the short period of time following the invasion of Ukraine, the price at the pump went up its highest amount in a very long time.

Russia is also a source of fertilizer, a big source of fertilizer to our country, and of course, diminishing the supply coming in raises the cost of fertilizer and contributes to the cost for our farmers, and of course, then contributes to the price of food at the grocery store. It is an important kitchen table issue.

Putin's price at the pump is exacerbating the skyrocketing costs weighing heavily on our families. Again, since Russia began its saber-rattling against Ukraine, gas prices in many places went up \$2 per gallon.

Meanwhile, the World Bank reports that global food prices in March and April spiked 16 percent over the 2 months prior, and while Putin works to fuel inflation today, the Democratic House—hopefully, in a bipartisan way—takes a strong step to bring down crucial kitchen table costs at the pump and grocery store and across the board.

Our Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act does precisely what the name suggests in three major areas.

First, the bill brings down the costs for farmers in the field. As we know, oil, gasoline is an important factor of production for farmers in order for them to produce. The war in Ukraine has restricted the supply of fertilizer, as I mentioned, and sent the costs through the roof. By taking action to lower the costs on the farm, we lower the costs on the shelf in the grocery store and on the kitchen table.

Second, this bill bolsters competition in the meatpacking industry, and I thank Mr. SCOTT for his leadership. Cracking down on the market power of big conglomerates and increasing competition will ensure ranchers get a fair deal for their livestock while families get a good price for meat and poultry.

Third, this bill will help make cheaper, cleaner homegrown biofuels more widely available. This summer drivers who choose to fill up with Unleaded 88 could save an average of 40 cents a gallon, and by making this fuel more widely available it will unleash the power of America's farmers to help break the grip of foreign autocrats on energy markets; lower gas prices, while keeping our dollars here at home; and reduce pollution because biofuels are cleaner than petroleum.

Today's action to lower food and fuel costs is the latest manifestation of House Democrats' unyielding commitment to fight inflation.

Last month, our majority voted to hold Big Oil accountable for price gouging and war profiteering, which has kept energy prices excessively high.

This week, we passed legislation to crack down on exorbitant ocean shipping fees, leveling the playing field for American businesses and lowering costs for American consumers. Proudly today, President Biden will sign this legislation into law. It is called the Ocean Shipping Reform Act of 2022.

As we speak, the Congress is hard at work on a bold, bipartisan, bicameral competitiveness package to make more goods in America; strengthen our supply chains; diversify our STEM workforce; and reinvigorate research and development. We look forward to sending this strong cost-cutting legislation to the President's desk.

Here is the thing: Inflation springs from higher costs. Higher costs spring from shorter supply. Shorter supply is there because of COVID preventing certain products from coming into our country, so short supply. Short supply of factors of production coming into our country.

That is why the COMPETES Act is so important because it will make us more independent, more self-sufficient on the products we need; for example, chips. Chips are a very important part of that bill. To make a car it takes 1,000 chips; an electric car, 2,000 chips. But we can't do that manufacturing unless we have chips, and if other countries are saving chips for themselves at home or the high fees of transporting them make it just unaffordable to people, we need to make these chips at home, and that is what the COMPETES Act enables us to do.

So lowering costs for our families; when we ran in 2018—just to bring back promises made—we said we were going to lower costs by lowering the costs of prescription drugs, and that is what we are in the midst of doing now. We are going to lower costs in every way for America's working families. That is what this legislation does here.

We are going to have bigger paychecks. And we have had, since President Biden took office, working with the private sector and the nonprofit sector and the public sector, 8 million jobs have been created. Unemployment has been cut in half. Wages have gone up. That also contributes to inflation, which must be addressed, and this legislation is part of doing that.

So this legislation is a strong step in that direction, and I salute the relentless leadership of the Agriculture chair, DAVID SCOTT, and the Energy and Commerce chair, FRANK PALLONE, who is an important part of this, as well as Representatives SPANBERGER, CRAIG, AXNE, and HARDER and the dedicated staff of both committees.

Together, they have assembled a package of popular bipartisan legisla-

tion with a laser focus on fighting inflation.

□ 1015

Make no mistake, a vote against this bill is a vote to keep the cost of gas and groceries high, when we can do just the opposite by voting for it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a strong "yes" vote.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), a strong agriculture advocate and a leader in agriculture.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I want to make it clear: just because Democrats named their bill the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act does not mean this bill will achieve that goal.

The only thing it really achieves is a campaign talking point for Democrats responding to constituents frustrated with higher prices at the grocery store and the gas station caused by their reckless spending.

Instead of wasting our valuable time debating this bill that will never become law, we should pass H.R. 8069, the Reducing Farm Input Costs and Barriers to Production Act, introduced by Ranking Member THOMPSON, which includes real, immediate solutions our farmers, ranchers, and producers support.

His bill, which I am proud to support, would reverse the EPA's reckless actions related to crop production tools, reverse the Biden administration's confusing and disastrous changes to the Waters of the United States rule, and would withdraw the SEC's ludicrous ESG rule on climate-related disclosures, an action that has received bipartisan support.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, civilians and soldiers are dying in Ukraine and the American people are feeling it in their pocket, even as they rise up to support democracy. The American people know there is a problem.

As we stand on the floor today, the good news is that Democrats care. That is why we rise today to offer the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act because the American people see it. They see it at the gas station on their way home or to work, they see it at the grocery store when their carts are half empty, and they see it with their hard-earned paychecks that don't meet what they need. Inflation—they know about it.

You know what, they are looking for a fighting team like the Democrats to make something happen, not a whining, complaining, get-nothing-done. In my community, the interest rates are 8.5 percent of the cost of goods in Houston, Texas. I am not going home and telling them that we are out here working. I ask for our colleagues to recognize the importance of lowering costs at the grocery store, ensuring ro-

bust competition, and helping farmers. Let us fight to pass this bill. We care.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 7606, the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act, that would shore up the food and agriculture supply chain, assure fair competition in the meat and poultry sectors, and lower food and gasoline costs to the American consumer.

The American people know that there is a problem.

They see it.

They see it at the gas station on their way home from work.

They see it when they leave the grocery store with a half empty cart.

They see it when their hard-earned paychecks stretch less and less.

Inflation rose by 8.6 percent in May, a 40-year high.

The price of all goods in the Houston metro area have jumped by 8.5 percent since April 2021—the highest year-over-year jump since 1981.

My constituents aren't suddenly making 8.5 percent more than they did a year ago, mind you.

No, they are now going without.

The cost of the most basic commodities—electricity, oil, meats, and dairy—have gone up at alarming rates, and our people are disproportionately bearing the burden of inflation.

An income that previously fed and housed a family, provided life-supporting medication, and got people to work and back is now capable of paying only half of those bills.

Our constituents are forced to choose between picking up a prescription or paying for childcare, between keeping the lights on and keeping the pantry full.

These are not choices American families should have to make.

Congress must act to rebalance the financial scales in this country.

This package includes the following bills:

H.R. 7606—"Meat and Poultry Special Investigators Act" which Establishes an Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters in the Agriculture Secretary's Office.

H.R. 7764—"To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to provide additional payments under the Environmental Quality Incentives Program for implementation of nutrient management practices" which would provide additional assistance to specialty and row crop producers who undertake USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service practice standards to use fertilizers more efficiently, do soil testing, or seek out other sources of plant nutrients.

H.R. 2518—"PRECISE Act—Producing Responsible Energy and Conservation Incentives and Solutions for the Environment" which explicitly states precision agriculture eligibility in Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program, allows a producer who receives payments under EQIP to also receive a conservation loan guarantee, and allows up to a 90 percent cost share for precision agriculture under EQIP.

H.R. 1542—"Renewable Fuel Infrastructure Investment and Market Expansion Act of 2021" which would deploy additional storage and dispensing equipment to ensure that higher ethanol blends and other biofuels are more readily available across the country.

H.R. 4410—"Year-Round Fuel Choice Act of 2021" which would build on a recent Biden Administration action allowing voluntary year-

round sale of gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol, known as E-15 or Unleaded 88.

H.R. 7675—"Strengthening the Agriculture and Food Supply Chain Act" which would create an Agricultural and Food System Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response Task Force at USDA, headed by a Special Advisor on Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response.

H.R. 4140—"Butcher Block Act" which would provide assistance to create new and expand current local and regional livestock and meat processing capacity with direct or guaranteed loans.

From the soil in which our farmers plant their seeds, to the fuel that transports vegetables to our grocers, to the very meat on our tables, this package will enact positive legislation that the American people will be able to see.

The spike in food and energy prices are at the center of inflation.

Beginning at the root, as producers across the country face skyrocketing fertilizer prices, we must help producers reduce their input costs so planting decisions are not impacted.

Expanding access to precision agriculture technology is critical now, as we face climate change and fertilizer costs that have doubled or almost tripled.

Breakdowns and bottlenecks in the food and agriculture supply chain, resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, have been well documented and have caused significant losses and concerns to our agricultural constituents.

Over the last few decades, there has been an influx of domination in the meat packing industry by four large companies resulting in raised prices and reduced options for products.

COVID-19 highlighted the country's dangerous reliance on large beef plants run by the four biggest processors.

The pandemic caused slaughterhouses nationwide to close to contain outbreaks of the virus among workers.

Ranchers were and still are frustrated that cattle prices drop when major plants close, while meat companies still benefit from rising meat prices.

Farmers' share of profits have gone down, while American consumers continue to pay more, with meat prices being the single largest contributor to the rising cost of food people consume at home.

A fair and competitive market is fundamental to a well-functioning U.S. economy.

When firms have to compete for customers, it leads to lower prices, higher quality goods and services, greater variety, and more innovation.

Strengthening enforcement of the Packer and Stockyards Act will lead to greater competition in the meat and poultry processing, fairer access to markets for producers, and more price stability for consumers.

Increased processing capacity will alleviate some supply chain bottlenecks and provide producers with more options to market their cattle and receive a fair price.

The supply chain will be more resilient and competitive long term as a result.

With regard to our energy and fuel crisis, further use of biofuels will reduce prices at the pump for all Americans and increase the supply of fuel available.

Biofuels adoption and investment helps reduce our reliance on foreign oil and the supply

shocks facing our gasoline supply while also bolstering a revenue stream for farmers across the country.

E-10 gasoline, gasoline containing 10 percent ethanol, is currently sold year-round, while the sale of E-15 gasoline, gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol, is dependent on receiving special waivers despite both having very similar emission profiles when it comes to smog formation.

Year-round sale of gasoline containing 15 percent ethanol (E-15) will reduce the price at the pump for American drivers by giving consumers the choice to purchase a fuel that is substantially cheaper than standard gasoline.

The American people need legislative intervention in a market that is increasingly becoming more concentrated and suffering from supply chain disruptions.

This package provides small concrete actions that will invoke change and provide both short-term immediate and long-term continuous relief.

I urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 7606, the Lower Food and Fuel Cost Act.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JACKSON).

Mr. JACKSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a serious issue facing all of rural America: the Biden administration and the radical left's war on agriculture.

Today, the House will vote on H.R. 7606, which will exacerbate fractured supply chains, skyrocketing input costs, and historic levels of inflation, all of which are hammering American consumers.

This bill is the latest attempt to scapegoat private industry rather than address the real needs and concerns of farmers, ranchers, and rural Americans. We know the Biden administration and my colleagues across the aisle see Americans in the oil and gas industry as the enemy, and I truly believe they now see farmers and ranchers as the enemy, too.

Mr. Speaker, I want my constituents back home in Texas to know that this is something I am fighting for every day. I represent the number one ag district in the State of Texas, and farmers and ranchers in my district are experiencing out-of-control input costs for fertilizer, fuel, and basic parts for equipment. I can assure you the legislation we are voting on today will make that worse.

A spending and regulatory agenda that compounds the situation further limits American ag industry's ability to meet global food demands is not the answer.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. HARDER), a member of the House Agriculture Committee.

Mr. HARDER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today frustrated, and to be honest, just plain tired.

For months now, my community has been paying over \$6 a gallon for gas and \$5 for a jug of milk. Prices are out of control, and it is crushing us. I talked to a neighbor the other day and she

told me she is going to have to choose between picking her kids up from school and driving herself to work, if gas prices stay this high.

Families in my neighborhood don't have the luxury of sitting around while politicians do nothing. Today, we have a chance to actually help by passing our Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act.

This package includes my bill, which provides funding for farmers to implement nutrient management programs. These programs will help lower the cost of growing food for our farmers, so prices go back to normal at the grocery store.

Helping farmers lower costs while cutting gas prices for our families is common sense. It is beyond time that Congress put politics aside and actually listen to what our communities need. This isn't rocket science. They are asking for the government to do its job and bring these prices back down to Earth.

Mr. Speaker, I hope common sense prevails today, and let's pass this bill.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), a great member of the Agriculture Committee.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I stand here in disbelief at how Washington is trying to run this economy. That is the reason I ran for office because things were so bad, and it was impossible to grow your business.

I am reminded of what we actually did when we had the House, and the Congress, and the White House. We passed the Constitutional Review Act. Through that act, we got no help from the other side, and then we passed some tax reform to give people more money to invest in their businesses.

Let me tell you what happened. For the first time in my life we became energy independent. For the first time we became an energy power. We had more jobs than people looking for jobs. So what happened now? Joe Biden was the Vice-President when I was elected. He is now the President. All those executive orders he signed stopped everything we did to put this country on the right track.

Mr. Speaker, I am tired of this. I demand immediately that we stop this war on American energy that is driving up costs and stop overregulating our ag producers.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my friend, the distinguished majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the chairman has done a wonderful job as the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, and I know that you are working together to bring people together. One of the things that I most admire about Chairman SCOTT is that he wants to have a bipartisan result coming out of his committee, and I think in this bill he has.

Mr. Speaker, every day Americans across the country must contend with

the rising prices caused by inflation. Whenever they pull up to the gas pump, they face the repercussions of Vladimir Putin's criminal invasion of Ukraine, which has made gas prices skyrocket—not just because of the sanctions, not because of Russia's production, but because of the lack of confidence in the future that this war has caused.

Whenever our people go to the grocery store, they suffer the consequences of the havoc that the COVID-19 pandemic has inflicted on global supply chains. Unfortunately, we cannot erase the past crises that led to our current economic situation.

I say to the Members of this Congress that we can take the meaningful steps today to lower prices for consumers and to stimulate America's economy in the weeks and months to come. That is why House Democrats are focusing all week on easing inflation and bringing costs down. I know that is what my Republican colleagues want to do as well.

While this may not be a perfect alternative—there are no perfect alternatives—this is a positive step toward decreasing the costs to our people of things that they must buy: fuel and food. To support that mission, I am proud to bring the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act to the floor today, at Mr. SCOTT's request.

America's farmers and ranchers have long fed our Nation, and indeed, much of the world. Despite their essential work, however, they have often struggled to turn a reliable profit in recent years because of rising expenses, associated particularly with fertilizer—the costs of which have gone up very substantially as a result of the crisis that we confront.

By making fertilizer more affordable and by improving farmers' access to loans for precision agricultural technology, this legislation will help lower these production costs, which burden smaller farmers and contribute to higher consumer food prices.

Additionally, this bill will lower gas prices by increasing biofuel adoption and investment, and by giving consumers greater fuel choices at the pump.

Lack of competition in the meat and poultry processing industries has also jeopardized many of our family farmers and the people they feed. Competition is the essence of a free market. Competition is the essence of establishing prices that are reasonable and fair, both to producers and to consumers.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, this legislation will help level that playing field for small and independent producers trying to break into the industry, which will both boost our meat processing capacity and stoke healthy competition and innovation, which both sides of the aisle believe is the way we have created this extraordinary economy we know as the American economy: competition and free markets.

Similarly, this bill establishes a dedicated office within the Department of

Agriculture to strengthen enforcement of existing antitrust authorities to consult on trade practices, ensuring a fairer, more competitive industry that works better for consumers.

We know that if just a few producers have a monopoly—and that is one of the problems with oil prices. We have OPEC nations who have constricted supply when demand was up. What inevitably happens in a free market? Prices rise.

This is about free markets. This is about competition. This is about fair pricing for consumers. These reforms will enable our farmers to produce food more efficiently, driving down costs for Americans at the grocery store.

Not only will this legislation help us respond to the ramifications of crises like the pandemic and the war in Ukraine, but they will also make our agricultural sector and our economy more resilient to future shocks.

This legislation is a crucial step toward reducing inflation. I thank Representative SPANBERGER, Representative CRAIG, and Representative AXNE, and my friends on the Republican side who have worked on this, and my friends on the Democratic side who have worked on this.

This is an important piece of legislation for the people—all of them. All of our Members listened closely to the concerns of their constituents and took a collaborative approach to come up with legislation that addresses some of the most pressing needs of the American people.

□ 1030

I thank the ranking member of this committee for his thoughtfulness in approaching this issue.

Today, every Member of this House has an opportunity to do something to ease inflation. Every Member has an opportunity to vote to ease inflation today. We are eager to take that action, which is why we are bringing this to the floor and voting to pass it.

I hope all of our Members will join us so we can show our constituents that their Congress is addressing inflation and working together on their behalf, not on our political behalves, but working together to pass this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues: vote "yes."

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK), who is another great member of the House Agriculture Committee.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 7606, the higher food and increased fuel costs act.

I just cannot believe that at a time when we Americans all are paying more for everything, from gas, groceries, energy, and beyond, my colleagues on the left want more regulation and more government intervention. They want to blame Putin and

the war in Ukraine, but they don't want to accept responsibility for the very policies that are helping drive these increased costs.

If the last year has taught us anything, Mr. Speaker, it is that Big Government with a one-size-fits-all approach of spending into oblivion does not work. It turns out, shockingly, that taking cues from the Easter Bunny doesn't work.

Look at the facts: fuel, 106 percent up; eggs, 32 percent increase; fresh and frozen chicken, up 19.3 percent; milk, up 15.9 percent; bacon, up 15.6 percent; baby food, up almost 13 percent. Oh, by the way, we can't find it. Let's talk about that.

Right now, our farmers—and I know this for a fact because I come from a rural producing district—have their backs up against a wall. With skyrocketing prices for inputs like fertilizer, fuel, and feed, many of our producers are now reaching a breaking point.

This administration, however, seems hellbent on pushing them over the edge. The regulatory regime at the EPA—and I use that word deliberately—threatens the very livelihood of our producers and the long-term food security of our Nation. Everyone in this room can agree that food security is national security, and it is dangerous policy what the left is doing in taking out our producers.

Now, it seems as if they are more focused on Green New Deal policies, and our districts will never be the same if we continue down this path. Any sort of tax or additional regulation is increasing the costs to produce fuel and produce our food.

This is a time when Americans, keep in mind, are making decisions between gas or groceries, and we are seriously up here talking about increasing costs for fuel and food? Give me a break.

We need to slam the brakes on any policy that empowers more government bureaucrats and impoverishes the people.

We need to ensure that the EPA does not threaten the future of our producers with such ridiculous, out-of-touch policies. I know that many of my colleagues, particularly in leadership, have not filled up a gas tank in probably 40 years, but I have. Two days ago, I paid over \$5 per gallon of gas. That is what Americans are facing. We need to stop empowering these bureaucrats.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, if we adopt my motion to recommit, I will instruct the Committee on Agriculture to add my amendment that would prohibit the EPA from regulating or taxing emission from livestock.

Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to support the motion to recommit.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on each side of the aisle.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania has 5 minutes remaining. The gentleman has the only time remaining. The time of the gentleman from Georgia has expired.

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

Mr. Speaker, I just want to replot some of the fields and the comments that have been offered here today. One of my friends on the Agriculture Committee on the other side, Ms. SPANBERGER, claims industry support. She referenced two specific organizations. But it is certainly not widespread support among farmers and ranchers.

I will offer up this fact: Organizations that are constituted by farmers and ranchers, including the National Cattlemen's Beef Association, which is a large cattlemen's association throughout this country made up of men and women in the cattle industry, and the National Pork Producers Council are organizations that oppose this piece of legislation. The National Pork Producers Council is made up of farmers who raise hogs in so many different States in the United States of America. It is a huge industry in terms of agriculture. That organization opposes this bill.

The National Chicken Council—poultry—is huge certainly in the State of Virginia, the State of Pennsylvania, and the State of Georgia. They oppose this piece of legislation that is on the floor today. The same thing with the National Turkey Federation and the North American Meat Institute. All are in opposition to this bill that we are voting on today.

The American Farm Bureau Federation is not opposed publicly to the bill, but they have raised a litany of concerns and unanswered questions.

This bill comes with an additional price tag of \$700 million, not offset, on many of the other provisions. Quite frankly, there are zero dollars for this duplicative poison pill part of this bill, the special investigator for cattle and pork. That leaves me concerned that the existing enforcement resources that I have already made reference to with USDA and the Department of Justice is going to be drained. We are actually probably going to see less effective investigations as a result of this.

We are going to see an increase in consolidation because it is a new layer. If you are a packer of any size, not just the four big ones, but medium and small size, and you have a new cop for cows on the beat, then you are going to have to add compliance staff to be able to prepare when, quite frankly, the Department of Justice and the Packers and Stockyards Division is already doing an incredible job. Active investigations are going on.

I agree with an earlier speaker, I think it was Mr. LUCAS from Okla-

homa, if there is evidence of price-fixing and collusion, we have a regulatory mechanism and a litigation mechanism. People should be held accountable to that.

Although there are some really good parts of this bill, I am also disappointed. We know that the only way we really get legislation through the other side of the Capitol, in the Senate, is where we show cohesion and where we stick together and work together. We have complete consensus on basically all the other aspects of this bill. We did request that this bill be divided and that the special investigator portion come out of the bill.

I think we could be scoring some victories for the American people and for the American farmers. But, quite frankly, I think to be in line with President Biden, because President Biden's approach to everything, all the problems that have been created with his ill-fated policies, is that it is somebody else's fault.

This is blaming the private sector, which works hard to provide us with the food that we need. This is blaming them when, quite frankly, it is a failure to take responsibility for what has happened on day one, starting with President Biden.

We would love to work with President Biden to make sure we can address inflation, but adding this \$700 million today, I have never seen, in my lifetime anyway, or my experience, how you can spend more money and spend your way out of inflation. It just doesn't work that way. The economics do not work that way. The inflation issue, again, I have never seen inflation reduced by spending more money.

I would respectfully encourage, because we can go back to the drawing board and take each of these bills that are really good bills, the bipartisan and strong bills, we ought to take those up individually and give Congress an opportunity to speak on behalf of the American people and affirm that these are good bills. Let the special investigator stand on its own.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage a "no" vote on H.R. 7606, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Each further amendment printed in part F of House Report 117-366 shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. KHANNA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part F of House Report 117-366.

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, line 1, strike "AGRICULTURE AND" and all that follows through "TASK FORCE" on line 4 and insert the following: "AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCY".

Page 7, after line 4, insert the following: "Subtitle A—Agriculture and Food System Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response Task Force".

Page 12, after line 4, add the following: "Subtitle B—Addressing Fertilizer Shortages"

SEC. 311. ADDRESSING FERTILIZER SHORTAGES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall support and incentivize domestic activities through grants, loans, and other forms of assistance, to address fertilizer shortages and deficiencies, diversify fertilizer sources, and reduce dependency on foreign sources for fertilizer, including by—

(1) increasing the availability of innovative fertilizer and fertilizer alternatives, including nitrogen, phosphate, potassium, biological products and technologies, and other nutrients that may assist in the production of agricultural commodities;

(2) increasing materials or tools that reduce the need for fertilizer or support the more efficient use of fertilizer, including nitrogen, phosphate, potassium, biological products and technologies, and other nutrients that may assist in the production of agricultural commodities;

(3) supporting materials and facilities and research and development, that may support the purposes of this section;

(4) supporting sustainable agriculture production through the supporting production of—

(A) sustainable fertilizer produced in, or used in a manner that, reduces the greenhouse gas impact; or

(B) fertilizer produced through the use of renewable energy sources, including incentivizing greater precision in fertilizer use;

(5) supporting activities or other measures that may otherwise address competition-related challenges in the United States fertilizer market and obstacles to producers in obtaining affordable, responsibly manufactured fertilizer as referred to in the notice entitled "Access to Fertilizer: Competition and Supply Chain Concerns" published by the Department of Agriculture in the Federal Register on March 17, 2022 (87 Fed Reg. 15191 et seq.); and

(6) using the facilities and authorities of the Commodity Credit Corporation and the authorities under section 1473H of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3319k).

(b) PRIORITY APPLICANTS.—In selecting activities to support under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to applications for such support containing proposals that the Secretary determines will most quickly address fertilizer shortages in the near term and mid-term.

(c) STREAMLINED PROCESS.—In providing assistance pursuant to this section, the Secretary shall ensure that such assistance be provided through a streamlined and expedient process (as determined necessary by the Secretary) to quickly address fertilizer shortages.

(d) ADMINISTRATIVE FUNDING.—Not more than 3 percent of the funding provided under this section may be used by the Secretary for administrative purposes.

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise available,

there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1170, the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

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

Mr. Speaker, my amendment would authorize a new program at the Department of Agriculture to reduce our reliance on foreign sources of fertilizer. It is to make sure that America will be more self-sufficient and that our farmers will be more self-sufficient with our fertilizers and not dependent on Russia or foreign countries.

Everyone knows that retail fertilizer costs are at an all-time high. Putin's invasion of Ukraine is driving severe food shortages and severe fertilizer shortages. This has driven up food prices and hurt American farmers and consumers across the country. In my district, food prices are up and fertilizer prices are up.

The cost of agricultural chemicals has more than doubled since the start of the pandemic, and one of the reasons is Russia is a major exporter of nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus fertilizers.

We need to be less dependent on countries like Russia, and we need to develop these fertilizers here in the United States. That is why Congress must act on a bipartisan basis.

This amendment is common sense. It would authorize \$100 million for grants, loans, research and development, and other assistance for the Department of Agriculture to support our farmers in developing fertilizer made in the United States.

It will support sustainable and innovative domestic production of fertilizers because our fertilizers are far more sustainable and far more innovative than the fertilizers we get from other parts of the world.

It will invest in practices that reduce the use of fertilizers. One of the best things we can do for food prices and our environment is to reduce the need for fertilizers by having those fertilizers be more innovative.

The amendment also bolsters competition in the fertilizer market.

Most important, it makes us less dependent on the Russians and less dependent on the global supply chain. It will create jobs for domestic producers of fertilizers.

The Department of Agriculture is already supporting American-made fertilizers through the Commodity Credit Corporation. My amendment will expand the Department's authority so they can prioritize solutions that will most quickly address these shortages.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this amendment. I thank Chairman SCOTT for working with me on this amendment. I also thank the Agriculture

Committee staff of Anne Simmons, Lyron Blum-Evitts, Prescott Martin, Josh Lobert, and Luke Theriot for their work, and Kevin Fox on my team.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I express my appreciation to the gentleman for bringing forth a concept that could provide relief, but not for many years.

This is an amendment to a bill that talks about immediate reduction in food prices, but this is kind of a long-term investment. I appreciate that concept, but it is not what this bill says. It really doesn't contribute to immediate relief to American consumers or reducing input costs for our farmers in the immediate or near term.

Working together is how the House Committee on Agriculture solves problems. The committee has been working together with the Department to better understand this amendment, its purpose, and its implications.

Mr. Speaker, the Department and I have agreed that this is not a near-term solution to the high price and limited availability of fertilizer.

As the gentleman knows, this amendment was pulled from consideration by my Democratic colleagues in a recent committee markup.

□ 1045

Unfortunately, we have not learned much since then, which furthers my opposition to it. Growing the size of government by codifying the Biden administration's half-baked initiatives, authorizing \$100 million, specifying further use of the Commodity Credit Corporation, and minimally funded research programs is no way to tackle rising inflation or to address skyrocketing fertilizer costs. In fact, it leaves us in a rather more tenuous situation when it comes to our farmers.

The Commodity Credit Corporation is what we use and what we depend on and rely on when our farmers fall on difficult times. And they are there, these input costs.

Not in all commodities but in most commodities, we see a record price that they are getting for their commodity. But the fact is that agriculture is a business. Farming is a business. Ranching is a business. At the end of the day, it is the margin. It is not what you get paid. You have to consider what you are paying in input costs.

With this inflation, with these types of policies we are talking about today, there will be many commodities that soon will be upside down. They will be more expensive to produce than what they are able to get for price. There are commodities that are already at that point.

Draining the CCC in any year, in 2022, is not only wrong; it is dangerous. We

are not going to have the resources to be able to help our farmers to keep them farming and to use the CCC for what its primary purpose and mission was about.

Even more perplexing is the idea we would want to solidify in law concepts that USDA admittedly has not developed into programming or policy, as the public comment period was just extended yet again.

Now, we would have been better served by considering Republican amendments, all of which would have provided immediate relief through reversing the regulatory assault stifling the innovation and exacerbating strained supply chains.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing this amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I respect the ranking member. We have worked together on a number of initiatives.

I would just say that this amendment, by giving the Commodity Credit Corporation resources, is helping make things in America. Whether it is immediate or whether it is over the next few months, we should have a bipartisan consensus that we ought to be making more things in this country and be less dependent on Russia and foreign sources.

While I urge a "yes" vote on this amendment, I also hope that we can continue to work with the other side to find common ground over this Congress so that we can get bipartisan support for an effort to build more fertilizer in the United States.

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

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

The gentleman offered an amendment. He is a good friend. We do work together. Another area of jurisdiction on the Agriculture Committee that shocks people, actually, is cryptocurrency because it is a commodity and traded and overseen by CFTC. He has been such a great partner as we have worked together with those solutions.

The whole concept of bipartisan work, it is alive and well in the Agriculture Committee, but just not reflected with this poison pill that is in this particular piece of legislation.

With this amendment, I think, as I said before, yes, we need to be looking long term. But this legislation we are dealing with today, according to the Democrats, is supposed to have an immediate reduction in inflation.

While I believe we do need to do an investment long term and look at other methods of producing fertilizer, this doesn't really fit with reducing prices for American families today. To do it and do it right, we really do need USDA on board. We need to have their input. We need to have their ability to do this through their programming.

This is something I look forward to continuing to work on with the gentleman. I continue to voice my opposition to this amendment.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1170, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA).

The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. SPANBERGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part F of House Report 117-366.

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk made in order by the rule.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, line 1, strike “**AGRICULTURE AND**” and all that follows through “**TASK FORCE**” on line 4 and insert the following: “**AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCY**”.

Page 7, after line 4, insert the following: “**Subtitle A—Agriculture and Food System Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response Task Force**”.

Page 12, after line 4, add the following:

Subtitle B—American Food Supply Chain Resiliency

SEC. 311. SUPPLY CHAIN REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS.

The Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“**Subtitle H—Food Supply Chain Resiliency**

“SEC. 298. SUPPLY CHAIN REGIONAL RESOURCE CENTERS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, shall enter into cooperative agreements with eligible entities to establish not fewer than 6 Supply Chain Regional Resource Centers to support small-sized and medium-sized producers of agricultural products and small-sized and medium-sized agricultural businesses through activities, which may include—

“(1) offering coordination, technical assistance, and capacity building support to small-sized and medium-sized producers of agricultural products and agricultural businesses;

“(2) supporting supply chain and value chain coordination—

“(A) in the region in which such producers or businesses are located; and

“(B) with the Department of Agriculture, other Federal, State, and Tribal agencies with relevant resources, regional commissions, and other Supply Chain Regional Resource Centers;

“(3) providing technical assistance to such producers and businesses;

“(4) providing grants or other financial assistance to such producers and businesses looking to expand production or a business or start production or a business in such region; and

“(5) carrying out such other activities as may be specified by the Secretary.

“(b) FOCUS ON TRIBAL SUPPLY CHAIN ISSUES.—At least one Supply Chain Regional Resource Center established pursuant to sub-

section (a) shall provide coordination, assistance, and capacity building support to address supply chain issues faced by Indian tribes and Tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

“(c) APPLICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity (including an entity representing a partnership) seeking to enter into a cooperative agreement under this section shall submit to the Secretary an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including how the Supply Chain Regional Resource Centers established by such entity will address food and agricultural supply chain issues faced by underserved communities.

“(2) REGIONAL DIVERSITY.—In selecting eligible entities to enter into a cooperative agreement under this section, the Secretary shall ensure the regional diversity of such entities.

“(d) TERM.—The term of a cooperative agreement entered into under this section shall be not less than 4 years.

“(e) COORDINATION.—A Supply Chain Regional Resource Center shall, as a condition on entering into a cooperative agreement under this section, agree to coordinate with other Supply Chain Regional Resource Centers, when appropriate.

“(f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Beginning not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate a report on—

“(1) with respect to the activities carried out by the Secretary under this section—

“(A) a description of such activities; and

“(B) the impact of such activities on supply chain issues faced by small-sized and medium-sized producers of agricultural products; and

“(2) with respect to the activities carried out by the Supply Chain Regional Resource Centers under this section—

“(A) a description of such activities;

“(B) the impact of such activities on supply chain issues faced by small-sized and medium-sized producers of agricultural products and agricultural businesses; and

“(C) any grants awarded by Supply Chain Regional Resource Centers to such producers and businesses.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(A) a State government (or a political subdivision thereof), regional authority, or an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization;

“(B) a college or university (as defined in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103)) (including a land-grant college or university); or

“(C) a nonprofit organization, including a producer network or association, a food council, an economic development corporation, or another organization.

“(2) STATE.—The term ‘State’ has the meaning given such term in section 1404 of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977 (7 U.S.C. 3103).

“(h) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise available, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2026.

“(i) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be interpreted to undermine or narrow the authority of the Secretary to carry out activities described in

subsection (a) under any other authority of the Secretary.”.

SEC. 312. AGRICULTURE INNOVATION CENTERS PROGRAM.

Section 6402(a) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 1632b(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) applied research, technical assistance, support services, outreach, and other services to strengthen, maintain, and secure supply chains related to value-added agricultural commodities and products produced in the United States.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1170, the gentleman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

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

I rise in support of my amendment to include the American Food Supply Chain Resiliency Act in H.R. 7606, the Lower Food and Fuel Cost Act. I thank Congressman ANTHONY GONZALEZ of Ohio for his partnership on this bipartisan legislation.

Supply chain disruptions are impacting the operations of businesses in Virginia and across the country, leaving shelves empty and driving up prices for consumers. For crop and livestock producers, as well as agribusinesses, the current disruptions are a threat to their livelihoods and their ability to deliver high-quality products at an affordable price while still making ends meet.

Meanwhile, Americans are suffering from rising food prices at grocery stores, dollar stores, and restaurants. Rising inflation makes trips to the grocery store more and more stressful as the price of staple items like meat, eggs, and vegetables rise, sometimes going up monthly, even weekly.

Americans have shared the experience of going to the grocery store—we all have—picking up our favorite food items that we have purchased for years and thinking, well, this is more expensive than last week. My husband and I were just talking about this issue over the weekend as we changed our own shopping list because of it.

Few products are more essential than the foods we eat. Farmers, particularly small- and medium-sized producers, have been left out of investments that are meant to mitigate supply chain challenges, and that has meant it is getting more difficult to get products from the farm to the market and, finally, to the table.

While big companies have the budget to invest in supply chain innovations, research, and experts, small- and medium-sized producers are paying higher prices than ever for fertilizer, fuel, shipping, and other input costs.

When farmers pay more to produce food, all Americans pay more at the

grocery store. That is why we must empower USDA to do more to resolve farmers' and food businesses' supply chain challenges. We must be prepared.

To address these concerns, I was proud to lead the bipartisan American Food Supply Chain Resiliency Act. This legislation would establish supply chain regional resource centers through cooperative agreements with the Agricultural Marketing Service at USDA.

These resource centers would offer locally tailored coordination, technical assistance, and grants to small- and medium-sized producers and agribusinesses, leading to stronger supply chains. This bill would also expand the great work of the Agriculture Innovation Program to include research and support on supply chains.

By establishing supply chain regional resource centers, this bill would provide additional support to family farmers and food businesses trying to deliver their goods at a lower price for consumers. These centers would help local producers get through lean years, obtain the inputs they need, and address challenges related to transportation costs, labor, and high energy prices.

In fact, USDA has already taken similar steps to build collaboration across sectors of local and regional food supply chains through regional centers. Our bipartisan legislation would support and build on these centers, as well as make sure they are a wise, tailored investment with a clear mission and fair reporting requirements.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support our bipartisan bill. Once again, I thank Congressman GONZALEZ for his partnership.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I express my appreciation to the gentlewoman from Virginia for bringing forth an idea, and I do wish the same courtesy had been extended to my Republican colleagues who were denied the opportunity to bring their amendments forward for debate.

Working together is how the House Committee on Agriculture solves problems, and the committee has been working together with the Department to better understand this amendment, its purpose, and its implications.

As the gentlewoman knows, this amendment was pulled from consideration by my Democrat colleagues in a recent committee markup. Unfortunately, we have not learned much since then, which furthers my opposition to it being considered prematurely on the floor today.

I cannot support this amendment as written, an amendment that falls short of its advertised goals, and does not

offer any immediate relief to farmers, ranchers, or consumers, because that is the myth that my Democrat friends are trying to sell with the overall bill today, which will not happen. In fact, I am afraid inflationary costs, more concentration, are going to occur as a result of a specific part of the package.

Growing the size of government by codifying the Biden administration's half-baked initiatives is no way to tackle rising inflation or address rising fuel and fertilizer costs.

Even more perplexing is the idea that we would want to solidify in law concepts that USDA admittedly has not developed into programming or policy.

Now, we would have been better served by considering Republican amendments, all of which would have provided immediate relief through reversing the regulatory assault stifling innovation and exacerbating strained supply chains.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing this amendment. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

My colleague on the other side of the aisle mentioned that this bill will not provide immediate relief, and I concur. This bill is not meant to provide immediate relief. The amendment before us would plan for the future and would recognize that we face disruptions in our supply chain, and frequently, when we do, it is our farmers and producers who are impacted, particularly smaller and medium-sized producers like those in our districts.

This bill, this amendment to the larger bill, is an issue of planning for the future, recognizing disruptions that may come, and being able to proactively plan for such challenges.

It is unfortunate that the gentleman feels that they were left out of the process, but I am heartened that the scope of concern relates to the process and not the underlying amendment.

This amendment is about long-term planning. It is about ensuring that our smaller and medium-sized producers and agribusinesses have the technical assistance, the support, and the coordination that they will need to weather challenges in supply chain disruptions that may occur today, 10 years, 20 years, 30 years into the future.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, to reiterate, in my comments, I said it was premature, and I do believe it is. I think that this is a concept that the gentlewoman is pursuing that is worthy of consideration, worthy of development and full development so that we can have an appropriate consideration of the text of this particular amendment.

I also think it is out of place with this particular bill because the context, the pretext that my Democratic

friends are presenting here, is a false promise that whatever would pass, and if this would somehow find a pathway through the Senate and be implemented, that it would immediately lower food and fuel costs. That is just not the case.

This is more of a long-term vision. I appreciate that because I think we should be looking long term when it comes to the needs of input costs for our farmers because, quite frankly, when we have inflation, when we have burdensome regulations, when we have an administration that is really out of control from a regulatory perspective, sidelining their scientists at the EPA—which, by the way, actually, part of those are funded under a public-private partnership with agribusinesses to make sure that farmers can have access to crop protection tools, significant crop protection tools that have been sidelined by this administration, when these same scientists have found them to be safe in application in the past.

What I would say is that I look forward to working with the gentlewoman in the future on this concept, but I continue to remain in opposition.

This is not quite ready for prime time, not ready for consideration. We need to be working more. We need more time working in a bipartisan way and, quite frankly, hearing from the administration as well and USDA.

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

□ 1100

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

There is no disagreement that across America's regions and across our commodities, our Nation's farmers and ranchers have gotten the short end of the stick, particularly when it comes to rising input costs as a result of supply chain bottlenecks and inflation.

The Lowering Food and Fuel Costs Act and this amendment take crucial, commonsense steps toward addressing these challenges, both now and into the future, planning for a future where we can be proactive, continually so, and ensure that small and targeted investments from USDA today can have impacts on small- and medium-sized producers' ability to get food to market and improve their bottom lines.

At the same time, these investments should also lead to lower food prices for Americans at the grocery store, convenience stores, and restaurants.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment. I look forward to working with my colleague across the aisle to receive additional, very specific feedback on how we can make some of these provisions stronger, better with that input into the future.

Today, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the amendment in front of us and, ultimately, "yes" on the underlying bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I continue to offer my opposition to this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1170, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER).

The amendment was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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

Mrs. CAMMACK. 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:

Mrs. Cammack of Florida moves to recommit the bill H.R. 7606 to the Committee on Agriculture.

The material previously referred to by Mrs. CAMMACK is as follows:

Page 2, after line 3, add the following:

SEC. 3. LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY OF THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall not promulgate or implement any regulation under the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.) imposing the collection of a fee, or requiring any source to obtain a permit under title V of the Act (42 U.S.C. 7661 et seq.), for carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, water vapor, or methane emissions resulting from biological processes associated with livestock production.

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.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage. This is a 15-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 206, nays 218, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 276]

YEAS—206

Aderholt	Arrington	Baird
Allen	Babin	Balderson
Amodei	Bacon	Banks

Barr	Gosar	Moolenaar	Jeffries	Meng	Schneider
Bentz	Granger	Mooney	Johnson (GA)	Mfume	Schrader
Bergman	Graves (LA)	Moore (AL)	Johnson (TX)	Moore (WI)	Schrier
Bice (OK)	Graves (MO)	Moore (UT)	Jones	Morelle	Scott (VA)
Biggs	Green (TN)	Mullin	Kahele	Moulton	Scott, David
Bilirakis	Greene (GA)	Murphy (NC)	Kaptur	Mrvan	Sewell
Bishop (NC)	Griffith	Nehls	Keating	Murphy (FL)	Sherman
Boehert	Grothman	Newhouse	Kelly (IL)	Nadler	Sherrill
Bost	Guest	Norman	Khanna	Napolitano	Sires
Brady	Guthrie	Obornolte	Kildee	Neal	Slotkin
Brooks	Harris	Owens	Kilmer	Neguse	Smith (WA)
Buchanan	Harshbarger	Palazzo	Kim (NJ)	Newman	Soto
Buck	Hartzler	Palmer	Kind	Norcross	Spanberger
Bucshon	Hern	Pence	Kirkpatrick	O'Halleran	Speier
Budd	Herrrell	Perry	Krishnamoorthi	Ocasio-Cortez	Stansbury
Burchett	Herrera Beutler	Pfluger	Kuster	Omar	Stanton
Burgess	Hice (GA)	Posey	Lamb	Pallone	Stevens
Calvert	Higgins (LA)	Reschenthaler	Langevin	Panetta	Strickland
Cammack	Hill	Rice (SC)	Larsen (WA)	Pappas	Suozzi
Carey	Hinson	Rodgers (WA)	Larson (CT)	Pascarell	Swalwell
Carl	Hollingsworth	Rogers (AL)	Lawrence	Payne	Takano
Carter (GA)	Hudson	Rogers (KY)	Lawson (FL)	Pelosi	Thompson (CA)
Carter (TX)	Huizenga	Rose	Lee (CA)	Perlmutter	Thompson (MS)
Cawthorn	Issa	Rosendale	Lee (NV)	Peters	Titus
Chabot	Jackson	Rouzer	Leger Fernandez	Phillips	Tlaib
Cheney	Jacobs (NY)	Roy	Levin (CA)	Pingree	Tonko
Cline	Johnson (LA)	Rutherford	Levin (MI)	Pocan	Torres (CA)
Cloud	Johnson (OH)	Salazar	Lieu	Porter	Torres (NY)
Clyde	Johnson (SD)	Scalise	Lofgren	Pressley	Trahan
Cole	Jordan	Schweikert	Lowenthal	Price (NC)	Trone
Comer	Joyce (OH)	Scott, Austin	Luria	Quigley	Underwood
Conway	Joyce (PA)	Sessions	Lynch	Raskin	Vargas
Crawford	Katko	Simpson	Malinowski	Rice (NY)	Veasey
Crenshaw	Keller	Smith (MO)	Maloney,	Ross	Velázquez
Curtis	Kelly (MS)	Smith (NE)	Carolyn B.	Roybal-Allard	Wasserman
Davidson	Kelly (PA)	Smith (NJ)	Maloney, Sean	Ruiz	Schultz
Davis, Rodney	Kim (CA)	Smucker	Manning	Ruppersberger	Waters
DesJarlais	Kinzinger	Spartz	Matsui	Rush	Watson Coleman
Diaz-Balart	Kustoff	Stauber	McBath	Ryan	Welch
Donalds	LaHood	Steel	McCollum	Sánchez	Wexton
Duncan	LaMalfa	Stefanik	McEachin	Sarbanes	Wild
Dunn	Lamborn	Steil	McGovern	Scanlon	Williams (GA)
Elizy	Latta	Steube	McNerney	Schakowsky	Wilson (FL)
Emmer	LaTurner	Stewart	Meeks	Schiff	Yarmuth
Estes	Lesko	Taylor			
Fallon	Letlow	Tenney			
Feenstra	Long	Thompson (PA)	Armstrong	Costa	Zeldin
Ferguson	Loudermilk	Tiffany	Casten	Garcia (CA)	
Fischbach	Lucas	Timmons			
Fitzgerald	Luetkemeyer	Turner			
Fitzpatrick	Mace	Upton			
Fleischmann	Malliotakis	Valadao			
Fox	Mann	Van Drew			
Franklin, C.	Massie	Van Duyne			
Scott	Mast	Wagner			
Fulcher	McCarthy	Walberg			
Gaetz	McCaul	Walorski			
Gallagher	McClain	Waltz			
Garbarino	McClintock	Weber (TX)			
Gibbs	McHenry	Webster (FL)			
Gimenez	McKinley	Wenstrup			
Gohmert	Meijer	Westerman			
Gonzales, Tony	Meuser	Williams (TX)			
Gonzalez (OH)	Miller (IL)	Wilson (SC)			
Good (VA)	Miller (WV)	Wittman			
Gooden (TX)	Miller-Meeks	Womack			

NAYS—218

Adams	Castro (TX)	Doyle, Michael
Aguilar	Cherfilus-	F.
Allred	McCormick	Escobar
Auchincloss	Chu	Eshoo
Axne	Cicilline	Espallat
Barragán	Clark (MA)	Evans
Bass	Clarke (NY)	Fletcher
Beatty	Cleaver	Foster
Bera	Clyburn	Frankel, Lois
Beyer	Cohen	Galleo
Bishop (GA)	Connolly	Garamendi
Blumenauer	Cooper	Garcia (IL)
Blunt Rochester	Correa	Garcia (TX)
Bonamici	Courtney	Golden
Bordeaux	Craig	Gomez
Bowman	Crist	Gonzalez,
Boyle, Brendan	Crow	Vicente
F.	Cuellar	Gottheimer
Brown (MD)	Davids (KS)	Green, Al (TX)
Brown (OH)	Davis, Danny K.	Grijalva
Brownley	Dean	Harder (CA)
Bustos	DeFazio	Hayes
Butterfield	DeGette	Higgins (NY)
Carbajal	DeLauro	Himes
Cárdenas	DelBene	Horsford
Carson	Demings	Houlahan
Carter (LA)	DeSaunier	Hoyer
Case	Cartwright	Huffman
Castor (FL)	Case	Jackson Lee
	Doggett	Jacobs (CA)
		Jayapal

NOT VOTING—5

Armstrong	Costa	Zeldin
Casten	Garcia (CA)	

□ 1139

Mses. TLAIB, OMAR, Mr. FOSTER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY, Messrs. THOMPSON of California, LEVIN of California, CLEAVER, Ms. CHU, Mr. PASCARELL, Mses. JACKSON LEE, SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. SCANLON, Messrs. RUSH, SHERMAN, and O'HALLERAN changed their vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. GRAVES of Louisiana, COLE, and BANKS changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei	Doggett (Beyer)	Lawrence
(Balderson)	Evans (Beyer)	(Stevens)
Bergman	Garcia (IL)	Lawson (FL)
(Stauber)	(Takano)	(Wasserman
Blunt Rochester	Gohmert (Weber	Schultz)
(Brown (MD))	(TX))	Lieu (Beyer)
Bonamici (Beyer)	Gomez (Huffman)	Long
Boyle, Brendan	Gonzalez (OH)	(Fleischmann)
F. (Neguse)	(Meijer)	Loudermilk
Brooks (Weber	Guest	(Fleischmann)
(TX))	(Fleischmann)	Mace (Carter
Brownley	Johnson (GA)	(GA))
(Kuster)	(Manning)	McEachin
Bustos (Mrvan)	Johnson (TX)	(Beyer)
Cárdenas	(Jeffries)	Moore (WI)
(Correa)	Kahele (Mrvan)	(Beyer)
Carter (TX)	Katko (Moore	Newman (Beyer)
(Weber (TX))	(UT))	Palazzo
Crist	Kelly (IL)	(Fleischmann)
(Wasserman	(Neguse)	Payne (Pallone)
Schultz)	Krishnamoorthi	Peters (Jeffries)
Davids (KS)	(Neguse)	Pingree
(Neguse)	Lamb (Neguse)	(Wasserman
Davis, Danny K.	LaMalfa	Schultz)
(Beyer)	(Valadao)	Porter (Neguse)

Price (NC)
(Manning)
Rice (SC)
(Meijer)
Sires (Pallone)
Stanton
(Huffman)
Suoizzi (Beyer)

Swalwell
(Correa)
Taylor (Van
Duyne)
Tenney
(Jackson)
Titus (Pallone)
Trahan (Stevens)

Wagner
(McHenry)
Walorski
(Bucshon)
Waters (Takano)
Watson Coleman
(Pallone)
Welch (Pallone)

Suoizzi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)

Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz

Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

Boyle, Brendan
F. (Neguse)
Brooks (Weber
(TX))
Brownley
(Kuster)
Bustos (Mrvan)
Cárdenas
(Correa)
Carter (TX)
(Weber (TX))
Costa (Correa)
Crist
(Wasserman
Schultz)
Davids (KS)
(Neguse)
Davis, Danny K.
(Beyer)
Doggett (Beyer)
Evans (Beyer)
Garcia (IL)
(Takano)
Gohmert (Weber
(TX))
Gomez (Huffman)
Gonzalez (OH)
(Meijer)
Guest
(Fleischmann)
Johnson (GA)
(Manning)

Johnson (TX)
(Jeffries)
Kahele (Mrvan)
Katko (Moore
(UT))
Kelly (IL)
(Neguse)
Krishnamoorthi
(Neguse)
Lamb (Neguse)
LaMalfa
(Valadao)
Lawrence
(Stevens)
Lawson (FL)
(Wasserman
Schultz)
Lieu (Beyer)
Long
(Fleischmann)
Loudermilk
(Fleischmann)
Mace (Carter
(GA))
McEachin
(Beyer)
Moore (WI)
(Beyer)
Newman (Beyer)
Palazzo
(Fleischmann)
Payne (Pallone)

Peters (Jeffries)
Pingree
(Wasserman
Schultz)
Porter (Neguse)
Price (NC)
(Manning)
Rice (SC)
(Meijer)
Sires (Pallone)
Stanton
(Huffman)
Suoizzi (Beyer)
Swalwell
(Correa)
Taylor (Van
Duyne)
Tenney
(Jackson)
Titus (Pallone)
Trahan (Stevens)
Wagner
(McHenry)
Walorski
(Bucshon)
Waters (Takano)
Watson Coleman
(Pallone)
Welch (Pallone)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). 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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 204, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 277]

YEAS—221

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Bacon
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Cicilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans

Feenstra
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
Garcia (IL)
Garcia (TX)
Golden
Gomez
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hartzler
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Hinson
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (SD)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahele
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Kinzinger
Kirkpatrick
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Lofgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath

McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Miller-Meeks
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Lee (CA)
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boehert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Fallon
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Foxy
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Gibbs

NAYS—204

Gimenez
Gohmert
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Herrell
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Hill
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)
Johnson (LA)
Johnson (OH)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Katko
Keller
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Latta
LaTurner
Lesko
Letlow
Long
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Mace
Malliotakis
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCarthy
McCauley
McClain
McClintock
McHenry
McKinley
Meijer
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller (WV)

Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moulton
Mullin
Murphy (NC)
Nehls
Newhouse
Norman
Obermole
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Jordan
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Lesko
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyne
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Welch
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5828

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 5828.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). The gentleman's request is accepted.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1735

Mr. BANKS. Mr. Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 1735.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

□ 1200

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2374

Mr. SHERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER) as cosponsor of H.R. 2374, the Peace and Tolerance in Palestinian Education Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), my friend and the House majority leader.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, before I start on the colloquy and go through the schedule, I was just talking to the Republican whip, my friend, Mr. SCALISE. We were talking about a friend of ours, his name is John Bresnahan; he is

NOT VOTING—4

Garcia (CA)
Zeldin

□ 1156

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei
(Balderson)

Bergman
(Stauber)

Blunt Rochester
(Brown (MD))
Bonamici (Beyer)

a reporter. He has covered Capitol Hill since 1994, I believe, is the note I had. He is an excellent reporter.

He reports the facts. He reports the truth. As I know Mr. SCALISE agrees, reporters who do that not only serve us, but more importantly, their major purpose is to serve the American people because we know that a free press telling the facts and the truth to the American people give them the opportunity to make solid decisions for our democracy.

I wish John Bresnahan a happy 60th birthday, and hope that he has many, many more. I have had 23 more than that, so I appreciate the fact that he is still going strong.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the confession about how many 60th birthdays he has shared. Here is to many more for you, but also for Bres.

As the gentleman points out, a fair and free press is vital to democracy. It is the First Amendment to our Constitution: freedom of speech and freedom of the press. While they might not report our press releases verbatim all the time—as we might like them to—they serve a vital purpose. Bres is one of those that we see in the halls, like the press that is around here making sure that the country knows what is happening here in the greatest democracy of the history of the world.

As a 60th birthday gift to him, I promise not to sing “Happy Birthday” to him. I wish Bres a happy birthday, and I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I want to tell Mr. Bresnahan that he made the same promise to me, which is why we did this. If he was going to sing it, I was a little reluctant to do this, and he didn't. I join the whip in wishing John Bresnahan, a friend, a very careful and honest reporter, the very best 60th birthday and many more to come.

Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, the House will meet at 12 p.m. for morning hour and 2 p.m. for legislative business, with votes postponed until 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will meet at 10 a.m. for morning hour and 12 p.m. for legislative business.

Madam Speaker, on Friday, the House will meet at 9 a.m. for legislative business.

On Monday, we will be celebrating Juneteenth as a Federal holiday for the second time in American history. Juneteenth is the day on which the last slaves who were in Texas learned of their new status as free Americans, an extraordinary day in the history of our country, eliminating one of the great blights on the history of America. As de Tocqueville pointed out, we tried to heal our wounds and tried to heal our wrongs, and we are still working on that.

Last year, the Congress took the historic step of enacting legislation to recognize Juneteenth as a Federal holiday, at long last. I look forward to

celebrating as we pay tribute to freedom to all men and women being created equal in the image of God. We celebrate the history of the African-American perseverance and triumph over injustice and adversity.

I say triumph—it has been a triumph—but there are battles yet to be won. Juneteenth not only looks back but it looks forward to winning those battles.

Madam Speaker, I see Mr. GREEN on the floor, who has a resolution on the recognition of the blight of slavery. I thank him for that resolution and look forward to having that considered.

On Monday, we will be celebrating that holiday, but we will be celebrating it as we do Martin Luther King's birthday, as we ought to be in celebrating Washington and Lincoln's birthday, and committing ourselves to the realization of the principles for which they stood.

Madam Speaker, the House will consider bills under suspension of the rules. The complete list of those suspension bills will be announced at the close of business tomorrow.

Next week, Madam Speaker, the House will consider H.R. 7666, which is titled Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act, a bipartisan package of bills led by Chairman PALLONE and Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers, to address the mental health and opioid abuse crisis.

The legislation expands access to treatment for opioid use disorders, promotes behavioral health integration, and reauthorizes critical programs to support mental health and substance use disorder, prevention, treatment, and recovery, including in our children.

Madam Speaker, the House will also consider legislation under suspension from Chairman BOBBY SCOTT and members of the Education and Labor Committee to address the mental health, addiction, and suicide on college campuses, which is far, far too prevalent.

Our young people have faced stresses by the pandemic, stresses within our Nation, the divisions on which prey on their minds, so this is a very important piece of legislation. I hope it will be—and I believe it is going to be—bipartisan.

The House will also take up H.R. 6411, the Veterans Affairs' Committee Chairman MARK TAKANO's STRONG Veterans Act, again, bipartisan legislation to combat veterans' suicide and address mental health, and help our Nation meet its commitment to those who risk their lives and safety for our country.

Additionally, Madam Speaker, the House will consider H.R. 5585, Representatives Eshoo's ARPA-H Act. This legislation would establish the Advanced Research Project Agency for Health, an independent agency tasked with accelerating biomedical innovation and making transformative breakthroughs in the fight against the most challenging diseases confronting our people.

This agency will oversee the next steps in the Cancer Moonshot program and help meet the President's goal of cutting the cancer death rate by at least 50 percent over the next 25 years, and hopefully sooner.

Madam Speaker, as we celebrate Pride Month, the House will consider H.R. 4176, the LGBTQ Data Inclusion Act.

Madam Speaker, I anticipate that the House will vote on a compromised, bipartisan Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our PACT Act, after the Senate takes action on the version agreed upon in May. As the whip knows, that Act was a bipartisan act that dealt with those who were exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances of which they did not know while they were serving on bases, both here and around the world.

This bill, we believe the Senate will take action on, a version agreed upon in May, which preserves much of the House-passed legislation to care for veterans exposed to burn pits and other toxic chemicals during their service.

In addition, the House will consider other bills under suspension of the rules, the complete list of suspension bills will be announced by the close of business tomorrow. Additional legislative items are possible.

□ 1215

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that update. As we celebrate Juneteenth next week, also right here in this House Chamber over 150 years ago is where the 13th Amendment to the Constitution was debated and passed. So history is made here on a regular basis. And then we celebrate the freedoms that result and continue as our Founders talked about to aspire towards a more perfect Nation so we will do that next week.

I do want to thank the gentleman because last week during this colloquy I know I asked my friend if we could bring the Supreme Court protection bill, the bill to make sure that Supreme Court Justices and their families get proper protection, as we were watching and saw a man arrested for trying to murder a Supreme Court Justice. Leader MCCARTHY, I know, urged that as well. So I appreciate that we got to bring that bill up, debate it, and quickly pass it to President Biden's desk where we can get that in place.

I would hope that the Attorney General, Merrick Garland, would start enforcing 18 U.S. Code 1507 to give protection properly as Federal laws dictate, but it is not being enforced at the homes of those Justices. But, again, I appreciate that we got a very overwhelming bipartisan vote on that bill this week.

Does the gentleman have anything to add before we talk about the schedule for next week?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would simply observe, as I observed the other day, that we all want to make sure that our Justices are safe.

Let me say, Madam Speaker, there is a very important reason for that. We want to keep all our people safe. But nine Justices of our Supreme Court represent that we are a nation of laws. They are one of the three branches of our government. Just as I was extraordinarily concerned about the attack on this institution, the Congress of the United States, as we were preparing to elect a President of the United States, an attack on the Supreme Court and the lives of the Supreme Court Justices are an attack on our democracy, on a separate branch of government that is charged with continuing to make us a nation of laws.

So, very frankly, the Supreme Court Justices, under existing law, were protected. There were security people there. Luckily, there were security people there. But the gentleman is absolutely right. We want to make sure whether we agree or disagree with the individuals, whether we agree or disagree with the opinions or the judgments that Congress makes, we are a nation of laws, and the way to resolve our differences is not through violence but through the democratic process.

I thank the gentleman for his observation.

Mr. SCALISE. I share those comments by the gentleman from Maryland.

As we look towards next week—we have had this conversation a number of times—one of the items I don't see on the agenda is an item to address the problem of high gas prices, and, of course, we have now crossed an average of more than \$5 a gallon. It is a major burden for families, especially lower-income families who are being forced more and more to make those tough decisions of can they even afford to drive to work, and can they even afford to drive to see their doctor or to drive to the grocery store where they are paying maybe 20 percent more for some of the food items.

We have had a bill for over a month now, H.R. 6858, that would address these problems and allow us to actually have more control over our own energy production in America, to be able to drill in America for energy to lower the cost of gasoline, by confronting so many of the problems that this Biden administration has imposed that are making it hard for us to produce more energy in America to the point where you now have President Biden announcing that he is going to go to Saudi Arabia to beg them to produce more oil.

As we try to confront this challenge—and again, H.R. 6858 would allow us to do that—if you look at President Biden's proposed trip to Saudi Arabia, the President likes talking a lot about carbon footprints, carbon emissions, and global warming.

Why would the President get on Air Force One and fly 5,700 miles to Saudi

Arabia to beg them to do something that we can do right here in America?

In fact, he could go less than 1,000 miles to Port Fourchon, Louisiana, in my district where they can produce hundreds of thousands of barrels a day in America which, by the way, because America has the best standards in the world, would emit less carbon than the oil produced in Saudi Arabia.

While the President will be flying over to Saudi Arabia, he won't know the answer he is going to get. They are an OPEC nation. They typically support a limited supply of oil because they want a higher price. So he doesn't know what the answer is going to be. He is going to fly 5,700 miles over and another 5,700 miles back to the United States. There are no solar panels on Air Force One, so that is going to be a lot of jet fuel and a lot of carbon emissions to do something that he could pick up the phone and call Port Fourchon. We would love to see him down there, but he can call them. I can tell you, Madam Speaker, the answer would be "yes."

They would say: Yes, we will produce more energy here in America.

But they are not allowed to right now because of limitations put in place by the Biden administration. So while we push to get this bill, H.R. 6858, brought forward, it really begs the question of first: What is the carbon footprint of President Biden's trip to Saudi Arabia?

But why even do this trip? Why go to Saudi Arabia and ask them to produce oil when we have it right here?

It is President Biden's policies that are stopping that oil from being produced, and, by the way, at a much lower carbon footprint than anything that Saudi Arabia, Russia, Venezuela, or any of those countries would produce if it were their countries meeting the demands of our Nation and so many others.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman, hopefully, to see if we can get the bill scheduled for next week.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

We continue to talk about this as if this were the President's fault. First of all, in a much wider range, this is a result of the pandemic.

Why is it the result of the pandemic?

Not solely the pandemic but let me take the pandemic first. Everybody stayed home—this body and businesses across America.

What did that mean that they stayed home?

They stopped buying gas.

What did the oil companies do?

They shut down some of their production, a very substantial reduction in production. But then as the prices went up, they were making as much money or much more money. So in making much more money, they didn't increase production, as the gentleman says will be an answer to the question, in a country that does, in fact, have regulations and does have rules, and

because of those regulations and rules the production of our energy is, in fact, as the gentleman asserts, more efficient and more environmentally considerate.

The oil companies—acting from what they thought was good business practice, demand was down, but prices were going up—were making profits. They bought back stock, which, of course, increased the value of the stock that remained. They increased dividends, which, of course, encouraged people to invest in them. It made people happy about their investments.

But they didn't increase production. They didn't have to increase production. They were making good profits and making, from their standpoint, good business decisions.

As I indicated in the last colloquy that we dealt with this problem, there were millions of leases put on the market by this administration, as I recall, some 80 million acres. Approximately 2 percent of the leases were bid on, and then the Court said that this was not a legal process.

But it is interesting how small was the interest in additional production at that time irrespective of what happened subsequently.

The gentleman mentions a bill, as he has done in the past, H.R. 6858, the American Energy Independence from Russia Act.

But before I say that, let me say, I hope the President is going to Saudi Arabia to talk privately, not publicly trying to embarrass or harangue, and certainly not to beg. The United States of America doesn't need to beg any nation in the world, and this President is not begging anybody.

This President should say, however, Madam Speaker: Saudis, stop controlling the supply unreasonably and driving the prices up of your product.

Yes, they are making more money, and they have a cartel. That is called a monopoly. That cartel has made sure that the lack of supply drove up the international market price. And then Russia went to war.

Now, Russia going to war has affected to some degree the supply of oil, but, very frankly, buying Russian oil supports their criminal war effort, their vicious and murderous war effort. We are all against that. So we agreed that we would not take any oil, and we urged our European allies not to rely on it either.

Now, what did that create?

It created a lack of confidence in the stability of the market.

What happens when you have lack of confidence in the stability of a market?

Prices go up because it is a bet on what is going to happen with the price of that product in the future that the market really reflects.

Now, the reason I say it that way is because these are not Biden prices. Even if tomorrow we snapped a finger and said: "Okay, go ahead," nothing would happen tomorrow, nothing would

happen next week, and nothing would happen next month. It would take a substantial period of time because the oil companies, based upon the lack of demand, shut down, nor did they pursue further production.

Now, let me say something about the price of oil. The national price of oil now does not reflect the increase as part of the market response to what is called the West Texas Intermediary, which I am sure the gentleman from Louisiana, an oil-producing State, knows much more about than I do.

But let me say this: In 2008, that benchmark for crude oil peaked at \$147.02 in July of 2008. Adjusted for inflation, that is \$199.57 today.

In that time, 2008, the average U.S. gasoline peaked at \$4.14 per gallon. Adjusted for inflation, that would be \$5.62 today.

So, in other words, in 2008, otherwise known as the last year of the Bush administration, gasoline prices were higher than they are today notwithstanding the fact that the world price was \$31 less.

Excuse me, yesterday, June 15, that West Texas Intermediary oil—the benchmark for crude oil prices—was \$116 a barrel, \$31 less, without accounting for inflation, which would make it greater than it was in 2008. That wasn't George Bush's fault. It was the international market's fault and also this cartel that controls a large part of the supply of the oil in our country.

Now, my point—I still have to deal with H.R. 6858. One of its tenets is to approve the Keystone pipeline. The problem with that is, for whatever reason—and I understand my friend will have a response, Madam Speaker, as to well, because you disapproved it, meaning the Obama administration. They want to open the Keystone pipeline. The problem is the company that had the Keystone pipeline has abandoned it. Even if it were approved, they would have to get back in business and we would be well over a year—well over a year.

Now, I happen to have agreed that we should have approved that pipeline. I have said that publicly. I said that to the press. That didn't happen. But it would not solve the problem. And particularly, when you look at the figures that I just gave with respect to the world market price, we are paying a lot more now than we did in 2008 when it was higher.

So I would say to my friend, he also had a provision that expedites the LNG facility approval process. One of the problems we had is 20 percent of the LNG export capacity is now shut down.

□ 1230

It was shut down because the regulations that the gentleman speaks of, correctly, were not followed, and the LNG plant had an explosion. It shut down because it violated regulations that were imposed upon it.

What I would say to my friend—I have talked to the committee about his

bill. The LNG process is working. As I told him, I have an LNG export plant in my district, which has changed from substantial exports to the Pacific region, and now, 80 percent is going to Europe to try to bridge that gap as the Europeans retreat from being dependent upon Russian oil.

I tell my friend, with all due respect—and I am not going to plead with him, but I am going to suggest to him—we are going to Saudi Arabia, I hope, to tell them in private: Look, this is not a game you want to be playing. You are making our consumers pay far more.

We have acted. We acted, and we passed, some time ago, a bill that said you cannot have gas prices that are set at unreasonable levels, which we know as gouging. It is like you have a flood in your city and 80 percent of the grocery stores are wiped out, and the grocery stores that remain triple their prices. That is called gouging. We passed that bill.

We also passed a bill today which, unfortunately, most Republicans voted against—"most," I say, not all—which will, again, seek to bring the price down at the pump. How? By utilizing American products to supplement and expand the supply of gas and, we believe, bring the price of a gallon down some 40 cents—that is what the experts say—if we continue to use a mix of fuel.

But let me say in closing, on these remarks, which I know have been relatively lengthy, we are in this together, Republicans and Democrats.

FOX News criticized me for saying we are at war. We just sent a billion dollars for a war we are not in because we believe in freedom. We believe in international law.

We believe that we have a dictator, a dangerous dictator, who is committing war crimes through his men and women in eastern Ukraine in particular and did it in western Ukraine as they came into Kyiv.

We are in this together, one Nation, one America, on behalf of freedom. We have taken tough action. As part of that, we are paying the price at the pump because of that invasion.

The pandemic shut down production and shut down the purchase of gasoline by people because they didn't go to work. They didn't need to get in their cars. They didn't need to commute.

I would simply say to my friend that we are on the same team. Our President is leading our effort to defeat this despot, to stop this war, to ensure the freedom not only of the Ukrainian people but of all people, and to ensure that we respect international law.

I looked at the gentleman's bill. I would be glad to talk about other ways, including maybe some of the things that are in his bill. But I will tell the gentleman, the first couple that I looked at, the Keystone pipeline is not going to be reopened. The gentleman and I may lament that as a policy because I was publicly, during the

Obama administration, for the approval of that pipeline. So, I am prepared to work with the gentleman to see what we can do.

But we have done today's bill. It may not be perfect. It may not work. But it is certainly worth a try, to try to bring these awful prices down at the pump because I know all of our constituents, whether they live in Louisiana or Maryland, are struggling because they have to use their cars. They have to use that gasoline. They don't have an alternative. And they don't have an alternative to buying food.

Both of those are tough, and we need to act together to try to see if we can solve that problem in the context of an extraordinary pandemic, a historic pandemic that shut down the world, and we are just trying to get back.

We are trying to get supply chains going, including gasoline pipelines, which is why the President is going to Saudi Arabia, not to beg, but to assert the economic fact of the ramifications of the cartels stifling supply.

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, if there is common ground we can find on the components of H.R. 6858, I would be happy to help facilitate that negotiation because there are a number of very specific items in that bill that address the shortfalls, the deficiencies, the inability to produce energy in America. The Keystone pipeline might be one of the more well known.

President Biden, on his first day in office, canceled the Keystone pipeline.

Of course, it is not moving forward because he canceled it. It would provide a vital supply of oil from our friends in Canada that we wouldn't need from other people.

But there are a number of other pipeline issues. No new pipelines have been approved in the country. You have to have an ability to move energy around the country if we are going to be able to produce our own.

If a conscious decision was made in the White House that they don't want any pipelines, because that impedes the ability to produce energy in America, it just means we have to import more of it from other countries. Whether it is Saudi Arabia, Russia, any of them that I would not want us to have to get it from, it is going to come in some form. It might be a tanker. It is going to get here, and it is going to have to be put on rail or an 18-wheeler if it can't be put in a pipeline.

Let's get more pipelines produced, LNG export facilities. There are multiple, at least four, LNG export facilities that are sitting on the desk over at the Department of Energy ready to go. These are multibillion-dollar, privately funded projects that can't move forward because they won't move, yes or no, on those requests that have been pending for over a year.

Obviously, you look at leases, not being able to develop your lease. If you are a farmer and you own land, you could talk about all the thousands of acres of land, but if you need a permit

from the Federal Government to plant food and the Federal Government won't give you a permit to plant the food, then you can't use the land. The land is worthless.

You own leases on Federal or State lands, but the Federal Government, through President Biden, said you can't get permits to go and exercise that lease. Then the lease is worthless.

There has been a lot of talk by the White House about who to blame. By the way, I have never heard of President Biden pointing the finger at himself or looking in the mirror and going, is there something I can do? We have a list for him that he can do, and he won't.

But Joe Biden, as a candidate for President, has said things like this multiple times since being President: "No more drilling on Federal lands. No more drilling, including offshore. No ability for the oil industry to continue to drill, period." That was Joe Biden.

Then, Joe Biden continued to carry out policies that followed through on those promises to kill drilling in America, and each step of the way, the price kept going up.

Prior to Putin's invasion—I know the President loves trying to blame Putin. Well in advance of Putin's invasion, the price of oil was going up. In fact, the President was—whatever terminology you want to use—pleading with, begging, asking Putin to produce more oil prior to the invasion of Ukraine. That was who Joe Biden was asking back then as he was carrying out his promise, "No ability for the oil industry to continue to drill, period."

He only applied that, by the way, to America. He was asking other countries to drill. He was just saying you can't do it here. Putin said no, by the way.

In the meantime, Putin was making \$700 million a day selling his oil to America and Europe during that period when President Biden was carrying out all the steps to stop drilling in America.

Then you fast forward. The price keeps going up. President Biden, again, doesn't look in the mirror.

The gentleman mentioned they blamed the pandemic. That didn't fly because that wasn't the case because people started getting out again, started going again.

Energy companies asked to start producing again and filed permit after permit application and got denied and denied and denied, so then the President blamed the oil and gas companies. They had hearings up here, brought in all the oil and gas companies.

Do you know what the oil and gas companies said under oath? They want to drill more, and they can't drill because of President Biden's policies. It is President Biden's policies stopping them from drilling.

Again, if the oil and gas companies or Putin were the reason that there was this inability, and President Biden, as he has done multiple times, blamed

them, if they were the reason that they had this shortfall, he would continue to be blaming them. But he knew the public wasn't buying it because it wasn't them, so he just blames more people.

Then, he goes to price gouging. As the gentleman pointed out, there was a bill here on the House floor a few weeks ago to try to shift the blame over to price gouging, and the answer was to allow you to sue your local gas station if you didn't like the price of gas.

Well, none of us like the price of gas. Suing your gas station is only going to make the price higher. Obviously, that had no impact because that wasn't the reason. But that was the answer and the attempt to try to blame somebody else.

Then we moved forward, and it is all of these other issues—refineries. This week, the White House started blaming refineries.

While the White House keeps throwing spaghetti at the wall, trying to figure out if somebody else will take the blame, he is going to go to Saudi and ask them to help us lower the price. Saudi's ability to produce is irrelevant to the price if we produce in America because we have the ability to drive down that price because we are not an OPEC nation. We are not a monopoly. We are a free-market economy when the free market is allowed to operate.

But President Biden, through his promises—"No ability for the oil industry to continue to drill, period"—in essence, he took the free market ability for America to produce energy off the table, which means he gave that leverage to monopolies, to cartels. They are taking advantage of it because President Biden gave them that.

Instead of asking them to produce more when they are fine with the high price of oil, whether it is Brent, West Texas, it doesn't matter what it is. He has taken it off in America so that they can limit the supply.

Let's not limit the supply. Again, if it is about saving the planet, if it is about carbon emissions, why not produce more here? There is no country in the world that produces oil that does it cleaner or better than us.

If you take America off the table, as President Biden has done—"No more drilling on Federal lands. No more drilling, including offshore." That was Joe Biden. He took it off the table here. That means you are going to need oil from countries that emit more carbon to produce the same oil, so you get higher carbon emissions.

Again, that doesn't even count the carbon emissions that will occur when President Biden gets on Air Force One and flies over 5,700 miles to go have this conversation that he doesn't need to have because he can have that conversation right here in America at a place like Port Fourchon, where the answer would be yes, and it would be cleaner. And by the way, it would bring billions more dollars into America's Treasury. It would lower the price of

gasoline. It would create more jobs in America.

Every answer says yes, except President Biden keeps saying no. We want to address it through this legislation, which would counter some of those many things that President Biden has done to turn off the spigots in America.

If we can work on ways to confront this, I would be more than happy to have that negotiation, and we could go through, offline, how to do that. That is why I continue to bring up this bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for all of that information.

It continues to befuddle me why our Republican friends would much prefer to blame President Biden and so avoid placing blame on Mr. Trump's friend, Mr. Putin. I don't understand that, Madam Speaker. It is not a nation indivisible.

Now, Madam Speaker, I used a statistic some weeks ago that I have heard not at all disputed. The Biden administration has approved more drilling permits on public land in 2021, in 1 year, than the Trump administration did each year during its first 3 years in office.

□ 1245

Not compared to the combined 3 years, just compared to each individual year. Number one.

Number two: Domestic oil production is greater today than it was under Trump. Not a whole big difference, 10,968 versus 11,185, but nevertheless, it speaks to the fact that the representation that somehow Biden has shut down the industry, and therefore, he is to blame.

We don't want to talk about the pandemic that shut down oil production. In Trump's last year—in Trump's last year—refineries in the U.S. reduced their capacity by more than 800,000 barrels. So, under the Trump administration, production was decreased.

Maybe they will look at the records and see whether or not that representation is accurate, and if it is not, I stand to be corrected. But those are the figures I have.

I notice that my friend did not respond to my representation that prices were higher under George Bush in 2008 than they are today. Now, because of inflation, the number is different, and compared to the world price, prices are higher.

So, I will say to my friend, we had at least 80 million acres, 2.5 million taken. As the gentleman pointed out before, the court said, No, that wasn't legal, so it was never effected. But we have those 800,000 that are not back online.

Don't blame them, though. Don't blame Putin. Don't blame the pandemic. Politically, let's blame Biden.

Now, I'm not sure why Bush had the higher price. Maybe it was that he was shutting down the oil business, the President from Texas. Maybe.

But there is more today being produced. Not by enough. Still, there are 800,000 barrels shut down. That is per day, by the way; not just 800,000—per day.

So we can argue back and forth on this. We are passing legislation. Our Republican friends, for the most part, voted against it. It won't work. It won't do.

I don't know whether they are right or wrong, but it is worth trying. It is worth trying because our consumers are hurting.

People at the grocery store—I go to the grocery store every weekend, Madam Speaker. I live alone. I don't buy a lot of groceries because they will go bad, so I go every weekend.

I see the shelves that are empty. I see the price of bacon has gone up now over \$10. I see the price of the eggs I get, the price of the half and half I buy, or the orange juice I buy. It is going up.

I am in the fortunate position where I can pay for it without it binding me someplace else. But I know that a whole lot of people that I see shopping, they have got that list out, and they are very worried about their costs.

I don't know whether this bill we just passed is going to solve that—certainly, not overnight. I don't know whether a month from now it will help somewhat, 5 cents or 10 cents on a pound of bacon or a dozen eggs.

I don't know that, but it was worth a try, and we passed this bill. We got some Republican support, including, I think, the ranking member of the committee that reported the bill out.

We are not technically at war, but we are spending a lot of money on behalf of freedom, and we ought to be together. We ought not to be carping about our President who is doing everything he can think of to try to get a handle on this, both on inflation, on the cost to consumers, and on the supply of a product that we all need.

So, I would simply make a request that let's work together to try to get this problem solved. Saudi Arabia is not the answer, but it is part of the answer. The cartel is part of the answer. The Russians are part of the answer.

Maybe none of them are the entire answer. But when you understand that this administration has given more leases on public land than the prior administration did in its first 3 years, it is hard to say that this administration is the reason for this. Other than politically, it is a very salient argument, but that is all it is.

Mr. SCALISE. Just for clarification, the ranking member voted "no" on the bill.

Mr. HOYER. Oh, okay. Sorry.

Mr. SCALISE. The 800,000 leases—and I know we talked about this before. You can have 800,000 leases, but when you need, then, permits to actually utilize the lease—so you have a lease to go and develop oil, but you need to drill. You need to do seismic. You need to build pipelines, infrastructure to move

it. If you don't get those permits to actually utilize the leases, the leases are worthless. That is what H.R. 6858 addresses. We have been raising that issue for a long time. The lease is no good if you can't, then, use the lease.

Mr. HOYER. Would the gentleman yield?

Mr. SCALISE. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. What I said was, in Trump's last year, refineries in the U.S. reduced their capacity by more than 800,000 barrels. That didn't have anything to do about leases.

That had to do with an economic decision, which probably made sense because what happened is the economy was contracting.

Madam Speaker, 2.8 million net jobs were lost during the 4 years of Trump, and 8.7 million have been gained.

As they have been gaining, people are getting back in their cars. They are getting back and driving. They are spending on the economy. But what happened?

The pandemic had shut down supply lines. And the oil companies, rationally, when demand went down, they reduced capacity. They don't need a new lease to go back up to the 800,000. They were doing it under the present authorization that they have.

That was my point. It continues to be my point. The companies have made a decision and they are not moving ahead rapidly to try to get more production.

One of the reasons is—I get it—they are making a lot of money. Some oil companies have got 300 percent greater profits now than they had some years ago. 300 percent.

So, why do we need to do more product? We are making great money. Chevron says it had the most successful year in 2021 than it has ever had. It may be another oil company. I may be wrong on that.

Was it Chevron? I am asking somebody who probably knows the answer better than me. One of the oil companies reported that.

I am not criticizing them for that. What I am saying is, this is a multifaceted challenge that confronts us, and we ought to address it in a way that it deserves, and that is in a bipartisan way that will have effect.

I am going to work with the gentleman. As I said, I was for Keystone. I was not for shutting Keystone down. I was approving it to go ahead. I thought it made sense. Our friends in Canada have an extraordinary supply.

As the gentleman observes, though—interestingly, because I think many of your colleagues oppose those rules and regulations—it is cleaner. It is better for the environment to produce it here.

Why? Because we adopted regulations—either the administration adopted or we passed them in legislation, and very frankly, I think that many of those were opposed by—I don't know whether you, but many in your party, so it is better to do it here.

So I don't want to dispute that, but it is also necessary to have production, particularly among the cartel countries, and Russia has no interest—Russia has an interest in additional production.

Why? Because that is how they are funding this war. But we ought to spend time on criticizing Putin and his war and the crimes that are being committed in his name in Ukraine, and our determination to make sure the Ukrainian people who have displayed extraordinary courage, and Zelenskyy, who has displayed extraordinary leadership, make sure they know that we are focused on them. And we are focused against Putin, not our own President, any more than I did when, you know, George Bush was President.

Very frankly, I supported, as the gentleman probably knows, the trade bills. I thought it was good to do business. A lot of our people didn't support him on that. I supported him on that.

So I think we need to be not so critical of our President. We have one President at a time. We had a pandemic. It wasn't on his watch we got a pandemic. It was on his watch that we got a handle on the pandemic.

On his watch, he has been giving more access to public lands than his predecessor did. We can debate the nuances of differences, but we ought to focus on why we have this crisis.

The gentleman knows these prices in many ways reflect the confidence and the stability, or the lack of confidence and the lack of stability in the market, and the war directly relates to that issue.

Mr. SCALISE. Obviously, we will continue to debate this. Hopefully, we will debate it over H.R. 6858 where we can actually be talking about how we work together to solve the problem.

Of course, as the gentleman knows, Congress did come together, Republicans and Democrats, to give our friends in Ukraine the tools to go and push Putin out of much of Ukraine and, hopefully, all of Ukraine.

We will continue to stand with the incredibly strong, resilient people of Ukraine in standing up to Vladimir Putin.

We will, hopefully, have this debate further as we are talking about the legislation that we would like to bring.

Unless the gentleman has anything else—Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

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

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, I rise to acknowledge Juneteenth, which on Sunday, will be celebrated for a second year as a Federal holiday.

Now, on June 19, 1865, news of the end of slavery finally reached Galveston, Texas, more than 2 years after the

signing of the Emancipation Proclamation.

Now, my great-grandmother and many of my ancestors were born during slavery in Galveston, Texas. My grandfather was born in 1867 in Galveston, Texas. So this day has always symbolized a time for me personally, as well as for many African Americans; a time for reflection, as well as a recommitment to justice.

Each year, Juneteenth compels us to confront the darkest moments in our Nation's history, a chapter that was born in the Middle Passage, continued through slavery, and manifests itself today through systemic racism.

We must acknowledge the legacy of slavery and systemic racism that continues today in education and healthcare and a broken criminal justice system. I could go on and on.

It is also at the heart of the crises facing our Nation today, including economic injustice and hate-fueled violence.

As we recognize this important day in history, it is also crucial that we pass Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE's H.R. 40 legislation to develop a commission on reparations and recommit to an agenda for Black America that realizes true equity and justice.

APOLOGIES TO BORDER PATROL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would like to comment on the recent developments regarding those brave Border Patrol officers who used their reins to prevent people sneaking into a country illegally, prevent them from getting stomped under their horses' hooves.

I have been to the border several times. Uniformly, all the Border Patrol felt those people behaved appropriately, and I think continuous studies have shown they behaved appropriately. But sadly, President Biden has decided to pick them out for punishment.

It reminds me when he calls the police of this country racist—both completely unfounded. He only does it, I think, to divide our country, create divisions here.

I would demand that President Biden apologize to the brave Border Patrol, those great guys or gals who, on that day, prevented the Haitians trying to slip into this country from getting stomped underfoot.

I would also like him to apologize to the police of this country who are not racist and are doing a great job to try to hold down our murder rate.

□ 1300

RIISING PRICES HIT LOW-INCOME FAMILIES HARDEST

(Ms. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, rising prices at the pump and at the supermarket are costing families more each month, and higher prices are falling hardest on low-income families, who spend a larger share of their budget on food and gas.

Since the beginning of the year, gas prices have increased by nearly \$2. No doubt, this is in part due to Putin's war in Ukraine, but it is also driven by oil and gas companies raising prices on consumers.

Last month, the House passed the Gas Price Gouging Prevention Act to institute the first Federal law against profiteering by oil and gas companies. Today, the House considered and passed legislation to make cheaper and cleaner ethanol blends more available.

These commonsense measures would get gas prices under control and put money back in families' pockets.

HONORING FRANK BUCKLES

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

Mr. MOONEY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to share the story of an American patriot from Charles Town, West Virginia, which is where I live.

Corporal Frank Buckles lived to be 110 years old. He died in 2011 and was America's last known World War I veteran. Buckles had enlisted in the Army by giving his age as 18 rather than his actual age of 16. He drove an Army ambulance in France in 1918 and came to symbolize a generation of embattled young Americans as the last of the World War I doughboys.

Buckles later spent 3 years as a Japanese prisoner of war during World War II after being captured in the Pacific while serving as a U.S. contractor.

Buckles lived on a 330-acre West Virginia cattle farm, where he drove a tractor until 102 years old. I am honored to introduce legislation to designate the United States Postal Service located in Charles Town, West Virginia, as the "Corporal Frank Buckles Post Office." He was a true patriot and is most deserving of this honor in the town he called home for 50 years.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF MIKE SMITH

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

Mr. VEASEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mike Smith, who was truly a pillar in the Fort Worth community. At 78 years old, Mike was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and was known as the unofficial mayor of Magnolia Avenue in Fort Worth.

Throughout his 55-year tenure, Mike baked over half a million pies, which put his restaurant, the Paris Coffee

Shop, on the map. His pies were listed in USA Today, Bon Appetit magazine, and really known all around the world, but what really made Mike so special was the warmth and love that he showed everyone that walked into his coffee shop.

It didn't matter if you were from Rivercrest or Riverside. It didn't matter if you were from Whitehall Street in Eastwood in Fort Worth or if you were from Westover Hills, Mike made everyone feel welcome any time you came into the Paris Coffee Shop. His firm handshake, his hugs, his conversations were just absolutely unforgettable, and he will be deeply missed.

Just in addition to everything that he has done for the food community, the restaurant community in Fort Worth, we send prayers out to his entire network of friends and family.

CONGRATULATING RUSSELL COUNTY BASEBALL

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize the Russell County High School baseball team, the Kentucky State High School runners-up. Their head coach, David Rexroat, has led the Lakers baseball team since 2002. He is the all-time winningest baseball coach at Russell County, and he was recently inducted into the Kentucky High School Baseball Coaches Hall of Fame.

Russell County began their journey to the State tournament by winning the 16th District baseball tournament, which includes my home school of Monroe County. They have won the 16th District 9 of the last 10 years. They won the region, the 4th Region in Bowling Green, and went on to Louisville to the State. They made it all the way to the State finals, to the State championship game.

The Russell County Lakers baseball team had nine seniors on that team that had played together most of their lives. They finished the season 31-7, the most wins in Russell County school history.

Madam Speaker, that State championship game was in Louisville, Kentucky, against St. Xavier, which is one of the largest high schools in the State. It is about a 2½ hour drive from Russell County to Louisville. Ninety-five percent of the crowd was from the small county of Russell County. This community is proud of this baseball team and their great accomplishment. I commend them for a tremendous baseball season.

HAPPY JUNETEENTH, AMERICA

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, this morning I introduced the 2022 Observance of Juneteenth Independence

Day Resolution. I thank my cosponsors and those who recognize this important Federal holiday.

H. Res. 1182 is to celebrate Juneteenth, but I was pleased to be the first Member of Congress, after years of introducing resolutions, to introduce the actual language of the Federal holiday signed by President Biden on June 17, 2021.

What is Juneteenth? It is a recognition of one of America's original sins, the slaves that were held over 200 years, and the brutality that they experienced but the freedom they experienced on June 19, 1865.

We can come together as a Nation to celebrate freedom in many, many ways. I am delighted that over the weekend in Houston and Galveston, we will be lifting up our voices of celebration, but we know that there are next steps.

As I have been introducing the resolution on Juneteenth, I also commend my colleagues to move forward on H.R. 40, the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act. Again, what are reparations? It is healing, it is restoration, it is repair. We look forward to responding to the indicia in African-American communities that should be fixed. Happy Juneteenth, America. Let's celebrate together.

AMERICA'S ASTRONOMICAL NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, our current national debt is not only huge, it is astronomical. As of today, the national debt exceeds over \$30 trillion. To put that in perspective, that amount in \$100 bills laid side by side would circle the Earth over 1,167 times. If stacked, it would reach the International Space Station 80 times.

The debt crisis is truly out of this world, and yet my colleagues across the aisle would rather spend even more money on unnecessary programs with unrealistic goals. Effects of the debt are already being felt in the form of record-high inflation and gas prices, but perhaps the greatest tragedy is that it will be our children and our children's children who will ultimately foot the bill.

RACIAL JUSTICE IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, and still I rise. And I rise today with an expression of gratitude and great appreciation.

I thank the many persons who voted for H.R. 2543, the Financial Services

Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act. I rise to thank persons for this because I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to manage the bill on the floor.

The Honorable MAXINE WATERS is the sponsor of this piece of legislation. It is a compilation of some 13 bills that were used and packaged so that we could bring about some racial justice in this country. Racial justice that is long overdue, I might add.

The Honorable MAXINE WATERS, but for her, I can say without reservation, hesitation, or equivocation, this bill would not have come to fruition. She has been a champion for those who have been left out, left behind, locked out, those that I label as being among the least, the last, and the lost.

The least, those who don't inherit a legacy of wealth but, rather, a legacy of poverty. The least, those are persons who are still finding themselves living in the streets of life.

The last, those are the last hired and the first fired.

The lost, those who are lost in the richest country in the world, but lost perhaps in chemical consumption, drugs, if you will, lost because of mental issues, but they are lost in the richest country in the world. She has been a champion for them.

I will always be grateful to her for working with me to help me to acquire a position on the Financial Services Committee. I think that probably but for her, I might not have the position that I have. So I know that she is not doing well today, but she will be back, and I want her to know today that I am appreciative for the many opportunities that I have acquired by virtue of her being there at the right time when these opportunities were available.

I also thank the Members who had those bills, the 13 bills: Mrs. JOYCE BEATTY, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. TORRES, and of course, Ms. WATERS, had a bill as well. I had two bills associated with this package.

This package, the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act, why is it needed? Why is it needed on this day some few days away from Juneteenth? And I celebrate Juneteenth, by the way. I commend my colleague, Ms. JACKSON LEE, for her work on Juneteenth.

I knew the father of Juneteenth, Al Edwards. Al Edwards was a State representative in Texas, and he was a person who was tenacious about Juneteenth. It was his legislation that passed the Texas House and Senate and was signed by the Governor of the State of Texas, making Juneteenth a holiday at a time when, quite frankly, people thought that it was impossible to get it done.

Al Edwards, the father of Juneteenth, I always remember him, a dear friend. We celebrated Juneteenth together on many occasions. We traversed the State together. He was one of my supporters. I know his family.

His brother was a banker, Redick Edwards. He was my banker, as a matter of fact. So I have a relationship with this family. I want the world to know that I am appreciative for what he did to lay the foundation for Juneteenth as a holiday at the national level.

I also express my appreciation for what Juneteenth is all about. General Gordon Granger came into Galveston, Texas, in 1865. The Emancipation Proclamation had been signed. The war had ended, but in Texas, the slaves were not accorded their freedom. Some people say that the word hadn't reached Texas. I differ. The word reached Texas, but the slaveholders saw those slaves as personal property, and they saw no reason to give up their personal property simply because Mr. Lincoln signed an Emancipation Proclamation or simply because the war was over. That was their personal property.

It is said that someone was sent, an envoy, if you will, to make it known to people in Texas that the slaves had been freed. This is prior to General Gordon Granger arriving in Galveston, Texas in 1865. Well, they said that that person didn't quite get the message across, and one can well understand why, given the behavior of Texas, a State that seceded from the Union and also seceded from Mexico because of slavery.

□ 1315

They were recalcitrant—and that is being kind—about the desire to maintain slavery. But President Lincoln sent General Gordon Granger.

To say that he sent General Gordon Granger, quite frankly, is an incomplete statement. He sent General Gordon Granger and 2,000 troops. General Gordon Granger, being the wise man that he was, brought those troops with him, but they also had some friends with them. They had Mr. Winchester, Smith & Wesson. They were well equipped to present this message to the slaveholders. When it was presented with 2,000 troops who were well armed, it was received.

It was the next year that the first Juneteenth celebration took place. That was in 1866, the first celebration.

This is what Al Edwards shared with me about Juneteenth, the actual moniker, the name for the holiday. It was his position that it became known as "Juneteenth" because there was some question about the date that General Gordon Granger arrived, within the minds of the slaves, whether it was on the 18th or the 19th. Rather than continue a debate about the actual date, it simply became "Juneteenth," and folks can fill in the blank as they choose. 1866 was a big celebration of Juneteenth, a celebration of freedom.

Again, I commend the father, Al Edwards, and I commend my colleague, Ms. JACKSON LEE, for her stellar work here in Congress to work Juneteenth through to the point that it is now a Federal holiday. I commend both of

them. I commend the many people who voted for it.

Today, I thank the people who voted for that holiday, but I also thank the people who voted for H.R. 2543. I greatly appreciate the fact that you voted for the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act because that act is needed.

There has to be some question as to why it is needed more than 150 years after the end of slavery. Why would we need a Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act these many years later?

Well, rather than give you my opinion about it, I am going to read to you from a report presented by the Brookings Institution. Brookings is well known and well respected. Let's just see what Brookings says. This was published on February 27, 2020. Not a lot has changed since February 27, 2020, so let's examine what they at the Brookings Institution have shared with us with reference to the Black folk in this country.

It is styled, the article, "Examining the Black-White Wealth Gap." Hear now the words of the Brookings Institution: "A close examination of wealth in the U.S. finds evidence of staggering racial disparities. At \$171,000, the net worth of a typical White family is nearly 10 times greater than that of a Black family, which is \$17,150." This was in 2016.

2016, White family's worth: \$171,000. This is the net worth. Black family's net worth: \$17,150. Over 150 years since the end of the Civil War, more than 400 years since the first Africans were brought here as slaves in 1619, 400 years have passed, and we still have this wage gap.

It goes on to read: "Gaps in wealth between Black and White households reveal the effects of accumulated inequality and discrimination, as well as differences in power and opportunity that can be traced back to this Nation's inception."

"Traced back to this Nation's inception." This is the Brookings Institution. "Traced back to this Nation's inception."

"The Black-White wealth gap reflects a society that has not and does not afford equality of opportunity to all its citizens."

Equality of opportunity is the opportunity—these are my words—to succeed on your merits or fail on your demerits, the opportunity for you to pull yourself up by your bootstraps. The society, according to Brookings, does not afford equality of opportunity to all its citizens.

It goes on to indicate: "Efforts by Black Americans to build wealth can be traced back throughout American history. But these efforts have been impeded in a host of ways, beginning with 246 years of chattel slavery followed by congressional mismanagement of the Freedman's Savings Bank."

This bank was established after the slaves were freed to provide them an

opportunity to accumulate wealth. They were free, but they were just free to the elements. They didn't have property that they owned. They were free to have persons abuse them. They were in a hostile environment. They were among people who had held them as property, people who had no desire to see their property taken from them.

So they were free, but they were free to the wind, the rains, the elements, free to starve, and free to survive if they could. But that level of freedom was supposed to be curtailed with the Freedman's Savings Bank.

Well, the bank started with the best of intentions. According to the history I have read, it was the idea of Frederick Douglass and was supposed to give the freed slaves an opportunity to acquire wealth, to save money, to understand the process of saving money, by the way. For people who had never had money—imagine this—never had money, what do you do with it if you acquire some? Many of them were working for the Union Army, and they were getting paid. So what do you do with this thing called money?

Well, this bank was a place where they were supposed to be able to save. Unfortunately, there was mismanagement. Congress did not put in the proper safeguards so that it could continue to exist in perpetuity, and it left some 61,144 depositors with losses of nearly \$3 million in 1874.

Then, there were persons who sought to move ahead, notwithstanding circumstances, and there was this area in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Tulsa's Greenwood District.

Here is what is said by Brookings with reference to Greenwood. It reads: "The violent massacre decimating Tulsa's Greenwood District in 1921, a population of 10,000 that thrived as the epicenter of African-American business and culture, commonly referred to as 'Black Wall Street,'—Black Wall Street was decimated. This was an opportunity for people to pull themselves up by their bootstraps, to find a means by which they could have commerce among themselves. They were of no threat to the broader community, but they had Black Wall Street taken away from them, literally destroyed."

Thereafter, we had the discriminatory policies throughout the 20th century, including Jim Crow-era Black codes, laws that applied specifically to Black people. If you weren't working, you could be incarcerated if you were Black.

This is not contained here, but you had the convict leasing that took place, which was another form of slavery. A person would be arrested for some minor offense and then placed in the hands of a landowner to work—leased, as it were, from the State. Some of these persons would work for the rest of their lives for some minor offense. They became slaves by another name, leased convicts.

So, we had Black codes limiting opportunities in many Southern States.

Along came the GI Bill. We are fast-forwarding now, and this is part of the article that I am reading. The GI Bill benefited and still benefits—a good many people who are right here in this Congress benefited from the GI Bill. Few Black people did. Very few Black people benefited from the GI Bill. The statistical information is overwhelming in terms of the number that did not, small numbers.

Of the thousands that initially benefited from it, numbers less than 10 were Black. Thousands, with 10 maybe, or less, that were Black. There are some people who give a specific number on it at less than 10. But let's just leave it with the fact that there were less than 10 who benefited from it among thousands.

Here is why they didn't benefit. They didn't benefit because if you wanted to get a mortgage to buy property, which is what the GI Bill would afford you, the banks wouldn't lend money in Black neighborhoods. If you were Black and you walked into the bank, that in and of itself was a denial of the loan. Your presence, your skin complexion, that was the denial of your loan because banks were not lending to people living in Black neighborhoods.

Well, someone would say: But, Al, how did they know they were living in a Black neighborhood? Because you couldn't live in a White neighborhood. You couldn't live among people who could get loans. There were restrictive covenants. The law said they couldn't live there, and they were denied the opportunity to acquire land, which was another means of amassing wealth.

By the way, this was not the first time people of color were denied the opportunity to acquire land. In the early years in this country, if you could fence in land and you could protect it, you could squat. It became yours. All you had to do was fence it in and protect it. Black people were not afforded that opportunity.

So, here we are, a few days away from Juneteenth, which I will celebrate and appreciate, but I want you to understand why there was a need for H.R. 2543, the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act. There was a need for it. There is a need for it, and it passed this Congress.

□ 1330

So we find ourselves now with the GI Bill and other circumstances that did not inure to the benefit of Black people.

According to this article, another circumstance was redlining. Redlining is where literally a red line was drawn around certain areas, and those who were in the business of selling and buying real estate, they rarely wanted to buy that land, so it became a place where people of color lived and the people of color could not get loans to upgrade their property, they could not get the loans needed to improve their lives because the banks were not lending.

So this wealth that many people have, the wealth that they have is something that they acquired in ways that were associated with the government that locked Black people out. This—according to the article now—history matters for contemporary inequality, in part, because its legacy is passed down generation to generation. Repeat. This history matters for contemporary inequality, meaning the inequality we see today, in part, because its legacy is passed down generation to generation through unequal monetary inheritances which make up a great deal of current wealth, meaning a good many of the people who have the current wealth they acquired this wealth by being born.

A good many people make their first million dollars by being born, just coming into the world, coming into the world in the right family. And these inheritances are passed down from generation to generation through unequal monetary inheritances, which make up a good deal of the current wealth.

Interesting fact: In 2020 Americans are projected to inherit about \$765 billion in gifts. In 2020, Americans are projected to inherit about \$765 billion in gifts and bequests. I assure you only a marginal amount of this will be inherited by Black people.

Excluding wealth transfers to spouses and transfers that support minor children, inheritances account for roughly 4 percent of annual household income. Black people have little to pass on, therefore, there is very little that is inherited. And as a result there is no transfer of wealth from one generation to the next to speak of.

It is really a sad state of affairs when you really think about it. We have been so conditioned to accept our circumstances in life that this sad state of affairs is just normal to us. It is just as we have embraced it almost. It is just the way things are. Things don't have to be this way. That is why H.R. 2543 is needed.

Let me remind you one more time that Black people in this country have wealth that is about one-tenth of what White people have, about one-tenth of what they have. That, my friends, is something that is unacceptable. And it is not because Black people won't work hard. It is not because they don't have good work ethics. No, it is because a system that we exist within has been so structured that not only did we fail to acquire wealth, couldn't acquire it early on in the history of the country, but this system still prevents Black people from acquiring wealth.

I come to the floor and talk about these issues quite regularly, and there are some people who have asked me why am I so passionate about these issues?

Well, why do I persist when I could easily just go on with my life?

And I have had people tell me: You are doing all right. You are doing well. You have all of the trappings of a middle-class person. Why would you do this?

Because I haven't always been where I am now, and because I have a memory.

I know what it is like to live in poverty.

I know what it is like to be discriminated against. I am a son of the segregated south. Those rights that the Constitution recognized as belonging to me, my friends and neighbors took them away. They denied them.

I know what it is like to drink from a colored water fountain.

I know what it is like to go to a back door to get your food. And I know what it is like for the law to say that you have to go to that back door to get your food.

I know what it is like to stand in a separate line in the supermarket and have to wait until all of the persons who are White are served before you can be served.

I know what it is like to be born in a racist society. Believe me. I was born into the south. I am 74 years old. I know what racism smells like. I know what it looks like, I know what it tastes like, I know what it sounds like, and I know what it hurts like.

So my passion emanates from the suffering and the understanding of what it is like to live in a hostile environment.

My friends, Black people are still living in a hostile environment. We don't like to acknowledge it, we want to believe otherwise, but it is a hostile environment. It is a hostile environment.

When you go in to get a loan and you are qualified, and you cannot get the same loan that a person of a different hue can acquire who is equally as qualified as you, you are equally as qualified as that person, that is hostile to you in terms of your economic status. H.R. 2543 seeks to remedy that. H.R. 2543 makes it a crime to discriminate against a person in lending.

I must tell you, the Honorable MAXINE WATERS has more courage than we can measure. There is no way to measure the amount of courage this woman has to bring this kind of legislation to this floor. And I have to acknowledge that the other leadership in the House, it was pretty courageous of them, too, to let this kind of bill come to the floor for a vote. And I congratulate and thank every person that voted for it. Because it ought to be a crime to defraud a person out of a loan.

For edification purposes, if you defraud the bank, you can face a fine of up to \$1 million, up to a \$1 million fine. And you can be imprisoned. There is no such fine if the bank denies you a loan, defrauds you of your loan that you are entitled to.

That changed with the passage of H.R. 2543. This is historic. You are not going to read about it in the newspapers. But you are going to hear about it from me right here on this floor of the House.

I didn't come here to hide the good news. We want to let the world know about the good news. The challenge

would be, of course, to get it through the Senate. I believe this President will sign it but getting it through the Senate will be a challenge.

But back to where we were. So we find ourselves acclimating to the hostile environment we have. We find ourselves accepting our circumstance. And there are others who would say that you are free, you can just make your way as others have made their way, pull yourself up by your bootstraps.

Well, let's see where we are with bootstraps. Bootstraps would first require that you have boots. Black folk don't have the boots. The boots are at the banks.

People in this country who have little acquire some things with their hard work and then they are in a position to borrow money. If we are not given a fair opportunity to borrow money, which would give us the boots, and then we can have straps added to the boots, you are not going to be able to pull yourself up by the bootstraps when you don't have boots. It just doesn't happen. And that is the circumstance we find ourselves in.

There are many people who will say that by doing what I am doing I am just making excuses. Well, tell that to the people at the Brookings Institution. Convince them. They compile this statistical information, the empirical evidence I have shared with you. This is not AL GREEN speaking in the sense of AL GREEN compiled the information that you have heard. No. This is the Brookings Institution. I am just the messenger. They compiled the message.

So we find ourselves in this hostile environment as it relates to the economy.

It is a hostile environment in many other ways, as well. It is a hostile environment just in terms of our living. Still discriminated against when it comes to housing. Still discriminated against. And it took the death of Dr. King to get the Fair Housing Act through Congress.

It is amazing how many of the seminal pieces of legislation that impact the lives of people of color are signed in ink, but they were written with the blood of people who made great sacrifices, Dr. King's life, John Lewis and the Edmund Pettus Bridge. But for John Lewis and the Edmund Pettus Bridge, additional civil rights laws would not have been signed into law. It took blood on the bridge to bring about the Civil Rights Act of 1965.

□ 1345

So my dear friends, we are in a hostile environment. People don't like to talk about the hostile environment. When people say Jews will not replace us—when they say Jews will not replace us—my friends, many of those people work in restaurants.

One can but only imagine what happens to the food of a Jewish person when you have a person working in the restaurant who says Jews will not replace us. Given that this theory—this

fake theory, this myth—there are some other words that can be used that my mother taught me not to use, but these prevarications are associated with this myth.

Friends, the myth is that Jews are going to use Black people to replace White people—which is ridiculous. But that means that there are some people that are very hostile to Black people since they think Black people are going to take over—and minorities and immigrants.

Just imagine what it can be like to go into a restaurant, and you have persons who don't find favor with treating us fairly. We have to be careful where we eat—we do—if you understand the environment you are living in. Hostile environment.

Can you imagine some of these persons—Jews will not replace us—persons who are up in Idaho dressed in this military regalia, can you imagine one of them being a physician? You have got to go into this office, you need help, maybe you are going into the emergency room. It is a hostile environment.

You can't appreciate it if you don't understand the consequences that can emanate from people who scream Jews will not replace us, people who burn crosses, people who say that they are a part of a superior race.

You don't think it is a hostile environment? Ask the ghosts of the people who went into the Tops Food Store. Ask the ghosts if it is a hostile environment. He went there to kill Black people. If you don't think it is a hostile environment, ask the spirits of the people who were in the Walmart store in Texas. It is a hostile environment.

It is hostile if you understand and appreciate what is going on around you. I don't say it is hostile to the extent that we can't overcome it. I don't say it is hostile to the extent that we should simply surrender and throw up our hands. That is why we have H.R. 2543, and there are other aspects of it requiring transparency. We need to know who is integrating their business.

Sometimes when people have to announce their circumstance, they change that condition. H.R. 2543 will provide a lot of transparency. This is needed when you are in a hostile environment.

I would say to you, my dear friends—as Brookings puts it—just how large and persistent are these racial wealth gaps? Brookings has made it very clear that at least \$17,150 for a Black family in terms of wealth is about one-tenth of the \$171,000 net worth of a White family.

My hope is that we will remember yesterday as a moment in time that will hopefully accelerate the time that we will need to bring about a closing of this wealth gap. I think that what happened yesterday is a great step in that direction. It is not the last step. It is really not the first, there are other things that have been done, but it is a step in that direction. We need to close the wealth gap.

Madam Speaker, I pledge to do all that I can to close it. I want to let you know that in doing all of these things and saying what I am saying to you, explaining it in terms that many people will find uncomfortable, I still say that I love my country.

I still say I love my country. I still say I salute the flag. I am not some person who hates America. I am the guy who wants America to become America for all Americans. I want equality of opportunity. I want America to live up to its promise.

As I celebrate Juneteenth, I assure you, I will do the things that are customarily done in terms of the food and the drink and just having a great time celebrating freedom. It does not mean that I am going to forget the need for more work to be done.

I have great respect for and appreciation for Mr. HOYER. I can't tell you how much I appreciate and respect him. He has said things here on this floor that I appreciate with reference to discrimination. Others have said things, too, that I greatly appreciate, it is just that I have sort of built a relationship with him.

I appreciate his indicating that Slavery Remembrance Day is something that is on his agenda. I am going to celebrate Juneteenth, but that doesn't mean that I won't commemorate August and Slavery Remembrance Day, that is a day of commemoration.

Madam Speaker, I am going to enjoy Juneteenth, but remembering that there is still great work to be done. I remember as a child my grandfather reminding me that I would have to be willing to make sacrifices that others would not have to make if I wanted to succeed in life in this country. Sacrifices that others would not have to make. I assumed that we all make the same sacrifices, but my grandfather taught my differently—that is not the case.

While I celebrate, I still have some appreciation for the sacrifices that have been made and have to be made. I understand that we need the MAXINE WATERS of the world who work hard to make sure that while she has the gavel that the change that she can bring about will take place.

I appreciate the SHEILA JACKSON LEES of the world who worked hard to make Juneteenth a holiday. It is a holiday and it is a time to celebrate. I also think we need a day to commemorate because in Texas there is a desire to not allow slavery to be taught—the history of African Americans as it relates to slavery to be taught in the schools. You can't teach it if Texas has its way.

Madam Speaker, I celebrate and commemorate. I thank God for the opportunity to serve in this House. I thank those persons who voted for the bill that we brought to the floor, H.R. 2543. I appreciate you, each of you, and I will be sending you a written thank you, but I didn't want too much time to pass without saying it to the world. I appreciate it.

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

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced her signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 4160.—An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to grant the Supreme Court of the United States security-related authorities equivalent to the legislative and executive branches.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 1 p.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 1 o'clock and 55 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, June 17, 2022, at 1 p.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-4359. A letter from the Administrator, National Organic Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — National Organic Program; Origin of Livestock [Doc. No.: AMS-NOP-11-0009; NOP-21-04] (RIN: 0581-AD89) received April 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-4360. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Policy and Program Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inspection of Yak and other Bovidae, Cervidae, and Camelidae Species [Docket No.: FSIS-2019-0028] (RIN: 0583-AD73) received June 7, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-4361. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, EBSA, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's notice — Amendments to Class Prohibited Transaction Exemptions To Remove Credit Ratings Pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act [Application Number D-11681] (ZRLN: 1210-ZA18) received April 5, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-4362. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Listing of Color Additives Exempt From Certification; Antarctic Krill Meal [Docket No.: FDA-2018-C-1007] received May 18, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4363. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program: RFS Annual Rules [EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0324; FRL-8521-01-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV11) received June 6, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4364. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the

Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, Placer County Air Pollution Control District; Correcting Amendment [EPA-R09-OAR-2020-0573; FRL-9453-02-R9] received June 6, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4365. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Maryland; Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements for 2015 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R03-OAR-2021-0662; FRL-9465-02-R3] received June 6, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4366. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; California; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District; Open Burning [EPA-R09-OAR-2021-0799; FRL-9246-02-R9] received June 6, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4367. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Redesignation of the Ohio portion of the Cincinnati, Ohio-Kentucky Area to Attainment of the 2015 Ozone Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0949; FRL-9532-02-R5] received June 6, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4368. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Removal of Stage II Gasoline Vapor Recovery Program Requirements and Revision of Stage I Gasoline Vapor Recovery Program Requirements [EPA-R03-OAR-2022-0196; FRL-9701-02-R3] received June 6, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4369. A letter from the Acting Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final authorization — ILLINOIS: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [EPA-R05-RCRA-2021-0374; FRL-9898-01-R5] received June 6, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4370. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Montana; 2015 Ozone NAAQS Interstate Transport Requirements [EPA-R08-OAR-2021-0678; FRL-9299-02-R8] received April 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4371. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Wisconsin; Redesignation of the Wisconsin Portion of the Chicago-Naperville, Illinois-Indiana-Wisconsin Area to Attainment of the 2008 Ozone Standard [EPA-R05-OAR-2021-0885; FRL-9523-02-R5] received April 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4372. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting

the Agency's final rule — Addition of 1-Bromopropane to the list of CERCLA Hazardous Substances; List of Hazardous Substances; Technical Corrections [EPA-HQ-OLEM-2022-0299; FRL-9335-01-OLEM] received April 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4373. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — *Bacillus subtilis* strain AFS032321; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0495; FRL-8920-01-OCSPP] received April 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4374. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York; Ozone and Particulate Matter Controls Strategies [EPA-R02-OAR-2021-0572, FRL-9439-02-R2] received June 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4375. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Montana; Thompson Falls PM10 Nonattainment Area Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request [EPA-R08-OAR-2021-0809; FRL-9579-02-R8] received June 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4376. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Montana; Whitefish PM10 Nonattainment Area Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request [EPA-R08-OAR-2021-0808; FRL-9595-02-R8] received June 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4377. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Teflubenzuron; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0434; FRL-9636-01-OCSPP] received June 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4378. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Source Specific Changes for Jefferson County [EPA-R04-OAR-2021-0188; FRL-9775-02-R4] received June 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4379. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Picarbutrazox; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0400; FRL-9849-01-OCSPP] received June 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4380. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's interim final determination — Determination to Defer Sanctions; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Control District [EPA-R09-OAR-2022-0439; FRL-9870-03-R9] received June 1, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec.

251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4381. A letter from the Director, Legal Processing Division, Associate Chief Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's IRB only rule — Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements received April 14, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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:

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 3952. A bill to strengthen the role of the Chief Scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in order to promote scientific integrity and advance the Administration's world-class research and development portfolio; with an amendment (Rept. 117-373, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. PALLONE: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7233. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for requirements under Medicaid State plans for health screenings and referrals for certain eligible juveniles in public institutions; and to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue clear and specific guidance under the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance programs to improve the delivery of health care services, including mental health services, in elementary and secondary schools and school-based health centers; with amendments (Rept. 117-374). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Natural Resources discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3952 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. CLINE:

H.R. 8095. A bill to impose limitations on the amount of indirect costs allowable under Federal research awards to institutions of higher education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Ms. BASS (for herself, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. CARSON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 8096. A bill to create a civil action to enforce the standards promulgated under the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr.

HUFFMAN, Mr. COHEN, Ms. BASS, Mr. SUOZZI, and Mr. KHANNA):

H.R. 8097. A bill to amend title 51, United States Code, to direct the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to establish an initiative to conduct research, development, and demonstration on technologies capable of reducing both greenhouse gas emissions and noise emissions from aircraft, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. BUCK (for himself and Mr. BANKS):

H.R. 8098. A bill to limit eligibility for public service loan forgiveness to borrowers of Federal student loans with incomes below a certain maximum threshold, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 8099. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rules applicable to using private activity bonds for broadband projects; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. TITUS, Mr. HIMES, Mr. SABLAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. AMODEI, and Mr. MCKINLEY):

H.R. 8100. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to hire psychiatrists; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CAWTHORN:

H.R. 8101. A bill to direct the Commissioner of Social Security to conduct a study relating to administrative costs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS (for himself, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. CLOUD):

H.R. 8102. A bill to prohibit the mass cancellation of student loans; to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. ESPAILLAT (for himself, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 8103. A bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to include indoor agricultural technology as an activity that supports well-rounded education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. STEFANIK, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

H.R. 8104. A bill to assess the semiconductor requirements of the Department of Defense in a conflict scenario, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BASS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. DEAN, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCANLON,

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SIRES, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN):

H.R. 8105. A bill to require small, medium, and large hub airports to certify that airport service workers are paid the prevailing wage and provided fringe benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GOLDEN (for himself, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. GOSAR):

H.R. 8106. A bill to provide for disclosures of certain foreign contributions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, 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. GREEN of Texas (for himself and Ms. MENG):

H.R. 8107. A bill to prohibit States from imposing a tax on the retail sale of men's products; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 8108. A bill to protect Native cultural sites located on Federal land, to improve consultation with Indian Tribes, to bring parity to Indian Tribes with regard to Federal public land management laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on 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. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 8109. A bill to establish the Tribal Cultural Areas System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on 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. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. POCAN, Mr. KIND, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. CHU, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. PETERS, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Mr. MAST, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. BRADY, Mr. FALLON, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. STANTON, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. CORREA, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. BANKS, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. EMMER, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. STEIL):

H.R. 8110. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the Hmong people, in recognition of their highly distinguished service in the Vietnam war and the fight against communism; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, 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. JACOBS of California (for herself, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. PHILLIPS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. CHU, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. MANNING, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. PAYNE,

Ms. NORTON, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. WILD, Mr. CROW, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mrs. HAYES, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Ms. MENG, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Ms. ROSS, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. NEWMAN, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Mrs. FLETCHER):

H.R. 8111. A bill to protect the privacy of personal reproductive or sexual health information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KELLER:

H.R. 8112. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to treat all institutions of higher education equally for purposes of determining the Federal share under the Federal work-study programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi):

H.R. 8113. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to eliminate certain charges under the TRICARE dental program for members of the Selected Reserve of the Ready Reserve, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 8114. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to expand certain protections to dependents of members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 8115. A bill to amend the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to authorize sales and leases of certain Federal land to federally recognized Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LAMALFA (for himself and Mr. PAPPAS):

H.R. 8116. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the excise tax on heavy trucks and trailers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. LESKO (for herself, Mr. BUDD, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 8117. A bill to exempt certain Federal hydrogen programs from the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. MENG (for herself, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARSON, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. TITUS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. MORELLE):

H.R. 8118. A bill to prohibit the purchase, ownership, or possession of enhanced body armor by civilians, with exceptions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. NEHLS (for himself, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. BABIN, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. GOHMERT):

H.R. 8119. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to limit the ability to take into account the mental health of an applicant for asylum; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Mr. RICE of South Carolina):

H.R. 8120. A bill to prohibit the importation of certain products of the Russian Federation; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. PERRY:

H.R. 8121. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to prohibit the Secretary of Transportation from making certain grants to zero-emission or electric ferries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 8122. A bill to amend title 23 and title 49, United States Code, to prohibit funds from certain programs to be used to fund streetcars, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Mrs. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. MASSIE, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. PERRY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 8123. A bill to prohibit Federal funding for the Special Presidential Envoy for Climate; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. RYAN (for himself, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 8124. A bill to amend section 8302 of title 41, United States Code, to require Buy American Act requirements to apply to solar power purchase agreements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. SÁNCHEZ (for herself and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 8125. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for starter 401(k)s for employers with no retirement plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. SCHNEIDER (for himself, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. DEUTCH):

H.R. 8126. A bill to improve the procedures of the national instant criminal background check system in the case of firearm transfers by federally licensed firearms importers, manufacturers, and dealers before the completion of the related criminal background check, and to provide for annual reports on default firearm transfers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. COSTA, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 8127. A bill to reauthorize the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act of 2014, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. SMUCKER:

H.R. 8128. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the uses for funds under qualified tuition programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8129. A bill to give the Federal Trade Commission authority over certain tax-exempt organizations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8130. A bill to direct the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation of the Department of Health and Human Services to conduct an annual study on health care competition and consolidation at the State level; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8131. A bill to amend the Pension Funding Equity Act of 2004 to repeal the antitrust exemption applicable to graduate medical resident matching programs; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8132. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to repeal the Obamacare ban on provider-owned hospitals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8133. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act and title XXVII of the Public Health Service Act to address incorrect billing by off-campus hospital locations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8134. A bill to eliminate the inpatient-only service list; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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 Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8135. A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to evaluate the effects of anticompetitive contracting clauses in contracts between health insurers and health care providers and to determine actions taken by the Federal Trade Commission and the Department of Justice relating to the use of such clauses in such contracts and to assess their ability to effectively enforce the Federal antitrust laws with respect to such use; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. STAUBER (for himself and Mr. WESTERMAN):

H.R. 8136. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide for protective regulations when a species is listed as an endangered species; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. WALORSKI (for herself, Mr. OWENS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BANKS, Ms. FOXX, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. JORDAN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. MCHENRY):

H.R. 8137. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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. WELCH:

H.R. 8138. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize and modify the Lake Champlain Basin Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Mr. COOPER, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. JONES, Ms. DEAN, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. DEMINGS, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. MCEACHIN):

H. Res. 1182. A resolution recognizing June 19, 2022, as this year's observance of the historical significance of Juneteenth Independence Day; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BUCK, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. BOEBERT, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BILLIRAKIS, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. MAST, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, and Mrs. HARTZLER):

H. Res. 1183. A resolution denouncing domestic terrorist violence against religious organizations and domestic terrorist violence against groups and organizations providing pregnancy support for expectant mothers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (for himself, Ms. SPANBERGER, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H. Res. 1184. A resolution urging the use of the Defense Production Act of 1950 to expand short-term refinery capacity; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, 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. MCGOVERN (for himself and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H. Res. 1185. A resolution embracing the goals and provisions of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, 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. SÁNCHEZ (for herself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. KUSTER):

H. Res. 1186. A resolution honoring the life of Petty Officer Raul Guerra of Montebello, California, who perished on October 8, 1967, during military operations off northern Vietnam, and the work of the Bring Raul Home Committee to have Petty Officer Raul Guerra's remains laid to rest in California; to the Committee on Armed Services.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-178. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Senate of the State of Michigan,

relative to Senate Resolution No. 130, urging the federal government to extend Title 42 to avoid a crisis at the border; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

ML-179. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 12, urging and requesting the President of the United States and the Congress of the United States to take any action necessary to halt federal actions resulting in the delay or cancellation of offshore oil and natural gas lease sales and the United States Department of the Interior to expedite actions necessary to comply with a court order to resolve lease sales, finalize a new five-year plan for oil and gas leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf, and focus efforts on lease sales in the Gulf of Mexico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

ML-180. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of South Carolina, relative to Joint Resolution H. 3205, requesting Congress of the United States to call a convention for proposing amendments pursuant to Article V of the United States Constitution limited to proposing amendments that impose fiscal restraints on the federal government, limit the power and jurisdiction of the federal government, and limit the terms of office for its officials and for members of Congress; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ML-181. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the State of Tennessee, relative to House Joint Resolution No. 652, supporting the secure wall on the southern border of the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

ML-182. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of Rhode Island, relative to Senate Resolution 22R258, urging the federal government to pursue a broad range of measures to reduce the danger of nuclear war, to sign and ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), to make nuclear disarmament the centerpiece of our national security policy, and to spearhead a global effort to prevent nuclear war; jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and Armed Services.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. CORREA introduced A bill (H.R. 8139) for the relief of Ivana Alexandra Sifuentes Arbirio and Luisa Mariana Sifuentes Arbirio; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CLINE:

H.R. 8095.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

By Ms. BASS:

H.R. 8096.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution, providing—"All legislative

Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 8097.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 8098.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 8099.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 grants that Congress shall "have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises;" Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 grants that Congress shall "regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes;" Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 grants that "The Congress shall have Power to . . . Make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by [the] Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof."

By Mr. CARTWRIGHT:

H.R. 8100.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I; Section 8; Clause 1 of the Constitution states The Congress shall have the Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts, and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States. . .

By Mr. CAWTHORN:

H.R. 8101.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DESJARLAIS:

H.R. 8102.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. ESPAILLAT:

H.R. 8103.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to . . . provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States; . . .

By Mr. GALLAGHER:

H.R. 8104.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois:

H.R. 8105.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. GOLDEN:

H.R. 8106.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. GREEN of Texas:

H.R. 8107.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 8108.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 8109.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the US Constitution

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 8110.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. JACOBS of California:

H.R. 8111.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution.

By Mr. KELLER:

H.R. 8112.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 8113.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

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By Mr. KIM of New Jersey:

H.R. 8114.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

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By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 8115.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 2 of Section 3 of Article IV of the U.S. Constitution: "The Congress shall have power to dispose of and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States; and nothing in this Constitution shall be so construed as to prejudice any claims of the United States, or of any particular state."

By Mr. LAMALFA:

H.R. 8116.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution: "The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States."

By Mrs. LESKO:

H.R. 8117.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII

By Ms. MENG:

H.R. 8118.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the US Constitution

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By Mr. NEHLS:

H.R. 8119.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 8120.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 8121.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 8122.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 8123.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution—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.

By Mr. RYAN:

H.R. 8124.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 11 Section 8: “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 in any Department or Officer thereof.”

By Ms. SANCHEZ:

H.R. 8125.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. SCHNEIDER:

H.R. 8126.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

By Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 8127.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SMUCKER:

H.R. 8128.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8129.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8130.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8131.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8132.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8133.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8134.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8135.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. STAUBER:

H.R. 8136.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 4, Section 8, Clause 18: 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 in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mrs. WALORSKI:

H.R. 8137.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Constitution Article I Section 8

By Mr. WELCH:

H.R. 8138.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18: The Congress shall have 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 in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. CORREA:

H.R. 8139.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

clause 18 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 82: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 124: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 198: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 475: Mrs. MCCLAIN.

H.R. 622: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 705: Mr. FULCHER, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BURCHETT, and Mr. CAWTHORN.

H.R. 1282: Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. CRIST.

H.R. 1348: Mr. SWALLOW.

H.R. 1560: Mr. CASE.

H.R. 1611: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 1627: Mr. GOMEZ and Ms. TLAIB.

H.R. 1661: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1696: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.

H.R. 1956: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.

H.R. 2021: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.

H.R. 2143: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. WILD, and Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 2373: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 2483: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 2517: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 2972: Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WELCH, and Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 3031: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 3088: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 3172: Mrs. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 3183: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 3342: Ms. ESCOBAR and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.

H.R. 3572: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 3759: Mr. GRIFFITH and Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3865: Ms. DELAURO and Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.

H.R. 3962: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 4134: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 4151: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 4436: Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 4450: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 4479: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 4602: Ms. BARRAGAN.

H.R. 4603: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 4750: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 4944: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.R. 5441: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.

H.R. 5648: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 5654: Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 5769: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 6207: Mrs. HAYES and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 6283: Ms. SCANLON and Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 6526: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 6538: Mr. RUSH, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. MANNING, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. NORTON, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CORREA, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. TRONE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. CRIST, Mr. BERA, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 6571: Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. MAST, and Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 6613: Mr. BOWMAN.

H.R. 6785: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 6823: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 6913: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 6989: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 7030: Ms. JAYAPAL.

H.R. 7076: Mr. JACOBS of New York and Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 7109: Ms. SPEIER.

H.R. 7158: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 7181: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 7294: Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 7382: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. WILD, and Mr. GUEST.

H.R. 7398: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 7427: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 7477: Mr. KELLER.

H.R. 7525: Mrs. MCCLAIN.

H.R. 7534: Ms. NORTON and Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.

H.R. 7565: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 7668: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 7744: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 7750: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 7775: Mr. RASKIN, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 7779: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 7832: Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 7851: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 7933: Ms. JACOBS of California and Mr. SIRES.

H.R. 7961: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 7966: Mr. BUDD.

H.R. 7971: Ms. TITUS and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 7987: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 8006: Mr. WENSTRUP and Ms. VAN DUYN.

H.R. 8051: Ms. NEWMAN and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 8058: Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 8069: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 8071: Ms. KAPTUR.

H.J. Res. 53: Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. CHU, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. TAKANO, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. RASKIN.

H.J. Res. 87: Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BASS, Ms. DELBENE, and Mr. CAWTHORN.

H. Res. 159: Mr. MEUSER.

H. Res. 191: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H. Res. 366: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H. Res. 569: Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H. Res. 580: Mr. MOONEY.

H. Res. 749: Mr. MOONEY.

H. Res. 764: Mr. BEYER.

H. Res. 910: Mr. MOONEY.

H. Res. 1137: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Ms. JACOBS of California.

H. Res. 1156: Ms. BASS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. CARSON, and Mr. TRONE.

DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM
PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 1735: Mr. BANKS.

H.R. 2374: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 5828: Mr. HILL.



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No. 103

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our refuge and strength, give us reverence for Your greatness. Guide our Senators around the pitfalls of their work, enabling them to have hearts sustained by Your peace. May they surrender their will to You, as they trust You to direct their steps.

Lord, give them the wisdom to receive Your reproof with the understanding that You chastise those whom You love for their good.

Make their lives productive for the glory of Your Name. And, Lord, bless Ukraine.

We pray in the Name of our redeemer. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021—Resumed

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3967, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3967) to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The Senator from Vermont. Mr. LEAHY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

H.R. 3967

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, today is a historic, long-awaited day for our Nation's veterans. In a few moments, the Senate is finally going to pass the PACT Act—the most significant expansion of healthcare benefits for our veterans in generations. It is officially called the SFC Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act because Heath Robinson was one of the many who succumbed to the poisons of toxins that he was exposed to fighting for America.

For too long, our Nation's veterans have faced an absurd indignity: They enlisted to serve our country, went abroad in good health, and came back, only to get sick from toxic exposure endured while in the line of duty.

As many as 3½ million veterans have been affected by burn pits since 9/11.

Yet approximately 80 percent of all disability claims connected to burn pits have been rejected by the VA. So many of our veterans have been fought by the VA after they fought for us, as they try to get healthcare benefits. Many of them had to hire lawyers just to prove their illnesses and then do a complicated legal dance to show what everyone knew: that toxic exposure from burn pits caused all kinds of cancers and other diseases. That was so, so wrong. Indignity. The callousness of forcing veterans who got sick as they were fighting for us because of exposure to these toxins, to have to fight for years in the VA to get the benefits they deserved—well, that will soon be over, praise God.

To these American heroes who have carried on without the benefits they deserve, I have one thing to say: No more. Today, the Senate finally takes action to right this profound wrong.

The PACT Act will finally change outdated rules at the VA that have been in effect for far too long that prevent our veterans from getting the care they need to treat health complications caused by burn pits. It will expand eligibility for VA medical care to make sure veterans get the help they need.

There is even more good news in the PACT Act. It is not just about burn pits, as important as they are. The PACT Act will expand coverage of health issues exacerbated by Agent Orange, which, over the years, I have strongly pushed for in this Chamber.

I want to give deep thanks to Senators TESTER and MORAN, who worked for months to push this bill over the finish line. Their leadership on this issue has been extraordinary.

I want to thank my colleagues. This is another bipartisan action that is accomplishing something very significant, and I want to thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who supported the bill through its consideration.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Most importantly, I want to thank the many veterans, the veterans service organizations, advocates like Jon Stewart and John Feal, who never gave up on making this change happen. Because of their advocacy, our veterans will finally get the dignity and care they rightfully deserve.

If you want to take the measure of any nation, look no further than the way it treats those who sacrificed everything in the line of duty. Today, the Senate is making sure we treat our heroes the way our heroes deserve to be treated—with dignity, with gratitude for everything they have done to protect our way of life. Gone are the days when veterans will have to struggle to prove and fight to get benefits they deserve.

I thank my colleagues for their work, and I urge all of us to vote yes on this long-overdue legislation.

NOMINATION OF STEVEN M. DETTELBACH

Madam President, now let me talk about something that just happened in the Judiciary Committee.

As we await the completion of the gun safety bill, there is another step the Senate will take today to protect our communities from gun violence. We can move to confirm Steven Dettelbach as the Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

I want to thank Senator DURBIN and the Judiciary Committee for moving this nomination expeditiously.

Later today, I will move to discharge the nomination of Mr. Dettelbach from the Judiciary Committee after his nomination resulted in a tie vote. Based on his record and qualifications, Dettelbach unquestionably deserves bipartisan support, but either way, he is going to move forward.

The ATF has not had a permanent Director since 2015, so confirming Mr. Dettelbach is one of my top priorities before the end of June. We need a fully functional, fully staffed ATF in order for that Agency to fulfill its mission of keeping our communities safe from gun violence.

Obviously, the legislation we are talking about that is being negotiated is very important, but so is having a fully functioning ATF. It is critical we have a fully functioning, fully staffed ATF for the Agency to carry out its mission of protecting our communities from gun violence, and what they do is very, very important. Sometimes it is quiet. Sometimes it is not noticed. But their ability to deal with gun traffickers and so many others who poison our streets with illegal guns that take the lives of our children—the ATF is essential in stopping that, curtailing it, and having a strong, qualified nominee like Mr. Dettelbach will certainly help reduce the scourge of gun violence in this country, particularly because the ATF has not had anyone at the helm since 2015. So I am going to make sure his nomination moves as quickly and speedily through this Chamber as possible.

GUN SAFETY

Madam President, now on the other issue, the debate on gun safety, this week, the Senate is making progress on a subject that has frustrated this Chamber for decades: meaningful gun safety legislation.

Last night, I spoke with Senator MURPHY on the latest round of bipartisan negotiations. Both sides met well into the evening and will be meeting again this afternoon. The work is not finished. No one will pretend that has been easy, but both parties are still working towards a final product. I urge both sides to keep going at it. This is so important to the American people. I am hopeful they will come to an agreement on bill text soon.

Once we have the language for a gun safety bill, I am prepared to make it the next legislative matter considered on the Senate floor. We want to move quickly and decisively to make sure we don't let this opportunity slip away.

Just a month ago, very few could have predicted that this Chamber would make as much progress as we have on a gun safety compromise. Given our recent history, it is hard to blame Americans who feel hopeless that change can happen on this issue. But that is why you never give up—never give up—even after facing so many disappointments. No matter how many times gridlock has taken hold in the past, survivors of gun violence, gun safety activists, people who have lost loved ones, children, have fought and fought and fought. They have visited our office every year, many times. Because of them, we are closer to making real progress than we have been in a long, long time.

The work is not done, but I remain hopeful that we are going to get it done, and I want to thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for continuing their work towards a compromise.

JANUARY 6 HEARINGS

Madam President, now on the Big Lie, today, the House will continue its public hearings on the Capitol attack of January 6. I urge all Americans to tune in and listen to the strong case our House colleagues are presenting.

The dangers of the Big Lie transcend the Capitol attack. This week, many hard-right candidates, who deny the 2020 elections and have little faith in the fidelity of our elections, who may well move to undermine them, have won primaries and will be on the ballot in November.

If you want to know what our country could turn into if they win, look at what is happening right now in New Mexico. Right now, a county commissioner in that State is refusing to certify the results of his county's primary elections because of debunked conspiracy theories involving Dominion voting machines. The votes of over 7,000 people are now in jeopardy, and the State supreme court has been compelled to step in. This is the result of the Big Lie spread by Donald Trump.

He cannot accept the fact that he lost. His ego is so huge and infantile that he is undermining American democracy, and too many, often out of fear of Trump and the primary voter acolytes that Trump has, go along with this.

It is happening in too many States. It is a real danger to our democracy. In Nevada, for instance, secretary of state candidate Jim Marchant has said that if he had been in office in 2020, he wouldn't have certified Joe Biden's victory.

That is dangerous stuff. Do my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who go along with this realize that? This undermines the democracy, sacred to all of us—Democrat, Republican, Independent.

America needs to be watching what is happening in States like New Mexico and Nevada because if we are not careful, it will be a preview of greater horrors to come. It is not a partisan argument; it is simply about democracy versus authoritarianism. Many of the things said by some of these officeholders were said by people who then led their country to authoritarian regimes.

It doesn't matter if you are a Democrat or a Republican or an Independent; democracy is at risk if we elevate individuals who don't believe in the sanctity of elections.

I urge the American people, regardless of party, to reject these radicals in November because our democracy is literally—literally—on the line.

OCEAN SHIPPING REFORM ACT

Madam President, finally, on the ocean shipping bill, today is an important day. President Biden will sign the Ocean Shipping Reform Act into law.

Shipping reform is exactly the kind of bill that can make a difference to the American people. It fights inflation. It relieves our supply chains. It will help small businesses and consumers alike.

Our ports need help. The cost of sending a container across the Pacific Ocean is up 1,000 percent. Who pays that? The consumer and the American exporter. Our ports need help. Our supply chains need relief. With today's signing, we can now say help is on the way.

I thank President Biden for signing this bill quickly. I thank my colleagues, Senators KLOBUCHAR, THUNE, and CANTWELL, for their leadership in the Senate. I thank Speaker PELOSI and my House colleagues for approving the bill earlier this week.

I would say to our friends in the media: No, this has been bipartisan. There hasn't been conflict, but it is important. Please pay some attention to it. Things are getting done to deal with the scourge of inflation.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority leader is recognized.

INFLATION

Mr. McCONNELL. Before Democrats dumped \$2 trillion on the economy last

year, experts warned that such reckless spending would not just raise prices for working families, but could also trigger a full-on recession.

In February of 2021, for example, a prominent economist testified right here on Capitol Hill and said Democrats' runaway spending might back the Federal Reserve into a corner. It might leave the Fed no choice but to sharply raise interest rates. And that would not just slow down our economic recovery, but potentially actually shift it into reverse.

Sound familiar? That is exactly what has happened right before our eyes.

Yesterday, a few days after the far-worse-than-expected inflation report for the month of May, the Fed announced the biggest interest rate hike in 28 years—the biggest interest rate hike in 28 years. And they signal more increases may be on the deck soon. The Fed acted too slowly on the incorrect presumption that inflation would fade away. Now that it hasn't happened, they have to make up for lost time.

The stock markets that carry Americans' retirement savings have been in free fall. The S&P 500 has lost a full one-fifth of its value in just 6 months. Americans' consumer confidence just nose-dived to its lowest point ever recorded—worse than at any point during the 2008 recession, worse than the early panic over COVID.

The percentage of small businessowners who say they are optimistic about the near future has never been this low in the entire 48-year history of that survey. And signs suggest this may be just the beginning of the pain for the American people.

Just 3 months ago, the Fed predicted we would not have to see rising unemployment until 2024. Yesterday, however, they announced they now see unemployment increasing this year, next year, and—and the year after that.

Just between March and May, their official estimate for our country's economic growth in 2022 plummeted—listen to this—by 40 percent. It looks increasingly like Democrats may have driven America toward a full-on recession. They have driven our country toward a full-on recession.

The term "stagflation" was invented to describe the most painful economic conditions for workers and families. It means the worst of three worlds at once: High inflation, slow growth, and rising unemployment. Unless something changes—we all hope it does—this appears to be exactly the trajectory on which Democrats' policies have put our country.

The last time we had a unified Republican government, our policies created low inflation, robust growth, and record-low unemployment. Sole Democratic Party control has produced something quite different.

But, unbelievably, the same Washington Democrats who dug this hole seem unwilling to put away their shovels. They want to keep digging. With our economy trending toward a pos-

sible recession, some of our colleagues are trying to restart discussions about massive trillion-dollar-plus tax hikes.

It really beggars belief. Democrats spent 2021 trying to respond to inflation with even more—even more—reckless spending, and now they are spending 2022 trying to respond to a looming recession with gigantic tax hikes.

This is utter nonsense. It's unbelievable.

Democrats have quite likely inflated their way into a recession, and now they want to pile on historic tax hikes and make it worse.

In every poll, in every survey, the American people make their views of the Democratic economic policies crystal clear. For the sake of the country, let's hope our colleagues remember the first rule of holes, and stop digging.

ENERGY

Madam President, on a related matter, tomorrow President Biden will host the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate. Meanwhile, working Americans will continue to face the consequences of his disastrous energy and climate policies. While President Biden and his team have declared a holy war on America's domestic production, average gas prices have soared over \$5. By August, they are projected to hit \$6.20.

Diesel, which literally drives our economy, is now at an all-time high. Natural gas is up 30.2 percent; fuel oil is up 106.7 percent; groceries, which overwhelmingly rely on diesel semis to get to supermarket shelves, are up nearly 12 percent compared to last year.

These eye-popping numbers are the predictable results of Democrats' inflationary policies and specifically their war on affordable American energy.

Well, the American people continue to tell Democrats they are not interested in buying fantastical green boondoggles when they can barely afford the essentials today. According to one recent poll, more than half of Americans are very or extremely concerned about how grocery prices are affecting their household's financial situation. Nearly two-thirds feel that same way about gas prices.

But Washington Democrats are still in staggering disarray over how and even whether to clean up the mess they have made.

Some, like the administration's climate czar, John Kerry, are still in denial. He said recently: "We absolutely don't"—John Kerry—"We absolutely don't" need to ramp up oil and gas production. Instead, he insisted:

We have to transition to electric vehicles about 20 times faster than we are now.

Americans continue to report that just affording gas has become a daily hardship, but the former Senator from Massachusetts says to folks in places like Kentucky: The solution is just buy an expensive electric car.

Now, some administration officials are willing to acknowledge the problem, just not its source. The American

people continue to hear about a so-called "Putin price hike" even though gas was already up nearly 50 percent—50 percent—since President Biden took office at the time Russia launched the war. Some Members of the President's party seem more clear-eyed. Yesterday, one House Democrat said:

I'm calling on the President to sit down with domestic oil and gas companies and find a way to lower prices. . . . The President needs to bring everyone together.

That was a Democrat in the House.

But, unfortunately, the Biden administration still appears to be jaw-droppingly naive about the consequences of its war on affordable domestic energy. As energy prices continued to skyrocket earlier this year, the White House reportedly insisted the production could just be turned back on with the flip of a switch.

According to one analyst:

They thought shale oil production could grow sharply in the near term—like in a matter of months or quarters . . . They were shocked to learn that that's like asking for blood from a stone.

Of course, Democrats' misunderstanding hasn't stopped them from trying to use American energy producers as a scapegoat. Yesterday, the White House press secretary insisted: "We have done our part . . ." she said. "We need [oil companies] to act."

Really? That doesn't pass the laugh test.

In a letter yesterday, one of America's biggest domestic producers asked the Biden administration for three things: "Clear and consistent policy that supports U.S. resource development", "regular and predictable lease sales", and "support for infrastructure such as pipelines."

Notice that this is precisely a summary of what President Biden hasn't—has not been doing since he took office.

Since day one, the Biden administration has been outright hostile to U.S. resource development, frozen certain new development leases, and canceled a pipeline project that would have expanded efficient energy transport and created American jobs.

The American people are bracing for a very pricey summer, from the gas pump to the grocery store. And they know exactly who to blame.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I recently read an article published by a woman who is very credible on the issue of energy, which I would like to share after the statements recently made by the Republican leader.

The question is whether or not our production of crude oil during President Biden's Presidency was higher or lower than the Trump administration. I quote Heather Cox Richardson:

To encourage production, Biden's officials have issued more permits on federal lands than were issued in the Trump administration's first three years, at a pace that approaches [that of] George W. Bush's administration. Only 10% of all U.S. drilling takes place on federal land, but the Bureau of Land

Management confirms that more than 9,000 drilling permits on public land are currently approved. Not all would be productive if they were developed, and none of them could start producing immediately, but this undercuts the argument that gas prices are high because the Biden administration has choked off permits.

She goes on to say:

What appears to be driving U.S. gas prices is the pressure investors are putting on oil companies, whose officers answer to their investors. Limited production creates higher prices that are driving record profits. In a March 2022 survey of 141 U.S. oil producers asking them why they were holding back production, 59 percent said they were under investor pressure. Only 6 percent blamed “government regulations” for their lack of increased production.

Oil companies are seeing huge profits and are using the money for stock buybacks to raise stock prices. BP, Shell, ExxonMobil, Chevron, TotalEnergies, Eni, and Equinor will give between \$38 and \$41 billion to shareholders through buyback programs this year.

That is a little different picture than was just painted by the Republican leader.

There is some culpability here when it comes to the oil companies, and blaming President Biden is ignoring the fact that he has, on Federal lands, which, as written, account for a percentage of our production in this country, expanded permits beyond the levels offered by the previous administration. This is certainly a more complex issue than was suggested by the Senator from Kentucky.

GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. President, on another topic, I would say that we have learned a lot from COVID-19. We have learned that this particular pandemic targeted, more than ever, those among us who were up in years, the seniors. They were the most vulnerable to the attack of COVID-19, and many folks in their senior years were threatened by and some succumbed to this terrible pandemic. We knew that it was a problem for senior citizens and still do.

Yesterday, we had a hearing in the Senate Judiciary Committee that called to mind the real question before us: What if this pandemic had targeted our children and babies? What if we knew that the next pandemic was going to make them particularly vulnerable? Well, I will tell you, I believe this country—rightly so—would rally behind an effort to do everything we could to protect our children from this looming, potential, cause of death.

Mine is only a hypothetical when it comes to pandemics, but it is not a hypothetical when it comes to the No. 1 cause of death among children and teenagers in America. The CDC, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, just announced within the last 2 weeks that the No. 1 cause of death is not a pandemic but guns, firearms, gun violence, and gun deaths.

Yesterday, we held a hearing in the Judiciary Committee on the leading

cause of death for children in America—guns. In 2020—the most recent year’s statistics that are available—more than 4,300 American babies, children, and teens died from gunfire. During the hearing, we heard from a chorus of witnesses: healthcare witnesses, law enforcement, community violence prevention. They agreed on one basic thing: that gun violence is traumatizing an entire generation of American youth. Lawmakers in Congress have a responsibility to stem this tide of violence.

One of the witnesses was a young college student from Northeastern University in Boston. He actually grew up on the West Side of Chicago. His name is Ernest Willingham. He isn’t 20 years old yet, but his testimony sounded like the testimony of a person who was wise in years. He has already experienced one gun-related tragedy after another.

Mr. Willingham told the members of our committee:

I have seen my brother, my father, my cousin and my best friend become victims of gun violence. . . . This is something that young people should never have to prepare themselves for, yet it remains the lived experience of so many children and youth around our nation.

He continued:

We are better than this as a country, and we can solve this crisis.

Then he made reference to one basic fact. He said:

Most kids who grew up with me spent more time attending funerals than weddings.

That is a sobering statement, and it puts into perspective not only the threat of gun violence and the toll that it has taken but also the trauma that is visited on so many who are affected by this gun violence. We think instantly of the families of the victims, but trauma goes far beyond that; it extends to families of witnesses and to so many others whose lives are affected.

Two weeks ago, in Chicago, Lurie Children’s Hospital convened a group of young people from gun-infested neighborhoods. They agreed to meet with me on a private, off-the-record basis. We closed the door, and I looked at their 20 or 30 faces and said:

Tell me what I need to know as a U.S. Senator about what it means to grow up in your neighborhood.

I can tell you that there was an outpouring of statements from every one of them, talking about how guns have become such a sad and tragic part of their lives and how many of them had either been shot or had lost a family member or a loved one or a friend to gun violence. And they talked about the basics.

One young man said:

Senator, we need home training.

I said:

What do you mean by “home training”?

He said:

We need parents to tell us what is right and wrong, to tell us what to do. There are no rules. The only rules I find are the rules of the gang’s on the street. I know what

their rules are, but I don’t know what the rules are in terms of my own life.

I think back on my childhood. Rules? Oh, I had plenty of rules, and most kids do: Clean your plate. Clean your room. Do your homework. Take out the trash. Walk the dog.

The rules were coming at me all the time. Then I went and attended Catholic grade schools, and, believe me, they had even more rules to play by.

The statements by many of these young people were that their lives were adrift in the earliest stages. Some of it reflects parents who are facing poverty, who are struggling to make ends meet. Some are working two jobs just to get enough money to keep food on the table. They can’t be at home and nurturing and guiding these young people as much as they should because they are struggling from paycheck to paycheck. That is a reality of poverty in these neighborhoods.

Some families aren’t that “lucky”—and I use that in quotes. Some are dysfunctional. They have one parent who is a drug addict and another parent who is inclined toward violence or alcohol, and the child suffers as a result of it.

The point I am getting to is this: That hearing yesterday on gun violence highlighted the reality of what life is like for too many kids in places around America, and it highlighted the importance of doing something.

We had a doctor there who was the chairman of the American Academy of Pediatrics. She said that she sent out an email, in preparation for her testimony, to a number of pediatricians and said:

Can you share with me any personal experiences with kids who are victims of gun violence?

She received 300 replies, which we put in the record of the Senate Judiciary Committee’s. They were sobering statements by doctors of what they faced with kids who had either been victims of gun violence or who had witnessed it and were trauma victims as a result. That was the reality.

Ernest Willingham, whom I mentioned earlier, talked about what it meant to have this as an integral part of his life while growing up. He was one of the lucky ones. He was able to break free from this terrible experience and really start down the path toward a college education.

We had the chief of police from Phoenix, AZ, Chief Williams, who came in. She is a 23-year veteran of the police force and is the chief in a major city. She talked about guns and kids and what they face in her city, where she just recently had a number of her policemen who were injured in the line of duty.

She spoke to that and said:

Last night, there was a shooting, and luckily they survived or I wouldn’t be here today.

That is the reality of guns in America.

We focused with her on the guns like AR-15s that are showing up at these

shootouts and massacres. The AR-15 is a “semiautomatic” weapon, which means it fires ammunition every time you pull the trigger, but it can be converted into an automatic weapon, whereby you can hold the trigger, and it just sprays ammunition at people who are victims.

How many of these exist in the United States today, these AR-15 assault weapons that we are seeing in so many of these massacres and shootings? We are not sure. It is somewhere between 10 and 20 million—10 and 20 million.

I asked the pediatrician what kind of damage is done by these guns, and she told us: It is devastating.

Some of the stories that are coming back from these mass shootings now are horrific. I just even hesitate to repeat them, but they have been reported widely in the news—the damage that is done to these poor little bodies in the classrooms when these weapons are turned on them.

Now, there is no earthly purpose for such a weapon other than their use in the military—it isn’t used for sport; it isn’t used for hunting; it can’t be used for self-defense very effectively—but so many, millions, are being sold across America.

From my point of view, we should be dealing with that issue directly, as well as high-capacity magazines that allow these to happen, but, unfortunately, we can’t at this moment. We don’t have the political will to do it in the U.S. Senate—50-50 divided. We do have the will to take up the framework, which is being worked on at this very moment. It isn’t what I want to see, and it isn’t what many of us want to see, but it is a step forward.

I commend the Senators—the Democrat CHRIS MURPHY and the Republican JOHN CORNYN—for assembling a group of some 20 Senators, Democrats and Republicans, who are working on this legislation. It is critically important that they are successful. I know they are having drafting challenges—that is common around here—but we have plenty of talented people, and if the Members, in good will, sit down, they can work out their differences. I urge them to do so.

Senator SCHUMER and Senator MCCONNELL publicly support this undertaking. It is one of the rare bipartisan events in the U.S. Senate, and it is on the critical issue of gun safety. I hope that by next week, we can consider this on the floor.

NOMINATION OF STEVEN M. DETTELBACH

Mr. President, there is another matter that will come before us as soon as today, and it was a matter that was raised in the Judiciary Committee this morning.

Today, we can start by discharging from the committee a proven, battle-tested leader to head the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. His name is Steve Dettelbach. The Presiding Officer knows him well as he served as a member of his staff as

a detailee. He has an exceptional record.

You see, it has been 7 years since there has been a Senate-confirmed Director at ATF, and at a moment when guns are killing our kids at a devastating rate, this office cannot remain vacant any longer—7 years.

How many times have you heard the statement: “We don’t need any gun laws. We just need to enforce the laws that are already on the books”? Well, one of the Agencies that have major jurisdiction is Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

It is no coincidence since it has been 7 years since there has been a person in charge of that Agency. You need someone to guide the Agency to enforce the laws to keep our streets safe. That is very basic.

Well, we made a gesture toward that this morning in the Senate Judiciary Committee. Today, we voted for discharge. The Senate will take a critical step toward confirming Mr. Dettelbach. He is the kind of leader our Nation needs to get a handle on the crisis of gun violence. Later today, we will have a vote on the floor here. I hope we can get bipartisan support for Mr. Dettelbach.

Members of law enforcement, mayors across America, and former Federal prosecutors all agree that it is time that this man, Steve Dettelbach, become the Director of the ATF. More than 140 former Justice Department officials, including multiple Trump administration appointees, have stepped forward to voice their support for Mr. Dettelbach’s nomination. The Judiciary Committee has also received letters of support from multiple former Directors and Acting Directors of the ATF.

It is no surprise. As a career prosecutor, Mr. Dettelbach has devoted decades of his life to working alongside law enforcement, including ATF agents, to combat gang violence, gun crimes, and hate crimes. In every role he has held, Mr. Dettelbach has been squarely focused on protecting the lives of law enforcement officers and the families they serve.

In his own words:

Politics can play no role in law enforcement.

He has earned the trust of an amazing list of law enforcement organizations. Listen to the groups that support his taking on this job: The National Sheriffs’ Association, the International Association of Chiefs of Police, the Major County Sheriffs of America, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association, Women in Federal Law Enforcement, the Hispanic American Police Command Officers Association, and many, many more.

When a mass shooter tears apart a community like Buffalo, NY, or Uvalde, TX, ATF agents are among the first Federal officers to respond. Let us not wait a minute longer in providing these heroic agents the leader they de-

serve. Yes, let’s enforce the laws that are on the books. Let’s put together the leadership of the ATF to make certain that is done.

I hope my colleagues will join me in voting for Steve Dettelbach’s confirmation on the floor of the Senate today. It is timely, it is important, and it is long overdue.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 15 minutes, Senator MORAN for up to 7 minutes, and Senator TESTER for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall votes.

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

U.S. ARMY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, before I begin, I would like to take a brief moment to wish the U.S. Army a happy 247th birthday.

I had the special honor this morning to “fall in” with Secretary of the Army Wormuth, Army Chief of Staff McConville, Sergeant Major of the Army Grinston, many other Army leaders, and hundreds of soldiers for some morning PT.

I appreciated the opportunity to join in the Army tradition of a birthday formation run, and it was especially humbling to run through the hallowed grounds of Arlington National Cemetery.

Any time you are in Arlington—or any national cemetery in the States, like the Black Hills National Cemetery in South Dakota, or overseas, like the Normandy American Cemetery—you are reminded of the sacrifice and legacy of our Nation’s warfighters. Every name and pair of dates on a headstone tells a unique story of selfless service to our Nation.

In running over the hills and around the turns this morning, you get a better sense of the magnitude of the more than 400,000 Americans who are honored at Arlington and the collective sacrifice of all of America’s heroes.

Today, the U.S. Army proudly carries on the heritage and legacy established on June 14, 1775. Our soldiers and all our men and women in uniform stand guard around the world to protect our freedoms, and they make any adversary think twice about threatening them, as the U.S. Army has done for the past 247 years.

Thank you for all of your service to our country, your professionalism, and determination, and thank you for including me today. Happy birthday to the U.S. Army.

RURAL BROADBAND

Mr. President, as a longtime member and former chairman of the Senate

Commerce Committee and as a resident of a rural State, I have long been focused on expanding rural broadband access and ensuring that the benefits of the next wave of mobile broadband, 5G, are fully realized in rural communities.

Expanding rule broadband access has been embraced by Members on both sides of the aisle, and Congress has appropriated billions of dollars in recent years to ensure that rural communities are able to access fixed broadband. It is encouraging to see Members on both sides of the aisle supporting this goal, but there are problems. While, as I said, Congress has appropriated billions of dollars toward this goal, the Federal Government lacks an overarching broadband strategy.

As a recent Government Accountability Office report highlighted, rural broadband funding is spread out over 15 separate Agencies and more than 130 separate programs in our government. That doesn't exactly make for outstanding efficiency or coordination. What it does make for is wasted taxpayer dollars and slower progress in ensuring that our rural communities have access to broadband.

Last week, the Senate Commerce Committee's Communications Subcommittee, of which I serve as ranking member, held an oversight hearing on one of the leading Agencies charged with expanding rural broadband access and promoting wireless access, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, or the acronym is NTIA. I appreciated Assistant Secretary Davidson coming to testify before the committee.

Last year, Congress passed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, which provided billions of dollars to NTIA to deploy broadband services to unserved areas throughout the United States. At the time the bill was debated, I raised a number of concerns about NTIA's ability to effectively and efficiently manage such substantial funding, given NTIA's past history on expanding rural broadband services. The last time Congress provided NTIA with broadband funding—a fraction, I might add, of the funding it is now responsible for—the Agency struggled with implementation and ended up overbuilding existing broadband networks, resulting in billions of taxpayer dollars being spent with little to show. And I have to say, I have not seen a lot to convince me that NTIA will do a better job this time around.

Last month, NTIA released its Notice of Funding Opportunity for the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment—or BEAD—Program. The notice contains a number of troubling components. To begin with, I am concerned that NTIA is planning to base its funding allocations on maps that don't accurately reflect which areas of the country are unserved. This creates a substantial risk of misallocating the funding Congress appropriated and, once again, overbuilding existing networks at the taxpayers' expense.

NTIA's notice also makes clear that when it comes to expanding networks, they are planning to favor certain applicants; specifically, government-run networks and nontraditional broadband providers—entities with no proven track record in deploying broadband networks.

What NTIA should be doing is taking a neutral approach that allows equal participation from all types of broadband providers, as long as they meet the technical, financial, and operational standards to deploy networks.

Finally, especially at a time of record high inflation, the last thing any Agency should be doing is pursuing extraneous political goals that will ultimately increase the cost for providers who are deploying networks. I am disappointed that NTIA, like other Federal Agencies under this administration, is seeking to score political points with certain constituencies—in this case, by leaning into net neutrality requirements, promoting burdensome labor standards, and focusing upon climate change initiatives.

NTIA's focus on requiring broadband providers to use a unionized workforce or project labor agreement not only puts providers that do not use union workforces at a disadvantage, but it is unworkable—unworkable—for providers in rural communities like those in South Dakota that simply don't have access to a unionized workforce.

Earlier this month, I heard firsthand from the folks who are building out networks in my home State of South Dakota about the challenges they face with respect to supply chain shortages and increased construction costs, and including unnecessary requirements in broadband contracts will only exacerbate that problem.

I will continue to urge NTIA to work with States to reduce, rather than increase, regulatory burdens so that the funding Congress provided could be used to provide broadband access to as many Americans as possible.

I also continue to work on other measures to expand broadband access in rural communities, including the Reforming Broadband Connectivity Act, which I joined colleagues from both parties to introduce last year.

This legislation will help guarantee a stable funding stream for the Federal Communication Commission's Universal Service Fund, which promotes universal access to broadband and other telecommunications services. And I am hoping—I am hoping—we can get this legislation enacted into law this year.

Having reliable rural fixed broadband services is also key in ensuring that rural communities are able to access the next wave of mobile broadband internet, 5G, and I am committed to smoothing the path for 5G services.

Mr. President, 5G offers tremendous potential for rural communities, whether it is better access to telehealth or the opportunity to implement precision agriculture. And we

need to ensure that we build out 5G networks not just in cities and in suburbs but in rural communities across the United States.

I have introduced a number of bills to help keep the United States at the forefront of the 5G revolution and ensure that 5G technology makes its way to rural communities.

My STREAMLINE Act, for example, would expedite the deployment of the small cells that are needed for 5G installation, while respecting the role of State and local governments in making deployment decisions. And, importantly, it would make it more affordable to bring 5G to rural areas by addressing the costs of small cell deployment.

On the spectrum side of the equation, this year, I introduced the Spectrum Innovation Act, along with the Communications Subcommittee chair, Senator LUJÁN, to free up additional midband spectrum for 5G deployment, an action that will simultaneously improve 5G coverage and bring in revenue for deficit reduction.

Since freeing up additional spectrum requires proper coordination between NTIA, the FCC, and other Federal Agencies, I joined Senators WICKER, BLACKBURN, and LUJÁN to introduce the Improving Spectrum Coordination Act to ensure that our Federal partners are effectively managing our Nation's airwaves.

On the workforce side of things, my Telecommunications Skilled Workforce Act, which was enacted into law last year, is designed to help increase the number of workers enrolled in 5G training programs and identifying ways to grow the telecommunications workforce to meet the demands of 5G.

I will continue to work to support every part of the 5G equation—from physical technology to spectrum, to a 5G workforce—so that the United States can stay at the forefront of this internet revolution. I will also continue to make fixed broadband and 5G access in rural communities a priority.

Too often, rural areas, like those in my home State of South Dakota, have lagged behind when it comes to getting the most modern internet technology, and I am committed to ensuring that the full benefits of next-generation technologies make their way to rural communities.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

H.R. 3967

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you for that emphatic recognition.

In the next few minutes, the Senate will vote on the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022.

This is a significant—I would say historic—moment. This bipartisan legislation, not only is it significant and important because of the content, but it is also significant and perhaps historic because of the cooperation that has

been garnered to put this act together and presumably pass it and send it to the President of the United States.

This bipartisan legislation is the most comprehensive toxic exposure package the Senate has ever delivered to veterans in our country's history.

Generation after generation, Americans, one by one, have answered the call of duty with the promise that we—the United States of America, the citizens of this country—would take care of them and their families after their time in uniform. Yet generation after generation, veteran after veteran, these servicemembers returned home only to be met with a piecemeal process as they work to cobble together the care that they earned and the benefits they deserved from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Veterans have spent years fighting bureaucracy to get the care they need, and, sadly, there are those who have been fighting, up to this point, who are no longer living, to receive the benefits that this legislation will provide.

Chairman TESTER, the Senator from Montana, and I made a commitment to get to this point today. I am proud that we are doing so together in a bipartisan way. And, most importantly, this bill will deliver healthcare and benefits to thousands of veterans who are ill due to their exposure to burn pits and other toxic exposures.

There is no doubt that the cost of taking care of our veterans is high, but the truth is freedom is not free. We say that. This is evidence that we believe that, upon the passage of this legislation.

There is always, always a cost to war. It is always high. It is always dramatic. It is always something that costs people their lives. But we make a decision when we send those service men and women to war that we are going to do what we said we are going to do and care for them. The decision is made when we send someone to war about whether we are going to spend money to care for them when they return. The cost of war is not fully paid when the war is over.

We are now on the verge of honoring that commitment to America's veterans and their families. Back home in Kansas, MG Lee Tafanelli said this legislation "will have a great impact in the lives of our veterans long after their service. The knowledge that the obstacles formerly in their way have now been streamlined will provide peace of mind as our veterans move on with their lives."

I spoke on Memorial Day at a cemetery in Kansas, and a Navy veteran came up to me after my remarks and said: I served in the Navy. My dad served in the Navy. We both encountered toxic substances, and we are fortunate we have no symptoms that cause any problems in our lives, but that doesn't mean we don't think about it every day; that what happens if we do have those consequences in the future and there is nothing there for us

and, more importantly, for our families.

This legislation helps provide some level of certainty. I am sure every member of our service, when they serve our Nation, recognizes they run risks, but I doubt that any of them believe that they are creating risks for their spouses or their children. They carry the burden for themselves, but there is also the necessity of caring for their families, particularly if they get to a point at which they cannot do so.

Not only will this legislation provide long-overdue healthcare and benefits to the 3.5 million post-9/11 veterans who were exposed to burn pits, but this legislation will deliver care for all generations of veterans, including Vietnam veterans suffering from exposure to Agent Orange.

I am at an age at which it would seem like the Vietnam war was a long time ago and we would have taken care of those who served, but we have those who served in Vietnam who are still waiting for their benefits.

The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson PACT Act would not be on the floor today without the hard work of numerous veterans service organizations, veteran families, survivors, advocates, and the veterans themselves who came to Washington to meet with Senator TESTER and with me and with every Member of the U.S. Senate, to have a conversation, to tell their story. And they are the most effective advocates there could be. And many of them, and others, testified before our Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee.

This legislation is not just a product of Senator TESTER's and mine; it is a product of so many. It is so much more. And perhaps—no offense to Senator TESTER, but perhaps our role is really insignificant when you look at the people who have encountered these challenges but used those challenges as an opportunity to fight not just for themselves but, in most instances, probably more likely to fight for other veterans in similar circumstances.

I thank them for their service. I thank them for their work in helping us deliver long-lasting solutions and comprehensive reforms for those who served. And I especially want to thank Heath Robinson's family, who turned their own loss and heartache into action. This bill will help many veterans like Heath face the challenges that he faced that ultimately ended his life.

I thank Senator TESTER, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. And for all the members of our committees, Republicans and Democrats, I remind my colleagues and I remind the American people that the original version of this bill passed the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee unanimously, with every Republican and every Democrat voting yes.

After the passage of that legislation, we worked further to find consensus but, more importantly, to find better solutions and a path forward that would allow us to be to the point we

are today. Secretary McDonough deserves our gratitude as well, and I thank him for his input, his testimony, and the numerous, numerous telephone and personal conversations. I appreciate his advice, and it made this bill better for veterans.

Once we pass this legislation, the real work of implementing it will fall to the Department of Veterans Affairs. But we as a committee and we as Senators need to make certain that we do the appropriate oversight, that we make certain that these are not just words on paper but that the results that we are looking for are finally delivered.

Too often, I think, the moment of glory comes on the passage of a bill or the press release announcing the passage of a bill, the signing of a bill, but whether or not it works still remains the most important aspect of our work. A lot of work remains, and the VA has significant challenges as it moves forward to help these veterans. The real work is still ahead of us, and I stand ready to do all I can to make certain that we are able to deliver the intended results contemplated by this legislation.

A long list of thank-yous to my colleagues, certainly to my colleagues on the committee, my colleagues in the Senate, but especially to folks in the VA community, the VSO community: Shane Liermann, Lawrence Montreuil—Shane is with the DAV; Lawrence is with the American Legion—Pat Murray with the VFW; Kristina Keenan, VFW; Cory Titus, MOAA; Aleks Morosky, WWP; Candace Wheeler, TAPS; Bob Carey, Independence Fund; Tom Porter, IAVA; Kaitlynn Hetrick, IAVA; Jennifer Burch, IAVA; Rosie Torres, Burn Pits 360; Jon Stewart; and Jon Feal.

And I thank the Kansas leaders who, over a long period of time—I don't know what year it was, but the Vietnam Veterans of America held a conference in Wichita, KS, which I attended, at which the topic was toxic exposure. And it has to be at least 10, 12 years ago. And I thank them for, at that point in time, sticking in my mind that there is work to be done.

And I appreciate other Kansans: Lee Hursey, who is the commander of the Kansas VFW; Jeremy Ehart of the Kansas American Legion; William Turner; Eric Owens; Lee Tafanelli; David Dennis; GEN Mike Dodson; Pat Proctor; Paul Chapa; COL Timothy Marlar; and COL John Buckley, all of whom are Kansans who are working on behalf of other veterans in our State to see that we get this right.

And nothing in this body gets done because Senators do all the work. Senators have ideas and occasionally a few words here and there, but we are surrounded by people who every day make those words and those thoughts come to life on a piece of paper called a bill. And my staff on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and in my office have been unending in their efforts to

get this right and to work to find an agreement that could become law. Lindsay Dearing leads that list; Asher Allman; Michele Payne; Tiffanii Woolfolk; Emily Blair Rubright; Kelsey Baron; Brian Newbold; Mark Crowley; Emily Brady; Brian Mann; David Shearman; and our leader, Jon Towers; and Tom Brandt; Angela Lingg; and Miranda Moore. And as to Senator TESTER, Tony McClain, his chief; and Simon Coon.

I appreciate the opportunity to be on the Senate floor at this moment for what I hope will be a resounding victory not for Senator TESTER, not for JERRY MORAN but for the veterans of America who served our Nation admirably, did what they were asked to do, and encountered things they should not have encountered, the consequences of which have lasted throughout their lives. We are here to fulfill a commitment and a promise, and we begin that, we move forward on that today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I want to thank Senator MORAN for his comments. I didn't hear everything he had to say, but when I came in, one of the things he said was we may not be the most important people in this process. And he is 100 percent correct. We are simply the conduit that was utilized to get this bill put into law.

There are way, way too many people to thank on this legislation, and I am going to get to that. And I will forget a bunch of folks, and I apologize right now.

But the truth is, we today, the U.S. Senate today, has the opportunity to make history by passing the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics—PACT—Act.

This is not a new issue. Generations after generations of Americans have gone to war backed by a promise that we made to them when they signed up that we would care for them when they got home. Unfortunately, that didn't happen in the case of toxic exposure. We failed them.

This bill is about righting a wrong that has been ignored for just way too damn long. It is about Will Thompson. It is about SFC Heath Robinson. It is about every American who has lost their lives through toxic exposures because of the duty that they have performed for this country.

Sadly, it is too late to do right by Will and Heath and so many others, but today, this body has a chance to do the right thing by their families and future generations of our All-Volunteer military by passing the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act.

The days of ignoring the wounds from toxic exposure, wounds not seen until years after those days are gone—conditions like hypertension and MGUS found in veterans like Robert

Hunter, a proud Montanan who served in the Army as an engineering officer during the Vietnam war. Robert was exposed to Agent Orange during his service and contracted MGUS years later. He is one of the 66,000 veterans in Montana who would become eligible for relief under this bill—not to mention every post-9/11 veteran in this country who would automatically receive VA healthcare. This includes more than 3.5 million post-9/11 combat veterans exposed to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan.

This bill would also remove the burden of proof for 23 presumptive conditions caused by military toxic exposures, from cancers to lung disease, and it would codify a more transparent framework to establish future presumptions of service connections to ensure future generations of veterans are treated more fairly than the last. And probably, most importantly, it will allow the VA to make the decisions on toxic exposures instead of an act of Congress.

In short, the PACT Act will allow hundreds of thousands of veterans across the country to access the VA care that they have been denied and give them the benefits that they have earned. Make no mistake, the VA will be given the tools it needs to hire more medical professionals and claims processors, establish more healthcare facilities and improve claims processing, ensuring we are meeting the needs of our veterans today, tomorrow, and in the future.

The bottom line is this country is very capable of recognizing the physical, obvious wounds of war—a lost limb, a chemical burn—and we are taking the steps to recognize the mental wounds of war, but we haven't been recognizing the toxic wounds of war, and that will end today with the passage of this bill.

As chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee—and I have said this many times to the veterans service organizations—I take my cues from them, the veterans they represent. When I first introduced the COST of War Act last year, together we set out with a clear goal, a goal to right the wrongs of decades of inactions and failure—by us, by our government—to provide all areas of toxic-exposed veterans the VA care and benefits they need and that they have earned.

We knew this was the only way to do this—was to put forth a package that took care of our past, present, and future veterans. I am grateful—and I mean this because folks always talk about good friends on the Senate floor. Sometimes, they mean it; sometimes, they don't. I mean it. Thank you to my good friend Ranking Member JERRY MORAN for working with me, with the committee, for creating an environment so our staffs could work together to create this new, bipartisan toxic exposure strategy.

And for my colleagues on the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, particu-

larly my friends like Senator JOHN BOOZMAN and Senator SHERROD BROWN, thank you.

I am thankful for the leadership of President Biden and VA Secretary Denis McDonough, along with House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman TAKANO, and so many, many others who are here today.

This bill is the legislation we envisioned when we set out to right the wrongs of our toxic-exposed vets.

This bill recognizes the cost of war. It is the bill our veterans and our families deserve and are counting on and cannot wait any longer for. Veterans and veterans service organizations and advocates have understood this for a long time. And they have been incredible partners since the beginning, and I look forward to thanking each and every one of them in the days and the weeks to come.

I want to speak directly to them now: I am grateful for your efforts. I am grateful for your voices—for never taking your foot off the gas—and continuing to push Members of Congress to simply do the right thing.

I also want to acknowledge the countless hours put in by the staffs from both sides of the aisle—and Senator MORAN is exactly correct, we take credit for their good work; and they do good work—staff from my office, like staff director Tony McClain, as well as this guy right here to my left, Simon Coon, Dahlia Melendrez, James Cho, Janko Mitric, Tess Wrzesinski, Shauna Rust, Olya Voytovich, and Liz Timmons but also folks across the aisle, like Lindsay Dearing, Jon Towers, Asher Allman, Tom Brandt, Pat McGuigan, Michelle Dominguez, Dili Sundaramoorthy, and Mike Jones.

Look, by sitting down in a bipartisan way to get this bill crafted, we were able to have success and get the job done, and that is what the folks who sent us here expect us to do. America's veterans and their loved ones will be better off as a result of this work today, and the result of that will make this country a better place.

There is always a cost of war, and that cost is never fully repaid when the war ends. So I have got one question: Are we willing to show these millions of veterans that we have their back, that the U.S. Government has their back? Are we willing to admit that we didn't live up to the promise of veterans like Will Thompson and Heath Robinson?

But the fact is, I believe today will show that we can put party politics aside and honor America's bravest. We can honor the plea of Heath's 8-year-old daughter Brielle to "Fight for the heroes who fought for our country and pass my dad's bill, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson PACT Act." And we can begin settling our debts to millions of other veterans and their families today.

The last thing is, what I am going to close with, that the work is not over with, assuming this bill passes today.

The ranking member is 100 percent correct: We are going to have a lot of oversight to do to make sure that the veterans get the healthcare and the benefits that they have earned and that they deserve. That is the congressional intent that we have with this bill. So oversight will be critically important.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this is the greatest advance in veterans' healthcare in decades. It wouldn't have happened without JERRY MORAN and the amazing work of Chairman JON TESTER who persisted through so many different turns and twists and difficulties. Every veteran in America, every American, should give tremendous thanks to Senator TESTER and Senator MORAN.

I yield the floor and urge a vote.

VOTE ON H.R. 3967

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time is expired.

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

The bill was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill, as amended, pass?

Mr. SCHUMER. 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. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 14, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 230 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Murphy
Barrasso	Graham	Murray
Bennet	Grassley	Ossoff
Blackburn	Hagerty	Padilla
Blumenthal	Hassan	Peters
Blunt	Hawley	Portman
Booker	Heinrich	Reed
Boozman	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Braun	Hirono	Rubio
Brown	Hoeven	Sanders
Cantwell	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Schatz
Cardin	Johnson	Schumer
Carper	Kaine	Scott (FL)
Casey	Kelly	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Shaheen
Collins	King	Sinema
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cornyn	Leahy	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Sullivan
Cotton	Manchin	Tester
Cramer	Markey	Van Hollen
Cruz	Marshall	Warner
Duckworth	McConnell	Warnock
Durbin	Menendez	Warren
Ernst	Merkley	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Moran	Wyden
Fischer	Murkowski	Young

NAYS—14

Burr	Lee	Risch
Crapo	Lummis	Romney
Lankford	Paul	

Rounds	Thune	Toomey
Shelby	Tillis	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—2

Daines	Wicker
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The bill (H.R. 3967) as amended, was passed.

HONORING OUR PACT ACT OF 2021

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, the passage of the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, or PACT Act, is an example of what can happen when the Congress puts aside partisanship and comes together for the good of the country and, importantly, our veterans.

Each of us, in every State and in every congressional district across the country, has a friend, a neighbor, or a constituent, a veteran, or an Active-Duty servicemember, who has become sick or died from exposure to toxics while serving in the military. And for too many of those people, recognition of the connection between their illnesses and toxic exposures came too late.

Early in my time in the Senate, I heard from Vietnam veterans who were sickened by exposure to herbicides such as Agent Orange. Too many of these veterans died before Congress pushed the Department of Veterans Affairs to recognize and treat their illnesses or compensate them for the disability caused by our own government's use of such a toxic substance throughout Vietnam and in other parts of Southeast Asia.

I hoped we would have learned from our mistakes there. I hoped we would learn from the veterans and civilians who suffered from radiation exposure when we tested the atomic bomb. I hoped we would learn from the veterans who came home from the first Gulf War with unexplained illnesses.

But just a few years ago, I watched my dear friend, BG Mike Heston, ravaged by pancreatic cancer, fight for the VA and the Department of Defense to acknowledge that his cancer was caused by exposure to the burn pits that had been used during his tours in Afghanistan.

Mike served as a Vermont State trooper for 26 years and for 33 years in the military, including in the Marine Corps Reserve and the Vermont National Guard. He served his State and his country without question. When he got sick, he should not have had to spend his precious remaining time fighting for the government to acknowledge what caused his illness.

But Mike did fight. Mike fought to ensure that his family, his two wonderful children, Kelsey and Keegan, would be cared for if he succumbed to his illness. He and his wife June also fought to make sure that other veterans would not have to endure what they did, that they might get an earlier diagnosis, that they might not have to spend any of their precious moments fighting for the benefits they earned.

After Mike passed away in 2018, June continued and expanded the fight.

Joining her in Vermont were Staff Sergeant Wesley Black, who died last year of colon cancer at the age of 36, leaving behind his wife Laura and son Ronan; Pat Cram, widow of Sergeant Major Mike Cram, who died of prostate cancer at the age of 47; and many others who through their experience with friends or loved ones were determined to make sure that things would be better for those who followed.

As we stand here today prepared to enact one of the most sweeping packages of veterans benefits and healthcare measures in modern history, I am thinking of Mike and June, of Kelsey and Keegan, of Mike and Pat, and of Wesley and Laura and Ronan. And I know that each Senator voting yes today is thinking of people in their States and districts who are sick or who have died as a result of exposure to toxics while serving our country.

Their stories are meaningful, and they, themselves, ensured that their sacrifice is meaningful, too. And I hope that this time we will learn from our experiences with toxic substances and hold the Department of Defense to a higher standard in the future.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHATZ). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant 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. 969, Ana Isabel de Alba, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Richard Blumenthal, Alex Padilla, Christopher A. Coons, Gary C. Peters, Elizabeth Warren, Mazie Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith, Mark R. Warner, Edward J. Markey, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Jeanne Shaheen, Sherrod Brown, Margaret Wood Hassan.

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 Ana Isabel de Alba, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-

SMITH), the Senator from Utah (Mr. ROMNEY), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 231 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Cantwell	King	Shaheen
Cardin	Klobuchar	Sinema
Carper	Leahy	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Warner
Duckworth	Merkley	Warnock
Durbin	Murkowski	Warren
Feinstein	Murphy	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Murray	Wyden
Graham	Ossoff	
Hassan	Padilla	

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Grassley	Risch
Blackburn	Hagerty	Rounds
Blunt	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeven	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Burr	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Capito	Kennedy	Shelby
Cassidy	Lankford	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lee	Thune
Cotton	Lummis	Tillis
Cramer	Marshall	Toomey
Crapo	McConnell	Tuberville
Cruz	Moran	Young
Ernst	Paul	
Fischer	Portman	

NOT VOTING—5

Daines	Romney	Wicker
Hyde-Smith	Sanders	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays 43.

The motion was agreed to.

NOMINATION OF ANA ISABEL DE ALBA

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this work period, the Senate will continue to confirm highly qualified, diverse nominees to the Federal judiciary.

First on the list is Judge Ana Isabel de Alba, who has been nominated to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of California.

A San Joaquin Valley native, Judge de Alba has served as a Superior Court Judge for Fresno County, CA, since 2018. She has presided over thousands of hearings and more than seven bench trials before the court's Criminal Misdemeanor Division, the Juvenile Justice Division, and the Environmental Quality Act Panel.

Prior to her judicial service, Judge de Alba practiced for 11 years at a Fresno-area law firm, where she became partner in just 5 years and specialized in business, employment, construction, and personal injury law. In addition to her expansive litigation practice before California State courts, Judge de Alba handled many administrative law trials before a State agency as well as a Federal jury trial.

Judge de Alba earned her B.A. with highest honors and her J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley.

The American Bar Association has unanimously rated Judge de Alba as "Qualified" to serve on the Eastern

District of California, and she also has received the strong support of her home State Senators, Mrs. FEINSTEIN and Mr. PADILLA.

With her record of fair-minded judicial service and years of litigation experience, Judge de Alba will serve her home district well as a Federal district court judge.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Cloture having been invoked, the Senate will proceed to executive session.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ana Isabel de Alba, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California.

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 senior assistant 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. 919, Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2018.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Christopher A. Coons, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Catherine Cortez Masto, Margaret Wood Hassan, Jack Reed, Jacky Rosen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Amy Klobuchar, Ron Wyden, Debbie Stabenow, Jeff Merkley, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher Murphy, Edward J. Markey.

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 Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2018, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 232 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Hassan	Padilla	
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Collins	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Murkowski	Young
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—4

Daines	Warnock
Hyde-Smith	Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VAN HOLLEN). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The bill clerk read the nomination of Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission for a term of seven years from October 27, 2018.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MOTION TO DISCHARGE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as we await completion of the gun safety bill, today, the Senate is taking another important step to protect communities from gun violence, moving forward with the nomination of Steven Dettelbach, to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

In a few moments, I will move to discharge Mr. Dettelbach's nomination from the Judiciary Committee. After that, I am going to make sure his nomination moves through this Chamber rapidly.

The bipartisan gun safety legislation currently being negotiated is crucially important but so is having a fully staffed ATF. And my colleagues, listen to this: We haven't had a Director of ATF since 2015. Gun violence is ripping through the Nation, killing so many, and we still don't have a Director of ATF. That is just outrageous, at a time when we need one more than ever.

At a time when Americans are sick and tired of our country's gun violence epidemic, we should be sprinting—sprinting—to confirm someone whose job would be precisely to keep Americans safe from gun violence, and that is exactly what the new ATF Director will do.

The ATF may not always capture the spotlight, but it is vital in stopping gun trafficking, in preventing illegal possession of firearms, and making sure our kids can't get their hands on dangerous weapons.

It is still so confounding to realize we haven't had somebody there because people have blocked it since 2015. An organization as important as the ATF absolutely needs to have a Senate-confirmed Director in place, and though we haven't had one in 7 years, we are going to change that very, very soon.

Having a strong, qualified nomination like Dettelbach will certainly help reduce the scourge of gun violence in the country.

So, once again, after I move to discharge Mr. Dettelbach, I am going to make sure his nomination moves rapidly through this Chamber. We need to fill this vacancy that has been blocked by the other side far too often.

Now, pursuant to S. Res. 27, the Committee on the Judiciary being tied on the question of reporting, I move to discharge the Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration of Steven M. Dettelbach, of Ohio, to be Director of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the provisions of S. Res. 27, there will now be up to 4 hours of debate on the motion, equally divided between the two leaders or their designees, with no motions, points of order, or amendments in order.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays are ordered.

The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 2340

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I come to the floor once again today to seek unanimous consent for the passage of the Daniel Aderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act of 2021.

I say "once again" because a little over a month ago, I came to the floor seeking unanimous consent for this same exact bill, which was reported out of the Senate Judiciary Committee last December with overwhelming bipartisan support and whose namesake is Daniel Aderl, the 20-year-old son of U.S. District Court Judge Esther Salas.

Judge Salas is in the Gallery today, hoping we can come together as a body to deliver real solutions to honor her family by ensuring that no Federal judge or their family experience the same violence that she and her family faced.

Mr. President, 1 year, 10 months, and 27 days ago, her son Daniel was brutally murdered by a gunman who targeted Judge Salas for her gender, her ethnicity, and because he could not accept her judgment in a case that reached her court. Every single day since July 19, 2020, Judge Salas and her husband Mark have endured the immense grief of burying their only son.

No parent should have to experience such a devastating loss. Yet, in the face of so much pain, Judge Salas has channeled this into purpose, embarking on a personal mission to increase the safety and privacy of her fellow judges and their families.

The murderer was able to carry out this horrific hate crime using publicly available information, tracking down Judge Salas to her home in New Jersey, gravely injuring her husband, and murdering Daniel in cold blood when he answered the door.

As I said the last time I came to the floor seeking unanimous consent, no parent should have to experience such a devastating loss. But in the months since then and now, our country has seen the tragic results of inaction. On June 4, a retired county judge in Wisconsin was shot and killed in his home by a gunman who appeared before his court, and just 4 days later, a man was arrested near Justice Kavanaugh's home in Maryland after being found with a gun, a knife, and a plan to kill the Supreme Court Justice. Reports suggest the perpetrator found Justice Kavanaugh's address online.

We cannot take these events as isolated incidents. The brutal murder of Judge Salas's son, a horrific killing of a retired county judge in Wisconsin, and the attempt on Justice Kavanaugh's life, demand that Congress act to protect those who sit on the judiciary. Simply put, we must prevent any other judge from having to endure the threats and senseless violence that these families have experienced.

After the horrific tragedy Judge Salas and Mark suffered, Senator BOOKER and I made personal commitments to honor Daniel's legacy through action. We told her we would not rest until we enacted greater protections for those who serve on the bench to protect any other judge from having to endure the senseless violence Judge Salas experienced.

And it is important to protect this branch of our government because we want them to render decisions that are free from fear—free from fear—that they will render impartial justice free from fear of what may happen to them as a result of their judgment. We can make progress on that work today in this Chamber.

The bipartisan bill I seek unanimous consent for is an effort I am proud to lead with 12 of my colleagues, including Senators BOOKER, DURBIN, GRAHAM, KENNEDY, CRUZ, and GRASSLEY. Our bill will protect the personally identifiable information that assailants have used

to target judges and their families. It is a commonsense measure that would authorize the U.S. Marshal Service to monitor online threats and deter future attacks. It is so common sense that it was voted out of the Judiciary Committee with strong bipartisan support. I am talking about a 21-to-0 vote in the affirmative. It is so common sense that it should build on the work the Senate just did a month ago when it fast-tracked important safeguards for Supreme Court Justices and their families.

I will say it again. Nearly a month ago, the Senate acted here in mere minutes to increase protections for Supreme Court Justices—protections that were proven to be necessary when police apprehended Judge Kavanaugh's would-be assailant.

Yesterday, our colleagues in the House of Representatives voted to pass that bill. Today, we should take steps to protect all Federal judges. There is simply no explanation or justification to protect Supreme Court Justices while delaying legislation to protect judges at every level of the judiciary who face the same, if not greater, risks.

No judge in America should have to fear for their lives and the safety of their family as they work to uphold the Constitution, our democracy, and ensure all people have equal justice under the law. We have seen the consequences of inaction over the previous month. But we have an opportunity to act in this moment and advance our bipartisan bill, the Daniel Aderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act, which has continued to garner support.

This isn't a partisan issue. This bill is not about right or left; it is about right and wrong.

Once again, I ask my Senate colleagues to let us honor the life and memory of Daniel Aderl with decisive action and results. Let's do the right thing to honor Daniel's legacy and unanimously pass this legislation named after him.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for the Senate to act to protect Federal judges.

In the past few years, the growing use of political violence has endangered elected officials, police officers, flight attendants, school board members, election workers, and judges. We all must condemn all violence and threats of violence against public officials in the strongest possible terms, regardless of whether it comes from the right or the left.

Last week, news broke that an armed man was arrested near the home of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh. This man made it clear to law enforcement that he desired to kill Justice Kavanaugh. Importantly, court documents showed that the gunman outside Justice Kavanaugh's home said he found the address online.

This week, the House approved a bill that unanimously passed the Senate

last month and would give the Supreme Court Police greater discretion to protect the Justices' families. I am glad that this important legislation is headed to President Biden's desk.

But it has been over 6 months since the Judiciary Committee unanimously reported the Daniel Aderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act. This bill was first introduced by Senators MENENDEZ and BOOKER in response to a tragic incident in which a disgruntled litigant found the home address of Judge Esther Salas on the internet, went to her house, and shot and killed her son.

The bill is directly responsive to the threats that Federal judges face, including the threat to Justice Kavanaugh. It would allow judges to safeguard their personal information from being posted on the internet and would empower the judiciary to monitor online threats. We have tried to pass this bill in the past, and it has been blocked by at least one Republican Senator. The bill's sponsors have negotiated changes to address these concerns, and I am hopeful that Republican objection will be lifted today.

The threat to Justice Kavanaugh and the tragic death of Daniel Aderl underscore the need to pass this bipartisan bill quickly and get it signed into law so we can protect all Federal judges and their families.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 190, S. 2340; further, that the committee-reported substitute amendment be withdrawn; that the Menendez 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 objection?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, for a year and a half, we have been offering my colleague a compromise in the passage of this bill. We could pass this bill today, immediately. All we have been asking is that it not only protect Federal judges but protect Members of Congress as well. I haven't heard a cogent or even any argument for why it couldn't.

It is a very simple compromise. To pass things unanimously takes compromise. It takes people coming together and people agreeing. But there hasn't been any movement; there hasn't been any compromise; and I am still open. We can pass this today to include Members of Congress.

If recent years have taught us anything, it is that members of the legislative branch need protection as well as those in the judiciary. That was clear in 2011 when Congresswoman Gabby Giffords was tragically shot while she was doing the most important part of her job—meeting with constituents.

Words cannot express how happy and inspired I was to see that Congresswoman Giffords was in the Chamber with her husband, Senator KELLY, when he was sworn in as a Member of this body. Well, words also cannot express the pain felt by the families of the people who were killed that day and wounded. That should have been a wake-up call to protect Members of Congress and, in doing so, to better protect the people around them.

Yet, just a few years later, a shooter nearly killed Congressman STEVE SCALISE during a practice for the charity baseball game. I was there. A young man was shot 10 feet from me. I said at the time that our lives were saved by the Capitol Police. Had they not been there, things could have been much worse.

Extending the provisions of this bill to Members of Congress would better protect us and our families and our constituents. I have been offering this for 2 years. My amendment, which I will offer through unanimous consent, simply extends the same protections that it would offer to the judicial branch to the legislative branch.

This is not a new request. In December of 2020, when we discussed this bill on the floor, I offered this compromise. I said I would work together with the other side to try to get a bill that we could pass. But we haven't gotten anywhere. If we want this to pass, let's compromise. Let's come together and figure out a way that we can get this to pass.

I know of no argument or no constituency that is coming to Washington, saying: We don't want Members of Congress to be protected. There is no such constituency. There is no such argument, and there is no reason we couldn't pass this today. It has been almost 2 years. Let's pass this bill today. As I have said over and over again, I support this bill and the provisions, and I don't believe it ought to be blocked merely because Members of Congress also need protection.

With that being said, I ask unanimous consent that the Senator modify his request to include my amendment to the Menendez substitute amendment, which is at the desk; that the amendments 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 to the modification?

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I think the points that the Senator from Kentucky is making are worthy. We are facing a reality right now wherein there are lots of threats that are increasing against public officials all around our country, and I understand that.

This is not a bill that Senator MENENDEZ and I just wrote and brought to the floor. This is a bill that we worked through the committee proc-

ess. It was a long and arduous process that was done in a bipartisan manner. During the discussion that the committee had, the point that the Senator from Kentucky brought up was brought up as well. There is a real concern about the safety and security of the Members of this body. But with the understanding and the commitment that there would be a bipartisan effort to work on this issue, every Senator on the Judiciary Committee said we should let this go for right now. This bill has been vetted; it has been worked over in a bipartisan manner; and it is ready to pass.

Threats on the Federal judiciary have gone up 500 percent. I will grant you, threats on Members of Congress have doubled, but the threats on the Federal judiciary are rising, and we saw that in the case of Justice Kavanaugh. This body thought it enough not to hold up the protection of Supreme Court Justices in order to protect the 535 of us, and we passed a bill to protect the Supreme Court Justices.

So here we now have a bill that has been vetted in committee, that has been worked on in a bipartisan fashion, and has come out, and we have a commitment. For the Senator from Kentucky to say that nothing has been done is not right. We now have Senator TED CRUZ and Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR working a bill through committee, through regular order, to make sure that we address the concerns that he is having.

This is my concern: Threats on the judiciary have gone up and are significantly higher than on this body. To grind this bill to a halt right now puts at risk members of the judiciary when we have the power in this body to protect our brothers and sisters in that branch of government.

Why would we stop when there is good will on the Judiciary Committee to work on the concerns?

There are two people who are committed to this bill, and there are verbal commitments from everyone. To stop this today creates a window of vulnerability that we know is real because we just saw a threat on a Supreme Court Justice.

For the sake of mercy, for the sake of caution, for the sake of the protection of the people in the Federal judiciary, let's pass this bill. I commit myself to joining with Senator TED CRUZ, to joining with Senator AMY KLOBUCHAR, to joining with Chairman DURBIN and with Ranking Member GRASSLEY, who have also spoken of their willingness to work a bill through regular order. That is what we should be doing.

Our job as Senators, if anything, first and foremost, is to protect the lives of American citizens. We have a bill that is widely bipartisan, that has proven to be urgent—a bill with a name of a young man who was slaughtered in his home. To hold this bill up is cruel. It is creating risk and jeopardy to people who serve in the judiciary. It is wrong. It is wrong. It is wrong.

I ask my colleague, with all humility and with all compassion and empathy, to please let this go. I commit to him that I will fight and work with the bipartisan coalition that is working on ways to protect the people in this body. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to the modification?

The senior Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, for all of the reasons that Senator BOOKER just mentioned and with an equal commitment to Senator PAUL to work with Senator KLOBUCHAR and Senator CRUZ, who are working on a bill to protect Members and who look to advocate for the Senator's language to be included in that legislation, the Senator could have done this on the Supreme Court Justices, but he didn't.

So, at this point, I will have to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there an objection to the original request?

The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, we have been trying for a year and a half. Our staff has offered to meet with the opposition's staffs. We have not had one meeting. They have not accepted a meeting much less a compromise—a year and a half.

This could pass today by simply accepting this. There is a promise to do it at a later date when we have waited a year and a half? A year and a half went by because no one would meet with us. We have not had one meeting. We have offered to meet with the staffs of both of the authors of this, and we have not been granted a meeting. There has been no discussion of this between staff and no discussion of a compromise.

We would take a compromise. I don't understand. There has been no argument made today as to why Congress couldn't be added to this bill. They could have added this to the bill or talked to us over a year and a half. No one has talked to us. Other than to come for the public theater, no one has tried to get this thing passed.

I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The senior Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I know the hour is late, but I am unaware of any such request, and I am unaware of our not being willing. Of course, we are willing. As a matter of fact, Judge Salas is here, and she tried to see Senator PAUL to make her case. He wouldn't give her the time of day.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I literally turned to my staff and asked: Has Senator PAUL's staff reached out to us at all?

That is not the case.

Then, to characterize us as the opposition, we are not in opposition to this bill. We are trying to protect Federal judges as is the unanimous vote of the Judiciary Committee.

So this is very frustrating that we should stop this for the Supreme Court Justices—the Senator has no objection to that—but, for some reason, not for the other members of the judiciary. I just find that problematic.

I am willing to meet with the Senator. I am not in opposition to his bill. The meeting which would be had, I will do but with the two sponsors of the bill to protect the U.S. Senate. But to hold up the protection of other fellow citizens because we are not getting protection, to me, does not mark the nobility of this body and the self-sacrifice of this body.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I yield back all time on the motion to discharge.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

VOTE ON MOTION TO DISCHARGE

The question is on agreeing to the motion to discharge.

The yeas and nays have been previously ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 233 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Collins	Markey	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Heinrich	Portman	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Graham	Paul
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeven	Sasse
Burr	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Capito	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—7

Cramer	Kennedy	Wicker
Daines	Rounds	
Hyde-Smith	Tuberville	

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). The nomination will be placed on the calendar.

The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, first, let me say that I am glad to see the successful discharge of Steven Dettelbach's nomination. I have known him since he was a detailee for the Department of Justice to the Judiciary Committee. I found him one of the hardest working, most talented, honest, and evenhanded people I knew. I was happy to support him for U.S. attorney in Ohio. I can understand why so many law enforcement organizations backed him because of his values there. I will have more to say when he is confirmed, but it is a good move.

NOMINATION OF BETH ROBINSON

Madam President, Vermonters are no strangers to making history, and in November 2021, one Vermonter in particular made history again: the U.S. Senate confirmed Beth Robinson to a seat on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. She assumed her seat on that bench days later. I could not be more proud. Vermont has one seat on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, so we always try to send our best.

Judge Robinson embodies Vermont's values: her commitment to justice and equality and her compassion for her fellow human beings. She has also proven to be an exceptional jurist, one dedicated to the rule of law above all else. There should be no doubt that she brings that same excellence to Vermont's single seat on the Second Circuit, as a successor to my dear friend, the late Judge Peter Hall.

Since Vermonters first elected me to the U.S. Senate, I have worked hard to ensure that Vermont's best and brightest represent our State on the Federal judiciary. In 2004, I recommended Judge Hall, then Vermont's U.S. Attorney and a Republican, to serve on the Second Circuit because he was the most qualified. During his 17-year tenure on the panel, Judge Hall was a fine jurist. He was fair and kind to all litigants before him, and was always humble. His passing, at just age 72, was a loss to not just Vermont, but also to the Federal judiciary at large.

In 2009, I proudly recommended Christina Reiss to be a judge for the District Court of Vermont. We have a very small district court with a State of our size. With her confirmation, Judge Reiss became the first woman to serve on the District Court of Vermont. And, like Judge Hall, she has served as a model of fairness and impartiality on the bench ever since.

Judge Robinson is a trailblazer herself. As a tireless champion for LGBTQ rights, she successfully litigated the landmark Baker v. Vermont decision, which led to Vermont becoming the first ever State to enact civil unions in the United States. Beth's advocacy served as a blueprint for the successful advancement of LGBTQ rights across the country, securing her place as one of the first pioneers in the national movement for LGBTQ rights.

Her smart and steady approach and her unimpeachable reputation won her

allies across the political spectrum in Vermont. In 2011, she was appointed by Governor Peter Shumlin to serve as a justice on the Vermont Supreme Court—that is a five-member court—a position to which she was confirmed unanimously by the Vermont Senate. She became the first openly gay Vermont Supreme Court justice, breaking yet another barrier. Now, today, Judge Robinson is the first openly gay female judge to serve in our Federal circuit courts.

While on the Vermont Supreme Court, Judge Robinson seamlessly traded her advocate's cap for that of an impartial jurist. She is a consensus builder. Her unwavering commitment to the neutral application of the law was second-to-none on the Vermont Supreme Court; it is a commitment I know she brings with her to the Second Circuit.

When I recommended to President Biden that he nominate Beth Robinson to the Second Circuit, there was such an outpouring of support from all corners of Vermont. The membership of the Vermont Supreme Court—justices appointed by both Democratic and Republican Governors—signed a strong letter of support for her nomination. They were joined by prominent Republicans and Democrats from all around the State, underscoring just how widely respected she was for her reputation as an impartial and independent jurist.

When Judge Robinson was confirmed in the Senate with bipartisan support, I celebrated. Judge Robinson is a Vermonter who has dedicated her life to the causes of justice and equality. She is a Vermonter who embodies our State's highest ideals, who brings fairness, independence, and integrity on the Second Circuit.

Next week, along the shores of Lake Champlain, friends, family, State leaders, fellow lawyers, and many more Vermonters will gather to celebrate the investiture of Vermont's newest judge on the Second Circuit. Vermonters can be assured that Judge Robinson will continue to be guided by the same principles that have brought her this far. Marcelle and I are two Vermonters who are proud that, once again, we are breaking barriers and making history, now with the investiture of Judge Beth Robinson on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Missouri.

STUDENT LOAN FORGIVENESS

Mr. BLUNT. Madam President, I want to talk a little bit about the whole idea of loan forgiveness, student debt forgiveness. I have spoken many times on the floor about the importance of higher education—both college education and apprenticeships and other kinds of work preparation. I was the first person in my family to ever graduate from college, and later was the president of the university. And it is important, there is no doubt about that.

I have often also talked about one of the reasons I think our system works so well is in post-World War II America, we have not tried to run higher education; we have tried to encourage and support higher education.

You could use your student benefits, whether they were student loans or VA benefits or other benefits, at any accredited institution, and the Federal Government doesn't decide what is an accredited institution.

I think the way that we have found that balance has been really important for higher education. I think it is why we have the best higher education in the world, but I think the balance is one that we ought to be thinking about maintaining.

We should be concerned when we begin to get into that balance in a way that the government does more than it should do or, frankly, less than it should do.

This is the 50th anniversary of the Pell Grant Program. I have been a big supporter of Pell grants. I know you have too.

And during the time we have worked here together, we have expanded Pell grants to year-round Pell grants. One of the great ways to keep college costs down is to finish. If you have got a pattern that is working, particularly if you are a first-time college student in your family or an adult that has gone back to school, if you have got something that is working and you can keep it working, we ought to do that.

There was about a 10-year period where we had two semesters of Pell grants and then there was a summer without Pell grants, that didn't really work out all that well. And every higher education person I know believes we did a really great thing by going back to year-round Pell.

We have also increased the Pell grant award. In fact, in the last 7 years, we have increased the annual individual award by over \$1,000—\$1,120. We have reinstated year-round Pell.

The Pell grant is targeted. It is targeted to people who need help going to school. When we were talking, I think very wrongly, about free higher education—which I think would really be expensive if you had free higher education and the government became the payer. I have said the Pell grant is really the way to adjust that.

If the Pell grant is not high enough, Congress can raise it. If the income levels are not high enough, if you had to have higher income levels or lower income levels to get the full Pell or partial Pell, Congress can do that as well.

I think the one thing that would be a mistake here would be to ask the taxpayers of America to now pay the loans off of other Americans who made those loans. The President is talking about the potential, at least the administration is, of forgiving up to \$10,000 in student loans for everyone who has a student loan and makes less than \$150,000.

You know, a lot of Americans make less than \$150,000. I think the median

family income in America today is under \$70,000, but, suddenly, for those who make under \$150,000, we would be giving them \$10,000. And what did they get for that \$10,000?

They went to school. They got an education. They had choices they made as they did that, and we will talk about that in a minute. And also the legal problems here. You know, the President has said in the past that he didn't think he had the legal authority to forgive these loans. The Speaker of the House has said in the past that she didn't think the President had the legal authority to forgive these loans.

And by the way, there is a way to get the legal authority—I will talk about that in a minute, too—coming to you and I with a proposal to give them the authority to do that.

Even the New York Times Editorial Board says that loan forgiveness is—this is their quote—“legally dubious, economically unsound, politically fraught, and educationally problematic.” Those are pretty good reasons not to do it. The best one would be the “legally dubious” one, and the President himself has thought that was the case in the past.

You know, 87 percent of Americans don't have a student loan. The President is telling them, frankly, we are going to forgive the loans for the 13 percent that the other 87 percent don't have.

People who decided not to go to college wouldn't get that \$10,000, neither would those who avoided loans by attending a more affordable school, working harder part time, doing the things that lots and lots of people have done to get through school.

The same is true of people who have gotten out of school, and as they are paying off their loans, they have sacrificed vacations or better cars or bigger houses or other things to pay the student loan that they agreed to pay back when they took it.

So the President's plan disproportionately would benefit people who are in the upper income group, the top 40 percent of American households hold 60 percent of the student loans.

The bottom 40 percent have less than 20 percent of the student loans. If you were going to talk about this at all, maybe we should be talking about the bottom 40 percent of incomes, not essentially the top 40 percent of incomes, which an across-the-board forgiveness of debt—and, by the way, that \$150,000 would generally be in that higher percent.

Student loan forgiveness under the President's plan would largely benefit people who, frankly, you could argue, just don't need the benefit as well as many other American families and American individuals do.

The Federal Reserve Bank of New York estimates that student loan forgiveness could be as much as \$320 or \$350 billion. That is on top of the \$100 billion that we already have cost the system by stepping back, maybe for

too long, but certainly stepping back during COVID, and telling people they didn't have to make their loan payments.

To put that in some perspective, that amount of money, \$320 billion and another \$100 billion, would fund the entire Pell Grant Program for about a decade and a half.

So we ought to think about what we are doing here, how we are doing it. I think this plan would actually not drive college costs down; it would logically drive college costs up because colleges, just like students, would be told, when people make these loans, pay the school for the education they are getting, there is a good chance they won't have to pay it back, and there is a good chance we would have more income during this period of time.

It is more likely that you would have higher college costs and you would have people borrowing more money and borrowing it quicker than they currently do because we actually would be setting the precedent that there is a real chance you won't have to pay this back.

That is not a good precedent to set. What Americans really need right now is relief from the crushing inflation we see, not more bad policies that put more money into the economy and drive inflation to an even greater height.

President Biden has been bragging, frankly, about how strong our economy is and how low unemployment is. Well, if that is true, why do we need to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on a program that is unfair, that disproportionately helps upper income Americans? You know, it is either the strongest job market since World War II, which the President said just recently, or he has also said that this economy is the strongest economy we have ever had.

It is either that, or it is an economy in such rough shape that people can't pay their loans. Now, it really can't be both. And we are sending all kinds of messages here we don't need to send and, frankly, I think the administration shouldn't really want to send.

People made the decision to invest in their education. They borrowed money to do it. The initial plan was that people would borrow money, and as they paid it back, that money would be available for the next generation of people who wanted to borrow money.

If that had worked out that way, we would still be working off some of the first dollars that went into these student loan payments and student loan programs.

If we say that this select special group of people who happen to have the exact kind of debt, at this exact moment, don't need to pay it back later, I think that is the more logical thing that would happen. What if we say that this group doesn't have to pay their debt so maybe we should figure out other groups shouldn't have to pay their debt?

If it is a good economic policy not to pay your student debt, what if we de-

cide we are not going to pay people's car loan debt, or we are not going to pay people's mortgage debt, or we are not going to pay people's credit card bills if they are somehow out of control?

There are ways to deal with that in the legal system, but government forgiveness is not one of them. The same arguments really apply to forgiving those debts as would apply to forgiving college debts.

If the President thinks it is a good idea, as I mentioned before, he could write a piece of legislation, hand it to one of his friends in the Congress and let us work through the process. Let's make the case as to why these debts should be forgiven.

Let's debate which other competing priority is less important than forgiving these debts. You know, we have spent a lot of time acting like the money is not money that you have to take from somewhere else to use for a current purpose. And I think we are all realizing just how untrue that is.

The President hasn't sent that legislation up. In fact, the President in his budget didn't even suggest that loan forgiveness should be part of his budget. It is not in legislation. It is not in the appropriations budget. It is not a priority in anything the administration has put out there for us to debate and talk about.

We just had a hearing this week with the Secretary of Education about the education budget request. There was nothing in that request about specific student loan proposals. I really hope that the administration will pause, will think about this, will understand the overall impact of effectively suddenly deciding we are going to put \$321 billion or so dollars back into the economy that otherwise would be coming back into the Treasury as the debt repayment that those individuals have agreed to do.

We have got ways to help people go to school. We have got ways to debate whether or not this is a good priority to forgive loans, but I take the President's original position, which is the President doesn't have the authority to do that.

I agree with the Speaker of the House's original position that the President doesn't have the authority to do this. If the President wants to make the case, let him make it right here, and that will be a debate that I think would be worth having.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

TRIBUTE TO JOHN LOHRKE

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I want to thank my colleague from Missouri. And I will just mention here in the Senate his leadership on so many issues are really going to be missed. Maybe he will reconsider his decision to leave this august body, which is going to be a lot less—a lot less of an institution that thinks hard about these difficult issues when he is gone.

So I want to thank Senator BLUNT for all he has done. He is a great friend of mine, so we are going to miss him.

It is Thursday, and once again it is an opportunity for me to talk about our Alaskan of the week.

Now, I know that our pages—the new pages, they are going to really realize this is probably one of the most exciting, interesting speeches of the week. Some of our friends in the media even like it because it is end of the week. I get to brag about Alaska and talk about someone who is doing something really great for our State, maybe their community, maybe the country, maybe the world, right?

We have all kinds who do this.

I always like to talk a little bit about what is going on in Alaska first.

So it is amazing how quickly the seasons go by because it is almost summer solstice in the State. That is when the Sun rarely sets across any part of Alaska and the State is filled with life, filled with energy. You can feel it when you come up. Hopefully, we get a lot of tourists this summer. I know we are going to get a lot. A lot of people want to get up to Alaska, particularly after the pandemic. You can feel it in the air when you are there, this sense of energy and excitement.

So our tourists are there now. They are seeing spectacular scenery, wildlife, glaciers, our salmon-choked streams. They will be able to hike through thousands of miles of State and Federal parks, climb mountains, fly through the skies, and some are even there to watch baseball. Yes, baseball.

Now, maybe not the Braves, but still good baseball. Now, I know that is going to sound odd to some people. Now, wait a minute. Going up to Alaska to watch baseball probably isn't the first thing that comes to many people's minds when they think about Alaska.

But diehard American baseball fans know that Alaska has played a fundamental role in America's pastime. They know how important Alaska summers are and have been for decades, taking young college students with raw but exceptional talent and growing them under the midnight Sun into seasoned professional Major League Baseball players.

This is the Alaska Baseball League, one of the premiere amateur collegiate summer baseball leagues that anybody plays anywhere in America.

Let me give you just a few—and I mean a few—of those who have come up through the Alaska Baseball League. It has produced some of Major League Baseball's most well known All-Stars, including Mark McGwire, Barry Bonds, Tom Seaver, Dave Winfield, and Randy Johnson, just to name a few.

The Alaska Baseball League is sometimes composed of five teams, sometimes six—two teams in Anchorage, one in Palmer, one in Chugiak-Eagle River, one in Kenai.

And then there is a team, a very famous team, in Fairbanks—the oldest

and most storied of them all—which I am going to focus on today.

It is the Fairbanks Goldpanners; and the team's general manager, who is our Alaskan of the Week, John Lohrke, makes the baseball magic of Alaska happen.

So, first, a few words about John's background. He was raised in a baseball family. His father, Jack Lohrke—Lucky Lohrke, as baseball fans might know him—was a World War II veteran who landed on Omaha Beach 6 days after D-day, fought his way across Europe, survived many near-death experiences in combat and even back home; hence the name "Lucky."

After the military, Jack played baseball as a third baseman for the New York Giants and the Philadelphia Phillies.

After Jack Lohrke retired, his family moved to California, but, as I said, baseball is in the Lohrke family's blood.

Our Alaskan of the Week, John, had an older brother, who was drafted by the Red Sox, and John himself got into the game administratively. As a college student at Santa Clara, he began helping his college team behind the scenes.

In 1980, the Santa Clara coach was going to Alaska to coach the North Pole Nicks. John thought that that sounded great and asked if he could come. He did, he fell in love with Alaska and stayed, like so many in our State.

He managed the Nicks for 7 years, then was the president of another team, the Oilers, on Alaska's beautiful Kenai Peninsula; then it was back to the interior part of the State, where John stayed involved with baseball as a board member of the Goldpanners.

In 2016, he became president of the board, and now he is the general manager of the Goldpanners in Fairbanks, the person in charge of making it all happen. And what a responsibility and what a team and what a history and what a legacy of excellence John has been part of.

Since its founding in 1960, the Goldpanners have had over 211 players that have gone on to the major leagues. Isn't that remarkable—211 players? A pipeline into the major leagues from Fairbanks, AK. Who knew? And that doesn't include the countless others who went on to be coaches or general managers or scouts.

The current Cleveland Guardians manager played for the Goldpanners. The current pitching coach for the Red Sox is also a Goldpanner alumnus. As I mentioned, the Goldpanners are one of the premier pipelines into the major leagues.

One of the highlights of the season in Alaska, something that is happening very soon—actually, this Tuesday—is when the Goldpanners play their most famous game. It is the Midnight Sun game, and it is played every summer on the summer solstice.

The tradition of the Midnight Sun game in Fairbanks goes way, way back.

The first one of these games was played in 1906. Americans have been playing midnight baseball in Alaska well over 100 years, and now this game is famous—worldwide. It is a must-do bucket list game for baseball enthusiasts all across America. Thousands of people, many of whom come from across the globe, will gather for this game this Tuesday, as they do every summer in Fairbanks.

Now, this game is a culmination of a dizzying array of activities that occur in Fairbanks. Right now, parties, street festivals, a famed Midnight Sun Run. Fairbanks—a great city. My wife was born and raised there—is known for its spirit, generosity, and on the summer solstice weekend, that spirit explodes. I will be heading there tomorrow. I am going to partake in some of these festivities, including taking in a Goldpanners game and maybe, as I usually do, join the many runners in the Midnight Sun Run, where I have been known to bring up the rear of all the runners. We will see what happens.

But for Tuesday night's Midnight Sun game this year, the Goldpanners will be playing the San Diego Waves. The game starts at 10 p.m. in Growden Park and goes until the wee hours.

With Fairbanks just 150 miles south of the Arctic Circle, the Sun just begins to set in the north a little bit as the game gets underway but never fully goes down under the horizon, and as the game ends, the Sun is actually starting to rise again.

As one sports writer put it: "It is the stuff that baseball dreams are made of."

And it is never dark. And throughout its century-long history, artificial lights have never been used ever—not once.

John Lohrke, our Alaskan of the Week, understands how important that particular game is to the larger culture of baseball, not just to Fairbanks and the interior. He understands how important the Goldpanners team is for all of Alaska, for Fairbanks, but for baseball writ large.

Since starting in as a manager, he has put more money into the stadium to spruce it up. There are a lot of pictures of some of the great alumni there that I mentioned earlier in my remarks. He is constantly in touch with members of the business community who help sponsor and support the team.

He is in charge of getting housing for the 24-member team and the coaches, many of whom are talented athletes who come up to Alaska from the lower 48 for the summer.

He is in charge of transportation needs. He is in charge of the vendors and ticket sales and the beer garden. He is in charge of making all of this run smoothly for Fairbanks, for the team he loves, and for the love of baseball.

"I love Fairbanks," he said. "And I love baseball. It's in my blood," and this is where it happens.

So thanks to all the Goldpanner players and the community that sup-

ports the team. Thank you, John, for all you do to make it happen to bring us together to keep baseball alive. Congratulations for being our Alaskan of the Week.

(Mr. WARNOCK assumed the Chair.)

TRIBUTE TO LIZ BANICKI

Mr. President, I just talked about our Alaskan of the Week. I am going to mention another Alaskan who deserves really, really great praise. It is with a heavy heart that this week Team Sullivan will be losing a critical member of our staff in the wonderful staffer Liz Banicki, who is moving on to the private sector to help veterans, a group she has worked tirelessly for during her time in my office.

Liz is from Eagle River, AK. She is a Chugiak High School graduate. She graduated from the University of Portland with a degree in political science and German studies. She received two Fulbrights to study, first in Germany and then Austria, but her heart has always remained in Alaska.

She interned for the late, great Congressman Don Young before joining my campaign in 2014, my first election. She did a great job. Then she came to Washington with my team, and she is a member of what we call in our office the OG—been there from the beginning.

Liz's story is a story of success, and it has been an honor to watch her hard work and all she has done for me, my team, and most importantly, Alaskans.

She began with focusing on veterans and then expanded her role to take on foreign policy and homeland security and trade and fisheries.

In the process, she became one of the most impressive staffers in the whole U.S. Senate—I am a little biased, but I think it is true—on all of these diverse issues. It is a marvel listening to her explain, for example, fish import trade codes—so many of which she knows by heart.

She also understands and has worked the power of networking that has helped her do her job so well. She knows countless people in think tanks, the private sector back home, in embassies, and in the White House; and that has helped her get the job done for Alaska.

That is Liz's ethos: Getting the job done.

Now, we all know these jobs take a lot of hours. Liz puts in those hours. I can't tell you how many nights I have left the office 9:30, 10 p.m., and I will walk past Liz's office—she is still there working in front of her computer, on the phone, making sure our veterans get the help they need; working on banning Russian fish from being imported to the U.S.; assisting refugees trying to get out of Afghanistan, which she worked tirelessly on; working on my bill to deter China from invading Taiwan—I could go on and on and on.

Now, we all know, having staff, they will push back on occasion when they don't agree with the direction of their boss. It is something that can be difficult but necessary. And I don't think

that anybody would accuse Liz of being shy from pushing back. She knows her mind, and she speaks it, and she has done an exceptional job in my office; and most importantly, she has helped thousands and thousands of Alaskans.

So I just want to thank her for her dedication to her State, her country, and to our office. We are going to miss her very much.

Good luck, Liz. You will always be a part of "Team Sullivan."

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

HONORING OUR PACT ACT OF 2021

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I rise today in support of a piece of legislation with a very long name: the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring Our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022, also known as the PACT Act—P-A-C-T, PACT Act.

This historic legislation will improve and expand access to VA healthcare to our Nation's veterans, including upwards of 3½ million post-9/11 veterans. It is going to save lives.

Let me say that again. It is going to save lives and, hopefully, a lot of them. It is going to better ensure that our Nation lives up to the promise from President Lincoln's second inaugural address. You recall, he said "to care for those who have borne the battle"—to care for those who have borne the battle.

During his first State of the Union earlier this year, President Biden called on Congress to prioritize taking care of our veterans who were exposed to burn pits and other toxic materials while serving overseas in a number of theaters, Iraq and Afghanistan among them.

Today, I am proud to say that Congress has answered that call, as well as the call of our Nation's veterans service organizations, affectionately known as our VSOs. Those VSOs, veterans' advocates, and military families, many of whom have lost their loved ones, have organized and fought for this bill for years.

President Biden likes to say "all politics is personal." He also says that all diplomacy is personal. I think he is right on both accounts.

This issue is personal for our President, and it is personal for me as well as it is for hundreds of thousands of other American families. MAJ Beau Biden, Delaware's former attorney general, served in the Delaware National Guard for more than a decade, including a yearlong deployment to Iraq on Active Duty.

I was privileged to have served as the commander-in-chief of the Delaware National Guard for 8 years during my time as Governor, and I have enormous respect for the men and women who serve today and have served in the Delaware National Guard.

Over the past two decades, I have attended countless deployment ceremonies in New Castle County, and

Dover as well, for our soldiers, airmen, and their families and also assemblies when we welcomed them home, safe and sound.

Like many military parents at these sendoffs and welcome-home ceremonies, the Bidens did not know when their son would return. They didn't know for sure if he was going to make it back when our Nation sent him off to Iraq. I believe it was in late 2008. And they did not know, even if their son did make it back, whether he would carry with him the physical and emotional wounds of war that we sometimes can sustain.

As it turned out, Beau Biden, a young man I had known ever since he was a little kid, appeared to make it home back to Delaware healthy and whole at the completion of his tour in 2009.

I didn't know it at the time, but Beau and his unit spent several months at a place called Camp Victory and Joint Base Balad in the shadows of toxic burn pits that operated for 24 hours a day.

Several years later, in 2015, at the age of 46, Beau Biden would pass away after battling aggressive brain cancer. We couldn't prove it then, and to be totally honest, we can't prove it absolutely today; but the sudden onset of terminal cancer may well have been the result of toxic exposure while he was serving overseas.

This story is all too common amongst veterans of the post-9/11 generation, including SFC Heath Robinson, for whom this bill is named. A member of the Ohio Army National Guard, Sergeant First Class Robinson was deployed to Kosovo, where he experienced prolonged exposure to burn pits.

Before I go any further, let me just take a moment to describe what a burn pit is. Burn pits are large areas of land—oftentimes bigger than a football field—that are used to burn a number of things including trash and other waste products at military installations overseas. The waste is oftentimes soaked in jet fuel and then set ablaze in open-air burn pits, releasing toxins into the air in the surrounding area.

Waste burned in these pits includes chemicals, includes paint, includes medical and human waste, includes metal and aluminum cans, plastic, rubber, ammunition, just to name a few of the things. Exposure to the smoke that resulted from these burn pits often caused servicemembers to experience burning of their eyes or throat, as well as difficulty in breathing, and rashes, too. The toxic smoke could be contaminated with lead; it could be contaminated with mercury and irritant gases that could negatively impact an individual's lungs, liver, and stomach.

As many as 3½ million servicemembers, including Sergeant First Class Robinson, were exposed to toxic burn pits while serving in Iraq or Afghanistan or some other country.

After his service, Sergeant First Class Robinson was diagnosed with a

rare autoimmune disorder and stage IV—stage IV—lung cancer. His oncologist said that the rare stage IV cancer that he had been diagnosed with could only have been caused by prolonged toxic exposure. And yet, for years, healthy, young veterans like Sergeant First Class Robinson have continued to contract rare cancers and diseases. They then come home, only to fight a new battle: a battle that involves endless paperwork and claims, all to prove a service connection that almost certainly did exist or does exist.

Sergeant First Class Robinson died last year. He left behind a wife, Danielle, and a daughter who at the time was 6 years old. Her name is Brielle.

Brielle actually wrote a note to me, not in cursive but printed, and it looks like it was printed with a crayon. Here is what the note essentially says: "Vote yes to my Dad's bill"—or vote yes for my Dad's bill.

Well, Brielle, if you are at home and watching this today, I want you to know that I am going to take your advice, and I have taken your advice. And I hope one day to meet you and your mom. And thank you for being involved in a very good cause and for sharing your Dad with all of us.

Please know that your dad's service was a gift to our country and that the bill—the piece of legislation that bears your father's name—is going to make a positive difference not for a few people, not for a few military families, but literally for millions of military families.

My own generation of Vietnam veterans had a similar experience to toxic exposures as the post 9/11-generation of veterans. I have been privileged to serve our country in my State in many different roles, but there is no greater privilege than serving in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve for a total of 23 years after the Reserve duty.

After graduating from Ohio State right at the height of the Vietnam war in 1968 on a Navy ROTC scholarship, I would later serve three tours on Active Duty in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war as a Naval flight officer. My squadron, a unit of the Seventh Fleet, flew a wide variety of missions, including low-level surveillance operations off the coast of Vietnam and Cambodia, searching for, among other things, infiltrator trawlers disguised as fishing boats attempting to resupply the Viet Cong in their efforts to overthrow our ally, the government of South Vietnam.

Following my time on Active Duty, I spent another 18 years as a Navy P-3 Aircraft mission commander in the Naval Reserves. Barely a month after flying my last P-3 mission in the summer of 1991 and retiring as a Navy captain, I led, at the behest of then-President George Herbert Walker Bush, I led—I was privileged to lead—a bipartisan, six-Member congressional delegation of Vietnam veterans back to Southeast Asia.

Among our six Members was Congressman Pete Peterson, a former Air

Force pilot who was shot down over North Vietnam and spent years as a POW in the "Hanoi Hilton." He later would become the U.S. Ambassador to a united Vietnam.

The six of us went to Vietnam because veterans service organizations were convinced—because they were convinced that hundreds, maybe thousands, of MIAs, missing in action, from the Vietnam war were being held in captivity in that part of the world. We believed that their families deserved to know for sure, with certainty, to have closure in finding out what happened to their loved ones whose bodies were never recovered.

Like many of my colleagues, I come from a military family. My family knows what it is like to lose a loved one to war. My mother's youngest brother, my Uncle Bob, Robert Kidd Patton, died in 1944 at the age of 19 during a kamikaze attack on his aircraft carrier in the western Pacific.

My grandmother is a Gold Star mother. My Uncle Bob's body was never recovered or returned home to the country he served. My family never knew what it meant to have, really, a sense of closure or finality. They never gave up. My grandma never gave up on him coming home someday. He never did.

So it means something to families like mine for our government to heed that moral obligation and stand up for military families still waiting to see their son or daughter brought home and brought home safely. It is that moral obligation to our MIAs and their families who led us to travel back to Vietnam in 1991, when we brought with us—and actually presented to the new leader of united Vietnam—we brought with us a road map from President George Herbert Walker Bush to normalize relations with Vietnam.

Among other things, the road map first called on the Vietnamese, who were meticulous recordkeepers—meticulous recordkeepers—to provide access to Vietnam's war museum records as well as to its archives so that our investigators might be able to search for clues to help resolve the mysteries of our MIAs' disappearance.

With the strong encouragement of our six-Member delegation and the tireless efforts of two Members of this body, Senator John McCain and Senator John Kerry, the Vietnamese decided to take this step, and telecommunications were restored between our two countries—and, later, a full diplomatic relations.

That same moral obligation that led us to make progress in Vietnam leads us here today. Our moral obligation extends beyond providing closure to families of the fallen. It extends to the veterans and families who need healthcare, who are still dealing with the wounds of war—both visible and invisible—long after they leave the battlefield.

The same year we traveled to Vietnam, Congress came together and

passed the Agent Orange Act to care for the hundreds of thousands of Vietnam veterans who were exposed to that toxic herbicide in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam war.

I believe that many of us would agree it took too long—far too long—for that bill to be enacted. Finally, after too many heart and nervous system complications, deadly cancer diagnoses, and even birth defects in the children of Vietnam veterans, Congress did the right thing.

The bill before us today also took too long to be enacted. Today, Congress has once again done the right thing. As I mentioned earlier, over the last two decades, throughout Iraq and Afghanistan, too many of our veterans lived and worked alongside these massive toxic burn pits that I talked about earlier.

Hundreds of thousands of square feet of open-air disposal sites where plastics and jet fuel, chemicals and human waste, were burned daily producing toxic black plumes and bringing harmful chemicals into the lungs of unsuspecting servicemembers. The time has come to take care of these veterans—those who have borne the battle.

This legislation, the PACT Act, will enhance and expand VA healthcare and benefits for toxic-exposed veterans. Specifically, this bill will provide VA healthcare to the estimated 3½ million post-9/11 veterans who have experienced toxic exposures.

This bill establishes a presumption of service connection for 23 conditions that are related to toxic exposures and improves the process by which the VA may add presumptions in the future. Additionally, the bill will expand VA research on toxic exposure. It will provide toxic exposure screenings at appointments, and it will provide additional training to VA healthcare workers and benefits personnel.

I have spent a considerable amount of time discussing the importance of this bill. Others have been here today before me and earlier this week. I am proud to have supported it. I know my colleagues feel the same way. Having said that, I also believe that we may have missed an opportunity to consider some amendments that would have improved the bill and, importantly, would have paid for its considerable pricetag.

In addition to being a recovering Governor—my colleagues have different names to describe me; a lot of them call me a recovering Governor, and I am a recovering Governor—I am also a recovering State treasurer of Florida. I have long believed that, if something is worth doing, then it is worth paying for. I will say that again. If things are worth doing, they are worth paying for. I understand that taking care of our veterans is a cost of war, but these costs should be paid for.

That is why I filed an amendment to have the Department of Defense identify savings to pay for the cost of this bill.

I also filed amendments that address Albert Einstein's definition of "insanity." Einstein is famous for saying many things, but one of those is with regard to insanity. He describes insanity as "doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result."

What does that mean?

In this instance, it means that, if servicemembers are repeatedly being exposed to toxic chemicals across new generations, we have to do something on the front end to reduce toxic exposures instead of always playing catch-up decades later as we are doing now.

That is why we should be giving the Department of Defense the tools it needs to track toxic exposures more closely. Our servicemembers deserve the ability to report toxic exposures in realtime and to be protected from them. I believe these commonsense ideas may actually provide long-term savings for the taxpayer and will lead to healthier outcomes for our veterans.

Finally, while we are not offsetting the cost of this legislation today, it does not mean that we shouldn't provide vigorous oversight of this new funding. That is why I filed another amendment to enhance the requirement that the Secretary of Veterans Affairs provide annual spending plans to Congress as well as to require both the VA inspector general and the Government Accountability Office to report to Congress on implementation—an important step.

My hope is that one or maybe all of these ideas could be included in future legislation later this year, and I look forward to working with our colleagues on improving this important bill as we move forward.

In having said that, let me close by just reiterating what I said at the beginning. This is a historic bill for our Nation's veterans. It does right by an entire generation of veterans who have defended our Nation over the past two decades. It is going to bring millions of new veterans into the VA for their healthcare, including mental health care. These new benefits, which our veterans earned through their service to our Nation, are going to make a real difference for our veterans and their families.

As the last serving Vietnam veteran now serving in the U.S. Senate, I am proud to have supported this bill.

I want to thank and commend our colleagues who lead the Senate's Veterans' Affairs Committee—Senator TESTER and Senator MORAN—and their staffs and others for working together to shepherd this bipartisan bill through the legislative process.

I want to thank our veterans service organizations—those VSOs I mentioned earlier—and the countless advocates who helped to make this legislation possible.

I want to thank the young lady who wrote this note. She was kind enough to send it to me and to encourage me to support this legislation named after her father.

With that, I look forward to the President of the United States signing the PACT Act into law very soon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 973, 974, and 997; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the nominations of Jaime E. Lizarraga, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2027; Mark Toshiro Uyeda, of California, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2023; and Naz Durakoglu, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs) en bloc?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

NOTICE OF A TIE VOTE UNDER S. RES. 27

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to print the following letter in the RECORD.

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

To the Secretary of the Senate:

PN1975, the nomination of Steven M. Dettelbach, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, having been referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, the Committee, with a quorum present, has voted on the nomination as follows—

(1) on the question of reporting the nomination favorably with the recommendation that the nomination be confirmed, 11 ayes to 11 noes; and

In accordance with section 3, paragraph (1)(A) of S. Res. 27 of the 117th Congress, I hereby give notice that the Committee has not reported the nomination because of a tie vote, and ask that this notice be printed in the RECORD pursuant to the resolution.

DICK DURBIN

JUNETEENTH

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, this Sunday, we commemorate the 157th Juneteenth, a portmanteau of June and the nineteenth, which celebrates the liberation of the last remaining enslaved Black Americans at the end of the Civil War. This is our newest Federal holiday, which we will observe on Monday, but African-American communities have celebrated Juneteenth as Emancipation Day, Jubilee Day, or Black Independence Day as far back as 1886 in Texas.

On this date in 1865, U.S. Army Major General Gordon Granger arrived at a Confederate outpost in Galveston, TX, where he delivered the news of Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation to 250,000 still-enslaved Texans. Many United States Colored Troops—USCT—who fought for freedom and to preserve the Union, accompanied Granger. Lincoln had issued the Emancipation Proclamation, which granted Black Americans their freedom, 2 years earlier. Robert E. Lee had surrendered to U.S. Army Lt. General Ulysses Grant 2 months earlier at Appomattox.

In my home State of Maryland, abolitionists Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman paved the way for future civil rights activists by risking their lives to help bring enslaved people to freedom. Their work has had a profound impact on our community and on Maryland's rich cultural history.

African-American history is American history. We all must learn the lessons of Juneteenth and understand how our lives have been changed because of it. We cannot celebrate the freedoms brought forth on Juneteenth without acknowledging there was slavery in the United States of America. Slavery is a part of American history. The Constitution originally protected slavery through the fugitive slave clause and three-fifths clause.

We cannot and should not hide from these facts or try to erase them from our history books or suppress them in our classrooms.

In Maryland, we often look to the work of Justice Thurgood Marshall, who spent his life fighting for the rights of Black Americans and trying to reverse systemic discrimination. Marshall, arguing before the Supreme Court in *Brown v. Board of Education* and later serving as the first African-American Associate Justice on the Court, set a precedent for future generations of Black men and women that even the highest honors are within their reach. The Senate recently confirmed Ketanji Brown Jackson to be the first Black woman on the Supreme Court.

While Thurgood Marshall was an inspiration, his work of reversing sys-

temic racism is far from complete. It is our responsibility as a Nation to continue the work Justice Marshall and activists like him started. Though we have made progress, the fight for racial justice will never be complete until we have achieved equitable treatment for people of all races and can truly guarantee equality of opportunity. The pursuit of racial justice will ensure that we live up to our Nation's promise of equality for all people, regardless of the color of their skin.

Countering systemic racism and advancing racial justice should be a daily occurrence. We must learn from our past, actively challenge our own prejudices, and take conscious steps to dismantle the racist structures embedded in our society.

On President Biden's first day in office, he signed an Executive order entitled "Advancing Racial Equity and Support from Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government." The President directed Federal Agencies to assess how their programs and policies might be perpetuating systemic barriers to opportunity and to propose Equity Action Plans that contain specific Agency commitments to redress inequities and promote equitable outcomes in communities.

The Biden-Harris administration has already taken numerous steps to expand opportunities for African-Americans. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law permanently reauthorizes the Minority Business Development Agency for the first time and enhances its authority. The administration has stepped up its efforts to combat racial discrimination in the housing market and to help African-Americans get fair treatment when it comes to staying in their homes and on their farms and receiving disaster assistance after tragedy strikes.

In particular, as the pandemic exacerbated preexisting racial disparities, the administration took strong steps to improve outcomes for African-Americans with respect to education, healthcare, and transportation.

As we commemorate this historic holiday, I encourage all Americans to reflect on the many lessons of the story of Juneteenth and commit ourselves to the pursuit of racial justice and reconciliation. If we do that, individually and collectively, Juneteenth truly will become a Jubilee.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING VERYL SWITZER

• Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the life of Mr. Veryl Switzer of Nicodemus, KS.

I stand before you today to mourn the loss of a Kansas State University great, Veryl Switzer. While many may know of Veryl through his football career, his legacy and impact on the University extend far past the gridiron. He

came to Manhattan, KS, on a football scholarship in 1950 and would go on to be one of the most well-rounded players in the history of the program. An All-American from 1951 to 1953, Veryl led the team in practically every statistical category on offense and, to this day, still ranks in the top 10 for many punt-return categories. Veryl's athletic achievements were not limited to the football field, as he was the Big Seven Indoor Long Jump champion in 1952. Following an illustrious career for the Wildcats, Veryl would be selected by the Green Bay Packers with the fourth overall pick in the 1954 NFL Draft.

Veryl led the NFL in punt return average during his rookie season, but would step away from the Green Bay Packers after just 24 games to serve in the U.S. Air Force. After his time in the military, Veryl played two more seasons of professional football in Canada. He would then go on to work for the Chicago Board of Education for 10 years before making his way back to Kansas State University. Once back at K-State, Veryl developed the first university wide student-minority program, where many campus groups such as the Black Student Union, Ebony Theater, and United Black Voices still exist due to his efforts. A member of both the K-State athletics hall of fame and the football team's ring of honor, Veryl's legacy will continue to live on through the hearts and minds of his family, friends, and K-State fans across the country.

I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful life and career of Mr. Veryl Switzer. A true inspiration to the State of Kansas, fighting ever fighting for a Wildcat victory.●

RECOGNIZING BEANS CAFE AND BAKERY

● Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Beans Cafe and Bakery of Dry Ridge, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

The road to entrepreneurial success is rarely a straight and narrow path, as Richard Hayhoe and his wife could tell you. The couple moved to northern Kentucky from Canada in 2010, intent on flipping houses for a living. However, their dream of entering the housing market did not turn out as imagined and in 2011, opportunity presented itself. As Richard looked around his adopted hometown, he saw a struggling doughnut shop with a big "For Sale" sign posted, and decided to act. Thus, Richard Hayhoe's Beans Cafe and Bakery was born.

Opened in late 2011, Beans Cafe and Bakery offers some of the finest confections available in Kentucky. Between fresh donuts, muffins, and a va-

riety of other pastries, customers are not left wanting, as his store provides just about any morning pick-me-up one could hope for. In addition to keeping their ovens busy, Beans Cafe of course keeps their coffee pots full so that their regular customers can enjoy a fresh cup on their morning commute. Despite their name, Beans Cafe and Bakery is not just a popular breakfast site; it is a one-stop shop for any meal: breakfast, lunch, dinner, and dessert. Beans Cafe boasts a delicious menu of sandwiches on their signature bread, wraps, soups, and salads. Beans Cafe and Bakery also has plenty of options for dessert, including ice cream and hand-spun milkshakes perfect for a warm summer evening spent with family and friends.

Soon after Beans Cafe and Bakery opened their doors, residents of Dry Ridge came in droves. Oftentimes, Richard found their reputation preceded them, as local hotel and bed-and-breakfast owners insisted their travelers make time for Beans Cafe. When the Ark Encounter exhibit opened nearby in 2016, that new flood of visitors helped to propel an already growing business into a new phase of expansion, moving to a different location right off the highway. Beans Cafe and Bakery has only continued to grow since then, even opening up a separate kitchen space in order to meet the ever-growing demand for their delicious baked goods.

In addition to their excellence in the kitchen, Richard Hayhoe has made Beans Cafe and Bakery a place for community involvement, hosting a monthly get-together for Christians wanting to engage in the realm of public policy and local government. Beans Cafe and Bakery also offers classes for junior bakers, providing a fun and educational atmosphere for young children to learn about the baking craft.

When Richard Hayhoe came to Kentucky, he ventured south from his native land to pursue a career that he soon realized was not all that it was chalked up to be. Instead of giving up on Dry Ridge or Kentucky entirely, he stayed and made his home by opening a business that caters to its residents. Richard Hayhoe is the embodiment of the type of perseverance inherent to small business owners. That is why Beans Cafe and Bakery has seen such success; it is led by a dedicated and hard-working team who know how to treat their customers right. Congratulations to Richard and the entire team at Beans Cafe and Bakery. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Kentucky.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

At 1:39 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the Speaker has signed the following enrolled bill:

S. 4160. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to grant the Supreme Court of

the United States security-related authorities equivalent to the legislative and executive branches.

The enrolled bill was subsequently signed by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 4431. A bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 16, 2022, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 4160. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to grant the Supreme Court of the United States security-related authorities equivalent to the legislative and executive branches.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Sarah A. L. Merriam, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Lara E. Montecalvo, of Rhode Island, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Tiffany M. Cartwright, of Washington, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington.

Nina Nin-Yuen Wang, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Phillip A. Talbert, of California, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California 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. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 4415. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize and modify the Lake Champlain Basin Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 4416. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against tax for charitable donations to nonprofit organizations providing education scholarships to qualified elementary and secondary students; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, and Mr. TILLIS):

S. 4417. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to address matters relating to the Patent Trial and Appeal Board of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 4418. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for investment in Community Development Financial Institutions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 4419. A bill to require small, medium, and large hub airports to certify that airport service workers are paid the prevailing wage and provided fringe benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 4420. A bill to provide for advancements in carbon removal research, quantification, and commercialization, including by harnessing natural processes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 4421. A bill to protect Native cultural sites located on Federal land, to improve consultation with Indian Tribes, to bring parity to Indian Tribes with regard to Federal public land management laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, and Ms. SMITH):

S. 4422. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the low-income housing credit for rehabilitation expenditures for buildings achieving enhanced energy performance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH:

S. 4423. A bill to establish the Tribal Cultural Areas System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4424. A bill to amend the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to authorize sales and leases of certain Federal land to federally recognized Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4425. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a scholarship and loan repayment program to incentivize physicians to enter into the field of sickle cell disease research and treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself and Ms. HASSAN):

S. 4426. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify rules relating to beneficiaries of charitable remainder trusts; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself, Mr. MARSHALL, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. BRAUN, and Mr. DAINES):

S. 4427. A bill to amend sections 801 and 804 of title 5, United States Code, to include guidance issued by non-agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 4428. A bill to support the security of Taiwan and its right of self-determination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY):

S. 4429. A bill to amend the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act to support workers who are subject to an employment loss, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 4430. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. MURRAY, and Mr. BURR):

S. 4431. A bill to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition; read the first time.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4432. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to establish the Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Grant Program; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 4433. A bill to authorize amounts to be made available for improvements to the Coast Guard Yard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BROWN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4434. A bill to protect the privacy of personal reproductive or sexual health information, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. Res. 682. A resolution designating June 15, 2022, as "World Elder Abuse Awareness Day" and the month of June as "Elder Abuse Awareness Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. Res. 683. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 391

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of S. 391, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand

the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security.

S. 602

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 602, a bill to combat forced organ harvesting and trafficking in persons for purposes of the removal of organs, and for other purposes.

S. 642

At the request of Ms. BALDWIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 642, a bill to protect the rights of passengers with disabilities in air transportation, and for other purposes.

S. 650

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 650, a bill to enable the payment of certain officers and employees of the United States whose employment is authorized pursuant to a grant of deferred action, deferred enforced departure, or temporary protected status.

S. 1125

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1125, a bill to recommend that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 1544

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1544, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to streamline enrollment under the Medicaid program of certain providers across State lines, and for other purposes.

S. 1618

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, his name was added as a cosponsor of S. 1618, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow first responders to continue to exclude service-connected disability pension payments after reaching the age of retirement.

S. 2693

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2693, a bill to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to authorize additional projects related to the Salton Sea, and for other purposes.

S. 2700

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2700, a bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of mental health issues among public safety officers, and for other purposes.

S. 2974

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2974, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a Reducing Youth Use of E-Cigarettes Initiative.

S. 3571

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 3571, a bill to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 3959

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3959, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide the Secretary of Health and Human Services with the authority to suspend the right to introduce certain persons or property into the United States in the interest of the public health.

S. 4009

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) were added as cosponsors of S. 4009, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to rebase the calculation of payments for sole community hospitals and Medicare-dependent hospitals, and for other purposes.

S. 4030

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4030, a bill to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish a cattle contract library, and for other purposes.

S. 4105

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 4105, a bill to treat certain liquidations of new motor vehicle inventory as qualified liquidations of LIFO inventory for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 4202

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 4202, a bill to require an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to reports and recommendations made under the National Alzheimer's Project Act.

S. 4203

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4203, a bill to extend the National Alzheimer's Project.

S. 4303

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from New Hamp-

shire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4303, a bill to provide for a period of exclusivity for first interchangeable biological products.

S. 4325

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) were added as cosponsors of S. 4325, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 4352

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4352, a bill to require a study on the effects of travel nurse agencies on the health industry during the COVID-19 pandemic.

S. 4366

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4366, a bill to require the Secretary of Defense to seek to cooperate with allies and partners in the Middle East to identify an architecture and develop an acquisition approach for certain countries in the Middle East to implement an integrated air and missile defense capability to protect the people, infrastructure, and territory of such countries from cruise and ballistic missiles, manned and unmanned aerial system, and rocket attacks from Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 4369

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4369, a bill to allow States and local educational agencies to use any remaining COVID-19 elementary and secondary school emergency relief funds for school security measures.

S. 4409

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4409, a bill to prohibit providers of email services from using filtering algorithms to flag emails from political campaigns that consumers have elected to receive as spam.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 629

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 629, a resolution celebrating the 200th anniversary of United States diplomatic relations with Colombia.

AMENDMENT NO. 5086

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 5086 intended to be pro-

posed to H.R. 3967, a bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 4420. A bill to provide for advancements in carbon removal research, quantification, and commercialization, including by harnessing natural processes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the Carbon Removal and Emissions Storage Technologies Act, the CREST Act. I am pleased to be partnering with Senator CANTWELL on this bill. Our bipartisan bill would direct the Department of Energy to research and evaluate the feasibility of innovative carbon removal and storage pathways. The name the CREST Act alludes to the fact that we have reached the "crest" of our emissions and we must work to bring them down.

With more and more private and public sector commitments to reach net-zero emissions within certain timeframes, companies are scrambling to invest in quantifiable, durable, and verifiable carbon removal solutions. Microsoft, for example, has made a commitment to be carbon negative by 2030. Even though Microsoft plans to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by more than half, it will need to remove the rest of its carbon emissions. In order to do this, Microsoft plans to invest \$1 billion in carbon removal technologies, such as direct air capture, forestation, and carbon mineralization.

Despite the growing number of companies that are looking to offset their emissions, current cost estimates show that private sector investment alone will not be sufficient to research and deploy carbon removal pathways. I strongly supported the Energy Act of 2020, which authorized the first comprehensive Federal carbon removal research and development program, and the bipartisan infrastructure, which invested \$3.6 billion in direct air capture. Although these investments have been significant, more work is needed in further research, increased testing, and enhanced public-private partnerships to help aid in scaling carbon removal technologies.

The CREST Act would expand the Department of Energy's carbon removal research and development programs to include carbon removal pathways that can permanently sequester carbon dioxide or use carbon dioxide to produce biofuels or products. The key areas of focus for research and development in our legislation are biomass carbon removal and storage, geological removal, atmospheric and aquatic removal, carbon dioxide storage, and carbon dioxide removal quantification.

Our legislation also aims to accelerate the commercialization of innovative carbon solutions through a pilot program at the Department of Energy. This pilot program would be charged with accelerating the deployment of affordable and proven carbon removal technologies. This reverse-auction style pilot program would position the government to purchase innovative and promising technologies, subject to certain criteria, and reduce the costs of those technologies. This would allow companies that may not have as much purchasing power as Microsoft to participate in carbon removal to help offset emissions.

This pilot program would also support companies that are leading the way in carbon removal technology, like Running Tide in Maine, in bringing down the cost of its product. Running Tide captures carbon dioxide using kelp microforests, sun, ocean currents, and gravity. This new and exciting company grows floating kelp microforest attached to biodegradable buoys that sink as they break down. The carbon captured through the floating microforest is effectively removed for hundreds of years once it hits the ocean floor. Running Tide hopes to soon be selling “kelp carbon credits” to help offset private entities’ emissions. They are currently working to commercialize quickly. These innovative solutions are the kinds that our new pilot program would seek to encourage.

Mr. President, climate change is a significant environmental challenge that requires innovative and global solutions to reduce greenhouse gas pollution. While carbon removal and storage is only a small part of the solution, it is critical that we expand our country’s work in this area. Our bipartisan bill has earned endorsements from Bipartisan Policy Center Action, ClearPath Action, Citizens for Responsible Energy Solutions, and many others. I urge my colleagues to join Senator CANTWELL and me in supporting this legislation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 4424. A bill to amend the Recreation and Public Purposes Act to authorize sales and leases of certain Federal land to federally recognized Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the bipartisan Recreation and Public Purposes Tribal Parity Act to correct a long-standing and unjust oversight that prevents Tribal governments from having the same opportunities as State and local governments do to buy and lease public lands for recreational purposes.

Current law allows the Bureau of Land Management to lease or sell certain public lands to State and local governments or qualifying nonprofits if those lands will be used for explicit

public and recreational purposes. These lands are used for a variety of public and recreational purposes, like historic monument sites, schools, firehouses, law enforcement facilities, court-houses, health facilities, hospitals, and parks. However, the law does not allow the BLM to sell or lease these lands to Tribal governments.

Our bill would allow Tribal governments to participate in the program in the same way that State and local governments do. Doing so would help ensure Tribal nations enjoy the same opportunities for land acquisition as State and local governments and nonprofit organizations do.

Tribal governments were not considered when the Recreation and Public Purposes Act became law in 1926. The omission leaves Tribes without the same opportunities as other governments to use public lands for these beneficial purposes. This disadvantage is clear, as the sale and lease of public lands is often at a discount compared to fair market value. This issue is part of the greater need to correct long-standing barriers that undermine the sovereignty of Tribal governments and our efforts to right historic wrongs.

The Federal Government owns about 640 million acres of land, about 28% of the total land in the United States. Public lands potentially available for disposal by the Bureau of Land Management alone are located across at least 18 States. The exclusion of Indian Tribes from qualifying for acquisition of these lands is not based on any clear policy rationale.

As our Nation works to strengthen Tribal sovereignty and self-determination, it is important that we ensure our laws treat Tribal governments in equal regard as State and local governments and ensure they have the opportunity for positive and productive land use activity.

I thank Senator FEINSTEIN for introducing this legislation with me in the Senate, and Congressman LAMALFA for championing this effort in the House of Representatives. I look forward to working with my colleagues to enact this commonsense bill as quickly as possible.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. GRASSLEY):

S. 4430. A bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an interagency task force between the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Food and Drug Administration for purposes of sharing information and providing technical assistance with respect to patents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

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

S. 4430

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 “Interagency Patent Coordination and Improvement Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Decisions by the United States Patent and Trademark Office relating to patents may implicate, or have relevance to, information housed at or involving other Federal agencies.

(2) Entities submitting patent applications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office may also submit information to, or share information with, other Federal agencies, necessitating accuracy and consistency in those representations.

(3) Research has shown that patent examiners may benefit from additional information that is housed at, or is available to, Federal agencies other than the United States Patent and Trademark Office in order to assess prior art and the state of science and technology.

(4) The Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office is encouraged to work with other Federal agencies.

SEC. 3. REPORT BY UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE.

Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives a report that contains—

(1) a description of the frequency with which—

(A) information is provided by the Food and Drug Administration to the United States Patent and Trademark Office through the Interagency Task Force on Patents established under section 15 of title 35, United States Code, as added by section 4(a) of this Act, or under processes established by that Task Force; and

(B) the information described in subparagraph (A) is used in patent examinations;

(2) an identification of which methods of providing information, as described in paragraph (1)(A), and types of information so shared, are most useful to patent examiners;

(3) any recommendations for changes to be made by Congress to the mandate, funding, or operations of the Task Force described in paragraph (1)(A); and

(4) an identification of other Federal agencies with which the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office should explore opportunities for coordination that are similar to those undertaken with the Food and Drug Administration through the activities of the Task Force described in paragraph (1)(A).

SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON PATENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 1 of title 35, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 2(c), by adding at the end the following:

“(6)(A) In exercising the Director’s powers and duties under this section relating to patents, and decisions or actions involving patents, for human drugs and biological products, the Director shall, through the Interagency Task Force on Patents established under section 15, consult with the Commissioner of Food and Drugs in the manner described in that section.

“(B) For purposes of subparagraph (A), the term ‘decisions or actions involving patents’ means decisions or actions taken with respect to patents under this title.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“§ 15. Interagency Task Force on Patents

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established an interagency task force, to be known as the Interagency Task Force on Patents (referred to in this section as the ‘task force’), to coordinate efforts between the Director and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs (referred to in this section as the ‘Commissioner’) regarding communication about, evaluation of, and effective implementation of the activities of the Office and the Food and Drug Administration with respect to patents, and decisions or actions involving patents (as defined in section 2(c)(6)(B)), for human drugs and biological products.

“(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Director and the Commissioner shall enter into a memorandum of understanding, or update an existing memorandum of understanding, for the purposes of implementing and carrying out the duties of the task force.

“(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The task force shall be comprised of employees of the Office, who shall be appointed by the Director, and employees of the Food and Drug Administration, who shall be appointed by the Commissioner, who have appropriate expertise and decision-making authority regarding operational, administrative, technical, medical, pharmacological, clinical, and scientific matters to carry out the functions of the task force.

“(d) ACTIVITIES.—The task force shall carry out the following functions regarding interagency coordination to promote reciprocal access of information:

“(1) Sharing information on the general processes of the Office and the Food and Drug Administration, what each such agency considers in its respective review of applications, and how each such agency evaluates those applications, which may be undertaken through routine and ongoing meetings, workshops, and training sessions.

“(2) Sharing information on new approvals of patents, human drugs and biological products, new technologies and prior art (as appropriate on a case-by-case basis), and scientific trends and developments.

“(3) Establishing a process that requires—
“(A) the Director to request from the Commissioner (and the Commissioner to provide to the Director, upon receiving such a request)—

“(i) appropriate information for use by employees of the Office with responsibility to examine patent applications under section 131 (referred to in this section as ‘patent examiners’) regarding when certain information relating to a human drug or biological product approval, which may include updates to a label or newly approved indications, is made publicly available, including when such information is posted online; and

“(ii) appropriate access for patent examiners to relevant sources of product application, approval, patent, and labeling information or communications between the Food and Drug Administration and the prescription drug or biological product sponsors that may not currently be subject to public disclosure, as appropriate and only to the extent necessary for the Office to carry out the responsibilities of the Office, including ensuring accurate representations and the enforcement of the limitation on granting a patent because the claimed invention was on sale before the effective filing date of the claimed invention, as described in section 102(a)(1); and

“(B) the Office to assist the Food and Drug Administration in its ministerial role of listing appropriate and accurate descriptions of patents.

“(4) Establishing a process to ensure that, in appropriate circumstances, at the request

of the Director, the Commissioner shall consult with or otherwise furnish specific, available information to the Office with respect to certain applications, responses, or affidavits after rejections in order to assist patent examiners in carrying out the duties of those patent examiners.

“(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in subsection (d)(3)(B) shall be construed as—

“(1) directing the Office to interfere with or delay the ministerial function of the Food and Drug Administration of listing patents; or

“(2) indicating the position of the Office regarding the ability to assert a patent in infringement litigation.

“(f) CONFIDENTIALITY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The task force shall establish appropriate protocols to safeguard confidentiality and prevent the inappropriate disclosure of information when sharing information between the Office and the Food and Drug Administration.

“(2) POTENTIAL REMEDIES.—In establishing protocols under paragraph (1), the task force shall identify appropriate remedies for any potential injury suffered when confidential information is made available, including inadvertently, through the sharing of information described in that paragraph.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 1 of title 35, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“15. Interagency Task Force on Patents.”.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office and the Commissioner of Food and Drugs such sums as may be necessary for the purposes of carrying out the functions of the Interagency Task Force on Patents established under section 15 of title 35, United States Code, as added by subsection (a).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 682—DESIGNATING JUNE 15, 2022, AS “WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY” AND THE MONTH OF JUNE AS “ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH”

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 682

Whereas, in 2021, approximately 53,000,000 residents of the United States, or about 1 in every 7 individuals, have attained the age of 65, and by 2060, 95,000,000 individuals in the United States will be over the age of 65 according to estimates by the Bureau of the Census;

Whereas elder abuse remains a challenging problem and can come in many different forms, often manifesting as physical, sexual, or psychological abuse, financial exploitation, neglect, and social media abuse;

Whereas elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation have no boundaries and cross all racial, social, class, gender, and geographic lines, according to the Elder Justice Coalition;

Whereas more than 1 in 10 individuals in the United States over the age of 60 have been subjected to abuse each year, with many such victims enduring abuse in multiple forms, according to the American Journal of Public Health;

Whereas most reported cases of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults take place within private homes, and approximately 90 percent of the perpetrators in elder financial exploitation cases are family members or other trusted individuals, according to the National Adult Protective Services Association;

Whereas research suggests that elderly individuals in the United States who experience cognitive impairment, physical disabilities, or isolation are more likely to become the victims of abuse than those who do not experience cognitive impairment, physical disabilities, or isolation;

Whereas other risk factors for elder abuse can include low social support, poor physical health, and experience of previous traumatic events, according to the National Center on Elder Abuse;

Whereas close to half of elderly individuals who suffer from dementia will experience abuse during their lifetime, according to the Department of Justice;

Whereas only 1 in 24 cases of elder abuse is reported according to the New York State Office of Children and Family Services;

Whereas the Population Reference Bureau estimates that 1,900,000 elders will live in nursing homes by 2030;

Whereas, in a 2012 study conducted by Michigan State University, approximately 24 percent of the nursing home residents who participated in the study reported at least one incident of physical abuse by nursing home staff;

Whereas, on World Elder Abuse Awareness Day, the United States mourned the loss of elderly individuals who perished in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas the COVID-19 pandemic has led to the emergence of new scams against older adults, including those related to vaccines;

Whereas there has been an increase in hate crimes committed against older, Asian Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, within the last 2 years, Congress passed and the President signed 2 measures that make nearly \$400,000,000 available for implementation of Elder Justice Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i-3a et seq.) initiatives, the largest funding stream related to such initiatives in the history of the Act; and

Whereas Congress, in passing the Elder Justice Act of 2009 (42 U.S.C. 1395i-3a et seq.), the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), the Elder Abuse Prevention and Prosecution Act (34 U.S.C. 21701 et seq.), the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Public Law 117-2), and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260), recognized the importance of protecting older people of the United States against abuse and exploitation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 15, 2022, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”;

(2) recognizes—

(A) judges, lawyers, adult protective services professionals, law enforcement officers, social workers, health care providers, advocates for victims, and other professionals and agencies for their efforts to advance awareness of elder abuse;

(B) the important work of the Elder Justice Coordinating Council, which has continued through the previous 2 Administrations and involves 15 different Federal agencies;

(C) the essential work done by adult protective services personnel, who regularly came to the assistance of victims, investigated reports of abuse, and actively prevented future victimization of older people in the United States, especially during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic as the social isolation of elderly individuals due to stay-

at-home orders only increased the risk of abuse and neglect; and

(D) the importance of supporting State long-term care ombudsman programs, which help prevent elder abuse and neglect in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities, where infection prevention and control deficiencies pose persistent challenges;

(3) applauds the work of the Elder Justice Coalition, and its members, whose efforts to increase public awareness of elder abuse have the potential to increase the identification and reporting of this crime by the public, professionals, and victims, and can act as a catalyst to promote issue-based education and long-term prevention; and

(4) encourages—

(A) members of the public and professionals who work with older adults to act as catalysts to promote awareness and long-term prevention of elder abuse—

(i) by reaching out to local adult protective services agencies, State long-term care ombudsman programs, and the National Center on Elder Abuse; and

(ii) by learning to recognize, detect, report, and respond to elder abuse;

(B) private individuals and public agencies in the United States to continue work together at the Federal, State, and local levels to combat abuse, neglect, exploitation, crime, and violence against vulnerable adults, including vulnerable older adults, particularly in light of limited resources for vital protective services; and

(C) those Federal agencies with responsibility for preventing elder abuse to fully exercise such responsibilities to protect older adults, whether living in the community or in long-term care facilities.

SENATE RESOLUTION 683—SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF WORLD SICKLE CELL AWARENESS DAY

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BROWN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 683

Whereas sickle cell disease (referred to in this preamble a “SCD”) is a genetically inherited condition present at birth that involves a group of red blood cell disorders and is a major health problem in the United States and worldwide;

Whereas the 2022 theme of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day, “Shine the Light on Sickle Cell”, is an immediate call to action to improve the health and quality of life for individuals living with SCD and their families;

Whereas, in 1972, Dr. Charles Whitten established the Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, which is now headquartered in Hanover, Maryland, to improve research, education, and healthcare for SCD patients;

Whereas, in 1972, Congress passed the National Sickle Cell Anemia Control Act (Public Law 92-294; 86 Stat. 136), which provided authority to establish education, information, screening, testing, counseling, research, and treatment programs for SCD patients;

Whereas SCD is a genetic mutation that causes a single misspelling in the DNA instructions for hemoglobin, a protein that aids in carrying oxygen in the blood, which may result in chronic complications related to anemia, stroke, infections, organ failure, tissue damage, intense periods of pain referred to as vaso-occlusive crisis, and premature death;

Whereas sickle cell trait (referred to in this preamble as “SCT”) occurs when an individual inherits one copy of the sickle cell gene from one parent, and when both parents have SCT, there is a 25 percent chance that any of their children will have SCD;

Whereas there are an estimated 3,000,000 individuals with SCT in the United States, with many unaware of their status;

Whereas an estimated 100,000 individuals have SCD in the United States, with 1 out of 365 African-American births and 1 out of 16,300 Hispanic-American births resulting in SCD, and nearly 1 out of 13 African-American babies are born with SCT;

Whereas SCD affects millions of people throughout the world, especially individuals of genetic descent from sub-Saharan regions of Africa, South America, the Caribbean, Central America, Saudi Arabia, India, Turkey, Greece, and Italy;

Whereas the prevalence of SCT varies greatly by region, with rates as high as 40 percent in certain regions of sub-Saharan Africa, eastern Saudi Arabia, and central India;

Whereas, in many countries that are poor in resources, more than 90 percent of children with SCD do not live to see adulthood;

Whereas approximately 1,000 children in Africa are born with SCD each day, more than half of whom will die before their fifth birthday;

Whereas the high prevalence of SCD in the central and western regions of India results in approximately 20 percent of babies diagnosed with SCD dying before the age of 2;

Whereas, in 2006, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution, adopted by the United Nations in 2009, recognizing SCD as a public health priority with a call to action that each country implement measures to tackle the disease;

Whereas screening newborns for SCD is a crucial first step for families to obtain a timely diagnosis and comprehensive care and to decrease the mortality rate of children with SCD;

Whereas approved treatments for SCD are limited, with the Food and Drug Administration approving only 4 SCD therapies since 2017, but there are more than 40 SCD therapies in development;

Whereas there is an immediate need for lifesaving therapeutics that can improve the duration and quality of life of individuals with SCD;

Whereas, in 2020, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine developed a comprehensive strategic plan and blueprint for action to address SCD, which highlights the need to develop new innovative therapies and to address barriers to the equitable access of approved treatments;

Whereas, in 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services, in partnership with the American Society of Hematology and the Sickle in Africa Consortium and in collaboration with the World Health Organization, hosted a webinar for a joint effort to strengthen efforts to combat SCD during the coronavirus disease (commonly known as “COVID-19”) pandemic and beyond;

Whereas the late Kwaku Obene-Frempong, M.D., Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics at the Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, an American Society of Hematology member who served on the Global Coalition on SCD, has been a leader in advancing the body of knowledge in SCD research, public health, and medicine, and is recognized as immeasurably benefitting thousands of children worldwide;

Whereas there are emerging genetic therapy technologies, including gene editing, that can modify a patient's own hematopoietic stem cells to enable them to generate healthy red blood cells to prevent sickle cell crises;

Whereas while hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (commonly known as “HSCT”) is currently the only cure for SCD, and while advancements in treatment for complications associated with SCD have been made, more research is needed to find widely available and accessible treatments and cures to help individuals with SCD; and

Whereas, although June 19, 2022, has been designated as “World Sickle Cell Awareness Day” to increase public alertness across the United States and global community about SCD, there remains a continued need for empirical research, early detection screenings for SCD trait carriers, novel effective treatments leading to a cure, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell anemia and conditions related to SCD: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World Sickle Cell Awareness Day;

(2) commits to ensuring equitable access to new sickle cell disease (referred to in this resolution as “SCD”) treatments by shining the light among all economic, racial, and ethnic groups to improve health outcomes for those living with SCD;

(3) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to create global policy solutions aimed at providing support for the global community and the domestic resources needed to provide access to newborn screening programs, therapeutic interventions, and support services in partnership with local governments;

(4) supports eliminating barriers to equitable access for innovative SCD therapies, including cell, gene, and gene-editing therapies in the Medicare and Medicaid systems for the most vulnerable patients;

(5) encourages the people of the United States and the world to hold appropriate programs, events, and activities on Sickle Cell Awareness Day to raise public awareness of SCD traits, preventative care programs, treatments, and other patient services for those suffering from SCD, complications from SCD, and conditions related to SCD; and

(6) urges that the options to be considered to combat SCD not only address access to potential future curative treatments, but also address the bias that the population most affected by SCD continues to face within the United States and global healthcare systems.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5098. Mr. CARPER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3309, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5098. Mr. CARPER (for Mr. PETERS) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3309, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Securing Semiconductor Supply Chains Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. SELECTUSA DEFINED.

In this Act, the term “SelectUSA” means the SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Semiconductors underpin the United States and global economies, including manufacturing sectors. Semiconductors are also essential to the national security of the United States.

(2) A shortage of semiconductors, brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and other complex factors impacting the overall supply chain, has threatened the economic recovery of the United States and industries that employ millions of United States citizens.

(3) Addressing current challenges and building resilience against future risks requires ensuring a secure and stable supply chain for semiconductors that will support the economic and national security needs of the United States and its allies.

(4) The supply chain for semiconductors is complex and global. While the United States plays a leading role in certain segments of the semiconductor industry, securing the supply chain requires onshoring, reshoring, or diversifying vulnerable segments, such as for—

(A) fabrication;

(B) advanced packaging; and

(C) materials and equipment used to manufacture semiconductor products.

(5) The Federal Government can leverage foreign direct investment and private dollars to grow the domestic manufacturing and production capacity of the United States for vulnerable segments of the semiconductor supply chain.

(6) The SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce, in coordination with other Federal agencies and State-level economic development organizations, is positioned to boost foreign direct investment in domestic manufacturing and to help secure the semiconductor supply chain of the United States.

SEC. 4. COORDINATION WITH STATE-LEVEL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA shall solicit comments from State-level economic development organizations—

(1) to review—

(A) what efforts the Federal Government can take to support increased foreign direct investment in any segment of semiconductor-related production;

(B) what barriers to such investment may exist and how to amplify State efforts to attract such investment;

(C) public opportunities those organizations have identified to attract foreign direct investment to help increase investment described in subparagraph (A);

(D) resource gaps or other challenges that prevent those organizations from increasing such investment; and

(2) to develop recommendations for—

(A) how SelectUSA can increase such investment independently or through partnership with those organizations; and

(B) working with countries that are allies or partners of the United States to ensure that foreign adversaries (as defined in section 8(c)(2) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1607(c)(2))) do not benefit from United States efforts to increase such investment.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON INCREASING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN SEMICONDUCTOR-RELATED MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Investment Working Group established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715; relating to establishment of the SelectUSA Initiative), shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a review of the comments SelectUSA received from State-level economic development organizations under section 4;

(2) a description of activities SelectUSA is engaged in to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production; and

(3) an assessment of strategies SelectUSA may implement to achieve an increase in such investment and to help secure the United States supply chain for semiconductors, including by—

(A) working with other relevant Federal agencies; and

(B) working with State-level economic development organizations and implementing any strategies or recommendations SelectUSA received from those organizations.

SEC. 6. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act. The Executive Director of SelectUSA shall carry out this Act using amounts otherwise available to the Executive Director for such purposes.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I have five 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 ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a closed business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 9 a.m., to conduct an executive business meeting.

WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY**ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH**

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 682, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 682) designating June 15, 2022, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. CARPER. 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. 682) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

AUTHORIZING THE USE OF THE CAPITOL GROUNDS FOR THE GREATER WASHINGTON SOAP BOX DERBY

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of H. Con. Res. 88, which was received from the House.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 88) authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. CARPER. I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution be agreed to and that 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 concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 88) was agreed to.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 4431

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I understand there is a bill at the desk, and I ask for its first reading.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bill by title for the first time.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4431) to eliminate discrimination and promote women's health and economic security by ensuring reasonable workplace accommodations for workers whose ability to perform the functions of a job are limited by pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition.

Mr. CARPER. I now ask for a second reading, and in order to place the bill on the calendar under the provisions of rule XIV, I object to my own request.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection having been heard, the bill will receive its second reading on the next legislative day.

SECURING SEMICONDUCTOR SUPPLY CHAINS ACT OF 2021

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 222, S. 3309.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3309) to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, 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 "Securing Semiconductor Supply Chains Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. SELECTUSA DEFINED.

In this Act, the term "SelectUSA" means the SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Semiconductors underpin the United States and global economies, including manufacturing sectors. Semiconductors are also essential to the national security of the United States.

(2) A shortage of semiconductors, brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and other complex factors impacting the overall supply chain, has threatened the economic recovery of the United States and industries that employ millions of United States citizens.

(3) Addressing current challenges and building resilience against future risks requires ensuring a secure and stable supply chain for semiconductors that will support the economic and national security needs of the United States and its allies.

(4) The supply chain for semiconductors is complex and global. While the United States plays a leading role in certain segments of the semiconductor industry, securing the supply chain requires onshoring, reshoring, or diversifying vulnerable segments, such as for—

(A) fabrication;

(B) advanced packaging; and

(C) materials and equipment used to manufacture semiconductor products.

(5) The Federal Government can leverage foreign direct investment and private dollars to grow the domestic manufacturing and production capacity of the United States for vulnerable segments of the semiconductor supply chain.

(6) The SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce, in coordination with other Federal agencies and State-level economic development organizations, is positioned to boost foreign direct investment in domestic manufacturing and to help secure the semiconductor supply chain of the United States.

SEC. 4. COORDINATION WITH STATE-LEVEL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA shall solicit comments from State-level economic development organizations—

(1) to review—

(A) what efforts the Federal Government can take to support increased foreign direct investment in any segment of semiconductor-related production;

(B) what barriers to such investment may exist and how to amplify State efforts to attract such investment;

(C) public opportunities those organizations have identified to attract foreign direct investment to help increase investment described in subparagraph (A);

(D) resource gaps or other challenges that prevent those organizations from increasing such investment; and

(2) to develop recommendations for—

(A) how SelectUSA can increase such investment independently or through partnership with those organizations; and

(B) working with countries that are allies or partners of the United States to ensure that foreign adversaries (as defined in section 8(c)(2) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1607(c)(2))) do not benefit from United States efforts to increase such investment.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON INCREASING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN SEMICONDUCTOR-RELATED MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Investment Working Group established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715; relating to establishment of the SelectUSA Initiative), shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a review of the comments SelectUSA received from State-level economic development organizations under section 4;

(2) a description of activities SelectUSA is engaged in to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production; and

(3) an assessment of strategies SelectUSA may implement to achieve an increase in such investment and to help secure the United States supply chain for semiconductors, including by—

(A) working with other relevant Federal agencies; and

(B) working with State-level economic development organizations and implementing any strategies or recommendations SelectUSA received from those organizations.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute be withdrawn; that the Peters substitute that is 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. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was withdrawn.

The amendment (No. 5098) in the nature of a substitute was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Securing Semiconductor Supply Chains Act of 2022".

SEC. 2. SELECTUSA DEFINED.

In this Act, the term "SelectUSA" means the SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715).

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Semiconductors underpin the United States and global economies, including manufacturing sectors. Semiconductors are also essential to the national security of the United States.

(2) A shortage of semiconductors, brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic and other complex factors impacting the overall supply chain, has threatened the economic recovery of the United States and industries that employ millions of United States citizens.

(3) Addressing current challenges and building resilience against future risks requires ensuring a secure and stable supply chain for semiconductors that will support the economic and national security needs of the United States and its allies.

(4) The supply chain for semiconductors is complex and global. While the United States plays a leading role in certain segments of the semiconductor industry, securing the supply chain requires onshoring, reshoring, or diversifying vulnerable segments, such as for—

(A) fabrication;

(B) advanced packaging; and

(C) materials and equipment used to manufacture semiconductor products.

(5) The Federal Government can leverage foreign direct investment and private dollars to grow the domestic manufacturing and production capacity of the United States for vulnerable segments of the semiconductor supply chain.

(6) The SelectUSA program of the Department of Commerce, in coordination with other Federal agencies and State-level economic development organizations, is positioned to boost foreign direct investment in domestic manufacturing and to help secure the semiconductor supply chain of the United States.

SEC. 4. COORDINATION WITH STATE-LEVEL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA shall solicit comments from State-level economic development organizations—

(1) to review—

(A) what efforts the Federal Government can take to support increased foreign direct investment in any segment of semiconductor-related production;

(B) what barriers to such investment may exist and how to amplify State efforts to attract such investment;

(C) public opportunities those organizations have identified to attract foreign direct investment to help increase investment described in subparagraph (A);

(D) resource gaps or other challenges that prevent those organizations from increasing such investment; and

(2) to develop recommendations for—

(A) how SelectUSA can increase such investment independently or through partnership with those organizations; and

(B) working with countries that are allies or partners of the United States to ensure

that foreign adversaries (as defined in section 8(c)(2) of the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019 (47 U.S.C. 1607(c)(2))) do not benefit from United States efforts to increase such investment.

SEC. 5. REPORT ON INCREASING FOREIGN DIRECT INVESTMENT IN SEMICONDUCTOR-RELATED MANUFACTURING AND PRODUCTION.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Executive Director of SelectUSA, in coordination with the Federal Interagency Investment Working Group established by Executive Order 13577 (76 Fed. Reg. 35,715; relating to establishment of the SelectUSA Initiative), shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that includes—

(1) a review of the comments SelectUSA received from State-level economic development organizations under section 4;

(2) a description of activities SelectUSA is engaged in to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production; and

(3) an assessment of strategies SelectUSA may implement to achieve an increase in such investment and to help secure the United States supply chain for semiconductors, including by—

(A) working with other relevant Federal agencies; and

(B) working with State-level economic development organizations and implementing any strategies or recommendations SelectUSA received from those organizations.

SEC. 6. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS.

No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated for the purpose of carrying out this Act. The Executive Director of SelectUSA shall carry out this Act using amounts otherwise available to the Executive Director for such purposes.

The bill (S. 3309), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

VETERANS EXPEDITED TSA SCREENING SAFE TRAVEL ACT

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. 2280, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2280) to provide PreCheck to certain severely injured or disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. CARPER. I ask unanimous consent that the bill 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 bill (S. 2280) was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed as follows:

S. 2280

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 “Veterans Expedited TSA Screening Safe Travel Act” or the “VETS Safe Travel Act”.

SEC. 2. AVAILABILITY OF PRECHECK PROGRAM TO CERTAIN SEVERELY INJURED OR DISABLED VETERANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 44927 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) AVAILABILITY OF PRECHECK PROGRAM TO CERTAIN SEVERELY INJURED OR DISABLED VETERANS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A veteran described in paragraph (2) is eligible for security screening under the PreCheck Program under section 44919 at no cost to the veteran if the veteran is able to meet the background check and other security requirements for participation in the program.

“(2) VETERANS DESCRIBED.—A veteran described in this paragraph is a veteran who—

“(A) is enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code;

“(B) has—

“(i) lost, or lost use of, a limb;

“(ii) become paralyzed or partially paralyzed; or

“(iii) incurred permanent blindness; and

“(C) as a result of a loss, paralyzation or partial paralyzation, or blindness described in subparagraph (B), requires the use of a wheelchair, prosthetic limb, or other assistive device to aid with mobility.”.

(b) COORDINATION ON IMPLEMENTATION.—The Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly—

(1) develop and implement a process under which a veteran described in paragraph (2) of subsection (g) of section 44927 of title 49, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), can receive the benefits under such subsection by not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) provide to Congress a briefing on the status of implementing the process required by paragraph (1) by not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. OUTREACH FOR DISABLED VETERANS ON AVAILABILITY OF TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS.

(a) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration shall develop and implement a process under which the Secretary provides to disabled veterans effective outreach about Transportation Security Administration programs designed to improve the screening process for passengers with disabilities.

(b) FURTHER ENHANCEMENTS TO EASE AIR TRAVEL FOR WOUNDED WARRIORS AND OTHER DISABLED VETERANS.—Notwithstanding subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”), or any other provision of law, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in coordination with the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, shall—

(1) engage appropriate veterans service organizations and other relevant organizations, as appropriate, to assess the awareness of veterans of relevant Transportation Security Administration programs; and

(2) examine the need and feasibility of other measures to improve travel security procedures for disabled veterans.

(c) BRIEFING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of

this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Administrator of Transportation Security Administration shall jointly provide to Congress a briefing on the status of the implementation of subsections (a) and (b).

ORDERS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn to then convene for a pro forma session only with no business being conducted on the following date and time: Friday, June 17, at 8:30 a.m. I further ask that when the Senate adjourns on Friday, June 17, it next convene at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21; further, that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate be in a period of morning business for debate only and with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each until 5:30 p.m.

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

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of the patient colleague Senator PORTMAN of Ohio.

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

The Senator from Ohio.

HONORING OUR PACT ACT OF 2021

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Delaware via Columbus, OH, for his comments, and I want to talk for a moment about what we did today in the U.S. Senate. We passed legislation very important to our veterans that has to do with expanding VA veterans’ healthcare coverage but specifically addresses the problem of our veterans who have been exposed to burn pits—toxic burn pits that have resulted in terrible illnesses, including cancer and others.

The legislation we passed is named the Heath Robinson PACT Act. And people may wonder: Well, who is Heath Robinson? Why is it named after him?

Heath Robinson was from Pickerington, OH, which is a small community outside of Columbus, OH. He enlisted in the Ohio National Guard. He became a sergeant first class. He did tours of duty in Kosovo and also in Iraq. He was with the 285th Area Support Medical Company and was a two-time Ohio Army National Guard NCO of the Year in 2012 and 2013—so a very distinguished career in the military.

In 2020, he died of cancer. And when you talk to the medical professionals, they say that his exposure to burn pits

is what resulted in his cancer developing and in the end of his life way too soon.

So his widow Danielle, who some people may remember was at the State of the Union up in the Gallery, and his mom Kathi and his daughter Brielle have been tireless advocates for addressing this burn pit issue, trying to stop the burn pits from being used but, of course, addressing the consequence of these burn pits. And they have channeled their grief in a constructive way, which is to encourage Congress to pass this legislation that we passed today. So many other veterans who have been exposed to burn pits will now get their healthcare because of their work and because of the tribute that is being paid to their father and husband and son, Heath Robinson.

So that is who Heath Robinson is, and that is why it was important to name that legislation today after him.

OTTO WARMBIER COUNTERING NORTH KOREAN CENSORSHIP AND SURVEILLANCE ACT OF 2021

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I am also rising today to ask unanimous consent from my colleagues to pass other legislation, S. 2129, a bipartisan bill that I have coauthored with my colleague from Ohio, Senator SHERROD BROWN. It honors a young man named Otto Warmbier, and it counters North Korea's censorship and surveillance state.

Otto Warmbier was a native of my hometown in Cincinnati, OH, and his wonderful family are dear friends. He was a young man of great spirit, great intellect, and great promise. He was a student, a star at the University of Virginia.

In 2015, he went to North Korea with a tour group. It was a cultural visit with people from the United States, from Europe, looking to see what North Korea was like. They were there for a very brief period of time, but at the end of that brief visit, as he was waiting in line at the airport to leave with fellow members of the tour, North Korean security officials grabbed him and pulled him out of line.

He was detained, and then eventually he was sentenced for 15 years on trumped-up charges relating to whether or not he tried to take down a poster that was a political poster—15 years. Otto Warmbier, again, a young man of great promise, was unjustly convicted and imprisoned. And during a 17-month period of imprisonment, captivity, he was badly mistreated by the North Koreans, to the point that when he was returned to the United States in 2017, he came back in a comatose state from which he never recovered.

Otto Warmbier died almost exactly 5 years ago today, June 19, 2017. He was 22 years old, with his whole life ahead of him. So 5 years ago, life changed forever for Otto's friends, for his parents, his classmates. His service, his funeral was extraordinary, the outpouring of love.

His parents, Fred and Cindy, have taken their grief and done something very constructive with it. They have focused on exposing what North Korea is really like and also ensuring that, to the extent possible, North Korea is held accountable for this atrocity. No parent should have to endure what they went through.

I have worked with Senators BROWN, COONS, TILLIS, VAN HOLLEN, and HAGERTY, as well as the Warmbiers, as well as the Biden administration, on this legislation. It is called the Otto Warmbier North Korea Censorship and Surveillance Act. It would authorize sanctions against any foreign individuals involved in censoring the North Korean people's access to information on behalf of the Kim Jong Un regime.

Of course, the North Koreans aren't getting the truth because information is censored. So it is very important to get whatever real news you can into the country. When that happens, what you find out is that people leave North Korea and then work against the regime. But so many people don't have access to that information.

So this bill authorizes the U.S. Agency for Global Media to find new and creative ways to circumvent North Korean censorship and provides \$10 million annually for the next 5 years to counter North Korea's repressive censorship and surveillance state, including something very practical and needed, which is repairing the antennas that have been used for this purpose that were damaged in a typhoon years ago and have never been fixed because we haven't had the funding.

This bill has adequate funding to put in place the infrastructure that is now going to be necessary to effectively send true, accurate information to North Korea to counter North Korean propaganda for the sake of the people of North Korea.

Together, this Chamber can send a bipartisan message to the world that we will not stand for the censorship and the repression of the North Korean regime. So I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. It is something we have worked on carefully. We have gotten technical assistance from the administration. It is something that I hope we can pass here this evening and then we can, in turn, get it passed in the House of Representatives and get it to the President for his signature.

So, Mr. President, I would now like to call up this legislation. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 159, S. 2129.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2129) to promote freedom of information and counter censorship and surveillance in North Korea, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations with an amend-

ment 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 "Otto Warmbier Countering North Korean Censorship and Surveillance Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The information landscape in North Korea is the most repressive in the world, consistently ranking last or near-last in the annual World Press Freedom Index.

(2) Under the brutal rule of Kim Jong Un, the country's leader since 2012, the North Korean regime has tightened controls on access to information, as well as enacted harsh punishments for consumers of outside media, including sentencing to time in a concentration camp and a maximum penalty of death.

(3) Such repressive and unjust laws surrounding information in North Korea resulted in the death of 22-year-old United States citizen and university student Otto Warmbier, who had traveled to North Korea in December 2015 as part of a guided tour.

(4) Otto Warmbier was unjustly arrested, sentenced to 15 years of hard labor, and severely mistreated at the hands of North Korean officials. While in captivity, Otto Warmbier suffered a serious medical emergency that placed him into a comatose state. Otto Warmbier was comatose upon his release in June 2017 and died 6 days later.

(5) Despite increased penalties for possession and viewership of foreign media, the people of North Korea have increased their desire for foreign media content, according to a survey of 200 defectors concluding that 90 percent had watched South Korean or other foreign media before defecting.

(6) On March 23, 2021, in an annual resolution, the United Nations General Assembly condemned "the long-standing and ongoing systematic, widespread and gross violations of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea" and expressed grave concern at, among other things, "the denial of the right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion . . . and of the rights to freedom of opinion, expression, and association, both online and offline, which is enforced through an absolute monopoly on information and total control over organized social life, and arbitrary and unlawful state surveillance that permeates the private lives of all citizens".

(7) In 2018, Typhoon Yutu caused extensive damage to 15 broadcast antennas used by the United States Agency for Global Media in Asia, resulting in reduced programming to North Korea. The United States Agency for Global Media has rebuilt 5 of the 15 antenna systems as of June 2021.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) in the event of a crisis situation, particularly where information pertaining to the crisis is being actively censored or a false narrative is being put forward, the United States should be able to quickly increase its broadcasting capability to deliver fact-based information to audiences, including those in North Korea; and

(2) the United States International Broadcasting Surge Capacity Fund is already authorized under section 316 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6216), and expanded authority to transfer unobligated balances from expired accounts of the United States Agency for Global Media would enable the Agency to more nimbly respond to crises.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) to provide the people of North Korea with access to a diverse range of fact-based information;

(2) to develop and implement novel means of communication and information sharing that increase opportunities for audiences in North Korea to safely create, access, and share digital and non-digital news without fear of repressive censorship, surveillance, or penalties under law; and

(3) to foster and innovate new technologies to counter North Korea's state-sponsored repressive surveillance and censorship by advancing internet freedom tools, technologies, and new approaches.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES STRATEGY TO COMBAT NORTH KOREA'S REPRESSIVE INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall develop and submit to Congress a strategy on combating North Korea's repressive information environment.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the challenges to the free flow of information into North Korea created by the censorship and surveillance technology apparatus of the Government of North Korea.

(2) A detailed description of the agencies and other government entities, key officials, and security services responsible for the implementation of North Korea's repressive laws regarding foreign media consumption.

(3) A detailed description of the agencies and other government entities and key officials of foreign governments that assist, facilitate, or aid North Korea's repressive censorship and surveillance state.

(4) A review of existing public-private partnerships that provide circumvention technology and an assessment of the feasibility and utility of new tools to increase free expression, circumvent censorship, and obstruct repressive surveillance in North Korea.

(5) A description of and funding levels required for current United States Government programs and activities to provide access for the people of North Korea to a diverse range of fact-based information.

(6) An update of the plan required by section 104(a)(7)(A) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814(a)(7)(A)).

(7) A description of Department of State programs and funding levels for programs that promote internet freedom in North Korea, including monitoring and evaluation efforts.

(8) A description of grantee programs of the United States Agency for Global Media in North Korea that facilitate circumvention tools and broadcasting, including monitoring and evaluation efforts.

(9) A detailed assessment of how the United States International Broadcasting Surge Capacity Fund authorized under section 316 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6216) has operated to respond to crisis situations in the past, and how authority to transfer unobligated balances from expired accounts would help the United States Agency for Global Media in crisis situations in the future.

(10) A detailed plan for how the authorization of appropriations under section 7 will operate alongside and augment existing programming from the relevant Federal agencies and facilitate the development of new tools to assist that programming.

(c) **FORM OF STRATEGY.**—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include the matters required by paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b) in a classified annex.

SEC. 5. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS RESPONSIBLE FOR NORTH KOREA'S REPRESSIVE CENSORSHIP AND SURVEILLANCE STATE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may impose the following sanctions with respect to any foreign person that the President determines know-

ingly engaged in, facilitated, or was responsible for censorship by the Government of North Korea or the Workers' Party of Korea identified under paragraph (2) or (3) of section 4(b):

(1) **BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.**—The President may exercise all of the powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of the foreign person if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(2) **INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—

(A) **VISAS, ADMISSION, OR PAROLE.**—In the case of an alien, the alien may be—

(i) inadmissible to the United States;

(ii) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(iii) otherwise ineligible to be admitted or paroled into the United States or to receive any other benefit under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(B) **CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—An alien described in subparagraph (A) may be subject to revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(ii) **EFFECT.**—A revocation under clause (i) shall—

(I) take effect consistent with section 221 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201); and

(II) cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien's possession.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION; PENALTIES.**—

(1) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this section.

(2) **PENALTIES.**—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of subsection (a)(1) or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out that subsection shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(c) **NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.**—The President may waive the imposition of sanctions under subsection (a) with respect to a person if the President—

(1) determines that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States; and

(2) submits to the appropriate congressional committees a notification of the waiver and the reasons for the waiver.

(d) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) **INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.**—This section shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any authorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) **LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—Sanctions under this section shall not apply with respect to any authorized law enforcement activities of the United States.

(3) **EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.**—Subsection (a)(2) shall not apply with respect to the admission of an alien to the United States if such admission is necessary to comply with the obligations of the United States under the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, under the Convention on Consular Relations, done at Vienna April 24, 1963, and entered into force March 19, 1967, or under other international agreements.

(4) **EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The authority or a requirement to impose sanctions under this section shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(B) **GOOD DEFINED.**—In this paragraph, the term “good” means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADMISSION; ADMITTED; ALIEN.**—The terms “admission”, “admitted”, and “alien” have the meanings given those terms in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(2) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Financial Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.

(3) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign person” means any person that is not a United States person.

(4) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted to the United States for permanent residence;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or any jurisdiction within the United States; or

(C) any person in the United States.

SEC. 6. REPORT ON ENFORCEMENT OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO NORTH KOREA.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter through 2024, the Secretary of State and the Secretary of the Treasury shall jointly submit to the appropriate congressional committees (as defined in section 5(e)) a report on sanctions-related activities and enforcement undertaken by the United States Government with respect to North Korea during the period described in subsection (b) that includes—

(1) an assessment of activities conducted by persons in North Korea or the Government of North Korea that would require mandatory designations pursuant to the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9201 et seq.); and

(2) sanctions-related enforcement or other sanctions-related actions undertaken by the United States Government pursuant to that Act.

(b) **PERIOD DESCRIBED.**—The period described in this subsection is—

(1) in the case of the first report required by subsection (a), the period beginning on January 1, 2021, and ending on the date on which the report is required to be submitted; and

(2) in the case of each subsequent report required by subsection (a), the one-year period preceding submission of the report.

SEC. 7. PROMOTING FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND COUNTERING CENSORSHIP AND SURVEILLANCE IN NORTH KOREA.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to the United States Agency for Global Media \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026 to provide increased broadcasting and grants for the following purposes:

(1) To promote the development of internet freedom tools, technologies, and new approaches, including both digital and non-digital means of information sharing related to North Korea.

(2) To explore public-private partnerships to counter North Korea's repressive censorship and surveillance state.

(3) *To develop new means to protect the privacy and identity of individuals receiving media from the United States Agency for Global Media and other outside media outlets from within North Korea.*

(4) *To bolster existing programming from the United States Agency for Global Media by restoring the broadcasting capacity of damaged antennas caused by Typhoon Yutu in 2018.*

(b) *ANNUAL REPORTS.—Section 104(a)(7)(B) of the North Korean Human Rights Act of 2004 (22 U.S.C. 7814(a)(7)(B)) is amended—*

(1) in the matter preceding clause (i)—

(A) by striking “1 year after the date of the enactment of this paragraph” and inserting “September 30, 2022”; and

(B) by striking “Broadcasting Board of Governors” and inserting “Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency for Global Media”; and

(2) in clause (i), by inserting after “this section” the following: “and sections 4 and 7 of the Otto Warmbier Countering North Korean Censorship and Surveillance Act of 2021”.

Mr. PORTMAN. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to and that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Mr. PORTMAN. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 2129), as amended, was passed.

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, this is an important day for Otto Warmbier's family, for so many people who care about the repression and the lack of information going into North Korea, and I thank my colleagues for supporting this legislation.

I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 8:30 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands adjourned until 8:30 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 4:22 p.m., adjourned until Friday, June 17, 2022, at 8:30 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination pursuant to S. Res. 27 and the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar:

STEVEN M. DETTELBAUGH, OF OHIO, TO BE DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO, FIREARMS, AND EXPLOSIVES.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 16, 2022:

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

JAIME E. LIZARRAGA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR A TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2027.

MARK TOSHIRO UYEDA, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE TERM EXPIRING JUNE 5, 2023.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NAZ DURAKOGLU, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS).

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING AND CONGRATULATING
LIEUTENANT COLONEL
ERIC S. MARSHALL, P.E., PMP

HON. MICHAEL F. Q. SAN NICOLAS

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mr. SAN NICOLAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Eric S. Marshall, P.E., PMP on the occasion of his retirement from the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) after over 20 years of service to our Nation. I further commend him for his exemplary leadership, innovation, and commitment to collaboration for the People of Guam, our Pacific region, this country, and populations across the world.

Building the foundations for an accomplished military and engineering career, Lt. Col. Marshall obtained a bachelor's degree in physics and math from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 2002. He then went on to earn a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and completed further training and education from Command and General Staff College in 2015. Beyond his practical instruction, however, Lt. Col. Marshall embodies a strength of character, dedication to problem-solving, and fidelity to service that speaks volumes of his propensity for excellence.

Lt. Col. Marshall's background in national defense spans numerous command positions and wartime deployments. From Platoon Leader, Detachment Commander, and Operations Officer with the U.S. Army Dive Company to Resident Engineer with USACE in Afghanistan, Project Manager, Construction Manager, and Emergency Operations with the U.S. Corps of Engineers, Company Commander of the 1-48 Infantry Battalion, Squadron Commander and Executive Officer of the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Headquarters in Fort Bragg, and Deputy Brigade Commander of the Schofield Barracks 130 Engineer Brigade, he maintains a diverse history of contributions that have and continue to empower communities across borders. In consistently rising to answer the call of service over the years, Lt. Col. Marshall has tirelessly worked to meet critical engineering and construction needs in locations such as the Philippines, Hawaii, the provinces of Paktya, Paktika, Ghazni, and Khost, and New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. Moreover, he has assumed vital roles in realizing successful deployment missions in Iraq, Afghanistan, Libya, and Syria in addition to raising up a new generation of leaders and visionaries as a Course Director and Assistant Professor of Physics at the U.S. Military Academy.

In over two decades with the Department of Defense, Lt. Col. Marshall has not simply trained thousands of enlistees, supervised thousands more personnel, realized hundreds of domestic and international projects, and

managed billions of dollars in funding—he has cultivated an outstanding record of going above and beyond for others. In his capacity as Commander of the USACE Honolulu District, Lt. Col. Marshall and his team established strong working relationships and communications channels with Guam leaders. More specifically, our Guam Congressional Office collaborated closely with USACE to advance the resolution of longstanding community health and infrastructure challenges relative to the construction of a new Guam Medical Campus and island-wide erosion issues. His recognitions including numerous campaign medals, a Bronze Star Award, and USACE Agency 2022 Federal Engineer of the Year Award are a further testament to his distinction as a force of positive transformation.

Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of the People of Guam, offering my deepest appreciation for his dedication to our island, region, and country. Throughout his career, and especially through his leadership with USACE, Lieutenant Colonel Eric S. Marshall has admirably brought new meaning to the Anny values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage. Moreover, he has established a lasting legacy of ingenuity and outcomes charged with purpose. I sincerely thank Lieutenant Colonel Eric S. Marshall for his many years of service and sacrifice, congratulate him on his well-earned retirement, and wish him and his wife Ali the best during the next chapter of their lives.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF RICHARD TARIFF

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Richard Tariff of Longmeadow, Massachusetts who is bringing a close to a long and impactful career as an educator who made a positive difference in the lives of thousands of middle school students, as well as adult students in eastern Connecticut. In a few short weeks, he is set to retire in August as Director of Adult and Community Programs at EASTCONN after more than four decades of specializing in the field of adult education. Today, however, he will participate in his final graduation ceremony at Parish Hill High School in Chaplin, Connecticut. This graduation like the dozens and dozens that preceded it, is the moment where all his hard work—done in tandem with his colleagues—culminates in a successful degree for their students that will transform their lives for the better.

A New England native, Rich began his journey in education teaching elementary and middle school students in Stafford Springs, which lit the fire of a life-time calling to elevate public schools' students to their highest potential. Understanding the intrinsic value of life-

long education for students of all ages, Rich became a part-time director for Stafford Springs' Adult Education programs in 1979. As part-time director, he witnessed first-hand the lack of options for adults seeking certification outside of a high school diploma, which for him was a glaring opportunity for our district.

Vision in hand, Rich became the Adult Education Director for Adult Basic Education for the 12-town Tolland County region a few short years later. Under his leadership, the regional program underwent monumental evolutions. By establishing and engaging with partnerships, Vernon Regional Adult Education not only witnessed major expansions in enrichment program participation but also the planning, creation, and implementation of the formalized Vernon Regional Adult High School. By upgrading and centralizing the educational resources available through the programs under his watch, Rich, in just a couple of years of tenure as Director, began what has become a permanent legacy in the region and has resulted in thousands of adults graduating to date.

In 1984, Rich returned to youth education as the Assistant Principal at Vernon Center Middle School. He remained in this role for 16 years, where his value for and experience in administering learning programs only continued to grow. He could not keep away from Vernon Regional Adult Education, however, and took on a new role as Regional Supervisor and Coordinator with the organization which he remained at for another eight years. Through both roles, Rich's expertise in grant writing and implementation helped maintain Vernon and the surrounding area's competitive edge in terms of better preparing our community for not just their future but the demands of a changing workforce. For example, at Vernon Center, he helped write a National 21st Century Grant request that had brought unprecedented grant funding to the district. Meanwhile, at Vernon Regional Adult Education, Rich expanded coordination with state partners to offer Work Place Education and both received and protected a grant for College Transition resources.

Though Vernon Regional was foundational to his experience in Adult Education, Rich's history of pioneering in the field earned him his latest role as Director of Adult and Community Programs for EASTCONN, one of Connecticut's six public, non-profit Regional Educational Service Centers. At EASTCONN, Rich has been bestowed the rightfully placed privilege to manage adult education services for what is now a 21-town region sprawling throughout northeastern Connecticut. The scope and size of EASTCONN's adult education programs were not achieved by mistake—it was Rich who helped charge the effectiveness of the organization. He understood that in districts comprised of smaller communities such as ours it does not just take a village, but rather several. With his guiding philosophy of centralizing resources in mind, Rich has brought about major achievements in terms of adequately preparing our district's

• 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.

workforce. Two of such achievements are the integration of adult programs with the two American Job Centers in northeastern Connecticut, and ensuring the strength of virtual educational adult and youth programs throughout the pandemic.

Madam Speaker, I have known Rich as a friend and community leader for almost forty years. I have seen firsthand his intelligent empathetic and kind interaction with people from all walks of life. He is down-to-earth and funny. Madame Speaker, it is an honor to represent constituents as community-oriented as Rich Tariff. A lifelong educator with a penchant for innovation, Rich has understood from an early age the opportunities that can arise for communities who hone their skills and keep themselves adaptable. As a reflection of his abilities, it is worth finally noting that Rich was the first President of the Connecticut Association for Adult and Continuing Education to serve for 5 consecutive years from 2011 to 2016, leading advocacy efforts within and beyond Connecticut on behalf of adult learners. For decades, Rich has spurred job growth imparting the educational foundation necessary for any occupation and our state and region has benefitted in ways that most fellow citizens will never know. His shoes will be hard to fill. Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House join me in recognizing and thanking Rich Tariff for his life's work, setting his legacy further into stone.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR JOHN W. BARRY USA (RET.) FOR HIS SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY

HON. LISA C. McCLAIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Major John W. Barry USA (Ret.), who will be interred on Friday June 17th at Arlington National Cemetery.

John was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania on October 28, 1930. He later became a native of St. Clair, Michigan, before passing away on January 9, 2021.

John lived a long and fruitful life devoted to service, country, and family. Enlisting in the Army in 1952, John had a 20-year career that was defined by distinguished service and leadership. During this time, John earned his aviation wings in both rotary and fixed wing aircraft, and fought in the Korea and Vietnam conflicts as a Huey Helicopter Captain. In Vietnam, he and his co-pilot were wounded and later received the Purple Heart for wounds in action.

In addition to the Purple Heart, John received 20 other honors, which were awarded for missions flown, contact with the enemy, and individually. These honors include the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal, Good Conduct Medal, the United Nations Service Medal (Korea), Vietnam Cross of Gallantry with palm, Army Commendation, and much more.

Upon his retirement, John worked at Prestolite and Port Huron schools before his eventual retirement in 1999. In addition, John was a VFW Life Member and member of American Legion Post 449.

Madam Speaker, I thank John for his service to our country and the example he set for

all Michiganders. My heartfelt condolences go out to his family and loved ones who I hope find solace in the fact that John lived a long, distinguished, and full life. They could not ask for anything more. Again, I thank Major Barry; we will never forget his service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. YVETTE HERRELL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Ms. HERRELL. Madam Speaker, I missed this vote because I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 261.

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES NO. 11: BIODEFENSE AND NBAF

HON. TRACEY MANN

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the Farm Bill in 2023, I rise today to deliver the eleventh installment of my Farm Bill Impact Series, where I am highlighting various aspects of the Farm Bill that deserve Congress' awareness and support. We need robust biosecurity in America not only because we need to eat in order to survive, but also because strong American agriculture will help keep our country free and self-determining as a Nation.

Manhattan, KS, the home of my alma mater Kansas State University, is also home to the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility, or NBAF. This state-of-the-art, 700,000 square foot facility will be a national asset that helps protect our nation's agriculture against the threat and potential impact of serious animal diseases. Experts believe that 75 percent of new and emerging infectious animal diseases can be transmitted from animals to humans. NBAF will be home to the only maximum biocontainment space in the country, where USDA will be conduct comprehensive research, develop vaccines and anti-virals, and explore enhanced diagnostic and training capabilities.

The United States Department of Agriculture is currently working with the Department of Homeland Security to bring NBAF online by this December, and to begin establishing partnerships between two key sectors heavily invested in animal health: academia and industry. Working with scientists and other industry professionals, NBAF will create new safety and security guidelines that will be critical for the prevention of future pandemics. Currently, scientists are conducting this very important research in New York at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, which is more than 60 years old. NBAF will replace this aging facility, create 400 local jobs for Kansans, generate over \$100 million in total economic benefit for our state, and make Kansas the home of internationally recognized animal disease experts. NBAF isn't just an exciting development for Kansas, it also marks the future of biodefense research that will protect the United States and the world.

The 2018 Farm Bill contained special authorization for biosecurity planning and response, which helped make NBAF possible. That version of the bill explicitly mentioned, "the coordination of tactical science activities to protect the integrity, reliability, sustainability, and profitability of the food and agricultural system of the United States against biosecurity threats from pests, diseases, contaminants, and disasters." NBAF is a concrete example of the impact that we can have when we reauthorize the Farm Bill in careful and creative ways.

During National Agriculture Month in March, I brought House Agriculture Committee Republican Leader GT Thompson on an Ag tour of Kansas where I was proud to show him NBAF. The technology, scale, and international significance of the facility is truly second to none. Once fully operational in December, NBAF won't just support and protect agriculture, it will protect our country and the world. I'll be back on the floor soon to deliver another installment of my Farm Bill Impact Series and highlight more programs and titles within the Bill that I believe Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture thrives in America.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL RICHARD "RICH" SCOBEE

HON. AUSTIN SCOTT

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lieutenant General Richard "Rich" Scobee for his retirement as Chief of the Air Force Reserve and Commander of the Air Force Reserve Command, and to thank him for his many years of dedicated service to our country.

After graduating from the United States Air Force Academy in 1986, Lt Gen Scobee earned his pilot wings as a distinguished graduate of Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot training. During his years of service, Lt Gen Scobee has served as an F-16 Fighting Falcon Pilot, Instructor Pilot, and Flight Examiner both domestically and overseas in Germany, South Korea, and Egypt. Lt Gen Scobee has commanded a fighter squadron, operations group, two fighter wings, a numbered Air Force, and deployed as Commander of an Air Expeditionary Group at Kirkuk Regional Air Base in Iraq.

Lt Gen Scobee has also earned major decorations and awards including the Distinguished Service Medal, Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit with oak leaf cluster, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, Aerial Achievement Medal with oak leaf cluster, Air Force Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, and Army Achievement Medal. As a career fighter pilot, Lt Gen Scobee is a command pilot with more than 3,800 hours in the F-16 Fighting Falcon including 248 combat hours.

Through his years of service and leadership, Lt Gen Scobee demonstrated his unwavering loyalty and dedication to our country and commitment to protecting our freedom. On behalf of the House Armed Services Committee and the people of Georgia's Eighth Congressional

District, I would like to thank Lt Gen Scobee for his service and wish him the best in his retirement.

RECOVERING AMERICA'S
WILDLIFE ACT, H.R. 2773

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, as a sportsman, I have long been a supporter and cosponsor of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act (RAWA).

This bipartisan legislation aims to promote and enhance Virginia's and our nation's conservation efforts and ensure the health of fish and wildlife across the U.S. RAWA would provide dedicated funding for the implementation of state fish and wildlife agencies' action plans and complement the American System of Conservation Funding, which is the financial contributions of hunters, anglers, target shooters, and boaters through excise taxes and related user fees, to ensure healthy populations of fish and wildlife for future generations to enjoy.

These conservation efforts could include re-introduction of imperiled species, conserving and restoring important habitat, fighting invasive species and disease, and more. This would significantly reduce the number of species in decline and would ultimately prevent these species from needing protections afforded under the Endangered Species Act. Restoring fish, wildlife, and their habitats is an effective way to restore critical natural infrastructure, create resilient habitats and communities, create jobs, and is an issue of national importance that has no political affiliation.

Unfortunately, I was not able to support H.R. 2773 on the House floor (Roll No. 267) because of changes to the bill text and failed attempts to address spending offsets after the Natural Resources Committee reported the bill on June 9, 2022. The bill that came to the floor contained substantial differences than the original introduced version of H.R. 2773. Additionally, the Majority failed to work with Republicans to address spending offsets and include a sunset provision.

I still support the original intent of RAWA to support State and tribal conservation efforts to restore wildlife. I look forward to Senate action to advance these goals while addressing the concerns of Natural Resources Committee Republicans and bill cosponsors that arouse when this legislation was considered on the House floor.

HONORING KENNETH "BABYFACE"
EDMONDS, SINGER, SONG-
WRITER, AND PRODUCER

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mr. CARSON. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Kenneth Edmonds, better known as Babyface, an Indianapolis native, who will be inducted into the Madam Walker Legacy Center Walk of Fame on June 17, 2022.

Kenneth was born in Indianapolis to Marvin and Barbara Edmonds and raised in our great city. He began songwriting at the young age of 12 years old, and after taking on the name Babyface, he signed his first record deal after joining his first band Manchid. He later joined The Deele which enjoyed a fast breakthrough into the music world for their R&B and funk hits.

Kenneth has created a legacy through his music. His second album, "Tender Lover", which included the hit singles "It's No Crime" and "Whip Appeal", went double platinum and became a critically acclaimed triumph. Babyface continued to share his talents as a co-songwriter with noteworthy artists such as Johnny Gill, Whitney Houston, and Boyz II Men. He was later nominated for a Grammy Award for Album of the Year for his unforgettable work on The Bodyguard Soundtrack.

Kenneth went on to release "For the Cool in You", winning his first Grammy for "When I Can See You Again" for Best Male R&B Vocal. While continuing to win consecutive Grammys for Producer of Year, and working with versatile artists, he released, starred, and created the soundtrack for the 1997 movie, Soul Food.

Throughout his successes, Kenneth has maintained a respectful approach to his work and an endearing sense of humility—typifying our beloved Hoosier values. He has three children for whom he sets a remarkable example. Kenneth is a dedicated philanthropist, supporting organizations making a difference in the fields of health, education, and more. His list of achievements and awards are impressive, and his hometown is overjoyed with his latest recognition from the Madam Walker Legacy Center.

Today, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Kenny "Babyface" Edmonds. Our community is proud of his success and impact in the music industry, Indiana and our country.

RECOVERING AMERICA'S
WILDLIFE ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. GWEN MOORE

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Recovering America's Wildlife Act, legislation that I have cosponsored which would strengthen our response to habitat loss, climate change, and disease impacting the health and well-being of threatened and endangered wildlife throughout our country.

Habitat loss, climate change, invasive species, disease, and severe weather have all taken a severe toll on birds, mammals, fish, amphibians, reptiles, butterflies, and bees. It is important that we take bold steps and invest in collaborative solutions to protect our wildlife.

According to the National Wildlife Federation, approximately one-third of bird species in North America are in urgent need of conservation action and over forty percent of American freshwater fish are currently at risk of extinction. Recent ecological changes, such as the increasing number of wildfires and rising average water temperatures, are pushing many species of animals towards endangerment and

extinction. As the representative for the great city of Milwaukee, located on beautiful Lake Michigan, I know just how important wildlife is to our economy, outdoor recreation, and the well-being of the environment.

This bill would bring much-needed resources to state, local and tribal wildlife professionals tasked with conserving wildlife and their habitat. The legislation would provide funding for the conservation or restoration of wildlife and plant species of the greatest conservation need, to implement the wildlife conservation strategies of states, territories, the District of Columbia and tribal governments, and support wildlife conservation education and recreation projects. Unless we invest in proactive, innovative solutions, we risk losing thousands of species.

I was happy to support this bill. Passing this legislation would be a good step in our continuing efforts to protect our environment and wildlife for the enjoyment of current and future generations.

HONORING PRESIDENT PAUL TRIBLE
ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM
CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the Honorable Paul Triple for his 26 years of extraordinary service as the president of Christopher Newport University located in Newport News, Virginia.

Prior to his service at Christopher Newport University, President Triple served as a Commonwealth's Attorney for Essex County, Virginia before being elected to represent Virginia's First Congressional District in the United States House of Representatives. After serving three terms in this chamber, President Triple was then elected to the United States Senate, where he served one term. After working as a teaching fellow at Harvard University, he returned to the Virginia Peninsula to serve as president of Christopher Newport University.

Over the course of his tenure, President Triple has ensured that Christopher Newport University has remained focused on both the academic achievement and personal development of its students, a focus which is exemplified by the establishment of the President's Leadership Program. Through a combination of academic study and community service, the program prepares students for a life of leadership, service and civic responsibility.

Under Mr. Triple's presidency, enrollment at Christopher Newport grew from 2,920 to over 4,700, with a graduation rate of 74 percent. Full-time faculty also increased from 166 to 282, and the university library's holdings increased to 1.2 million volumes. In 1996, President Triple worked with then-Delegate Alan Diamonstein to secure a \$5 million appropriation for the university's Ferguson Center for the Arts and a 21 percent increase in the university's operating funds. Since then, President Triple has overseen \$1 billion in construction projects, including the recent \$60 million, 83,000-square-foot Mary M. Torggler Fine Arts Center. The university's endowment,

which stood at \$330,000 when President Tribble took office, has grown exponentially under his tenure and now exceeds \$60 million, securing a bright future for the university for generations to come.

Madam Speaker, as the Christopher Newport University community gathers to celebrate a truly remarkable leader, I want to congratulate Paul Tribble on 26 years of legendary service to Christopher Newport University, and over 50 years of service to the Commonwealth of Virginia and the nation. I also want to thank Rosemary Tribble, his wife and partner for over 40 years, for her countless contributions, and their two children—Mary Katherine and Paul. I thank President Tribble for his decades of service and congratulations on a well-deserved retirement.

CONGRATULATING LIVING LANDS & WATERS ON THEIR 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF CLEANING AMERICA'S RIVERS

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Living Land & Waters for cleaning America's rivers for 25 years. Based in East Moline, they are the only industrial strength river clean-up organization in the world.

Living Lands & Waters was founded in 1998 by Chad Pregracke, with the mission of helping to protect, preserve and restore the natural environment of America's major rivers and their watersheds. By expanding awareness of environmental issues and creating a desire and opportunity for citizens to take an active role, they are helping to make a cleaner river environment for all of us. The Living Lands & Waters crew lives up to nine months a year on their barge and hosts river cleanups, watershed conservation initiative workshops, tree plantings and other key conservation efforts. Impressively, they have removed over 10 million pounds of trash from rivers around the country.

It is because of community organizations such as Living Lands & Waters that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Living Lands & Waters on its 25th Anniversary of cleaning up our country's rivers.

IN RECOGNITION OF MELISSA SANDOVAL AND MARVIN MACAULEY

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNÁNDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Ms. LEGER FERNÁNDEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor Melissa Sandoval and Marvin MacAuley.

Currently, wildfires are devastating my district. These fires have ravaged sacred, cultural, and familiar spaces while destroying everything in their paths. Tens of thousands of people are displaced and uncertainty sur-

rounds us. But, in this time of devastation, there are people who continue to give so much of themselves to meet the needs of their communities.

Some of these exemplary people include Superintendent Melissa Sandoval of Peñasco Independent Schools and Superintendent Marvin MacAuley of Mora Independent Schools.

Many communities in rural New Mexico are unincorporated or census-designated places without mayors, a town council, emergency managers, or special project coordinators. Despite this, communities like Peñasco and Mora are fortunate to have extraordinary superintendents.

When evacuation orders were looming and the need to prepare was imminent, Superintendents Sandoval and MacAuley got together and coordinated a response to provide shelter, warm meals, and a safe space for hundreds of displaced community members. They stepped up for their communities when it was least convenient.

I had the privilege of meeting with Superintendents Sandoval and MacAuley at the Peñasco Middle School evacuation site. As I walked through the gym and spoke to evacuees, their gratitude for the space created by Sandoval, MacAuley, and their teams, was evident. While these individuals and families were losing their homes, Sandoval and MacAuley ensured that they had fewer things to worry about.

People like Melissa and Marvin exemplify the strength of our communities. Their efforts remind us of the importance of showing up and stepping up for our neighbors whether through small everyday actions or large collaborative efforts.

Superintendents Sandoval and MacAuley represent the best of us.

I commend these two remarkable individuals for their leadership. I am thankful to them for all they have done and continue to do for their students and communities throughout northern New Mexico.

RECOGNIZING MRS. STACY COGGIN

HON. MIKE BOST

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate a dedicated professional with the Department of Veterans Affairs on the occasion of her retirement. Mrs. Stacy Coggin is an exemplary public servant who has demonstrated the highest standards of professionalism on a daily basis. She has served with the Department of Veterans Affairs, Office for Congressional and Legislative Affairs the last five years of her more than 22 years in federal service. Her career in faithful public service is a testament to the importance of selfless service.

For the last 5 years, Mrs. Coggin served as Congressional Relations Officer in the office of Congressional and Legislative Affairs. She has been involved in a remarkable breadth of important VA programs across the Department including compensation and benefits claims, appeals, and field operations. In this capacity, she spearheaded support for more than nine hundred Congressional oversight actions, from

requests for information to Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearings, helping this body ensure our Nation's veterans and their families receive the care and benefits they deserve.

As Mrs. Coggin embarks on a new chapter in life, it is my hope that she may recall, with a deep sense of pride and accomplishment, the outstanding contributions she has made to the Department of Veterans Affairs, the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, and the veterans of the United States. May her life be filled with health and happiness.

FEDERAL RESERVE RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG LAMALFA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, while I cannot rise in support of H.R. 2543, I would like to highlight one piece of this package that will make a difference in this district. Mr. Speaker, rural and low-income communities have many things in common including lack of access to financial services. In a rural area such as my district, constituents often drive 20–40 miles, even crossing county lines to receive access to their own funds. This is the case in more than one of the counties in my district. I want to applaud the efforts of the credit unions which are highlighted in this bill and support their efforts to bring more financial services to rural and unserved communities.

VISTA FIELD

HON. DAN NEWHOUSE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exciting addition to Central Washington that has been years in the making.

Vista Field, formally a municipal airport, is well on its way to becoming a vibrant and pedestrian-focused town center with neighborhoods and urban lifestyle amenities. The 103 acres of land will introduce 1,000 single-family homes, retail shops, restaurants, and entertainment to the growing community of Kennewick. The Port of Kennewick is celebrating this new addition to the community by hosting a grand opening celebration, today, where community members can be the first to see the new public amenities, such as a commercial plaza, pedestrian bridges, fountains, and ponds.

Once completed, this new urban development is expected to bring in \$51 million in infrastructure investments in addition to over 3,000 jobs for our local community, contributing to a thriving local economy.

Vista Field is a perfect example of the innovative projects that are possible when local leadership and community collaboration are at the forefront, and I am excited to see this project take form and bring new opportunities for everyone in our community to enjoy.

HONORING JAN ZIMMERMAN ON
HER RETIREMENT AS CHIEF OF
POLICE IN RAYMORE

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished career of Chief Jan Zimmerman of the Raymore Police Department. After more than four decades of selfless service working in public safety, Chief Zimmerman has announced her intent to retire. She has established an inspiring career and legacy that is a true testament to the value Missouri's public servants bring to their communities.

Beginning a career in public safety in 1979, Jan served the Kansas City Police Department (KCPD) as a dispatcher; shortly thereafter, she attended the Kansas City Police Academy and was sworn in as a KCPD police officer in 1982. Throughout her career in law enforcement, Jan served the KCPD with distinction by rising through the ranks of sergeant (1987), captain (1994), and ultimately concluded her tenure as major (2000). Jan holds a BA in Criminal Justice, an MA in Public Administration, and is an alumnus of the FBI National Academy in Quantico.

Joining the Raymore Police Department as Chief of Police in 2012, Jan Zimmerman has led the department through tumultuous times providing unrelenting leadership. Chief Zimmerman places high expectations on her officers, committing herself to provide quality training and setting an example for the next generation of public safety professionals.

Jan also championed mental health by partnering with healthcare professionals to develop the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) and implement the program at the KCPD and the Raymore Police Department. Later, she served as a Jackson County Mental Health Court Commissioner and considers this experience one of her proudest accomplishments. Zimmerman is the first female in the history of the Missouri Police Chiefs Association to receive the Donald "Red" Loehr Outstanding Police Chief award for her achievements in ensuring public safety.

Law enforcement officers face many difficult, sometimes fatal, challenges. To support fallen officers' families, Jan serves as a program director for the Surviving Spouse and Family Endowment Fund with the Kansas City Crime Commission.

For over a decade, Chief Zimmerman has put the safety and wellbeing of Raymore residents above her own. With the support of family; her husband, Major David Zimmerman of the Kansas City Police Department; her daughters, Jackie and Britt; and her granddaughters, Elise and Michele, Jan has withstood the hardships that are all too common in law enforcement.

Today, thanks to the leadership of Chief Jan Zimmerman, Raymore residents enjoy safer neighborhoods, exceptional emergency services, and a police department that serves with integrity. On behalf of Missouri's Fourth Congressional District, I thank Chief Zimmerman for answering the call to serve and protect our community. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement.

BRINGING ATTENTION TO THE
LEFT'S WAR ON AGRICULTURE

HON. RONNY JACKSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mr. JACKSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to a serious issue facing all of rural America: the Biden Administration and the radical Left's War on Agriculture.

Today, the House will vote on H.R. 7606, which will exacerbate fractured supply chains, skyrocketing input costs, and historic levels of inflation, all of which are hammering American consumers.

This bill is the latest attempt to scapegoat private industry rather than address the real needs and concerns of farmers, ranchers, and rural Americans.

We know the Biden Administration and my colleagues across the aisle see Americans in the oil and gas industry as the enemy, and I truly believe they now see farmers and ranchers as the enemy too.

I want my constituents back home in Texas to know this is something I'm fighting every day.

I represent the number 1 Ag district in Texas, and the farmers and ranchers in my district are experiencing out of control input costs for fertilizer, fuel, and basic parts for equipment. I can assure you the legislation we're voting on today will make matters worse.

A spending and regulatory agenda that compounds the situation and further limits the American Ag industry's ability to meet global food demands is not the answer.

Instead, I urge the Speaker to abandon this bill and bring H.R. 8069, the Reducing Farm Input Costs and Barriers to Domestic Production Act, to the House Floor.

H.R. 8069 will actually support our farmers and ranchers by ensuring they have regulatory certainty so that they may grow abundant and affordable food and fiber.

Rather than generate additional layers of bureaucracy and regulatory compliance with H.R. 7606, Congress should take up H.R. 8069 immediately.

I thank Ranking Member G.T. THOMPSON for his leadership on the right approach, H.R. 8069, and I urge my colleagues to vote NO on H.R. 7606.

RECOGNIZING JOHN F. GIBBS

HON. TOM EMMER

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mr. EMMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize John F. Gibbs for his 18 years of service to Comcast, over 40 years in the cable industry, and decades of dedication to his community and the state of Minnesota. Mr. Gibbs announced his retirement from Comcast, and although he will be greatly missed, his hard work and contributions have made a positive impact on the industry and community, ensuring he will not be forgotten.

Mr. Gibbs joined Comcast in March 2003 with more than 20 years of legal and telecommunications experience. During his ten-

ure, he built and led an industry-leading state government affairs team that has achieved a strong record of successes across the country. Prior to 2003, he was a partner at the Minneapolis law firm of Robins, Kaplan, Miller & Ciresi, LLP, and practiced in the areas of communications and regulatory law. While at the firm, he provided counsel to the franchise transfer activities associated with Comcast's acquisition of AT&T Broadband and other major industry transactions, including the mergers of AT&T and MediaOne, AT&T and TCI, and AOL and Time Warner. Before joining the Robins firm, Mr. Gibbs served as Vice President of Corporate & Legal Affairs for Continental Cablevision in Los Angeles from 1986 to 1995.

Long involved in community affairs, Mr. Gibbs was elected to the Three Rivers Park District Board of Commissioners in November 2010. This park system is in the west suburban Minneapolis/St. Paul metro area and manages almost 27,000 acres of park reserves, regional parks, regional trails, and special-use facilities. Prior to this, Mr. Gibbs served for 10 years on the Hennepin County Library Board where he served as president for three of those years. He is the former chair of the Hennepin County Policy Advisory Committee, a former member of the Bloomington, Minnesota Charter Commission, former member and chair of the Bloomington Cable Commission, and has served on a variety of non-profit boards.

Currently, in addition to representing District 5 on the Three Rivers Park Board, Mr. Gibbs serves on the boards of Artistry Theater and Visual Arts in Bloomington and the Minnesota River Valley Chapter of the Izaak Walton League.

I congratulate Mr. Gibbs on his successful 18-year career with Comcast and over 40 years of leadership in an industry that has invested heavily in America and through broadband improved the lives of the citizens of this country. I commend Mr. Gibbs on his decades of service to the State of Minnesota, Hennepin County, and the City of Bloomington. I know the whole House joins me in wishing him the best in retirement and as he continues to serve his community as a valued and experienced leader.

**RECOVERING AMERICA'S
WILDLIFE ACT OF 2021**

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my concerns with respect to H.R. 2773, the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. The bill has laudable goals and the potential positive impact on our nation's wildlife conservation efforts is undeniable. I am a long-standing proponent of environmental causes and the benefits of investing in them.

However, the ends do not justify the means. Specifically, the bill provides an average of \$1.4 billion per year in mandatory appropriations from the General Fund indefinitely. As a result, this bill provides the additional funding on autopilot without any role for this or future Congresses to scrutinize the details and value

of this massive investment. Additionally, the House Parliamentarian's Office has also confirmed to my staff that this bill presents significant jurisdictional issues with respect to the House's rule against appropriating in an authorizing bill.

I believe there is a better way forward that is consistent with the longstanding regular order of this body. Subjecting this funding to the appropriations process would ensure that we make these valuable investments in our nation's wildlife while at the same time preserving the important role Congress must play in overseeing our Article I responsibilities.

It pains me that we were not able to resolve these differences because as a longtime appropriator, I fully understand the need for robust, long-term investments to protect our environment and natural habitats. However, as chair of the House Committee on Appropriations I must vote against this legislation. The Founders were crystal clear about the importance of the power of the purse. Our duty to the American people is to ensure that we do not abdicate our responsibility to be effective stewards of taxpayer resources.

My hope is that I can work with my colleagues here in the House and in the Senate to come to a stronger, bipartisan agreement on moving this bill forward in a manner that is consistent with the rules of this body and Congress' power of the purse.

CONGRATULATING LTC ERIC
MARSHALL

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Eric Marshall on his retirement from the United States Army. LTC Marshall has had an illustrious career lasting over 20 years serving in the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, culminating as the Honolulu District's Commander.

In American Samoa, our men and women of the Armed Forces are very important to us. The people of our islands take great pride in being patriotic Americans and our people are known for a high rate of service in our military. In particular, our U.S. Army recruiting center ranks number one in the nation in enlistment rate.

To that end I would like to recognize all the work LTC Marshall has done to lead throughout his career in situations such as leading dive missions, having a key managing role in the Western Closure, commanding the B/1-48th infantry company, and imparting his knowledge on future leaders in the Army through his instruction and course direction in physics at West Point.

He has an extensive list of military awards and decorations including the Bronze Star, Bronze DeFleury, and is currently nominated for the Silver DeFleury. He is a graduate of the prestigious U.S. Air Force Academy and received his Master's Degree in nuclear engineering from MIT.

In congratulating this outstanding officer today, we also express our deep appreciation to all who serve, including the many in uniform from American Samoa serving with distinction all over the world.

I thank Eric for his outstanding leadership and his commitment to our Soldiers, American Samoa, and our great Nation. Best wishes to him and his family as he departs Honolulu. I congratulate him on his retirement and the great future ahead. Again, I thank him for his service and his time dedicated to our beautiful island.

God bless you on your journey. (Fa'amanuia le Atua i ou ala). Soifua.

HONORING MR. GENE WEEKS

HON. ERIC A. "RICK" CRAWFORD
OF ARKANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Thursday, June 16, 2022

Mr. CRAWFORD. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Gene Weeks, a distinguished Superintendent from my district who is retiring this year after a career of service.

Mr. Weeks is a dedicated educator of 36 years, who served as a coach, athletic director, principal, and assistant superintendent throughout his time at the Greene County Tech School District. He is retiring as the Superintendent of Greene County Tech after 7 years in the position.

Mr. Weeks devoted his career to his students and played an essential role in teaching and preparing the next generation to be leaders and public servants. His commitment to the health, education, and success of his students was invaluable to our community, and I am certain the First District is better because of service.

CONGRATULATING DR. MARLA E.
PÉREZ-DAVIS

HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2022

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my deep gratitude to Dr. Marla E. Pérez-Davis for her remarkable service as Director of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) John H. Glenn Research Center, both the main campus at Lewis Field in Brook Park, Ohio and the Neil A. Armstrong Test Facility in Sandusky, Ohio—and to congratulate her on a well-deserved retirement.

Over her nearly forty-year career at NASA, Dr. Pérez-Davis nobly delivered for the American people in a variety of crucial roles, including Deputy Director of the Research and Engineering Directorate, Director of the Aeronautics Research Office, Chief of the Project Liaison and Integration Office, and Chief of the Electrochemistry Branch.

Upon taking the helm as Director of the Glenn Research Center, Dr. Pérez-Davis went to work leading a team of more than 3,200 dedicated professionals in the awe-inspiring mission of advancing humanity's understanding of the cosmic wonders beyond.

Dr. Pérez-Davis' leadership has been instrumental in driving Glenn Research Center's progress as a renowned hub for unrivaled innovation, technological excellence, economic development, and scientific discovery. Her commitment to expanding aerospace capabilities; assuring cybersecurity and quantum computing protections; and partnering with schools, students, and the wider community leave the Glenn Research Center in a strong position for the future ahead.

It has been a sincere honor to work with Dr. Pérez-Davis—an esteemed leader who relentlessly focused on propelling the Glenn Research Center—and the whole of NASA's global enterprise—on its journey toward a new era of breathtaking enlightenment.

I speak for the entire community of Northern Ohio in thanking Dr. Pérez-Davis and wishing her all the best in her next endeavor.

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

Senate passed H.R. 3967, Honoring our PACT Act, as amended.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2983–S3013

Measures Introduced: Twenty bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4415–4434, and S. Res. 682–683. **Pages S3002–03**

Measures Passed:

Honoring our PACT Act: By 84 yeas to 14 nays (Vote No. 230), Senate passed H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances. **Pages S2983–91**

World Elder Abuse Awareness: Senate agreed to S. Res. 682, designating June 15, 2022, as “World Elder Abuse Awareness Day” and the month of June as “Elder Abuse Awareness Month”. **Page S3008**

Greater Washington Soap Box Derby: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 88, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the Greater Washington Soap Box Derby. **Page S3008**

Securing Semiconductor Supply Chains Act: Senate passed S. 3309, to require SelectUSA to coordinate with State-level economic development organizations to increase foreign direct investment in semiconductor-related manufacturing and production, after withdrawing the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, and agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S3009–10**

Carper (for Peters) Amendment No. 5098, in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S3009–10**

VETS Safe Travel Act: Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. 2280, to provide PreCheck to certain severely injured or disabled veterans, and the bill was then passed. **Page S3010**

Otto Warmbier Countering North Korean Censorship and Surveillance Act: Senate passed S. 2129, to promote freedom of information and counter censorship and surveillance in North Korea, after agree-

ing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Pages S3011–13**

de Alba Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Ana Isabel de Alba, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California. **Pages S2991–92**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 231), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2992**

Boyle Nomination: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. **Page S2992**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 232), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S2992**

Motion to Discharge Dettelbach Nomination: Pursuant to S. Res. 27, Committee on the Judiciary being tied on the question of reporting, the Majority Leader made the motion to discharge the Committee on the Judiciary from further consideration of the nomination of Steven M. Dettelbach, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, Department of Justice. **Pages S2992–95**

By 52 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 233), Senate agreed to the motion to discharge the nomination from the Committee on the Judiciary. Subsequently, the nomination was placed on the Executive Calendar pursuant to the provisions of S. Res. 27, relative to Senate procedure in the 117th Congress. **Page S2995**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

Jaime E. Lizarraga, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for a term expiring June 5, 2027.

Mark Toshio Uyeda, of California, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2023.

Naz Durakoglu, of New Jersey, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Legislative Affairs). **Page S3001**

Nomination Discharged: The following nomination was discharged from further committee consideration and placed on the Executive Calendar:

Steven M. Dettelbach, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, which was sent to the Senate on April 25, 2022, from the Senate Committee on the Judiciary.

Page S3013

Messages from the House: **Page S3002**

Measures Read the First Time: **Page S3002**

Enrolled Bills Presented: **Page S3002**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S3002**

Notice of a Tie Vote Under S. Res. 27: **Page S3001**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3003–04**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:
Pages S3004–07

Additional Statements: **Pages S3001–02**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S3007–08**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S3008**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—233) **Pages S2991, S2992, S2995**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 4:22 p.m., until 8:30 a.m. on Friday, June 17, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3010.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: On Wednesday, June 15, 2022, Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of General Christopher G. Cavoli, USA, to be general and Commander, U.S. European Command, and Supreme Allied Commander, Europe, Department of Defense, and 1,230 nominations in the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Space Force.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill entitled, "National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023".

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, focusing on protecting communities from flood risk, after receiving testimony from Jana Henderson, Mississippi Office of Mitigation Director and State Hazard Mitigation Officer, Pearl, on behalf of the Association of State Floodplain Managers; Peter Van Doren, Cato Institute, and Jerry Theodorou, R Street Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; Douglas Quinn, American Policyholder Association, Toms River, New Jersey; and Samuel D. Brody, Director, Texas A and M University Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas, College Station.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Tamara Cofman Wittes, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and Geeta Rao Gupta, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues, Michael Alan Ratney, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Timmy T. Davis, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the State of Qatar, all of the Department of State, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

COVID-19 FEDERAL RESPONSE

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine an update on the ongoing Federal response to COVID-19, focusing on current status and future planning, after receiving testimony from Rochelle P. Walensky, Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Anthony S. Fauci, Director, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, National Institutes of Health, Robert M. Califf, Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Food and Drug Administration, and Dawn O'Connell, Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, all of the Department of Health and Human Services.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Sarah A. L. Merriam, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Lara E. Montecalvo, of Rhode Island, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Tiffany M. Cartwright, to be

United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Nina Nin-Yuen Wang, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colo-

rado, and Phillip A. Talbert, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California, Department of Justice.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 44 public bills, H.R. 8095–8138; 1 private bill, H.R. 8139; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 1182–1186, were introduced. **Pages H5643–46**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5647–48**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3952, to strengthen the role of the Chief Scientist of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in order to promote scientific integrity and advance the Administration's world-class research and development portfolio, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–373, Part 1); and

H.R. 7233, to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for requirements under Medicaid State plans for health screenings and referrals for certain eligible juveniles in public institutions; and to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue clear and specific guidance under the Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance programs to improve the delivery of health care services, including mental health services, in elementary and secondary schools and school-based health centers, with amendments (H. Rept. 117–374). **Page H5643**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Norcross to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5613**

Meat and Poultry Special Investigator Act of 2022: The House passed H.R. 7606, to establish the Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters within the Department of Agriculture, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 221 yeas to 204 nays, Roll No. 277. **Pages H5615–32**

Rejected the Cammack motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Agriculture by a yeas-and-nays vote of 206 yeas to 218 nays, Roll No. 276. **Page H5631**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–50, modified by the amendment printed in part E of H. Rept. 117–366, shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Agriculture now printed in the bill.

Agreed to:

Khanna amendment (No. 1 printed in part F of H. Rept. 117–366) that authorizes USDA to carry out a program that reduces dependence on foreign sources of fertilizers, supports reliable access to critical inputs for farmers, and encourages innovation and competition in the highly concentrated fertilizer industry, and would support investments in materials or tools for efficient use of fertilizer, sustainable fertilizer production, and incentives for greater precision in fertilizer use; and **Pages H5627–29**

Spanberger amendment (No. 2 printed in part F of H. Rept. 117–366) that directs USDA to establish Supply Chain Regional Resource Centers to support small and medium-size agricultural producers and businesses with coordination, technical assistance, and grants related to producers' and businesses' supply chain challenges, and directs the existing Agriculture Innovation Centers Program to do research, offer technical assistance and support services, conduct outreach, and provide other services to strengthen and secure supply chains for US agricultural commodities and products. **Pages H5629–31**

H. Res. 1170, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2543), (H.R. 2773), and (H.R. 7606) was agreed to Tuesday, June 14th.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yeas-and-nays votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5631 and H5632.

Adjournment: The House met at 9 a.m. and adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a markup on the FY 2023 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill. The FY 2023 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government held a markup on the FY 2023 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill. The FY 2023 Financial

Services and General Government Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

U.S. EFFORTS TO SUPPORT EUROPEAN ENERGY SECURITY

Committee on Foreign Affairs: Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber held a hearing entitled “U.S. Efforts to Support European Energy Security”. Testimony was heard from Andrew Light, Assistant Secretary of Energy for International Affairs, Department of Energy; Harry Kamian, Senior Bureau Official and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Energy Resources, Department of State; and Jake Levine, Chief Climate Officer, International Development Finance Corporation.

LEGISLATIVE MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife held a hearing on H.R. 4768, the “DEFEND the Great Lakes Act”; H.R. 6936, the “Stamp Out Invasive Species Act”; H.R. 6949, the “Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2022”; H.R. 7398, the “Prohibit Wildlife Killing Contests Act of 2022”; H.R. 7792, the “Water Data Act”; H.R. 7793, the “Rio Grande Water Security Act”; and H.R. 7801, to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to allow the Secretary of Commerce to establish a Coastal and Estuarine Resilience and Restoration Program, and for other purposes. Testimony was heard from Representatives Stansbury and Evans; Stephanie Garcia Richard, Commissioner of Public Lands, State Land Office, New Mexico; Mike A. Hamman, State Engineer, New Mexico; and public witnesses.

ENSURING INDEPENDENCE AND BUILDING TRUST: CONSIDERING REFORMS TO WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS AT VA

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Ensuring Independence and Building Trust: Considering Reforms to Whistleblower Protections at VA”. Testimony was heard from Maryanne T. Donaghy,

Assistant Secretary for Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection, Department of Veterans Affairs; Elizabeth McMurray, Chief of Retaliation and Disclosure Unit, U.S. Office of Special Counsel; and public witnesses.

JANUARY 6TH INVESTIGATION

Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “January 6th Investigation”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D666)

H.R. 1298, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1233 North Cedar Street in Owasso, Oklahoma, as the “Technical Sergeant Marshal Roberts Post Office Building”. Signed on June 16, 2022. (Public Law 117–143)

S. 66, to require the Inter-Agency Task Force on Harmful Algal Blooms and Hypoxia to develop a plan for reducing, mitigating, and controlling harmful algal blooms and hypoxia in South Florida. Signed on June 16, 2022. (Public Law 117–144)

S. 2201, to manage supply chain risk through counterintelligence training. Signed on June 16, 2022. (Public Law 117–145)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, JUNE 17, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

No hearings are scheduled.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

8:30 a.m., Friday, June 17

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

1 p.m., Friday, June 17

Senate Chamber

Program for Friday: Senate will meet in pro forma session.

House Chamber

Program for Friday: House will meet in Pro Forma session at 1 p.m.

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