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## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

### DEMOCRATS TRUST WOMEN

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Democrats and their efforts to protect women and their reproductive rights.

In 2020, more than 930,000 women had an abortion nationwide, exercising their fundamental human right. These are women who made one of the most intimate and personal decisions for their family and their futures.

However, with the decision to overturn Roe, the Republican-controlled Supreme Court has achieved the dark and extreme goal of stripping away a woman's right to choose. In doing so, they erased nearly five decades of progress. For the first time in America's history, our daughters have less freedom than their mothers. This is plain and simply shameful.

To make matters worse, now MAGA Republicans are determined to take it a step further and strip women of their right to contraception. I repeat: Extreme rightwing Republicans want to strip women of their right to birth control.

House Democrats won't stand for this. We are fighting for you. We trust you. We always have, and we always will.

Today, we will act. We will continue to fight. Tomorrow, we will pass the Right to Contraception Act to protect women's access to birth control.

We are doing this to protect the more than 60 percent of U.S. women of reproductive age who use contraception. This bill will guarantee the right to obtain and use oral contraception, emergency contraception, and IUDs because no one—and I mean no one—should have the right to take away a woman's right to choose their own healthcare.

While Republicans seek to control a woman's body for their political base, Democrats remain the party that puts people over politics and protects women and their reproductive rights.

It is simple. Democrats trust women. We trust women to make their own healthcare decisions without any questions.

To everyone listening, you have my promise that I will never stop fighting for women and their reproductive rights. I trust you, and I will never stop fighting.

### BIDEN'S INFLATION CATASTROPHE

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, you don't need to be an economics guru to understand that President Biden's inflation catastrophe continues to kneecap our country.

But if you ask the President, the White House press secretary, or anyone in the administration, for that matter, they would tell you that the United States is "stronger economically" than ever.

How dense does one have to be to claim that, unless this administration

is trying to cover up its ultimate end goal of turning the United States into Venezuela by taking on so much debt that we implode? That doesn't seem farfetched in the slightest.

Madam Speaker, inflation is the pickpocket that Americans run into every day, from the gas pump to the grocery store, and it is only growing worse.

Since the administration and the President haven't figured this out yet, let me put this in terms that they understand: 9.1 percent. End of quote. Repeat the line. 9.1 percent. 9.1 percent.

A WOMAN'S HEALTH DECISIONS END WHEN THE LIFE OF AN UNBORN BECOMES INVOLVED

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, our colleagues keep talking about the issue of women's health and women's reproductive freedom.

In "The Merchant of Venice," Shylock thought he had won a great victory when he thought he was going to get his pound of flesh. But Portia, the attorney, said to the judge: You may have your pound of flesh but not one drop of blood. I think that is a good analogy for what our colleagues are saying.

No one is opposed to women protecting their health. But those of us in the pro-life movement are concerned about when that woman's health decision destroys an unborn life. So, a woman's health decisions end when the life of an unborn becomes involved.

### CONGRATULATING IRENE TOVAR

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate a tremendous community leader, a friend of mine, and a friend of the community of Los Angeles and beyond, Irene Tovar, for being conferred an honorary doctorate from California State University at Northridge, otherwise known

□ 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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as CSUN, for her decades of public service as an advocate for education in the San Fernando Valley, throughout the State of California, and across the country.

I think of a quote from Saint Francis of Assisi: "Start by doing what is necessary; and then do what is possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible." That is Irene Tovar.

Irene's story begins like many of ours: in search of the American Dream. Her mother is from Salamanca, Guanajuato, Mexico, and her father is from Jerez, Zacatecas, Mexico. Her parents met in southern California, where later they married. They first settled in East Los Angeles, where Irene, her sister, and her brother were born, and then they moved to Pacoima and lived on Pinney Street.

Irene was a dedicated student and attended Pacoima Elementary School, San Fernando High School, and San Fernando Valley State College, which is now known as Cal State University Northridge.

While attending CSUN, Irene, who earned a bachelor's degree in social science from the university in 1969, noticed that the dropout rate for Latino students was disproportionately high, so she helped create an organization to address the issue.

It grew into the Latin American Civic Association, known as LACA, which administered the first Head Start program in the San Fernando Valley. This organization helps thousands of working families access quality childcare and education.

Alongside leaders such as Dr. Rudy Acuna, Irene began to advocate and organize for the creation of the Equal Opportunity Program and the Chicano Studies Department at California State University Northridge.

The Chicano Studies Department was established in 1969 with only 100 students. Now, it is one of the largest Chicano studies departments in the country.

Her advocacy caught the attention of then-Governor Jerry Brown, who, during his first tenure, appointed Irene to the State Personnel Board. She was the first Mexican American and first person of color to sit on the board.

She was instrumental in implementing policies and procedures that removed artificial barriers in the California civil service system, including differential pay and affirmative action. She also served as a full-time member of the California Public Employment Relations Board, a quasi-judicial body she joined in 1974.

Irene's passion for education and public service continues. She currently serves as the CEO of LACA, which now focuses on providing multifamily services and affordable housing.

Irene has played a key role in the history of the San Fernando Valley as a founding member of the L.A. Mission College, board member of the United Way, board member of the L.A. Urban Coalition, board member of the CSUN

Alumni Association, and many other organizations.

She currently serves as a commissioner on the City of Los Angeles Human Relations Commission, whose mission is to promote intergroup peace-building, equity, and human rights.

Irene, your service is unparalleled, and this doctorate is a symbol of your sacrifice and hard work for the families of the San Fernando Valley, the great State of California, and our country.

Congratulations, Irene, and I am proud to call you Dr. Irene Tovar.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF RODRIGO GARCIA

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a trailblazer who made a difference across this country.

Rodrigo "Rod" Garcia, founder of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, otherwise known as SHPE, was a man of deep conviction and passion. Not only did he commit to his work as an engineer, but he opened a door for so many, including myself, to follow in his footsteps.

As one of the only handful of Hispanic engineers during the 1973 tech boom, he could easily have gone on to a promising career in the sciences. But when he saw a wrong, he set out to right that wrong.

In gathering a cohort of fellow Hispanic engineers, he was determined to diversify the STEM industry across our country, and that is when SHPE was born.

While Rod Garcia was an incredible man, his legacy in SHPE is equally incredible. Now, the organization has grown into the largest Hispanic STEM association nationwide, with 13,000 members and 286 chapters across the country.

An engineer to his core, Mr. Garcia attributed the success of SHPE as such: "We were engineers. We drew up the plan. . . . To see it take off the way it has, it is really special." And special it is.

SHPE's impact is only growing. In the 2021-2022 academic year, SHPE awarded scholarships to over 200 students across the country, distributing over \$1.3 million.

Rod has passed on, and he will be sorely missed, but his reputation and his memory will live on forever.

#### CONGRATULATING THE AMHERST ALL STAR DARLINGS

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

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible achievement in youth sports. The Amherst All Star Darlings, a girls' youth softball team of 7- and 8-year-olds, just finished their season undefeated.

After winning both the district and State championships, they have set their eyes on Cochran-Bleckley, Georgia, where the girls' softball world series will be played later this month.

These young ladies worked hard and enjoyed the competition, and their determination to win throughout the length of their season has been unmatched.

Now, they are planning and working toward making their trip to Georgia possible to get the chance to make this Cinderella story a reality.

Their efforts are a story of camaraderie, hard work, and laying the foundation for a bright future not only in sports but in all of their future endeavors.

Amherst has been a special part of the Sixth District for decades, and it has been an honor to represent the people of Amherst, first in Richmond and now in Washington. The Sixth District, along with the entire Commonwealth of Virginia, will be cheering them on when they compete on July 31 in the Dixie youth softball league world series.

Congratulations to the Amherst All Star Darlings for representing friends and family, the Amherst community, and the entire Commonwealth of Virginia so well.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE IS NOT A PARTISAN ISSUE

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

Mr. DEUTCH. Madam Speaker, over 6 years ago, our former colleague Carlos Curbelo and I launched the Climate Solutions Caucus to have a bipartisan effort to address climate change. We did it because where we live in south Florida, climate change is not a partisan issue.

Republican and Democratic leaders alike, Republican and Democratic business leaders and elected officials, all understand that sunny-day flooding, and sea-level rise brought by climate change are happening right now, and we need to respond to it.

□ 1015

So we launched action here to try to responsibly address climate change, just as so many are in South Florida and around the country. The 7 years that we have just endured are the 7 hottest years on record. In 2021, the U.S. endured over 20 weather disasters, costing a billion dollars or more. Hurricanes, and floods, and wildfires, all of them made worst by climate change.

Last year, there were at least 688 people who died in the United States attributed to climate change: \$150 billion in damage.

And so where are we now?

Well, our country and our world are reeling from the devastating impact of climate change. For the first time ever, temperatures in the U.K. exceeded 104 degrees; Ireland hit record highs of over 90 degrees; Portugal 117. More than 1,100 people in Spain and Portugal died in this heat wave.

Wildfires are scorching Europe. More than 100 million people in the U.S. have

been under a heat alert. A mega drought is gripping our West and Southwest, drying up critical sources of fresh water and addressing our demands for electrical power. And a deep drought has much of North Africa on the edge of famine.

This has happened in one week. Yet, these heat waves will become more frequent and intense for decades to come. We will continue to see the intense heat waves that have been scorching Europe and the U.S. put immense pressure on our infrastructure and continue to put lives at risk.

Madam Speaker, we need innovators and entrepreneurs in climate tech. We need young people to stand up and demand a world that will be safe for them. We need the Biden administration, and we need this Congress.

My colleagues, we need to be bold. It is not about comfort. It is not about staying cool. For people across the globe right now, at this moment, it is and continues to be about survival. It is time for us to act on climate change. The future of our planet depends on us.

#### RECOGNIZING JON DEWITTE

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

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to say thank you. Thank you to a chief of staff, a colleague, a confidante, and a special friend.

Jon DeWitte has been my chief of staff for 11½ years. In fact, when I was elected in 2010, Jon was the first call that I made. He was my first hire, and we have been on this journey together the entire time.

Now, Jon has had a great track record here in Washington, D.C., as well. He worked for the Education and Workforce Committee. He then went on to work with former Congressman Dave Camp. Then when I left the position of district director from my predecessor, Peter Hoekstra, Jon came and filled that role and filled that position for 8 years until I got elected, when I asked him to come back to Washington and act as my chief of staff.

Well, Jon—two redistrictings, majority, minority, government shutdown, impeachments, war, peace—we have seen just about all of it and have lived that textbook of political science. I couldn't have done it without him, and I know he could not have done this without his family.

I want to say a special thank you, as well, to Jodi, Nathan, Katie, and Josh for the sacrifices that they made—the sacrifices that they have made—for late nights and early mornings, for travel, for all the different things that go into being an excellent chief of staff. He has been one.

Now, I know that there are great paths ahead for Jon, and great paths ahead for all of you, but I do know that our friendship will not end. Team Huizenga is always Team Huizenga, and Jon is a vital part of that.

So once again, I thank Jon for his service, not only to me, but more importantly, to the constituents of the Second Congressional District back in Michigan and service to his country.

A job well done and I thank him.

#### HOUSING MARKET NEEDS HELP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. TORRES of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express concern about the building material supply change bottlenecks and elevated construction costs that continue to put a damper on the single-family housing market.

For the first time since June 2020, both single-family starts and permits fell below a 1 million annual pace. Additionally, builder confidence in the market for newly built single-family homes declined for the seventh straight month in July, falling 12 points to 55.

According to the National Association of Homebuilders and the Wells Fargo Housing Market Index released just this week, this marks the lowest HMI reading since May 2020 and the largest single-month drop in the history of the HMI, except during the pandemic.

Building material prices during the pandemic have hit record highs with low stock, and prospective buyers are faced with unaffordable home prices as a result. Affordable housing is a critical need in the Inland Empire, the district that I represent, and I urge the administration to prioritize the ability and the availability and price of lumber to make more homes affordable.

#### IN SUPPORT OF NAVY LIEUTENANT RIDGE ALKONIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from American Samoa (Mrs. RADEWAGEN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis, a sailor currently stationed abroad in Japan. While the U.S. and Japanese naval forces have long maintained a strong bond, the relationship is deteriorating as a result of Japanese injustices against U.S. military members.

The case of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis, who is of American Samoan descent, exemplifies the disparate treatment American sailors receive in Japan.

While driving his wife and three children to get ice cream during a family outing, Lieutenant Alkonis suffered a sudden and unforeseen medical emergency which resulted in a tragic car accident causing the death of two Japanese citizens. While indeed a tragedy, this was an accident in every sense of the word.

At the scene of the accident, Lieutenant Alkonis was immediately arrested by Japanese authorities, without re-

ceiving any medical care, and imprisoned. He was systematically deprived of sleep, denied legal counsel, and pressured to sign false accusations.

The Tokyo High Court rejected the majority of evidence submitted by Lieutenant Alkonis, and last week, his appeal was dismissed.

I am deeply troubled by Japan's mistreatment of Lieutenant Alkonis. These abuses are hurting the U.S.-Japan alliance exactly when it needs to be strengthened.

I call on President Biden and Ambassador Rahm Emanuel to bring Lieutenant Alkonis home.

#### DEFENDING WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, the United States Supreme Court decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* to uphold the Mississippi Gestational Age Act and overrule the Court's prior decision in *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania v. Casey*, declaring that the constitutional right to abortion upheld for nearly half a century no longer exists, ripped away women's right to make their own reproductive healthcare decisions.

Nationwide, radical Republicans were prepared to immediately charge ahead with measures to take away the freedom of choice. In Congress, Republicans are plotting a nationwide ban to criminalize abortion, and State legislatures are advancing the extremist agenda to criminalize reproductive health decisions, including new laws to arrest doctors and punish women and those who provide aid. Far-right politicians are actively working to dismantle the legal protections afforded to women and invading their bodily autonomy rights.

For centuries, women have fought tenaciously for their fundamental human rights and we will not stop. On July 18, 1848, 174 years and 2 days ago, the first women's rights convention in the United States was held in Seneca Falls, New York. The Seneca Falls Convention in 1848 was the first platform for women to discuss their civil, social, and religious rights and challenge their inferior status. Feminist leaders and women across the country courageously voiced their collective struggles and petitioned for change.

Elizabeth Cady Stanton, an ardent activist and leader, presented the "Declaration of Sentiments," demanding the same rights and freedoms that the Declaration of Independence granted to men at that time. The Seneca Falls Convention was a cornerstone of the women's suffragette movement and paved the path for women's rights movements.

Today, women's freedoms are under attack, and the consequences will reverberate as radical Republicans continue to push their political agenda and curtail basic rights. My Democratic colleagues and I remain unwavering in our commitment to defend the legal rights of women and families to make independent decisions about their futures by safeguarding access to reproductive healthcare services.

This week, House Democrats will vote to pass H.R. 8373, the Right to Contraception Act, guaranteeing the right to obtain and use contraception as established in *Griswold v. Connecticut*.

The alarming, extremist act of judicial activism in *Dobbs v. Jackson* has created a dangerous blueprint for future attacks on our most cherished rights. As an attorney who is a strict constructionist myself, this cannot stand. In his concurring opinion overturning *Roe v. Wade*, Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas wrote that in future cases the Court should consider substantive due process precedents which legalized the right for married couples to buy and use contraception without government restrictions, same-sex relationships, and marriage equality. Calling into question the constitutional right to use contraception is dangerous for American women and families, as well as men, but also has the potential to disproportionately impact women of historically marginalized communities who face health disparities at higher rates.

Access to contraception can affect all aspects of a woman's life, including educational attainment, employment opportunities, healthcare, and economic success. The Right to Contraception Act recognizes the social, political, and economic impacts on our country and takes steps to protect Americans' right to make their own decisions about their health and their families.

The Supreme Court's ruling in *Dobbs* further emphasizes the need to act now, to protect access to contraception, and women's right to make reproductive health decisions. Contraception is essential to the health and rights of individuals. Women deserve the right to make informed decisions about their health, family planning, and future. It is 2022. We should not still be fighting for rights that are essential to basic health and bodily autonomy. Pass this legislation.

□ 1030

#### NATIONAL PENNSYLVANIA DAY

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize today, July 20, as National Pennsylvania Day.

Since the inception of our Nation, Pennsylvania has played a trans-

formative role in United States history. Pennsylvania's nickname, the Keystone State, represents the central role we played in shaping our Nation.

Pennsylvania was the site of many important battles and military milestones, like the Battle of Valley Forge in the Revolutionary War and the Battle of Gettysburg during the Civil War.

Pennsylvania is the home to a lot of firsts, including our Nation's first capital, Philadelphia; the first American flag sewn by Betsy Ross; and the first commercial oil well in my district, giving birth to the modern petroleum industry.

Pennsylvania has a proud history of American craftsmanship and work ethic, from our steel mills and coal mines to our farmland and forests.

Madam Speaker, as a lifelong resident of Pennsylvania, I am encouraged each and every day by the industrious spirit of our residents as we continue to build a bright path forward for our Commonwealth and our country.

Happy Pennsylvania Day. I am proud to be from the great Keystone State.

#### LATE-TERM ABORTION SHOULD BE ILLEGAL

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, Democrats are advancing an agenda of abortion on demand. Last week, House Democrats passed their radical abortion on demand until birth act, falsely named as the Women's Health Protection Act, and the Ensuring Access to Abortion Act.

Both bills go much further than codifying *Roe v. Wade* and would legalize abortion for all 9 months of pregnancy across the country, while undermining the health and safety of women. In advancing this legislation that would continue the murder of innocent unborn, Speaker PELOSI has confirmed Democrats' radical agenda by saying abortion is "... core to who we are. It is about freedom."

Madam Speaker, 80 percent of Americans believe that late-term abortion should be illegal.

#### IMPACT OF THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT ON OUR MILITARY SERVICEMEMBERS

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, last week, in a bipartisan way, this body stood up and served those who serve in uniform, those who sacrificed for this great Nation in the United States Armed Forces.

I was proud, on Thursday, to join the majority of folks in this Chamber in passing H.R. 7900, the National Defense Authorization Act. I was proud to support this legislation, and I contributed significant legislative language, too.

The bill extends a prohibition preventing dishonorable discharge for servicemembers refusing COVID vaccines, while also extending a prohibition on COVID vaccine mandates for Department of Defense contractors.

The NDAA authorizes annual funding for the Department of Defense and defense-related programs at other Federal agencies. The NDAA authorized earned pay raises for our American

troops. Included in the NDAA was my legislation from H.R. 7144, the Military Housing Transparency and Accountability Act, that directs the Secretary of Defense to develop a centralized military housing feedback tool for members of the United States Armed Forces and their families. This will allow these families to identify, rate, and compare housing options. Our military families have earned the right to safe housing conditions.

Additionally, it included provisions requiring the Department of Defense to report the dollar amount spent on foreign fuel that is used; report on the impact on low recruitment and retention, and the impact on servicemembers' mental health as a result of that; and finally, to report the impact of inflation, which is impacting every American family today.

This report specifically is asking the question: What is the impact of inflation—which is out of control, a record high—on our military families?

#### ABORTION STORY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Nevada (Mrs. LEE) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. LEE of Nevada. Madam Speaker, in the wake of the Supreme Court's destructive decision overturning *Roe v. Wade*, women across this country have shared their stories. From Facebook to the dinner table to streets in protest, women have shared the details of the deeply personal and often difficult moments in which they exercised their right to choose.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to share the story of a constituent of mine named Misty.

His name was Miles. I knew something was wrong at 12 to 16 weeks. At 20 weeks, it was too late. I spent a terrible night in the ER hemorrhaging. Miles survived that incident and there was still a heartbeat. The next day was traumatic at an ultrasound.

I had lost so much fluid and Miles was being smashed. They said that he wasn't getting the blood he needed to his kidneys and other places. They literally sent me home to wait for him to die. There was still a heartbeat at 20 weeks, but I was informed that Miles could not live to full term and that I would have to deliver conventionally if I had made it to 24 weeks.

The news continued to get worse, and I waited. That was the longest week of my life. I waited through fear, depression, anxiety, and immense sadness. At the end of that week, I decided, with my fetal medicine specialist, to terminate the pregnancy. It was one of the toughest decisions I have ever faced.

The trauma that I would have experienced by delivering a dead baby, Miles, would have been more than I could handle. Going to the doctor every other day and seeing him dying was enough to make me realize this.

Misty closes by saying: We are not careless, immoral, or monsters.

Madam Speaker, I stand with Misty, and I stand with her right to make her decision. The trauma and pain that women like Misty face in these moments should be met with care, compassion, and the right to privacy.

But instead, my colleagues on the right would rather inflict more trauma during what can be an extremely challenging moment in a woman's life: forcing them to cross State lines to access abortion; forcing them to give birth when it threatens their health, their mental health, and their financial well-being; forcing them to defend miscarriages in front of a court of law; forcing young girls to carry a pregnancy to term that is the result of a sexual assault or rape.

We cannot become complicit in the destructiveness of these extreme policies. Behind each pro-life policy are the very real and very personal stories of women whose lives will be forever turned upside down. I thank Misty for her story, but she shouldn't have to share it.

For 50 years, the law of the land respected individual choice and privacy. In Nevada, our law still reflects that today, but tomorrow may look different.

National Republicans stand ready to ban and restrict abortion nationwide, even in States like Nevada where the right to choose is protected by law. Just last week, on this very same House floor, they lined up in droves to talk about it.

The reality of a nationwide abortion ban is far more likely than you may think. I am not going to stand by and watch, and that is why I was so proud to vote for the Women's Health Protection Act, and, equally, to vote in the next few days on the Right to Contraception Act.

Madam Speaker, I will continue to do everything in my power to protect your right to choose.

#### SOCIALIST SPENDING

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, on many different occasions I have come to this Chamber to point out exactly how we arrived at this moment where we are experiencing record-breaking inflation. Each time, congressional Democrats' desire to recklessly spend trillions of taxpayer dollars continues to be the answer.

Here I am again, as the House prepares to vote on yet another spending bill costing hundreds of billions of dollars filled with socialist wish list items that increases Federal spending by double-digit and triple-digit percentage increases in some cases.

I, of course, will vote "no," not only because it increases the size of our government by increasing spending on non-defense programs by 14 percent, but because it also fails to include the Hyde amendment, which is a long-

standing bipartisan agreement that protects taxpayer dollars for being used to fund abortions.

Overall, the bill would increase the budget for the Environmental Protection Agency by 20 percent, increase the budget for general government activities by 17 percent, and include a 10 percent increase for the Food and Drug Administration—the very same department that botched the baby formula shortage.

This funding bill rewards bad behavior by giving funding increases to departments that have failed the American people. It encourages illegal immigration. It discourages increasing our domestic energy output by restricting offshore oil and gas activities, and it fails to fund our national defense priorities like the sea-launched nuclear cruise missile.

It has been almost 2 years of complete Democratic control of government. Instead of addressing the root causes of the crisis Democrats created, this bill doubles down on their failed socialist agenda. Tennesseans are fed up with the out-of-control spending here in Washington. Americans all across the country are fed up with it, too.

#### NATIONAL HEROES DAY

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the devastating events of July 20, 2012, in Aurora, Colorado.

I represented Aurora, Colorado, on this day 10 years ago when in an Aurora theater 12 lives were taken and 70 were wounded, and an entire community was scarred and traumatized.

Today marks a very painful day for our community, and my heart aches with those who lost a loved one that day and will forever carry a hole in their heart.

Yet, in this tragedy we saw incredible heroism—those who carried the wounded to safety and the first responders and medical teams whose tireless efforts saved lives.

Madam Speaker, I would like to recognize the 12 who lost their lives that night:

AJ Boik, 18;

Jesse Childress, 29;

Gordon Cowden, 51, whose two teenage children were in the theater when he was killed;

Jessica Ghawi, 24;

Micayla Medek, 23;

Veronica Moser-Sullivan, 6, whose mother was shot in the chest and miscarried a week after the attack;

Rebecca Wingo, 32; and

Alex Sullivan, who was celebrating his 27th birthday and was one week away from his first wedding anniversary.

This also includes the four men who died that night while saving others:

Jonathan Blunk, 26;

John Larimer, 27;

Matt McQuinn, 27; and

Alex Teves, 24.

In the face of unspeakable violence and tragedy, these men proved to be everyday heroes, sacrificing their own lives to save others.

Gun violence rips through our community, leaves trauma with families and friends of victims, the medical staff and first responders, and the entire community for a lifetime. It is a trauma and a scar too many communities in Colorado and too many communities across the country have faced.

As our country grapples with incidents of violence, chaos, and tragedy, it is the courageous acts and selfless spirit of the helpers and heroes among us that we remember.

During our darkest days, there are always everyday heroes who answer the call to save lives and help their community. They provide light and hope for the future. The same heroic acts we saw in Aurora, Colorado, 10 years ago have been reflected in other tragedies as gun violence continues in our communities, including in the recent tragedies in Highland Park, Illinois; Uvalde, Texas; and Buffalo, New York.

Heroes can come in many different forms. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw heroes in medical professionals, frontline workers and essential personnel, such as truck drivers, letter carriers, food and grocery workers, teachers, small business owners, and researchers.

That is why I am, once again, introducing a resolution, alongside my friend and colleague Congressman JASON CROW, to designate today, July 20, as National Heroes Day.

As Mr. Rogers famously said: "You will always find people who are helping."

In the midst of our dark days, let's focus on lifting up and recognizing the helpers and the heroes whose actions, big and small, make a difference in the lives of friends, coworkers, neighbors, and the larger community.

□ 1045

#### TELLING OUR STORY ON THE RIGHT TO CONTRACEPTION

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

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* last month, I have been overwhelmed with powerful testimonies from my colleagues, family, and friends about their reproductive health journeys.

They have shared their fears and concerns for their daughters, granddaughters, and nieces now living in a post-Roe America. They offered firsthand, intimate accounts detailing some of their personal and sometimes painful experiences, wanting me to know

how critical it is for Congress to make Roe the law of the land.

These moving, shared memories spoke of very private life situations, from sexual assault to personal family planning decisions. Yet, they still told me in hopes of uniting in our fight against attacks by far-right extremists, extremists who are determined to strip women of their reproductive rights and criminalize abortion care in all 50 States.

To these women, I say thank you. Thank you for your bravery, your honesty, and your courage. Your stories were not told in vain and will serve as inspiration to continue our fight to protect, defend, and restore the right to decide.

Madam Speaker, a woman's fundamental healthcare decisions are hers alone to make and should never be mandated by politicians.

This week, I stand proudly with my fellow House Democrats to reaffirm my support, and I will vote for the Right to Contraception Act.

Reproductive healthcare should be available to everyone regardless of where they live. This week, we are another step closer to restoring critical access for all.

#### PRESERVING THE ALABAMA BLACK BELT

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

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the passage of H.R. 3222, the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Act, which passed this House by a vote of 365–57.

As a daughter of Alabama's historic Black Belt, I am proud to be the lead sponsor of this legislation to ensure that this region's meaningful history is preserved for generations to come. As the birthplace of the civil rights and voting rights movements, the Black Belt represents the tireless efforts of the foot soldiers to end discrimination against African Americans and the continued struggle for full racial equality in our Nation.

This new designation will not only bring about national attention to the rich history and culture of Alabama's Black Belt, but it will also increase tourism, investment, and economic opportunity for many of the rural communities that I so proudly represent.

I thank Senator SHELBY for leading this bipartisan legislation in the Senate, and I also thank the University of West Alabama and the National Parks Conservation Association for their tireless work to promote this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge the Senate to pass H.R. 3222 as soon as possible.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 48 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires are known, and no secrets are hidden, we lay before You the concerns of our hearts for peace in this world and the desires we have that Ukraine would be liberated from the oppression they now endure.

Nothing in all of creation is concealed from Your sight. We ask, then, that You expose tyranny and reveal its true motive of power and self-promotion.

Uncover the traitors to freedom and the enemies of sovereignty and convict them of their deceit. Unmask those who scheme for their own interest at the expense of their own country and have them answer for their transgressions.

May all who fail to contribute to the common good, all those who thwart the ideals of freedom and democracy in Ukraine, be laid bare before You and may Your judgment be swift.

Call us all to account for our deeds—things done and left undone, the overt and the contrived, the noble and the malicious. And align our lives, our Nations, and our world to Your perfect will for Your creation.

In Your omnipotence be merciful to us. In Your holy name we pray.

Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

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

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

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. TLAIB led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests

for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF PHYLLIS J. EDWARDS

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today, I want to celebrate the exceptional leadership and commitment to service by Phyllis J. Edwards, who I warmly refer to as Director Edwards. She has dedicated her work to protect and advocate for the underrepresented communities within Michigan's 13th District Strong, specifically our senior citizens in Detroit.

Director Edwards was the executive director of Bridging Communities in southwest Detroit for over a decade, and prior to that, she was the social service program manager for more than 30 years within the Wayne County Department of Health and Human Services.

Her work and proactive community involvement has made an immeasurable impact on the lives of countless residents. As a longtime Detroit resident, her efforts to improve the quality of life for our seniors demonstrated her love, commitment, and compassion for community-based work.

Please join me in recognizing her many outstanding contributions to Michigan's 13th District Strong as we wish her well on the next chapter of her life.

#### GOVERNMENT OVERREACH ON FARMERS

(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, with all the issues people are dealing with, the inflation, the high cost of everything, now we have the Securities and Exchange Commission's incredulous new proposed rule requiring small, privately run family farms to produce huge volumes of climate-related information to be able to then sell their products to public companies, which is going to be nearly impossible for small farms. Inflation being driven by SEC new regs.

Farmers are facing an assault of repeated increases in regulations and rises in inputs cost. When world leaders are warning of coming food shortages, don't make it harder for farmers to do their jobs and grow food for people to use.

Small family farms are struggling financially to keep their operations up and running. They don't have the funds to hire a full-scale environmental compliance department to meet the SEC's ridiculous proposed demands. Farmers are producing more food and fibers with less inputs, like water, land, and labor than ever before.

The SEC needs to think about the unintended catastrophic consequences this new rule will have on our Nation's farmers, and in turn, on our food supply, which is already going to be short.

We need to fight together in a bipartisan effort to combat this blatant government overreach.

#### WOMEN'S HEALTH RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, under the Affordable Care Act, contraception is covered as an essential benefit, recognizing its importance to overall healthcare. Yet, this essential health component is one of the many rights under attack by an extreme, politicized Supreme Court.

Congress must act now to protect the freedom of individuals to make their own decisions about reproductive health and family planning.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Right to Contraception Act and ensure this fundamental healthcare benefit isn't the latest right stolen from the millions of Americans who rely on it.

#### END INFLATIONARY SPENDING

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

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, inflation is at the highest rate it has been since 1981. Meanwhile, Congressional Democrats are spending this week passing a funding bill full of liberal initiatives that will fan the flames of the already red-hot inflation Tennesseans are facing due to Democrats' reckless spending.

When will enough be enough?

Madam Speaker, Democrats' socialistic spending spree includes an overall 14 percent increase in domestic funding, a 20 percent increase to the Environmental Protection Agency, and a 10 percent increase to the FDA, the same department that failed to quickly address the baby formula shortage when we all knew it was coming.

Borrowing more money from China, throwing it out the door and forcing our grandchildren to pay it back only creates more problems, not solve them. We need to return to our commonsense roots and end this inflationary spending now.

I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "no."

#### DESERT SAGE YOUTH WELLNESS CENTER

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

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the House passage of my bill, the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center Access Improvement Act, which is now on its way to the President's desk. This much-needed legislation will bring a paved access road to the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center in Hemet.

The Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center is the only operational Indian Health Service youth treatment center in the entire State. It is the only place in California where Native youth can receive culturally relevant mental health care and substance use disorder treatment.

Yet, to get to the center, patients and staff have to traverse a dirt road that often cracks in the heat and washes out in the rain and hinders deliveries and services.

As a physician, I know how crucial culturally based care is to the health and well-being of our communities. That is why I advocated for the construction of Desert Sage since day one, and why I secured funding for its completion in 2016, and why now, I am working to deliver safe, reliable access to this facility.

Madam Speaker, I urge President Biden to sign this into law immediately to help pave a road worthy of the dignity of the people at Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center.

#### WORLD TRADE CENTER HEALTH PROGRAM

(Ms. MALLIOTAKIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to bring attention to the fact that the World Trade Center Health Program is facing a looming deficit of \$3 billion. In a few weeks we are going to be commemorating the 21-year anniversary of 9/11, the horrific terrorist attacks, where we told firefighters, police officers, families who lost loved ones, and those who today are battling cancers and illnesses, that we would never forget, and that we would stand by them and give them what they needed on their journey in this great country.

They gave so selflessly. They put their lives on the line, and so many lost their life on that dreadful day. But to this day, we still have heroes who are battling these illnesses, and we should not be leaving this session, we should not be leaving next week without passing this incredibly important bill, H.R. 4965, the 9/11 Responder and Survivor Health Funding Correction Act.

This bill has bipartisan support. I am proud to be a prime sponsor of this bill, but we must call on the Speaker of the House to bring this to the floor before we leave next week. We owe it to those who put their life on the line for our city and our great country.

#### TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TLAIB). Pursuant to House Resolution 1232 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 8294.

Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) kindly take the chair.

□ 1211

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 8294) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes, with Mr. LEVIN of Michigan (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, the sixth set of en bloc amendments offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) had been disposed of.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 7 OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO OF CONNECTICUT

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 1232, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 7 consisting of amendment Nos. 104, 106, 107, 113, 115, 116, 123, 125, 136, 141, 142, 152, 153, 155, 156, 158, 159, 161, 164, 172, 174, 180, 181, 182, 186, 187, 188, 189, and 190 printed in part A of House Report 117-420, offered by Ms. DELAURO of Connecticut:

AMENDMENT NO. 104 OFFERED BY MR. CROW OF COLORADO

Page 497, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$6,700,000)".

Page 500, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$6,700,000)".

Page 525, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$6,700,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 106 OFFERED BY MR. DEUTCH OF FLORIDA

Page 419, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$500,000)".

Page 510, line 24, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$500,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 107 OFFERED BY MS. ESCOBAR OF TEXAS

Page 524, line 8, after the first dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$2,000,000)".

Page 525, line 10, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$2,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 113 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 497, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

Page 500, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert "(reduced by \$1,000,000)".

Page 526, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$1,000,000)".

AMENDMENT NO. 115 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 421, line 25, after the first dollar amount, insert "(increased by \$3,000,000)".



Page 497, line 4, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

Page 500, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 116 OFFERED BY MR. GRAVES OF LOUISIANA

Page 527 line 21, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 527 line 21, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 123 OFFERED BY MR. LAMALFA OF CALIFORNIA

Page 524, line 8, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$30,000,000) (increased by \$30,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 125 OFFERED BY MS. MANNING OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 433, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 433, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 433, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 434, line 25, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 136 OFFERED BY MR. STEIL OF WISCONSIN

Page 419, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 455, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 141 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

Page 616, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 647, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 142 OFFERED BY MR. BUCHANAN OF FLORIDA

Page 628, line 13, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000) (reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 152 OFFERED BY MR. HUDSON OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 716, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 153 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Page 621, line 11, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000) (increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 155 OFFERED BY MS. LOFGREN OF CALIFORNIA

Page 647, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 653, line 18, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 156 OFFERED BY MR. MCCARTHY OF CALIFORNIA

Page 619, line 25, after the first dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 714, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000) (increased by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 158 OFFERED BY MR. MOORE OF UTAH

Page 647, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$8,000,000) (increased by \$8,000,000)”.

Page 714, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$8,000,000) (increased by \$8,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 159 OFFERED BY MR. NADLER OF NEW YORK

Page 647, line 22, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$4,000,000)(increased by \$4,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 161 OFFERED BY MR. O'HALLERAN OF ARIZONA

Page 712, line 23, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 164 OFFERED BY MR. RASKIN OF MARYLAND

Page 660, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$2,000,000)”.

Page 754, line 15, after the first dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$2,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 172 OFFERED BY MR. ARRINGTON OF TEXAS

Page 823, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 823, line 17, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 830, line 14, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 174 OFFERED BY MR. BARR OF KENTUCKY

Page 818, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 819, line 12, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 180 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER OF NEW JERSEY

Page 816, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000) (increased by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 181 OFFERED BY MR. LARSEN OF WASHINGTON

Page 822, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 182 OFFERED BY MS. MANNING OF NORTH CAROLINA

Page 818, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 822, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 186 OFFERED BY MR. DAVID SCOTT OF GEORGIA

Page 818, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000) (reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 187 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY

Page 818, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$10,000,000)(increased by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 188 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY

Page 818, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$10,000,000)(reduced by \$10,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 189 OFFERED BY MS. SHERRILL OF NEW JERSEY

Page 818, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$3,000,000) (increased by \$3,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 190 OFFERED BY MS. SPANBERGER OF VIRGINIA

Page 818, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 823, line 16, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

Page 823, line 20, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$1,000,000)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1232, the gentleman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) each will control 15 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The bipartisan en bloc amendment includes 29 proposals offered by my Democratic and Republican colleagues. This bipartisan en bloc amendment will make changes to the Financial Services bill, the Interior bill, and the Military Construction bill.

For example, for the Financial Services bill, the amendment will increase funding for entrepreneurial development programs by \$6.7 million, increase funding for the Truman Foundation, and provide \$5 million to help prevent fentanyl overdoses.

For Interior, the amendment will enhance activities for the preservation of historically Black colleges and universities and civil rights landmarks.

For military construction, the amendment will provide \$1 million for grants to assist States and Tribal organizations in establishing veterans' cemeteries and support increased access to medical care for veterans.

These are bipartisan proposals that we can all support, and I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Ms. SPANBERGER).

Ms. SPANBERGER. Mr. Chair, I stand in support of my amendment to increase funding for suicide prevention coordinators at the VA, and I thank the chairwoman for her advocacy and good work on the larger bill.

Last Saturday, the new 988 national suicide prevention lifeline launched. Now veterans in crisis can reach the veterans crisis line by calling 988 and pressing 1.

□ 1215

This new number will allow more individuals to access help when they need it the most, and it will save lives.

Due to this transition, the VA anticipates an increase in call volume, as much as 2½ times higher than last year. We need to make sure that there are enough professionals in place at the VA to handle the uptick in caseloads—starting with suicide prevention coordinators.

Suicide prevention coordinators receive referrals from Veterans Crisis Line callers, and remain in contact with high-risk veterans, providing follow-up care and connecting them with resources within their communities.

The 988 number is an important step in providing mental health care to veterans in crisis. But it is our duty to ensure that there are suicide prevention coordinators in place to care for those who have borne the battle.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Americans who represent the very best of our country and ensuring the success of the new 988 National Suicide Prevention Lifeline for all those who may need it.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, as I stated, this en bloc will make this package stronger and meet the needs of the people who have entrusted in us their faith that we can serve them and serve them well.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.



Mr. NADLER. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of Amendment 159, which would increase and decrease funding from the Office of the DOI Secretary by \$4,000,000. The intent of Amendment 159 is to increase the funding of the DOI's 9/11 Memorial Act Grant Program for FY2023 from \$4 million to \$8 million.

Authorized by Congress with the passing of the bipartisan 9/11 Memorial Act in 2018 and signed into law in 2019, the program provides funding for the operation, security, and maintenance of a memorial commemorating the victims of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and United Flight 93 on September 11, 2001, and the victims of the attack on the World Trade Center on February 26, 1993. Awardees are selected for their extraordinary commitment to honoring the lives lost on 9/11, and those who risked their own lives to save others.

We have endeavored, as a Nation, to ensure that the 9/11 Memorials continue to stand as places of reflection and remembrance for every American. Every generation should know the tragic events of that Tuesday morning and the heroism of those who rushed back to the burning Pentagon and onto the pile at Ground Zero to put out fires, search for survivors, clear debris, and rebuild for months and years. The funding provided by the 9/11 Memorial Act Grant Program is critical to ensuring that memorials—like the acre-wide reflecting pools in the footprint of the Twin Towers in New York and the solemn benches marking each life lost on the grounds of the Pentagon—continue to provide sacred and inspiring spots accessible to millions of visitors for decades to come.

I urge my colleagues to vote Yea on Bipartisan En Bloc 7 and final passage of H.R. 8294.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 137 OFFERED BY MS. TLAIB

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 137 printed in House Report 117-420.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

At the end of division D (before the short title), insert the following:

SEC. \_\_\_\_\_. None of the funds made available by any title in this Act may be used to implement, administer, or enforce section 908(b) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7207(b)).

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1232, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chair, I would thank Chairmen QUIGLEY, MEEKS, and MCGOVERN and their staffs for working with me on this critical amendment and for their leadership throughout this process.

I also thank the incredible Congresswoman LEE for joining me here today to speak in support of this critical policy change, and, of course, Congressman CRAWFORD who submitted this change as a Republican-led bipartisan amendment to the FSGG appropriations bill in 2017 and has been a great advocate on this issue over the years.

This is an amendment that is critical, and it builds on more than a decade of efforts by bipartisan Members of the House and Senate and the farm industry leaders across the country.

As Cubans face one of the most painful crises in three decades, forcing tens of thousands of Cubans to spend long hours each day waiting in lines in hopes of finding food, our amendment would provide temporary relief to them as well as U.S. farm exporters by suspending enforcement for 1 year of the prohibition and extending credit to Cuban food buyers.

This amendment makes sense for two reasons.

First, the Cuban people are contending with significant food shortages, as I mentioned. By allowing Cuban importers to buy U.S. food products on credit, we can help ease the suffering of everyday Cubans and build good will between our peoples. Simply put, it is the most humane thing we can do right now and the right thing to do.

Second, the amendment would also help American ag producers as well by removing trade barriers that put them at a competitive disadvantage with countries thousands of miles away, like China and Vietnam.

For my home State of Michigan, and many others across the country, this amendment effectively opens up a new market of about 11 million people for our farmers and for their exports.

I know Michigan's director of Agriculture and Rural Development, Gary McDowell, noted that our State's farmers seek great opportunities for products such as dry beans, apples, dairy products, and poultry that are major staples of the Cuban diet.

This amendment is good for our Cuban people, as well as good for the American farmers, and the right thing to do.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to please support this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Chair, I claim time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Florida is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Chair, let's be clear, this is not the time to provide unilateral concessions to a designated state sponsor of terrorism. This amend-

ment is simply a bailout for the anti-American terrorist regime of Cuba, a regime that brutally oppresses the Cuban people and continuously undermines U.S. national security interests.

It aids adversaries such as Russia, the Maduro regime in Venezuela, and terrorist groups such as FARC and ELN, just to mention a couple.

Remember, the law allows for unlimited quantities of food and medicine and other basic necessities that are already allowed to be sent and to be sold to Cuba. What we must not do is leave the American taxpayers on the hook to subsidize the Cuban terrorist regime.

This is not the time to bail out an enemy of the United States, which harbors fugitives from U.S. justice, which allows Russian spy ships to dock in its waters, that ruthlessly oppresses the Cuban people, imprisoning even children for just speaking out for freedom.

This amendment, by the way, would also ensure that American farmers are not paid because we all know that the Cuban regime does not pay back its debts. This would, again, put the American taxpayer on the hook to help the Cuban regime.

Let's be clear, a vote against this amendment is a vote for freedom. A vote against this amendment is a vote for the American national security interests. A vote against this amendment is a vote for human rights and freedom for the Cuban people.

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chair, as I said, this amendment would help alleviate the suffering of the Cuban people. It also is very important to note that this is identical to a bipartisan Republican-led amendment submitted just a few years ago.

Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), the chairwoman of the Appropriations Committee.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendment offered by Ms. TLAIB. Our Nation's policy toward Cuba over the past six decades has proven to be ineffective and counterproductive. The Biden administration has started to peel back some of these restrictive policies in a manner that will both empower the Cuban people and safeguard U.S. national security interests, and this amendment would further these efforts.

This amendment would lift the longstanding restrictions on the private financing of agricultural exports to Cuba, which harm U.S. farmers and ranchers and their competitiveness. Cuba imports more than \$2 billion in agricultural exports per year.

Eliminating this longstanding prohibition would increase business for our Nation's ranchers and farmers, and we would create jobs for hardworking American families.

Let me give you an example. In 2021, the U.S. rice imports from Vietnam were \$12.6 million; Malaysia, \$16 million; Thailand, \$51 million; and Pakistan, \$34 million. We are costing American taxpayers dollars by importing

when we could be helping Alabama and Louisiana and be able to import rice from Cuba at a lot lower cost.

Mr. Chair, I support the reforms that allow for better relationships with Cuba, and I urge support for this amendment.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chair, may I ask how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman has 1¼ minutes remaining.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chair, while I understand and share some of the concerns, the reality is the embargoes aren't working and have failed to achieve any of its aims for over a half a century.

I think my colleagues, all of us, at least agree that there is no more principled reason to engage than to ease the suffering of the Cuban people who are currently again suffering from huge amounts of food shortages.

I think it is critically important to understand there is trade happening now, but in cash. This would again allow the access to credit to be able to do it in a way that allows farmers in not only Michigan but across the country who are asking us to help them do more and export and allow them to address some of the food shortages that help the Cuban people so much more.

Mr. Chair, for those reasons I urge my colleagues to please vote "yes" on this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ).

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Chairman, pardon me if I get a little emotional, this is actually personal for me since I was actually born in Cuba.

Mr. Chair, I rise to oppose Congresswoman TLAIB's FSGG amendment to exempt current prohibitions against U.S. assistance to Cuba.

It is ironic that this amendment is being pushed on the week after we commemorated the bravery of the pro-freedom protesters in Cuba.

Whether we are talking about the Biden administration's announcement last month to allow private travel to Cuba or allow Americans to invest in so-called private companies within Cuba, the regime takes advantage of these lifelines to fuel their butchery, their massacres, their jailings, their nonstop violations of human rights.

Now, Congresswoman TLAIB wants to extend yet another pipeline of cash to the regime to directly fund the murdering, the raping, the jailing of the Cuban people. Quite frankly, anyone supporting this legislation really ought to be ashamed of themselves.

If you believe in freedom and democracy, in capitalism, in the power of economic and social opportunity, I urge you to vote against this shameful and pathetic amendment.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership and compassion about this extremely important issue.

Mr. Chair, I must rise in opposition to the gentlewoman's amendment. While I know she has the best of intentions, I want to be very practical about my opposition to this. The reality is the amendment will not alleviate the suffering of the Cuban people, quite the contrary. In fact, it may exacerbate their pain by simply enriching a tyrannical regime who uses violence and repression to keep their cruel grip on power.

On a day in which we just heard from the First Lady of Ukraine, who is obviously experiencing what the brunt of repression means from a brutal dictator, we certainly should not be caving to brutal dictatorship in the Western Hemisphere.

The dictatorship in Cuba controls all trade on the island, and, in turn, uses resources to oppress its own people.

The current cash-in-advance requirement for the financing of agricultural exports to Cuba ensures that the regime in Cuba cannot benefit from loans or credit, and that its corrupt, military-run financial institutions are not intertwined with American financial institutions.

Please, anyone within the sound of my voice needs to understand that this amendment allows U.S. persons to invest in Cuban agricultural businesses, even if those businesses are involved in trafficking and confiscated property, as defined in the LIBERTAD Act, which is law, even if the business is controlled by the Government of Cuba, the Cuban military, or any other entity. It is inexplicable to me how we could allow that.

It is also important to point out that unlimited quantities of food, medicine, and other basic necessities are already permitted into Cuba both for sale and through humanitarian donations.

And as the Biden administration has done, the best way to lift up the Cuban people is to support their efforts for democratic reform and mount pressure for release of hundreds of arbitrarily detained political prisoners, including 20 children.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote against this amendment and support liberty all over the world.

□ 1230

Ms. TLAIB. I am prepared to close, Mr. Chair.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Chair, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong opposition to amendment No. 137.

Unlimited quantities of food and medicine are already permitted in Cuba, yet this egregious amendment would allow the financing of agricultural exports to the island. The Cuban regime controls 100 percent—a single

company controls all agricultural imports. It is owned by the military. It is controlled by the enforcers of the Communist regime.

Tens of thousands of Cubans tried to protest just 1 year ago, and thousands of them are in prison. Children are imprisoned by this Communist regime.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Chair, this is only about food. The Members in opposition are claiming to stand with the people of Cuba, but this is our opportunity to support the Cuban people and help them right now. When we take this opportunity to vote "yes," we show that the U.S. isn't the enemy of the Cuban people during their time of need. At the same time, we are helping our local farmers right here. Vote "yes."

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentlewoman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS).

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Chair, I understand the plight of the Cuban people, I would say, more than most in this Chamber simply because I still have family who resides there. It is true that these people are starving, and they are struggling, but the reality is that it is because of their own government.

Whatever you do, Mr. Chair, any business that you conduct with Cuba will go to the regime. It never gets to the actual people. We know this because that is the way they have acted in the course of history, doing business with every other country in the world and then taking it all for themselves while the people suffer.

The people who want the Fight for \$15 on the other side of the aisle know that the people of Cuba make \$15 per day, that they are being treated inhumanly, and that young children are put in jail.

If you want to help the Cuban people, Mr. Chair, side with them in their quest for freedom. Side with them when they say they want to be liberated. They want what we have in the United States.

Stop appeasing the regime; stop empowering the regime; and stand on the side of freedom.

Let's try to change this form of government for the better so those people can have true human rights and freedoms that they deserve and that they are not put in political prisons simply for peacefully protesting like we are so privileged to do here in the United States.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. The current regime controls all the imports. If you give money to the regime, Mr. Chair, they keep the money. They don't trickle it down to the people.

They are a current state sponsor of terrorism and a close ally of Putin's Russia, the Maduro regime in Venezuela, the terrorist state of Iran, and

terrorist groups such as FARC and ELN. They are currently participating in a military exercise in Venezuela led by the Russians.

Again, just 1 year ago, thousands of Cubans protested in the streets in every province in Cuba demanding libertad—freedom. Hundreds of them remain in prison, including children, as I said, for daring to speak freely. Yet, today, Congress is debating whether to provide financing to their captors.

A vote against this amendment is a pro-freedom, pro-America, and pro-human rights vote, and I urge my colleagues to vote “no” on this amendment.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment to permit American farmers to help alleviate hunger in Cuba. As one of the co-chairs of the Bipartisan Cuba Working Group, I thank Congresswoman TLAI for offering it, and I thank the Speaker and my working group co-chair, Chairman JIM MCGOVERN for making it in order.

After more than six decades, the U.S. embargo on Cuba has accomplished nothing except to cause suffering among the Cuban people. This policy is a complete failure. And yet it continues, a policy that divides families and hurts working people in Cuba.

This amendment would permit American farmers to help alleviate the current hunger crisis in Cuba that is made worse by COVID and our embargo. In one fell swoop, we could show that America puts humanitarian values first, and head off competition from countries like China who seek to make inroads in our hemisphere.

This amendment is good for American farmers, good for the Cuban people, and good for healing Cuban-American families divided by misguided U.S. policy. I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAI).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan will be postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO OF CONNECTICUT

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, pursuant to House Resolution 1232, I offer amendments en bloc.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 8 consisting of amendment Nos. 183 and 184 printed in part A of House Report 117–420, offered by Ms. DELAURO of Connecticut:

AMENDMENT NO. 183 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 818, line 3, after the dollar amount, insert “(increased by \$5,000,000)”.

Page 830, line 19, after the dollar amount, insert “(reduced by \$5,000,000)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 184 OFFERED BY MR. MCGOVERN OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 861, strike lines 17 through page 862, line 7.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 1232, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Connecticut.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), who is the chair of the Rules Committee.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chair, I thank Chairwoman DELAURO for yielding to me.

Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan en bloc, which would eliminate funding for the VA Asset and Infrastructure Review, or AIR, Commission, and transfer the \$5 million to the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program.

Let me be clear. The recommendations advanced so far as part of the VA’s asset and infrastructure review process will lead to the closure or downsizing of nearly one-third of this country’s VA medical facilities and community-based outpatient clinics. I believe that is an unacceptable and, frankly, rotten way to treat veterans, who have put their lives on the line for this country.

This entire process is a backdoor way to cut services for veterans, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support our veterans and vote “yes” on this amendment, which has the support of a wide range of veterans advocacy organizations from across the political spectrum.

This bipartisan amendment eliminates funding for a commission that would make it harder for veterans across America to get the care they deserve.

The decision to recommend shutting down these VA healthcare facilities was based on totally flawed and years-old information. There are huge, unacceptable, and inexcusable gaps in the data that was used to determine which facilities to shut down. The VA did not consider cases where hundreds of millions of dollars in new investments were made in facilities that were recommended for closure. It makes absolutely no sense.

Let me give you an example. One of the facilities that would be closed is the Leeds VA Medical Center in Massachusetts. They said that this facility should be closed because it needed nearly \$200 million in upgrades. What they didn’t say was that we already invested in those upgrades. \$200 million in taxpayer money was already invested in this facility, and now they are recommending that it be shut down.

Talk about ripping off the American taxpayer.

The data that they used is from years ago. It is inexcusable. Even the VA admits this. This is the definition of stupid. We might as well throw taxpayer money out the window if these flawed recommendations move forward.

That is not even to mention the impact this commission would have on veterans. I held a listening session to hear how these recommendations would affect many veterans in Massachusetts and across the country. I happen to have a map here, by the way. Here is the map. The yellow is partial closures, and the blue is total closures all across the country.

Again, what we are finding out by objective observers is that all this is based on flawed and outdated information, and they are recommending that they shut these facilities down.

But I am learning here that this would literally force veterans to drive hours and hours across State lines just to get basic care. I talk to people with PTSD who say: I am just not going to get care anymore if I have to drive across the State into another State to get care.

Older veterans who need nursing home care could have to move long distances from their support systems. This process so far is a complete and total slap in the face to these veterans, and we should not spend one penny more on a commission that is going to be used to advance these awful cuts to veterans’ services.

If this moves forward, closures and consolidation of VA facilities are mandatory, but recommendations to build new facilities are subject to future appropriations and are not guaranteed. So, this Appropriations Committee will have to decide whether to invest in the new facilities or the consolidation of facilities.

That is why groups like the Disabled American Veterans, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Veterans of Foreign Wars all support shutting down this commission right now, which is what this amendment would do.

Everyone knows that this process and the commission are broken. Even VA Secretary McDonough acknowledged it to Congress, telling the House Veterans’ Affairs Committee that the data is not up to speed in light of the pandemic. I am also grateful that the chairman of the Veterans’ Affairs Committee here in the House, Chairman TAKANO, is supporting my amendment.

I want to be clear that Secretary McDonough has done a great job on advocating for our veterans, and he is working with my team and me to get to the bottom of some of these problems. But this process started because of a bill that Congress passed even before he became Secretary. I have spoken to him, and I know that he, too, does not want to make it harder for veterans to get care. The solution is that Congress needs to pass this amendment.

Even our nonpartisan congressional watchdog, the GAO, recently put out a report on this called “VA Health Care: Incomplete Information Hinders Usefulness of Market Assessments for VA Facility Realignment.”

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield the gentleman from Massachusetts an additional 2 minutes.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chair, I include the executive summary in the RECORD.

[From the United States Government Accountability Office, Feb. 2022]

**INCOMPLETE INFORMATION HINDERS USEFULNESS OF MARKET ASSESSMENTS FOR VA FACILITY REALIGNMENT**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) conducted assessments of its capacity within 96 markets to deliver health care to veterans through VA providers and, when the Department cannot provide the care needed, through non-VA providers, known as community care. For these assessments, markets are designated geographic areas made up of a set of contiguous counties that contain one or more VA medical centers and associated clinics. For an overview of VA's approach, see the figure.

Text of Overview of Department of Veterans Affairs' Approach to Its Market Assessments:

Compiled data about the market including veteran health care supply and demand,

Identified gaps between supply and demand,

Developed proposals to respond to gaps between supply and demand, and

Issue final proposals.

VA officials described the department's process of developing proposals as iterative in that VA continually reviewed and revised draft proposals throughout the market assessments process. The VA Secretary plans to transmit recommendations to the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission by March 14, 2022—that is, no later than 6 weeks from the statutory deadline of January 31, 2022. The Commission will then review these recommendations, hold public hearings, and prepare and issue their own recommendations to the President.

GAO identified gaps in the data VA compiled and certified for the market assessments that were relevant to determining both the supply of and demand for non-VA care. For example, VA lacked complete data on the extent to which its contractors maintain an adequate number of non-VA providers to ensure veterans have timely access to community care. VA officials told GAO that they determined supply and demand based on the most recently available data at the time of data compilation—December 2018 to November 2020. In addition, while VA officials told GAO the end-of-assessment analyses included updated data on community care, these data did not address the gaps GAO identified. Without such information, VA lacks a full understanding of the extent to which community care is able to supplement VA facility care to meet veterans' current and future demand.

GAO also found that VA's approach to the market assessments did not include steps to collect information on the quality of VA data compiled from numerous VA data sources or other steps to understand any relevant data limitations. Instead, VA officials leading the market assessments said they relied on VA offices responsible for the databases to ensure the data quality. As a result, VA is unable to communicate to external stakeholders, such as the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission, all relevant information on the quality of VA data used in market assessments, including any limitations affecting these data and the resulting proposals for realignment.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Chair, moving forward with funding this fundamentally broken process would be an in-

credible disservice to our veterans and would jeopardize access to the high-quality, specialized care that they have earned.

This commission is being dismantled as we speak because the recommendations that were made to it were so catastrophically bad. Last month, Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman JON TESTER led a bipartisan group of 12 Senators to announce that the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee would not even confirm any more nominees to the commission, effectively ending this process once and for all. Last week, we had an amendment to the NDAA pass to shut this down.

Why are we giving \$5 million to a commission that may very well never exist and which is actively seeking to undermine care for our veterans and their families?

Mr. Chair, we all believe in upgrading and updating our VA system, but let's use accurate information. There is no way that anybody here can tell me that the recommendations that are being put forward are based on accurate and updated information. We are talking about our veterans, who are now going through needless anxiety because of all these threats of closures.

Mr. Chair, we need to do better, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this en bloc.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Chair, I rise to speak on the need to provide certainty to blueberry producers who have been affected by freezes.

We all know how difficult the job of being a farmer can be. So much of their success is completely dependent on things outside of their control. This is particularly true when it comes to foul weather and disasters. Farmers are at nature's mercy when it comes to these events.

This past year, a number of specialty crops across the country saw significant losses caused by freezes, particularly blueberries in my home State of Georgia. The statewide freeze event this past March resulted in losses that exceed \$140 million.

The last time a similar devastating freeze occurred, Congress was able to come together and provide funding for those losses.

I thank the Appropriations' Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee chair, SANFORD BISHOP, from Georgia, for all of his support already for this effort.

The underlying bill includes \$10 million for disasters occurring in 2022 and report language expressing Congress' concerns about the impact of extreme weather events on blueberry producers. However, that \$10 million will not be enough to assist with the damages from disasters. Chairman BISHOP has committed to continue working on this

issue and to ensure adequate funding is available to blueberry and other producers affected by freezes in 2022.

Mr. Chair, I hope we can continue to demonstrate Congress' commitment to not only providing relief when farmers need it the most but also fixing the larger issue for good so we no longer need to return to this after future freezes.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), who is the chairperson of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

With great respect for my friend from Massachusetts, I rise in strong opposition to these amendments.

I spend every day in my work as chair of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee protecting and improving the lives of our Nation's veterans. I vigorously oppose privatization, so much so that I voted against the VA MISSION Act, in which the AIR Commission appeared as part of that law, because of my concern about sending veterans who might end up remaining permanently in community care.

This en bloc contains two amendments to the MILCON-VA division that would eliminate funding for the AIR Commission at the Department of Veterans Affairs. This independent commission was established by the VA MISSION Act to develop recommendations to modernize and realign VA health facilities so we can best meet the needs of our Nation's veterans.

The reality is that the VA has different infrastructure needs today than it did decades ago. Not only are most VA facilities over 60 years old, but the veteran population has also shifted geographically over time.

□ 1245

The draft market assessments VA has developed and will continue to fine-tune are essential to ensure that VA's facility footprint meets veterans' needs where they are physically located today, not where most veterans were over 60 years ago. We can't ignore these changes and also effectively meet the current needs of our veterans.

We cannot just cancel the Commission and pretend the problem doesn't exist or need to be addressed. We all care about veterans and, since we do, we should be focused together on making sure they have state-of-the-art facilities that are designed to modern standards and are best-positioned to serve them.

The point of VA's market assessments is to identify the current, true needs of our veterans in each market, and the AIR Commission will then review those assessments and make final recommendations to the President and to the Congress. They come back to Congress after these market assessments and recommendations are made.

The funding in this bill does not implement the recommendations. I repeat. The funding in this bill does not implement the recommendations.

We all, on both sides of the aisle, consistently talk about meeting the needs of our veterans. Making sure veterans have access to high-quality care in high-quality facilities is a priority we all share. Adjusting the landscape of our facilities to meet veterans where they live today is key to meeting the needs of our veterans.

If we want to make sure that we don't move further toward privatized healthcare for our veterans, we need to make sure that there are VA facilities that are convenient for them, or that they are eligible by law to go into community care if there are not.

I have the utmost respect for the gentleman and my colleagues who are sponsors of this amendment, but as Chair of the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Subcommittee responsible for the entire budget for the VA, it is our responsibility to meet the needs of veterans across the entire country.

We need to be careful about making rash decisions that have a long-term impact. Unfortunately, the amendments in this en bloc will do more harm than good. And for those reasons, I will vote "no" on this en bloc, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the chairman of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment.

I represent Ohio, and we have a number of VA clinics and facilities in rural areas across this country. One of ours is in Chillicothe, the Chillicothe VA Medical Center that this commission recommended for closure. They were saying it was not optimally located.

This is in the southern part of the State, by the Ohio River, serving all of the veterans in the southern part of Ohio. And 1,400 Ohioans are employed. The facility is over 100 years old. It serves 20,000 veterans in 17 counties.

This is insane that we think that that is a good idea; that of all the waste and abuse in the United States Government, we are going to target a rural VA facility in southern Ohio with a State that has 865,000 veterans.

I think this is a wise amendment. I support the McGovern amendment, and I urge my colleagues to support it as well.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. GOLDEN).

Mr. GOLDEN. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of the amendment.

I represent the largest district east of the Mississippi. It is the second most rural district in the country, and home to more than 53,000 veterans.

The VA facilities that these veterans rely on—these are clinics in places like Houlton, Maine, Fort Kent, and Rumford—are at risk of being shut down if we don't permanently end the Asset and Infrastructure, or AIR Commission.

Our VA hospital in Maine would be moved from Augusta. It would be downsized to an urgent care facility then be moved to Portland, Maine, which is a long distance away from most of the rural communities that I represent.

Of course, Congress created this panel and tasked it with processing the recommendations given to streamline VA facilities. I think if you live in a rural State, it turns out that has largely been shorthand for closing facilities or reducing access to healthcare services.

I introduced a bipartisan bill to eliminate the AIR Commission. Just about a month ago, I helped secure the language referred to earlier in the National Defense Authorization Act of that bill and, of course, I now support this amendment to defund the Commission and transfer the money to the VA's Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program. It is a far better use of the money.

I thank Mr. MCGOVERN for his support of our Nation's veterans.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Ms. SHERRILL).

Ms. SHERRILL. Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of Chairman McGovern's amendment to increasing funding for the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program.

Like many, I recognize the original intent for the AIR Commission. The VA's infrastructure is aging, and we need to ensure its facilities optimize care for veterans. I know that the chairman shares my determination to ensure our vets receive the best possible care.

Unfortunately, the AIR process was flawed from the beginning. In a report issued earlier this year, the GAO found that the data AIR recommendations relied on was outdated and riddled with gaps.

The moment the AIR recommendations were released, I received calls from veterans and VSOs in my district concerned about proposals to close the CBOC in Paterson, New Jersey. Veterans in my community are already asked to travel too far and wait too long for care. Closing a central CBOC would only exacerbate this.

So while we must improve our VA facilities, the AIR's recommendations are the wrong way to go about this. I urge my colleagues to support the amendment.

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by

the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut will be postponed.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part A of House Report 117-420 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendments en bloc No. 7 by Ms. DELAURO of Connecticut.

Amendment No. 137 by Ms. TLAIB of Michigan.

Amendments en bloc No. 8 by Ms. DELAURO of Connecticut.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

#### AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 7 OFFERED BY MS. DELAURO OF CONNECTICUT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendments en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendments en bloc.

The Clerk redesignated the amendments en bloc.

#### RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 355, noes 56, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 379]

#### AYES—355

Adams	Brownley	Correa
Aderholt	Buchanan	Costa
Aguilar	Bucshon	Courtney
Allred	Budd	Craig
Amodei	Burgess	Crawford
Armstrong	Bustos	Crenshaw
Arrington	Butterfield	Crist
Auchincloss	Calvert	Crow
Axne	Carbajal	Cuellar
Babin	Carey	Curtis
Bacon	Carl	Davids (KS)
Baird	Carson	Davis, Danny K.
Balderson	Carter (GA)	Davis, Rodney
Barr	Carter (LA)	Dean
Barragán	Carter (TX)	DeFazio
Bass	Cartwright	DeGette
Beatty	Case	DeLauro
Bentz	Casten	DelBene
Bera	Castor (FL)	Demings
Beyer	Castro (TX)	DeSaulnier
Bice (OK)	Chabot	DesJarlais
Bilirakis	Cherfilus-	Deutch
Bishop (GA)	McCormick	Diaz-Balart
Blumenauer	Chu	Dingell
Blunt Rochester	Cicilline	Doggett
Bonamici	Clark (MA)	Doyle, Michael
Bost	Clarke (NY)	F.
Bourdeaux	Cleaver	Dunn
Bowman	Clyburn	Ellzey
Boyle, Brendan	Cohen	Emmer
F.	Cole	Escobar
Brady	Connolly	Eshoo
Brown (MD)	Conway	Españalat
Brown (OH)	Cooper	Evans

Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flood  
Flores  
Foster  
Foxy  
Frankel, Lois  
Gallagher  
Gallo  
Garamendi  
Garbarino  
Garcia (CA)  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gibbs  
Gimenez  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzales, Tony  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente  
González-Colón  
Gottheimer  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green, Al (TX)  
Griffith  
Grijalva  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Harder (CA)  
Harshbarger  
Hayes  
Herrera Beutler  
Higgins (LA)  
Higgins (NY)  
Himes  
Hinson  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hudson  
Huffman  
Huizenga  
Issa  
Jackson Lee  
Jacobs (CA)  
Jacobs (NY)  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Johnson (TX)  
Jones  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Kahale  
Kaptur  
Katko  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim (CA)  
Kim (NJ)  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamb  
Lamborn  
Larsen (WA)

Larson (CT)  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lawrence  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (NV)  
Leger Fernandez  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lucas  
Luria  
Lynch  
Mace  
Malinowski  
Malliotakis  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Maloney, Sean  
Mann  
Manning  
Mast  
Matsui  
McBath  
McCarthy  
McClain  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meijer  
Meng  
Meuser  
Mfume  
Miller-Meeks  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Murphy (FL)  
Murphy (NC)  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Newhouse  
Newman  
Norcross  
Norton  
O'Halleran  
Oberholte  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Palazzo  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Pfluger  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Plaskett  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Quigley  
Raskin  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (NY)  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)

## NOES—56

Allen  
Banks  
Biggs  
Bishop (NC)

Boebert  
Brooks  
Buck  
Cammack

Rose  
Ross  
Rouzer  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Sabian  
Salazar  
San Nicolas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scalise  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schrader  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Sessions  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Simpson  
Sires  
Slotkin  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Smucker  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Spartz  
Speier  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stauber  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Stevens  
Stewart  
Strickland  
Suozi  
Swalwell  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Tlaib  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Turner  
Underwood  
Upton  
Valadao  
Van Duyn  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walorski  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Welch  
Wenstrup  
Wexton  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yarmuth  
Zeldin

Davidson  
Donalds  
Duncan  
Estes  
Fallon  
Franklin, C.  
Scott  
Fulcher  
Gohmert  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Green (TN)  
Greene (GA)  
Harris

Bergman  
Burchett  
Bush  
Cárdenas  
Cawthorn  
Cheney  
Gaetz  
Hartzler  
Hill

## NOT VOTING—25

Johnson (GA)  
Kinzing  
Langevin  
McCaul  
McKinley  
Meeks  
Miller (WV)  
Mullin  
Owens

□ 1331

Messrs. GOHMERT and FULCHER changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. LESKO, Messrs. KELLY of Mississippi and KUSTOFF changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 379.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 379.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Chair, I was held up at Speaker Lobby security. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 379.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Chair, I was delayed by metal detector issues entering the floor. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 379.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Chair, I was delayed by Speaker PELOSI's metal detectors. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 379.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chair, I was absent from the floor and missed the vote on Bipartisan En Bloc No. 7 To H.R. 8294. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 379, En Bloc No. 7 to H.R. 8294 on agreeing to the DeLauro amendment.

Stated against:

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Chair, I was unable to make it to the floor in time for the first vote today for the purpose of constituent outreach. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 379.

## MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Auchincloss (Beyer)  
Barragán (Beyer)  
Bowman (Neguse)  
Boyle, Brendan (Beyer)  
Carter (TX)  
Correa (Beyer)  
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)  
Demings (Kelly (IL))

Escobar (Garcia (TX))  
Foster (Spanberger)  
Gallego (Soto)  
Gosar (Weber (TX))  
Houlahan (Spanberger)  
Kahale (Kelly (IL))  
Katko (Joyce (OH))  
Keating (Beyer)

Radewagen  
Ruiz  
Sewell  
Smith (MO)  
Titus  
Vargas  
Westerman

Kirkpatrick (Pallone)  
Lawson (FL)  
(Evans)  
Leger Fernandez (Kuster)  
Meng (Kuster)  
Moore (WI)  
(Beyer)  
Newman (Beyer)  
Palazzo (Fleischmann)  
Pingree (Kuster)  
Porter (Neguse)

## AMENDMENT NO. 137 OFFERED BY MS. TLAIB

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BERA). The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 163, noes 260, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 380]

## AYES—163

Adams  
Aguilar  
Auchincloss  
Axne  
Barragán  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Bowman  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.  
Brown (OH)  
Brownley  
Bush  
Bustos  
Butterfield  
Carbajal  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Casten  
Castro (TX)  
Chu  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Cooper  
Correa  
Courtney  
Crow  
Davids (KS)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DeBene

DeSaulnier  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Español  
Evans  
Foster  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gomez  
Green, Al (TX)  
Grijalva  
Harder (CA)  
Hayes  
Higgins (NY)  
Himes  
Houlahan  
Huffman  
Jackson Lee  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Jones  
Kahale  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim (NJ)  
Kind  
Kirkpatrick  
Krishnamoorthi  
Langevin  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lawrence  
Lee (CA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin (CA)

Levin (MI)  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lynch  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.  
Massie  
Matsui  
McBath  
McCollum  
McEachin  
McGovern  
McNerney  
Meeks  
Meng  
Mfume  
Moore (WI)  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Newman  
Norton  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Panetta  
Perlmutter  
Peters  
Phillips  
Pingree  
Plaskett  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Price (NC)  
Raskin  
Rice (NY)  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Rush  
Ryan

Sablan  
San Nicolas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schiff  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Smith (WA)  
Speier

Stansbury  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Swalwell  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)

Trahan  
Underwood  
Vargas  
Velázquez  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Yarmuth

Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Wexton

Burchett  
Cheney  
Costa  
Hartzler  
Jacobs (CA)

Williams (TX)  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman

Womack  
Zeldin

Radewagen  
Schakowsky  
Suozzi

Fitzpatrick  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garbarino  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Gibbs  
Golden  
Gomez  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente

Leger Fernandez  
Letlow  
Levin (CA)  
Levin (MI)  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lowenthal  
Lucas  
Luria  
Lynch  
Malinowski  
Malliotakis  
Maloney,  
Carolyn B.

Rodgers (WA)  
Ross  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rush  
Ryan  
Sablan  
San Nicolas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff

## NOES—260

Aderholt  
Allen  
Allred  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bentz  
Bergman  
Bice (OK)  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (NC)  
Boebert  
Bost  
Bourdeaux  
Brady  
Brooks  
Brown (MD)  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burgess  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Cárdenas  
Carey  
Carl  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Cartwright  
Case  
Castor (FL)  
Cawthorn  
Chabot  
Cherfilus-  
McCormick  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Cole  
Comer  
Connolly  
Conway  
Craig  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crist  
Cuellar  
Curtis  
Davidson  
Davis, Rodney  
Deutch  
Diaz-Balart  
Donalds  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Estes  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Fletcher  
Flood  
Flores  
Foxy  
Frankel, Lois  
Franklin, C.  
Scott  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher

Garbarino  
Garcia (CA)  
Gibbs  
Gimenez  
Gohmert  
Golden  
Gonzales, Tony  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente  
González-Colón  
(PR)  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Gottheimer  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Harris  
Harshbarger  
Hern  
Herrell  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill  
Hinson  
Hollingsworth  
Horsford  
Hoyer  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Issa  
Jackson  
Jacobs (NY)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Johnson (TX)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Katko  
Keller  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kim (CA)  
Kuster  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamb  
Lamborn  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lawson (FL)  
Lee (NV)  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luria  
Mace  
Malinowski  
Malliotakis  
Maloney, Sean  
Mann  
Manning  
Mast  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClintock  
McHenry  
Meijer  
Meuser

Miller (IL)  
Miller-Meeks  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Murphy (FL)  
Murphy (NC)  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Norcross  
Norman  
O'Halleran  
Oberholte  
Owens  
Palazzo  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Pappas  
Pascarell  
Payne  
Pence  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Posey  
Quigley  
Reschenthaler  
Rice (SC)  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Roybal-Allard  
Ruppersberger  
Rutherford  
Salazar  
Scalise  
Schneider  
Schradler  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sessions  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Simpson  
Sires  
Slotkin  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Spartz  
Stanton  
Stauber  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Stewart  
Taylor  
Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Trone  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Duyn  
Veasey  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Walorski  
Waltz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Weber (TX)

□ 1340

So the amendment was rejected.  
The result of the vote was announced  
as above recorded.  
Stated for:  
Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chair, had I been  
present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall  
No. 380.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE  
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Auchincloss  
(Beyer)  
Barragán (Beyer)  
Bowman  
(Neguse)  
Boyle, Brendan  
F. (Beyer)  
Carter (TX)  
(Weber (TX))  
Correa (Beyer)  
Crist  
(Wasserman  
Schultz)  
Demings (Kelly  
(IL))  
Escobar (Garcia  
(TX))  
Foster  
(Spanberger)  
Gallego (Soto)

Gosar (Weber  
(TX))  
Houlahan  
(Spanberger)  
Kahale (Kelly  
(IL))  
Katko (Joyce  
(OH))  
Keating (Beyer)  
Kirkpatrick  
(Pallone)  
Lawson (FL)  
(Evans)  
Leger Fernandez  
(Kuster)  
Meng (Kuster)  
Moore (WI)  
(Beyer)  
Newman (Beyer)  
Palazzo  
(Fleischmann)

Pingree (Kuster)  
Porter (Neguse)  
Salazar (Kim  
(CA))  
San Nicolas  
(Takano)  
Sires (Pallone)  
Smucker (Keller)  
Stevens (Kuster)  
Taylor (Weber  
(TX))  
Thompson (MS)  
(Bishop (GA))  
Walorski  
(Fleischmann)  
Williams (GA)  
(Neguse)  
Wilson (SC)  
(Norman)

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 8 OFFERED BY MS.  
DELAURO OF CONNECTICUT

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished  
business is the demand for a recorded  
vote on amendments en bloc offered by  
the gentlewoman from Connecticut  
(Ms. DELAURO) on which further pro-  
ceedings were postponed and on which  
the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the  
amendments en bloc.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-  
ments en bloc.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote  
has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 5-  
minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-  
vice, and there were—ayes 238, noes 191,  
not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 381]

AYES—238

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Amodei  
Auchincloss  
Axne  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barragán  
Bass  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bice (OK)  
Blumenauer  
Blunt Rochester  
Bonamici  
Bowman  
Boyle, Brendan  
F.

Brown (MD)  
Brown (OH)  
Brownley  
Bush  
Bustos  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Cartwright  
Casten  
Castro (TX)  
Cheney  
Chu  
Cicilline  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cohen  
Cole  
Connolly

Conway  
Cooper  
Correa  
Costa  
Craig  
Crow  
Davids (KS)  
Davis, Danny K.  
Dean  
DeFazio  
DeSaulnier  
Deutch  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Doyle, Michael  
F.  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Español  
Evans

Aderholt  
Allen  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Barr  
Bentz  
Bergman  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (GA)  
Bishop (NC)  
Boebert  
Bost  
Bourdeaux  
Brady  
Brooks  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burgess  
Butterfield  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Carey  
Carl  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Case  
Castor (FL)  
Cawthorn  
Chabot

Cherfilus-  
McCormick  
Cleaver  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyburn  
Clyde  
Comer  
Courtney  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Crist  
Cuellar  
Curtis  
Davidson  
Davis, Rodney  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DeBene  
Demings  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Donalds  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Estes  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Flores

Foxy  
Frankel, Lois  
Franklin, C.  
Scott  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Garcia (CA)  
Gimenez  
Gohmert  
Gonzales, Tony  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Greene (GA)  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Harris  
Hayes  
Hern  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill  
Himes  
Hinson  
Hollingsworth  
Hoyer  
Jackson  
Jacobs (NY)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)

## NOES—191



Jordan	Murphy (NC)	Soto
Kelly (MS)	Nehls	Spartz
Kim (CA)	Norman	Stefanik
Kustoff	Obornolte	Steil
LaHood	Owens	Steube
Lamborn	Palazzo	Stewart
Larsen (WA)	Palmer	Taylor
Larson (CT)	Pence	Tenney
LaTurner	Perry	Tiffany
Lee (CA)	Pfluger	Timmons
Lesko	Posey	Trone
Long	Reschenthaler	Valadao
Loudermilk	Rice (SC)	Van Drew
Luetkemeyer	Rogers (AL)	Van Duyne
Mace	Rogers (KY)	Wagner
Mann	Rose	Walorski
Mast	Rosendale	Waltz
McCarthy	Rouzer	Wasserman
McCaul	Roy	Schultz
McClintock	Rutherford	Weber (TX)
McCollum	Salazar	Webster (FL)
McHenry	Scalise	Wenstrup
Meijer	Schweikert	Westerman
Meuser	Scott, Austin	Williams (TX)
Miller (IL)	Sessions	Wilson (FL)
Miller-Meeks	Simpson	Wilson (SC)
Moore (AL)	Smith (MO)	Wittman
Moore (UT)	Smith (NE)	Womack
Mullin	Smucker	Zeldin

## NOT VOTING—7

Burchett	Kinzinger	Radewagen
Hartzler	McKinley	
Jacobs (CA)	Miller (WV)	

□ 1350

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida changed her vote from “aye” to “no.”

Ms. HERRELL changed her vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

## MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Auchincloss (Beyer)	Gosar (Weber (TX))	Pingree (Kuster)
Barragán (Beyer)	Houlahan (Spanberger)	Porter (Neguse)
Bowman (Neguse)	Kahele (Kelly (IL))	Salazar (Kim (CA))
Boyle, Brendan F. (Beyer)	Katko (Joyce (OH))	San Nicolas (Takano)
Carter (TX) (Weber (TX))	Keating (Beyer)	Sires (Pallone)
Correa (Beyer)	Kirkpatrick (Pallone)	Smucker (Keller)
Crist (Wasserman Schultz)	Lawson (FL) (Evans)	Stevens (Kuster)
Demings (Kelly (IL))	Leger Fernandez (Kuster)	Taylor (Weber (TX))
Escobar (Garcia (TX))	Meng (Kuster)	Thompson (MS) (Bishop (GA))
Foster (Spanberger)	Moore (WI) (Beyer)	Walorski (Fleischmann)
Gallego (Soto)	Newman (Beyer)	Williams (GA) (Neguse)
	Palazzo (Fleischmann)	Wilson (SC) (Nor-man)

The Acting CHAIR. There being no further amendments under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. OMAR) having assumed the chair, Mr. BERA, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 8294) making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 1232, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1232 the question on adoption of the further amendments will be put en gros.

The question is on adoption of the amendments.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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

Mr. VALADAO. Madam 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:

Mr. Valadao of California moves to recommit the bill H.R. 8294 to the Committee on Appropriations.

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.

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

Pursuant to section 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of the passage.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 206, nays 219, not voting 5, as follows:

[Roll No. 382]

## YEAS—206

Aderholt	Cloud	Gimenez
Allen	Clyde	Gohmert
Amodei	Cole	Gonzales, Tony
Armstrong	Comer	Gonzalez (OH)
Arrington	Conway	Good (VA)
Babin	Crawford	Gooden (TX)
Bacon	Crenshaw	Gosar
Baird	Curtis	Granger
Balderson	Davidson	Graves (LA)
Banks	Davis, Rodney	Graves (MO)
Barr	DesJarlais	Green (TN)
Bentz	Diaz-Balart	Greene (GA)
Bergman	Donalds	Guthrie
Bice (OK)	Duncan	Grothman
Biggs	Dunn	Guest
Bilirakis	Ellzey	Guthrie
Bishop (NC)	Emmer	Harris
Boebert	Estes	Harshbarger
Bost	Fallon	Hern
Brady	Feenstra	Herrell
Brooks	Ferguson	Herrera Beutler
Buchanan	Fischbach	Hice (GA)
Buck	Fitzgerald	Higgins (LA)
Bucshon	Fitzpatrick	Hill
Budd	Fleischmann	Hinson
Burgess	Flood	Hollingsworth
Calvert	Flores	Hudson
Cammack	Foxx	Huizenga
Carey	Franklin, C. Scott	Issa
Carl	Fulcher	Jackson
Carter (GA)	Gaetz	Jacobs (NY)
Carter (TX)	Gallagher	Johnson (LA)
Cawthorn	Garbarino	Johnson (OH)
Chabot	Garcia (CA)	Johnson (SD)
Cheney	Gibbs	Jordan
Cline		Joyce (OH)

Joyce (PA)	Mooney	Smith (NE)
Katko	Moore (AL)	Smith (NJ)
Keller	Moore (UT)	Smucker
Kelly (MS)	Mullin	Spartz
Kelly (PA)	Murphy (NC)	Stauber
Kim (CA)	Nehls	Steel
Kustoff	Newhouse	Stefanik
LaHood	Norman	Steil
LaMalfa	Obornolte	Steube
Lamborn	Owens	Stewart
Latta	Palazzo	Taylor
LaTurner	Palmer	Tenney
Lesko	Pence	Thompson (PA)
Letlow	Perry	Tiffany
Long	Pfluger	Timmons
Loudermilk	Posey	Turner
Lucas	Reschenthaler	Upton
Luetkemeyer	Rice (SC)	Valadao
Mace	Rodgers (WA)	Van Drew
Malliotakis	Rogers (AL)	Van Duyne
Mann	Rogers (KY)	Wagner
Massie	Rose	Walberg
Mast	Rosendale	Walorski
McCarthy	Rouzer	Waltz
McCaul	Roy	Weber (TX)
McClain	Rutherford	Webster (FL)
McClintock	Salazar	Wenstrup
McHenry	Scalise	Westerman
Meijer	Schweikert	Williams (TX)
Meuser	Scott, Austin	Wilson (SC)
Miller (IL)	Sessions	Wittman
Miller-Meeks	Simpson	Womack
Moolenaar	Smith (MO)	Zeldin

## NAYS—219

Adams	Doyle, Michael F.	Maloney, Carolyn B.
Aguilar	Escobar	Maloney, Sean
Allred	Eshoo	Manning
Auchincloss	Espallat	Matsui
Axne	Evans	McBath
Barragán	Fletcher	McCollum
Bass	Foster	McEachin
Beatty	Frankel, Lois	McGovern
Bera	Gallego	McNerney
Beyer	Garamendi	Meeks
Bishop (GA)	Garcia (IL)	Meng
Blumenauer	Garcia (TX)	Mfume
Blunt Rochester	Golden	Moore (WI)
Bonamici	Gomez	Morelle
Bourdeaux	Gonzalez, Vicente	Moulton
Bowman	Gottheimer	Mrvan
Boyle, Brendan F.	Green, Al (TX)	Murphy (FL)
Brown (MD)	Grijalva	Nadler
Brown (OH)	Harder (CA)	Napolitano
Brownley	Hayes	Neal
Bush	Higgins (NY)	Neguse
Bustos	Himes	Newman
Butterfield	Horsford	Norcross
Carbajal	Houlahan	O'Halleran
Cárdenas	Hoyer	Ocasio-Cortez
Carson	Huffman	Omar
Carter (LA)	Jackson Lee	Pallone
Cartwright	Jacobs (CA)	Panetta
Case	Jayapal	Pappas
Casten	Jeffries	Pascarella
Castor (FL)	Johnson (GA)	Payne
Castro (TX)	Johnson (TX)	Perlmutter
Cherfilus-McCormick	Jones	Peters
Chu	Kahele	Phillips
Ciilline	Kaptur	Pingree
Clark (MA)	Keating	Pocan
Clarke (NY)	Kelly (IL)	Porter
Cleaver	Khanna	Pressley
Clyburn	Kildee	Price (NC)
Cohen	Kilmer	Quigley
Cohen	Kim (NJ)	Raskin
Connolly	Kind	Rice (NY)
Cooper	Kirkpatrick	Ross
Correa	Krishnamoorthi	Roybal-Allard
Costa	Kuster	Ruiz
Courtney	Lamb	Ruppersberger
Craig	Langevin	Rush
Crist	Larsen (WA)	Ryan
Crow	Larson (CT)	Sánchez
Cuellar	Lawrence	Sarbanes
Davids (KS)	Lawson (FL)	Scanlon
Davis, Danny K.	Lee (CA)	Schakowsky
Dean	Lee (NV)	Schiff
DeFazio	Leger Fernandez	Schneider
DeGette	Levin (CA)	Schrader
DeLauro	Levin (MI)	Schrier
DeBene	Lieu	Scott (VA)
Demings	Lofgren	Scott, David
DeSaulnier	Lowenthal	Sewell
Deutch	Luria	Sherman
Dingell	Lynch	Sherrill
Doggett	Malinowski	Sires
		Slotkin

Smith (WA) Thompson (MS) Wasserman  
Soto Titus Schultz  
Spanberger Tlaib Waters  
Speier Tonko Watson Coleman  
Stansbury Torres (CA) Welch  
Stanton Torres (NY) Wexton  
Stevens Trahan Wild  
Strickland Trone Williams (GA)  
Suozi Underwood Wilson (FL)  
Swalwell Vargas Yarmuth  
Takano Veasey  
Thompson (CA) Velázquez

## NOT VOTING—5

Burchett Kinzinger Miller (WV)  
Hartzler McKinley

□ 1404

Mr. EVANS and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

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

Auchincloss Gosar (Weber Palazzo  
(Beyer) (TX)) (Fleischmann)  
Barragán (Beyer) Houlahan Pingree (Kuster)  
Bowman (Spanberger) Porter (Neguse)  
(Neguse) Kahele (Kelly Salazar (Kim  
Boyle, Brendan (IL)) (CA))  
F. (Beyer) Katko (Joyce Sires (Pallone)  
Carter (TX) (OH)) Smucker (Keller)  
(Weber (TX)) Keating (Beyer) Stevens (Kuster)  
Correa (Beyer) Kirkpatrick Taylor (Weber  
Crist (Pallone) (TX))  
(Wasserman Lawson (FL) Thompson (MS)  
Schultz) (Evans) (Bishop (GA))  
Demings (Kelly Leger Fernandez Walorski  
(IL)) (Kuster) (Fleischmann)  
Escobar (Garcia Meng (Kuster) Williams (GA)  
(TX)) Moore (WI) (Neguse)  
Foster (Spanberger) (Beyer) Wilson (SC) (Nor-  
Gallego (Soto) Newman (Beyer) man)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the bill.

Pursuant to clause 10 of rule XX, the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 220, nays 207, not voting 4, as follows:

[Roll No. 383]

## YEAS—220

Adams Chu Foster  
Aguilar Cicilline Frankel, Lois  
Allred Clark (MA) Gallego  
Auchincloss Clarke (NY) Garamendi  
Axne Cleaver García (IL)  
Barragán Clyburn García (TX)  
Bass Cohen  
Beatty Connolly Gomez  
Bera Cooper Gonzalez,  
Beyer Correa Vicente  
Bishop (GA) Costa Gottheimer  
Blumenauer Courtney Green, Al (TX)  
Blunt Rochester Craig Grijalva  
Bonamici Crist Harder (CA)  
Bourdeaux Crow Hayes  
Bowman Cuellar Higgins (NY)  
Boyle, Brendan Davids (KS) Himes  
F. Davis, Danny K. Horsford  
Brown (MD) Dean Houlahan  
Brown (OH) DeFazio Hoyer  
Brownley DeGette Huffman  
Bush DeLauro Jackson Lee  
Bustos DelBene Jacobs (CA)  
Butterfield Demings Jayapal  
Carbajal DeSaulnier Jeffries  
Cadenas Deutsch Johnson (GA)  
Carson Dingell Johnson (TX)  
Carter (LA) Jones  
Cartwright Doyle, Michael Kahele  
Case F. Kaptur  
Casten Escobar Keating  
Castor (FL) Eshoo Kelly (IL)  
Castro (TX) Espallat Khanna  
Cherfilus Evans Kildee  
McCormick Fletcher Kilmer

Kim (NJ) Napolitano Sewell  
Kind Neal Sherman  
Kirkpatrick Neguse Sherrill  
Krishnamoorthi Newman Sires  
Kuster Norcross Slotkin  
Lamb O'Halleran Smith (WA)  
Langevin Ocasio-Cortez Soto  
Larsen (WA) Omar Spanberger  
Larson (CT) Pallone Speier  
Lawrence Panetta Stansbury  
Lawson (FL) Pappas Stanton  
Lee (CA) Pascrell Stevens  
Lee (NV) Payne Strickland  
Leger Fernandez Pelosi Suozi  
Levin (CA) Perlmutter Swalwell  
Levin (MI) Peters Takano  
Lieu Phillips Thompson (CA)  
Lofgren Pingree Thompson (MS)  
Lowenthal Pocan Titus  
Luria Porter Tlaib  
Lynch Pressley Tlaih  
Malinowski Price (NC) Tonko  
Maloney, Quigley Torres (CA)  
Carolyn B. Raskin Torres (NY)  
Maloney, Sean Rice (NY) Trahan  
Manning Ross Trone  
Matsui Roybal-Allard Underwood  
McBath Ruiz Vargas  
McCollum Ruppersberger Veasey  
McEachin Rush Velázquez  
McGovern Ryan Wasserman  
McNerney Sanchez Schultz  
Meeks Sarbanes Waters  
Meng Scanlon Watson Coleman  
Mfume Schakowsky Welch  
Moore (WI) Schiff Wexton  
Morelle Schneider Wild  
Moulton Schrader Williams (GA)  
Mrvan Schrler Wilson (FL)  
Murphy (FL) Scott (VA)  
Nadler Scott, David Yarmuth

## NAYS—207

Aderholt Ferguson Kelly (PA)  
Allen Fischbach Kim (CA)  
Amodei Fitzgerald Kinzinger  
Armstrong Fitzpatrick Kinzinger  
Arrington Fleischmann Kustoff  
Babin Flood LaHood  
Bacon Flores LaMalfa  
Baird Foez Lamborn  
Balderson Franklin, C. Latta  
Banks Scott LaTurner  
Barr Fulcher Lesko  
Benz Gaetz Letlow  
Bergman Gallagher Long  
Bice (OK) Garbarino Loudermilk  
Biggs Garcia (CA) Lucas  
Bilirakis Gibbs Luetkemeyer  
Bishop (NC) Gimenez Mace  
Boebert Gohmert Malliotakis  
Bost Gonzales, Tony Mann  
Brady Gonzalez (OH) Massie  
Brooks Good (VA) Mast  
Buchanan Gooden (TX) McCarthy  
Buck Gosar McCaul  
Bucshon Granger McClain  
Budd Graves (LA) McClintock  
Burgess Graves (MO) McHenry  
Calvert Green (TN) Meijer  
Cammack Greene (GA) Meuser  
Carey Griffith Miller (IL)  
Carl Grothman Miller-Meeks  
Carter (GA) Guest Moolenaar  
Carter (TX) Guthrie Mooney  
Cawthorn Harris Moore (AL)  
Chabot Harshbarger Moore (UT)  
Cheney Hern Mullin  
Cline Herrell Murphy (NC)  
Cloud Herrera Beutler Nehls  
Clyde Hice (GA) Newhouse  
Cole Higgins (LA) Norman  
Comer Hill Obernolte  
Conway Hinson Owens  
Crawford Hollingsworth Palazz  
Crenshaw Hudson Palmer  
Curtis Huizenga Pence  
Davidson Issa Perry  
Davis, Rodney Jackson Pfluger  
DesJarlais Jacobs (NY) Posey  
Diaz-Balart Johnson (LA) Reschenthaler  
Donalds Johnson (OH) Rice (SC)  
Duncan Johnson (SD) Rodgers (WA)  
Dunn Jordan Rogers (AL)  
Ellzey Joyce (OH) Rogers (KY)  
Emmer Joyce (PA) Rose  
Estes Katko Rosendale  
Fallon Keller Rouzer  
Feenstra Kelly (MS) Roy  
Rutherford

Salazar Steil Walberg  
Scalise Scalise Walorski  
Schweikert Steube Waltz  
Scott, Austin Stewart  
Sessions Taylor Weber (TX)  
Simpson Tenney Webster (FL)  
Smith (MO) Thompson (PA) Wenstrup  
Smith (NE) Tiffany Westerman  
Smith (NJ) Timmons Williams (TX)  
Smucker Turner Wilson (SC)  
Spartz Upton Wittman  
Stauber Valadao Womack  
Steel Van Drew Zeldin  
Stefanik Van Duyne  
Wagner

## NOT VOTING—4

Burchett McKinley  
Hartzler Miller (WV)

□ 1417

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: no on Roll Call No. 379, no on Roll Call No. 380, no on Roll Call No. 381, yes on Roll Call No. 382 and no on Roll Call No. 383.

## MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Auchincloss Gosar (Weber Newman (Beyer)  
(Beyer) (TX)) Palazzo  
Barragán (Beyer) Houlahan (Fleischmann)  
Bowman (Spanberger) Pingree (Kuster)  
(Neguse) Kahele (Kelly Porter (Neguse)  
Boyle, Brendan (IL)) Salazar (Kim  
F. (Beyer) Katko (Joyce (CA))  
Carter (TX) (OH)) Sires (Pallone)  
(Weber (TX)) Keating (Beyer) Smucker (Keller)  
Correa (Beyer) Kinzinger Stevens (Kuster)  
Crist (Herrera Taylor (Weber  
(Wasserman Beutler) (TX))  
Schultz) Kirkpatrick Thompson (MS)  
(Pallone) (Bishop (GA))  
Demings (Kelly Lawson (FL) Walorski  
(IL)) (Evans) (Fleischmann)  
Escobar (Garcia Leger Fernandez Williams (GA)  
(TX)) (Kuster) (Neguse)  
Foster Meng (Kuster) Wilson (SC)  
(Spanberger) Moore (WI) (Norman)  
Gallego (Soto) (Beyer)

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN EN-GROSSMENT OF H.R. 8294, TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that, in the engrossment of H.R. 8294, the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, spelling, and cross-references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 3231

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered as the first sponsor of H.R. 3231, a bill originally introduced by Representative Don Young of

Alaska, for the purpose of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MRVAN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

#### INVESTING IN COMMUNITIES

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

Ms. BOURDEAUX. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the minibuss appropriations bill the House passed earlier today.

This legislation includes my bill to support the revitalization of vacant shopping malls like the Gwinnett Place Mall in my district. This provision would catalyze additional investment in these projects and enhance economic activity, access to housing, and mobility for local residents.

The minibuss also includes six of my community project funding requests, including funding for the acquisition of African-American books and historical artifacts at the Hooper-Renwick Memorial Library, as well as projects to increase wraparound services for Latino families and youth through Ser Familia, provide transportation to low-income students through Corners Outreach, and enhance access to transit and clean drinking water for many communities in Georgia's Seventh District.

Altogether, the T-HUD bill and the minibuss include important investments that will make our communities stronger.

#### HONORING BILL EDWARDS

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of the inspiring career of Mr. Bill Edwards, who is a native resident of Savannah, Georgia.

After graduating from Groves High School, Bill went on to attend both the University of Mississippi and Armstrong Atlantic State University, completing his education with a master's in the arts and communications.

After serving in his high school JROTC, he furthered his interest in the Army by serving in the Army ROTC at Ole Miss and eventually joining the U.S. Army Signal Corps. He continued this career until he reached the rank of captain in a military intelligence unit in Savannah. Aside from his military career, Bill was blessed with a loving wife and seven grandchildren, whom he adores.

Once he left the service, Bill focused his energy into a successful career in radio broadcasting, eventually becoming host of what is now "AM Savannah" on News Radio. Bill's commit-

ment was rewarded when he was recognized by the Associated Press for sportscasting excellence and when he won the honor of Savannah's Favorite Talk Station for 3 years in a row.

I am so grateful for Bill Edwards and his tireless commitment to improving his community. Bill is an outstanding Georgian, and I thank him for all he does for his community.

#### WE WON'T GO BACK

(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. Mr. Speaker, life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. These inalienable rights have served as a compass in guiding us as we strive to create a more perfect Union.

Yet, recently, these rights have been the target of relentless political attacks by a Supreme Court that has seemingly abandoned the promises of our Constitution and by far-right extremists with a radical agenda to dismantle decades of progress to take us back, back to a time when people were ashamed and murdered because the person they chose to love didn't have a certain skin color or was of the same gender and back to a time when women could not access legal and safe reproductive healthcare measures.

Today, I stand in solidarity with the millions of Americans who have been angered by these disgraceful acts to say that I refuse to be taken back because we have come much too far.

#### FAKE HANDCUFFS WON'T SOLVE AMERICA'S PROBLEMS

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

Mrs. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, fake handcuffs won't close the southern border. Fake handcuffs won't lower gas prices, curb inflation, harden the supply chain, put baby formula on our shelves, deter Russia, or fix our broken and weak reputation across the globe.

Mr. Speaker, fake handcuffs won't fix our education system, protect our students from CRT and grooming, or create opportunities to lift communities out of poverty.

Fake handcuffs won't increase domestic energy, increase recruitment for our military—go woke, go broke—or solve a single problem that the American people actually care about.

Mr. Speaker, fake handcuffs make for a good photo op, but they don't benefit the American people. Fake handcuffs only benefit those who pretend to wear them.

Mr. Speaker, this body should be delivering solutions for the American people not with fake handcuffs but without restraint.

#### HONORING ROBERT L. BOWSER

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great mayor from my district, Robert Bowser, after his passing recently.

Mayor Bowser served as mayor of East Orange, New Jersey, from 1998 to 2014. He was the first African American to win a third and fourth term in office in the history of East Orange, and he founded the New Jersey Conference of Black Mayors and served on the board of the National Black Conference of Mayors.

But his legacy in East Orange is more than his time as mayor. He started a small engineering firm that became one of the largest minority-owned consulting firms on the East Coast. He was a board member for the local Girl Scouts organization and was active with the Lions Club and the Kiwanis Club. He even founded a local touch football league.

As we mourn his passing, we remember Mayor Bowser as a dedicated public servant, great businessman, and strong community leader.

□ 1430

#### FIND AND PROSECUTE COVID-19 ECONOMIC RELIEF FRAUD

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

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the House Appropriations Committee for their hard work on this important piece of legislation.

I rise today in support of the passage of H.R. 8294, which contained a crucial amendment I introduced to help find and prosecute cases of fraud within COVID-19 economic relief.

My amendment provides critical investment for the Small Business Administration Office of the Inspector General to ensure that they continue to hold Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Paycheck Protection Program fraudsters accountable.

It is deeply disturbing to hear about the recent flurry of fraud convictions related to these two relief programs that provided vital resources to small businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. These are dollars that were meant for small businesses struggling due to the pandemic, and to help their families, not to help greedy cheats looking to profit off the backs of their neighbors.

My amendment supports efforts for the SBA to identify and prosecute cases of EIDL and PPP fraud more aggressively. Applicants from businesses in my district may have been denied critical financial resources because of the actions of these crooks, and we owe it to all of our constituents to hold these bad actors accountable.

I strongly urge all my colleagues in the Senate to pass this critically important provision.

### FAILURES OF THE U.S. SENATE

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

Mr. CASTEN. Mr. Speaker, the West is burning and we can't get the water to put it out, thanks to a 1,200-year drought.

Louisiana insurance companies are failing due to rising sea levels.

Families are paying more than ever to cool their home and fill up their tank with ever more expensive fossil fuels.

And this week, we learned that a majority of the Senate thinks that is fine.

They are fine with Americans paying too much for energy. They are fine with Americans keeping our economy coupled to Putin's war machine. They are fine with stealing from consumers and stealing from our future to subsidize fossil energy producers today.

If you have a solar panel on your roof, if you have an electric vehicle in your driveway or an energy-efficient home, you are helping your planet and you are helping your wallets.

In the House, we are making that opportunity available to all Americans and, yet, the Senate has failed us. Their failure is not only a failure to do their job, it is not only a failure of leadership, the U.S. Senate is increasingly an embarrassment, and I am sick of apologizing for them.

### 988 CRISIS LINE

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

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, 988. These three digits represent an important first step toward a transformed crisis care system in America.

Congress passed the legislation to formally authorize 988 as the new number for suicide and mental health crises. This 24/7 hotline and text line is available to people with mental health-related distress, including thoughts of suicide, mental health crisis, or substance use crisis.

Additionally, family and friends can use this service to support loved ones who are struggling.

By calling or texting 988, people will immediately be connected with trained crisis counselors who will do everything they can to help.

Mental health care is healthcare, and the enactment of 988 is a long overdue example of government finally prioritizing mental health and putting crisis care in reach for more Americans. But there is much more to do.

I will continue to work in Congress and in the community to help fight the stigma and increase mental health support for all.

### DONALD TRUMP LOST THE 2020 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

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

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, Donald Trump lost the 2020 Presidential Election by over 7 million votes. Trump lost Arizona by over 10,000 votes. Trump lost Georgia by over 11,000 votes. Trump lost Wisconsin by over 20,000 votes. Trump lost Nevada by over 30,000 votes. Trump lost Pennsylvania by over 80,000 votes. Trump lost Michigan by over 150,000 votes.

Trump lost the Electoral College 232-306. Donald Trump lost the 2020 Presidential Election.

### SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the body to talk about Social Security.

I am pleased to be joined by so many of my colleagues from across the country who understand what Martin Luther King called the fierce urgency of now, and why the United States Congress has to act.

It has been more than 51 years since the United States Congress has enhanced the benefits of Social Security. Richard Nixon was President, and a gallon of milk cost 72 cents.

Much has changed in 51 years, and now, I am proud to announce today that the Ways and Means Committee will be marking up Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust, next Wednesday and, in doing so, for the first time in 51 years Congress will be moving forward to enhance benefits for those who need it the most.

Why do I say that?

Everybody in America knows that this pandemic, this global pandemic that we are in, has caused unbelievable harm across the globe and here in this country.

But who has it affected the most?

Of the close to 1 million people who have perished in the United States, over 756,000 of them are over the age of 65.

And who is the group that has been hurt the most by the ensuing inflation that comes from a global pandemic and a war in Ukraine?

It is people on a fixed income. It is the more than 65 million Americans that are on Social Security.

I commend President Biden for taking the leadership in this area; who campaigned across the country, assuring Americans that Social Security was a sacred trust; which, indeed, it is because it has never missed a payment.

We used to have to go back to 1935 and talk about the Great Depression. We only have to go back as far as 2008 and 2009 because people understand during the Great Recession, when they saw their 401(k) become a 101(k), that Social Security never missed a payment, not a pension payment, not a spousal payment, not a dependent payment, not a disability payment.

It is America's number one insurance program. And all Americans know this, and it is easily verified, weekly or monthly, when they look at their paycheck and it says FICA, Federal Insurance Contribution.

Whose?

Theirs. It is an earned benefit that they have paid into throughout their lives.

And yet, Congress has not acted in 51 years, until now. Under the leadership of President Biden, Speaker PELOSI, and Chairman RICHARD NEAL, we are moving forward with legislation that will provide much-needed relief to people struggling in this pandemic and dealing with inflation.

I am pleased that I am joined today by so many of my colleagues who have told their stories over and over again about the citizens that they are interacting with, and what an enormous burden this pandemic and inflation has caused for them, and now, finally, for Congress to act.

And how so?

Improving benefits across the board by more than 2 percent for everyone; making sure that nobody who worked all their lives and paid into a system can retire into poverty; making sure that we have a COLA that actually reflects the cost that people incur; making sure that we repeal WEP and GPO, so that teachers and firefighters—something that Mr. PASCRELL has championed his whole time here in Congress—understand that relief is on its way because Democrats care deeply about this.

We are faced, as well, with an alternative from the other side. And here is the simple difference. Republicans have proposed to end Social Security. Republicans have proposed to cut Social Security across the board by more than 21 percent in 20 different separate proposals in their Republican Study Plan.

They have also called, in committee, in the eight hearings that we have had on Social Security, to still privatize Social Security.

Democrats stand, not just to protect Social Security, but to expand Social Security for those that need it the most. And those assembled here today understand how vitally important it is.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), the "deaness" of the House of Representatives, and someone who understands intuitively, women need this benefit the most. And in this country more than 3 million Americans receive below poverty-level checks from Social Security, and the vast majority of them are women.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LARSON for his tireless leadership and work to safeguard Social Security for the benefit of this generation of retirees and those that are to come. He has worked hard for decades to try to bring this bill to the floor.

I thank Speaker PELOSI, Chairman RICHARD NEAL, and Congressman JOHN LARSON, chair of the subcommittee, for

giving us the opportunity to bring to the American people what they want, and that is a strengthened retirement system under Social Security.

For nearly a century, America has made a sacred promise: Those who work and labor throughout their lives will benefit by a retirement from the fruits of their labor. It is an earned benefit for pension. It is an insurance program that they pay into, as the gentleman has said.

It is also a survivorship benefit for workers who die who have young children. It is a disability program for those who are harmed on the job.

□ 1445

Social Security is an earned benefit. Yeah, it is a promise, but people earn it. It assures a safe and secure retirement for tens of millions upon millions of Americans during their golden years, to those who become disabled, and, of course, their family, their children, in fact, if something unfortunate happens.

But without the action of Chairman LARSON, the Social Security promise is deeply at risk. Democrats want to strengthen Social Security. Republicans want to end it and cripple it.

With this legislation, soon to be moving through the House Ways and Means Committee, one of the most important bills that will ever come before this Chamber, Democrats will push for a vote on the floor as soon as possible.

I hear from thousands of northern Ohioans and people across our great State who want to see a responsible solution to protect and improve Social Security.

The wealthy must join with the vast majority of Americans in paying their fair share of social insurance at a percentage that equals what other people pay to secure Social Security into the future.

By making that happen, the Social Security 2100 Act will increase benefits for current and new beneficiaries. It will protect retirees against inflation, which the gentleman has mentioned. It will continue to serve the disabled and the young children of workers who die at a far too young age, and it will repeal the windfall elimination provision that we have been trying to fix for how many decades? I think at least four.

The Social Security 2100 Act is one of the most important bills Congress will ever vote on. What a privilege it will be to be able to cast a "yes" vote.

America made a promise to workers and to retirees and families, and Democrats are committed to making good on that promise. This is a Democratic program, and we are going to save it as Democrats and improve it.

Thank you, Chairman LARSON.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I thank Ms. KAPTUR and greatly appreciate the gentleman from Ohio's comments.

I yield to the gentleman Pennsylvania (Mr. CARTWRIGHT), who also understands and has worked tirelessly as an original cosponsor of this bill to

make sure that several of the benefits, more than 14 enhancements to this bill, are now going to be enjoyed by the people of Pennsylvania and all across this Nation.

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. I thank Chairman LARSON for yielding me the time, and it is an honor and a privilege for me to speak out in favor of this wonderful bill, Social Security 2100.

Social Security, something that has been a triumph for American government for close to a hundred years now; Social Security that has kept seniors out of poverty.

It used to be that in this country, seniors died in poverty, died of starvation. That happened in America. Don't think it couldn't happen again. But under the Social Security Administration, it doesn't happen.

Seniors who work their whole lives and pay into this insurance program reap the benefit of doing so and have money coming to them. It isn't a lot, but it is keeping people alive and out of poverty, and out of poverty through some of the most extreme downturns in our economy.

It is something that protected seniors from starving to death during terrible moments of economic stress and distress in this country.

Social Security is something that all of us Americans ought rightfully to be proud of; that it was enacted during the Roosevelt administration; that has been protected and defended for generation after generation; and that it has succeeded in keeping Americans out of poverty in the most dire circumstances.

It is a legacy that the Democratic party are very, very proud of, and all of us band together at a moment's notice to protect it when it is threatened by those who think ill of it.

Those instances have not been few or far between. There was the time in the early 2000s when there was this push to privatize Social Security. Instead of paying into the system and having it protected, no. The idea was just give the money to the people so they could invest it in the stock market. Let's throw the money in the stock market.

It was amazing that that was something that was brought up around 2004, 2005, in that timeframe. What happened in 2008? The stock market cratered. If people had put their Social Security investments into the stock market, they would have been destitute.

That is what happens when you so-called privatize Social Security. The people that want to push that are the ones that want to push the stock market up for their own particular personal gain.

But what it does at the same time is that it endangers and puts at risk the lifetime of earnings that people have put into Social Security to make their own retirements safe. We can't do that.

What else? They came up with this wonderful concept, you know. The chairman talked about the COLA, the cost-of-living adjustments, that come with Social Security.

Certainly, they haven't been anything to brag about over the years, but as meager and as minimal as they have been, something came up about 10 years ago called change CPI.

Now, that was a \$50 economist's expression that meant lower cost of living increases for seniors. That is what they wanted—lower cost-of-living increases than what you were already getting on Social Security.

We stood foursquare, shoulder to shoulder, against that ridiculous provision, and we put an end to that kind of talk.

What else? They wanted to raise the retirement age. They always talk about that. The right-wingers want to raise the retirement age. How fair is that, raising the retirement age for people who have been lifting and carrying and climbing and working with their hands and putting their backs into their work, a whole lifetime?

You want to make them work into their 70s? Is that what we think Social Security is for? Is that what we think it is all about? Absolutely not. Democrats have stood foursquare and shoulder to shoulder against that, raising the retirement age.

But it gets better. As the chairman mentioned, there are enemies to Social Security, and, you know, a lot of times they don't say it out loud.

They would like to get rid of Social Security. They would like to privatize it. They would like to cut back on the benefits. They wring their hands about how much it costs, while all the time ignoring all of the people that it saves and keeps out of poverty and away from starvation. No, no. They ignore all of that. They would like to do away with it.

You know what? Just recently, these people came out from the shadows and identified themselves. In fact, there is a Senator by the name of RICK SCOTT from Florida who has said out loud that he wants Federal legislation, including Social Security and Medicare, to sunset every 5 years and have to be reauthorized by a fresh vote.

Sunset. Now, that is a euphemism for end. It is a euphemism for killing. It is a euphemism for doing away with one of the most successful programs in American legislation history. Sunset Social Security means do away with it, and that is all they are talking about.

They have the temerity now to say out loud what many of them have been thinking in private: Let's get rid of Social Security. I say, enough. Enough of this detraction from Social Security, this wonderful program.

I say, let's listen to Chairman LARSON. Let's make Social Security stronger. Let's make it better. Let's make it more realistic for the benefits that it pays out. Let's raise the benefits by 2 percent. Let's make it stronger so it is going to last longer.

We haven't touched this program for generation after generation. Now is the time to enact Social Security 2100 to protect our seniors and this wonderful,

enormously successful insurance program for all Americans; people who retire, people who are disabled.

This is a program that we must honor and respect and raise up, and we can accomplish this through this wonderful bill authored by my friend, JOHN LARSON of Connecticut, Social Security 2100.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman, but it actually is authored by 206 Members of the United States Congress, and I appreciate all the work that has been done.

The gentleman was correct. This is the number one antipoverty program for the elderly. It is also the number one antipoverty program for children. It is also the program that more veterans use for disability than any, even the VA. It is the most efficient and effective government program in terms of cost.

They operate in insurance language at what is called a 99 percent loss ratio which means this: It costs less than 1 percent administrative costs to distribute the greatest insurance program. The greatest antipoverty program for the elderly, for children, and for veterans is all done by Social Security. That is why we need to expand it.

On the Committee on Ways and Means, Chairman NEAL had a Racial Equity Committee that our colleagues all participated in, and one of the shining stars of that was none other than STACEY PLASKETT from the Virgin Islands, who understands that if we want to focus on what John Lewis called the next great challenge for civil rights, it was to recognize how Social Security has treated women and specifically women of color and Black males.

I recognize STACEY PLASKETT from the Virgin Islands.

Ms. PLASKETT. I thank the gentleman for yielding time.

It is so good to be here with you, to have this discussion about Social Security, the importance of this safety net to so many Americans, individuals throughout this country, but especially those who need it most.

I'm going to give you some numbers. We have 17,036 retirees; 1,331 children; spouses, widows, disabled workers. Those are the people in my district, in the U.S. Virgin Islands, who receive Social Security benefits—almost 20 percent of our population.

On average, these individuals receive \$1,230 per month in benefits. That doesn't seem like a lot to so many Americans.

Yet, for many recipients, they are dependent on those Social Security benefits to survive. Social Security payments put food on the table, keep roofs overhead, furnish medication.

Indeed, for about half of senior beneficiaries, Social Security provides the majority of their income.

Social Security is even more important, as you have stated, for marginalized communities, particularly women and Black Americans. Without Social Security, 43 percent of

older women would be living in poverty.

In 2014, 45 percent of all Black senior beneficiaries relied on Social Security for all or nearly all of their income.

Even in light of these details, we all know the Social Security system today is inadequate. The American people know it, my constituents know it, and I suspect my colleagues across the aisle are very much aware of that.

But I am grateful for you, Congressman LARSON, Members of the Democratic party, and, in particular, my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee who are exerting leadership, who are deciding to step out and do something about it.

We are not waiting around for the perfect. We are going to do some good. Benefits are insufficient. The Social Security trust fund will start running dry in 2035. That may be around the time that I need it, so we better get working on this. Waiting periods are unnecessarily long. It is long past time that we act to repair Social Security.

So many things in this House we just take for granted that we are going to work on, we are going to fix, whether it is roads, infrastructure. My gosh. Those are the things that oftentimes it is easy for all of us to get behind, but how do we not get behind our elders? How do we not get behind those disabled workers, widows?

Many of my colleagues want to quote the Bible. If they are concerned with the widows, if they are concerned with those that are elders, they should be concerned with Social Security.

I am proud when I was approached by you, Mr. LARSON, to act as a co-sponsor of this legislation, H.R. 5723, Social Security 2100, a sacred trust.

This legislation would increase benefits for all Social Security beneficiaries. It improves the cost-of-living adjustment, the COLA, to reflect inflation.

My colleagues across the aisle want to talk about inflation all the time, but when we try to give them measures to combat it, there is nothing they want to do. They vote "no" each and every time.

I can almost expect that when we get to committee, and we are going to mark this up as a means to deal with inflation for our elders, they are going to say "no" to it as well.

It enhances benefits for widows and widowers, repeals provisions that penalize public servants, and ensures that no one retires in poverty.

□ 1500

H.R. 5723 promotes fairness in our Social Security system. It provides a tax cut for middle-income beneficiaries by raising taxation thresholds, while also ensuring millionaires and billionaires pay their fair share by applying the Social Security payroll tax to income above \$400,000.

Finally, this legislation makes practical improvements to Social Security services to reduce access barriers. It

ends the 5-month waiting period to receive benefits, enhances access to legal assistance, and prevents unwarranted closures of SSA field offices.

By increasing benefits, promoting fairness, and improving access, Democrats are improving Social Security so it will not only help beneficiaries today, but will also help future beneficiaries by extending the trust fund's lifespan.

This legislation may not solve every problem in our Social Security system and may not include provisions that every Member desires, but it will make a tangible, positive impact on the lives of nearly 70 million Americans.

I know that on the other side we hear things such as an 11-point plan to rescue America, and among other things the plan calls for Federal legislation to sunset after 5 years so Congress would need to reapprove it. We see them discussing 20 percent across-the-board cuts to Social Security. We say "no" to that. We want to support our elders, support the system, give a helping hand, fight inflation.

As President Franklin Roosevelt stated in 1935 when he signed the Social Security Act into law, "This law, too, represents a cornerstone in a structure which is being built, but is by no means complete. . . . It is, in short, a law that will take care of human needs and at the same time provide the United States an economic structure of vastly greater soundness."

I urge the House to lay another cornerstone in this unfinished structure by passing H.R. 5723. Our moral character as a nation is determined not by how we treat corporations and billionaires and the powerful but, rather, how we treat the most vulnerable among us: Hardworking seniors who have earned a peaceful retirement; people with disabilities who need support; veterans who courageously defended their country; widows; and children who have lost a loved one.

They are not asking for a handout or a free ride. Rather, they have worked hard to support their families and their countries and have paid into the Social Security system. Now they are simply asking their government to maintain the promise of Social Security and extend a helping hand during hard times.

I thank my colleagues for the work that has been done to bring this to the floor. I also thank our tremendous staff, who have done so much of the yeoman's work in bringing information, making sure that we are doing the right thing with the numbers, that this is something that is sustainable and is going to support not just those people who are receiving the benefits, but there is a benefit to all Americans by us doing this in the long run.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments, and especially as it relates to staff, also for her comments about this is the cornerstone, a key ground-laying cornerstone of the human infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, may I ask how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 32 minutes remaining.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), the distinguished vice chair of the Subcommittee on Social Security, the leader in Congress on making sure that firefighters and police officers and teachers are taken care of across the board, but specifically as it relates to Social Security and WEP and GPO, to be followed by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of the more than 124,000 of our neighbors in the 9th Congressional District who rely on Social Security each and every month.

I rise also, Mr. Speaker, because 26 years ago, when I first ran for Congress against an incumbent, I was fighting for Social Security because it was an issue in that election of 1996, when you had choices.

Choices. Privatize, and that is the way to get to the goal line, and senior housing, senior development, one after the other. The first thing I heard when I walked in the door when I was campaigning in the first congressional campaign of my life was, "What are you going to do about Social Security?"

The number of 124,000 is growing in every State every single day. It is not getting smaller. We have more of an older community in the United States of America. I am proud to have been part of that community for a few years. We will leave it at that.

Social Security is one of our Nation's greatest success stories, and after 86 years, Social Security still stands as a monument for decency, dignity, and hardworking Americans. We talk about them a lot. We talk about the middle class. We talk about the poor. That is what we do, we talk a lot about it.

Yet throughout that storied history, Social Security has been under attack. Going back to 1935 and FDR, from day one it has been the subject of scurrilous attacks and lies. Those lies continue to this day. It has taken its toll.

Social Security is no grab-bag giveaway, but benefits that you have earned, you paid into with your own sweat and toil. Without aggressive action, it teeters toward insolvency.

Congress has a sacred responsibility to protect Social Security for today's seniors and for tomorrow's: their kids, their grandkids.

I am proud to stand here with my very good friend, Representative JOHN LARSON, as a strong supporter of his Social Security 2100 Act. This historic bill will ensure the strength and solvency of Social Security for today's seniors.

The Social Security 2100 Act provides fully paid-for benefit enhancements, not cuts in benefits. Oh, please notice who is advocating for those cuts. Not just seniors; those to-be-seniors and

their kids and grandkids. It keeps President Biden's promise to not raise taxes on middle-class families. This is a no-brainer.

Among its many improvements, this bill eliminates the unnecessary 5-month disability benefits waiting period. That, coupled with the inadequacy of our postal officials, is enough to do away with the seniors, I will tell you that. I hope that is not the plan.

Additionally, it will ensure Americans suffering with terminal and debilitating disorders like Huntington's disease get the help they need without red tape or delay.

Importantly, we have updated the legislation so that our firefighters, police, teachers, and other public servants—we are always putting our arms around them—will now receive the full Social Security benefits that they have earned.

Social Security lifts more Americans out of poverty than any other Federal program. 21 million each year. For over 40 percent of senior beneficiaries, it provides a majority of their income. Their lives literally depend on it. That is not an exaggeration, Mr. Speaker. That is the importance of Social Security to America.

We are fighting for our seniors who have worked their entire lives, and we are fighting for working families so that no one who pays their whole lives should ever retire in poverty. That is a scourge.

With unified control of government, we must get this done. There are no excuses. Congratulations to the committee and its chairman to get us this far.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his unwavering support and dedication not only to the firefighters, police, and teachers across this country who will benefit from this legislation, but all Americans, and especially those in Paterson, New Jersey, who he has dedicated his life to serving.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL), a woman who understands the significance of Social Security, hailing from the State of Florida, which is probably the senior center capital of the world in terms of the population there of senior citizens.

Before yielding to the gentlewoman, I recognize the number of committees that have come out in support of this legislation, including the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, Social Security Works, the NAACP, the National Organization of Women, the Latinos for a Secure Retirement, the National Education Association, the AFT, and more than 350 organizations have come and endorsed the work of LOIS FRANKEL, who understands what seniors need not only in Florida but across this Nation.

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. LARSON, for spearheading this fight to keep Social Security secure.

It is hard to believe that Republicans actually want to stop the program in 5 years so they can reassess. I tell you, that is big trouble. It is big trouble if they do that for the millions and millions of Americans who depend on Social Security; 4.5 million, Mr. LARSON who live in the State of Florida.

Our workers spend their lives working hard for these benefits, and so don't they deserve when they retire to make sure that they have enough money to see that their bills are paid? That is why the Social Security 2100 Act is so important.

It is going to improve a needed bump to the cost of living. It is going to provide a special benefit for low-wage earners, folks like waitresses and custodians, nurses' aides, people who are important to our economy.

This is a big deal. It is a big deal, especially for the retirees who depend on Social Security to cover their everyday expenses. Just ask Alice from my hometown, who was a housekeeper her entire life. She worked 40 hours a week until she turned 65. She is earning \$923 a month on Social Security. Her rent just increased to a whopping \$855 a month. That is not sustainable. That is not right. That is not what America is about. No one who has worked hard their entire life should retire into poverty.

I am proud to join my colleagues, overwhelming support from Democrats for the Social Security 2100 Act. It has got the updates we need to keep this critical program working now and for the future.

Let me just say, the timing of this bill could not be more urgent.

□ 1515

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for her comments.

Every now and again, we find leaders in the country who may come from the House but all of a sudden take on national prominence. Why is that? Because they speak straightforwardly to the people, in the case of TIM RYAN, in Ohio, but they are really speaking to the entire Nation.

What are they talking about? The more than 10,000 baby boomers a day who become eligible for Social Security and the individuals who have worked all of their lives and paid into a program and receive below-poverty-level checks from their government, and also a pay-for in this program that has the wealthiest people paying their fair share simply by lifting the cap on people making over \$400,000. That is four-tenths of 1 percent of the American public. Even with that, they will be paying proportionately less than a person earning \$35,000 to \$50,000 a year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), the next Senator from the State of Ohio, the person who speaks to that working class, and it resonates not only in Ohio but across this great Nation of ours.

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I appreciate the opportunity to speak here.



I just want to say, I have been in Congress now 20 years, and I have known Mr. LARSON for that long. He has been an absolute bulldog on this issue. I think he understands better than most the impact of this program, just consistently, year in and year out, getting this on the radar screen. Now, we are going to have a markup next week on this, really proposing this at a time of great need.

The pandemic that we all have experienced over the last few years, and the global economic collapse that we saw in the last couple of years, I think pulled the veil back on a lot of problems that we have had in this country. We could go through the entire list, but I think one of them that is most significant is how many people in this country, how many seniors in this country, struggle to make ends meet, in the wealthiest country on God's green Earth, the most significant, most dynamic economy.

We have a handful of people building their own space stations, going into space, and, God bless, that can only happen in America. But the reality is that the vast majority of people in this country are still struggling.

What we are talking about here is a group of people who did everything right, busted their rear ends their whole life—single moms taking care of a couple of kids, people working in factories, people waitressing, nurses, public servants, people who are out there every single day and have done everything right.

This is what the Social Security system is all about. I remember when my grandparents passed away. I remember going through their drawers at their house. You have to clean up everything, and it is really a heartbreaking experience.

I found this little black book that was my great-grandfather's, Dominic Guerra. He came over from Italy with 17 bucks in his pocket. It was his little black book. I opened it up, and on the left side, it had the names of the people who belonged to this group that was called the Valsinni Club. He came from a little village in Italy, Valsinni, in the southern part, in the Basilicata region. It was the Valsinni Club.

On the left-hand side were all the names of the Italians from Valsinni in Niles, Ohio. At the top of the book were the months of the year. So, it would say Dominic Guerra and all of these names—a lot of vowels in this book. It would say January, \$1; February, \$1; March, nothing; April, nothing; May, nothing; June, \$1. It was the same for all the different names that were there.

It was a mutual aid book. It was insurance. It was just a group of people kind of putting their own insurance plan together because, one day, I am up and you are down, and the next day, I am down and you are up. That was before Social Security and before Medicare, people coming together, collectively, to help each other, which is a basic American value.

This system was put in place because that was probably happening all across the country with different ethnic groups. Franklin Roosevelt and others said, hey, we better do something about this and collectively come together. That is what this is about. This is an earned benefit.

I will tell you that the American value that undergirds this program is the same American value that has lit this country up since its inception. It is the idea and the value of freedom. Freedom has been the principle here in the United States.

We are talking about economic freedom here. We talk about it with the workforce. We talk about it with rebuilding the middle class. Why? So people can be free. Economic freedom—don't have to work 50 or 60 hours a week. You have time for the things that are important. You have a few extra bucks to take your kids to the college football game or, if you are into self-flagellation, a Cleveland Browns game, or go fishing, go hunting, or have a little boat. Economic freedom.

When we are talking about our seniors, we are talking about freedom, economic freedom for them to live independent lives. Seniors don't want to be a burden on their kids. They don't want to be a burden on their grandkids.

What Mr. LARSON and what the Social Security 2100 Act are saying is, how do we lift everybody up, put a few more bucks in people's pockets who have done everything right, making sure people aren't living in poverty, making sure they are independent, that they can take care of themselves? That is what this bill does. It asks people making over \$400,000 a year to help make that happen.

I think this is a significant piece of legislation. I think this program is the backbone of the working class.

I will tell you something else. This program is the backbone of rural America, where so many jobs have been lost. It is the backbone of these factory towns that have seen so much loss. You have issues around addiction, overdose, fentanyl. And grandparents raising grandkids, it couldn't happen without Social Security.

The one significant provision in here is to say if a husband and wife are both relying on Social Security and one dies, they are going to get at least 75 percent of the total of both recipients. That is a significant step because we hear so often of a spouse dying and then, all of a sudden, there isn't economic independence anymore, there isn't freedom anymore, there isn't the ability to take care of yourself.

I am here today to say this is a phenomenal thing. I think when most Americans—Democrat, Republican, and Independent—hear about this, there is going to be and continue to be significant support for these reforms.

I hope this bill gets marked up. I hope it comes to this floor for a vote.

I hope the Senate agrees, and I hope we pass it and reform it. Then, we are going to lift up millions of people, millions of seniors, in this country. We have JOHN LARSON to thank for that.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his remarks. I am so proud he is going to be going to the United States Senate because, in the United States Senate, Mr. SCOTT from Florida has proposed ending Social Security in 5 years. Ohio needs to make sure that it is sending someone to the United States Senate who is not going to end Social Security in 5 years but is going to expand Social Security now, when we need it, when we are in the worst pandemic in the history of the country, when we are suffering through inflation. The time to act is now.

As Martin Luther King would say, it is the fierce urgency of now. It has been 51 years since Congress has done anything.

That is something that TED LIEU of California understands and has been working tirelessly, as an original cosponsor of this bill, to reach out not only to the citizens of California but all across this country to make sure that they are going to have the benefits that can sustain them. Our goal is to expand benefits, not cut them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LIEU).

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman LARSON for yielding.

Democrats are focused on putting people over politics by lowering costs, increasing American jobs, and having safe communities.

What are Republicans focused on? Ending Social Security. How do we know that? They put it in writing. They want to end Social Security in 5 years.

We need to not only end the Republicans' ability to end Social Security; we need to expand Social Security. That is why I am so proud to be here to support JOHN LARSON's Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust.

In my district alone, there are nearly 120,000 Social Security recipients who receive an average, in total, of \$209 million of monthly benefits. This is a vital, critical program, lifesaving for millions of Americans.

Why is it called a sacred trust? It is called a sacred trust because our government promised, over 85 years ago, that if you contribute to Social Security with each and every paycheck, you can retire with dignity. President Biden has called that a sacred trust. Chairman LARSON's sacred trust bill is how we need to make Social Security stronger and even better.

I think it is important to talk about how awesome this bill is. Let me talk to you about some of the provisions.

It has a benefit bump for current and new Social Security beneficiaries of 2 percent. In addition, it has protection against inflation, and it does that by improving the outdated COLA formula that currently is in Social Security.

The bill also improves Social Security benefits for widows and widowers. This bill repeals the windfall elimination provision. It ends the 5-month waiting period to receive disability benefits.

The bill also provides caregiver credits toward Social Security. It extends Social Security dependent benefits. It increases access to Social Security dependent benefits for children who live with grandparents or other relatives.

The bill also requires the Social Security agency to mail annual statements to all workers, and it improves access to legal representation for people seeking long-term disability benefits.

This is an awesome bill. This is exactly the kind of legislation that we need to move off the floor, and it is in stark contrast to what Republicans are doing.

Again, Republicans want to end Social Security in 5 years. How do we know that? They put it in writing. Not just one Republican, but multiple Republicans.

It is a severe danger to our Nation if we wipe out this lifesaving program. It is important that we not only make sure that that doesn't happen but that we expand Social Security, especially coming out of a pandemic where people are facing all of these challenges and obstacles. Folks on fixed incomes cannot often get additional income, and that is why the only way to do this is to increase Social Security. We do that by passing JOHN LARSON's Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his comments.

I will point out that this is a bipartisan plan, probably more correctly called nonpartisan. Why? Because Independents, Democrats, and Republicans of all ages, of all backgrounds and ethnic groups, support Social Security because it is, as President Biden indicated, a sacred trust.

As Congressman RYAN pointed out, whether you are in a rural area or an urban area, whether you are on the coast or in the Great Plains of this country, you are impacted by Social Security. This is about your mother and father. It is about your brothers and sisters.

□ 1530

It is what I call the great mirror test. If you can look your constituents in the eye—and we have provided every Member of Congress with a card that says: How many of your constituents receive Social Security?

It is Congress' responsibility. This is not something that can happen through executive order. This is not something that the Supreme Court is going to rule on. This is only something that Congress can do.

We are blessed in the House that we have a great leader in NANCY PELOSI. It was NANCY PELOSI, back in 2005 that led the charge that was "Horatius at

the bridge," so to speak, to prevent the privatization of Social Security, and we were successful.

Thank God we were, for had that plan succeeded, 2008 and 2009 would have been far more disastrous. Yet, as we all know, Social Security, in the midst of that recession, never missed a payment, not a spousal or a dependent payment, not a disability payment, and not a pension payment.

And now it is NANCY PELOSI as well. Along with President Biden and Democrats—and frankly, a number of Republicans—who know in their hearts and know because when they give that mirror test and go home and look at their family members, in the midst of this pandemic, in the midst of this inflation, the most successful and the most efficiently run governmental program that we have should be embraced by everyone to give the access and relief that our seniors need, that our disabled veterans need, that our children continue to need.

President Eisenhower and President Nixon, the last President under whom we expanded Social Security benefits, that was in 1971, and a gallon of milk cost 72 cents—what seniors have endured. And like most, like my mother, would turn to their children and say: Don't worry about me. I don't want to be a burden.

My mother—all mothers—were never a burden. They were an inspiration to us all. And we all owe it to them to make sure that they live out their lives in the simple dignity of knowing they can't retire into poverty. That is the promise of Social Security. It hasn't kept pace. How could it if it hasn't been expanded in 51 years.

Now its solvency is in question and this bill expands its solvency. And, most importantly, it expands the benefits that are so vitally needed—especially, as Mr. PASCRELL pointed out—to teachers, firefighters, police officers, and municipal employees, who, through no fault of their own, have found themselves on the short end of Congress' inaction. It is the fierce urgency of now.

When you go home and when you travel to a senior center, ask your constituents—and face them eyeball to eyeball and say: How can I help you?

They will respond: By fixing Social Security. By giving us a COLA that actually reflects the costs that we incur, that don't tax us while we still work because we have to make ends meet, to make sure that we are expanding benefits across the board for everyone—because it is everyone's program—and make sure that the wealthy pay their fair share.

That is what President Biden has called for. That is why it is a sacred trust. That is why we are proud to put this before us and say we are here to expand Social Security, not end this. Please, I beg of my colleagues on the other side, join us in expanding benefits that you know need to be expanded on behalf of the citizens you represent.

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

## UNLEASH AMERICAN ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, the recent Supreme Court term has come to an end and the Court's decision has sent Washington Democrats into a tailspin.

Members of this body have called to abolish the Supreme Court—and by the way, some of those very same Members have also called to expand the Supreme Court, so we are not really sure which one they are committed to.

Just yesterday, Members of this body were pretending to be handcuffed over their support for taxpayer-funded abortion on demand until birth. Washington Democrats are making excuses for the outright harassment of the Supreme Court Justices, their families, their children, and even the assassination attempt on the life of Justice Kavanaugh.

Washington Democrats are silent on attacks against pro-life pregnancy care centers across this country. Some have even called for these centers to be shut down all across the Nation. It is appalling. It is unhinged. Why would anyone want to shut down pregnancy centers that are designed to help struggling mothers in their time of need? But that is where we are.

Why all the hysterics though? My constituents are really curious about this. Why are they so animated right now? Why do they want to tear this institution to the ground?

Well, here is the simple reason, because the Supreme Court has made some very thoughtful constitutionally based decisions in this term.

They correctly said, for example, that a football coach was exercising his First Amendment rights when he privately prayed on the 50-yard line.

The Supreme Court correctly said that citizens don't have to ask the government for permission to exercise their fundamental rights to keep and bear arms.

The Supreme Court correctly said that if Congress wants to address climate change, then Congress has to legislate on that issue instead of just outsourcing that work to unelected bureaucrats.

Because the Supreme Court correctly said that elected Representatives of the people may again be allowed to place restrictions on the killing of innocent unborn children.

That is why they are motivated. That is why they are so unhinged. That is why they want to tear the institution to the ground.

I guess we shouldn't be surprised by all of this. We are, after all, only a couple of months removed from Senator SCHUMER's infamous, dangerous, unhinged rant on the steps of the Supreme Court itself. He called out Justices Gorsuch and Kavanaugh by name, and he said, Hey, we are going to release the whirlwind on you.

Well, it happened. And it is clear what is happening here. Democrats are doing anything and everything they can to try to use these obvious and straightforward Supreme Court decisions to stoke fear and change the subject before the November election.

But we are here today to say that this election will be about three things. It is going to be primarily about soaring inflation, uninhibited illegal immigration, and the general staggering incompetence that we see by the Democrats in charge of Washington.

The three I's. I call it: Inflation. Immigration. Incompetence.

I think that summarizes it very well.

There was a very interesting story on CNN this week that caught my eye. It was entitled, "Vulnerable Democrats Sound the Alarm Over Inflation Crisis." Well, welcome to the party. It is a little late for that.

I would humbly suggest that those vulnerable Democrats should have thought about that before they voted to pass \$5.4 trillion—with a "T"—in new partisan spending last year.

We warned them. This was so completely foreseeable. Government spending is what is causing the current inflation crisis, plain and simple. And now that this bill is coming due, these vulnerable Democrats are hoping the American people would simply forget their vote. We don't intend to let that happen, the stakes are too high, and the issues are too important.

I thank my colleagues for joining us today to discuss the harm that the Democrat agenda has caused our country and our alternative, conservative vision for how to fix all this.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER), first among my many colleagues that will be joining me here in the hour, who knows a whole lot about the economy.

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana, my very good friend, for offering this opportunity to speak on these important issues.

Mr. Speaker, 1 year ago this week, President Biden stood before the American people and said that inflation was temporary. At that point, the Consumer Price Index, which measures inflation, of course, stood at 5.4 percent.

In the 365 days since, the price of nearly everything has increased, and the Consumer Price Index has skyrocketed at 9.1 percent.

Eggs are up 33 percent; milk is up 16 percent; chicken is up 18 percent; and worst of all, Americans are paying over 60 percent more for gasoline than they were a year ago, costing American families, my constituents, and everyone throughout our country, nearly \$6,000 extra a year. Now we have our Transportation Secretary telling us the truth, that this pain—and I'm quoting—will lead to more purchases of electric cars.

So that was the plan. Thanks for being honest, Mr. Secretary.

Meanwhile, however, neither the administration nor the Secretary of Transportation has any understanding of where the energy comes from to charge all of these electric cars.

They are not exactly chess players, Mr. Speaker.

As my friend from Louisiana put it, inflation, incompetence—the third "I"?

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Immigration.

Mr. MEUSER: Immigration. And instead of taking any action to correct this devastating problem, and the effect it is having on American families and small businesses, large businesses, you name it—dogs and cats, probably—the Biden administration has doubled down on the backwards policies and undertaken a massive blame-game campaign.

Not exactly a profile in courage taking place here, Mr. Speaker.

First, they branded the inflation brought on by their reckless spending the "Putin price hike." Then, despite inflation beginning long before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, by the way, then the administration laid the blame for their policies at the feet of greedy corporations—yeah—and then local gas station owners.

Mr. Speaker, 60 percent of the gas stations throughout our country, and certainly in my district, are owned by small independent businesspeople. They are to blame for the gasoline prices that we are paying?

I would like to reiterate, when faced with the highest gas prices in history caused by atrocious energy policies, the President of the United States and many Democrat Members of this House point their fingers and blame small business owners.

The American people are not fooled by the Biden administration's finger-pointing, though they are paying a steep price for it. Despite the administration's best efforts to deceive the American people, we have learned that inflation was not temporary and has continued to skyrocket, largely because of the Biden House Democrats' out-of-control spending.

Instead of addressing America's inflation crisis, House Democrats have continued to push for billions more in government spending, which will increase inflation, it will not decrease it. Con-

tinued excessive spending will increase inflation. It is a mathematical and physical certainty.

We must correct course. Stop the reckless spending and unleash domestic American energy production, which will strengthen both our economy and our national security. We must also stop overregulating and overtaking small businesses, and enough with the blame games and these go woke and broke policies. They have failed the American people.

Mr. Speaker, the free nations of the world need a strong United States, both militarily and economically to lead. We face serious threats. Free nations worldwide know that the world is a far more peaceful and stable place with strong American leadership. The weakness shown both at our southern border and the Ukraine border, initially, have had devastating effects on humanity and on the stability of the United States, Europe, and the free world.

Only with a clear vision, realistic plan, and earnest execution will this be corrected.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. That is so well said, my friend. And it is so true that a strong and vibrant America is good not only for the people in this country but for people all around the world. We maintain peace through strength, and if we don't show that strength, then we are in real jeopardy.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), my good friend from right over the border.

□ 1545

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana. I appreciate Mr. JOHNSON for having this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, according to a recent New York Times poll, more than 77 percent of Americans think that the country is on the absolutely wrong track—and they are right.

Inflation is at a 41-year high. Small businesses cannot afford to stay open. Real wages are down 4 percent. Skyrocketing prices are costing Americans an extra \$500 or more per month. Essentially, hardworking Americans are paying more for almost everything while they are taking home less. Why?

Well, the answer is simple. Joe Biden and the Democrat party have put politics over your prosperity. Think about that. Over the last year and a half they have repeatedly shown us that their green fantasy is more important than you being able to feed your family or fill up your car with gasoline.

The administration says that we are in an "economic transition moment." Yes, this inflation was supposed to be temporary and transitory, according to the administration, but prices have risen for 14 straight months since that announcement was made. You don't need to be an economist to agree.

We are undoubtedly in a state of transition. The real question is: What are we transitioning into?

My colleagues across the aisle avoid this question at all costs because the facts just don't back up their fictitious answers. Let me tell you the truth.

You don't need to like Donald Trump to accept the fact that our economy prospered under his leadership. You don't need to be a Republican to accept the fact that our Nation flourished under free-market, small-government policies—policies that allowed Americans to thrive without Big Brother interference.

You don't need to be in politics to accept the fact that our country has been in a perpetual state of crisis under President Joe Biden. Our economy is plummeting, our southern border is nonexistent, our military is shrinking, and our standing on the world stage is in rapid decline.

So, to answer the question of what we are transitioning into?

Well, under the left's woke agenda, America will transform into a broke, borderless, weak, socialist Nation unable to compete internationally or defeat those who seek our very demise. It is a very frightening future, and one that we as the GOP cannot let come to fruition.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. It is a very stark reality that we face, but we are optimists. We know we can turn this around, and the American people are going to give us a chance this fall, aren't they? I thank the gentleman for that good word and stark reminder.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat majority is COVID crazy, it is January 6 forever, January 6 crazy, climate crazy, everything is racist, everything is seen through a transgender lens. Then there are their policies. Their policies that are wreaking harm on the American people, and that the American people don't want.

They have done so much harm to the country in the last year and half as they have had the majority, along with the White House. It is hard to put your finger upon what is the worst thing that has happened to the country. Is it the rapidly rising violent crime?

The undermining of our police?

Putting criminals ahead of victims?

Putting criminals ahead of police?

And just now figuring out that if you cut police, if you defund police, if you don't support police, then, of course, you get more crime.

Is it what they are doing to our military, wokeifying, wussifying our military with these radical policies. These diversity equity inclusion policies that think our military is a social experiment. Kicking out military members because they don't get a vaccine. We got 100,000 troops that are at risk of being dismissed from the military when we are at 40 percent of our recruiting goals.

Is it what we are doing at the border?

Gosh, we could go on and on about the border, once again.

Is that the worst crisis that the Democrats have created with their policies?

What this President had to do to keep a secure border was nothing. Continue the policies of the previous administration and we would have a secure border. Instead, we have allowed some 4 million—now averaging about 10,000 a day—illegal aliens crossing into our country. Over 3 million—acknowledged by border patrol—encountered at the border, most of them released into the interior of the country, and then some 800,000 criminal got-aways, the ones who, you know, don't want to be taken into our custody, don't want to be given free healthcare, don't want to be given free education, free social services, free transportation wherever they want to go, without a quarter to appear.

The ones who are evading capture because they are trafficking drugs, humans, sex trafficking, child trafficking across our border. The ones with terrorist ties and criminal ties who will do irreparable harm in the days, weeks, and months ahead.

Then you look at the energy policy, which is driving—along with the rapid spending—it is driving the inflation in this country. Energy policy. What did we need to do when this President took over a year and a half ago to remain energy independent for the first time in history?

Nothing. Continue the policies. But this President, during the campaign, promised to declare war on fossil fuels to end American energy essentially—oil and gas production in this country. That is a promise that he has kept in the way that he has willfully put regulatory burdens, restrictions on the energy industry.

Now he goes essentially with a big gas can, carrying it over to the Middle East, begging these other world producers—who don't produce energy as cleanly as we do—to produce more energy to try to bail him out of his failed policies.

Meanwhile, what do we have?

His transportation secretary, who has no experience in transportation, by the way, says: Hey, the more pain that we can cause, the more benefit. The more pain we can cause with rising gas prices, the more benefit. Memo: Most Americans can't afford a \$70,000 electric vehicle.

Most Americans don't have somebody driving them around in a big SUV so they can get out of the SUV right before the photo op and get on their bicycle and just bike the last block to work. Most Americans don't have that option.

This administration, this Democrat majority is out of touch with the American people. They are hurting the country. These policies are being rejected. You are going to see in 111 days from today the representation of that—the demonstration of that on November 8.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, wow, there are so many im-

portant facts there. I will tell you what, it is hard to count all the crises. I thank my friend, that was so well said, as usual.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), faithful to come on this floor week after week and relay the facts to the American people.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time on the floor today to speak about these important matters.

Mr. Speaker, when Tennesseans go to the gas pump and grocery store, they are constantly reminded of the fact that everything was much more affordable only 1 year ago.

Since President Biden has taken office and congressional Democrats have recklessly borrowed and spent trillions of dollars, the cost of living has skyrocketed at a rate not seen since 1981—when I was just a junior in high school.

Common sense will tell you, this massive amount of deficit spending overheated the economy and created a labor shortage from folks staying home instead of working. Common sense will also tell you, that the only way to fix this issue is to turn the money spigots off here in Washington and stop this borrow and spend economic death spiral.

Unfortunately, common sense has again failed this Chamber as House Democrats passed earlier today a funding bill filled with partisan initiatives costing hundreds of billions of dollars. The socialist spending bill House Democrats passed today increased some accounts by double and even triple-digit percentages in some cases.

It rewards the Food and Drug Administration, which failed to quickly address the baby formula shortage with a budget increase. It also increases the budget for the Department of Homeland Security, who instead of enforcing our laws and stopping illegal immigration, is encouraging it by attempting to repeal title 42. It even increases the budget to maintain and improve Federal buildings by 12 percent, even though many of these buildings have been mostly empty for the last 2 years.

There are a lot of bad policies in this bill, but one of the worst has to be the exclusion of the Hyde amendment. The Hyde amendment is a bipartisan amendment that has existed for decades to prevent your taxpayer dollars from being used to help fund abortions. This is completely incomprehensible to me. In no way, shape, or form should taxpayers be subsidizing abortions with taxpayer dollars.

Tennesseans are sick and tired of borrowing money from China and forcing their grandchildren to foot the bill. The State of Tennessee should serve as a role model for Members of Congress. We have been committed in Tennessee to enacting fiscally responsible policies up and down each level of government. We don't even have a State income tax, and yet are still able to fund the government without driving our State into a hole of debt from which we will never get out.

I just can't help but think how one-party rule in Washington has completely failed the American people. Democrats have controlled both Chambers of Congress and the executive branch for almost 2 years now and Americans are paying the price.

Tennesseans are rightfully upset with their Federal Government and feel as though their concerns about the future of this country are not being heard. A recent poll shows that in April of 2020, during the height of the COVID lockdowns, Americans actually thought our Nation's future looked brighter than it does right now.

We can't continue down this path. We must do everything we can to rein-in the reckless spending. As interest rates begin to rise, our \$30 trillion—and rising—national debt will only continue to get more expensive as the interest on the debt grows right along with it, squeezing out funding for other vital programs. With interest rates now rising at a rapid clip, it is all just a ticking time bomb ready to go off.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to listen to the American people and Tennesseans back home and do what is right for the sake of our country and our children. Recognize the policy failures of the last 2 years and commit to joining Republicans in our desire to restore fiscal common sense.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, there are so many great points there. I appreciate the gentleman for coming here and explaining that because we can't say it too much.

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

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman and my friend from Louisiana for hosting this Special Order hour and for all that he is doing to get the conservative voice out there.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to deliver the 13th installment of my farm bill impact series during a time when the effects of a poor wheat harvest in Kansas are only compounded by crushing inflation.

This is insult added to injury for Kansas wheat farmers. Producers are laboring under the burden of skyrocketing input costs while they work hard to keep our country fed, fueled, and clothed, and they deserve a workable solution to this inflation crisis before the situation gets any worse.

Farming is already a risky, volatile business without the added burden of inflation, and USDA estimates that input costs will continue to rise at astronomical rates throughout 2022.

For an example of the risk of volatility—the wheat harvest just ended in Kansas, and the results were a fraction of the yield that farmers in the Wheat State hope for and bank on for normal seasons. The farm bill, which Congress will reauthorize in 2023, exists, in part, specifically for situations like this past wheat season—to provide emergency assistance to the people who feed, fuel, and clothe the world even when Mother Nature doesn't cooperate.

The weather in Kansas can be extreme and unpredictable, which means that growing wheat in the Wheat State can be a difficult prospect at times.

I had an intern in my office this summer named Parker Vulgamore who is a rising senior at Kansas State University where he serves as the student body president. He is also a member of the sixth generation of his family's farm in Scott City, which lies in my district.

Vulgamore Family Farms is a wheat, corn, and sorghum operation, with wheat being a staple. This year, due to an exceptional drought and extreme conditions throughout the growing season, much of the wheat never grew past 3 inches tall.

You don't have to farm to know that that is not good. What is typically a highly anticipated 3- to 4-week wheat harvest only lasted a day and a half. Many wheat farmers in Kansas barely even ran their combines this year—they harvested what they could, cut their losses, and moved on.

□ 1600

This is where farm bill emergency assistance programs like crop insurance come in. Crop insurance serves producers and consumers alike because it helps prevent producers from going out of business and grocery store aisles from sitting empty.

Farm bill programs like crop insurance have secured our national food supply and helped generation after generation of producers avoid bankruptcy when times get tough. We are in those times right now.

Inflation is skyrocketing in America. President Biden is trying to impose his farm killer tax, and at the same time, producers are going out of business. The chance to reauthorize the farm bill for 2023 has come at a critical moment in time.

The farm crisis isn't just about money. It is about morale and spirit. It is about joy. Missing wheat harvest time in Kansas doesn't just mean missing out on the yield of a cash crop. It means missing out on the special Kansas tradition of celebrating the culmination of all your family's hard work. It means missing out on grandma's casserole in the harvest field and missing out on seeing your mom in the semi, your dad on the combine, and your little brother getting to drive the grain cart for the first time.

A bad wheat harvest in Kansas doesn't just create financial insecurity. It also leaves a void where a renewal of family camaraderie should be.

American agricultural producers are hurting not only from the skyrocketing input costs that come with inflation but also from the lowered morale that come with drought, thin margins, and a broken supply chain.

In 2023, Congress must reauthorize the farm bill with American farm families at the front of our minds because they are in crisis.

I will 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.

The people who feed, fuel, and clothe us all deserve our unwavering support. They also deserve a robust safety net in the farm bill and workable solutions to the inflation crisis before it is too late.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for standing up for those wheat farmers. I know they appreciate that representation. For all of those in the ag community, this is just a critical issue.

The gentleman is exactly right. The inflation crisis has real-world consequences, and that is just some of them.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to go across the country to California again to hear, once more, from our dear, faithful friend.

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) for continuing to lead these in order to get this important message out on what is facing Americans not because of a naturally caused crisis but a man-made one, a government-made one. We are doing it to ourselves.

Instead of addressing the economic crisis that is plaguing Americans, the Democrats are prioritizing liberal initiatives and increasing Federal spending, with some accounts receiving double-digit and even triple-digit percentage increases typically through regulatory agencies that are going to make our jobs harder to do.

We have issues. Mr. Speaker, this is just a small example right here of some of the prices of things that are going up. It is not because we have had hurricanes or things like that that have wiped out crops. No. We have had a lot of droughts, but in my home State of California, some of that drought and some of the shortages of water, indeed, are because of government action.

The priorities that we see for spending include giving 20 percent more money to the EPA. I have had the EPA work in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers to stop people from farming fields in my district because they think it might have an effect on the Clean War Act or something like that. These are fields that have already been farmed in the past and have been fallow for a period of time, and they want to put them back into production. Oh, no, you need a permit. They didn't think they needed a permit. They didn't know they needed a permit, and so they get fined, big-time.

As Americans face this runaway inflation caused by out-of-control government spending and other regulatory issues that drive up the cost of everything, these are the solutions we get: even more government.

I put some reasonable amendments across recently to try and move things

in the right direction and not have these outlandish spending ideas take hold.

For example, in my home State of California, Mr. Speaker, you may have heard of our high-speed rail project that supposedly would link San Francisco to Los Angeles. Well, it sounded like a neat idea on paper when it was proposed and finally voted on by the voters to put \$9 billion of bond money toward that back in 2008 for a \$33 billion project.

So, they voted for it. Actually, they delayed the election several times because they didn't want to vote in another bond in an atmosphere that might not have been perfect, so they chose 2008, and somehow, it passed 52 to 48 percent. At \$9 billion, that was triggered by the voters saying build a high-speed rail; you can't subsidize it; it has to carry its own weight. The price soon, when we figured it out, 3 years later, tripled from \$33 billion to \$98.5 billion. It is projected now to be about \$105 billion.

I had a recent proposal saying: No more spending on this until we actually have a handle on a few important items. They are not even compensating the landowners in the valley so far for the land they are taking by eminent domain that is in the right-of-way. They have all this money, it is such a great idea, and they aren't getting around to even paying the people whose land lies in the way of it. What is that all about?

As well, they are not doing the environmental stuff properly to see that the path is going to be properly handled as far as what might be environmentally sensitive in that area.

Thirdly, they don't even have the whole route laid out. They don't know how they are going to get south of Bakersfield through the Grapevine, over the Grapevine, and around the Grapevine into L.A. Are they going to build a \$25 billion tunnel through there that might be subject to seismic? Who knows. But they are still pursuing it anyway.

It has received \$3.5 billion of stimulus money from the Obama era of 2009 money—2009, we are talking. Then, they want to get another \$2 billion from the so-called infrastructure bill that passed recently. That is \$5.5 billion of Federal taxpayer money that all the 49 other States get to pay for, for this boondoggle that, so far, they can maybe lay their hands on \$25 billion, the projection, for a project that is going to cost \$105 billion. They are going to be searching for \$80 billion more. They have already gotten five out of the Federal Government, pretty much. They want \$80 billion more.

The whole premise of high-speed rail was that private investors couldn't wait to come in to be part of this project to help build this fast train from L.A. to San Francisco. The investors are staying away until and unless you make guarantees that they will make money, and that is not even al-

lowed in the original proposition that was barely passed by the voters.

There really is no end here on this. They will continue to pursue Federal money because they don't have it at the local level. We have to put a stop to that. That is why I offered an amendment.

This is at a time when people need lower priced fuels for their cars. That is all driven by policies that are happening here in Washington, D.C., pretty much. You can't blame it all on Ukraine and Putin. Yes, we import maybe 7 or 8 percent of our oil. We could have made that up quickly with known reserves of energy we have here, energy we can produce in this country.

We don't need Russian oil. We don't need Putin oil. We don't need foreign oil. We can do it here. We should be doing it. But Biden is making us pay the price with this incredible transition thing he is talking about. It is just hurting the American people. Energy affects the cost of everything, even the final bit where if you got it, then a truck brought it.

In the meantime, California, under a bill called AB5, is putting owner-operator trucks out of business because they are not part of an employment—they don't belong to a union or what have you. In Washington, D.C., they want to emulate that bill called AB5 under what is called the PRO Act and have it cost everybody in the whole country over that.

The ideas coming out of here are not helping the American people. It is very tone-deaf here in Washington, D.C., and in the White House of what the American people are struggling with, with inflation and more profligate spending coming out of this place.

As I mentioned, the Army Corps of Engineers has been busy as a tool of the EPA, working on something called the waters of the United States. They want to be in charge of every drop of water that hits the ground in the country. Even if it hits your roof, Mr. Speaker, and runs down your gutter, there are some jurisdictions that want to control that.

It is pretty ominous, especially when you look at my colleague before me who spoke about the wheat situation in Kansas, as well as they are having difficulty with their wheat crop down in Texas. I have wheat growers up in the northern part of my State in the Klamath Basin that if they could get just enough water, they could get a wheat crop. But they are taking the water away and flushing it down the Klamath River, ostensibly to help the fish population. But that doesn't even work because they are trying to flush some disease or virus out of it, and it doesn't even work. Yet, they keep doing it anyway.

It is kind of like with the delta in California, flushing water out to save the delta smelt. The delta smelt population is basically extinct, and they still flush millions of acre-feet of water out through that.

So, California's agriculture is suffering. California's economy suffers. Those people who are productive are now unemployed, needing assistance instead of being part of the assistance. These are all government regulations coming from D.C. and from California.

It also affects low-cost energy, renewable energy, hydroelectric power. When they take that water away from the Klamath, when they take it away from Shasta Dam and run it out the ocean, that means your electricity prices go up, Mr. Speaker. This all affects the economics of American families because of regulations and profligate spending here in Washington, D.C.

As we look at the world food situation, as my colleague from Kansas has talked about, we are not getting the wheat crop out of the Midwest. There is not enough to run a combine. As he mentioned, we can't even run a combine up in Klamath Basin.

If they don't get the water for the wheat, where are they going to run a combine to help us? Ukraine? They are dodging bombs right now. Russia has 27 million tons of wheat tied up that they are not letting out of the ports in Ukraine.

Where are we supposed to get the food? Hungary is cutting off their exports of wheat. India is cutting off their exports of wheat. We can't grow it in this country. Where in hell are people supposed to get food? No one is going to come to help us.

America is always the one helping everyone else. We need water for ag. We need the money they are wasting on high-speed rail, \$105 billion. You could build 21 \$5 billion dams for that and grow the food in California that so many people depend on.

I will have an update on that as well as to why California food is important not just in California to growers and workers there but to people in New York, people in Pennsylvania, and people all through the Midwest. What we grow is important not just for our local economy but actually to keep things on the table that people need and demand. Instead, we would be importing them or not having them at all.

It all starts here in Washington, D.C., with misplaced priorities coming out of this administration that are not helping. I have to ask often to the Biden administration and even some of my colleagues in these two Houses here: Whose side are you on?

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend. There are so many important things he highlighted there.

Mr. Speaker, we will go from California over to the great State of Texas next.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my friend from Louisiana for yielding to me. I appreciate his time on the floor.

I was in the House Judiciary Committee. I will be spending some time in



the 30-minute Special Order here in a second, dealing with a lot of the issues that my friend was just talking about, in particular dealing with energy. What I will be talking about is: They break it; you buy it. That is the reality of what we are dealing with, with our Democratic colleagues here in the majority and in the administration.

Energy is the perfect example of that. We are seeing that obviously in Texas, where we are sitting on a sea of oil and gas that we could be exploring further and producing for the world and driving down CO<sub>2</sub>. Instead, we are not because of the leftist policies of this administration. I will be beginning that in a minute.

I appreciate the gentleman and thank him for holding this Special Order hour time on the floor for our colleagues.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful for my friend's voice. He was a guest on my podcast last week, and we have gotten a lot of attention on that. People are grateful for his passion on these issues. I hope my friend will keep speaking loudly here on the floor and everywhere. I am grateful he has a national platform to talk, particularly about this immigration crisis, which is a whole different subject, and he has great insight on that.

Mr. Speaker, I will wrap this up. I thank my colleagues for joining me today in this Special Order hour to discuss the harm that the Democrat agenda has caused our country and our alternative visions on all these issues.

By way of recap, just quickly, I was taking notes as my colleague spoke from across the country, from Texas. Dr. BABIN reminded us that a staggering 77 percent of Americans believe our country is on the wrong track—obviously, because of all this.

Mr. LAMALFA from California just reminded us of the excesses and abuses of the Federal agencies, which are over-regulating our farmers and food producers and wasting our time and precious resources on these superfluous projects.

Mr. MEUSER of Pennsylvania reminded us that this inflation is going to cost the average hardworking American family this year an extra \$6,000 in the cost of living.

Mr. ROSE from Tennessee reminded us about that skyrocketing inflation rate. It is obviously the result of the Biden policies and the administration's backward approach to all this. But they even now want to remove and eliminate the Hyde amendment so that taxpayers have to fund abortions.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia reminded us about that border catastrophe and the numbers, which are staggering—Mr. ROY knows, as well—3 million encounters at the border, 800,000 got-aways that we can't even account for, and that is just the numbers the DHS admits to, so we know it is higher. He talked about the energy policy disaster causing pain to every hardworking American family, as well.

Finally, Mr. MANN of Kansas talked about how the inflation crisis has real-world consequences for our farmers in the wheat State and everywhere else.

Mr. Speaker, we could go on and on all night. I will conclude our Special Order hour. This is just a sampling of all the many crises that have been created by the Biden administration and the Washington Democrats in charge of this institution. We cannot wait to begin to turn this around after the November election.

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

□ 1615

#### THEY BREAK IT, YOU BUY IT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) for 30 minutes.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time here on the floor.

I appreciate, as I said a minute ago, my friend from Louisiana, Representative JOHNSON, for his steadfast defense of the Constitution of the United States; his willingness to stand up for all the important values, from life to marriage; but importantly being a voice for this body, for the Republican Conference, and where we want to take this country; what we know the American people want us to do; and to stand athwart the absolutely absurd policies of a Democrat majority that doesn't give a whit about the people that they are rolling over in a quest to placate their radical leftist policies, whether it is energy or open borders, and I appreciate the gentleman from Louisiana and his efforts.

I am here to talk about my Democratic colleagues and the extent to which the American people need to understand: They break it, you buy it. And that is the reality of what is happening.

My Democratic colleagues are breaking—breaking this country, breaking up your families, breaking up our secure border, breaking up our military, breaking up our court system, the rule of law, breaking up our police, our law enforcement community.

They are breaking up our economy, breaking the strength of the American dollar. They are breaking our position in the world, and they are breaking this body, the people's House. And it is high time it stopped.

And we can only hope that in November we get a change so that we can stop it. And then my message to my Republican colleagues will be: We better stop it because what is happening in the so-called people's House cannot be tolerated any longer.

They break it. This body, the leadership of this country, they break it. You buy it.

In reverse, I would say, America is great. Washington is broken. They are breaking it every day and, as a result,

they are breaking this great country that our forefathers fought so hard to give to us and to our children and our grandchildren.

You cannot defend the policies of the Democratic majority. It is impossible to do. And in fact, if you set out to harm the United States of America, I would defy someone to demonstrate to me how you could do better than my Democratic colleagues are doing on a daily basis, ripping apart the Constitution, ripping apart the shreds of the flag, ripping apart the people of this country.

Dividing us. Dividing us by race, dividing us by income, dividing us by our adherence to the Constitution or devotion to the border and devotion to the rule of law.

That is what is happening on a daily basis, and it is purposeful. Let's be perfectly clear that it is purposeful.

The reason my Democratic colleagues focus so intently on January 6 is they want to divide us. The reason they want to have race-based policies throughout our government is they want to divide us.

The reason they want to make the border be supposedly about not liking Brown people is because they want to divide us. Never mind that south Texas is full of Brown people who are sick of wide-open borders empowering cartels.

That is the reality of what is going on in this Chamber, and in the Senate, and at the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue.

Just focus on the border for a minute: Broken, wide open, abused by cartels, exploited by terrorists, exploited by gang members, criminals coming into our country, killing American citizens. Fentanyl pouring into our communities, 107,000 dead Americans. 850,000 known got-aways pouring in between the ports of entry because our Border Patrol is overwhelmed, with not only no support from this administration, but the purposeful attack by the Secretary of Homeland Security lying about the good men and women of Border Patrol, saying that they whipped people that they didn't, and then hiding behind some report, while they give them administrative punishment.

That is your leadership, ladies and gentlemen. They are breaking it and you have to buy it.

They are leaving our border wide open, and American citizens are dying. Let me repeat that. They are leaving our border wide open, broken, and American people are dying, thousands upon thousands of Americans dying from fentanyl pouring into our communities, pushed by China, exploited by cartels, left to be able to come into our country because Democrats do not care about securing the border.

And more importantly, my Democratic colleagues are perfectly fine purposely leaving our border wide open. It is purposeful. It is purposeful.

They are breaking it and you are going to have to buy it.



How about our defense?

Our Defense Department is being broken on a daily basis by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and in the other Chamber, and particularly, this administration, shoving into the Department of Defense a radical, woke ideology, radical, woke programs, policies focused on diversity, and equity, and inclusion, all of the things that they cloak with critical race theory to destroy and break apart the institution of our defense. It is purposeful.

Vaccine mandates, forcing 60,000 guardsmen to be on the chopping block to lose their entire career. It is purposeful. They are breaking it.

They are breaking that military you love. They are breaking that Department of Defense that needs to be there on that wall defending us. They are breaking it.

They are breaking it by tucking tail and running out of Afghanistan with \$85 billion of equipment there and 12 or 13 dead servicemembers and no accountability. No accountability for the brass at the Pentagon and no accountability so far at the White House for tucking tail and running.

They are breaking our Defense Department.

You talk to the servicemembers who were in my office, coming in in tears because they are about to lose their entire career because they choose not to take a politicized vaccine.

Oh, by the way, by another broken governmental agency, or agencies, our whole public health system being radicalized by my colleagues on the other side of aisle to strike fear in the hearts of the American people, to watch them push aside and brush under the rug gain-of-function research and all that we see unfolding in China in the Wuhan Institute of Virology, all that we know about the funding, American funding that was tied to that.

All that we know about the absurdity of locking down schools, shutting down our schools so our kids are stuck in masks, stuck in the corner and not able to go to school, the damage it has done to our kids, the mental health issues, destroying the education of our young, all chasing the teachers' unions.

We have seen the mandatory—or efforts at mandatory vaccines—thankfully, partially struck aside, but many still in place, breaking the back of the people's trust in their public health, breaking the back of the people's ability to serve in the military and defend this country, breaking the back of people being able to be Federal public servants working for Border Patrol or other Federal agencies.

Why?

Because of fealty to Anthony Fauci, being the great wizard of public health while he poses for magazine covers and throws out pitches at baseball games.

Meanwhile, your defense is broken. Your public health is broken, and you are going to have to buy it.

How about crime on the streets of the United States of America?

How about the 12 Democrat-run cities that have called for defunding their police and have seen skyrocketing crime enveloping the cities?

The businessowner I spoke to today in Baltimore who says he is going to have to shut down his franchise because of rampant crime in Baltimore.

Austin, Texas, which cut its police by a third and has seen homicides skyrocket from 59 to 89, has seen 911 calls unanswered, drug trafficking increasing. Taking police off the streets in Austin, Texas.

We have seen 50 of the biggest urban areas see a 5 percent decrease in their police budgets, while my colleagues on the other side of the aisle say they are doing no such thing.

But my friend, Mr. JOHNSON, rattled off quote after quote after quote in the House Judiciary Committee of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle calling for defunding of the police. Of course, it is an attack on our police. They are breaking our Police Department, breaking the backs of our men and women in blue and leaving our streets exposed to lawlessness and danger, and it is purposeful.

How about energy?

Could you take a more ridiculous position than to take the strength of national security, of having abundant oil and gas, the ability to lead on nuclear, and, instead, chase unicorn energy policies of nothing but solar and wind so that on a cloudless, windless day—or cloudy, windless day, you sit back and watch your energy plummet and your grid weaken.

What kind of a country's leadership does that to its people?

I would say the kind that want to break it. I would say the kind that want to chase the fairy tales and the unicorn energy policies that this administration wants to pursue.

We could have nuclear power. It doesn't create any carbon dioxide. Do my colleagues on the other side of aisle want to do that?

No. Because this is about fear. This is about breaking American energy. This is about breaking the back of it, so you can get on your private plane and fly to Davos and fit in with the Western Europeans and how great they are, while they are now burning wood to heat their homes.

We have the greatest national security asset you could possibly imagine, which was full and complete energy independence, and we are completely flushing it down the toilet, to break it and to break it purposely. And we don't have to do it.

We have abundant energy, abundant, clean-burning natural gas that we could export to other countries, as we were doing, driving down carbon dioxide.

We could be producing nuclear facilities all across this country with zero CO<sub>2</sub> production. But we are not.

Instead, we are chasing—literally, we are tilting at windmills, dotting the landscape with windmills.

A couple of weeks ago in Texas, we had 8 percent of the wind capacity available in our grid. Absolutely astounding what we are doing to the energy of the United States of America.

Inflation. I mean, I can't even get all this in, the absurd policies of Democrats.

I have already covered border, could go further.

Already talked about defense; could go further.

Didn't even get into Ukraine and the lack of briefings and the \$56 billion we just dumped into Ukraine, with zero indication of a strategy of what we are actually going to do, while we expand NATO, with zero indication about how that is going to impact Article 5, and an 800-mile border and whether NATO's going to upend its end of the bargain when we fund the vast majority of NATO. I didn't even talk about that part of defense.

I didn't talk about crime. I mean, I talked about crime, but I didn't get into every aspect of it.

I didn't get into every aspect of energy.

Now I am talking about inflation. The wisdom of this administration coming in and dumping \$1.9 trillion—I don't even remember what the name of that ridiculous bill was, but it was garbage. And it is now driving up the cost of goods and services for you, the American people.

They are breaking it. They are breaking your jobs. They are breaking your income. They are breaking your ability to buy goods and services and you are, literally, going to have to buy it, and you are going to have to pay a lot for it, because they are spending money we don't have.

They are printing money, throwing it out in the economy, driving up the prices of goods, while they are, simultaneously, restricting the ability for us to develop energy, to have abundant energy that you can afford.

You like \$4.50 gasoline? Well, guess what? Your Democratic leadership just defended that as being great. In a Rules Committee debate this week, when I sat in that room debating the rules, literally, the Democratic Rules Committee was talking about how great it is that the price of oil has come down.

They were talking about the price of copper going down. Well, I have spent a lot of money on copper to wire my home. It is expensive as heck. It is now locked up in cages. But do you know what the price of copper going down means? Heading into a recession. That is the reality of what we are facing. That is the truth.

Our economy is getting ripped to shreds, the price of goods and services are going up. And it is purposeful. Spending money we don't have.

How can you justify spending \$2 trillion, printing that money, and dumping it out there to drive up the price of goods and services, while cutting off the production of oil and gas, not developing nuclear, increasing the price

of gasoline, increasing the price of energy in your homes?

It could only be purposeful. They are breaking it. They want to break it so they can live in unicorn land.

But you are going to have to buy it, and it is going to be expensive.

How about the state of the rule of law?

How about the state of the family?

How about the state of marriage?

Just yesterday, on this floor—just yesterday, on this floor, we passed a law to force recognition by one State of another State's marriage, but by thereby doing that, for the first time, I think this body, certainly Members on this side, supporting the redefinition of marriage, which was manufactured by the 2015 Supreme Court decision, manufactured and forced upon the States, a redefinition of marriage.

Now you see the wailing and gnashing of teeth because this court dared to say that *Roe v. Wade* was bad law, and that we should defer to the States in the protection of life and the recognition that that is the appropriate law under the Constitution.

□ 1630

Lastly, I would point out when we are talking about breaking it, this body is the best example of my Democratic colleagues not giving a whit about you, the people, rolling over and destroying the people's House, destroying this institution.

I have not been able to offer an amendment on the floor of this body. Can't do it. Got to go to Rules. Beg for crumbs.

They drive through so-called suspension of the rules bills. We get them often hours before, at most, a day or two before they are on the floor being asked to be voice voted. If we don't have a group of us on the floor monitoring those bills, they will go through without a vote.

They don't care because voting doesn't matter, as evidenced by proxy voting, forcing a new rule that says you can turn your voting card that you, the voters, gave to representatives and give that to another member of Congress, upending the constitutional order which requires presence, a quorum, physical presence, debate.

That is what the Constitution contemplates, and it is my Democratic colleagues who, for the first time in history, upended our requirement that we be present in the body of the House of Representatives to do our job. Blowing apart—blowing apart—this people's House.

I will note, as I often do, that I am not saying that everybody on this side of the aisle has clean hands on all of these points. A lot of Republicans are taking advantage of the proxy voting that my Democratic colleagues created for the first time in history. They should not.

I will say that to every member. I don't care if they are Freedom Caucus leadership or anybody in between. I

will not back away from saying proxy voting is not only unconstitutional, it is wrong, and it is destroying this body.

Forced magnetometers in this false name of security. Masks being forced upon members of Congress on the floor of the House, which have now been brushed aside because I guess Anthony Fauci or somebody decreed that somehow, it is now safe to walk around without masks until they say it is not safe.

I yield to my friend from Virginia here in one second. I just want to say in conclusion to this part, and then I want to engage with my friend.

My Democratic colleagues, unfortunately with a little bit of help from a few of my Republican colleagues on occasion, are breaking this country. They are breaking this body. They are breaking our Constitution, and it is purposeful.

There are no other words to say what is happening at our border but that it is purposeful. There are no other words to say about what is happening on our streets with our law enforcement but that it is purposeful.

There is no other thing you can say about our energy policies but that it is purposeful. There is nothing you can say about the spending and the inflation but that it is purposeful.

The attack on the institution of marriage, the breakdown of the family, the targeting and the policies against life, that it is purposeful.

The fact that we are destroying this body with proxy voting, that it is purposeful. The fact that we are destroying the Defense Department and the very core values of our men and women in the military with their woke policies, with their vax mandates, irrespective of what that does to defense, driving our recruiting down to unforeseen levels, but that it is purposeful, and it is wrong.

I would just challenge my Republican colleagues that we better come in, if the American people give us power in November, and do the right thing to protect this country and to stop breaking it because the American people are having to buy it.

I yield to my friend from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. I thank the gentleman from Texas for yielding time.

Mr. Speaker, I had a constituent say to me from Bedford County, just outside of Lynchburg where I live, nothing this President and this majority in Congress is doing makes sense unless they hate the country. Nothing they are doing makes sense unless they hate the country.

What would you do differently over the last year and a half if it was your purpose, your desire, your intention to ruin the country?

Maybe you would undermine police. Maybe you would reduce funding for police. Maybe you would stop arresting violent criminals. Maybe you would stop prosecuting violent crimes. Maybe

you would allow violent criminals to have no cash bail. Maybe we would release violent criminals from our prisons.

You know what? All of those things are happening, and the Democrats seem surprised that crime has gone up across the country. Violent crime is up some 30 percent in the last year across the country.

American cities, unrecognizable. People don't want to go there anymore because of these policies. Maybe the American people don't want 4 million illegal aliens coming into the interior of their country in the past year and a half.

Maybe we have a shortage of funding to take care of Americans, to do the things that we would like to do, to take care of our veterans, to take care of those most in need, to help our farmers, to help hard-working Americans, to maybe give them a little bit of their resources back, to reduce the regulations and the oppression upon them.

Maybe we don't need to bring in 4 million illegal aliens in a year and a half, 10,000 a day now, the average is, give them free social services, free healthcare, free education, free travel, with no requirement to even appear in court. Maybe the American people want their border secured.

Maybe the American people don't want massive inflation, 40-year record inflation, caused primarily by the massive spending, the reckless spending, and the energy policies.

Think about where we might be if this Democrat majority had gotten their \$6 trillion build back bankrupt bill through Congress. \$20,000 per American citizen. They like to say sometimes, oh, some of this stuff is popular. It polls well. People want this.

\$6 trillion is what they have tried to spend, and they are still trying to backdoor it in over these remaining months that they may have power.

How would it poll, do you think, if we said, American citizen, do you want this so-called benefit, this so-called perk, what have you, but your share of the cost is \$20,000. So a family of three, your share is \$60,000. How many would vote for these policies?

Not to mention what they are doing on energy by design, on purpose, the dishonest attack on the fossil fuel industry, the dishonest narrative that we are not the cleanest, large energy producers in the world; the damage that has been done to the economy; the damage that has been done to the way that American people live their lives.

What are they doing? They are bragging about the pain that they are causing. The more pain, the better, they are saying. That is what the President has said. Hey, we are halfway through a transition. If we could just get through to the other side, it is going to be so much better, you know.

As you said in candy land and unicorn land, we are going to have all these jobs and all this prosperity because we went through all this pain.

But the fact is, the fossil fuel industry has been used to bring more prosperity to third world countries than any other development in industrial history.

This assault on our freedoms, our economic freedoms, our healthcare freedoms, as you mentioned, whether it is the mask, whether it is the vaccines, our individual freedoms with the Second Amendment assault.

This body is going to try to pass two more bills to take away and restrict Second Amendment rights. That is going to happen in this House, we are told. The continued assault on the Second Amendment right.

You know, I have right here—I don't do this very often, but I have some quotes from the Founders as it relates to the Second Amendment right.

As I was looking for quotes, you know, I couldn't find anything that talked about that people could keep and bear arms so they could target practice; that people could keep and bear arms so they could hunt; that people could keep and bear arms for sporting purposes.

These quotes that I have here from the Founders explaining why they wrote into the Constitution the Second Amendment as they did was to ensure we remain free.

Freedom has a cost. Most of the world does not live free to the extent that we still live free, as you often enunciate.

Whether the majority of this Congress likes it or not, we have a Constitution. I happen to like it. I know you do as well. The framers, in their wisdom, made it possible to change the Constitution, but they made it difficult by design.

They said, hey, if you want to change the Constitution, you have got to have super majorities of both Houses. You have got to have super majorities of the State legislatures in order to bring transformational change to the country and amend the Constitution.

But, instead, they want to undermine the Constitution, undermine our freedoms, and attack the rights guaranteed to Americans in our Constitution.

Mr. ROY. I ask of the Chair how much time we have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. I would just add to my friend from Virginia a great quote from Thomas Jefferson—because he knows I went to the University of Virginia.

The strongest reason for the people to retain the right to keep and bear arms is, as a last resort, to protect themselves against tyranny in government.

That is the purpose of the Second Amendment, and that is what we know.

I would note that in this context, and I will yield another couple minutes to the gentleman if he wants it, when we are talking about the response from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, they break our border purposefully, and then they want us to fix it with amnesty or with some policies to say that Texas has to just accept.

I hear that the mayor of New York is all aghast that people are being dropped off in New York. He said, we need Federal Government help to deal with it. I am, like, welcome to the party, pal. This is what life is like in south Texas every single day.

They break it. They break the border, and then they want you, the American people, to have to carry the water.

They break the Defense Department, drive recruiting down to 40 percent, and then they put in language to draft our daughters, all in the name of so-called equity and equality.

They break our criminal justice system. They break the backs of our law enforcement community. Then they say, we are going to take your guns, your ability to defend yourself.

They break the energy system in our country. Then they say, just go buy a Tesla. What is wrong with you?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. 70,000 bucks. Go ahead.

Mr. ROY. What is wrong with you? Go buy a Tesla. You can plug in. You can drive through west Texas, 300 miles. Don't worry about it. Stop off in Eden, Texas, where, no doubt, they have a charging station and spend \$70,000 for the pleasure.

They break the back of the economy, drive up in inflation, and they say, suck it up, buttercup. Go buy yourself some expensive chicken and rice.

They break the back of this body, this institution, and they ignore their colleagues when their colleagues are saying the chickens are going to come home to roost.

That is the reality of what we are dealing with: A purposeful breaking the back of this country and a tearing apart of the threads that hold us together.

I am going to just say it here on the floor. If we don't start respecting Federalism, the ability to agree to disagree, then this country is doomed. It will break apart under its own weight, and it will be my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that amassed the weight that will break the bow.

That is where we are headed if we don't start respecting the ability of individuals in this country to agree to disagree, allow Texans to be Texans, allow Californians to be Californians.

Unite under the flag of the United States under our core principles but stop shredding our ability to disagree. Stop breaking this country and forcing the American people to buy it.

I yield the balance of the time to my friend Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Well said by the gentleman from Texas.

Their solution, this President's solution, this majority's solution to the economic wreckage they have created is to spend more money.

You just ask yourself. You're baffled. Is it malicious intent, and they recognize the harm that they are doing; and how they are causing the harm; and they are doing it by design; and they are doing it on purpose; or are they

that economically illiterate, and they really are clueless and have no idea what they are doing?

Because we have record inflation, 40-year high inflation of 9 percent, which essentially means every American is working for 1 month free this year. One month out of the year they are essentially not getting paid with the loss of purchasing power they have experienced because of the inflation.

So what is their answer to that? Well, if we could just spend more money, if we could just get more of our agenda passed and spend trillions of dollars more, then that will help the problem rather than make it worse.

It is like the person who says, hey, I am trying to lose weight and then they would say, well, the solution is to eat more. That is the solution that they propose, to do more harm, and you just wonder, is it just that illiterate, that ignorant, or is it willful and devious and malicious?

Mr. ROY. I thank the gentleman from Virginia. I think our time has expired. I appreciate the speaker and the staff here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

□ 1645

#### SECOND AMENDMENT RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, the Second Amendment in our Constitution is the amendment that guarantees or ensures all the other freedoms that we hold dear in this country.

The right to defend oneself is a God-given right, but we are unique among the nations of the world in that that right is protected for us and enshrined in our Constitution based on the wisdom of the Founders.

There is a mechanism for changing the Constitution, but it is difficult. Yet, what this body wants to do is to find ways to do what the Constitution clearly says, which is that the Congress has absolutely no constitutional authority to restrict the rights of law-abiding citizens to keep and bear arms.

I am going to read a few quotes from the Founders from about 250 years ago, and the reason why we go back to the Founders is to understand what they intended with the Constitution. We have the Federalist Papers, of course, and then other writings by the Founders.

Alexander Hamilton said: "The best we can hope for concerning the people at large is that they be properly armed."

Samuel Adams said the Constitution shall "be never construed to authorize Congress to infringe . . . or to prevent

the people of the United States, who are peaceable citizens, from keeping their own arms."

James Madison, the first Congressman from my Fifth District and our fourth President, said: "The Constitution preserves the advantage of being armed which Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation," where "the governments are afraid to trust the people with arms." Still true today.

Noah Webster said: "Before a standing army can rule, the people must be disarmed; as they are in almost every kingdom of Europe. . . . A military force, at the command of Congress, can execute no laws, but such as the people perceive to be just and constitutional; for they will possess the power . . . to resist the execution of a law which appears to them unjust and oppressive."

Thomas Jefferson, from my home district in Virginia, from where the gentleman from Texas went to school, said: "What country can preserve its liberties, if its rulers are not warned from time to time that this people preserve the spirit of resistance? Let them take arms."

Thomas Jefferson also said: "No free man shall ever be debarred the use of arms."

Back to James Madison: "The right of the people to keep and bear . . . arms shall not be infringed. A well regulated militia, composed of the body of the people, trained to arms, is the best and most natural defense of a free country."

George Mason said: "To disarm the people—that was the best and most effectual way to enslave them."

Patrick Henry said: "Are we at last brought to such humiliating and debasing degradation, that we cannot be trusted with arms for our defense?" "If our defense be the real object of having those arms, in whose hands can they be trusted with more propriety, or equal safety to us, as in our own hands?"

Samuel Adams said: "The said Constitution be never construed to authorize Congress to . . . prevent the people of the United States, who are peaceable citizens, from keeping their own arms."

Thomas Paine: "Arms discourage and keep the invader and the plunderer in awe, and preserve order in the world. . . . Horrid mischief would ensue were the law-abiding deprived of the use of them."

Patrick Henry also said: "Where and when did freedom exist, when the sword and purse were given up from the people?"

We are doing that right here in this body. We are taking the sword and the purse away from the people.

He said: "Unless a miracle in human affairs shall interpose, no nation ever did or ever can retain its liberty, after the loss of the sword and the purse."

"The great object is that every man be armed."

"Everyone who is able may have a gun."

Final quote from Thomas Jefferson, then I will defer to the gentleman from South Carolina: "Laws that forbid the carrying of arms . . . disarm only those who are neither inclined nor determined to commit crimes. Such laws make things worse for the assaulted and better for the assailants; they serve rather to encourage than prevent homicides, for an unarmed man may be attacked with greater confidence than an armed one."

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Roy).

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I have to head down to the House Judiciary Committee to defend the Second Amendment from the attacks being levied by my Democratic colleagues as we speak. We are in there debating.

I would add just one thing to what the gentleman just eloquently put out, the understanding for the American people that when this Nation was founded, we were dealing with debate about what the structure of government should look like. Those who were suspicious of consolidating power, the anti-Federalists, were raising questions.

James Madison, a Virginian, was making points through the Federalist Papers. He said in response to some of the critiques: "All the other checks and balances will always prevent tyranny, but should tyranny ever triumph, the U.S. Constitution provides a mechanism to restore constitutional order," he says. "Besides the advantage of being armed, which the Americans possess over the people of almost every other nation," Madison wrote, "the existence of subordinate governments, the State government to which the people are attached," their State and local governments, "and by which the militia officers are appointed," because that well-regulated militia meant a well-ordered militia, not regulated the way we talk about it, a well-ordered militia. "And it forms a barrier against the enterprises of ambition more insurmountable than any which a simple government of any form can admit of."

The final point is, the Second Amendment does not create a right of revolution against tyranny. That inherent right is universal. The Second Amendment provides the tools and the power for the people to stand and thwart tyranny.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. Good for having this Special Order.

Let me give you a live example of what happens with a well-armed militia, the purpose of the Second Amendment is for the citizens of America to bear arms.

This past Sunday, a deranged gunman opened fire in a food court of a shopping mall in Greenwood, Indiana, which is a suburb of Indianapolis. Police say this deranged gunman fired 24 rounds within 2 minutes, killing three and injuring two others.

Nearby was a young man, Elisjsja Dicken, a private citizen who took quick action to stop that gunman. Elisjsja was legally armed and carrying his own weapon under Indiana's constitutional carry laws. Thank God for this young man.

In summarizing Elisjsja's response, the Greenwood chief of police said, "I will say his actions were nothing short of heroic. He engaged the gunman from quite a distance with a handgun." The police chief went on to say Elisjsja was "very tactically sound as he moved in to close on the suspect, and was also monitoring for people to exit behind him. He has had no police experience, no training, no military background."

What a true hero. Elisjsja was simply going about his business at the mall when the unthinkable happened. It is hard to imagine how we might react in that situation, but Elisjsja was equipped; he was prepared; and he had courage to confront that sick individual, who was determined to kill others.

Elisjsja would not have been able to do so if the liberals who want to take away our Second Amendment rights had their way with this so-called gun control.

To my Democratic friends who are determined to restrict our Second Amendment rights, I ask you this: How many more people might have died last Sunday in Greenwood, Indiana, if you had had your way? How many more people would have been slaughtered if Elisjsja didn't have the ability to exercise his constitutional rights? Thankfully, we will never know the answer to that question.

Americans deserve the right to protect themselves and others when their lives are in severe danger. That is why it is so critical to strongly defend our Second Amendment rights against the antigun left that is so intent to demoralize our Second Amendment and our Constitution.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina.

Ronald Reagan, to paraphrase, said: Freedom is only one generation away from extinction, and it must be fought and preserved from one generation to the next, and no nation having lost its freedom in history has ever regained it.

You think about how, in the past year and a half, we have seen our most basic, most essential freedoms trampled upon by those who would also trample upon our Second Amendment rights. They have moved to restrict our own healthcare decisions about whether or not we have to take a vaccine that we may not want or may not need. They have restricted our ability to travel and to move, where we want to go, whether or not we can assemble, whether or not we can worship, whether we can go to work, whether we can operate our business, whether or not we can earn a living. They want to trample upon our rights to defend ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. CAWTHORN).

Mr. CAWTHORN. Mr. Speaker, 40 yards, 10 rounds, one man, countless lives saved. I speak today to acknowledge a new American hero.

Just 2 weeks after Indiana passed a constitutional carry provision, one man stood tall in the face of imminent death, protecting his loved ones and his community from evil. Elisjsa Dick- en's incredibly quick and heroic ac- tions are not just to be applauded in the media. They ought to be used as a blueprint for American citizens who le- gally carry nationwide.

There is strong evidence that the best defense an American can possess is a sidearm and the know-how to use it. Mr. Speaker, law-abiding citizens use firearms to defend themselves against criminals as many as 2.5 million times a year, or about 6,850 times a day. This means that, each year, firearms are used more than 80 times more often to protect the lives of honest citizens than to take lives. Moreover, citizens shoot and kill at least twice as many criminals as police do every year, as was the case in Greenwood.

The analysis is clear. Law-abiding, gun-toting Americans are the best line of defense against random acts of mass violence. Make no mistake, Congress' gun control lobby would have rather taken the handgun from Elisjsa's hand and replaced it with blood-soaked corpses of many innocents in Indiana.

Mr. Speaker, I speak for many Amer- icans when I say we will carry; we will protect ourselves; we will neutralize threats to our safety and security. We don't need you to defend us. Stop com- ing for our security. Stop coming for our constitutionally protected rights. Retire to a nice seaside estate pro- tected by armed guards and let red- blooded, freedom-loving Americans conceal carry and, when necessary, kill those who threaten our lives. Remem- ber, you are your own first responder.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Caro- lina.

Mr. Speaker, can you confirm how much time we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gen- tleman from Virginia has 17 minutes remaining.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. GREENE), my good friend.

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speak- er, I am honored to stand here with my friends—Chairman PERRY, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. GOOD, Mr. NORMAN—in defense of our Second Amendment rights. I say this not only as a Member of Congress, but I say this as a woman, and I say this as a mother. I say this also as an adult who knows what it is like when my school was held hostage by another student with a gun, a very upset student.

It is not the guns that are the issue. It is the severe mental illness, the breakdown in America with our morals and our values, and this severe divide among all of us as Americans.

I want to add to this, and this is a story that I haven't even been able to share with my good colleagues here, but just this weekend, now that I am a Member of Congress, many of us get a lot of death threats, but one of my family members received a voicemail on their personal cell phone from a man saying very bad things about me, and then saying: "This is what I am going to do to her," and he cocked a gun and shot it several times.

This is the type of threats I get, and it came with the threat of a gun. But I tell you this as a woman and a gun owner: I need to be able to have any kind of gun that I want to own to de- fend myself, to defend my family, to defend my home. God forbid if someone chose to do something to me.

You see, here is the issue: It doesn't matter how many gun control laws we put in place. It doesn't matter how many types of guns are banned. The criminals and the people who intend to do harm to others, those that would murder someone even if they could murder them with their bare hands, are still going to do it, and they are not going to be the ones that hand over their guns to the government. Oh, no, they are going to be keeping their guns so they can continue breaking the law.

We have guns coming across our bor- der every single day illegally. We have terrorists who have been caught at our border, and then we have a lot of got- aways. We don't know how many of those are terrorists and what kind of criminals, how much human traf- ficking, how much child trafficking is happening down there. Crime is up in every single city, county, and small town across America.

□ 1700

Americans need their guns, and there should not be a ban on assault weapons because it is not about the gun or the weapon; it is about what is inside someone's human heart.

What we have to do is we have to stand in defense of and protect our Sec- ond Amendment because it is the most important freedom that we have. If we are unable to do that, and we lose it in the name of the so-called issues—what they are pointing at really is a tool. A gun is a tool. The gun doesn't get up and kill people on its own. It is the people who do it.

When you take away all the guns from the legal gun owners, the crimi- nals will be the ones that are left with the guns. Then do you want to know what happens? Even if those guns are gone, they are still going to commit murder, and they will just use some- thing else.

It is about elections. That is why they are trying to ban assault weapons, because inflation is out of control, crime is out of control, gas prices are difficult to afford. Now, our President is moving us on to some sort of clean energy that just will fail America even more.

This isn't what we need to do, and I am so happy that there are people here

that want to stand in defense of peo- ple's gun rights.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Georgia.

I yield to the gentleman from Penn- sylvania (Mr. PERRY), the chairman of the Freedom Caucus.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from the State of Virginia (Mr. GOOD) for helping host this Spe- cial Order and being here in my ab- sence.

Oftentimes, I think that we make this partisan. Republicans are seen or characterized as unempathetic or uncaring in the face of so many trage- dies. Of course, it couldn't be further from the truth. We are empathetic. Our hearts break just like everyone else's.

But we recognize that in this imper- fect Union that seeks to be more per- fect every single day, with every single action, that the right to defend oneself, the right to bear arms, is enshrined in the founding documents, the founding documents that we all take an oath to uphold and defend.

We don't just dismiss that like it doesn't exist. We understand that, un- fortunately, there are evil people in the world and that this right exists, given to us by God, outlined in our Constitu- tion, so that we can then defend our- selves from any assailant, from any attacker, because we have the God- given rights of liberty and of life. We have that.

We seek some kind of protection for ourselves that also protects our God- given rights but doesn't allow the criminals to prevail upon us in our homes, in our businesses, and on the streets.

Yet, right now, while Americans are suffering the worst cost of living in 40 years—I know the administration doesn't want to talk about it. Right now, violent crime is up 30 percent, an unprecedented rate, not told to us by SCOTT PERRY or BOB GOOD or RALPH NORMAN, but by our FBI, an unprece- dented rise in violent crime.

Right now, right down the hall, in- stead of dealing with the rise in crime; instead of dealing with the fact that DAs, supported by the extreme radical left, are letting criminals out on the street; not dealing with the issue that millions of people are flowing across our border, certainly laced with a cer- tain criminal element with no regard to American laws coming across our border; notwithstanding the fact that some of the people that lead our coun- try at the highest levels bailed out vio- lent criminals and paid for their bail to be on the street to then assault and as- sail their neighbors, that is all hap- pening right now.

Down the hall, as we speak, our col- leagues on the left are trying to re- institute the assault weapon ban, the assault weapon ban that they know, since 1994, when it was instated then, did absolutely nothing to solve this problem.

Because they don't really care about crime—they don't care at all. We are

seen as unempathetic. Meanwhile, every city, every weekend across the country, is like a war zone. You would actually be safer in a war zone. I know. I have actually been to a couple of them. You would actually be safer in a war zone than downtown Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit, or New Orleans.

But they are down the hall working on a solution that doesn't fix anything. It doesn't fix a thing. It takes our rights away and doesn't solve anything.

We are here because we believe that Americans have the right to defend themselves, to be free, and to be safe in their homes. We are here as Freedom Caucus members to say that we do stand with the Constitution. We actually believe in our oath. We think that we can do both. We think that we can defend ourselves and stop most criminals' violent activities.

But there have to be consequences. What you are seeing right now across the country are the consequences of not holding people accountable. That is what you are seeing right now, violent criminals being let out on the street over and over again. The message being sent by this administration and our colleagues on the other side of the aisle is it is okay. It is okay to just do that. It is okay to commit any crime you want.

Heck, there was a gentleman in New York minding his store. He was attacked. He defended himself. Unfortunately, the attacker's life was taken. What did the district attorney do? He charged the man who defended himself with murder. That sends a signal to every criminal that it is okay to commit your crimes.

Mr. Speaker, it is not okay. This solution is not going to solve anything except disarming law-abiding citizens, meanwhile knowing that the criminals that are willing to disregard the law and use the weapon to kill somebody are certainly going to disregard the law and maintain that weapon when you tell all law-abiding citizens that they must turn theirs in.

Mr. Speaker, this cannot stand. We are here today to say that no matter what happens down the hall, no matter what vote they bring out of that partisan-led committee to disarm America, we will oppose it with every fiber of our being. We will oppose it.

Even if we lose on this round, in 6 months, when we are in the majority around here, if they were to be successful in imposing this confiscation on American citizens, the confiscation of not only the rights to life but the rights to self-defense, we will reinstate them.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) for carrying the load for us here.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman PERRY.

Chairman PERRY, have you ever been asked by the media about a police officer killed in the line of duty? Have they ever asked you about that shooting?

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Faulkner was killed in Philadelphia by Mumia Abu-Jamal, and all they usually ask me about that is: What are we going to do to get that killer out of prison?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. I am never asked about the 100 police officers killed last year in the line of duty.

Mr. PERRY. Right.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. I am never asked about the police officers who are shot in America's largest cities, as you have mentioned. I am never asked by the media about that.

I am never asked about the hundreds of shootings that take place every weekend in America's largest cities, these war zones, these crime zones that are under Democrat control.

There is always a connection here. These are cities that have been controlled by Democrats. These are Democrat policies carried to their conclusion.

What they are trying to do to the entire country, which has been in place much longer in these major cities—you mentioned Baltimore, Detroit, Chicago, St. Louis, on and on, New Orleans, and so forth. That is where most of the crime is in this country. That is where most of the shootings take place in this country, and they don't care about that.

Do they want to harden our schools? Do they want to do what is necessary to keep our kids safe?

I have long been an advocate in my home State of Virginia, the community where I served as a county supervisor, in allowing armed personnel within the school system who are trained and want to carry concealed and be part of a rapid response team, teachers and staff, to be armed in the schools to keep the children and the staff safe. The Democrats are against that.

We all know the truth. Mr. NORMAN from South Carolina mentioned this a moment ago. The best response to a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun. The best response is more good people with guns, more law-abiding citizens with guns, as the Founders wrote and intended and as the Founders recognized 250 years ago when we didn't have this violent crime in America's largest cities.

If the Second Amendment is not safe, then no other right is safe. There is a reason why the Second Amendment comes right after that First Amendment guarantee to speech, free speech, to free assembly, to free worship, to petition our government for our grievances. It is that Second Amendment right to keep us safe, to ensure we remain a free people.

If you look around the world, if you look at the nation of Ukraine, Ukraine would be a different place today if the citizens were armed and permitted to be armed the way we are here in this country. Taiwan would be a much safer country today from the threat of its

large enemy on its border if their citizens were armed the way our citizens are armed today.

The Founders recognized in their wisdom that not only did we possess a God-given right to defend ourselves, to keep ourselves and our families safe, but also that we would be unique among the nations of the world in enshrining that in our Constitution and protecting that right and saying that Congress has no authority to infringe on that right for law-abiding citizens.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, my good friend from Virginia is absolutely right. That is our duty here.

People think that the Federal Government maybe is supposed to provide so many things. I am sure that every one of us has different visitors that come in and ask us what the Federal Government can provide for them.

What this government was set up for by our Founders—and, unfortunately, many of our citizens don't know it—is to provide us with the rights that have been given to us by God and to defend them. That is what we are supposed to be doing here.

Right down the hall, it is not about making sure that we maintain our rights to defend ourselves, to maintain the rights that everybody in that room swore an oath in the Constitution to uphold and defend. They are actually looking to strip the very people that are law-abiding, the very people that would follow the law, would purchase the weapon legally, would file the paperwork and do everything that is required in their States. Those are the people that they wish to disarm.

They are not in there talking about stopping criminals. They are not talking about stopping criminals. They are talking about stopping law-abiding citizens who are trying to defend themselves when somebody breaks into their home at night or their store or prevails upon them on the street when they are out with their children or, heaven forbid, our citizens dare to travel to one of these cities anymore.

I represent a company in my district called Starbucks. Their CEO is closing stores all across the northwest of our country because of safety. People want to go to Starbucks. They can't because it is not going to be there anymore, not because of sales, but because of safety.

If that is not a sign of a sickness—and the CEO of Starbucks, I don't know that he thinks that the answer is an assault weapons ban. Maybe he does. But I haven't heard of the Starbucks being held up by an assault weapon.

Every single week, every single weekend, people are killed in major cities, horrific violence, perpetrated whether it is with a knife or whether it is with a handgun. But it is the people that do it. These are inanimate objects. Great Britain banned handguns a long time ago and is now considering banning knives because knife attacks are on the increase.



Our country has a sickness, and we are sympathetic to it. But taking the tool away doesn't address the sickness. Unfortunately, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are so focused on the firearm that they can't even see past the fact that they are disavowing their oath to the Constitution.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his comments.

The first 10 amendments to the Constitution were intended to protect the individual, the people, from the government. The Constitution protects the individual, the minority, from the tyranny of the majority.

There is a reason why we are not a democracy. We are a representative republic based on the rule of law, based on a Constitution that would ensure that we remain free, that would ensure that we protect the rights of the individual.

The number one job of the Federal Government, that we have gotten so far away from here in this body, is to keep us safe and secure. Part of that is to ensure that our rights are safe and secure, and that includes the right to defend ourselves.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, the right to defend ourselves. Mr. GOOD and I, our colleagues on this side of the aisle, we haven't voted to defund the police. We support law enforcement.

Even though we support fully law enforcement, here is what we know: When someone breaks into your home and you pick up your phone, it is going to take a certain amount of time, unless law enforcement is sitting out in your driveway. You are going to have to do something about it at that moment.

What our colleagues on the other side of the aisle right now are telling us is: No, you are not going to have any opportunity. You are not going to have any ability to do anything about it.

You can use harsh language. I suppose you can throw the lamp that is on your bed stand in self-defense, but that doesn't stop the assailant's bullets that are coming into your home for who knows what reason.

Mr. Speaker, we deserve—because we have earned the right to defend ourselves. We live in America. We have a Constitution that we live under. It outlines our rights as ordained by the Good Lord above. We cannot have this Congress and man take them away from us.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution 1230, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 5 o'clock and 14 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, July 21, 2022, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-4775. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting Lieutenant General Michael E. Kurilla, United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of general for a period not to exceed 14 days before assuming the duties of the position for which the higher grade is authorized, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777a(b)(4); Public Law 111-383, Sec. 505(a)(1); (124 Stat. 4208); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4776. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter authorizing 3 officers to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4777. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting Major General Dimitri Henry, United States Marine Corps, to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777a(b)(4); Public Law 111-383, Sec. 505(a)(1); (124 Stat. 4208); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4778. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's additional legislative proposals and section-by-section analysis; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4779. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Report to Congress on Distribution of Department of Defense Depot Maintenance Workloads for Fiscal Years 2020 through 2022; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4780. A letter from the Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, transmitting the Bureau's 2021 Fair Lending Report, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5493(c)(2)(D); Public Law 111-203, Sec. 1013(c)(2)(D); (124 Stat. 1970); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4781. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's report to Congress, "Prioritization Framework for Technical Cybersecurity Support to Public Water Systems"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-4782. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Report to Congress on Direct Commercial Sales Authorizations to Foreign Countries and International Organizations for Fiscal Year 2021, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2415(a); Public Law 87-195, Sec. 655 (as amended by Public Law 104-164, Sec. 148); (110 Stat. 1435); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4783. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a letter pursuant to the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Convention); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4784. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting a letter pursuant to the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (Convention); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4785. A letter from the Assistant Inspector General for Audits and Evaluations, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting an action on nomination and a discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4786. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Commission's Office of the Inspector General's (OIG) Semiannual Report to Congress for the period October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022, pursuant to section 5(b) of the Inspector General Act of 1978; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4787. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting the Office's government-wide legislative proposals; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4788. A letter from the Inspector General, Office of the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Fiscal Year 2023 Budget Justification, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(f); Aug. 29, 1935, ch. 812, Sec. 7(f) (as amended by Public Law 93-445, Sec. 416); (97 Stat. 436); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4789. A letter from the Director, Congressional, Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting explanation and justification for revisions to FEC Form 1 and the instructions for FEC Form 1, pursuant to 52 U.S.C. 30111(d)(1); Public Law 92-225, Sec. 311 (as amended by Public Law 96-187, Sec. 109); (93 Stat. 1364); to the Committee on House Administration.

EC-4790. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Senate, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a legislative proposal "To clarify the application of the additional fees relating to certain H-1B and L petitions, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4791. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report to Congress on a visa inadmissibility determination; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4792. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman Annual Report for Calendar Years 2017- 2019, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395b-9(c)(2)(C); Public Law 108-173, Sec. 923(a); (117 Stat. 2394); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

EC-4793. A letter from the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Annual Report Required by Railroad Retirement Act of 1974 and Railroad Retirement Solvency Act of 1983, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231u(a)(1); Aug. 29, 1935, ch. 812, Sec. 22(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-90, Sec. 108(a)); (115 Stat. 890) and 45 U.S.C. 231f-1; Public Law 98-76, Sec. 502 (as amended by Public Law 104-66, Sec. 2221(a)); (109 Stat. 733); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-4794. A letter from the Secretary to the Board, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the 2022 annual report on the financial status of the railroad unemployment insurance system, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 369; Public Law 100-647, Sec. 7105; (102 Stat. 3772); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Transportation and Infrastructure.



## 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. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 4586. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 with respect to risk-based examinations of Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations; with an amendment (Rept. 117-421). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 6528. A bill to require owners of covered federally assisted rental dwelling units to install temperature sensors in such units, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-422). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 7195. A bill to provide for certain whistleblower incentives and protections; with amendments (Rept. 117-423). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 7196. A bill to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to expand the authorized activities under the Continuum of Care program to include activities that address barriers to transitioning families in rural areas to permanent housing, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-424). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 7734. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the timely production of reports to Congress under the Bank Secrecy Act, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-425). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 7981. A bill to require qualifying smoke alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-426). 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. BISHOP of Georgia (for himself, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska):

H.R. 8432. A bill to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. LOFGREN (for herself, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. MENG, Mr. CORREA, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. NADLER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BASS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LIEU, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PINGREE,

Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. ROSS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. SOTO, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 8433. A bill to amend section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to render available to certain long-term residents of the United States the benefit under that section; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. STANTON):

H.R. 8434. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to modify the requirements for an eligible project under the competitive grant program for large-scale water recycling and reuse projects, to provide for an additional authorization of appropriations for that program, to repeal the termination of authority for that program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 8435. A bill to provide for near-term actions to preserve the Colorado River system and to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to expedite measures for drought response; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 8436. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study on the need to revise the current tick size regime, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCALISE (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana):

H.R. 8437. A bill to distribute revenues from oil, gas, and wind leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. BACON:

H.R. 8438. A bill to specify that revoking a Foreign Terrorist Organization designation requires a joint certification from the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense, to restrict waiver authority for allowing members and conscripts of Foreign Terrorist Organizations into the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 8439. A bill to modify the requirements of congressional review and oversight of agreements with Iran; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, 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. BLUMENAUER (for himself, Ms. MACE, Ms. DEAN, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. CORREA):

H.R. 8440. A bill to clarify that the Federal Right to Try law applies to schedule I substances for which a phase I clinical trial has been completed and to provide access for eligible patients to such substances pursuant to the Federal Right to Try law; 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. BUCK (for himself, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mrs. BOEBERT):

H.R. 8441. A bill to amend the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act to ensure

that taxpayer funds for health insurance coverage are available only to authorized individuals, 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 Mr. CUELLAR (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mrs. STEEL):

H.R. 8442. A bill to provide workers with schedule flexibility and choice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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 Mr. FITZGERALD (for himself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. GARBARINO, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Ms. VAN DUYN):

H.R. 8443. A bill to impose additional requirements for covered agencies in regulatory flexibility analysis; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, and 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 Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Ms. PORTER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and Mr. DOGGETT):

H.R. 8444. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to require paid rest breaks for certain construction employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BLUNT ROCHSTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CASE, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. CICILLINE, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SOTO, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TRONE, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 8445. A bill to authorize the Director of the National Museum of American History of the Smithsonian Institution to support LGBTQI+ history and women's history education programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 8446. A bill to modify and extend the Global Food Security Act of 2016; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. DUNN):

H.R. 8447. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on certain investments of private colleges and universities; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. NORCROSS (for himself, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. BROWN of Maryland, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. LAMB, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SOTO, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. EVANS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. MENG, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. OMAR, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GOLDEN, Mr. CROW, Mr. NADLER, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. SARBANES, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. CHU, Ms. BASS, Ms. PORTER, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. DEAN, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. JONES, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. WELCH, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. COHEN, Ms. WILD, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. RYAN, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. CARDENAS, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 8448. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end the tax subsidy for employer efforts to influence their workers' exercise of their rights around labor organizations and engaging in collective action; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. SCHRIER (for herself and Mr. BERA):

H.R. 8449. A bill to establish and maintain a coordinated program within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that improves wildfire, fire weather, fire risk, and smoke related forecasting, detection, modeling, observations, and service delivery, and to address growing needs in the wildland-urban interface, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia (for himself and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 8450. A bill to reauthorize child nutrition programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. STEWART (for himself and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 8451. A bill to direct the Attorney General to establish a grant program to allocate resources for remote search and rescue activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. STRICKLAND (for herself, Mrs. FLETCHER, and Ms. BUSH):

H.R. 8452. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to eligible entities to pay for travel-related expenses and logistical support for individuals with respect to accessing abortion services, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself and Ms. WILD):

H.R. 8453. A bill to provide for the imposition of sanctions with respect to foreign persons undermining the Dayton Peace Agreement or threatening the security of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Financial Services, 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 Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. RUIZ, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Res. 1235. A resolution recognizing the importance of engagement with the Latino community to get into the outdoors and participate in activities to protect United States natural resources, and expressing support for the designation of the third week of July as "Latino Conservation Week"; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H. Res. 1236. A resolution of inquiry directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide certain documents in his possession to the House of Representatives relating to the Disinformation Governance Board; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina:

H. Res. 1237. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President to provide certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to online censorship of political speech; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. FITZGERALD:

H. Res. 1238. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President to provide certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the October 4, 2021 memorandum issued by the Attorney General entitled "Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana:

H. Res. 1239. A resolution of inquiry directing the Attorney General to provide certain documents in his possession to the House of Representatives relating to the October 4, 2021 memorandum issued by the Attorney General entitled "Partnership Among Federal, State, Local, Tribal, and Territorial Law Enforcement to Address Threats Against School Administrators, Board Members, Teachers, and Staff"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. PERRY, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. ZELDIN, Mr. CHABOT, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BUCK, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. SALAZAR, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H. Res. 1240. A resolution requesting the President, and directing the Secretary of State, to transmit to the House of Representatives copies of all documents in their possession referring or relating to certain aspects of the United States withdrawal from Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. MCCLINTOCK:

H. Res. 1241. A resolution of inquiry directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to provide certain documents in his possession to the House of Representatives relating to immigration enforcement and border security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mr. CROW, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. HIGGINS of New York):

H. Res. 1242. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July 20, 2022, as "National Heroes Day" to honor the sacrifices of everyday heroes who save lives and improve their communities; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

## 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. BISHOP of Georgia:

H.R. 8432.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const. art. 1, §8, cls. 1, 3, 18

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 8433.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a "uniform rule of Naturalization."

By Mrs. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 8434.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises" in order to "provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. STANTON:

H.R. 8435.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 8436.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. SCALISE:

H.R. 8437.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2 and Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 8438.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause 3: "Congress shall have the power . . . to regulate commerce with foreign Nations . . ."

By Mr. BACON:

H.R. 8439.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause 10: "Congress shall have the power to . . . define and punish . . . offences against the Law of Nations"

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 8440.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 8441.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CUELLAR:

H.R. 8442.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. FITZGERALD:

H.R. 8443.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, clause 3 of the United States Constitution

By Ms. GARCIA of Texas:

H.R. 8444.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, 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 the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Of thereof."

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 8445.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 8446.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina:

H.R. 8447.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, 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. Article I, Section 8, Clause 1: The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States. Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. NORCROSS:

H.R. 8448.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

By Ms. SCHRIER:

H.R. 8449.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SCOTT of Virginia:

H.R. 8450.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. STEWART:

H.R. 8451.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 8452.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mrs. WAGNER:

H.R. 8453.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 82: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 604: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 669: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 751: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 909: Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 1217: Mr. CLINE and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.

H.R. 1282: Mr. FALLON and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 1378: Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 1642: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 1909: Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 1956: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 2050: Mr. CORREA, Ms. NEWMAN, Mr. EMMER, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 2082: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 2447: Mr. JACKSON and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 2549: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 2568: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 2814: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 2974: Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. DEAN, and Ms. HERRELL.

H.R. 3086: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3160: Mr. SAN NICOLAS.

H.R. 3281: Mr. GAETZ.

H.R. 3408: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 3482: Mr. BROWN of Maryland.

H.R. 3517: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 3586: Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 3733: Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 4436: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 4750: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H.R. 4780: Ms. ROSS and Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 4826: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 4836: Mr. JONES.

H.R. 4870: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 5008: Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 5140: Ms. OMAR and Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 5220: Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 5244: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 5444: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 5536: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 5631: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 5666: Mr. MALINOWSKI and Mr. LEVIN of California.

H.R. 5743: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 5761: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 6117: Mr. COURTNEY and Ms. BROWN of Ohio.

H.R. 6136: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.

H.R. 6161: Mr. SWALWELL.

H.R. 6430: Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 6448: Ms. SEWELL.

H.R. 6654: Mr. GARAMENDI and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 6805: Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 6889: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CASTEN, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 7116: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 7159: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 7188: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 7223: Mr. HERN and Mr. WALTZ.

H.R. 7236: Ms. CASTOR of Florida.

H.R. 7240: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 7376: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 7382: Mr. CORREA and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.

H.R. 7455: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.

H.R. 7468: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 7525: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 7644: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARBAJAL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 7671: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 7731: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 7735: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H.R. 7768: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 7775: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. HIMES, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. POSEY, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 7816: Mr. CLINE.

H.R. 7824: Mr. DUNN.

H.R. 7846: Ms. DEAN and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 7946: Mr. CARSON and Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 7949: Mr. BOWMAN.

H.R. 7987: Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 7993: Ms. MENG and Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 8000: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Ms. VAN DUYN.

H.R. 8111: Mr. GALLEGO.

H.R. 8137: Mr. PENCE, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mr. LATURNER.

H.R. 8140: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 8144: Mr. MALINOWSKI.

H.R. 8168: Ms. FOXX and Miss RICE of New York.

H.R. 8171: Mr. HARRIS.

H.R. 8192: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 8198: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. ROSENDALE, and Mrs. RADEWAGEN.

H.R. 8219: Mr. MEUSER and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 8223: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 8318: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 8328: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 8352: Mr. BLUMENAUER and Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 8354: Mr. BANKS.

H.R. 8362: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 8369: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 8384: Mr. BACON and Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 8393: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. MCEACHIN.

H.R. 8427: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 8428: Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER, and Mr. OWENS.

H. J. Res. 53: Ms. LOFGREN.

H. J. Res. 87: Ms. STANSBURY and Mr. SARBANES.

H. Res. 975: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. NADLER, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. BONAMICI.

H. Res. 1113: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H. Res. 1226: Ms. ADAMS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H. Res. 1231: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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No. 120

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Redeemer, answer us in seasons of trouble. Send us Your help from Your sacred hills. Our souls long for You, for we find strength and joy in Your presence. Lord, increase our faith, and teach us to trust You even during life's storms.

When our Senators endure dark nights of the soul, enable them to find strength in Your presence. May they claim Your promise that You will never leave or forsake them and that nothing can separate them from Your love. Help them seek in every undertaking to know and do Your will.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 20, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Gregory Brian Williams, of Delaware, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### DISCLOSE ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, today, with our country facing an inflation crisis, a violent crime crisis, and a functionally open southern border, our Democratic colleagues are choosing to focus on chilling Americans' First Amendment rights and enabling more harassment of citizens for their private views.

Way back in 1958, the NAACP fought Alabama's attorney general, a segrega-

tionist Democrat, all the way to the Supreme Court to defend the bedrock American liberty of associational privacy—associational privacy. Here is what Justice Harlan said for the majority back then:

Inviolability of privacy in group association may in many circumstances be indispensable to preservation of freedom of association, particularly where a group espouses dissident beliefs.

As the majority opinion put it, this was "hardly a novel exception," even back in 1958. And yet, for most of my career, I have had to push back against Democrats' repeated attempts to unlearn this fundamental constitutional lesson. I have repeatedly defended Americans' right to join together and to voice their opinions.

Prior to McCain-Feingold, almost all money in politics ran through candidates and party committees. I warned that placing unconstitutional restrictions on speech in that bill was like putting a rock on Jell-O—it wouldn't quash political speech; it would just displace it. And the Supreme Court has consistently reaffirmed that point in case after case, upholding free speech.

Our Democratic colleagues' obsession with regulating political speech is what created the environment they now disprove of. It is what drove support for McCain-Feingold, and it is what spawned this perennial bill in 2010.

Democrats want to pass a law that puts discourse in the hands of the mob. But needless to say, they haven't always been very concerned with compelling disclosure using laws on the books.

Existing law already requires disclosure of donations to PACs and other outside groups with the intention of influencing Federal elections. But even as our colleagues have introduced successive versions of the DISCLOSE Act, enterprising activist liberals have taken it upon themselves to name and shame conservatives by "outing" their

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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private contributions illegally. It was practically administration policy during the Obama-Biden IRS.

And for those keeping score, Washington Democrats never seemed as eager to publicize the donor rolls of groups whose political views they happen to share. Somehow, donor privacy for organizations pursuing liberal causes is sacrosanct, but donor privacy for groups with conservative beliefs is a threat to democracy.

Somehow working for outside groups is practically a prerequisite for a West Wing job under a Democratic President, but association with groups Democrats don't like is a one-way ticket to picketing and harassment. Sixty-four years ago, the Supreme Court said the link between freedom of association and the freedom of speech was "beyond debate." But today's Democratic Party wants to make sure the threat to associational privacy is every bit as real—as real—as it was in 1958.

The stakes are so clear; even liberal groups like the ACLU have joined the NAACP and Senate Republicans in continuing to sound the alarm—ACLU, NAACP, and Senate Republicans aligned, sounding the alarm. They have been working together to fight State-level public disclosure laws all the way to the Supreme Court.

Last year, the Court sided with those advocates to strike down predatory disclosure practices out in California. Earlier this month, the Ninth Circuit did the same to an unconstitutionally vague disclosure law out in Montana.

Meanwhile, the Federal judiciary itself is contending with particularly outrageous threats from the radical left to the privacy and security of the judges themselves and their families.

The same liberal groups stoking mob intimidation outside the homes of Supreme Court Justices are the ones most eager to put out private citizens' political speech records.

The same Democrats who refused to condemn naked threats against public officials earlier this summer once again want to expand the Federal Government's power to threaten private citizens. That is not a trade the American people or their Constitution can afford to make.

#### ENERGY AND FOREIGN POLICY

Mr. President, now on another matter, right now, Washington Democrats are frustrated by the pace of the radical green transformation they envision for our country. They are having trouble getting enough Senators to agree to make the most reliable and abundant forms of American energy more expensive for working Americans.

Energy prices are rising faster than at any point since 1980. Gasoline is nearly 60 percent more expensive than it was last summer. Natural gas is up nearly 40 percent in the same time-frame.

Washington Democrats have surveyed this scene and decided it is the perfect time—perfect time—to hike taxes on American energy, reviving a

failed tax from the 1980s on American oil refineries and exporters and—listen to this—increasing it by nearly 60 percent, new sky-high fees on American natural gas producers and more pain at the pump for working families. It is an insane proposition.

But there does appear to be an exception. If you are not among the 75 percent of Americans who say inflation has caused you financial hardship, and you happen to have a spare \$80,000 lying around, Washington Democrats want to give you a green energy tax credit if you buy an electric vehicle made with Chinese supply chains. This is what Washington Democrats are trying to do with their one-party control of government, and they are hoping President Biden will declare a national emergency to help them do it faster.

Well, unfortunately for the far left, the President is occupied with a climate conundrum of his own. On the campaign trail, Candidate Biden left no room for doubt that he had bought his party's radical climate dogma, whole hog. This is what he said back then:

I guarantee you we are going to end fossil fuel.

"End fossil fuel." Sure enough, his first year in office was an all-out assault on American energy, just like green activists drew it up—day 1 bans on energy exploration; canceling a safe, efficient pipeline that was set to create American jobs; and ghoulish, reanimated regulations from the War on Coal.

But unlike the radical base that is frustrated their ideas aren't moving faster, the Biden administration now appears to be concerned that their assault on American energy has actually worked too quickly.

Americans have seen gas prices double on this President's watch. Sky-high diesel is driving other prices up all across the country, and big majorities of Americans don't like what Democrats are doing about it. But rather than call off the onslaught and clear the way for a return to domestic energy dominance, the Biden administration has dispatched officials to beg other countries to take over America's share of the market for reliable energy that the President has purposely abandoned. They have literally chosen places like Venezuela over States like Pennsylvania or Texas or Alaska.

Then, on a trip to oil-rich Saudi Arabia, President Biden announced that "I'm doing all I can to increase [oil] supply for the United States of America."

The President who promised he would "end fossil fuels" thinks that finding more energy for American families means flying to the Middle East and asking politely instead of unleashing our own production right here at home.

And for the record, U.S. producers extract oil and gas in a far, far more environmentally friendly manner than many of their competitors overseas. So if the priority is reducing our environ-

mental impact, outsourcing seems more than a little bit shortsighted.

So, Mr. President, if the Biden administration really is serious about helping American consumers, then they will stop waging war on American producers. If they are serious, they will call off Democrats' plan to tax reliable American energy into extinction.

For the sake of working families who are struggling to fill their gas tanks and keep the lights on, I hope they get serious sometime soon.

#### NATO

Mr. President, on yet another matter, yesterday, a day after the House overwhelmingly passed a resolution welcoming Finland and Sweden's application to join NATO, the Senate Foreign Relations Committee discharged the treaty protocols required to ratify their accession, without objection. I am grateful to Ranking Member RISCCH, Chairman MENENDEZ, and our colleagues on the committee for taking this swift, bipartisan action. The Senate is now one step closer to fulfilling its role in a historic process that will further strengthen the most successful military alliance the world has ever seen.

Bringing these strong, modern countries into NATO will not just strengthen the alliance; it will make America more secure. I hope the Democratic leader will waste no time—none—in bringing these protocols before the full Senate.

I have been a strong advocate for American global leadership and our transatlantic partnerships throughout my career. They have made possible the unprecedented era of peace and prosperity Americans have experienced in my lifetime.

NATO is at its best when allies share the burden of our collective security, when we all have skin in the game. NATO allies recognized in 2014, after prodding by American Presidents from both parties, that they needed to invest more in capabilities to keep pace with growing threats.

During the previous administration, current member states made progress toward the 2-percent pledge. Finland, for its part, already spends 2 percent of its GDP on defense, and Sweden has the same target in its sights. For years, both countries have participated actively in NATO exercises. They have cultivated professional fighting forces, invested in cutting-edge interoperable technologies, and built robust military-industrial bases with strong connections to our own.

I know from my own conversation with the leaders of Finland and Sweden that they are sober about the threats we face, committed to building their own defense capabilities, and serious about their responsibilities to contribute to our collective security. Together, they have set an example that many current treaty allies would do well to follow.

With Finland and Sweden at the table, I look forward to important deliberations about the capabilities we need as an alliance and the steps we must urgently take to defend ourselves against growing threats from Russia, China, and other adversaries.

Mr. President, I know from my visits with our Swedish and Finnish friends that they hope for rapid accession to NATO. They are ready to get to work alongside us as allies. With war raging on the European continent, I share their sense of urgency, and I urge the Democratic leader to call up the necessary Senate votes without further delay.

But that can't be the Senate's last word on how America and our allies face down a dangerous world. We also need to take urgent action on the National Defense Authorization Act. Russia is laying siege to a sovereign neighbor. China is flexing a rapidly modernizing military. Reckless pariah states like Iran and North Korea are doubling down on developing dangerous weapons. It is past time—past time—to take America's own defense requirements more seriously.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, before I begin, I want to say something about the House-passed Respect for Marriage Act, which would enshrine marriage equality into Federal law, which I fully and strongly support.

This legislation is so important. I was really impressed by how much bipartisan support it got in the House. It passed 267 to 157. Forty-seven Republicans—about a quarter, a little less than a quarter of their caucus; maybe a fifth—voted for the bill. The legislation is so important.

I spoke to Senator BALDWIN, who is one of the leaders of this legislation in the Senate, this morning, and she is talking to Republicans to see where the support is. I want to bring this bill to the floor, and we are working to get the necessary Senate Republican support to ensure it would pass.

#### CHIPS ACT

Madam President, now on the chips bill, last night, the Senate passed a critical threshold on our way to passing major legislation to lower costs, increase manufacturing, strengthen supply chains, and preserve American competitiveness in the 21st century.

I want everyone to note the final margin of last night's vote: 64 to 34. That is a clear signal that after a lot of hard work and after a lot of compromise from both sides, the path is clear for this chips-plus bill to reach

final passage. This has been bipartisan work in the Senate at its best, just as we saw previously with bills ranging from gun safety to hate crimes, to infrastructure, to VAWA and so much more.

I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for voting in favor of moving forward on this critical bill.

For the information of all, today I plan to file cloture on this legislation, which after last night's vote includes incentives for domestic microchip production, including ITC; support for our wireless communication supply chain, ORAN; and the science package, which includes many of the provisions I authored in the Endless Frontier Act in partnership with Senator YOUNG 2 years ago. It has been a long struggle to get these vital pieces of legislation moving forward, and now they are.

I hope we can get this legislation approved as soon as possible because now it is clear it has enough support to pass this Chamber.

For all the many good things the bill does, the most important is that this legislation will help our country fight inflation in the long run. People are asking about inflation, as they should. This bill will help. America's chip shortage, exacerbated by the pandemic, has sent tremors across the entire economy and caused prices for all sorts of electronic goods to go up and up and up, and not only for electronic goods—cars, appliances, phones. But with this bill, we can make America a major chip producer once again, which will help ease pressures on our supply chains, strengthen our national security, and generate another wave of American economic activity for years to come.

Thanks to last night's robust vote, we will also move forward on the science provisions that many of us have worked on very hard to pass into law. We will increase funding for the National Science Foundation and invest billions to develop new tech hubs around the country in areas that haven't had the benefit of new tech employment. This will all help America lead the way in developing technologies of tomorrow. Many more dollars than ever before are going into the cutting-edge technologies—AI, advanced manufacturing, renewable energy, quantum computing, cyber security, 5G, and so much more. When we invest in the science here, we create millions of new, good-paying jobs and ensure that America will be the leader in these cutting-edge issues, which will dominate the 21st-century economy.

For the sake of lowering costs, for the sake of American jobs, and for the sake of our national security interests, let's pass this bill as soon as we can. And that is my intention.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Madam President, now on prescription drugs and healthcare, from one corner to the other, another issue of inflation is the high cost of drugs. At every pharmacy counter and doctor's

office, grocery store, and kitchen table, the issue that remains front of mind for American families is the cost of living. While finally we are beginning to see relief as some gas prices are falling, inflation undeniably continues to strain families not just in America but around the world.

In one crucial area of life, high costs are simply unsustainable: the cost of healthcare and prescription drugs. The nexus of the high cost and the necessity of these drugs to keep us healthy and keep us living is a pincer that pinches so many Americans in a very harmful way.

But this week, the Senate will formally present our case to the Parliamentarian on a number of long-sought reforms to our Nation's healthcare system that will lower costs for tens of millions of Americans.

Under our proposals, for the first time ever, we will empower Medicare to negotiate the prices of prescription drugs in Parts B and D. We will cap out-of-pocket expenses for Part D precision drugs at \$2,000 a year, giving millions of Americans—many of whom have serious health problems and need these drugs—the support they desperately need so they can afford these drugs. Two thousand a year—that is it. The days of seniors paying tens of thousands of dollars per year or forgoing medicine altogether will soon be over. And we will prevent healthcare premiums from spiking for tens of millions of people.

In addition, there is an inflation rider, so that once the company announces the price of a new drug, they can't just double it and double it and double it year after year, even after they have recouped their investment in the bill.

Lowering costs of prescription drugs, capping out-of-pocket expenses, keeping premiums low—these are the top priorities for the American people. Ask any American on the street, and it is a near guarantee they will agree that rising drug costs is a serious problem. So we have to address the issue head-on.

Now, of course, Democrats will keep working on other major challenges that face our Nation. Our work on climate change is not done. We are going to work with President Biden's administration to fight climate change and protect our planet for the next generation. This is an existential threat to the globe, and we are going to keep fighting.

So, in the coming weeks, our caucus is going to be exceedingly busy as we finalize a reconciliation bill that can pass with the full support of our caucus. We still have a lot of work to do. Nobody says it is going to be simple or easy, but lowering the costs of healthcare and prescription drugs will make an enormous difference in the lives of the American people. Let's get it done and give Americans a much needed and long-awaited break.

#### TUCKER CARLSON

Mr. President, finally, on Tucker Carlson, FOX News. Last night, FOX

News host Tucker Carlson began his prime time show with another deranged rant on the conspiracy theory known as the “great replacement.” This racist theory, which asserts that a conspiracy exists to replace White Americans with immigrants and people of color, motivated a White supremacist to gun down 10 Black Americans in a grocery store in my home State of New York, in Buffalo, just over 2 months ago.

Here is what Mr. CARLSON said last night, among many deranged things. These are his words:

Sometime around 1965, our leaders stopped trying to make the United States a hospitable place for American citizens, their constituents, to have their own families. . . . They just imported new people. That’s literally what happened.

Can you believe someone said that on a national network and the network does nothing about it?

There is only one way to describe what Mr. CARLSON is doing: He is stoking racial resentment among his viewers. It is deranged. It is dangerous. It is racist.

Not long ago, views like “replacement theory” were only found in the darkest places in disturbed minds. Now someone as prominent as Carlson is spreading night after night to an audience that often tops 3 million viewers. And it is not an isolated incident. According to one measure by the New York Times, Mr. CARLSON has spewed rhetoric that echoes “replacement theory” at least 400 times on his show since 2016—400 times. This is not a one-off, what he just did last night.

The more that MAGA radicals like Carlson spread “replacement theory,” it is not out of the question that racially motivated violence will further ignite the country. FOX News should be ashamed that they are enabling these racist views and giving them an enormous platform on their network. It is dangerous and un-American for one of the biggest news networks in the world to amplify conspiracy theories that are eerily similar to those cited by the Buffalo shooter.

I urge Carlson to stop spreading “replacement theory” or else risk seeing more tragedies like the one we saw in Buffalo last month.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, one of the most important bills that we take up every year is the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA, legislation authorizing funding for our military men and women and the defense of our country.

The Senate Armed Services Committee passed this year’s bipartisan bill a month ago, and we have less than 2 months of floor time left in the fiscal year.

The Senate Democrats’ focus this month is on a last-ditch effort to pass some version of their Build Back Better tax-and-spending spree in hopes, I have to assume, of eking out a few more votes in November. Apparently, the National Defense Authorization Act will just have to wait.

As it does every year, this year’s NDAA authorizes funding for critical military priorities. The fiscal year 2023 NDAA continues the modernization efforts begun several years ago in the wake of the 2018 National Defense Strategy Commission report, which warned that our Nation’s readiness had eroded to the point where we might struggle to win a war against a major power like Russia or China.

It authorizes funding to improve quality of life for our military members and their families, which is not only something we owe these men and women who sacrifice so much for us but is also essential for recruiting and retaining members of our all-volunteer force. It authorizes funding to enhance our nuclear deterrence, a key priority with continued nuclear threats from traditional powers like Russia and rogue states like Iran and North Korea.

And it continues our strong support for Ukraine. Ukraine no longer dominates every front page, but for 5 months now, Ukraine has been fighting a heroic war against Russian aggression. Thanks to support from allies in Europe and from our own country, Ukraine is still holding out. In a war that many experts thought could see Kyiv fall within a matter of days, Ukraine is approaching day 150 of resisting Vladimir Putin’s Soviet-style aggression. In fact, Ukraine continues to strike painful blows against the Russian military, which has now turned to Iran for military support.

Later today, Olena Zelenska, wife of Ukrainian President Zelenskyy, will be addressing Congress. She and her husband have been a beacon for Ukrainians during this brutal war; and President Zelenskyy’s iron determination, his tireless leadership, and his unflagging commitment to his people inspire all those who love freedom.

Ukraine is, in many ways, standing up for the whole free world right now, sending the message that Russia’s unprovoked aggression will not be allowed to stand. And the least we and other free nations can do is ensure they have the resources they need to carry out their fight. Russia’s war against Ukraine reminds us that nations that value freedom and security must stand together.

Finland and Sweden are looking to stand with other free nations by joining the NATO alliance. Vladimir Putin has turned the historic positions of neutrality in Finland and Sweden into robust public support to join the alli-

ance, and both of these countries will strengthen the capabilities and geostrategic position of NATO.

Yesterday, the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations reported the treaty concerning their accession to NATO, and I hope the Senate and administration will soon complete their respective roles and approve Finland and Sweden’s membership.

One priority for me in every National Defense Authorization Act is ensuring that the men and women of Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota have everything they need to successfully carry out their mission. Right now, my priority is ensuring Ellsworth remains a responsive and lethal component of global strike command, with the B-1 bomber leveraging the Joint Air-to-Surface Standoff Missile and its Long Range Anti-Ship Missile derivative.

As we look to the future, I am working to ensure the base continues to receive full funding for the many equipment and support facilities that will be needed for the B-21 Raider mission at Ellsworth. I worked to ensure full funding for the first of these facilities in last year’s NDAA, including a low-observable coating restoration facility, a wash rack and maintenance hangar, an expanded flight simulator facility, and more.

This year’s NDAA continues that work with additional funding for the low-observable coating restoration facility, as well as funding for two additional construction projects—a weapons generation facility and a radio frequency facility—that will be needed to ensure Ellsworth is fully able to conduct the nuclear and stealth B-21 missions.

I have had the privilege of visiting the B-21 production site in Palmdale, CA. And while the program remains heavily classified, I can say the six planes under production are impressive feats of American engineering and that we are honored that South Dakota will be the first State to host the mission.

But it is not just about the hardware and cutting-edge systems. Our greatest asset is our people, including the pilots, the maintainers, and all of the men and women who have answered the call to serve. That is why I am focused on ensuring our men and women in uniform have not just the military support they need but the support they need for their families.

More military families will be moving into the Ellsworth area with the arrival of the B-21 mission—as many as 250 people per year, including 100 dependents. I am committed to ensuring that the infrastructure is in place to provide ample facilities for these families.

To that end, I worked to include in this year’s NDAA an extension of an authority for the Secretary of Defense to adjust basic allowance for housing rates if an installation is experiencing a sudden increase in the number of servicemembers assigned there. This will ensure that families at Ellsworth



and elsewhere will have the resources they need to secure appropriate accommodations.

I am also working to ensure that the Douglas School District is able to integrate and support Air Force members' children and provide sufficient classroom space. This NDAA would provide \$15 million in impact aid for schools experiencing force structure changes like the anticipated growth at Ellsworth with the arrival of the B-21 mission.

I am grateful to Senator ROUNDS for his assistance getting this through the committee's markup and to our State's at-large Representative, Congressman JOHNSON, for his work to get it included in the House-passed bill. This expanded program should be a good first step to help ensure that Douglas School District is able to expand to meet the needs of new Ellsworth families.

The House of Representatives, to its credit, voted on its version of the National Defense Authorization Act the other day. But, unfortunately, the House legislation's total funding authorization is lower than the Senate bill's number. That is a concern, not only because we have a lot of priorities to fund but because inflation is currently cutting into the military's spending power.

Inflation affects American families and businesses, but it also has a serious effect on our Nation's security. As prices soar across the economy, the military is able to do less with the dollars that it has and that can affect troop readiness and the military's ability to keep up with needed programs and purchases, from weapons to vehicles to aircraft and ships.

It is essential that the final House and Senate bill include the Senate's top-line funding number.

In his 1793 annual message to Congress, George Washington said:

There is a rank due to the United States among nations which will be withheld, if not absolutely lost, by the reputation of weakness. If we desire to avoid insult, we must be able to repel it; if we desire to secure peace, one of the most powerful instruments of our rising prosperity, it must be known that we are at all times ready for war.

In other words, "Peace through strength."

These words hold true in every age. The surest method of securing peace is ensuring we are prepared for war. As Russia's unprovoked attack on Ukraine reminds us, there will always be nations who threaten peace and freedom. And the surest way to prevent these powers from destroying freedom is to ensure that we present a powerful threat of our own, a credible deterrent that stops these nations and other bad actors from wanting to tangle with us. There is no more a certain way to invite war than to be unprepared to meet the bullies and the dictators of the world.

The National Defense Authorization Act is one of the most essential pieces

of legislation we take up each year because it helps ensure that our Nation is equipped to defend itself and to deter aggression.

I hope that the Democratic leadership will consider deferring its tax-and-spending plans to take up this important national security legislation in the near future.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that in addition to myself, both Senators GRASSLEY and CARPER be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each before the scheduled vote.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore.

Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRIBUTE TO JEAN TOAL EISEN

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I come to the floor today as the current chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies because I want to pay tribute to the clerk who has worked with me for the last 6 years but who has been in public service here for the Federal Government for 27 years, including 26 years of service in the U.S. Senate, and that is Jean Toal Eisen, who is going to be retiring from the Federal Government.

And Jean is here along with two other members of the staff of the CJS Subcommittee, Blaise Sheridan and Michael Bednarczyk, as well as three members of my staff, Ariel Marshall, Janelle DiLuccia, and Chad Kreikemeier, my chief of staff.

We are here because we think it is important, and I especially think it is important to recognize the people who make this body run. And it is people like Jean, who have dedicated their whole careers to this institution, who allow us to—who mean that we can, on occasion, get things done that make a huge difference for the people of this country.

And I know I speak for all the members of the Appropriations Committee and its staff when I say that Jean will be sorely missed.

Just last week, as I looked at the breathtaking images captured from NASA's James Webb telescope, I thought about Jean. It is no exaggeration to say that those images exist, in no small part, because of her work on this subcommittee. And they serve as a fitting capstone for her distinguished career.

And, of course, then I thought about other ways that Jean's influence will endure, ensuring millions of people will get access to broadband because of her work on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act—and there were many late nights that she and other members of my staff and Senator COLLINS' staff worked with the Commerce Department to try and ensure we could get those broadband sections done—and then also helping survivors of domestic

violence, sexual assault, and child abuse receive access to critical services because of Jean's successful efforts to release more resources from the Crime Victims Fund. In fact, every year that I have been chair of Commerce, Justice, and Science, because of Jean's efforts, we have maximized funding in the Office of Violence Against Women so that each year over year we have done better.

She has also been there to ensure that the next generation of STEM innovators and leaders get record investments in the National Science Foundation and NASA. And it is really appropriate that we are considering bipartisan chips innovation legislation on the floor this week, Jean's last in the Senate, because she played a central role drafting and negotiating this critical legislation that will bolster American manufacturing and protect our national security interests.

And though Jean will no longer be in the Senate, her legacy is already felt everywhere, and the American people are better for it. Jean's journey in the Senate began as a staff assistant for Senator Ernest Hollings of South Carolina, her home State Senator.

Later, she served on the staff of the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation as senior adviser and deputy policy director for Chairman Dan Inouye, before serving as deputy policy director at the U.S. Department of Commerce.

And since 2010, she has served on the CJS Subcommittee, and from 2014 to 2017, she was the deputy staff director of the Senate Committee on Appropriations for Chair Barbara Mikulski, who I know if she were here would also be on the floor to sing Jean's praises.

I have had the pleasure of having Jean as my clerk since 2017, when I took over the CJS Subcommittee as Vice Chair. And I think that words really can't capture Jean's personality, but I would be doing a disservice to this body if I didn't try to give a sense of why Jean is one of the most effective staffers on Capitol Hill.

And I think the first thing to know is that Jean always gives you the truth—whether you want to hear it or not. The second thing to know about her is that she always has a sense of humor, even when the going gets tough, and all of us who have been here through tough challenges know that maintaining a sense of humor is absolutely critical.

Her colleagues will remember her as incredibly knowledgeable, kind, and pragmatic because, at heart, Jean is a problem-solver. She understands that the U.S. Government is one of the most impressive institutions the world has ever seen, and she has dedicated her career to improving it.

Jean is also the proud mom of her daughter Pat, who is a rising sophomore at Longwood University and is, among other things, a saxophonist in the school's "Stampede" Athletic Pep Band.

Now that she is no longer drafting annual appropriations bills, we hope that Jean will have more quality time to spend with Pat, with her husband Pete, and with her many family members and friends and maybe even a little more time for hockey and gardening. Although if she is going to support hockey, she really needs to support the Bruins, so we are not sure how much time we want to give her for that.

But it gives me great joy to publicly thank Jean for her extraordinary work for this committee. Congratulations, Jean. Thank you for your decades of service to our country and your commitment to the U.S. Senate. Neither your expertise nor your good humor will soon be replaced, but your work will not be forgotten anytime soon.

I yield the floor.

Mr. HAGERTY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATION OF GREGORY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, today I have the honor to rise in support of Greg Williams to serve as a judge on the U.S. District Court for the District of Delaware, one of the busiest and, we believe, most important district courts in our Nation.

Before delving into what makes Delaware's district court such an essential part of the American economy and what makes Greg Williams an exceptional nominee to serve, in the words of the American Bar Association, they deem him "well qualified" to be a Federal judge.

I want to share some background and the process that we use in Delaware for making recommendations to the Federal bench to the President.

A few years ago my friend—and I call him my wingman—Senator CHRIS COONS and I had the opportunity to make recommendations to the White House for two vacancies on this same court. There was, at the time, a President of a different party, and the majority here was on the other side, not on this side at that time.

Our process was simple then and was straightforward and borrowed heavily from the process that I used while serving as Governor of Delaware for 8 years. Throughout those 8 years when I was privileged to serve as Governor, we relied on a judicial nominating commission and charged them with a simple task. Basically, this was it: find the most qualified individuals, regardless of political party, make recommendations to the Governor for appointments to Delaware's many important State courts, including our State supreme court and the court of chancery.

We used a similar process for Federal district court vacancies. The process served Delaware well during those 8 years, and I believe that the process Senator COONS and I have used now serves our Nation well, too, regardless of which political party controls the White House or the Senate. It has yielded yet another extraordinary nominee. That nominee is Greg Williams, a partner at Fox Rothschild. Former president of the Delaware State Bar Association and President Biden's nominee to serve as the next judge on the U.S. District Court for Delaware.

But Greg is more than a lawyer, much more. He is a father, a husband, a son, and a brother. In fact, he is the youngest brother in his family of five, with four older sisters, and I know they help to keep him on the straight and narrow much like my older sister did with me.

Greg has been married to his high school sweetheart, Terina, for 27 years. Together, they have raised two children in Delaware that any one of us would be proud to call our own.

A Villanova Law School graduate, Greg has worked at one of top law firms in the Nation, Fox Rothschild, for the past 28 years.

Through hard work and commitment to excellence, in 2003, Greg became the first African-American attorney to have been hired as an associate and then be named as a partner at Fox Rothschild. Greg learned those values—hard work and commitment to excellence—in part as a member of the U.S. Army Reserves, where he served from 1986 to 1994—part of those years when I was his commander in chief as Governor of the State of Delaware.

After law school, Greg embarked on a successful legal career that has earned him the respect and admiration of Delaware's highly regarded legal community.

Greg has particular expertise in intellectual property and business litigation, which make him particularly well-suited for the Delaware District Court.

More than his professional qualifications, though, Greg is the personification of the Golden Rule, which calls on us to treat one another the way we want to be treated. And, as a result, he is also the personification of judicial temperament in that courtroom—and any courtroom, for that matter.

Like Senator COONS and me and many of our colleagues, Greg is a person of deep faith. He understands personally the words "Golden Rule" and what they mean. And if confirmed, I believe he will use that rule to guide him on the bench.

Let me close by saying this: We have all probably heard a saying that is oftentimes used in relationship to an undersized boxer—someone who punches above their weight.

The Delaware District Court is one of the busiest courts in our country. It handles an array of cases related to in-

tellectual property law, patent law, bankruptcy law, and other specialized business cases that are critical to the functioning of our national economy.

Like our small State, this court punches above its weight, and our nominee Greg Williams not only has the credentials and the temperament, but the strong work ethic that are necessary for this court to continue to function as one of the most important district courts in our land.

I consider it a privilege to give him my strongest possible endorsement, and I encourage my colleagues to join Senator COONS and me today in supporting his nomination on the Senate floor.

And with that, I don't see if—I don't know that our colleague—here comes Senator COONS, here to speak on behalf of this nominee as well.

I will just say this: You know, we have judicial nominees come before us, not every day but often in this body. In some cases, the folks who are from the State where that nominee hails, they know them, have at least a passing knowledge of them, and have maybe met them.

We have known Greg Williams for almost a quarter of a century. He is not just one of the finest lawyers in our State; he is one of the finest human beings in our State.

It is an honor for me to join Senator COONS in suggesting his name to the President of this country. We are grateful the President actually submitted that name now to the U.S. Senate for our consideration.

And with that, I am going to yield the floor. I see we have Senator CASSIDY here. I don't know if he has the opportunity to—no, he is going to wait for a while.

I am going to just stop right here. Senator COONS stopped just briefly. I think he is going to be right back on the floor; and, hopefully, he will be able to pick up right where I—I will do the handoff to my colleague from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent for 1 minute of floor time to speak to the impending nomination.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. COONS. Mr. President, I would like to thank my colleague and senior Senator, my friend, Mr. TOM CARPER, who allows me to be his wingman here on the floor of the Senate and in our home State of Delaware.

I just wanted to speak briefly to the outstanding qualifications of the nominee that will be before us in a moment, Greg Williams of Delaware.

As a member of the Delaware Bar, as a member of the Judiciary Committee, I have joined my senior Senator, friend, and colleague in advancing this nomination, both suggesting to the White House strongly that he would be an excellent next member of the important Federal bench in Delaware and

that he would represent our Nation well and contribute to our Federal judiciary, which is globally the gold standard for its capability, its independence, and its integrity.

Greg has practiced for decades in Delaware. He is one of the best respected, leading complex commercial litigators, and an experienced intellectual property litigator.

The District of Delaware is one of the busiest Federal courts in our entire country. Because of our unique place in American corporate law, because of the quality and the competence of our bench, we handle an enormous number of patent cases, a significant number of corporate cases.

I don't know if my colleague has mentioned one of the top-of-the-charts cases about to come to Delaware, but when you make a promise to purchase a company like—I don't know, hypothetically, Twitter—and then the deal comes apart, that ends up in a Delaware court called our chancery court. Our Federal District Court and our Federal Bankruptcy Courts handle significant litigation.

Greg is someone who also, as a family man, as a person of faith, as an outstanding leader in our community, as the past president of the bar association, as the past chairman of the judicial nominating commission on behalf of our Governor, he has served our community.

He brings his heart, his values, his intellect, and his skill to his service each and every day, and I am honored to join my senior Senator in speaking on his behalf on the floor. And I look forward to working with my colleagues across the aisle to ensure a swift confirmation vote today.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I am hearing a lot of news reports, and if they are correct, it sounds like the majority party has a very partisan bill that they want to call a drug pricing bill.

And I am also told that this is moving along because it looks like the Parliamentarian is currently reviewing that proposed legislation to see if it fits into the process of reconciliation.

If the majority party passes its partisan bill, it will be bad policy for patients and taxpayers, but that doesn't mean we don't have answers to the problems that they are trying to solve.

But first of all, let me say what the Senate-proposed legislation—what we know about it—would do. It would put taxpayers at risk for more spending. It

would fail to enact any bipartisan accountability of Big Pharma and powerful middlemen that we call pharmacy benefit managers or PBMs for short.

Yes, a bipartisan bill limiting pharmaceutical increases is possible. And their bill has been developed in secret, with no markup or open debate.

Now, this partisan bill and this process are a far cry from bipartisan drug pricing ideas that I have developed over the past few years.

In the past 12 months alone, I have passed five bipartisan drug pricing bills out of committee that will lower prices and create more competition and hold Big Pharma and PBMs accountable.

In addition, I have a comprehensive bill to lower prescription drug prices that could pass the Senate with at least 60 votes. My bill is bipartisan; it has been negotiated; and it is comprehensive.

The bill is called the Prescription Drug Pricing Act. It is also known as Grassley-Wyden, but I want to be fair to Wyden. I am not sure that he would claim that he negotiated that bill, but I still like the bipartisan part of it.

The Senate should act today on this bipartisan bill to lower drug prices because this is what Grassley-Wyden would do: It would lower costs for seniors by \$72 billion. It would save the taxpayers \$95 billion. Those are CBO figures.

It establishes an out-of-pocket cap, eliminates the donut hole, and it redesigns Medicare Part D, that needs some redesigning after 19 years. This legislation will hold Big Pharma and powerful PBMs accountable.

Now, too often, cheaper alternatives like generics are available, but Big Pharma and these middlemen have an incentive to push the patient into higher-cost drugs, and patients pay the cost. My bill ends that incentive and is very pro-consumer.

A third point I want to make, it ends taxpayer subsidies to Big Pharma. It does it by capping annual price increases of Medicare Part B and D drugs at inflation. In other words, drug companies can't raise prices two or three times a year 5 to 10 percent—once a year at no more than CPI.

A Kaiser Foundation study found that half of the drugs in Medicare Part B and D increased higher than inflation over the period of time that Kaiser study covered. Over 600 drugs during the study increased 7.5 percent or more.

Another point of the bill: It establishes accountability and transparency. There are 25 major provisions to my bill to reform how the pharmaceutical industry operates.

Accountability in my bill includes, one, ending clawbacks that drive up costs at pharmacy counters for the patient. Second, ending "spread pricing" in Medicaid contracts that drive up taxpayers' costs. Three, requires sunshine on powerful PBM financial audits so the public knows the true net cost of a drug.

Everything with PBMs is opaque. You don't know what goes on between the manufacturer and the consumer.

And, four and lastly, requires sunshine on excessive drug price increases and sunshine on the launch price of a new high-cost drug.

Big Pharma and powerful middlemen benefit from the current system that we have today, and at the same time, patients and taxpayers suffer. My bill's bipartisan reform will change all of that.

Finally, the bill is bipartisan. I suppose Democrats get tired of me talking about a bipartisan bill when they are in the secrecy of their rooms drawing up their own bill.

We have 11 Republicans who supported this bill in the Finance Committee markup or are cosponsors of the bill. Thirteen Democrats supported this bill in markup. It was debated and negotiated in public.

But don't take my word for it, take it from some of my Democratic colleagues. A few months ago, the senior Senator from Delaware said this:

Senator GRASSLEY did, I thought, a masterful job in drafting a bill with broad bipartisan support.

And the chairman of the Finance Committee and senior Senator from Oregon—and he is probably going to hate me for saying this, but I am going to quote him:

Big Pharma was relentless in fighting what Senator GRASSLEY is talking about and has been for 2 years.

My bill will save seniors money, save taxpayers money, hold Big Pharma and powerful middlemen accountable, and enact necessary reform and sunshine; plus, it has bipartisan support.

So we can lower drug prices without having to resort to this partisan reconciliation process. The Grassley Prescription Drug Pricing Reduction Act is a solution. It is a product of a bipartisan, transparent process. Compare that to the secrecy of the Democratic reconciliation process.

I yield the floor.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant executive 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. 989, Gregory Brian Williams, of Delaware, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Sherrod Brown, Tammy Baldwin, Tina Smith, Jeanne Shaheen, Chris Van Hollen, Elizabeth Warren, Catherine Cortez Masto, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher Murphy, Maria Cantwell, Christopher A. Coons, Mazie Hirono, Jack Reed, Gary C. Peters, Tammy Duckworth.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Gregory Brian Williams, of Delaware, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 262 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Padilla
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Hassan	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Cramer	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Wyden
Durbin	Murray	
Feinstein	Ossoff	

#### NAYS—43

Barrasso	Hawley	Rounds
Blackburn	Hoeben	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Braun	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Burr	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Cassidy	Lankford	Shelby
Cornyn	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Paul	Wicker
Fischer	Portman	Young
Grassley	Risch	
Hagerty	Romney	

#### NOT VOTING—5

Kennedy	Markey	Whitehouse
Leahy	Warren	

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. WARNOCK). The yeas are 52, the nays are 43.

The motion is agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

(The remarks of Mr. CARDIN pertaining to the introduction of S. Res. 713 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

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

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

#### CHIPS ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, our economy is as resilient as any in the world. At the same time, we know that it is important to always look to modernize key economic policies, particularly as it relates to fundamental questions of research and development and also production and manufacturing, in order to create high-skilled, high-wage jobs from sea to shining sea.

Now, I come from a State that is a leader in technological innovation, not just for our country but for the world. Oregonians know how important it is to invest and make sure that the United States stays at the forefront of technological breakthroughs.

The reality is, when it comes to chips, we have some important work to do, so I want to take just a few minutes to describe why it is so essential for the Congress to get this legislation done now.

First of all, our bill is going to bring down costs for consumers and businesses. Everybody knows there are chips in laptops, phones, and cars, but there are also chips in refrigerators and even vacuum cleaners, as we saw at Stark's in Southeast Portland recently.

From the time you pick your head up off your pillow until the time you go to bed at night, you are interacting with chips. That is what made it such an economic nightmare when the pandemic hit and the supply of semiconductors got cut short. Prices for a host of important goods went into the stratosphere. Some products weren't available at all. Factories in America went dark because they couldn't get component parts. Anybody who has had to buy a car in the last few years probably can tell you a horror story about the buying process.

This legislation is going to go a long way to increasing the production and manufacturing of chips in this country and bringing down consumer costs and addressing the shortages by increasing the supply here in America.

That leads to my second point. Investing in domestic chip production is going to create a huge, huge number of good-paying jobs. Oregonians know well that the jobs at these chipmakers can become an economic fuel for a whole region in the country. We need to guarantee that investment happens here in America instead of overseas.

Third, the bill is going to help shore up our national security and our economic security. With respect to the economy, when there aren't enough chips to keep our factories running and our shelves stocked, workers and the American economic system suffer.

And when the vast majority of chips are produced in just a few sites overseas, there is a big risk that the United States won't be able to get its hands on the chips needed to keep the American people safe in a conflict.

I am a member of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. I can't get involved in classified matters that I

have some access to. But I want everybody in the Senate to know this is a top-tier national security issue. Producing more chips here at home means that our economy will be more resilient for the days ahead and our country will be safer and more secure.

One last comment in this short statement. The Senate passed a larger version of this bill last year, and it included a trade package that Senator CRAPO and I, our colleague from Idaho, worked together on. It focused on cracking down on China's worst trade abuses, including the horrendous practice of forced labor, including proposals that went after authoritarian censorship overseas and a growing danger of freedom of speech here in America.

I also sought to update the system for job training and workers' support, so key to our workers having access to high-skill, high-wage jobs. That trade package is not included in this slimmed-down version of the CHIPS legislation. I can promise, however, as chairman of the Finance Committee, we will keep working on these issues.

Cracking down on trade cheats, fighting for investments and jobs in America is at the top of the priority list for the Finance Committee. I look forward to continuing our work on those issues in the weeks and months ahead.

This legislation is long overdue. It is a serious, fresh commitment to innovation in America. I am proud that I was able to lead the effort in the Senate Finance Committee to focus on producing and manufacturing more semiconductors in America. It is hugely important for my State, which really does research and development for the entire country. But it is important for all Americans every single day because, from the time you get up in the morning until the time you go to bed at night, you are using these chips. This is, in my view, the first step of many that we have to take to promote more innovation and the path to creating high-skill and high-wage jobs in America.

Let's take the first step with this important legislation. Pass this bill. I urge my colleagues to vote for it later when we get to the final vote.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

#### INFLATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the economic crisis that this Nation is facing, all as a result of the actions of the Democrats and Joe Biden.

Right now, Joe Biden is on his way to Massachusetts. He is expected to announce, while he is there, even more restrictions on American energy. One New England Senator has lobbied him to go "executive Beast Mode." The Senator might forget that we still have a Constitution. The Supreme Court just ruled that the President can't do that. The Constitution says Congress writes the laws and it is up to the President to enforce them.

I would also remind that Senator that Joe Biden just got back from a trip to the Middle East. That is where he went to beg the Saudis to produce and to sell us more oil. Joe Biden doesn't need to fly around the world to solve the energy crisis that he created. The solution is right here at home in America. We have some of the largest energy reserves in the world. We have the best energy workers. We have the highest standards. Yet Joe Biden won't let go of his stranglehold on American energy. Joe Biden would rather send our money and more and more money to the Middle East than let us use the energy we have sitting right here in the ground in the United States.

Joe Biden has created the worst energy crisis for our country in the last 40 years—40—40 years. Gas prices today in my home State of Wyoming and all across the country are more than \$2 per gallon higher than they were the day Joe Biden took office.

The spot price of natural gas has tripled under Joe Biden and that means even higher prices are on the way. Natural gas powers half of the homes in America and the price of that natural gas has tripled under Joe Biden.

Last year, Joe Biden's energy policies cost the average American family more than \$1,000. That was last year. This year it is going to be higher than that. Higher energy costs are driving up the costs of everything—almost everything—because energy is such a vital part of our nation's economy.

Higher energy costs have led to the worst inflation crisis in 40 years—worst inflation in 40 years. Under Joe Biden, inflation has hit record highs. In the previous administration, inflation was nearly nonexistent. But for 15 months in a row now, prices have gone up. And not just have prices gone up, they have gone up faster and faster than wages have gone up. With every passing month, working families can afford less than they could the month before.

This is Joe Biden's America. This is what he brought and the Democrats who supported him in position and policy after each, one after another.

This year, the average family will pay \$100 a week more just to buy the same things they bought last year. Just to stay even, it is \$100 a week more. That is over \$5,000 for the year. One hundred dollars a week adds up very quickly. As a result, people are spending their savings because they are not making enough to keep up. They are falling behind. They are borrowing money just to get by.

The savings rate in the country has plummeted to the lowest level since the Great Recession of 2009. Credit card debts are at an alltime high because people can't afford things and are putting things on the credit cards. Personal debt is at an alltime high. Consumer confidence, on the other hand, is at an alltime low—thank you, Joe Biden and Democrats.

Working families are being pushed to the breaking point. That is what we

have here in America today. All told, it is the summer of strain and stress and suffering for American families. It is all happening because of the dereliction of duty on the part of the United States and the Democrats in this very body. The American people just want to be able to actually have enough money in their wallet to fill their tank with gas and to go to the grocery store and buy a full week's worth of groceries and have enough left over at the end of the month to pay their bills. Yet under Joe Biden and the Democrats, who are in charge of both the House and the Senate, this is becoming nearly impossible in America today.

Democrats call this the cost of the "liberal world order"—the liberal world order. Look what it is getting us. Believe it or not, that is exactly what the White House has said. That is their official policy on the cost of inflation and the cost of energy being so high: Tough; suck it up. "Liberal world order." We are here now. I don't care what it costs you or what pain and suffering we put onto the families of this country.

Meanwhile, as the President is going to talk about his climate emergency in Massachusetts, baby formula is still out of stock in stores all across America. For 15 months, there has been nothing but bad news coming from this administration and the Democrats for the working families in this country.

Last week, working families got a one-two punch of even more bad news. First, they found out that, once again, inflation is at another 40-year high. They also found out it is not going away any time soon. On Thursday, we found out that what is called wholesale inflation—which is the inflation that our producers are experiencing—is even worse than the inflation for consumers.

These are the people who build our homes, who grow our food, keep the lights on. Higher costs for them mean higher costs are coming for all the rest of American families because, if inflation is higher for producers today, inflation for consumers tomorrow will be higher than it is today. It means there is no light at the end of the tunnel.

But that is not what Joe Biden is telling us. He has continued to say: Oh, inflation is transitory. Pay no attention to the fact you can't pay your bills, you can't buy enough food to feed your family, and you can't fill your car with gasoline. Tough. Pay no attention.

He said on Thursday that the inflation numbers we are using are "out of date." He is out of date. Joe Biden is essentially saying inflation peaked before the Fourth of July. That is what he told the American people. Well, remember the last time Joe Biden said inflation peaked? That was last year in December he said it peaked. What has happened over the last 7 months to this country and to families? It is now July, and inflation has broken new records three more times in just the last 6 months.

Is he clueless? Does he believe what he is saying? And who is surrounding him at the White House? Joe Biden was wrong in December; he is wrong now. He has been wrong every step of the way, and yet Democrats blindly follow him right over the cliff.

First, he created the inflation crisis; then he denied it existed. Oh, then he said it was transitory. I think it was a year ago yesterday, he said it was transitory. Then at one point, the White House even said inflation was a good thing. It is not good for American families, not good for the men and women who go to work every day. Then Biden decided, let's start blaming everyone but ourselves.

At every step of this crisis, Joe Biden has told the public things that were simply not true. Joe Biden keeps trying to downplay the pain and the suffering going on all across the country. In fact, 1 year ago yesterday, Joe Biden said inflation would be temporary. He was wrong. The Democrats running Washington right now are completely out of touch—I mean, completely out of touch with the American people as Members of this body say: Yeah, Joe, go to Boston. Declare a climate emergency to claim a crisis.

There are a lot of crises in America today; climate is not one of them. There is an inflation crisis, an energy crisis, a border crisis, a crime crisis. There is a crisis in the White House of competence and credibility. But no, Joe Biden has other things on his mind—a climate crisis. Only 1 percent of Americans list that as a key item in their lives—only 3 percent of Democrats; only 3 percent of people under the age of 30. Everybody is focused on inflation. Joe Biden is going to Boston to talk about climate.

We have today, in this country, with the Democratic Party, a government of the elites, by the elites, for the elites. The Democratic Party has completely forgotten about the working men and women in America. For more proof of that, the Democrats are talking about more reckless taxing, more reckless spending.

When did the inflation crisis start? Right after the Democrats passed their last spending bill in March of last year when they put \$2 trillion on America's credit card—party-line vote for massive government spending. They bailed out bankrupt blue States. The Democrats spent \$2 trillion, triggered inflation, triggered a nightmare—a nightmare, I tell you—that has been robbing the American people of \$100 every single week since then.

Democrats must have enjoyed their shopping spree because they spent the second half of last year trying to pass an even bigger, more reckless spending bill. Here they are again, trying it once again. It was reckless then; it is reckless now.

And the President's poll numbers continue to plummet because the American people say you are focused on the wrong thing, you are ignoring our needs.

You are abandoning the people. You have abandoned them, and that is why so few people think the country is heading in the right direction, and so many people are looking for a change. Democrats don't seem to care. They know they are about to face the voters in November and can see the hand-writing on the wall, and they can hear the clock ticking.

The reason why inflation is out of control, at 40-year record highs, is because of the massive spending combined with the attacks by this administration and the Democrats in this body on American energy. That is what is causing the price of everything from gas to groceries to hit one record high after another.

The Democrats have spent us into record-high inflation. Now it seems that they want to tax us into a recession. The last thing the American people now need is more spending, more taxes, more debt. What we need is more American energy.

The way to get out of this crisis is to stop the reckless spending and increase the supply of American energy. We don't need to look halfway around the world for energy; we have it right here in this country. It is time for the President of the United States to stop begging, and it is time to start exploring for the energy right here in America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I have had the privilege of serving with Senator BARRASSO. For any number of years, we were the coleads on the Environment and Public Works Committee. We actually found common ground on a whole lot of issues and disagreed on a number of them as well. But on a personal level, we have, I think, a very good friendship and have had for a number of years good collaboration on Environment and Public Works.

I disagree with almost everything he said—almost everything he said—and I am not a disagreeable person, but I always look for common ground, and I am sorry to say I didn't hear a whole lot from him today to do that.

The suggestion that somehow we shouldn't be concerned about climate change, the climate crisis that has visited our planet—a couple of points I just want to share. This is off the news yesterday, the day before, Monday, Tuesday of this week.

The United Kingdom broke its record for the highest recorded temperature multiple times on Monday, reaching 104.4 degrees Fahrenheit. In Great Britain, for the most part, they don't have air-conditioning. Record temperature—104.4 degrees just on Monday alone. There are airport runways in Great Britain that are melting—that is right, melting—because it is so hot.

The railways in the United States are buckling from the heat, with riders warned to stay home—to stay home.

Over 1,100 people have died in Spain and Portugal just in the last week from heat-related causes.

Wildfires in France have forced 30,000 people—that is about as many people as we have in Dover, DE, our State capital—30,000 people to evacuate. Organizers plan to pour tens of thousands of liters of water onto the Tour de France route—it is a huge, international bicycle competition—to prevent the road from melting in the heat.

More than 40 million people in the United States are under extreme heat warnings across the Great Plains and California. Around 60 million Americans will likely see temperatures at or above 100 degrees—not this year, not this month, this week. Nearly 60 percent of California is dealing with excessive drought, while 20 percent of Texas—it is 5 percent worse than last week—experiences exceptional drought, the most extreme level on the drought scale. Firefighters this week are currently battling 89—that is right, 89—large fires in 12 States in the United States.

That is just off the news pages of 2 days ago.

Amid calls to lower the price of gasoline, I rise to speak on the news this week regarding climate change.

There is no doubt that we are living in unprecedented times as a nation and as a planet. After an unprecedented pandemic ground our global economy to a halt, Americans have been struggling to return to “normal.”

As we saw in the news earlier this year, unprecedented supply chain issues from the pandemic, along with Vladimir Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine, have caused gas prices to rise until this month—until this month. We know that this in turn has fueled inflation and put economic strain on families and small businesses across our country.

President Biden has responded to this challenge with unprecedented action, rallying our global partners and releasing record amounts of oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The result has garnered less attention from the media. Over the past 34 days, gasoline prices have declined by more than half a dollar per gallon. I will say that again. Over the past 34 days, gasoline prices have declined by more than 50 cents per gallon—the fastest decline in over a decade. More than 20,000 gas stations across our country are now offering gas for under \$4 per gallon. Leading economists expect this decline in gas prices to continue, maybe even to accelerate.

In addition, our Nation is on track to surpass our historic, prepandemic levels of oil production by 2023. I want to say that again. In addition, our Nation is on track to surpass our historic, prepandemic levels of oil production by 2023—next year.

Still, these are short-term solutions that leave Americans susceptible to higher gas prices. Why? It is the global market that largely determines gaso-

line prices. That means that as long as our economy runs mostly on fossil fuels, energy prices will continue to be volatile to the forces outside our Nation. We cannot drill our way out of this problem.

In the long run, the best way to ensure that American families have access to lower prices at the pump is by reducing our dependence on foreign oil and on fossil fuels. I want to say that again. In the long run, the best way we can ensure that American families have access to lower prices at the pump is by reducing our dependence on fossil fuels. Doing so isn't just critical for protecting Americans from high energy costs; it is necessary for addressing the existential threat of climate change.

Make no mistake, the climate crisis is here. It is here. It is in Europe. It is in Asia. It is in South America. It is in Africa. It is all over the world.

We see it in the form of unprecedented heat waves currently impacting millions of people across Europe, as I suggested, and our country too.

We see climate change in the form of unprecedented drought, driving wildfires across the Western United States that are bigger than my State. Currently, firefighters are battling, as I said, 89 large fires in 12 States, and it is only expected to get worse. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration—we call them NOAA—the decades-long megadrought in the American West is not just persisting, it is intensifying and expanding east, worsening the threat of additional wildfires.

We see climate change in the form of rising sea levels that produce waves able to wipe out weddings in Hawaii just last weekend.

This event is a real-life consequence of what experts have already told us: Sea levels are rising faster than they have in more than 3,000 years and are expected to rise by an additional foot by 2050.

We know this firsthand in Delaware. Delaware is the first State. The lowest lying State in America is Delaware. Our State is sinking. The seas around us are rising.

Down in Louisiana, a big State in another part of the country, they are experiencing sea level rise as well. In the State of Louisiana, you know what, every 100 minutes—every 100 minutes—they lose a piece of land to the sea the size of a football field in Louisiana. I will say that again. Every 100 minutes in Louisiana, they lose a piece of land the size of a football field—every 100 minutes.

We see climate change in the form of sea levels rising all up and down the east coast, down to Florida, gulf coast, east coast, west coast, everywhere.

The extreme weather is costing us. According to an analysis of data from NOAA and the global reinsurance company Munich Re, severe weather caused more than \$121 billion—billion with a “b”—in property damage in the United States between 2017 and 2021—\$121 billion. That is an average of about \$940



per household and business and didn't take into account the property losses from the historic wildfires I have just been talking about.

We continue to see the destruction that accompanies climate change happen on a global scale as well, threatening the critical infrastructure we rely on for international trade. This week, I mentioned the recordbreaking temperatures they are seeing in England and in Europe and in Germany and other places.

Most tragic of all, these climate-induced events are putting people's lives at risk. Extreme heat is the leading cause of weather-related deaths in our country. According to NOAA, the 12 most costly extreme weather events in 2021 alone resulted in the deaths of nearly 700 people.

Addressing this crisis is the challenge of our time. It is directly tied to the prices we pay at the pump and in nearly every facet of our lives.

Instead of doubling down on policies that continue to fail American consumers and the planet, as some of our colleagues have been advocating for today, we should focus our attention on passing legislation that accelerates our transition to a clean energy future and leaves no community behind in the process. It is our ticket to a brighter future and one without recordbreaking heat waves, high gas prices, and unprecedented devastation.

Let me close with apologies to Stephen Stills. Stephen Stills is a great songwriter and singer with Buffalo Springfield, an iconic group. Long ago, he wrote a song that has these words. We have heard them a million times. It starts something like this:

There is something happening here, [just] what it is ain't exactly clear.

Those are his words, the opening line from one of the great songs of all time.

Well, with apologies to Stephen Stills, there is something happening here, and it is exactly clear what is causing it. It is a climate crisis. We have way too much carbon in the air. We are producing more. That is the bad news.

Here is the good news: We can do something about it. We can do something about it. Part of it is—I will just close with this—30 percent of our carbon emissions in this Nation come from our cars, trucks, and vans—30 percent. More and more, we are seeing automakers build cars, trucks, and vans that run not on gas and diesel but on electric. We are beginning to install literally thousands of charging stations all over the country to help provide an opportunity for people to charge their batteries and also to buy hydrogen, when we switch to hydrogen, for fuel cell vehicles. Those expansions and those investments will put literally hundreds of thousands of Americans—probably more than that—to work across the country, in every corner of the country, to enable us to reduce carbon emissions from our mobile fleet.

Instead of just burning coal and to some extent natural gas, we have the opportunity to create clean energy from advanced nuclear. I am a Navy guy, 27 years in the Navy all in. We have been doing nuclear energy in the Navy for 50 years. Do you know how many people have died in the Navy from exposure to radioactive materials? Zero. Fifty years—perfect record. We are now in the beginning of a new development and a new exploration in pursuit of nuclear energy using small modular nuclear reactors—a lot safer than the ones we have been building for years.

We are in a position now to have, literally, from Maine all the way down to Maryland, offshore wind that creates enormous amounts of carbon-free electricity that we can use to charge our cars, trucks, and vans and actually put a lot of people to work building those windmills and doing good things for our planet.

The climate crisis is here. The question is, What do we do about it? And there is an opportunity to meet it head-on. And it is not like you got to eat your broccoli. No, no, no. This is something we can do, and we could actually not just do good things for our planet, help us avert greater disasters in the days going forward, we could actually create a lot of economic opportunity, a lot of jobs and we can do that and we can do both. We need to do that. We need to do that.

I yield the floor to my friend from Texas. I think I will sit here and hear what he has to say.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, while my friend, the Senator from Delaware, is on the floor, in Texas we are known for oil and gas production, but the truth is, and what I think we really should be known for, is for an “all of the above” energy policy.

We produce more electricity from wind turbines than any other State in the country, and that is a surprise to a number of people.

But one reason for an “all of the above” energy policy is that during the current hot spell we are experiencing in Texas—I think we have had over 33 days of over 100-degree temperatures in my hometown of Austin, TX. It is hot. Some might say: Well, of course it is hot. It is July in Texas. But what has happened, we have seen this phenomenon where the wind is not producing nearly as much electricity because it is not blowing as hard as it might otherwise do.

So, again, I think if we can encourage an “all of the above” energy policy, then different segments of the energy picture can fill in at different times and satisfy our overall need.

I thought while my friend was speaking on that topic I would just mention that interesting lesson that we have learned here recently in Texas.

CHIPS ACT

Mr. President, last night, the Senate moved forward on the CHIPS Act. As

colleagues have heard me talk about this before, this was actually filed in 2020.

Senator WARNER, the senior Senator from Virginia, a Democrat, and I, a Republican from Texas, introduced this bill more than 2 years ago.

The main concern was that our supply of microcircuits that run everything from our cell phones to our laptops, to F-35 Joint Strike Fighters—we depended on a vulnerable supply chain from Asia for those advanced semiconductors. The United States produces zero percent of the advanced semiconductors we need here in America.

And anybody who has tried to buy a car lately or even a washing machine or a laptop or a desktop computer knows that the supply chains of semiconductors, and thus these products, are severely constrained because our economy has taken off post-COVID-19, but the supply chains can't keep up with them and particularly the supply of these semiconductors. So that is why this bill is so important.

Over the last several days, I have worked with colleagues on both sides of the aisle to craft a dramatically slimmed-down version of the competitiveness bill we passed here in the Senate last summer.

The final text of the bill was not released before the procedural vote last night, which was a point of frustration for a number of colleagues, and I can certainly understand. Here they are, asked to vote on a procedural vehicle to get on this bill, and they don't know exactly what the bill is going to look like. And that was the reason some of them decided to vote no against the motion to proceed. I completely understand that.

But our colleagues will have time to review this bill in the coming days, and I hope that support for this legislation will continue to grow. After all, it is a matter of our economic and national security.

The global semiconductor shortage has claimed a lot of attention over the last couple of years because of the impact it has had on consumers, but these aren't existential threats; these are inconveniences because of these constrained supply chains.

If, for example, there was another pandemic or a natural disaster or if, Heaven forbid, the People's Republic of China decided to forcibly unify with Taiwan, this could potentially block access to all of the advanced semiconductors that we need in America, and this would be a dramatic negative effect.

First of all, it would create almost instantaneously a recession here in America. Thousands of people would be put out of work. But what I want to focus on are the national security consequences.

When we send our troops on any mission—by air, land, sea, or cyber—we need the very best equipment and technology available. And now more than



ever, this technology cannot function without semiconductors, without these chips.

Just one example is, look at the Javelin missiles that we are sending over to Ukraine to defeat the Russian Federation invasion. Each one of these Javelin missiles that the Ukrainians are using to such good effect requires more than 200 semiconductors in just one Javelin missile, and so far we have sent 5,500 of them to Ukraine.

But it is not just these big items that need chips, it is things like the helmets that our fighter pilots use to fly and navigate; communications devices like radio sets to call in reinforcements to save American lives; smart hand-held cameras that attach to our troops' gear that see around the corners to keep them out of harm's way; and even advanced body armor uses semiconductors.

If we ever needed to deploy the full force of the U.S. military and ramp up production to replenish our supplies, we would need an astronomical number of semiconductor chips.

That is why bringing that manufacturing capacity back onshore, back home to America, is so important.

This had been a big bipartisan priority, as I said, for the last couple of years, and this isn't the first time that semiconductors have been regarded as a matter of national security.

Interestingly, in the 1980s, it was a big priority item for President Reagan. At that time, our country was up against the Soviet Union's expansive military forces. President Reagan knew that maintaining our edge would be a result of smarter military systems, not just bigger ones or more of them.

As two national security and foreign policy experts from the University of Texas put it, "Reagan didn't merely outspend the Soviets, he . . . sought to out-innovate them" as well.

He pushed to maintain our competitive edge in chips, thereby helping us lead in the advanced weapons and airframes that they enabled.

But this isn't just about what happens tomorrow or 6 months from now; we are talking about safeguarding the developments that will underpin our national security in 10, 20, or 30 years. That is why so many people from diverse political viewpoints support this effort.

As we all remember, the CHIPS for America Act received broad bipartisan support when we first voted on it. It was adopted as an amendment to the annual Defense authorization bill by a vote of 96 to 4. Ninety-six percent of the U.S. Senate supported the bill.

Since it became law a year and a half ago, we have heard from a range of voices and stakeholders who don't typically align.

For example, former USTR—U.S. Trade Representative—Robert Lighthizer, who served in the Trump administration, has been a vocal advocate for chips funding.

At a Senate Finance Committee meeting 2 years ago, he said semiconductors are a key part of our economy as well as the future of American security.

Biden officials have shared this same sentiment. The Secretaries of Defense and Commerce recently sent a letter to Congress urging swift passage of this chips funding, saying it is "an imperative to our national security."

Countless organizations, experts, businesses, and industry groups have expressed the same point of view. Some of the most respected men and women in the national security world wrote a letter to Congress urging quick action on this funding. That group included a former Secretary of Defense, former CIA Director, and former Director of National Intelligence.

We have also heard from the National Governors Association and the U.S. Conference of Mayors, which represents State and local leaders across the country.

We have heard from groups that represent automakers, the defense industry, consumer electronics, and telecommunications companies as well.

Last month, a group of more than 120 tech CEOs sent a letter to congressional leaders urging quick action on this legislation.

It is rare, especially today, to have such a broad consensus from so many different perspectives on a single issue advocating one priority, but that is how important this legislation is.

I am optimistic about where we are at the moment after 2 long years of getting here, and I am glad Speaker PELOSI has said the House will take up the Senate bill as early as next week.

The bottom line is, there is a lot at stake here, and I hope we can deliver a major win for our national security in the coming days.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

#### ENERGY POLICY

MR. MARSHALL. Mr. President, well, summer is in full swing, and all across the Midwest, people are preparing for lake vacations, for family barbecues, but new to this year's agenda, they are also preparing for Biden blackouts.

The shocking new inflation numbers show Americans already paying 42 percent more for energy than this time last year, but now, due to the White House policies, we may not be able to generate enough electricity to meet demand.

Now, let us not forget that under Republican leadership, we had a nation completely in control of our energy security. We were the global leader in energy production, and we were a net exporter of oil products.

However, under Democratic leadership, we are making plans for the lights to go out, and I hope everybody has their candles ready to go at home.

But it isn't this administration's fault, of course, so just ask them—just ask them. No, this White House states

they are powerless to the whims of a global marketplace, and don't bother asking them to own the consequences of their actions.

Did President Biden actually believe canceling the Keystone XL Pipeline on his first day in office would not have negative effects on the global energy markets? Think about it. The United States, the largest oil producer in the world, stopping the transport, the importing, of nearly a million barrels a day, over 5 percent of our supply—who could have ever predicted decreasing supply could impact the cost at the pump?

And who could have predicted that halting all leasing on Federal lands would impact global supply? I even asked the Interior Secretary if this policy made it more difficult for oil companies to drill, and she couldn't give me an answer. She didn't care. This administration doesn't care about the cost of gas at the pump; that is, until they get it high enough to make driving electric cars more comparable.

Don't even think about implying that John Kerry, Biden's climate envoy at COP26, would cause private companies to take coal-powered plants offline and eliminate baseload without a plan going forward. After all, he said in Glasgow:

By 2030, in the United States, we won't have coal. We will not have [any] coal plants.

Well, we may not have coal, but we will have blackouts.

And it was Joe Biden on the campaign trail, in his own words—I am sure you all remember—who said:

Kiddo, I want you to just take a look . . . I want you to look into my eyes. I guarantee you, we are going to end fossil fuels.

And we wonder why Americans won't invest tens of millions—hundreds of millions—of dollars into this energy sector to drill new oil. Yet this President has declared war on American energy, and every American is paying the price at the gas pump. And yet this President wonders out loud why companies won't invest in any more exploration when it takes 5 or 10 years for a payback on these types of investments. He continues to create uncertainty.

It doesn't have to be this way. Republicans have been sounding the alarm on the negative impacts of this administration's policies since President Biden took office. Honestly, this should be surprising to no one. Yet the left seems confounded, stupefied, and without a plan except to turn off your air conditioner and your freezer.

Even more, they have resorted to outright lies. In fact, they repeat these lies over and over, hoping America will eventually fall for them. They repeatedly claim they have not been interfering with American energy production and now deceptively spout they support the industry that they have been vilifying for years.

It is clear, we need more traditional fuel production. I know it; the American people know it. And to be completely clear, I think the White House knows it as well.

Why else would he have gone overseas to Saudi Arabia to beg for more oil? Why is the White House reaching out to dictators in Venezuela or countries that sponsor terrorism like Iran instead of supporting American production in places like my home State of Kansas?

When I asked the Secretary of Energy in committee about the price of gas, she cheekily replied that she drives an electric vehicle. This is the same Secretary of Energy that laughed and found it "hilarious" when asked about her plan to increase oil production in America. That is how this administration responds to the pain of the American people: laughing as they ride away in their fancy electric vehicles.

All that said, I truly hope that those of us forced to experience a Biden blackout are able to get safely through it. For many, a short-term blackout might prove a mild inconvenience. But with the seasonal heat waves we are seeing across the State of Kansas, across this Nation and the rest of the Midwest, it could lead to life-threatening complications. These Biden blackouts show that it is well past time for the President to stop the climate extremism, stop the anti-American policies devastating our communities, and stop looking overseas to fix problems that we have the answers to right here in America.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Louisiana.

**Mr. CASSIDY.** Mr. President, I hear from families in Louisiana every day that they are struggling to keep up with gas prices at historic heights. It is becoming unaffordable to drive to work or drop their kids off at school. The 15-year-old pickup that they drive—not because they don't want a new car but because they cannot afford a new car—now costs \$100 a tank to fill up. And for those who say: Tell them to buy an electric vehicle, that is the modern-day equivalent of Marie Antoinette saying to the peasants "Let them eat cake."

Families are forced to choose between buying groceries or buying gas. And the Biden administration doesn't seem to be listening, so I am here to make their voices heard.

Let me just read from letters we received from constituents, just kind of like sending us a line. Here is Lorrie from Jamestown, LA.

Dear Mr. Cassidy, Is there any relief in sight for gas prices? We had affordable gas under the Trump administration. There is no reason we should have these prices now if the oil and gas production in the United States was in full force. Why would we ever depend on other countries for anything when we have already been energy independent just a short time ago? Families in our country are suffering.

Next letter, Gwendolyn from Prairieville:

Dear Senator Cassidy, please do whatever it takes to get American oil and gas used as resources. I am a divorced 60-year-old woman on a limited income. Gas has gone up, elec-

tricity has gone up, groceries have gone up, medical expenses have gone up, and insurance has gone up drastically, and my pay has not kept up at all.

Here is Donnis from Singer:

Dear Senator Cassidy, I just wanted to voice my opinion about how it makes no sense that our government will not renew oil leases off the coast of Louisiana . . . There is no reason we need to be held hostage by countries who do not care about our sovereignty.

This is Philip from DeRidder:

Please help with these high gas and food prices. I am retired and on a fixed income and these higher gas prices and food prices are starting to hurt me and my wife.

Here is Gregory from New Iberia:

This is not about party affiliation. We're coming into a bad crisis. Both parties need to come together and talk about drilling. We have all the resources we need to start drilling again, and I know you are trying. I see it on the news. Please keep trying.

Here is Laura from Vinton:

I want to express my concern for us Louisiana citizens. Gas prices are rising every day, food prices are rising everyday also. It's coming down to having to choose between to get gas or get groceries. Something needs to be done. U.S. citizens are suffering daily. Please help us Americans!

Here is Daryl from Mooringsport:

As your constituent, I urge you to publicly call for and vote in favor of the immediate and permanent expansion of domestic oil and natural gas production. No more Green New Deal nonsense. Energy dependence is driving higher gas and diesel prices that are causing skyrocketing gas and food prices. We can't rely on Iran or Venezuela to save us. We need to produce our own energy here—in America—and NOW.

Lastly, Karen from Gretna asked:

Why are we importing any oil? Energy independence is of vital importance to us and our national security. Louisiana was a leader in domestic energy production. It is shocking to see how quickly our country has changed. Please continue to work on our behalf to force our government to reinstate the energy independence policies that were in effect during the Trump administration. Speak loudly for us.

Speak loudly for us.

Speak loudly for us.

What these letters make clear is that Americans are hurting. That is why I call for an Operation Warp Speed to lower the prices at the pump, to unleash American energy, and to regain our energy independence.

President Biden needs to stop prioritizing far-left climate activists over the families sitting at the dinner table asking what they have to give up next in order to make ends meet.

President Biden, as one of my constituents says, needs to go where real people live.

With that, I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER** (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Missouri.

**Mr. BLUNT.** Madam President, that whole concept of going where real people live is an important one. When people are facing higher utility bills every month and a bigger bill every time they fill up their gas tank, it doesn't take long for them to figure out that

policy decisions somewhere have changed something—and something that really dramatically affects their quality of life. And then it didn't take long to figure out that those policy decisions in Washington are the decisions that made that kind of difference.

When a blackout causes the lights to go out and your refrigerator to stop working, the impact of energy policy becomes pretty tangible and you understand pretty quickly that this is impacting you. That is a prospect that a lot of Americans are facing this summer. It is not theoretical, but in too many places, it is happening and happening over and over again.

In late May, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation released a report that said that nearly two-thirds of the United States could experience blackouts this summer as a result of reliability challenges of the electric grid. Now, that group is a non-profit regulatory authority that monitors the grid in the United States and Canada and some of northern Mexico.

They could see this coming and Americans can now see this happening. They said that it was sobering. They said that it was an understatement, really, in many ways, to see it any other way. The understatement is, in particular—and the report said—that in the West and the Midwest, there was a heightened risk of reliability challenges and energy shortfalls.

This report on the electric grid cited several reasons for heightened risk people are facing. One of them is that there is simply too little electric-generating capacity in the middle of the country where I live following the closure of older baseload generators. You can't make these decisions about energy policy without having a replacement in mind and not expect to see bad things happen to families, to individuals, to our economy. And that is what we are seeing now.

Earlier this year, the Energy Information Administration projected 85 percent of the generators closing this year would be coal-fired power plants.

So, if you close these plants and don't have a replacement in line, look what happens. Maybe we should ask Germany what happened when they shut down one of their major energy sources without having a replacement. Before you know it, they were dependent on a source of energy and a kind of energy and a country to get that energy from that didn't work out at all.

From day one, the administration has advanced policies to restrict the production of affordable and reliable American energy. We have gone from being a net exporter of energy to an importer—in fact, even a pleading importer of energy—in an unbelievably short period of time.

Electric prices in that period of time have gone up nearly 20 percent. Gasoline prices have more than doubled. If you are at the gas pump and you fill up your tank, whatever you are paying, cut that in half. That is what you

would have paid under the policies just a couple of years ago. Now you are paying 107 percent more than you were paying then. The push of a rapid transition to renewable energy sources will cause prices to go up even higher. We have already seen what happens. We should be able to figure out what happens if you do more of it without a plan.

What the administration wants to do here doesn't have to be painful. Transitioning from fossil fuels over a period of time doesn't have to be a painful thing. You just have to have a replacement in mind. You have to understand the economic consequences and understand, if your timeframe is right, there are no economic consequences.

Fossil fuels accounted for just over 60 percent of the electricity generated in the United States last year. Nuclear power generated nearly 20 percent of the electricity; wind, 9 percent; hydro-power, 6 percent; solar power was about 3 percent. When you dedicate yourself to eliminating 60 percent of the electricity generated in the country, you have got to expect that bad things are going to happen, and they are.

We are seeing what happened with reliability challenges in California in its leading the way in this transition. But last summer, the State was doing everything they could, as quickly as they could, to build gas plants, natural gas plants, to supplement its power and to avoid blackouts. You went from plenty of power to new sources of energy and then, suddenly, to not enough power and then back to fossil fuels to desperately try to replace the power.

Surely, we can learn that this doesn't have to be the way you make these realistic transitions from one way of powering things to another. Just to replace every vehicle in the country with electric models would require 25 percent more electricity than we produce today. Forcing the electrification of homes and buildings will drive demand even higher and will cost more. Families will suffer.

For now, all of the above still works. For the long term, we have to find out what works for all Americans and how we may have reasonable energy policy moving forward. All of the above is serving us well. As we move from that, we need to know what we are moving to, how we are moving there, and how we can do it with the least impact on the economy, on individuals, and on families.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Madam President, I want to join my colleagues here in an important discussion as it relates to American energy.

My colleague from the great State of Missouri said it well in so many different ways: Now we are pleading with dictators to import more energy. That is one element of what, certainly, has been the Biden administration's most

colossal, strategic mistake of its entire first year in office. Trust me. There have been a lot of mistakes on the Biden administration's watch. There has been nothing that has undermined American interests in terms of working families, in terms of skyrocketing inflation, in terms of national security, in terms of energy security, and—yes, I am going to talk about it—in terms of environmental policy for America and the world. Nothing has been more harmful to America's interests and the interests of American working families than the reckless policies of the Biden administration's approach to American energy.

I have talked about this issue a lot because a lot of those policies are zeroed in on my State and my constituents, but as many have already said and as Senator BLUNT has already said, it can be summed up, in my view, in kind of four key areas.

No. 1, from day one, they have come in and said: We are going to limit the production of American energy.

That is happening. It is certainly happening in Alaska. On day one, the President made an order on ANWR. We got ANWR done in this Congress, but he shut that down, and they are canceling lease sales. As for the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska, they are taking half of that off the table. Everywhere you look, they are trying to limit the production of American energy. That is a fact. It makes no sense, but it is a fact. That is No. 1.

No. 2 is the slow rolling and killing of energy infrastructure, the ability to move energy through pipelines or LNG terminals. They are stopping it, slow rolling it, or killing it. That is a fact, OK? That is what they have been doing from day one.

No. 3, they are going to the American financial community—John Kerry, Gina McCarthy, and all of these far-left, crazy, policy folks—and saying to American banks and insurance companies: Don't invest in American energy.

This is choking off capital to this incredibly important sector of the U.S. economy. When they are not doing that, they are appointing senior officials—just think Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Reserve, the SEC Chairman—who are undertaking policies to choke off capital to the American energy sector. That is happening.

No. 4, when they have seen prices spike and hard-working American families paying hundreds, if not thousands, of dollars more to get to work in their cars or trucks, the administration is going around, begging dictators for more energy production.

This is an insult. We have the highest standards with regard to the environment and American energy production in Alaska and in other places. Do you think the Saudis care about their environment? Do you think the Venezuelans care? Do you think the terrorists in Iran care? They don't, but the administration is going and begging dictators for more energy.

So those are the policies of the Biden administration on energy, and we all know it is not working. It is having the predictable consequence of driving up energy costs on all American families—and, of course, giving pink slips to American energy workers, who I believe are heroic workers: union workers and others—and empowering our adversaries. So that is what is happening.

Today, the President is in Boston, so I want to talk about a couple of policies—energy policies—emanating from people and the communities of Boston that further show just how irrational the far-left Democratic Party is on energy.

Let me first talk about this issue, which I like to trot out a lot, on this chart. This is a factual chart of emission changes from major economies in the world from 2005 to the present. You don't hear about this a lot, but take a look. Take a look at this chart.

What does it show?

Of all of the major economies in the world, the one economy with the biggest reduction in greenhouse gas emissions is America, the United States of America, by far. Take a look. We have reduced emissions since 2005 by almost 15 percent. EU didn't do that. Germany didn't do that. Japan didn't do that. And here you go: In China, there is a new coal plant every couple of days, it seems. In India, it is the same thing.

Why am I bringing out this chart? A, people need to know that we are the leader; we are not the bad guy. I know John Kerry keeps thinking we are the bad guy; he goes around telling everybody we are. We are not. If every other country in the world had emissions profiles like we had, you would see a much, much cleaner and less emitting planet. That is a fact. So let me talk about a couple of these policies.

John Kerry, the climate envoy, has been reported as going to certain countries in Asia, saying: You know, we really don't like hydrocarbons in America, so don't buy any of that American LNG.

What? We are paying this guy's salary to say that? Whose side is he on?

By the way, exporting clean-burning American LNG to places like India or China or Japan is exactly what we need to do to reduce global emissions. So you have got this one guy out there—and I am not sure why he is being paid by the U.S. Government; he should be paid by the Chinese Communist Party Government. There are recent press reports that John Kerry's private jet—that he flies all around the world on—last year, emitted over 300 tons of CO<sub>2</sub>.

What? Yes.

Look, he is smug, hypocritical, and his policies are hammering the middle class—and now this. John Kerry is one of the single biggest polluters and greenhouse gas emitters in the world for an individual.

In Boston, one of the best things the President can do today is to either fire John Kerry or ask him to resign. That would be great. That would probably do a lot for climate in America.

Let me give another policy that should be raised in Massachusetts.

Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that this Boston Globe editorial—a very long one—from February 12, 2018, be printed in the RECORD. It is called “Our Russian ‘pipeline,’ and its ugly toll.”

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

[Editorial: Boston Globe, February 12, 2018]

#### OUR RUSSIAN ‘PIPELINE,’ AND ITS UGLY TOLL

To build the new \$27 billion gas export plant on the Arctic Ocean that now keeps the lights on in Massachusetts, Russian firms bored wells into fragile permafrost; blasted a new international airport into a pristine landscape of reindeer, polar bears, and walrus; dredged the spawning grounds of the endangered Siberian sturgeon in the Gulf of Ob to accommodate large ships; and commissioned a fleet of 1,000-foot icebreaking tankers likely to kill seals and disrupt whale habitat as they shuttle cargoes of super-cooled gas bound for Asia, Europe, and Everett.

On the plus side, though, they didn’t offend Pittsfield or Winthrop, Danvers or Groton, with even an inch of pipeline.

This winter’s unprecedented imports of Russian liquefied natural gas have already come under fire from Greater Boston’s Ukrainian-American community, because the majority shareholder of the firm that extracted the fuel has been sanctioned by the US government for its links to the war in eastern Ukraine and Russia’s illegal annexation of Crimea. Last week, in response to the outcry, a group of Massachusetts lawmakers, led by Senator Ed Markey, blasted the shipments and called on the federal government to stop them.

But apart from its geopolitical impact, Massachusetts’ reliance on imported gas from one of the world’s most threatened places is also a severe indictment of the state’s inward-looking environmental and climate policies. Public officials, including Attorney General Maura Healey and leading state senators, have leaned heavily on righteous-sounding stands against local fossil fuel projects, with scant consideration of the global impacts of their actions and a tacit expectation that some other country will build the infrastructure that we’re too good for.

As a result, to a greater extent than anywhere else in the United States, the Commonwealth now expects people in places like Russia, Trinidad and Tobago, and Yemen to shoulder the environmental burdens of providing natural gas that state policy makers have showily rejected here. The old environmentalist slogan—think globally and act locally—has been turned inside out in Massachusetts.

But more than just traditional NIMBYism is at work in the state’s resistance to natural gas infrastructure. There’s also the \$1 million the parent company of the Everett terminal spent lobbying Beacon Hill from 2013 to 2017, amid a push to keep out the domestic competition that’s ended LNG imports in most of the rest of the United States.

And there’s a trendy, but scientifically unfounded, national fixation on pipelines that state policy makers have chosen to accommodate. Climate advocates, understandably frustrated by slow progress at the federal level, have put short-term tactical victories against fossil fuel infrastructure ahead of strategic progress on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and so has Beacon Hill.

They’ve obsessed over stopping domestic pipelines, no matter where those pipes go, what they carry, what fuels they displace, and how the ripple effects of those decisions may raise overall global greenhouse gas emissions.

The environmental movement needs a reset, and so does Massachusetts policy. The real-world result of pipeline absolutism in Massachusetts this winter has been to steer energy customers to dirtier fuels like coal and oil, increasing greenhouse gas emissions. And the state is now in the indefensible position of blocking infrastructure here, while its public policies create demand for overseas fossil fuel infrastructure like the Yamal LNG plant—a project likely to inflict far greater near and long-term harm to the planet.

“ALL IS GLOOM AND ETERNAL SILENCE,” wrote a 19th century English traveler in an awestruck account of the Kara Sea, then still a largely uncharted domain of ice floes and fog. Though more powerful vessels and melting ice have enabled more human activity in the Arctic, the area around Yamal, an indigenous name meaning “edge of the world,” remains a refuge. An estimated 2,700 to 3,500 polar bears live in the Kara Sea region, along with the ring seals that form a crucial part of their diet.

Opening a gas export facility in such a harsh environment required overcoming both political obstacles—the US sanctions delayed financing—and staggering triumphs of industrial engineering by a workforce that reportedly reached 15,000 people. Dredgers scooped away 1.4 billion cubic feet of seabed to make room for the ships and built a giant LNG facility on supports driven into the permafrost, all in temperatures that can plunge to less than minus 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

The oil and gas industry poses serious threats, especially in an area like the Arctic that recovers slowly from damage, and in 2016 the Russian branch of the World Wildlife Fund issued a report warning of Yamal LNG’s potential dangers. White toothed whales, a near-threatened species, breed in the vicinity of the facility, and the noise from shipping and the presence of more giant vessels “may force toothed whales to leave this habitat, which is crucial for their living, feeding, and reproduction.”

The giant “Yamalmax” ice breaking tankers, longer than three football fields and designed to mow through ice up to six feet deep, are also “extremely bad news for any ice-associated mammals that should be in the vicinity of their path,” said Sue Wilson, who leads an international research group based at the University of Leeds in the United Kingdom. The group has recently published a paper in the journal *Biological Conservation* on the impact of icebreakers on seal mothers and pups in the Caspian Sea and is currently studying shipping impacts in the Arctic.

“The captain is unlikely to notice—or even be able to see—seals in the vessel’s path ahead,” she said. “Even if the captain does notice, the fact that the ship is designed to proceed at a steady pace means that it is unlikely to attempt to stop for seals or maneuver around them, even if the ship can be slowed or stopped in time.”

Advocates also worry that increased Arctic production and shipping will hurt indigenous people; sever reindeer migration routes; import invasive species to an environment ill-equipped to deal with them; and introduce the very remote, but potentially cataclysmic, danger of an LNG explosion.

Finally, the gas pumped there will contribute to global climate change. In some parts of the world, especially China, LNG may provide climate benefits by displacing dirtier coal. If LNG displaces gas carried by

pipeline, however, the math works out differently: Liquefied natural gas generally creates more emissions, since the process of cooling it to minus 260 degrees Fahrenheit and then shipping and regasifying it requires more energy than pumping natural gas through all but the longest and leakiest pipelines.

“The bottom line is that because of the nature of the liquefaction process, LNG is fairly carbon intensive,” said Gavin Law, the head of gas, LNG, and carbon consulting for the energy consulting firm Wood Mackenzie. The exact difference depends on factors like how much pipelines leak, carbon impurities in the gas, age of equipment, and distance shipped, but generally LNG produces 5 to 10 percent more emissions over its whole life cycle from start to finish, he said.

From a planetary perspective, it doesn’t matter where those emissions occur: Whether from the plant in Yamal, or the power plant in Everett, they have the same impact. The science should make the state’s decisions straightforward.

“Natural gas has shown itself to be an important bridge to a clean energy future,” said Ernest J. Moniz, the former secretary of energy in the Obama administration. “For New England, expanding the pipeline capacity from the Marcellus”—the area of shale gas production in Pennsylvania—“makes the most sense.”

“Life cycle emissions for LNG imports to Boston certainly are higher than they would be for more Marcellus gas,” he said.

But the upstream emissions typically don’t show up on the books of states like Massachusetts, which judge the success of their climate efforts based only on how much greenhouse gas they emit within their own borders.

That’s an accounting fiction. But it’s a convenient one for lawmakers who’ve bowed to pressure to legislate based on what’s visible inside the Commonwealth’s own borders.

FROM MASHPEE TO SPRINGFIELD, Taunton to Sudbury, the message was clear: To fight climate change, the state shouldn’t allow more fossil fuel pipelines or other infrastructure in Massachusetts.

That’s what state senators Marc Pacheco and Jamie Eldridge, the heads of the state Senate’s Committee on Global Warming and Climate Change, heard when they conducted a listening tour of the state—whose results they released on the same day the Russian gas was unloading in Everett—to help prepare a new energy bill.

The resulting legislation was introduced this Monday. It contained many fine ideas, including boosting the state’s renewable energy requirements. But it also would raise obstacles to pipelines that would lock in the state’s reliance on foreign gas, with its higher carbon footprint.

In an interview, Pacheco said “Obviously any fossil fuel investments are problematic,” no matter where they occur, but that “we have no control over what happens in Russia or anywhere else in the world.” Eldridge said, “I think this bill takes a big step to preventing pipelines,” and also expressed concern about the LNG the state imports instead. “I think activists need to think about where a large amount of this gas is coming from, and that could be something the Legislature could take a look at” in the future, he said.

Theirs isn’t the first analysis to miss the larger picture.

In 2015, the Conservation Law Foundation, a prominent environmental advocacy group in Boston, released a report dismissing the need for new pipeline capacity in New England, and called on the region to rely on a “winter-only LNG ‘pipeline,’” “including imported gas, to meet its winter energy needs instead.

After the first shipload of Russian gas arrived, David Ismay, a lawyer with the group, stood by the recommendation and shrugged off the purchase of Russian gas from the Arctic as simply the nature of buying on the worldwide market. "I think it's important to understand that LNG is a globally traded commodity," he said in an interview with the *Globe*.

The foundation, he said, hadn't compared the overall greenhouse gas emissions from LNG to pipeline gas from the Marcellus to determine which was worse for the climate, nor had it factored the impact on the Arctic of gas production into its policy recommendations.

But a state policy that doesn't ask any questions about its fuel until the day the tanker floats into the Harbor abdicates the state's responsibility to own up to all consequences of its energy use—and mitigate the ones that it can.

WHEN AN ICEBREAKER BEARS DOWN on a mother seal during the springtime breeding season, the terrified animal tries to scurry away with her pup. The two may leave a trail of urine and feces on the ice, telltale signs of their distress. Even if the animals survive the collision, the disruption may separate the mother and pup, leading to the pup's death.

Conscientious companies can minimize the cruel realities of global shipping—or conscientious governments can force them to. American law, for instance, requires ships to maintain a safe distance from seals and walrus in ice habitats. Wilson, the seal researcher, also suggested that icebreakers can change routes to avoid known seal habitats, especially during the breeding season, and carry trained observers onboard to advise vessel captains and record any adverse impact, particularly on mothers and young.

The *Globe* attempted to contact Sovcomflot, the Russian state-owned shipper in St. Petersburg that handled the first leg of the first shipment from Siberia to Everett, about what policies, if any, it employs to avoid killing seals and other wildlife, and whether it would halt LNG shipments during the spring as mother seals nurse their pups in the Arctic.

As of Monday night, it had not responded to e-mails.

The policy of Massachusetts, apparently, is to hope that the Russians are on top of it—and that the world beyond the state's borders manages the impacts of fossil fuel production and transportation that the Commonwealth buys and uses, but considers itself too pure to handle itself.

As of Monday night, the next shipment of Russian gas was anchored about 70 miles off Gloucester.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Again, these are far-left policies that are having a negative impact on actual environment and climate issues. This is the Boston *Globe* editorial page, not some rightwing editorial page, and they are writing about how the Massachusetts State legislature said: We are not going to have any pipelines coming across Massachusetts to be able to take gas from Pennsylvania and let people in Boston use it.

Here is the editorial page on Massachusetts' reliance on imported gas. So what happens? They are importing all of their gas from Russia in the Arctic. How does that help America? You have American gas from American pipelines that is produced by Americans, with the highest environmental standards, coming across Massachusetts to Boston.

No. The Massachusetts State legislature says: We are too good for that. We are not going to build pipelines.

So what do they do? They import all of their gas from Russia.

This is an editorial that says: This policy is insane, and that is, in essence, the definition of what we are seeing by the Biden administration, by John Kerry, and by the Massachusetts State legislature—all of these woke pronouncements that actually have the impact of degrading our environment, empowering dictators, laying off Americans, and raising the price of energy on our economy, small businesses, and working families.

So I am hopeful that today, in Boston, the President starts to get serious about American energy policy and that he starts to reverse his administration's focus on shutting down the production of American energy, on permitting pipelines and infrastructure, and on helping to finance energy projects and production. That is the reversal he could make and announce today. That would help the American people. It would help my constituents.

Unfortunately, I think that it is unlikely to happen. The people of our great Nation are going to continue to suffer, and the environment is going to continue to suffer because of these policies on energy that undermine American interests everywhere you look.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, thank you for the opportunity to address you and my colleagues here on the Senate floor this afternoon.

While Kansans are dealing, Americans are dealing every day with skyrocketing gas prices, record-high inflation, and supply chain shortages. President Biden traveled to Saudi Arabia to make a plea for greater oil production availability. What he should be doing is asking Americans and giving them the opportunity to unleash the potential of our own ability to supply oil. We have seen days and we enjoyed the days in which America was generally energy independent, and it would be a wonderful day to return to.

My State of Kansas is an energy-producing State, and we could help increase supply and cut costs at the pump, but instead President Biden chooses our foreign adversaries for assistance. Kansas ranks 11th in oil production and 14th in the production of natural gas. Kansas is also the ninth largest ethanol-producing State. That industry supports over 115,000 oil and gas jobs in Kansas.

Our producers and our refiners stand ready to meet the growing demand for American energy. But since the first day in office and really before assuming office, the President has sought to constrain the oil and gas sectors' access to capital. I don't know how many times in the Banking Committee we were dealing with this issue of whether

or not a regulator could regulate financial institutions, with the goal of eliminating their ability to finance oil and gas production.

In addition to trying to limit access to capital, he blocked construction of pipelines and has proposed burdensome new regulations on oil and gas producers.

My guess is that this is done for the purposes of reducing the use of fossil fuels, the environment-climate agenda. But it is so hypocritical for us, as Americans, for President Biden to be asking others who produce oil to increase their production. If it is about the environment and about climate, you wouldn't ask anybody to increase their production. And I have no doubt that here in the United States, we do it right as far as refining oil and gas into other products in a way that is the most environmentally sound way of doing it compared to places like Venezuela, Libya, where the President also asked that they increase their production for the benefit of American consumers.

The thing to do for us to increase our energy production and reduce the price at the pump—and we talk about prices at the pump so easily. The cost of oil and natural gas has a consequence on things way beyond the price at the pump. It is not just about gasoline. Natural gas, for example, is used in the production of fertilizer for our farmers who struggle today, with the cost of production being astronomically higher than it was before, but almost every product that we buy that is more expensive today than it was previously has an oil and gas component to it.

The request by President Biden to reach out to our adversaries for oil on the world stage, appealing to our adversaries for increased production, not only singles out our weakness but is also unnecessary. The United States has the resources, the expertise, and the domestic demand to be an energy-independent nation, and Kansas has the opportunity to be a participant in that, with additional jobs and a better America.

We should see the impending energy crisis in Europe as a case study for why domestic energy production ought to be supported to the fullest extent in the United States. Additionally, our dependence upon energy from someplace else has huge consequences in our foreign relations, our military preparedness, and our national security.

A far more enduring solution than wandering around the world with a tin cup out—far more stable and affordable energy prices to fill our vehicles, power our homes, or to operate our farms—is for the President to support an all-out, "all of the above" domestic energy strategy. This includes investments in new and existing energy infrastructure like refineries; expanding oil, biofuels, and ethanol production; and new EV manufacturing—incidentally, although certainly not an incidental thing, like the \$4 billion Panasonic EV manufacturing plant we announced last week

for Kansas. We ought to be interested, again, in solar and wind energy. Kansas is the third highest producer of wind energy, wind power, in the United States.

The Biden administration must—I asked them to shift course and promote an “all of the above” strategy that produces more U.S. energy from all sources. It benefits America; it benefits the world; and it especially benefits the consumers who are hurting so much at the grocery store and the gas pump and utility bills.

We need to weaken our reliance on foreign adversaries, and we need to increase the production of energy in the United States.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 5 minutes and Senator DURBIN for up to 15 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Madam President, I am happy to come to the floor today to join my colleague the Senator from Alaska, Mr. SULLIVAN, as well as my colleague from Kansas, to talk about where we are with this administration or where, unfortunately, we aren't when it comes to prioritizing American-made energy.

As has been noted here on the floor by my colleagues, the President has just returned from the Middle East. It wasn't for a sightseeing trip; it was really all about oil. He was talking about oil. Above all, the President made that trip to ask the leaders of several foreign nations, members of OPEC, to increase their production levels.

OK, we get it. Gasoline prices are way too high. We know that. We have hit national records in recent weeks. They are averaging right now about \$5.32 a gallon in my State. That is actually down a little bit from where we were last month, but it is up over 50 percent from where we were last year.

As has been said repeatedly, and we don't need to say it here on the floor of the Senate, people are feeling it in their homes. They are feeling it in their pocketbooks. Families are. Businesses are. Whether you are in places like Anchorage or Fairbanks, your budgets are stretched thinner and thinner and thinner.

It is increasingly difficult for small tourist operations, whether you are trying to take people out on sightseeing trips in the air or on the water. Our fishing fleets have to fill up their fishing vessels. But especially, particularly, our outlying villages—these villages that are off the road system—that already faced high prices, now the prices are astronomical.

I met with some leaders from the Northwest Arctic Borough just a few days ago, and they shared with me that

in many of their communities, the communities were paying about \$5.25 on average. But these were prices that were locked in from last fall when the last fuel barge came into those northern waters and was able to make its way up the river systems. Now, with the first spring barge comes literally—literally—in 1 day going from \$5.25 to over \$8 a gallon. That is a lock-in price that they are going to be living with until that next barge.

Think about what that means when you are a community that is locked into these extraordinarily high prices. When that last fuel barge comes, you are going to have small villages that are going to be looking to see how much—not how much do we need to get through the winter but how much can we afford? They don't have much of a tax base. How much can we afford?

My theory is that they are only going to be able to buy as much as they can, and it is not going to be enough to get them through the winter. So halfway through the winter, in the darkest and coldest, when everything is locked in the ice, they are going to run out of fuel. And you have to be able to keep the heat on or everything breaks. So how do you get the fuel? You fly it in. Think about what those costs then become. So for us in Alaska, this is not only frightening, but it has the potential to just be catastrophic as we look at no end in sight for these prices.

I don't begrudge the President for meeting with world leaders. We expect him to do this. And I think it is a great idea to do what we can to increase supply to reduce prices. This is kind of the basics of supply and demand. I have championed this for years. Let's increase our supply. But the question is where that energy is going to come from. Where should we focus our time? Where should we focus our efforts? I think it just has to begin at home. It has to be here.

But apparently this administration has decided they are going to go elsewhere. They are going to seek oil from the Middle East. They are sending envoys to Venezuela. They are pushing for a weakened Iran deal, signaling that oil from the two worst regimes in the world could somehow come back online? This makes zero sense to me. It just makes no sense. Why would we do this? Why would we go abroad when we have the resources here? Why choose oil produced at low environmental standards, like my friend from Kansas just said? You are going to countries that have lower environmental standards and track records when it comes to human rights abuses, and we are just going to turn our eye to it? We are just going to close our eyes and say that is OK now? No, it is not OK.

Why? Why do we give fist bumps to leaders while sucker-punching the producers, the refiners, and the gas station owners in our own domestic industry? Unfortunately, that is what we are seeing. We are seeing that happen in my State. We have billions of barrels of

oil in our Federal areas. We have a world-class pipeline that is one-quarter full and a general refusal from the administration to help us do much of anything about it.

We can talk about the 1002 area, the largest untapped conventional oilfield in North America, is what is projected, but you are not seeing this administration pushing forward with that even though we mandated—even though Congress mandated this in 2017. Not a chance. They are not moving forward with that. They have halted all development—illegally, I might add.

But also take the 5-year plan, the proposed 5-year plan. It is long overdue. Now we are learning that the administration may not hold a single offshore lease through 2028. They are proposing a single sale in Cook Inlet in Alaska after canceling the one that was just supposed to have been held, suggesting that they are OK, they are somehow OK with crimping the only source of natural gas for hundreds of thousands of Alaskans.

Again, this direction just makes no sense to me. We need a course correction from the Biden administration. Even as we are moving forward in so many other initiatives, we need to have a strategic plan that assures that our own energy security—our own energy security—is addressed and also helping to improve the energy security of our allies.

I believe that we can do this without taking our eye off the ball of what we need to do to reduce emissions to address the challenges that face us when it comes to climate. But we have to acknowledge that the world has changed. There is still, though, no substitute or equal for American energy. So what we need is for common sense to prevail over wishful thinking. We need resource development here at home in places like Alaska and Kansas. They need to be our first and our highest priority. The longer it takes for that to happen, the greater the price that Alaskans will be paying and all Americans will be paying.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

#### PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I was on the floor 2 days ago when the Republican Senate leader came to the floor and said something which I still don't quite understand, and I would like to refer to it in a statement.

#### CLOTURE MOTION WITHDRAWN

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw the cloture motion with respect to the Merle nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Not hearing an objection, it is withdrawn.

The cloture motion, on the nomination of Natasha C. Merle, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, was withdrawn.



## UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that following the confirmation vote on the Williams nomination, the Senate vote on the confirmation of Executive Calendar No. 920, the nomination of Bernadette M. Meehan, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile.

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

## PRESCRIPTION DRUG COSTS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, now, back to my statement.

I came to the floor and heard a speech by the Republican leader, MITCH MCCONNELL of Kentucky. Now, it wasn't the first. I have heard many, and I listen closely so that I can divine the strategy of Senate Republicans. And for weeks we have heard speeches about the plight of American families dealing with inflation. It is a real problem. If you go to buy anything these days, you are shocked by the price, starting at the gas pump, if you have aspirations to buy a car or truck, ordinary food items—much more expensive. Most families are not seeing any increase in income so it is a real hardship for them to keep up.

Well, the Senator from Kentucky has given that speech so many times, I could almost repeat it verbatim. And I don't quarrel with his premise. Inflation is painful for working families.

But then—but then—he went into an area of pricing and took an exactly opposite point of view. What he said was he thought, if there was an effort to control the price of prescription drugs, it was “socialist price control,” it was really asking for something for nothing, and he didn't support it.

And I stopped to think for a second. Wait a minute. All the polling, when you ask American families what they worry about, tells you that this is a big headache for families. They go to a doctor. Somebody is sick. The doctor prescribes a drug. They take the prescription to the drug store. They get it filled. And then comes the moment of truth, the moment at the cash register when the family is told: Incidentally, that will cost you \$100, \$200, \$300 over your insurance coverage.

And you know what some families say?

I wish I could afford that; I can't.

And they don't pick up the drug or they pick it up and, instead of taking it, they kind of wait and say: I will see if I get any better by myself. They do the wrong thing because of the cost of prescription drugs.

So when the Republican Senators come to the floor every day talking about family expenses, it comes as a shock to know that they are planning to oppose the Democratic effort to establish prescription drug pricing. They complain about high prices for everything else, but they don't seem to want to do anything when it comes to prescription drugs.

Americans pay the highest prices in the world for prescription drugs, an average of nearly four times as much paid by an American family for exactly the same drugs that are being sold in Canada and Europe. Where are those drugs made? All made in the same place, all made by the same company, four times the cost for America.

To add insult to injury, many of these prescription drugs only exist because of the successful investment by American taxpayers in the National Institutes of Health. The National Institutes of Health is an amazing research organization. They do the research, the basic research. The drug companies capitalize on it, make the drugs, and sell them at a profit. So taxpayers pay on the front end for the drugs. American taxpayers and tax-paying families pay on the back end for the actual cost of the pharmaceuticals.

Out-of-control prescription costs aren't just hurting people financially; they hurt the health of Americans. One in five Americans don't take the medications as prescribed because they can't afford them. They cut their pills in half or they skip doses because they can't do it; they can't pay it.

“Your money or your life”—you expect to hear that from a stickup artist, not from a pharmaceutical company. That is the choice Americans face.

So we want to do something about it. Democrats don't want to hear speeches about the costs to families. We want to do something. We want to bring down the cost of prescription drugs for seniors first and then for families in general.

If you really care about inflation, most families would say, start with prescription drugs. That is what we are doing. And the Republicans are going to oppose this.

Ironically, Senator MCCONNELL gives a speech calling it socialism to deal with the cost of prescription drugs, and, within an hour, the senior Senator from Iowa gives a speech on the floor of the Senate—Republican Senator—how he wants to cut prescription drug prices for seniors. One of them didn't get the message at the caucus. I think the Senator from Iowa is right, incidentally.

So Democrats are proposing to allow Medicare to negotiate fair prices for drugs. We have been doing that for a long time when it comes to the Veterans' Administration. The Veterans' Administration buys a lot of prescription drugs for our veterans—and I am glad they do—and they negotiate with these companies to get a fair price. We think Medicare ought to do the same thing. It reduces the cost of prescription drugs. It makes them more affordable for seniors.

Now, a lot of people say: Well, if you do that, then the prescription drug companies, the pharmaceutical companies, just aren't going to be able to make it.

Well, here is the reality. Studies have found that Big Pharma could lose \$1

trillion in sales over the next decade and still remain the most profitable industry in America—lose \$1 trillion in sales and still be the most profitable industry. Higher profit margins in pharma than in the telecom industry, than in the defense industry, in the banking industry, and the Republicans are saying they are afraid that they are going to get hurt if consumers can buy drugs at lower prices.

But good news for those who fear that if you cut the amount of money going to pharma, it will cut research. That is not what we have learned. We know Bayer. It has been around a long time. It started off as a German company. It made aspirin. Now they have made some sizable acquisitions in the business.

They make a drug called Xarelto. Now, you would have to watch that television ad 10 or 12 times to be able to spell “Xarelto,” but they are trying to convince American consumers they can't live without it. Bayer spent \$18 billion on sales and marketing last year compared to \$8 billion on research for drugs.

Johnson & Johnson: \$22 billion on sales and marketing, \$12 billion on research. GlaxoSmithKline: \$15 billion on sales and marketing, \$7 billion on research.

Get the pattern? There is more money being spent on advertising than on research for new drugs. Americans get bombarded with nine drug ads on TV every day telling them to ask their doctor for the newest wonder drug. There are only two nations on Earth where you can legally advertise prescription drugs on television. One, of course, is the United States. The other, for some reason, is New Zealand. Filling the airwaves with ads is what Big Pharma does to try to convince customers they can't live without their drugs.

So the claim that allowing Medicare to negotiate a reasonable price for seniors will freeze out Big Pharma's innovation just doesn't wash.

Senator MCCONNELL says there is no “free lunch” when it comes to prescription drug pricing. Let's keep in mind that the 14 largest drug corporations spent more on stock buybacks—lining the pockets of their CEOs—than on research and development over the past 5 years.

So here is what it comes down to. Look at these, just as an illustration. I will do this quickly because Members are showing up to vote. Insulin, discovered by Canadian researchers at the beginning of the 20th century—they surrendered the patent for the drug for a dollar so that it would never be overcharged to consumers because it is a life-or-death drug for those suffering from diabetes.

Take a look, from the year 2004 to the year 2022, at what has happened to the drug insulin cost—insulin cost—on a regular basis, the manufacturing price by year. You can see it tracks all the companies that make insulin. It is



as high as \$300 a dose, and a person suffering from diabetes may need three doses a month—\$900 for insulin.

Well, let's take a comparative cost and take a look at what insulin costs in other countries. The United States, while it is paying \$98 for a dose of insulin—look—Japan is paying \$14; Canada, \$12; Germany, \$11; France, \$9; UK, \$7; Australia, \$6, \$7. And the good news is these are the same companies, the American companies, charging a fraction of the cost to the other countries for insulin. This is one of the drugs which we are working on now, Senator SHAHEEN and others, to bring down the cost.

I am going to close by saying this. If you care about the costs that families face, if you care about inflation, and you care about life-or-death medications, and you want to make them affordable, don't take the position of Senator MCCONNELL that this is socialism to demand negotiation in pricing. Don't take his position that it is just a free lunch to say that people will never have to pay more than \$2,000 a year out of pocket for drugs. This is a life-or-death decision. Even 70 percent of Republicans agree with that.

I wish the Senate Republicans would agree with it and join us in supporting this bill.

#### NOMINATION OF GREGORY BRIAN WILLIAMS

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will continue its vital work of confirming highly qualified judicial nominees to the Federal bench. We will vote on an outstanding district court nominee: Gregory Williams to the District of Delaware.

Mr. Williams is currently a partner at the firm Fox Rothschild LLP, where he has an extensive trial practice that focuses on intellectual property and other matters. Mr. Williams joined the firm immediately after law school, rising through the ranks to become the first African-American equity partner in the firm's history.

In addition to his work in private practice, Mr. Williams has dedicated countless hours to serving the Delaware legal and judicial communities. He has worked as a Special Master in complex civil cases for the District of Delaware; as president of the Delaware State Bar Association; and as chair of the State's judicial nominating commission. A graduate of Millersville University of Pennsylvania and Villanova University School of Law, Mr. Williams received a unanimous "well qualified" rating from the American Bar Association and has the strong support of Delaware's Senators, Mr. CARPER and Mr. COONS. With his depth of experience and impeccable credentials, Mr. Williams will serve Delaware with distinction.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this outstanding nominee. I yield the floor.

#### VOTE ON WILLIAMS NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, all postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Williams nomination?

Mr. DURBIN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 263 Ex.]

##### YEAS—52

Baldwin	Gillibrand	Padilla
Bennet	Graham	Peters
Blumenthal	Hassan	Reed
Blunt	Heinrich	Rosen
Booker	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Brown	Hirono	Schatz
Cantwell	Kaine	Schumer
Capito	Kelly	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Sinema
Carper	Klobuchar	Smith
Casey	Lujan	Stabenow
Collins	Manchin	Tester
Coons	Menendez	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Cramer	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Wyden
Durbin	Murray	
Feinstein	Ossoff	

##### NAYS—43

Barrasso	Hawley	Rounds
Blackburn	Hoeven	Rubio
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Boozman	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Braun	Johnson	Scott (SC)
Burr	Lankford	Shelby
Cassidy	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cotton	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Cruz	Moran	Tuberville
Daines	Paul	Wicker
Ernst	Portman	Young
Fischer	Risch	
Grassley	Romney	
Hagerty		

##### NOT VOTING—5

Kennedy	Markey	Whitehouse
Leahy	Warren	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Bernadette M. Meehan, of New York, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Pleni-

potentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Chile.

#### VOTE ON MEEHAN NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Meehan nomination?

Ms. HASSAN. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 44, as follows:

#### [Rollcall Vote No. 264 Ex.]

##### YEAS—51

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Portman
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Reed
Booker	Hirono	Romney
Brown	Kaine	Rosen
Cantwell	Kelly	Sanders
Cardin	King	Schatz
Carper	Klobuchar	Schumer
Casey	Lujan	Shaheen
Collins	Manchin	Sinema
Coons	Menendez	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Stabenow
Duckworth	Murkowski	Tester
Durbin	Murphy	Van Hollen
Feinstein	Murray	Warner
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warnock
Hagerty	Padilla	Wyden

##### NAYS—44

Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blackburn	Graham	Rounds
Blunt	Grassley	Rubio
Boozman	Hawley	Sasse
Braun	Hoeven	Scott (FL)
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Capito	Inhofe	Shelby
Cassidy	Johnson	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Lummis	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Paul	

##### NOT VOTING—5

Kennedy	Markey	Whitehouse
Leahy	Warren	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

The Senator from Florida.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUESTS—S. 3086 AND S. 4571

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be discharged from further consideration of S. 3086 and the Senate

proceed to its immediate consideration; further, 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. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHATZ. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. 4571, which is at the desk; further, 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. Is there objection?

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Across the country, American families are fighting harder every week to make ends meet as they deal with President Biden's raging inflation crisis. Food prices are up. Gas prices remain at unbearably high levels, and too many families are having to make the impossible decision of whether to put gas in the tank or food on the table. It is so tough to be a family in that position.

I know all too well how this feels and the impacts these high prices have on families. I grew up in a poor family, with a mom who worked long hours at her job and also picked up odd jobs just so our family could get by. We never had any extra money, so when prices went up, we had to go without.

Families all across the country are in that same spot. People who have never visited food banks are having to turn to them to feed their families. Folks are being forced to pawn their things just to afford gas. It is heartbreaking and makes me furious. Reports are showing it is happening across America—in Reno, NV; Macon, GA; Yakima, WA; and the cities in my home State of Florida, like Pensacola and Fort Myers. These people have to turn to their local pawn shops as they see their monthly bills grow higher and higher. When President Biden said that we are going through “an incredible transition,” is this what he meant—Mom and Dad having to sell Bobby's PlayStation and Suzy's doll collection just so they can afford to take them to school?

Since day 1, President Biden has led a campaign against energy independence. The White House, EPA, the Department of the Interior, and the Department of Energy have done everything in their power to make life more expensive for American families. They have implemented one policy after another to raise the price of gas and make life tougher and tougher for hard-working families.

The American people deserve transparency into Biden's Green New Deal agenda and ought to know why these prices keep going up. That is why I introduced the GAS PRICE Act last October. Even then, far before the horrible war in Ukraine began, gas prices were surging higher.

My bill is pretty simple. It would require the Energy Information Administration to report to Congress on any Federal Agency policies or regulations that it determines will cause energy prices to rise. All it does is ask a Federal Agency to provide information to Congress with a statement of facts on what is causing rising energy prices. Then we can take this information, see what needs to be fixed, and help the American people.

I want to thank Senators MARSHALL, LUMMIS, CAPITO, JOHNSON, MORAN, BLACKBURN, and KENNEDY for cosponsoring this legislation. I also want to thank Senator SULLIVAN and Senator LEE for joining me here on the floor today to talk about the energy inflation Joe Biden is imposing on Americans.

Considering that we, as Senators, are trusted by the people of our States to enact policies that improve their lives, I cannot imagine why anyone would oppose this legislation. Sadly, when I came to the Senate floor last year to pass this bill, Senate Democrats opposed it.

At that time, I noted that the national average cost was \$3.36 per gallon. Sounds like a bargain today. Since then, the price of gas has risen dramatically. The average has increased to \$4.46. In 15 of the 17 months Joe Biden has been in office, the price of gas has risen.

When I introduced my bill in October, President Biden said he didn't “have a near-term answer” for reducing gas prices. Well, clearly not—his answer was to raise prices and continue his radical Green New Deal agenda.

Senate Republicans, meanwhile, do have a plan and have offered solutions. I have introduced the FREE American Energy Act to expedite the Federal Agencies' review process of applications for permits, waivers, licenses, or other authorizations related to energy production. But we can take a simple first step today by giving ourselves more information on rising energy prices and pass my GAS Price Act.

For the sake of American families, we need to figure out what the heck is going on. So while my colleagues on the other side of the aisle blocked my bill from passing last year, my hope was that, as they have watched their constituents suffer for months now under Biden's leadership, they would have a change of heart. Sadly, that is not what happened today. It is an absolute shame what has happened in this Chamber.

I came here with my Republican colleagues to promote and pass legislation that would improve the lives of American people and make America less de-

pendent on foreign oil. We came here asking for answers into Biden's Green New Deal agenda. We are here responding to the pain American families are facing at the gas pump and trying to solve problems.

Senate Democrats, meanwhile, have come here to obstruct and blame shift. They didn't come here to solve problems. They didn't come here with a different proposal that would alleviate gas prices and ensure long-term energy independence and sustainability. They came here to make the problem worse. They want to emulate the policies of Germany and California, where rolling blackouts and energy rations are a looming threat and where gas has spent most of this year at over \$6 per gallon.

This is not the way forward. The Senate need leaders who are going to come in and put Americans first. I am grateful for colleagues like Senator SULLIVAN and Senator LEE, who are here to do that. But I hope the American people have been watching what has happened today and see who it is who really cares about the problems they are facing.

I yield the floor to my colleague from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Thank you to the Senator from Florida.

Mr. President, President Biden has wasted no time—no time at all—in embarking on his crusade to hamstring American energy production.

On day 1 of his Presidency, President Biden halted all new oil and gas lease sales on Federal land. Now Americans are paying the price. Across the Nation, people struggle to fill their gas tanks, as prices climb to over \$5 a gallon, but there is apparently no need to worry. According to the President, Americans' pain at the pump is merely part of an energy “transition,” as he puts it.

It is important to note here that this transition is a transition away from affordable, reliable fossil fuels.

It is not that high gas prices are a problem to be fixed but, rather, high gas prices somehow are the solution. They are what will facilitate this transition. The President is getting the results that he wants. This is a feature, the ultimate feature. It is the end goal, not a bug in his plan.

Despite this being part of the plan and, in fact, his objective, it didn't take long for the President to realize how unpopular high gasoline prices really are. Now he is trying to take credit for even a slight reduction in gasoline prices. First, by no means is this reduction sufficient. Second, we can't attribute that reduction to the President's policies.

To be clear, placing a moratorium on the sale of oil and gas leases on Federal land is outside the President's authority. If the President actually possessed that authority, he wouldn't have attempted to portray this as a temporary pause. It is clear that this is a thinly veiled attempt to enact the most radical climate policies our country has

ever seen—policies that have never been enacted by Congress and policies that Congress would not enact.

Our suspicions were confirmed when Gina McCarthy, the President's climate adviser, said during an interview: President Biden remains absolutely committed to not moving forward with additional drilling on public lands.

So much for a temporary moratorium.

Confused as to whether Ms. McCarthy's statement represented the administration's policy, I asked Interior Secretary Deb Haaland whether it was indeed the administration's intention to indefinitely pause the sale of all Federal oil and gas leases. She responded: "I don't know."

"I don't know" is not an acceptable answer to the Utah communities who rely on those oil and gas leases. "I don't know" is not an acceptable answer to Americans paying over \$5 a gallon for gas. "I don't know" isn't an answer to the Americans who have found every aspect of their lives rendered unaffordable by this administration's policies, and now this only adds insult to injury.

The American people simply cannot endure President Biden's clear-as-mud policies any longer. I have introduced legislation to reaffirm that under the Mineral Leasing Act, the President of the United States absolutely does not have the authority to hold the country's domestic energy production hostage. Their continued efforts are coming at the expense of struggling families.

The Biden administration is fighting in court for Presidential authority to enact sweeping changes to American energy policy on a whim. While I believe the courts will arrive at the same conclusion, we can act now to ensure citizens and companies receive the certainty they deserve.

We could end this crusade today if we enacted this legislation and get to work securing American energy independence for generations to come. It is for that reason that I was disappointed when my friend and colleague on the other side of the aisle came and objected to passing this by unanimous consent today. It does, in fact, state what the law already provides anyway. It shouldn't hurt us to make it obvious. Yet he objected even though this policy is harming the American people.

It is disappointing that it had to end this way today, but this is not over. No, we will be back. We will be back as often and for as long as it takes in order to give the American people the relief that they need and that they definitely deserve.

Now I yield the time to my friend and colleague, the Senator from Alaska.

Mr. SULLIVAN. Thank you to my friends from the great State of Utah and the great State of Florida, Senator SCOTT and Senator LEE.

Mr. President, I want to explain to any American who is watching just what happened here because, to be honest, it is kind of shocking what just took place.

Senator SCOTT came down to the floor. He had a bill, S. 3086. Normally when you have a bill that is considered pretty noncontroversial, you can come down and do what is called a unanimous consent, which is you ask the Senate: Do you want to pass the bill? And if anyone objects, they actually have to come down and object in the Senate Chamber.

So what does S. 3086 bill do? Here is the language: "to require the Energy Information Administration to submit to Congress and make publicly available an annual report on Federal Agency policies and regulations and Executive orders that have increased or may increase energy prices in the United States." That is it. That is it. That is the bill. It is one page—less than one page. It is two paragraphs.

All we were doing was asking, why are energy prices in America going through the roof, and is the Federal Government contributing to that through its actions and regulations? It is a really important question. Why is it an important question? It is an important question because when you get out of this bubble in DC and you go home—like I was just home in Alaska last weekend—energy costs and inflation are the No. 1 issue hurting American families—the No. 1 issue. So shouldn't we in the Senate want to know why it is happening?

Now, look, what else happened here—a little bit of inside baseball in the Senate—when a Senator comes down and objects to a UC, usually he gives a strong reason why—strong: Here is my reason why this bill is bad for the country, and I am going to object.

You may have seen my colleague object and say "I am getting the heck out of here; I am not going to explain this" because there is no reason to object to this—none. So he objected and left. He didn't try to defend objecting to this, because every American wants to know.

It is the biggest issue back home, but here is another reason we need the bill: because this President has come up with excuse after excuse after excuse on why energy costs since he got into office have gone through the roof. Let me give you a couple of examples.

He first said: Well, we are emerging from the pandemic, and the supply chain couldn't keep up with demand.

All right, if that is really true, let the Energy Information Administration—of the Biden administration, by the way—see if that is one of the reasons.

OK. Then he said: Well, shoot, the pandemic is kind of over so it is Putin's invasion of Ukraine that is driving the increase in energy prices. Putin's unprovoked, brutal war—which it is unprovoked and brutal—has led to higher energy prices.

And President Biden then started to say it is Putin's price hike. No one is buying that one either because energy prices were spiking way before the brutal invasion of Ukraine.

So then the President started saying: Well, it is COVID and Putin. OK. Then

he started blaming the oil companies. Then he started to say: Well, we have all these amazing permits that we want the oil companies drilling on, but they are not using them.

So we need Senator SCOTT's legislation because the Biden administration, the President himself, has put out all these ideas on why Americans are getting crushed by inflation and high costs at the pump. Yet the one thing the President hasn't done, has never talked about, is he hasn't looked internally and said: Hmm, maybe it is my own administration's policies that are driving up energy costs. Maybe. By the way, it is not maybe; it is certainly. And my colleagues have talked about this. Heck, I talked about this earlier today. I talk about it every day because it is crushing my home State and my constituents.

But what we want the Energy Information Administration to look at is possibly these reasons: Day 1, this administration came in and said: We are going to limit production of American energy.

Anyone who went to econ 101 in college knows that when you start to limit supply, prices go up. Well, that is a culprit.

No. 2, from day 1, they said: We are going to shut down, kill, and delay moving energy through infrastructure—pipelines, LNG terminals. They are doing that all the time. So that is a policy, those are Executive orders limiting the ability to move energy. That sends up costs.

No. 3 is that they have actively gone to the American financial sector—the Biden administration—and told them not to invest in American energy, choking off capital. That increases prices.

So Senator SCOTT's bill would simply ask the experts in the Federal Government, the Energy Information Administration, to just take a look: What is driving up the cost of American energy? What is crushing middle-class working families?

And the reason my colleague objected and then ran off the floor without saying anything is because everybody here knows what the answer is going to be: Joe Biden has done this. It is his policies that are driving up energy costs.

And here is the thing that Senator LEE touched on, and this is the thing that should scare everybody. It is likely purposeful. Pain is the point. They are all talking about this wonderful, glorious transition. Gina McCarthy talks about: Hey, if the prices go up, it will accelerate the transition to renewables. They don't give a damn about the people who are suffering. It is all this green utopia stuff.

All we are asking for is what is driving up the cost of energy on the backs of working-class Americans? That is it. A two-paragraph bill, and my colleagues came and objected to it. And

every American should know this. They don't want you to know what we all know, which is this: The pain at the pump is the purposeful policies of the Biden administration, and the American people are paying for it.

We want the Federal Government to look into the details of this, and the Democrats were just now objecting to that transparent information request. And, in my view, it is shameful.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

(The remarks of Mr. MANCHIN and Ms. COLLINS pertaining to the introduction of S. 4573 and S. 4574 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. COLLINS. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Oklahoma.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, if this body were to look at the tests and the homework, the quizzes, and the essays of the Department of Homeland Security and give them a grade based on their performance for the last year and a half, what would the grade be?

DHS says they have six missions, and they detail out those missions. One of those missions reads: Secure U.S. borders and approaches. Then they give this little piece behind it to describe that.

The Department of Homeland Security secures the Nation's air, land, and sea borders to prevent illegal activity while facilitating lawful travel and trade. What would their grade be on that? And is anyone going to hold them to account for their grade or is this body going to continue to just ignore what is happening on the southern border?

It is the role, it is the task, it is the responsibility of the Department of Homeland Security to help secure our Nation, but this Department is currently facilitating illegal immigration, not stopping illegal immigration.

I wish I was wrong on that, but I am not. In fact, as recent as the last 2 weeks, I met with DHS leadership who described to me the new method they have laid out so you can apply for asylum, come to the United States and come to any airport in the country. So you wouldn't have to come through the southern border; you would just come in. But it would be the same process as what is happening on the southern border where people from 150 countries just this year have crossed our border. They have been checked in by Border Patrol, who know full well they are not legally present here. Then they are released into the country and given 8 years until their hearing—8 years.

Instead of responding to be able to slow down the more than 2 million people who have illegally crossed in just the last year, this administration is actually working to say it is actually not enough people. They are increasing the access points to increase the number of people rather than decrease.

The administration was proud to be able to say in May and in June that the numbers went down slightly from what they were in the previous months. The problem with that is, the previous month was a record, and so was the month before that. If you look at just the June number that, yes, was slightly down from May, it is still the highest June ever recorded by the administration.

We are being overwhelmed with the number of people coming in illegally across our border. The administration is currently releasing people, and their sole focus seems to be on making illegal immigration more efficient rather than more enforced.

What grade would you give DHS? A more specific question: Mr. President, do you want to stop illegal immigration? Because I don't think you do. And I think it is clear that the policies you put in place are directly leading to this record influx of illegal immigration from all over the world.

I wish you could even say: Well, at least we vetted them, but I know that is not true, and so do you. Not a single one of these people entering the country has their criminal background check from the country they are from. We are doing a quick fingerprint analysis to see if they have committed a crime here, but we have no idea of the 150 countries-plus that they are coming from because right now the goal is not to check their criminal history; it is to get them released in the country within 8 hours. Keep it moving. Keep it moving. You don't want to have a clog up at the border. When they cross the border, the goal is to just keep them moving into the country.

Last weekend, I spent the weekend again at our southern border. Serving on the Homeland Security Committee, I spend a lot of time back and forth across that border to be able to evaluate what is happening now because it changes from week to week.

I was in the Rio Grande Valley last weekend spending time with CBP, the Border Patrol, individuals from Air and Marine Operations, from the Department of DPS in Texas, from the National Guard. All of them expressed incredible frustration.

When I got there last Thursday night late, we went on a midnight patrol with Border Patrol. Literally within minutes, we ran through our first group of folks coming across the border, a group of teenagers. Minutes later, literally while that group was being processed, another group was interdicted coming across the border not far away. This time it was 6- and 7-year-old children and a couple of families. While we watched them being processed, they called us on the radio and said that about 2 miles down, they just picked up another group. This time, it was adults, including one pregnant lady who was deep into her eighth month coming across the border to make sure she delivered here in the United States.

One hundred fifty-plus countries just this year are crossing the border because it is open.

I hear the Secretary of DHS say they have secured the border. As I just came from the border, I wonder when the President of the United States is going to actually go to the border to be able to see what is actually happening on the border and the policies they put in place, because so far the President has been able to make it to Saudi Arabia but has not been able to make it to our own southern border to even look once at what is happening on our southern border.

If he goes—someday, I hope—I hope he meets with Border Patrol because the Border Patrol agents I talk to tell me about a time when the border was secure. They tell me about a time not long ago that we added forcible borders and where the policy wasn't to release within hours and the enforcement priority wasn't to get them moving as fast as possible; it was to actually secure the border.

You could meet with the landowners, like I did last weekend, who live in that area. Some of them have lived there for generations, and they are absolutely furious because although they have lived there—and their family—for generations, they have never ever experienced this.

They tell me about how, when they were children, they used to play in this area, and now literally they will not walk out their own door without a firearm on their hip. They told me about multiple vehicles being stolen from their property, windows being smashed at all hours of the day and night, and people walking up to their windows and peering inside.

One rancher told me about his wife, who is pregnant, and his child, who is 2—how they literally fear for their lives every day because of the number of people who are coming across their property and for him personally, the number of dead bodies that they found on their property just this year. This wasn't happening before.

They had a very simple request. Their simple request was: I am an American. Why does my property not count? Why do my rights not count?

The only rights that seem to count are people who are illegally crossing the border. Their rights seem to count, but the rights of Americans do not.

Mr. President, would you be willing to answer his question? Would you be willing to talk to his wife and explain to her why there are bodies on their ranch and people are peering in their windows at all hours and they can't live in safety on their own ranch? That was different just 3 years ago. Would you be willing to explain to them what has changed in your policies, because the goal of this administration seems to be efficient movement of illegal immigration, not stopping illegal immigration.

I met this Monday with leadership from the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics, who explained to me about the

overwhelming amount of methamphetamine that is coming into my State and the number of people who are dying in my State because much of the meth is laced with fentanyl, and it is killing people in my State.

I asked them if the meth is being cooked in Oklahoma, as it used to be, and they said: No, we hardly ever find a lab making meth anymore. It is all coming from Mexico—all of it.

Mexican cartels are actively working in my State to distribute methamphetamine, partnering with Chinese groups who are doing not only the supplies but the distribution network in my State.

When I was in the Rio Grande Valley this weekend, individuals with Customs and Border Protection showed me the numbers. Just this year, just in the Rio Grande Valley, 144 pounds of fentanyl has come in and 27,550 pounds of meth that they have interdicted just in the Rio Grande Valley just this year. Let me run that past you again: 27,550 pounds just in that one area, just this year.

Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics has explained to me that if you go back to 2020, we didn't have the drugs moving this way because the border was not open at that time. Now the drugs are flooding into our State because the border is open.

What grade would you give the Department of Homeland Security when they are allowing our country to be flooded with drugs, when they are choosing to make illegal immigration more efficient rather than stopping illegal immigration? What grade would you give them?

When is this going to change?

I have to tell you, I believe one of the main roles of the Department of Homeland Security is to be able to shut down transnational criminal organizations from functioning inside my State, but instead, just in the Rio Grande Valley, when I talked to them this week, just in that one sector, they estimate that the cartels make \$153 million a week—\$153 million a week just in that area of the Rio Grande Valley, moving people across the border illegally, because each of them has to pay the cartels. In fact, we saw the wristbands that they all wear. Once they pay the cartels, they are marked that they can actually be moved across the border; they paid their amount.

That is \$153 million a week the Biden administration is facilitating in payment to transnational criminal organizations just moving people, based on a liberal policy of "We are going to open the border up to be nice." That policy is facilitating the cartels in Mexico being enriched. They make more a week—a week—in moving people than is the budget for Border Patrol in a year in that area. That is all being facilitated based on this administration making it easier to cross the border and more efficient to cross the border than stopping it.

I am tired of hearing about the number of people who illegally cross the

border. And many in this body just ignore it. I am tired of hearing from the FBI in my State that the price of methamphetamine is going down in my State. It seems like the price of gasoline has soared, the price of food has soared, the price of housing has soared, but the price of meth is going down. Why would that be? Because the supply of meth is going up because it is coming from the cartels in Mexico, and this administration is just looking the other way.

When is this administration going to talk to the landowners in South Texas like I did and hear from them the threats that they face? They are American citizens. When does their life matter?

It is time we address this issue. It is time we actually step up and say that DHS is failing in its most basic task of securing the Nation.

It is time we stopped the illegal drugs coming into our country and killing our kids. It is time. And I am going to continue to come to this floor and to show what the media will not show anymore. They have looked away, and my Democratic colleagues have done the same. They just look away like it doesn't exist, while 2 million people illegally cross the border.

One more stat: Right now, we have somewhere between 4,500 and 8,000 people a day illegally crossing the border—between 4,500 and 8,000 a day illegally crossing the border. May I remind you, President Biden, years ago, called it a humanitarian crisis when 2,000 people a day crossed the border. Now we have between 4,500 and 8,000 a day, day after day after day.

This administration is not only opening up the borders, they have also changed the enforcement priorities here in the United States. So we have round numbers—6,000 people a day illegally entering the country. The Biden administration has changed the role for ICE in deportations. We are currently allowing 6,000 people a day to cross the border, but we are only deporting 161 people a day from the country.

Six thousand a day, every day, day after day after day, illegally coming into the country; 161 people now that we are deporting a day. What would be your grade for DHS in their task of securing the country?

I know what mine is. It is time this body actually does something rather than just look away.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

#### BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. BRAUN. Madam President, I come to the floor this evening—I have been talking about this subject for nearly the 3½ years I have been a Senator. And I will tell you why I think it is important.

We have grown the Federal Government to a level where all the people who look to it, where they are dependent upon it, try to work with it, need

to know honestly where this all ends up if we do not change the trajectory.

I think the easiest way to understand how we have gotten to where we are now is to look to what we used to do in the past.

The country was never founded upon the principles that you borrow money to consume it. Any household, any local or State government knows you can't be successful doing that.

Money should only be borrowed if you are going to invest it or get a tangible return on it; even maybe an intangible one, when you look at investing in education or something like that.

But there has been no system that has ever worked that ends up borrowing money from the future, from its kids and grandkids, to where that is a good business plan. You get immediately derailed in the real world. Imagine in a household, if you take in money and you spend 20 percent more than whatever that is, you will go to a financial counselor. They may get you out of trouble. You keep doing it, you end up in bankruptcy court.

Businesses have the rigor of competition in addition to earning revenues, balancing their own budgets, and being able to invest into the future.

If you follow principles that work everywhere else, it can work here, too, and we owe it to the American public. Like I said earlier, so many look to this place to be their partner in some fashion, and it ought to be one that is going to be there in the future.

Let's look where we have come.

From the founding of the country, we raise revenues, generally, on the basis of need. You would go into debt; you would pay it off.

If you look at 1920, World War I—it is way over here—you borrowed money, defend the country, save others, and you paid it off.

Look what happened during the Great Depression, World War II. That is the deepest we have ever been in debt until we just eclipsed it recently. That is generally measured by how much debt you have as a percentage of your GDP—Great Depression; World War II.

Look where we went after that.

We were savers. We were investors then. We weren't consumers and spenders by nature, and we especially didn't do it through the Federal Government. We kept our debt in check. Even through the great recession, which occurred 2008, 2009, you were starting to see problems crop up. That happened when we put two wars on a credit card.

Like the other side of the aisle said: Well, if you are going to do that, there are a lot of needs in our own country, and certainly there are, from healthcare, education, across the spectrum—Social Security, Medicare.

Look what has happened since then. We have gone from being in relatively good shape pre-Gulf war, Afghanistan. We borrowed that money and then ran into the great recession and spent what

seems like very little compared to how significant that was—\$800 to \$900 billion.

And from that time to the present, I think we just said: We are borrowing money, and we might as well do more. And then you start doing it for things that don't make sense.

I got here 3½ years ago, 18 trillion in debt. We were just approaching the percentage coming out of World War II. Here. We have now passed that and doubling down and going way beyond that.

We are now, here, after the pandemic, where we spent close to \$4 trillion in 2020—a lot of it out of uncertainty. We didn't know much about it. We should have treated that with respect. We now know a lot about it, and we probably didn't need to shut the economy down, which cost us a lot, but we are through it. We certainly shouldn't have doubled down and spent another 3 trillion in 2021.

I am not going to go over—you hear it on the news, you see it. We have got inflation embedded in the economy currently. The last time this occurred, back in the late seventies and the early eighties, when inflation peaked around 10 or 11 percent, it took 5 years to get it back to 2 percent, where we were pre-COVID. We can expect probably something similar. We don't know.

The big difference between now and then is we have got a lot more debt, especially in government, so it is going to be trickier.

So how do we get out of it?

Well, unless we turn the tide, unless we start doing things differently, Medicare, which isn't even being addressed here, has completely depleted its trust fund in about 4½ or 5 years—automatic benefit cuts when that occurs.

Social Security, which has been around since the Depression paying into it, that is depleted in about 10 years.

Those are two large trust funds that will have no balance in them, and then you would have to borrow even more money to pay the benefits.

Let's show a comparison of where we stack up now with other major economies.

Look at that. We have known for a long time Japan, which is the third largest economy, has struggled to figure out how it is going to grow, how it is going to do for future generations what it has done since World War II. It has taken debt to where it is a stranglehold on its economy. Its debt is 237 percent of its GDP.

Now look who is in second place, and this isn't something you want to be in second place on—United States. Our debt currently is 107 percent of our GDP.

India, Germany, China—China, our main geopolitical competitor, under half of the sovereign debt as a percentage of its GDP. That is not a good place to be. They are our geopolitical competitor, and I sense they know that you need to be savers and investors if

you are going to be successful in the future, if you are going to give your people what they are going to need out of a government.

Financially, we are going to be up against them, and they, to me, look like they are doing a lot of things that someday pivot to where we are caught by surprise, and then you don't have the options. We start increasing to be more indebted than what we are, it will be even harder to compete with somebody like them.

We now have a 9.1-percent inflation rate. That is a pay cut for everyone. We now know, I think, what caused it. We need to just quit digging the hole deeper. Let's get out of it. Let's go back to what we know was working, at least financially, pre-COVID. We had no inflation, nominal that is built into what is considered zero inflation, wages rising in the toughest places, and a growth rate that was better than what we had before, close to 3 percent.

We need to start spending less through government, return the productive capacity back to the private sector, and then look at—once we get the ship righted here—what we do better policywise. I am a believer. We need to fix healthcare; it is a broken system. It drives our structural deficits more than anything. Medicare each year—like Warren Buffett says, healthcare in general is a tapeworm on the economy.

What I want to do is face reality. Regardless of the tax rate, over 50 years, we average about 17½ percent of our GDP in Federal Government revenues. If that is all you can get, regardless if you have high tax rates that gives you a lower economic growth or lower tax rates that maybe gives you a percent or more in economic growth, we need to acknowledge it.

My plan does two simple things: acknowledges what our revenue has been over 50 years—17½ percent of our GDP—tapers what we spend into it, takes what we have done here as a maneuver to escape budgeting and appropriating by putting spending on mandatory versus discretionary, which is nothing other than saying: I don't want to budget. I don't want to allocate resources. We are just going to do more each year.

If we keep doing it, we are not going to be able to fund the programs that we all consider important.

So it acknowledges a reasonable revenue level. It moves 375 billion that used to be discretionary that is now mandatory back to discretionary. And then it is going to be up to all of us, as stewards of the Federal Government, to see how we are going to make the right decisions to take that amount and get it down to where we cut it out of the budget.

That would put us, in 10 years, in primary balance, meaning that the only thing that contributes to our deficit is our interest. It would clearly show, too, how the big drivers of our current deficit—Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid, other mandatory spending features—are driving it.

And, yes, if we want to get to a real balanced budget that covers your interest, you would have to actually find ways to do the same things with less money.

Defense is always a topic on my side of the aisle. This spends on defense—arguably the most important thing we need to do as a Federal Government. I think there is a lot of bipartisan interest in defending our country and financing it accordingly. This spends on defense above the CBO line and gets its numbers from the Senate Armed Services Committee, plugs it in.

It is going to be more robust there than what the CBO has by a little bit because I am a believer that what has driven this issue over the long run is what I call the unholy alliance. Folks on my side, whatever it takes, will spend it on defense. I said it is the most important thing we do. Medicare, Social Security, Medicaid—those are important too. They are going broke over time. So we need to work on all of that to rein it in. But defense, the most important thing, is going to be at a level that keeps us secure.

If we don't exercise fiscal restraint, if we don't make the tough decisions that everybody does in running their own budgets, whether it is in a business, a local or State government or even a household, it is going to be a hard landing someday that none of us will like.

A lot of what is about running anything successfully is having a good plan. I don't think our plan makes sense for the future.

But the other component—and I will never forget the first budget meeting I was in here. One of the Senators said: Mike, the reason this keeps coming back and back is we do not have political will.

And whether it is political will that you need to make things work here, whether it is determination, whatever you want to call it—it is the marketplace when you run a business, it is a balanced budget amendment in statute when you have got a State government—there has got to be more discipline.

Let's put that last chart up here.

And I want to re-emphasize, because I got some on my side that think we are not being robust enough on defense. We just looked at that chart where it is the most robust. But I want to go back to this one again. This one says it all. Look at where we have come from where the “greatest generation” left us. Remember, they paid off the debt from World War II and built the Interstate Highway System—to where we are now in literally 40 years.

That is shameful.

All I am saying is, my budget makes it to where we have got 10 years. We don't even have to cover the interest, but we need to bring it back into what is called primary balance.

I would hope we have some friends on the other side of the aisle that see that this makes sense, because we will need it for their priorities. All I can tell you



is, if we have to remediate this by running the system into the ditch, it will be a lot harder of a proposition to get it back to where it was when the greatest generation left us in good shape.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MURPHY. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CARPER. I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader following consultation with the Republican leader, the Senate proceed to the consideration of Calendar No. 399, H.R. 7776; that the Carper-Capito-Cardin-Cramer substitute No. 5140 be considered and agreed to; that there be up to 1 hour of debate, equally divided in the usual form, that upon the use or yielding back of time, if a budget point of order is made, the Senate vote on the motion to waive; and that if the point of order is waived, the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill with 60 affirmative votes required for passage; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. CARPER. Madam President, I might just add: What is all this about? It is about the Water Resources Development Act. We are trying to move it along and expedite it. I want to thank everybody. Senator CAPITO I notice is on the floor, but Senator CARDIN is here and Senator CRAMER as well. Many thanks to all of them and to the leadership on both sides of the aisle. It is important legislation. We are happy to get it moving.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

#### SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2032—Motion To Proceed

Mr. BRAUN. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 448, S. Con. Res. 43.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 448, S. Con. Res. 43, a concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2023 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2024 through 2032.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mr. CARDIN. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY), and the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY).

The result was announced—yeas 34, nays 63, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 265 Leg.]

#### YEAS—34

Barrasso	Fischer	Romney
Blackburn	Grassley	Rubio
Blunt	Hagerty	Scott (FL)
Boozman	Hawley	Scott (SC)
Braun	Hoeven	Sullivan
Cassidy	Johnson	Thune
Cornyn	Lankford	Tillis
Cotton	Lee	Toomey
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Young
Daines	Moran	
Ernst	Risch	

#### NAYS—63

Baldwin	Heinrich	Peters
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Portman
Blumenthal	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Brown	Inhofe	Rounds
Burr	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	Kelly	Sasse
Capito	King	Schatz
Cardin	Klobuchar	Schumer
Carper	Luján	Shaheen
Casey	Manchin	Shelby
Collins	Markey	Sinema
Coons	McConnell	Smith
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Stabenow
Cramer	Merkley	Tester
Duckworth	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warner
Feinstein	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warren
Graham	Padilla	Wicker
Hassan	Paul	Wyden

#### NOT VOTING—3

Kennedy	Leahy	Whitehouse
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The motion was rejected.

(Mr. OSSOFF assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The majority leader.

#### CHIPS ACT OF 2022

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as I announced earlier today, in a few moments, I will file cloture on a major piece of legislation that will help our country lower costs, increase American manufacturing, strengthen supply chains, and preserve American competitiveness on into the 21st century. It is a very significant piece of legislation, and it will ensure that America and the American economy remain No. 1 on into the 21st century.

Specifically, our chips-plus package will now include incentives for domestic microchip projection, including ITC; support for our wireless communication supply chain—ORAN—and bil-

lions dedicated to scientific research, which includes many of the provisions Senator YOUNG and I authored in the Endless Frontier Act in partnership 2 years ago.

By filing cloture tonight, we are keeping this bill on track for final passage very soon. There has been strong bipartisan support already behind this legislation so I hope we can come to an agreement to get it done as quickly as it can because it is so important for the future of the country.

Mr. President, what is the pending business?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the pending business.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

House message to accompany H.R. 4346, a bill making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Schumer amendment No. 5135 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment), relating to the CHIPS Act of 2022.

Schumer amendment No. 5136 (to amendment No. 5135), to add an effective date.

Schumer motion to refer the bill to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with instructions, Schumer amendment No. 5137, to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 5138 (to (the instructions) amendment No. 5137), to modify the effective date.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. I send a cloture motion to the desk.

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 motion to concur in the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 4346, a bill making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes, with amendment No. 5135.

Charles E. Schumer, Maria Cantwell, Ben Ray Luján, Jon Tester, Richard Blumenthal, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Tina Smith, John W. Hickenlooper, Mazie Hirono, Mark R. Warner, Debbie Stabenow, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Jacky Rosen, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth, Christopher Murphy.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 996, Carmen G. Cantor, of Puerto Rico, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior; that the Senate



vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Carmen G. Cantor, of Puerto Rico, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Cantor nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader of the Senate to proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 902; that there be 10 minutes of debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate proceed to vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order and any related statements be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

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

### CONDEMNING THE USE OF HUNGER AS A WEAPON OF WAR AND RECOGNIZING THE EFFECT OF CONFLICT ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY AND FAMINE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 434, S. Res. 669.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 669) condemning the use of hunger as a weapon of war and recognizing the effect of conflict on global food security and famine.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the re-

solving clause and insert the part printed in italic and with an amendment to strike the preamble and insert the part printed in italic, as follows:

*Whereas, in 2020, an estimated 155,000,000 people experienced crisis levels of food insecurity (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification phase 3 or above), with nearly 100,000,000 people living in environments where conflict was the main driver of hunger, and the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated rising levels of global food insecurity;*

*Whereas conflict acutely impacts vulnerable populations such as women and children, persons with disabilities, refugees, and internally displaced persons;*

*Whereas the impacts of conflict on food security can be direct, such as displacement from land, destruction of livestock grazing areas and fishing grounds, or destruction of food stocks and agricultural assets, or indirect, such as disruptions to food systems, leading to increased food prices or decreased household purchasing power, or decreased access to supplies that are necessary for food production and preparation, including agricultural inputs, water, and fuel;*

*Whereas conflict disrupts the distribution and buying and selling of food within a food system, including by creating shortages in production, increasing real and perceived risks for travel and transport, enabling the formation of illegal distribution channels and markets, and contributing to the breakdown of a government's ability to enforce regulations or perform its judiciary functions;*

*Whereas aerial bombing campaigns targeting agricultural heartlands, and the use of scorched earth methods of warfare, landmines, and other explosive devices have direct impacts on the ability of vulnerable populations to feed themselves;*

*Whereas effective humanitarian response in conflict, including in response to the threat of conflict-induced famine and food insecurity, requires respect for international humanitarian law by all parties to such conflict, and allowing and facilitating the rapid and unimpeded movement of humanitarian relief to all those in need;*

*Whereas efforts to restrict humanitarian aid and the operational integrity and impartiality of humanitarian aid works and distribution efforts, including through the imposition of blockades, security impediments, or irregular bureaucratic requirements, are another means by which combatants employ starvation and food deprivation as a weapon of war; and*

*Whereas the United States Government has multiple tools to fight global hunger, protect lifesaving assistance, and promote the prevention of conflict, including through the Global Fragility Act of 2019 (title V of division J of Public Law 116-94), the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (Public Law 114-195), and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334), and has the potential to hold accountable those using hunger as a weapon of war through the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (subtitle F of title XII of Public Law 114-328): Now, therefore, be it*

*Resolved,*

*That the Senate—*

#### **SECTION 1. SENSE OF THE SENATE.**

*The Senate—*

*(1) condemns the use of hunger as a weapon of war through the—*

*(A) starvation of civilians;*

*(B) intentional and reckless destruction, removal, looting, or rendering useless objects necessary for food production and distribution, such as farmland, markets, mills, food processing and storage facilities, foodstuffs, crops, livestock, agricultural assets, waterways, water systems, drinking water facilities and supplies, and irrigation networks;*

*(C) denial of humanitarian access and the deprivation of objects indispensable to people's survival, such as food supplies and nutrition resources; and*

*(D) willful interruption of market systems for populations in need, including through the prevention of travel and manipulation of currency exchange; and*

*(2) calls on the United States Government to—*

*(A) prioritize diplomatic efforts to call out and address instances where hunger and intentional deprivation of food is being utilized as a weapon of war, including through efforts to ensure that security operations minimize civilian harm and do not undermine livelihoods of civilian populations;*

*(B) continue efforts to address severe global food insecurity through effective humanitarian response efforts, including through the provision of United States in-kind food assistance, vouchers, and other flexible food aid modalities;*

*(C) ensure existing interagency strategies, crisis response efforts, and ongoing programs consider, integrate, and adapt to conflict situations, including by utilizing crisis modifiers in United States Agency for International Development programming to respond to rapid shocks and stress such as the willful targeting of food systems; and*

*(D) ensure that the use of hunger as a weapon of war is considered within the employment of tools to hold individuals, governments, militias, or entities responsible, such as the Global Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22 U.S.C. 2656), where appropriate, and taking into consideration the need for humanitarian exemptions and the protection of lifesaving assistance.*

#### **SEC. 2. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

*Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as authorizing the use of military force or the introduction of United States forces into hostilities.*

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment to the resolution be agreed to.

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

The committee-reported amendment in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know of no further debate on the resolution, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is on agreeing to the resolution, as amended.

The resolution (S. Res. 669), as amended, was agreed to.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute to the preamble be agreed to, the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and 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 committee-reported amendment to the preamble in the nature of a substitute was agreed to.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

### NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration, and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 686.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 686) designating July 23, 2022, as “National Day of the American Cowboy”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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. 686) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of June 22, 2022, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 2022 AS NATIONAL SARCOMA AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 694.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 694) expressing support for the designation of July 2022 as “National Sarcoma Awareness Month”.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the Johnson amendment to the preamble at the desk be agreed to, that the preamble as amended be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 694) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 5143) was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble.)

In paragraph (2) of the second whereas clause of the preamble, strike “7,000” and insert “7,200”.

In paragraph (3) of the second whereas clause of the preamble, strike “any 1 time” and insert “any given time”.

In the third whereas clause of the preamble, strike “20” and insert “15”.

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

S. RES. 694

Whereas sarcoma is a rare cancer of the bones or connective tissues, such as nerves, muscles, joints, fat, and blood vessels, that can arise nearly anywhere in the body;

Whereas, in the United States—

(1) about 16,000 individuals are diagnosed with sarcoma each year;

(2) approximately 7,200 individuals die from sarcoma each year; and

(3) about 50,000 individuals struggle with sarcoma at any given time;

Whereas, each year, about 1 percent of cancers diagnosed in adults and around 15 percent of cancers diagnosed in children are sarcoma;

Whereas more than 70 subtypes of sarcoma have been identified;

Whereas the potential causes of sarcoma are not well understood;

Whereas treatment for sarcoma can include surgery, radiation therapy, or chemotherapy;

Whereas sarcoma is often misdiagnosed and underreported; and

Whereas July 2022 would be an appropriate month to designate as National Sarcoma Awareness Month—

(1) to raise awareness about sarcoma; and

(2) to encourage more individuals in the United States to get properly diagnosed and treated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of July 2022 as “National Sarcoma Awareness Month”.

#### REMEMBERING FORMER PRIME MINISTER OF JAPAN SHINZO ABE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 706.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 706) remembering former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. SCHUMER. 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.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 706) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of July 13, 2022, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### MEASURE READ THE FIRST TIME—H.R. 8404

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I understand that 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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 8404) to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, 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 is heard.

The bill will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

#### CHIPS ACT

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the Senate floor today to correct the record, really. Some of my colleagues in the Chamber voted yesterday to begin consideration of this chips package that we have talked about a lot because they believed it included legislation called Safeguarding American Innovation Act, or SAIA, the bipartisan, Senate-passed, White-House supported, essential legislation to protect taxpayer-funded research and intellectual property from being taken, stolen, by China and other adversaries and then used against us.

It is understandable people thought that because the SAIA research security provisions were in the broader USICA bill that passed the Senate last year. In fact, as the coauthors of USICA know, it was the reason I was one of the then-original Republican cosponsors of USICA and only because of that. At that time, we needed Republican cosponsors. And it is understandable because, this week, all Republican offices were emailed a list of items by the lead Republican on this bill which included chips-plus legislation, including SAIA.

So Republicans, when they voted yesterday, thought SAIA was part of it. Even today, Democrats and Republicans alike have come up to me and said they thought SAIA was in this bill.

By the way, they want it in this bill, but it is not. It was stripped out of this USICA. I filed an amendment to get it back into this package because it is so crucial to the goal of the overall effort, which is, of course, to improve our country's competitiveness, especially with regard to China. To do that, we must not only invest in more American research and innovation, which I support, but we have to protect that taxpayer-funded research and intellectual property from being stolen by our adversaries and used against us.

Given the current realities, without such protections, I believe this chips-plus bill, with significantly increased levels of Federal funding for research, may well become a giveaway to Beijing.

China's made no secret of its goal to supplant the United States as the global economic leader, and China has been willing to use every tool at its disposal to be able to do that. As FBI Director Christopher Wray has warned:

The greatest long-term threat to our nation's information and intellectual property, and to our economic vitality, is the counterintelligence and economic espionage threat from China.

Director Wray has characterized China as the largest threat to our ideas, our innovation, and our economic security, noting that the FBI has opened 2,000 cases focused on China stealing our research, with one case being opened approximately every 12 hours.

A number of us, in a totally bipartisan process, have been working on protecting research for the past 4 years. In 2019, an investigative report of the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations of the Committee on Homeland Security, which I chaired with Senator CARPER as the ranking member, documented, after a yearlong investigation, how China uses talent recruitment programs—like the Thousand Talents Plan—to target the science and technology sectors. Talent recruitment plans recruit high-quality overseas talent—primarily from the United States—including academics, scientists, engineers, entrepreneurs, even finance experts. The plans provide monetary benefits and other incentives to lure experts into providing proprietary information or research to China. This is in violation of our laws and conflict of interest rules. China, in turn, exploits American research, intellectual property, and open collaboration—often U.S. taxpayer-funded—for its own economic and military gain at our expense.

Really, when you think about it, the rise in China's military and economy over the past couple decades is, in part, being fueled by American taxpayer-paid research, where they have essentially leapfrogged us and commercialized it more quickly than us and used it against us.

In just one of many examples, recently, a researcher in Kansas hid his full-time employment with a Chinese research university to obtain Federal grant funding for six different Department of Energy and National Science Foundation contracts.

Remember, the funding in this bill primarily goes to the National Science Foundation. In fact, the Department of Health and Human Services inspector general recently released a report that found that two-thirds of the NIH grant recipients—another place a lot of research is done, NIH—failed to meet Federal requirements regarding foreign financial interests including instances of U.S.-funded researchers failing to disclose ties with the Chinese Government.

In fact, since our investigation and hearing, there have been at least 23 different researchers that have been arrested by Federal authorities for research theft. In testimony before the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, John Brown, then-assistant director of the FBI's Counterintelligence Division said:

The Communist government of China has proven that it will use any means necessary to advance its interests at the expense of others, including the United States, and pursue its long-term goal of being the world's

superpower by 2049. . . . The Chinese government knows that economic strength and scientific innovation are the keys to global influence and military power. So Beijing aims to acquire our . . . expertise, to erode our competitive advantage and supplant the United States as a global superpower.

Then-commander, U.S. Cyber Command, General Keith Alexander described intellectual property theft and cyber espionage in general as “the greatest transfer of wealth in history.”

The sentiment was underscored by former national security adviser, retired LTG H.R. McMaster. When asked about China's growing and intertwined military and economic threat at a March 2021 Armed Services Committee hearing, Lieutenant General McMaster stressed the need for the United States to defend itself saying:

It's gut-wrenching to see how much has been stolen right from under our noses. And much of that research [is] funded by Congress. . . . I think the financial dimension of this is something worth a great deal of scrutiny. We are, in large measure, underwriting our own demise.

That is why Senator CARPER and I introduced the Safeguarding American Innovation Act and insisted it be included in the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs title of USICA. And, again, it was, and it passed. And it is part of the research funding—additional research funding to have these protections around it. It would be necessary even if there was not additional research funding, but now we are spending tens of billions of dollars of more taxpayer money and not providing this security.

Based on feedback from the law enforcement and research community, the legislation goes directly to the root of the problem. It makes it punishable by law to knowingly fail to disclose foreign funding on Federal grant applications.

The FBI wants that badly. It requires the executive branch to streamline and coordinate grant-making between the Federal Agencies so there is continuity, accountability, and coordination. It allows the State Department to deny visas to foreign researchers coming to the United States to exploit the openness of our research enterprise and requires research institutions and universities to do more, including telling the State Department whether a foreign researcher will have access to export-controlled technologies.

The State Department wants this badly. The career people at the State Department helped us write these provisions. They need this authority. They don't have it now.

So a vital component of any competitiveness bill must be this commonsense, noncontroversial, extensively negotiated, bipartisan bill. It is a matter of our national security. I have described the extraordinary theft of taxpayer-paid research under current funding levels. Again, it is unthinkable that we would add tens of billions of more taxpayer dollars to sensitive research, as we propose, in the CHIPS-

plus package and not protect that research from China and other adversaries.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this amendment to ensure that it is part again—as it has been in the past; we all voted for it—of the underlying package.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

#### U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, on July 4, we celebrated the founding of our Nation, as we do every year. But when I woke up on this July 4, I had a strange thought, a thought I never had before, the question of, What kind of country are we celebrating?

I have always had immense pride in the founding vision of our Nation, in that vision of equality, of opportunity for all, of freedom of religion, of equal justice under the law, of equal representation, and, most importantly, of government of, by, and for the people.

Our journey as a nation over nearly 250 years has been a difficult journey of moving toward full implementation of this vision. That is an inspiring journey—a journey I have been proud to witness, a journey I have been proud to be a part of.

But just days before this year's July 4 celebration, we saw the conclusion of the Supreme Court's latest judicial term—a term over which the Court displayed a far different vision for America: one with devastating repercussions that will reverberate in the lives of countless Americans for decades to come.

For years now—actually, for decades, we have watched a steady, relentless effort by rightwing extremists to rig the courts so they can transform America and American society as we have known it. Their big goal is corporations over people and their second goal is to implement conservative cultural policy over individual freedom and liberty.

Now, with this Court's recent decisions, we are left with an inescapable conclusion: The extremists have succeeded. The Court is now operating as an unelected super-legislature with a MAGA political agenda. Their decisions this term read like planks out of the Republican Party platform.

Here is what the MAGA Court's vision is for our Nation. It is a vision that obliterates the right to privacy, giving an overbearing Federal Government the power to be in the medical exam room making reproductive health decisions for American women, when the only people who should be in the exam room, under an “of and by the people” Republic is the woman, her doctor, and whomever else she chooses to invite—her partner, her friend, or her religious adviser.

This Court's vision is a vision that embraces never-ending gun violence, stripping Congress and the States of

the ability to make commonsense gun safety laws.

It is a vision of a nation where public schools can impose religion on their students. So much for freedom of religion and separation of church and State.

It is a vision of a nation where wrongfully incarcerated Americans don't have the right to prove their innocence and can't find justice if their Miranda rights were violated. So much for the principle of equal justice under law, the very principle carved into stone above the doors of the Supreme Court. In fact, if you go out this door and out the front steps, you can see those words while standing here on the steps of the Senate.

This Court's vision is of a nation where the Court strips the Federal Government of its legally enacted power to regulate fossil carbon and fossil methane pollution that is destroying our Nation and our planet.

It is a vision where the powerful corrupt the integrity of our elections with gerrymandering and dark money and measures to prevent targeted groups of Americans from voting.

This vision is a vision for a government by and for the powerful, not by and for the people.

This vision in which the Supreme Court becomes a superlegislature for a MAGA agenda infuriates me. It infuriates me because I believe in government by and for the people, not by and for the powerful. It infuriates me because I know the pain that these decisions will inflict on millions of Americans—the pain of a woman forced by a State government to carry a fetus to term that was conceived through rape or incest or the pain of any woman, for that matter, who simply is unprepared to be pregnant or become a parent; the pain of every single person who will have to mourn the death of a loved one lost to an ever-growing epidemic of gun violence and mass shootings like we saw in Uvalde and in Highland Park and in countless other communities with more than one mass shooting per day; the pain of the citizens blocked from the ballot box, effectively denied their most fundamental right as Americans because of voter suppression schemes enacted in many States over this past year; the pain of students in our public schools pressured to participate in religious acts in conflict with their own beliefs; the pain of rural Americans, ranchers, and farmers whose farms and ranches will be lost to fire and drought because the Court says the Federal Government cannot regulate fossil carbon and fossil methane causing climate chaos.

And I am infuriated because I know more Supreme Court decisions like these are coming from the six MAGA Justices on the Court. They want to cement their vision of America through superlegislative powers rather than calling the balls and strikes defending the Constitution, which is their job.

They have announced that next term they are going to hear a case on the

fringe doctrine known as the independent State legislature doctrine. It has been considered an extremist idea, which says only State legislatures have the power to make decisions about Federal elections and how to appoint electors. State courts would have no power to ensure checks and balances or decide which decisions about elections violate a State constitution or ignore the will of the voters, nor could State Governors veto such legislative decisions. And that is just the start.

Justice Thomas himself said in his concurring opinion that, based on the reasoning in *Dobbs*, he wants the Court to consider a whole host of other rights that have been secured and protected by previous Courts, including the possibility of striking down the right to intimacy and marriage for same-sex couples and the right to contraception.

Make no mistake, this is not some sudden occurrence. It is exactly what the Federalist Society has been working toward for decades.

Before joining the Court in 1972, Lewis Powell wrote about the need to rebuild the power of industrial elites and fight back “from the college campus, the pulpit, the media, the intellectual and literary journals, the arts and sciences, and from politicians” against progressive changes in society. In outlining a plan for rebuilding the power of Big Business, he declared that, with an activist-minded Supreme Court, the judiciary may be the most important instrument for achieving that goal.

That is exactly why, as majority leader in 2017, Senator McCONNELL stole a Supreme Court seat from one President so another President could fill it. He stole it in 2016, and he filled it in 2017 with MAGA Justice Neil Gorsuch. It is why, in 2018, Leader McCONNELL completely ignored credible accounts of sexual assault and rushed through a confirmation without giving Senators access to the nominee's full records and bypassing committee quorum rules to fill another seat with MAGA Justice Brett Kavanaugh. And it is why, when a seat opened up in another election year, 2020, just weeks before the voters would vote, Leader McCONNELL completely reversed his argument that he had used to justify the theft of a Supreme Court seat in 2016, and he rammed through the nomination of MAGA Justice Amy Coney Barrett.

The Republican Party has won one popular vote for President in the last 30 years but has appointed two-thirds of the sitting Justices, who now see it as their job to become a super-legislature for a cultural agenda and corporate power.

In one of his columns, Eugene Robinson of the Washington Post described the resulting unelected, unaccountable majority of Supreme Court Justices as a “junta”—a word used to describe authoritarian leaders who rule through edicts rather than through legislative determination or deliberation on constitutional principles. It is hard to

argue with Eugene Robinson's characterization.

In spite of what the vast majority of Americans want—the protection of a woman's right to full reproductive healthcare and more gun safety, not less, and free and fair elections—the Court's MAGA majority has chosen to rule by Supreme Court edict to inflict their narrow preferences for society on hundreds of millions of Americans.

And they are not just using the regular process for considering cases. Over the past 5 years, we have seen a monumental shift in the Court's use of emergency orders—the so-called shadow docket—to enact sweeping decisions on the American people. These cases don't get the full process we are familiar with—formal briefings, formal hearings, lengthy deliberations, and opinion writings—because it is argued that the applicant would suffer “irreparable harm” if their request were not immediately granted.

The shadow docket decisions, by the way, are usually unsigned and unexplained. In the past, they have essentially involved death penalty cases—cases of literal life and death—of pretty much extreme importance to the applicant because, if someone is executed before their case is heard, they do suffer “irreparable harm”—the standard.

Then, about 5 years ago, we started to see a big shift in the emergency cases being taken up and in the substances of them as well.

We have seen the shadow docket used to stop the Federal Government from implementing a vaccine and testing mandate on businesses to protect public health in the middle of an unprecedented global health crisis that has killed more than a million Americans.

We have seen it used to uphold a Texas law banning abortion after 6 weeks.

We have seen it used when a lower court blocked Alabama's congressional map because it violated the Voting Rights Act by diluting the political power of Black voters.

The Court said: You have got to draw a new map that is fair.

The Supreme Court stepped in with their shadow docket and said: No. Alabama can use this faulty map that dilutes the power of Black Americans.

In this situation, the Court didn't stop the infliction of harm; they inflicted the harm on Black Americans, who want fair maps, who deserve fair maps for voting in our democracy. That gerrymandered map is now in place to disenfranchise Black voters in this November's election because of the Supreme Court's use of the shadow docket.

It is hard to see how any of these cases met the test for the shadow docket.

The state of abuse of the shadow docket has gotten so bad and so blatant that even Justice Roberts, the Chief Justice of the Court, joined a dissent in a case reinstating a Trump administration Clean Water Act regulation limiting Federal protections for streams and wetlands. This dissent

stated that the majority's decision "renders the court's emergency docket," meaning the shadow docket, "not for emergencies at all . . . . The docket becomes only another place for merits determinations—except made without full briefing and argument." When the Supreme Court's Chief Justice says the shadow docket is being abused, you know it is true.

This MAGA Court is so determined to impose their legislative priorities and values on our country that they have abandoned one of the core principles of American jurisprudence, going back to even before there was a United States of America, and that is that the Court only rules when there is an actual dispute or controversy in question.

In their eagerness to cripple the Federal Government's ability to fight fossil carbon pollution, the MAGA Justices weighed in on a regulation that had never been enforced—a regulation that had been withdrawn by President Trump and a regulation which President Biden had indicated was never going to be reinstated. Even the utilities that would have been regulated didn't want the Supreme Court to decide this case. This out-of-control MAGA Supreme Court super-legislature wanted to legislate—and legislate they did—violating a core principle that the Court does not address moot cases. Moot cases are cases where there is nothing still in dispute, and this certainly was the case that this case was as dead or as moot as it could be because nobody could be impacted by a rule that doesn't exist.

Why did the Court take up this case?

Well, we may not be able to specify the exact reasoning by each Justice, but the effect is clear. By taking up this case, the Court furthered the MAGA policy agenda. Their ruling handcuffed Federal authorities' ability to pursue future limitations on pollutions from fossil fuels like carbon dioxide and fossil methane. This is to the enormous benefit of the fossil fuel billionaires who funded the massive dark money campaigns that supported these Justices' confirmations. That situation of their breaking precedent to benefit the fossil billionaires, who had just funded their confirmation campaigns, reeks of corruption.

When generations ahead of us look back at this moment, I have no doubt—especially when they look at this year, 2022, and what the Court did in a single year—they will look back with a sense of profound disbelief—disbelief—like that disbelief that we experience when we look back on cases like *Dred Scott*, which dehumanized Black Americans and legitimized slavery, or *Plessy v. Ferguson*, which locked in 60 years of vicious discrimination and racial terrorism under a separate but equal philosophy.

The disbelief that future generations will have will be directed at *Dobbs*—a decision this year in which the Court obliterated privacy and put an overbearing government in charge of women's reproductive health.

They will have the disbelief that, in *Kennedy v. Bremerton*—decided this year—the Court destroyed freedom of religion in our public schools; the disbelief that, in *West Virginia v. EPA*—a decision this year—the Court violated centuries of precedent to rule on a regulation that is no longer on books, with the effect—perhaps the goal—of limiting the future regulation of greenhouse gas pollution; the disbelief in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen*—decided this year—that the Court ruled that a State legislature can't require folks to have a good reason to carry a concealed weapon in public spaces.

Let me be clear. This activist, extremist MAGA Court faces a legitimacy crisis, and a legitimacy crisis for the Court is a crisis for our democratic Republic. Part of that illegitimacy is Justices of the Supreme Court selectively using a doctrine of so-called originalism to justify their politically inspired decisions. The doctrine of originalism is based on a reasonable argument, one on which you and I would say makes sense: a goal of understanding what the Founders meant when they wrote what they wrote in our Constitution more than two centuries ago. But if that effort is applied selectively, it simply becomes a measure to justify, after the fact, where the Justices want it to come out. They use it when it works, and they abandon it when it doesn't.

For example, the Founders wrote the Second Amendment to ensure that members of well-regulated militias had access to their rifles, but the so-called originalists on the Court cast originalism aside, declaring that the Founders wrote that clause to ensure that nonmilitia members had the right to bring assault rifles—that didn't exist in 1787—onto subways, which didn't exist in 1787. That is bogus originalism in its purist form.

Consider this: Corporations, as we know them today, did not exist in 1787. Yet the so-called originalists on the Court insist that the Founders' vision of the First Amendment, to protect freedom of speech, gives corporations speech rights even though the word "corporation" doesn't appear in the Constitution—a point that they use when they want to take an originalist argument: that the Founders had to have it be something written in the Constitution and be something they discussed and something they envisioned. None of those are true. Not a one of them is true in this case.

The MAGA Court also claims that a corporation is a person, which no Founder would ever have argued. They didn't even know what a "corporation" was because they didn't exist in this form that we have now.

The MAGA Court goes on to claim that the members comprising the corporate personhood—those are the stockholders of a corporation—have absolutely no right to know how that cor-

poration that they are part of spends their money. This is absurdity stacked on the fallacy that a corporation is a person.

I have yet to see and yet to hear any plausible explanation as to how the MAGA Justices can be confident that the Founders intended for billionaire CEOs to hijack the accumulated wealth of their stockholders without their stockholders' knowledge or permission or opportunity to know what is being said and to use that money as speech and to spend it on secretly funded campaigns, including campaigns to confirm Supreme Court Justices.

The problem we face, colleagues, isn't just a MAGA-majority Court enacting terrible policy rather than defending the balls and strikes against the Constitution. The problem is greater if the highest Court in the land loses its legitimacy, the law itself loses its legitimacy. If the American people see the Supreme Court Justices making clear that the law has no meaning other than their political preferences, then the law is not the foundation for our society that it is supposed to be.

We have seen with deadly results on January 6, 2021, the consequences to our policies, to our politics, and to our society when the rule of law is replaced by violence and power as the organizing principle for society.

The Court is essential in a society based on the rule of law, and it is essential to have a Court that honors the law rather than trying to write the law.

This MAGA majority and its desire, and operation as a super-legislature—unelected, lifetime appointments—is a dire threat to our Republic. Here in Congress, we must not only shine a light—a spotlight—on the threat; we must stop the runaway MAGA Court from corrupting the rule of law and try to restore the legitimate role of the Court as a panel defending our Constitution.

Some will say there is no way to restore the Court and that any strategy for restoring the Court will simply compound the problems we are now facing, and I agree that there is no simple way to restore the legitimacy of the Court.

Back in 2017, when then-Majority Leader MCCONNELL was striving to complete the theft of the Supreme Court seat taken from the administration of Barack Obama, I took to this floor for 15½ hours with one simple message: Don't do it. Don't do it because, if you do, you will damage the legitimacy of the Court and there will be no simple path, no easy remedy to restore the Court's legitimacy.

But Leader MCCONNELL, he doused the Supreme Court with gasoline on that day, and he set it on fire. He did the damage. I stood here for 15½ hours and said don't do it.

You know, we take an oath of office to a Constitution. That involves defending the Court, not delegitimizing the Court, not stealing Supreme Court



seats. It was the first time in the history of the United States of America that this Senate failed to debate and vote on a nominee. But here we are; the damage is done. What do we do now?

When an arsonist sets fire to your house, you don't let it burn because you are worried about water damage. You have to strive to put out that fire, regardless of how difficult the task. So I say to you today, we cannot accept the defeatist attitude that fails to confront the forces destroying our Republic.

There are two things we must do. Mission one, we have to reform the ability of this broken Senate to serve as a legislature because, if it serves effectively as a legislature, it can serve as a counterweight to decisions of a corrupted Court.

The second thing we have to do is put all options on the table and debate them for directly reforming the Court, recognizing that we are left with difficult choices on how to do that. But we have to step up. It is necessary to save our Republic.

So let's take each of these missions in turn. The first is to restore the Senate.

Our goal: Restore the Senate as a legislative body to serve as a counterweight to the corruption of a MAGA-majority Court.

There are three massive problems currently afflicting the Senate's ability to serve as a functioning legislative body. First, we spend virtually all of our time on nominations, so much time that it keeps us from doing much legislating, even though we have a massively complex society and a lot of possibilities for making it work better.

When George Washington was assembling his first administration, he had to appoint and the Senate had to confirm four Cabinet positions: Secretary of War, Secretary of the Treasury, Secretary of State, and Attorney General—four positions. Today, the Senate is responsible for confirming over 1,200 Presidential appointments to executive branch positions and commissions.

Now, in the past, both parties worked to exercise the Senate's advice and consent responsibilities in a manner that minimized the amount of Senate time required. Most were done by unanimous consent late at night, when practically anyone was here because most nominations are not ones to which anyone has an objection.

In the entire decade of the 1960s, there was one vote required to close debate on a nominee—one, in an entire 10 years. But, last decade, that number went to 545. Now, it is like every nomination. Virtually every nomination we have to file to close debate and vote to close debate before we can vote on the nominee. And do you know what? The way it works, you can also require 30 hours of debate after the vote to close debate succeeds.

So the rules, which were designed for exceptional situations where there is a

significant objection, are now used as partisan obstruction.

Democrats are in the minority. They want to tie up the Republicans. So they have little time to legislate.

Republicans are in the minority. They want to tie up the Democrats. So they have little time to legislate.

They want each other to fail, partly because they disagree and partly because they know if the other side succeeds in making something work, the voters might reward them at the ballot box.

We have to massively streamline this nomination process. We have to—100 Senators—work together, not do what is best for us when we are in the majority and oppose it when we are in the minority, or vice versa. We all have a responsibility to completely streamline that process so we can return to being a legislature.

The second big problem for the Senate is that the rules provide a complicated, time-consuming process for debating and voting on whether to debate a bill. It involves a motion to proceed or requirement to close debate on the motion to proceed and whose nomination is up to 30 hours of additional of debate—all on the question of whether to debate. You have 100 capable people sent here by their constituents in their various States to solve problems for America, not to spend a week debating whether to debate a single bill. That could be a week spent debating the amendments that could make the bill better, a week spent considering individual pieces of the bills so the public knows where we stand and there is public accountability. But, instead, we have partisan paralysis. A completely dysfunctional Senate, that is what we have. We have to change the rules to stop this completely meritless waste of the time and efforts of 100 Senators.

It is an easy solution: 1 hour spent debating whether to debate a bill, and then a simple majority vote, either we go to the bill or we don't; easy solution. One hour makes much more sense than 1 week.

The third big problem this Senate Chamber faces is a secret silent filibuster. Under the Senate rule—and by the way, the term “filibuster” is really inappropriate because this involves no speaking of any kind. Under the Senate rule, 41 Senators can, operating as a block, veto the opportunity for the Senate to debate a bill, veto the opportunity for the Senate to consider an amendment, and veto the ability, after amendments have been considered, to have a final vote on the bill. It is the triple veto: three opportunities for the minority to blockade the majority from being able to consider legislation to address the issues facing America. And both parties have attempted to use it when they are in the minority. We have to restore the ability to actually debate.

It is exactly what the Founders feared. When I lay out that 41 can block and veto these 3 steps of the

process, it means to reverse it—that 60 out of 100, a supermajority, has to agree to go forward through each of those three steps.

The Founders warned us: Never allow the minority to make the decisions by requiring a supermajority. Don't do it.

That is why James Madison said that, with a supermajority, when “the general good might require new laws . . . the principle of free government would be reversed. It would no longer be the majority that would rule: the power would be transferred to the minority.”

It is why Alexander Hamilton warned that a supermajority requirement would result in “tedious delays; continual negotiation and intrigue; contemptible compromises of the public good.”

He also warned that “the history of every political establishment in which this principle has prevailed”—the principle of supermajority—“is a history of impotence, perplexity, and disorder.”

Now, you may wonder if the Founders had simply read about someone somewhere requiring a supermajority for legislature and said it didn't work very well and thought, We had better warn Americans not to do this. No, they were writing from their direct experience because, as they were drafting and debating our 1787 Constitution, they were actually in the middle of living through the impotence and incompetence of the Confederation Congress.

Under the Articles of Confederation, which preceded our 1787 Constitution, the Congress had to have a supermajority on every provision; meaning, the position of the minority could prevail over the position of the majority. The result was paralysis on the most fundamental issues they faced. They failed to raise the funds to pay the pensions of the veterans who spilled their blood in the Revolutionary War that created this Nation. They failed to raise the funds to put down Shays' Rebellion.

Well, today, we have not one stage of veto, like they faced in the Confederation Congress, we have the triple veto power under the current secret, silent filibuster, and we are seeing the same impotence, the same paralysis, the same partisanship that it drives.

The triple veto power of the minority is destroying the Senate to address challenges facing America, and there are a lot of them.

We have got the climate crisis that is literally setting our country on fire. Right now, at this very moment, around 40 million Americans across the Plains and the Mississippi Valley are dealing with alerts for dangerous and intense heat, while firefighters are confronting 89 large fires across 12 States. And as of last week, four times as much acreage has burned this year as last year at this moment.

And it is not just America, of course. Across the Atlantic, Europe is going through a recordbreaking heat wave, reaching temperatures some of those



places have never seen and causing wildfires to burn in France and Spain and Italy and Greece.

Congress should be immersed in considering bills to address the climate crisis that is damaging communities across our country, and not just through fires but through rising sea levels and rising erosion, through pine beetle infestations and mosquito infestations, through stronger hurricanes and stronger tornadoes, and, certainly, through the power of multiyear droughts. But we are not because the triple veto of the silent, secret filibuster afflicting this body is blocking us from doing so.

We have a housing crisis. Out-of-control rents and prices make it impossible for millions of Americans to afford a decent home to rent or buy. And colleagues have one idea after another about how we should address it, but because we are paralyzed and our process is taken up, our time is taken up with nominations and debating whether to debate and we have the triple veto of the secret, silent filibuster, they can't move forward. And we aren't debating, discussing, and hopefully passing measures that can make a difference.

And Americans are outraged by the prices they pay on drugs, which are so much higher than any other developed country. Eighty percent of Americans say: Do something about it. And I think the other 20 percent don't realize how much we are getting ripped off. And Americans know we should get the best price because we invest the most in the research and development that creates these drugs, not the worst price, and they are absolutely right. And we would have passed legislation by now to get the best prices in the developed world, but we are blocked by the triple veto of the secret, silent filibuster.

And now States are passing laws to block targeted groups of Americans from voting. We can fix that by passing S. 1, the For the People Act, or its reincarnation, the Freedom to Vote Act, but we can't because it was blocked by the triple veto of the secret, silent filibuster.

Let me be absolutely clear. The single most effective way we can counterbalance an out-of-control Court with a MAGA agenda is to have a functioning Senate. That is the most immediate remedy available to us to respond to this terrible affliction undermining our Republic.

If the Court says there is no problem with gerrymandered districts, where politicians choose their constituents instead of Americans choosing their leaders, as they did in the 2019 *Rucho v. Common Cause* decision, well, a reformed, restored Senate could pass legislation to require nonpartisan commissions to draw legislative districts. At least we could have a robust debate over it, maybe pass a few amendments modifying it in different forms—or perhaps find some other solution—if we had a functioning legislative process.

If the Court says there is no limit to dark money from corporations and billionaires who flood and drown out the voices of ordinary Americans and campaigns, as they did in the 2010 *Citizens United* decision, a reformed, restored Senate could pass the DISCLOSE Act to shine a light on every dollar and where it is coming from in American campaigns.

If the Court says that anyone who wants to be able to carry a concealed weapon should be able to like they did in their *New York State Rifle & Pistol Association v. Bruen* decision, a reformed, functioning Senate could pass stronger gun safety laws that most Americans support, like ending the background check loophole—when guns are bought and sold by unlicensed parties online or at gun shows—or by outlawing the kinds of large magazines that carry 30 or more bullets that are often used in mass shootings.

And when the Court went to abnormally great lengths to decide in last month's *West Virginia v. EPA* that the Agency can't regulate fossil carbon or fossil methane emissions, a functioning Senate would be able to step up and create the programs designed to speed up the transition to renewable energy, which would have the added benefit of ending our addiction to oil and dropping the prices at the pump, and it would keep money out of the hands of dictators in Russia, Saudi Arabia, and Iran. But the triple veto of the secret, silent filibuster has blocked us from doing so.

The remedy is not to eliminate the filibuster. The remedy is to reform it. The right reform is to adopt the public, talking filibuster. The talking filibuster would reassert the fundamental principle of legislative conduct: the Senate Code, adopted by the original Senate. Under that code, the Senate listened to every Senator's perspective, and then it took a vote on the issue, be it a bill or be it an amendment. That was the Senate Code.

The original rules provided that every Senator had the right to speak twice to a question. It was rule No. 4 in the original rules. It is in our rules today. But the spirit of that code—listening to each Senator and then voting, with the majority winning, not losing—that part is gone. Now, it is the minority that can exercise a triple veto, a veto absolutely exactly the opposite of what the Founders said to us. They said: Don't do it. And we have done it in triplicate form, paralyzing this place and accentuating the temptation of yielding to partisanship rather than problem-solving.

Jefferson did say that this rule, this code of listening to every Senator and voting, should not be abused. In fact, he said this in his manual for rules in 1801:

No one is to speak impertinently or beside the question, superfluously or tediously.

It worked for the Founders. They exercised some self-control, so much so that they didn't need the rule that

they had to close debate. They just simply listened to everyone with mutual respect and then said: OK. Let's take a vote.

You want to see that in action today? Watch the committee process on a bill with amendments. There is no one filibustering, speaking forever. There is no one requiring a supermajority to close debate in committee. They operate—we operate—in committee, much like the original Senate, and it works pretty well, but we have completely lost that discipline when it comes to debate here on our floor.

So the early Senate had a rule for the previous question motion, to close debate or accelerate the closure of debate. And when they rewrote the rule book—and Aaron Burr was in charge of it—in 1806, they dropped the rule because they never used it, didn't feel they ever needed it.

Well, we need to reclaim that vision, and our rules have gotten so crazy, so out of whack, that we encourage partisanship and paralysis rather than problem-solving. Let's fix that.

So let's have the talking filibuster. The talking filibuster says, Yes, you can speak on the issue. We will listen to everyone. You can speak twice. But then we vote, and the majority wins—not a supermajority required. The minority doesn't win over the majority. The majority wins.

That was the Senate. That was the design of our Constitution that we have the responsibility to restore because we took an oath to the Constitution. So let's restore it. And that talking filibuster encourages bipartisan problem-solving. The minority, be it the Democratic or Republican, that wants to slow things down for leverage, they can. So they have significant leverage, but, on the other hand, they have an incentive to negotiate because they are not sure how long they can maintain continuous debate. And that is the heart of the talking filibuster: maintaining continuous debate. If there is a break in debate, you go to the vote.

Meanwhile, the majority has an incentive to compromise because they know the minority can tie this place up on a single bill for week after week, and they can't afford to have that much time taken over a single bill. So the talking filibuster restores an incentive for compromise and bipartisan problem-solving and, in the end, restores the vision that the majority makes the decision, not the minority. In the end, it gives the minority a voice, it gives the minority massive leverage, but it takes away their veto. That is the right way to legislate in a democracy.

As I noted before, fixing the Senate is probably the best immediate tool we have for repairing the damage from the Supreme Court across the grounds. But we also have to consider every possible remedy to restore the Court itself, to restore a Court that calls the balls and strikes on the Constitution, defending

its core principles, and recognizes it is not there to legislate—not to legislate on the left side, not to legislate on the right side. They are there to defend the Constitution.

Well, reforming the Court won't be easily done. But President Biden did convene a Commission to explore the option, and that Commission has produced a lengthy, lengthy report. This is part of it: The Presidential Commission on the Supreme Court of the United States, December of last year.

I encourage all my colleagues to read this and consider the ideas in it. In this 300-page report, the Commission does review the history of how the Court has been in different phases, and its size has changed all the time because that is not established in the Constitution. It has been as few as 5, and it has been more than 10. There was not nine locked in like it is now.

And, certainly, one of the ideas they review is adjustment to the size of the Court. Many people have said that is something to look at to balance what has happened with the Court, with the stolen Supreme Court seat and a decision by several Justices to be a legislature rather than a court.

Well, that is one idea. Another is implementing term limits or a mandatory retirement age because, when the Constitution was first written, people weren't living the long lives they have today, and they didn't stay in the Court forever.

In 1787, the Founders wrote that Justices would hold their seats during good behavior. Now, I am not sure that every Justice across these grounds has been engaged in good behavior when they are choosing to legislate rather than to rule on the defense of the Constitution, but there is no easy way to remove them from the Court for misbehavior.

But one possibility is for the Court members to rotate out with term limits of some kind. That is one possibility.

In much of our history, Justices only served an average of 15 years on the Court. The average is now 26 and getting longer. And, did you know, America is the only constitutional democracy that gives lifetime presence on the Court, that doesn't have either a term limit or a mandatory retirement age?

This report, this Commission, has other ideas in it: rotating membership on the Court with judges selected from the circuit court. You know, the original Supreme Court, they served as circuit court writers. They went out and made decisions across this country. They didn't just sit in a room in the capital. So there is some precedent for that idea.

And others point out that there is the power to restrict the Court's jurisdiction. There are pros and cons for these various ideas, and our commitment needs to be to examine them. The American public is open to examining them.

Earlier this week, the FOX News poll reported that 66 percent of the folks in their poll support an 18-year term for Justices, and 71 percent support a mandatory retirement age. So the American people are open to trying to fix the challenge with the Court. We have to be open to fixing it, and we need to look at every option and idea very carefully to ensure that the highest Court in our land fulfills the vision for it in our Constitution. And the vision in our Constitution was not that it would be an unelected super-legislature.

Colleagues, this is a perilous moment for our Republic. It is a moment when the will of the people is being overrun by an extreme agenda of a Court legislating from the Bench, imposing their narrow and precedent-destroying will on all Americans. We have to restore the ability of this Senate to operate as a legislature that can be a counterbalance to what the Court does, and we must thoughtfully consider every proposal for reforming the Court directly.

We can and we must act before it is too late. We can't stand by and watch the continuous disintegration of our Republic.

Our oath to the Constitution demands that we protect these institutions and repair them when they go off track. And when we do, the next July 4, we can all join together and celebrate the restoration of our paralyzed and partisan Senate into an actual legislative body. We can celebrate the restoration of Americans' rights that are being continuously stripped away across the grounds by the Supreme Court. We can have a renewed belief and confidence in the integrity of all of our institutions and our democratic form of governance. That would be a moment justifying a massive celebration next July 4.

#### UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2022

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 406, S. 3895.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3895) to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2024.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment to strike all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

S. 3895

*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 "United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Reauthorization Act of 2022".*

#### SEC. 2. UNITED STATES COMMISSION ON INTERNATIONAL RELIGIOUS FREEDOM.

(a) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 207(a) of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6435(a)) is amended by striking "2019 through 2022" and inserting "2023 and 2024".*

(b) *EXTENSION OF AUTHORIZATION.—Section 209 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 6436) is amended by striking "September 30, 2022" and inserting "September 30, 2024".*

Mr. MERKLEY. I ask unanimous consent that the committee-reported substitute amendment be agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The committee-reported amendment, in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to.

The bill (S. 3895), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

#### MORNING BUSINESS

#### PEACE CORPS REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise to highlight the Senate Foreign Relations Committee's vote to favorably report the Peace Corps Reauthorization Act to the full Senate for its consideration. This legislation, the first reauthorization since 1999, is critically important to strengthening American leadership in the world.

Last year, the Peace Corps celebrated its 60th anniversary of when President John F. Kennedy established this important program, run by its first Director, Sargent Shriver. The Peace Corps' mission then, as it is today, is to "promote world peace and friendship" by encouraging economic growth and well-being to underserved populations abroad, as well as giving Americans a better understanding of the wider world and vice-versa.

The Peace Corps is emerging from one of the most challenging crises it has ever faced. On March 15, 2020, as the gravity and uncertainty of the COVID pandemic gripped the world, every mission was suspended for the first time in the Peace Corps' history. In addition to executing the enormously complex operation of evacuating more than 7,000 Peace Corps volunteers from all around the globe, the Peace Corps was faced with the challenge of how to operate and serve during a period of global social isolation.

As the world continues to recover from the pandemic, the Peace Corps is busy executing plans for reentering countries and resuming its mission of service around the world. While the

Peace Corps' return is a testament to the resilience and adaptability of this vitally important branch of U.S. foreign affairs, COVID's continued presence around the world requires the Peace Corps to undertake a wide array of new public safety measures to keep volunteers, staff, and host communities healthy and safe.

And so this reauthorization comes at a most critical time for the Peace Corps. This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to enact long overdue reforms and to make sure the agency can effectively promote international peace, development, and people-to-people engagement. And it represents significant reforms and strong bipartisan congressional support for the Agency at an inflection point in its history.

This legislation will strengthen the Peace Corps, giving it the baseline budget it needs to build the program that Americans deserve. It sets a \$375 per month minimum for the Peace Corps volunteers' readjustment allowance. It suspends student loan interest during volunteer service. It extends healthcare coverage for returned Peace Corps volunteers. And it provides greater whistleblower protections so the Peace Corps will be transparent and accountable, honoring the standards and aspirations of its original vision, as outlined in 1961.

The Peace Corps is on track to redeploy volunteers to 30 countries by the end of this fiscal year. And it has set an aggressive goal of returning volunteers to almost all of the prepandemic countries by the end of fiscal year 2023. The programs and policy reforms authorized in this legislation are crucial to ensuring the safe and successful return of volunteers to the field.

I am especially proud of the bipartisan work that has gone into this bill and appreciate the collaboration of the ranking member of Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senator RISCH, for joining me on this important legislation. And I am pleased that we are joined by our colleagues, Senators CARDIN, YOUNG, SHAHEEN, PORTMAN, FEINSTEIN, and CORNYN, who should be commended for their support of the Peace Corps and to ensuring the Peace Corps can continue to support and enhance America's leading role in the world.

I also want to salute the tremendous input from the Peace Corps community. Their commitment to improving security, conditions, and opportunities for future Peace Corps volunteers is vital to the introduction of this bill and improves our national security as well.

So I urge my colleagues to support this bill and its swift passage. Passage of this bill will help bring about a revitalized, retooled Peace Corps. Making this bill law will help ensure the return of volunteers executing the important work of the Peace Corps, representing the United States of America overseas.

#### 10-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE AURORA, COLORADO, SHOOTING

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, on July 20, 2012, Colorado suffered a horrific mass shooting at a movie theater in Aurora. A gunman took 12 innocent lives from us, each of them full of aspirations for a future that was tragically and senselessly cut short. They leave behind family, friends, and a community in Aurora that still carries the pain of their loss a decade later.

Colorado will never forget and forever honor the 12 victims of the Aurora shooting. Today, I ask to read their names into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Jonathan Blunk was 26 years old. He was a father of two who moved to Colorado in 2009 after three tours in the Persian Gulf and North Arabian Sea for the U.S. Navy. He was a certified firefighter and EMT. Jon lost his life protecting his friend Jansen Young from the gunman's line of fire. Jon shielded her from gunfire by pushing her to the ground while shots were fired. He was supposed to fly that Saturday to Nevada to see his wife Chantel Blunk and his 4-year-old daughter and 2-year-old son. Instead, his wife had to put up the dress her daughter had picked out to wear to the airport. She told her daughter that they would not see their dad anymore, but that he would still love them and look over them.

Alexander Jonathan Boik was 18 years old. His friends and family called him A.J. He had just graduated from Gateway High School. He enjoyed baseball, music, and making pottery. A.J. was supposed to start art classes at the Rocky Mountain College of Art and Design that fall. He was described "as being the life of the party," who could bring a smile to anybody's face." He was a young man with a warm and loving heart.

Jesse Childress was 29 years old. He was an Air Force cyber systems operator based at Buckley Air Force Base. He loved to play flag football, softball, and bowl. He was a devoted fan of the Denver Broncos and held season tickets. His superior officer described him as an invaluable part of the 310th family who touched everyone with whom he worked.

Gordon Cowden was 51 years old. He was originally from Texas and lived in Aurora with his family. He was "a quick witted world traveler with a keen sense of humor, he will be remembered for his devotion to his children and for always trying to do the right thing, no matter the obstacle." Gordon took his two teenage children to the theater the night of the shooting. Both of them, thankfully, made it out unharmed.

Jessica Ghawi was 24 years old. She was an aspiring journalist, most recently interning with Mile High Sports Radio in Denver, and went by the nickname "Redfield." She was hard-working, ambitious, and had a generous spirit and kind heart. When several homes were destroyed by Colorado wildfires, Jessica collected hockey

equipment to donate to the kids affected because she wanted to help. That was who she was.

John Thomas Larimer was 27 years old. He was a cryptologic technician with the Navy based also at Buckley Air Force Base, a job that requires "exceptionally good character and skills." Originally from Chicago, John was the youngest of five siblings and had joined the service just over a year before the shooting. Like his father and grandfather, John chose to serve in the U.S. Navy. John's superior officer called him "an outstanding shipmate, a valued member of the Navy and an extremely dedicated sailor." Colleagues praised his calming demeanor and exceptional work ethic.

Matthew McQuinn was 27 years old. Matt died while protecting his girlfriend Samantha Yowler by jumping in front of her during the shooting. Matt and Samantha moved to Colorado from Ohio last fall and worked at Target. He and Samantha were in love and planning their future life together. Matt's bravery saved Samantha's life.

Micayla "Cayla" Medek was 23 years old. Cayla was a graduate of William C. Hinkley High School in Aurora and a resident of Westminster. She worked at Subway and was a huge Green Bay Packers fan. Cayla would plan weekend activities around watching the games with her brother and father. She is remembered as a loving and gentle young woman.

Veronica Moser-Sullivan was 6 years old. She had just learned to swim and attended Holly Ridge Elementary School in Denver. She was a good student who loved to play dress-up and read.

Alex Sullivan was 27 years old. He was at the movie celebrating his 27th birthday and first wedding anniversary. He loved comic books, the New York Mets, and movies. Alex was such a big movie fan that he took jobs at theaters just to see the movies. Alex stood 6 feet, 4 inches, and weighed about 280 pounds. He played football and wrestled before graduating high school in 2003 and later went to culinary school. Alex was known as a gentle giant and was loved by many.

Alexander C. Teves was 24 years old. Alex received an M.A. in counseling psychology from the University of Denver and was planning on becoming a psychiatrist. He also competed in the Tough Mudder, an intense endurance challenge, and helped students with special needs. Alex was at the theater on the night of the shooting with his girlfriend Amanda Lindgren. When the gunman opened fire, Alex immediately lunged to block Amanda from the gunfire, held her down, and covered her head.

Rebecca Wingo was 32 years old. Originally from Texas, Rebecca joined the Air Force after high school, where she became fluent in Mandarin Chinese and served as a translator. She was a single mother of two girls and worked as a customer relations representative

at a mobile medical imaging company. Rebecca was also enrolled at the Community College of Aurora and had been working toward an associate of arts degree. She was known to family and friends as a “gentle, sweet, beautiful soul.”

When I came to the floor a decade ago, I said that scripture tells us “not to be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” That is what the people of Aurora have done for the past 10 years. Today, we recommit to not remember July 20 for the evil act that day.

We choose to remember the beautiful lives lost and the loved ones they left behind.

We choose to remember the 70 wounded survivors, whose resilience in the years since is a testament to humanity’s resolve.

We choose to remember the heroic acts of everyday citizens, our first responders, and medical personnel who saved lives that otherwise surely would have been lost.

And we choose to remember the profound generosity of the Coloradans and Americans who donated blood in record numbers and raised funds to support the survivors.

A decade later, Colorado and the country continue to draw strength from the example set by the people of Aurora. And we recommit to ending the American scourge of gun violence—unique among industrialized nations—that has cut short too many innocent lives in our communities.

#### AFGHANISTAN

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, following my submission yesterday, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the next part of an investigation directed by the U.S. Central Command concerning the Abbey Gate bombing in Afghanistan in August 2021.

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

ACTS—SCK—DO

SUBJECT: Findings and Recommendation—Attack Against U.S. Forces Conducting NEO at Hamid Karzai International Airport on 26 August 2021.

##### (3) Gate Operations.

(a) Occupation of Abbey Gate. At approximately 0800 on 19 August, Golf Company, reinforced by Fox Company platoons, arrived at Abbey Gate and found U.K. and other foreign forces standing in the inner corridor (exhibits 77, 89). Golf Company attempted to open the gate to process evacuees and enable U.K. Forces to move to the Barron Hotel (exhibits 77, 89). This attempt failed because the large and desperate crowd in the outer corridor nearly breached the gate and forced Golf Company to stop in less than an hour (exhibits 77, 89). On 20 August during the period of darkness, Golf Company, reinforced by Fox Company platoons, moved the crowd approximately 150 meters south passed the entrance of the Barron Hotel (exhibits 77, 83, 89). 24th MEU engineers emplaced several shipping containers to form an obstacle, known as the Chevron, in the road (exhibits 77, 83, 86, 87, 89). The Taliban were employed to man the outside of the obstacle and con-

ducted initial screening and crowd control (exhibits 77, 83, 89). Later on 20 August, crowds in the canal breached the southern end of the fence separating the canal from the outer corridor (exhibits 83, 172). Marines identified the need to clear the nearside of the canal and keep crowds on the opposite side (exhibits 53, 76, 77, 83).

##### (b) Steady State Gate Operations.

(i) After the establishment of the Chevron and clearing the nearside of the canal, 2/1 established a steady state operation of screening evacuees and movement to the PAX Terminal (exhibits 53, 77, 83, 89). Steady state was between 21–25 August. Marines on the canal would search for persons with documents (passports, immigration forms) meeting the current eligibility requirements for evacuation (exhibits 77, 83). Marines at the Chevron would do a similar screening (exhibits 78, 79). After pulling them into the outer corridor perimeter, they would conduct a cursory search of the potential evacuees, and place them into the holding area (exhibits 77, 83). 2/1 Marines established the holding area in the outer corridor traffic lane, against the HKIA exterior wall (exhibits 57, 60, 61, 77, 83). When DoS Consular officers were available, Marines would escort evacuees from the holding area to the search area in the inner corridor (exhibits 57, 60, 61, 77, 83). After thoroughly searching the potential evacuees, Marines would escort them to an area further into the inner corridor to be screened by the Consular officer (exhibits 57, 60, 61, 77, 83). The Consular officer would determine if the evacuees met the eligibility criteria and approve moving the evacuees forward to the PAX Terminal, or reject them, and the Marines would return them to the canal (exhibits 56, 57, 60, 61, 77, 79, 80, 82). The FST would assist in the searches and the escort of rejected civilians back to the canal (exhibits 77, 83, 107). Corpsmen were staged a CCP in the inner corridor and treated casualties at the canal or Chevron (exhibits 77, 83, 98).

(ii) U.K. Forces conducted NEO from the Barron Hotel, but also provided personnel for security on the canal and the Chevron (exhibits 53, 56, 76, 77, 127). U.K. support to steady state gate operations reduced as the NEO progressed (exhibits 77). Other partner nations provided no assistance with security at Abbey Gate (exhibits 56, 57, 60–63, 77, 79–88). Partner forces utilized Abbey Gate to escort their own consular officers or to pull evacuees from the crowd (exhibits 77, 79–89). Partner nations often did not coordinate their activities with Marines at Abbey Gate, and did not adhere to the established processing or security procedures (exhibits 79–89).

##### (c) Increased Crowds and Attack.

(i) On 25 August, Echo Company recognized an increase in the size and desperation of the crowd (exhibits 53, 56). The Echo Company [TEXT REDACTED] was concerned with the crowd pushing past the jersey barriers at the base of the sniper tower and not having space to operate (exhibit 56). In response, Echo Company cleared the crowd on the nearside of the canal (exhibits 56, 60–62). Echo Company positioned Marines approximately 150 meters down the canal, running northeast, to maintain control of the nearside (exhibit 56, 77). At approximately 1600, Golf Company relieved Echo company and assumed the same positions along the canal, the outer corridor, and inner corridor (exhibit 77) [TEXT REDACTED] received several updates concerning SVIED attacks at gates and determined the positions down the canal presented unacceptable risk to force and isolated Marines from support, to include CASEVAC (exhibit 77). Golf Company withdrew the Marines back down the nearside of the canal and crowds backfilled the space almost immediately (exhibits 77, 83). [TEXT REDACTED] stopped the flow of

evacuees and took the defensive posture previously mentioned (exhibits 77, 83).

(ii) The next day, crowds were even larger and more unruly (exhibits 53, 56, 77, 83). Golf Company was forced to push additional Marines to the canal to keep them from crossing the jersey barriers at the base of the sniper tower (exhibits 53, 76, 77). Echo Company assumed inner gate responsibilities so Golf Company could maintain the positions on the canal (exhibits 56, 57). The crowds grew so desperate, they began to crush people against the sniper tower walls and jersey barriers (exhibits 53, 75, 77, 105). Golf Company Marines consolidated at the base of the tower in response (exhibits 53, 76, 77, 83, Brit Video). At 1736, the single explosion occurred, and detonated directly across from the platoon gathered at the base of the tower (exhibits 5, 53, 76, 77, 83, 89). Shortly after, Abbey Gate closed, the 1/82nd IBCT took over security of the Gate, U.K. Forces passed through for the final time from the Barron Hotel, and gate operations ended (exhibits 53, 56, 77, 124, 127).

(4) Preventability of the Abbey Gate Attack. The attack was not preventable at the tactical level without degrading the mission to maximize the number of evacuees. Given the priority of effort, time, resources, partner nation requirements, and terrain restraints, the only mitigation possible would have jeopardized the flow of evacuees and potentially risk mission failure.

(a) The priority for the Marines at Abbey Gate was maximizing the flow of evacuees through the gate to the ECC (exhibits 11, 15, 18, 56, 77, 88). Any time spent emplacing obstacles was time not spent searching and screening civilian evacuees. Additionally, many force protection measures that could have been implemented, such as additional T-Walls or HESCO barriers, would have inherently reduced the flow of evacuees. Closing the gate was also not an option because of U.K. efforts to conclude evacuation operations at the nearby Barron Hotel (exhibits 18, 54, 121, 127). Closing the gates would have isolated U.K. Forces and jeopardized the JTE force flow and timeline, potentially initiating renewed armed conflict with the Taliban (exhibits 15, 18, 21, 23, 125).

(b) Leaders at Abbey Gate on 26 August made frequent decisions (multiple times daily) to increase the force protection posture. Electronic countermeasures were already emplaced to prevent enemy coordination and radio controlled device use (exhibit 65). Several times during the 18 hours prior to the attack, the company commander stopped the flow at the gate and had Marines take covered positions (exhibits 77, 83, 84). Medics were consolidated in the inner corridor to ensure their safety and quick reaction to any attack, and additional medical assets were surged forward (exhibits 66, 77, 98). An Afghan interpreter was recruited to pacify the crowd using PSYOP capabilities (exhibit 107). ISR was increased and the Taliban were tasked to screen for the specific threat (exhibits 18, 125). Leaders struck the balance of protecting the force and maximizing the flow of evacuees as best as possible under the circumstances.

#### D. READINESS

##### (1) Key Findings.

(a) Most units that deployed to HKIA in support of the Afghanistan NEO, with the exception of USFOR-A FWD and JTF-CR, had adequate manning levels for the assigned mission. USFOR-A FWD and JTF-CR staffs were task-saturated due to the nature of the NEO. The effects were further exacerbated by the fact that many of their personnel were forced to expend significant energy trying to find specific evacuees, or groups of evacuees, at the gates of HKIA, on behalf of

various U.S. government officials, senior military officers, or special interest groups.

(b) All units deployed to HKIA in support of the Afghanistan NEO had trained on their respective mission essential tasks (METs) prior to deployment. In some cases, this included NEG-specific training, while in others it did not. Leaders at all levels stated no training could adequately prepare them for what they experienced at HKIA.

(2) USFOR-A FWD.

(a) Manning. USFOR-A FWD, led by RADM Pete Vasely, USN, Commander, USFOR-A FWD, and Brigadier Thomas Day, United Kingdom, Deputy Commander, USFOR-A FWD, was originally task organized and manned as a SOJTF in anticipation of taking over the NSOCC-A mission. In June 2021, they transitioned into Diplomatic Assurance Platform-Afghanistan (DAP-A), with a focus on the medical, flight, and security requirements of USEK (exhibit 20). In July 2021, RADM Vasely took command from General Miller, and assumed the functions of Resolute Support Headquarters (RSHQ) and USFOR-A, albeit with a drastically reduced footprint due to a reduced boots on the ground (BOG) force cap of 650 being implemented. In addition to USFOR-A FWD's organic staff, they had TACON of one company from 2nd IBCT, 10th Mountain Division, and two companies from 3rd IBCT, 10th Mountain Division (exhibits 20, 21).

(b) Training. USFOR-A FWD trained to deploy as a SOJTF, and did not train to assume the role of RSHQ and USFOR-A, nor did they train to conduct a NEO. While deployed, USFOR-A FWD participated in the 28 June Operational Planning Team (OPT) at USEK, focused on pre-NEO planning. USFOR-A FWD then participated in the CENTCOM-led NEO tabletop exercise (TTX) on 29 June, and a National Security Council (NSC)-led NEO TTX on 6 August (exhibits 20, 21).

(3) 82nd Airborne Division.

(a) Manning. 82nd Airborne Division HQ, led by MG Christopher Donahue, initially deployed with a small team of six staff members, and arrived at HKIA on 18 August. The remainder of the Division HQ staff arrived on 20 August, bringing the 82nd's total manpower to 106 personnel (exhibits 125, 152). The 1st IBCT, 82nd Airborne Division (1/82 IBCT), led by [TEXT REDACTED] deployed as part of the IRF, began to arrive at HKIA on 15 August, and had roughly 1000 soldiers on hand by 16 August. The number of personnel TACON to 1/82 IBCT would swell to 2360 throughout the NEO (exhibits 130, 152). The 1/82 IBCT HQ was comprised of 65 personnel, and it had TACON of elements from 1/504 PIR (515 personnel), 2/504 PIR (378 personnel), 2/501 PIR (504 personnel), 3/319 Artillery (257 personnel), 307th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) (56 personnel), 127th Airborne Engineer Battalion (24 personnel), 50th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (4 personnel), 16th Military Police Brigade (150 personnel), and 1/194 Armor Regiment (412 personnel) (exhibits 152, 153).

(b) Training. The 82nd Airborne Division HQ is trained to deploy rapidly, as part of the IRF, and did so in support of the NEO. While deployed to HKIA, the Division HQ participated in MASCAL TTXs and Rehearsal of Concept (ROC) drills, as well as Rules of Engagement (ROE) ROC drills with subordinate and adjacent units (exhibit 125). 1/82 IBCT began its IRF preparation training in March 2021 during its Joint Readiness Training Center (JRTC) rotation. During the IBCT's time at JRTC, units rehearsed civic engagement, conducted mock interagency engagements, utilized role players, and trained on entry control point operations. They did not train on crowd control or NEO (exhibits 121, 123). The 1/82 IBCT conducted Leader Professional Development sessions,

where they executed tactical decision games focused on NEO (exhibits 121, 123). The brigade also trained to secure airfields (exhibits 121, 123, 124). 2/501 PIR executed three deployment readiness exercises (DREs), where they practiced deploying out of Joint Base Charleston, South Carolina (exhibit 123).

(4) JTF-CR.

(a) Manning. JTF-CR activated in anticipation of the Afghanistan NEO, and initially had a joint manning document (JMD) with 187 personnel associated with it. The JTF sent three Liaison Officers (LNOs) forward to Afghanistan in May 2021 to coordinate with USFOR-A, USEK, and HKIA. Additionally, the JTF sent a quartering party comprised of three Marines to HKIA to begin preparations for receiving the JTF in the event of a NEO (exhibit 15). On 19 July, JTF-CR sent an EPEAT comprised of 49 personnel to HKIA to assist DoS with processing SIV applicants for travel to the U.S., and to continue preparations for receiving the JTF at HKIA in the event of a NEO (exhibits 15, 18). By the third week of July, JTF-CR had 55 personnel on the ground at HKIA, and would send an additional 28 personnel forward from Bahrain on 4 August (exhibit 15). By 26 August, the JTF-CR staff was back down to 59 personnel, as some staff members had redeployed. JTF-CR staff personnel were chosen for their versatility, so they could multi-task, and the JTF opted to place a heavy emphasis on planning ability, due to the anticipated requirement of multiple, competing planning efforts throughout the execution of the NEO (exhibit 15). When the NEO began, the JTF-CR was forced to employ most of its staff as a security force, due to multiple breaches in the HKIA perimeter and a limited number of security forces being on deck at HKIA (exhibits 15, 18).

(b) Training. JTF-CR was certified as a JTF in 2019 (exhibits 15, 18), and again in 2020 (exhibit 18). In addition to its certification via exercises and training, the JTF had activated three times within the past year, to include its planning response to the Beirut Port explosion in August 2020, and its deployment in support of Operation OCTAVE QUARTZ off the coast of Somalia in the spring of 2021 (exhibit 18). JTF-CR participated in NEO TTXs with CENTCOM at the end of June, and the NSC on 6 August, but JTF-CR staff members considered both to be ineffective, due to faulty planning assumptions (exhibits 17, 18). During NEO execution at HKIA, JTF-CR conducted MASCAL rehearsals with the Role II clinic and USFOR-A FWD, which ultimately paid dividends on 26 August (exhibits 15, 16, 18). Multiple leaders from JTF-CR stated that no training could have truly prepared service members for the tasks they executed at HKIA throughout the NEO (exhibits 17, 18).

(5) 24th MEU.

(a) Manning. The 24th MEU, led by [TEXT REDACTED] began sending Marines into HKIA as part of its quartering party in mid-July, and its CE began flowing into HKIA on 15 August. At full strength, the MEU had 1249 Marines and Sailors at HKIA, the bulk of which resided within BLT 1/8 and CLB-24 (exhibits 100, 101, 104). BLT 1/8 deployed 996 Marines and Sailors across three rifle companies, a weapons company, an artillery battery, a light armored reconnaissance company (-), an engineer platoon, and a reconnaissance company (-) (exhibits 100, 104). CLB-24 deployed to HKIA with 225 Marines and Sailors, task organized to support 24-hour ECC operations, with roughly 70 Marines supporting three, 8-hour shifts each day. CLB-24 personnel provided combat service support to other units across HKIA, when they were not operating at the ECC. CLB-24 also task organized a FST, comprised of 35 female Marines and Sailors, with augmenta-

tion from BLT 1/8. CLB-24 had SPMAGTF's Combat Logistics Detachment-21 (CLD-21), and Marine Wing Support Detachment-373 (MWSD-373) attached to support ECC operations (exhibit 101).

(b) Training. 24th MEU completed the standard pre-deployment training program focused on the MEU's 13 core METs, including NEO (exhibits 100, 101, 104). The unit conducted an additional, four-day NEO training package, sponsored by Expeditionary Operations Training Group (EOTG) in January 2021, which included DoS and civilian role player participants (exhibits 100, 101, 104). In June 2021, while ashore in Jordan, 24th MEU's CE and BLT conducted embassy reinforcement and NEO training at the U.S. Embassy in Amman (exhibits 100, 104). In July, the MEU offloaded in Kuwait to posture for a potential NEO in Afghanistan, and throughout the month of July and into August, the CE, BLT, and CLB trained daily on various aspects of NEO, to include embassy reinforcement, fixed site security, ECC operations, and NEO Tracking System operations (exhibits 100, 101, 104). Additionally, the FST Marines and Sailors trained on proper search techniques to be employed at an ECC or ECP (exhibits 101, 107). MEU leadership agreed that the NEO training they conducted did not adequately train their Marines and Sailors for the conditions they faced at HKIA (exhibits 100, 101, 104).

(6) SPMAGTF.

(a) Manning. The SPMAGTF deployed a "heavy package" to HKIA with components of the GCE, comprised of 2nd Battalion, 1st Marines (2/1), the Logistics Combat Element (LCE), comprised of CLD-21, and Aviation Combat Element (ACE), comprised of MWSD-373. Additionally, the SPMAGTF "heavy package" included an STP and two EOD teams (exhibits 55, 65, 66). 2/1 deployed its entire battalion, with the exception of one platoon from Golf Company, which provided escort security aboard SPMAGTF flights to/from HKIA, two platoons from Fox Company, which remained at the Baghdad Embassy Complex (BEC) in Iraq to provide security, and their Combat Engineer Platoon, which stayed at the BEC to support force protection improvements there (exhibits 53, 54, 55, 56, 77, 78, 79, 81). As a result of the Engineer Platoon not deploying to HKIA, 2/1 was forced to depend on CLD-21's engineer section, whose focus at HKIA was ECC operations, and the BLT's Engineer Platoon, whose focus was supporting the BLT at North and East Gates.

(b) Training.

## ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

### REMEMBERING RANDY "R.D." KINSEY

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life of R.D. Kinsey who passed away on July 11, 2022, at the age of 69. Mr. Kinsey was a husband, father, veteran, civil servant and beloved leader in the State of Arkansas with a reputation for wisdom and compassion.

A native of South Florida, Kinsey moved to Arkansas after his service in the U.S. Air Force. After he was honorably discharged in 1972, he realized his passion and desire to uplift and advocate for his fellow veterans.

Stepping into a new platform of service with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Kinsey spent much of his time counseling combat veterans even

before post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries were formal diagnoses.

Kinsey's friends recognized him as a man who actively worked to make positive changes for veterans throughout his career. Upon his retirement from civil service in 2000, he continued to blaze trails within the American Legion, serving in local, State, and national capacities. He was instrumental in founding American Legion Post 74 in North Little Rock, where he served as founding commander and commander for 14 years.

He made an annual trip to Washington, DC, during the American Legion's testimony to Congress about its legislative priorities and advocated on behalf of Arkansas veterans.

In 2018, he became the first African-American State commander of the American Legion of Arkansas. Kinsey was not focused on the tag-line and pressures that may arise from being the first minority to sit in the State commander seat because, in his words, "All our blood runs the same." This was one of many examples of how he led his life with humility and selflessness.

During his time in the Air Force, Kinsey specialized in security, where he fought to protect his fellow airmen in combat. During his time serving veterans, he fought to strengthen the benefits they earned. Service, advocacy, and security were his life's tenets.

At the celebration of the American Legion's 100th anniversary, Kinsey said his time as commander was his way of giving back blessings to help others and what could be a more rewarding experience than to be able and help a veteran in need.

He served in the greatest capacity alongside his wife, Dianna and their two daughters, Meredith and Allison and their grandsons. He was a loving father, caring coworker, servant leader, gracious husband, and friend to all. His wife recently said that his motto was "For God and country." I hope we can learn from his example to remember the American blood flowing through all of us and work together to make this country better than we found it.

I join R.D Kinsey's family, friends, and all Arkansans in mourning his passing. His fingerprint will forever mark Arkansas. From Florida, North Little Rock, Washington, and everywhere in between, his legacy will carry on with current and future generations. In his spirit we will continue to advance the benefits for and meet the needs of American veterans.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM HALVORSON

● Mr. DAINES. Mr. President, today I have the distinct honor of recognizing Jim Halvorson of the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation for his dedication to Montana and his 32 years of public service.

Raised near Pendroy, MT, Jim graduated from the Montana School of

Mines, better known today as Montana Tech University. After years of work in both Wyoming and Colorado, Jim made his way back home to the Treasure State and went on to begin his career with the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation. He started out as a petroleum geologist and was eventually appointed as Administrator. Jim's role included administering Montana's oil and gas conservation laws, promoting conservation, and overseeing oil and gas exploration and production in the State.

As Jim enters into retirement, he can rest assured that he has made a lasting impact on Montana's oil and gas industry. He will now have the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of his labor as he plans to spend more time in the great outdoors, whether that be fishing or enjoying time with his wife of 40 years, Diana.

It is my honor to recognize Jim Halvorson for his dedication to the Montana Board of Oil and Gas Conservation and for his 32 years of public service to the great State of Montana. Jim, thank you for your many years of public service and your commitment to preserving our State's oil and gas reserves. I wish you all the best in your retirement. You make Montana proud.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:28 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 144. An act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Indian Health Service, to acquire private land to facilitate access to the Desert Sage Youth Wellness Center in Hemet, California, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1286. An act to establish the Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2024. An act to establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3222. An act to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4404. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Kissimmee River in the State of Florida as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6337. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop long-distance bike trails on Federal land, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7002. An act to authorize the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, to be illuminated by blue and yellow lights in support of Ukraine.

H.R. 7025. An act to prohibit the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from funding entities that commit, fund, or support gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7693. An act to amend title 54, United States Code, to reauthorize the National Park Foundation.

H.R. 8404. An act to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1286. An act to establish the Southern Campaign of the Revolution National Heritage Corridor, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 2024. An act to establish the Southern Maryland National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 3222. An act to establish the Alabama Black Belt National Heritage Area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 4404. An act to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate segments of the Kissimmee River in the State of Florida as a component of the Wild and Scenic Rivers System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 6337. An act to require the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to develop long-distance bike trails on Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7002. An act to authorize the Gateway Arch in St. Louis, Missouri, to be illuminated by blue and yellow lights in support of Ukraine; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

H.R. 7025. An act to prohibit the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service from funding entities that commit, fund, or support gross violations of internationally recognized human rights, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

H.R. 8404. An act to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4612. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TRICARE Coverage and Reimbursement of Certain Services Resulting from Temporary Program Changes in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic" ((RIN0720-AB81) (RIN0720-AB82) (RIN0720-AB83)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 29, 2022; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4613. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "TRICARE Coverage and Reimbursement of Certain Services Resulting



from Temporary Program Changes in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic; Correction” (RIN0720-AB81) (RIN0720-AB82) (RIN0720-AB83)) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 29, 2022; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4614. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation” (RIN0790-AL20) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 29, 2022; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4615. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Privacy Act of 1974; Implementation” (RIN0790-AK99) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 29, 2022; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4616. A communication from the Alternate Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement: Maximizing the Use of American-Made Goods, Products, and Materials (DFARS Case 2019-D045)” (RIN0750-AK85) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 29, 2022; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4617. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal to reduce the frequency of a required Report to Congress by the Department of Energy regarding excess contaminated facilities; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4618. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness), transmitting, a report relative to annual reporting requirements on defense manpower for fiscal years 2021 and 2022; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4619. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Explosives Safety Board 2021 Report to Congress”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4620. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals relative to the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4621. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals relative to the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4622. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals relative to the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4623. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals relative to the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4624. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals relative to the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4625. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense (Legislative

Affairs), transmitting additional legislative proposals relative to the “National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023”; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-4626. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Prohibition on Inclusion of Adverse Information in Consumer Reporting in Cases of Human Trafficking (Regulation V)” (RIN3170-AB12) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 24, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4627. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Debt Collection Practices (Regulation F); Pay-to-Pay Fees” (12 CFR Part 1006) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4628. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Fair Credit Reporting; Permissible Purposes for Furnishing, Using, and Obtaining Consumer Reports” (12 CFR Part 1022) received during the adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4629. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Streamlining management and Occupancy Reviews for Section 8 Housing Assistance Programs” (RIN2502-AJ22) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4630. A communication from the Senior Congressional Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “The Fair Credit Reporting Act’s Limited Preemption of State Laws” (12 CFR Part 1022) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 7, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4631. A communication from the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition and Sustainment), transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Defense Production Act Fund Annual Report For Fiscal Year 2021”; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-4632. A communication from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the final maps and perimeter boundary descriptions for the enclosed Wild and Scenic Rivers; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-4633. A communication from the National Listing Coordinator of the Office of Protected Resources, National Marine Fisheries Service, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Endangered and Threatened Species; Removal of Johnson’s Seagrass From the Federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species Including the Corresponding Designated Critical Habitat” (RIN0648-XR119) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 1, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4634. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant

to law, the report of a rule entitled “NUREG-2159, Rev. 1, ‘Acceptable Standard Format and Content for the Fundamental Nuclear Material Control Plan Required for Special Nuclear Material of Moderate Strategic Significance’” (RIN3150) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4635. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Management Directive (MD) 12.3, NRC Personnel Security Program” received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 19, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4636. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal to revise the Mercury Export Ban Act of 2008, as amended; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4637. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Implementing Statutory Addition of Certain Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) to the Toxics Release Inventory Beginning with Reporting Years 2021 and 2022” (RIN2070-AL04) (FRL No. 9427-01-OCSPP) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4638. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Vermont: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference” (FRL No. 9581-02-R1) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4639. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Delaware: Final Approval of State Underground Storage Tank Program Revisions, Codification, and Incorporation by Reference” (FRL No. 9625-02-R3) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 15, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4640. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Guidance Regarding the Changes Made by the American Rescue Plan Act to the Election of Alternative Minimum Funding Standards for Community Newspaper Plans under Section 430(m)” (Notice 2022-31) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 11, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4641. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Applicability of section 432(b) (7) following a merger involving a multiemployer defined benefit plan that has received special financial assistance” (Rev. Rul. 2022-13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on July 19, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4642. A communication from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting a legislative proposal that would amend the Harmonized Tariff Schedule of the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4643. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Unified Payment for Medicare-Covered Post-Acute Care: Analysis and Development of the Prototype Unified PAC Prospective Payment System Called for in the IMPACT ACT"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4644. A communication from the Principal Deputy Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a data snapshot entitled "Part D Plans Generally Include Drugs Commonly Used by Dual Eligibles: 2022"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4645. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Non-Emergency Medical Transportation in Medicaid, 2018-2020"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4646. A communication from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's 2022 Annual Report of the Supplemental Security Income Program; to the Committee on Finance.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER, from the Select Committee on Intelligence:

Report to accompany S. 4503, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-132).

### EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE—TREATY

The following executive report of committee was submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations:

[Treaty Doc. 117-3: Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden with six declarations and one condition (Ex. Rept. 117-5)]

The text of the committee-recommended resolution of advice and consent to ratification is as follows:

*Resolved (two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein),*

Section 1. Senate advice and consent subject to declarations and conditions.

The Senate advises and consents to the ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden, which were signed on July 5, 2022, by the United States of America and other parties to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 (Treaty Doc. 117-3), subject to the declarations of section 2 and the condition of section 3.

Sec. 2. declarations.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following declarations:

(1) Reaffirmation That United States Membership in NATO Remains a Vital National Security Interest of the United States.—The Senate declares that—

(A) for more than 70 years the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has served as the preeminent organization to defend the

countries in the North Atlantic area against all external threats;

(B) through common action, the established democracies of North America and Europe that were joined in NATO persevered and prevailed in the task of ensuring the survival of democratic government in Europe and North America throughout the Cold War;

(C) NATO enhances the security of the United States by embedding European states in a process of cooperative security planning and by ensuring an ongoing and direct leadership role for the United States in European security affairs;

(D) the responsibility and financial burden of defending the democracies of Europe and North America can be more equitably shared through an alliance in which specific obligations and force goals are met by its members;

(E) the security and prosperity of the United States is enhanced by NATO's collective defense against aggression that may threaten the security of NATO members; and

(F) United States membership in NATO remains a vital national security interest of the United States.

(2) Strategic Rationale for NATO Enlargement.—The Senate declares that—

(A) the United States and its NATO allies face continued threats to their stability and territorial integrity;

(B) an attack against Finland or Sweden, or the destabilization of either arising from external subversion, would threaten the stability of Europe and jeopardize United States national security interests;

(C) Finland and Sweden, having established democratic governments and having demonstrated a willingness to meet the requirements of membership, including those necessary to contribute to the defense of all NATO members, are in a position to further the principles of the North Atlantic Treaty and to contribute to the security of the North Atlantic area; and

(D) extending NATO membership to Finland and Sweden will strengthen NATO, enhance stability in Europe, and advance the interests of the United States and its NATO allies.

(3) Support for NATO's Open Door Policy.—The policy of the United States is to support NATO's Open Door Policy that allows any European country to express its desire to join NATO and demonstrate its ability to meet the obligations of NATO membership.

(4) Future Consideration of Candidates for Membership in NATO.—

(A) Senate Finding.—The Senate finds that the United States will not support the accession to the North Atlantic Treaty of, or the invitation to begin accession talks with, any European state (other than Finland and Sweden), unless—

(i) the President consults with the Senate consistent with Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States (relating to the advice and consent of the Senate to the making of treaties); and

(ii) the prospective NATO member can fulfill all of the obligations and responsibilities of membership, and the inclusion of such state in NATO would serve the overall political and strategic interests of NATO and the United States.

(B) Requirement for Consensus and Ratification.—The Senate declares that no action or agreement other than a consensus decision by the full membership of NATO, approved by the national procedures of each NATO member, including, in the case of the United States, the requirements of Article II, section 2, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States (relating to the advice and consent of the Senate to the making of treaties), will constitute a commitment to collective defense and consultations pursuant to Articles 4 and 5 of the North Atlantic Treaty.

(5) Influence of Non-NATO Members on NATO Decisions.—The Senate declares that any country that is not a member of NATO shall have no impact on decisions related to NATO enlargement.

(6) Support for 2014 Wales Summit Defense Spending Benchmark.—The Senate declares that all NATO members should continue to fulfill or move towards the guideline outlined in the 2014 Wales Summit Declaration to spend a minimum of 2 percent of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) on defense and 20 percent of their defense budgets on major equipment, including research and development, by 2024.

Sec. 3. condition.

The advice and consent of the Senate under section 1 is subject to the following conditions

(1) Presidential Certification.—Prior to the deposit of the instrument of ratification, the President shall certify to the Senate as follows:

(A) The inclusion of Finland and Sweden in NATO will not have the effect of increasing the overall percentage share of the United States in the common budgets of NATO.

(B) The inclusion of Finland and Sweden in NATO does not detract from the ability of the United States to meet or to fund its military requirements outside the North Atlantic area.

Sec. 4. definitions.

In this resolution:

(1) NATO Members.—The term "NATO members" means all countries that are parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

(2) Non-NATO Members.—The term "non-NATO members" means all countries that are not parties to the North Atlantic Treaty.

(3) North Atlantic Area.—The term "North Atlantic Area" means the area covered by Article 6 of the North Atlantic Treaty, as applied by the North Atlantic Council.

(4) North Atlantic Treaty.—The term "North Atlantic Treaty" means the North Atlantic Treaty, signed at Washington April 4, 1949 (63 Stat. 2241; TIAS 1964), as amended.

(5) United States Instrument of Ratification.—The term "United States instrument of ratification" means the instrument of ratification of the United States of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden.

### 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. WICKER:

S. 4560. A bill to enable the people of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to determine the political status of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TESTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4561. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to seek to enter into an agreement with an entity to conduct a study and produce a report on barriers to home ownership for members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr.

TESTER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4562. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to increase the basic allowance for housing inside the United States for members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4563. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to take certain actions regarding the housing shortage for members of the Armed Forces; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WARNOCK (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TESTER, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WARNER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 4564. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to report on the basic allowance for housing for members of the uniformed services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 4565. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to repeal the copayment requirement for recipients of Department of Veterans Affairs payments or allowances for beneficiary travel, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 4566. A bill to amend the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 to establish a regional clean energy innovation program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 4567. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to eliminate the per-country numerical limitation for employment-based immigrants, to increase the per-country numerical limitation for family-sponsored immigrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 4568. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to promote the increased use of renewable natural gas, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful transportation-related emissions that contribute to poor air quality, and to increase job creation and economic opportunity throughout the United States; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4569. A bill to prohibit the provision of Federal funds to certain entities subject to sanctions imposed by the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. ERNST (for herself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4570. A bill to prohibit the intentional hindering of immigration, border, and customs controls, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4571. A bill to reaffirm that the President of the United States lacks the authority to stop oil and gas leasing on Federal public land; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4572. A bill to require U.S. Customs and Border Protection to expand the use of non-intrusive inspection systems at land ports of entry; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COONS, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 4573. A bill to amend title 3, United States Code, to reform the Electoral Count Act, and to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to provide clear guidelines for when and to whom resources are provided by the Administrator of General Services for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 4574. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase penalties for crimes against Federally protected activities relating to voting and the conduct of elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. PAUL):

S. 4575. A bill to clarify that the Federal Right to Try law applies to schedule I substances for which a phase I clinical trial has been completed and to provide access for eligible patients to such substances pursuant to the Federal Right to Try law; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 4576. A bill to provide competitive grants for the promotion of Japanese American confinement education as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. Res. 713. A resolution recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. DURBIN):

S. Res. 714. A resolution recognizing the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and calling for further action to strengthen home

and community living for individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 204

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 204, a bill to establish the Office of Press Freedom, to create press freedom curriculum at the National Foreign Affairs Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 331

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 331, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the age requirement with respect to eligibility for qualified ABLE programs.

S. 634

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 634, a bill to support and expand civic engagement and political leadership of adolescent girls around the world, and other purposes.

S. 1273

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1273, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit to small employers for covering military spouses under retirement plans.

S. 1321

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1321, a bill to modify the boundary of the Casa Grande Ruins National Monument, and for other purposes.

S. 1436

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1436, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to amend the mission statement of the Food and Drug Administration.

S. 1625

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1625, a bill to authorize notaries public to perform, and to establish minimum standards for, electronic notarizations and remote notarizations that occur in or affect interstate commerce, to require any Federal court to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any State, to require any State to recognize notarizations performed by a notarial officer of any other State when the notarization was performed under or relates to a public Act, record, or judicial proceeding of the notarial officer's State or when the notarization occurs in or affects interstate commerce, and for other purposes.

S. 1663

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1663, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, and title 39, United States Code, to provide the United States Postal Service the authority to mail alcoholic beverages, and for other purposes.

S. 2512

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2512, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices and judges of the courts of the United States.

S. 2874

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2874, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income payments under the Indian Health Service Loan Repayment Program and certain amounts received under the Indian Health Professions Scholarships Program.

S. 3021

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3021, a bill to provide non-medical counseling services for military families.

S. 3189

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3189, a bill to amend title XX of the Social Security Act to provide a pathway to health careers through health profession opportunity grants.

S. 3678

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3678, a bill to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes.

S. 3909

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3909, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 4069

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4069, a bill to amend the National Firearms Act to provide an exception for stabilizing braces, and for other purposes.

S. 4105

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) 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. 4169

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4169, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program to provide assisted living services to eligible veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 4223

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4223, a bill to increase, effective as of December 1, 2022, the rates of compensation for veterans with service-connected disabilities and the rates of dependency and indemnity compensation for the survivors of certain disabled veterans, and for other purposes.

S. 4227

At the request of Mr. HOEVEN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4227, a bill to streamline the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units, and for other purposes.

S. 4416

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of 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.

S. 4430

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4430, a bill to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish an inter-agency 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.

S. 4467

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Maine (Mr. KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4467, a bill to preserve access to abortion medications.

S. 4499

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4499, a bill to prohibit any requirement that a member of the National Guard receive a vaccination against COVID-19.

S. 4507

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4507, a bill to provide incentives for States to recover fraudulently paid Federal and State unemployment compensation, and for other purposes.

S. 4509

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN), the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4509, a bill to provide for security in the Black Sea region, and for other purposes.

S. 4515

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4515, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to stipulate, as a condition on the sale at auction of any crude oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, that the crude oil not be exported to certain countries, and for other purposes.

S. 4516

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4516, a bill to require the Office of Federal Procurement Policy to develop governmentwide procurement policy and guidance to mitigate organizational conflict of interests relating to national security and foreign policy, and for other purposes.

S. 4550

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4550, a bill to provide enhanced funding for family planning services.

S. 4556

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. PORTMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4556, a bill to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes.

S. 4557

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSOFF) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 4557, a bill to protect a person's ability to access contraceptives and to engage in contraception, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide contraceptives, contraception, and information related to contraception.

S.J. RES. 21

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 21, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to prohibit the use of slavery and involuntary servitude as a punishment for a crime.

S.J. RES. 56

At the request of Mr. SANDERS, the names of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) were added as cosponsors of S.J. Res. 56, a joint resolution directing the removal of United

States Armed Forces from hostilities in the Republic of Yemen that have not been authorized by Congress.

S. RES. 589

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the names of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 589, a resolution recognizing, honoring, and commending the women of Ukraine who have contributed to the fight for freedom and the defense of Ukraine.

S. RES. 712

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 712, a resolution recognizing the need for greater access to rural and agricultural media programming.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. COONS, Mr. SASSE, and Mr. GRAHAM):

S. 4573. A bill to amend title 3, United States Code, to reform the Electoral Count Act, and to amend the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 to provide clear guidelines for when and to whom resources are provided by the Administrator of General Services for use in connection with the preparations for the assumption of official duties as President or Vice President; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. PORTMAN, Ms. SINEMA, Mr. ROMNEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. WARNER, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. COONS):

S. 4574. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to increase penalties for crimes against Federally protected activities relating to voting and the conduct of elections, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, I rise today to acknowledge the months of bipartisan hard work that have gone into two bills that we are filing today: the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act—I repeat—the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act—and the Enhanced Election Security and Protection Act.

I would like to commend my dear friend Senator SUSAN COLLINS for her leadership throughout this process. She has been shepherding this through and working diligently, as only she can do, and she does it so well.

We started these discussions back in January, when partisanship around

here was at a fever pitch, a toxic environment that was absolutely not conducive to things that needed to be done. But for those who may not remember, we were in the middle of a heated debate over voting rights with both sides—Democrats and Republicans—equally dug in on their positions, and it was kind of hard to move people off of that.

The insurrection January 6 and the situation that has been going on since 1887 and should have been corrected and had not been—but no one ever felt that we would have what we had. So now, we needed to take care of it. And everyone stepped to the plate.

By January 19, my Democratic colleagues were so frustrated that they forced a vote on repealing the filibuster to allow that bill to pass with a simple majority, along party lines. It appeared to many, both inside and outside of Washington, DC, that the Senate was fundamentally broken. But Senator COLLINS and I have worked together for a long time, and we never gave up. We were not convinced it was broken, and you just have to work a little bit harder.

They call us the most deliberative body. Well, to deliberate means to talk, to converse; and when that fails, then, basically, the deliberative body is no longer the deliberative body. And we were not going to let that happen to us.

We asked our colleagues and friends to come together to start trying to see if we could work together and find a pathway and find common ground. Well—guess what—they did. So I am here to thank those who sat down: Senator PORTMAN, ROB PORTMAN; we had Senator MURPHY; we had Senator ROMNEY, Senator SHAHEEN, Senator MURKOWSKI, Senator WARREN, Senator TILLIS, Senator SINEMA, Senator CAPITO, Senator CARDIN, Senator YOUNG, Senator COONS, Senator SASSE, and Senator GRAHAM.

Now, that was truly a team effort when you think about it. And this has gone on for quite some time.

What we learned through those discussions was that there was bipartisan support for some important, commonsense reforms that would help restore Americans' faith in our democracy and how we basically apply our democracy, how do we select our representative form of government. Specifically, most of our group felt that we could and that we should:

Reform the Electoral Count Act to remove the ambiguity that we saw weaponized after the last election. We were all in agreement.

Enhance the protections for local election officials who were facing unprecedented threats and intimidations. These are people who volunteer, most basically. And it is basically a family handing down generation after generation, people who always believe that their civic duty is to be able to perform during election times.

We wanted to establish best practices for the U.S. Postal Service to improve

the handling of mail-in ballots. Mail-in ballots have been so convenient to older people, shut-ins. And in the situation where we had this pandemic, my goodness, it was the only way that people could vote.

So reauthorize the Election Assistance Commission to help States improve the administration and the security of Federal elections.

The most important thing that we can do is that when that vote is cast and that vote is counted accurately, it has to be counted and reported accurately. And that is what we have to do and make sure that there is not even a shred of a thought where a person might think that count is not valid—it is not a valid count. And we have done everything we possibly can to make sure that we have cleared that up.

This is not everything that people on both sides of that wanted. Some on our bipartisan committee wanted a lot more, and some didn't want to basically interfere with the States' rights. So we were caught in betwixt and between. We worked back and forth on different things we could. We tried to put the guardrails on that gave guidance, and we think that we came up with a piece of legislation.

And when you have every Member I just mentioned all sign on, with the diversity of these memberships—we have almost 20; 20 Senators have been involved, coming equally between Democrats and Republicans, and able to come to an agreement—this is a bill that we should put forward.

I was proud to be an original sponsor of both the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and I still believe that we can and we must continue working to protect every American's sacred right to vote. But we also have an obligation to the American people to do the most good that we can right now—right now.

The confusing and antiquated language that we have on the books today from the 1887 Electoral Count Act is a real and present danger to our democracy. We can fix that, and that is exactly what we intend to do.

The increased threats and attacks we are seeing across the country on poll workers and election volunteers—we can fix that, too. But even more important than the policy provisions contained in these two bills is the fact that we have Democrats and Republicans standing arm in arm proposing commonsense election reforms that can begin to restore Americans' faith in our democracy. That is our solemn commitment and promise.

When Benjamin Franklin was asked whether the Constitutional Convention had given us a republic or a monarchy, he famously replied "A republic, young man, if you can keep it."

He qualified his answer because he understood a democracy is fragile and can be lost if we are not careful. And while today's introduction is an important step in this process, we do have much work yet to do.

I look forward to continuing our bipartisan effort to get this bill to the President's desk as quickly as possible and signed into law. And our journey begins.

And with that, I would like to yield to my dear friend from the great State of Maine, Senator SUSAN COLLINS.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my close friend and dear colleague Senator MANCHIN in introducing bipartisan legislation to reform the archaic and ambiguous Electoral Count Act of 1887, the important law that governs how Congress tallies each State's electoral votes for President and Vice President.

On January 6 of 2017, I was amused to learn that I had received one electoral vote for Vice President of the United States, an office for which I obviously was not a candidate. But on January 6, 2021, I realized that my unearned vote from 4 years earlier was really not funny at all. Rather, it was an indication of deep structural problems with our system of certifying and counting the electoral votes for President and Vice President. These unfortunate flaws are codified in the 1887 Electoral Count Act.

In four of the past six Presidential elections, this process has been abused, with Members of both parties raising frivolous objections to electoral votes. But it took the violent breach of the Capitol on January 6 of 2021 to really shine a spotlight on the urgent need for reform.

Over the past several months, Senator MANCHIN and I have worked with a terrific, bipartisan group of Senators who are united in our determination to prevent the flaws in this 135-year-old law from being used to undermine future Presidential elections.

I want to express my gratitude to my friend Senator MANCHIN and to all the members of our bipartisan group for their hard work, their constructive work, to craft this legislation. Specifically, I want to thank Senators PORTMAN, SINEMA, ROMNEY, SHAHEEN, MURKOWSKI, WARNER, TILLIS, MURPHY, CAPITO, CARDIN, YOUNG, COONS, and SASSE for their work over several months. I also want to thank Senators KLOBUCHAR and BLUNT, who head the Rules Committee, for their advice and counsel throughout this process, and Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM for his insights and for joining as a cosponsor.

The legislation that we are introducing—the Electoral Count Reform and Presidential Transition Improvement Act—will help ensure that electoral votes totaled by Congress accurately reflect each State's popular vote for President and Vice President.

Our bill includes a number of important reforms, but I want to highlight just a few.

First, it reasserts that the constitutional role of the Vice President in counting electoral votes is strictly and solely ministerial. The idea that any

Vice President would have the power to unilaterally accept or reject or change or halt the electoral votes is antithetical to our Constitution and basic democratic principles.

Second, our bill raises the threshold to lodge an objection to electors to at least one-fifth of the duly chosen and sworn members of the House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate. Currently, only a single Member in both houses is required to object to an elector or a slate of electors.

Third, our legislation will ensure that Congress can identify a single, conclusive slate of electors by clearly identifying a single State official who is responsible for certifying a State's electors; requiring Congress to defer to the slates of electors submitted by a State pursuant to the judgment of State or Federal courts; and providing aggrieved Presidential candidates with an expedited judicial review of Federal claims related to a State's certificate of electors. Let me be clear that this does not create a new cause of action. Instead, it will ensure prompt and efficient adjudication of disputes.

To help promote the orderly transfer of power, our bill also includes clear guidelines for when eligible Presidential candidates may receive Federal resources to support their transition into office. And I want to particularly thank Senators PORTMAN, COONS, and SASSE for their hard work on those provisions.

We are also introducing a second bill—the Enhanced Election Security and Protection Act—to address other issues pertaining to the administration of elections. In the interest of time, let me just quickly note the major provisions of this bill. It would reauthorize the Election Assistance Commission and require it to conduct additional cyber security testing of voting systems, a concept put forth by Senator WARREN. It would improve the Postal Service's handling of election mail. It would enhance current penalties for violent threats against election workers; and increase the maximum penalties for tampering with voting records, including certain electronic records, that was the work of several members, including Senators ROMNEY, SHAHEEN, and SINEMA, among others.

We have before us an historic opportunity to modernize and strengthen our system of certifying and counting the electoral votes for President and Vice President. January 6 reminded us that nothing is more essential to the survival of a democracy than the orderly transfer of power.

And there is nothing more essential to the orderly transfer of power than clear rules for effecting it. I very much hope that Congress will seize this opportunity to enact these sensible and much-needed reforms before the end of this Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

Mr. MANCHIN. Mr. President, while my dear friend is here, I want to tell

her, you know, 6 months ago—we have worked on this for 6 months. It started in January, and it was 14 Senators who came at that time. We just started talking, and 14 Senators—with all of your support, Mr. President, also—we had support from everybody saying something had to be done. But as delicate as this was, knowing that some might think we are picking on one side or the other or supporting or defending one side or the other, there was only one thing we were concerned about: How do we defend this country and the Constitution and this wonderful Capitol that we have so this could never happen again?

January 6 is a black mark on the history of the United States of America. And if you want to erase it, you better do what we did for 6 months, bringing people together to find a pathway forward so that type of opportunity—for some looking for an opportunity—to degrade our government and our country and our form of governing ourselves could never, ever encourage them thinking they could do something here at this Capitol and disrupt us.

When that day happened, the thing I was most proud of, we were all down in a secured room—and Senator COLLINS remembers—and it went on; we didn't know what the extent of this was going on. We knew one thing: They didn't come for a friendly visit. But we were down there talking; and, all of a sudden, someone said: Well, let's just conduct our business down here. Remember that? And to a T, everybody in that room says, No, no, no. They are not going to run us out of our body here. And we all came back here later that night and finished our business.

What we did—and Senator COLLINS has led this admirably—is make sure that we are finishing our business. We are just starting it now to protect this democracy. This form of democracy that we have is a representative form and the Republic that we are responsible for. And I am just so proud to be part of it. And she is my dear friend. We worked many, many years together, and we will continue to.

But I just want to thank the Senator for the hard work—our staffs worked together. I am very proud of all our staffs that they worked together for the betterment of our country.

So when people think that bipartisanship is not capable of happening in Washington, I want to say: Watch, we have proved them wrong. We have done so many things together, and we will continue to. Again, I say thank you to all those who participated for just hanging in there. It took us 6 months to get here, but we have just begun.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I, too, want to salute all of the members of our group who worked so hard over many months. As is always the case when you delve into a complicated issue, it turns out that there are far



more nuances and complexities than you would think when you first look at the issue. But everyone continued to work for the common good to strengthen the procedures, to update this archaic and ambiguous law that was written in the language of another era. And we have accomplished that. And I really hope our colleagues will all join together and that in the end we can have an overwhelming vote.

Finally, I, too, want to thank our staff members for their extraordinary work. They worked literally night and day to work through the many thorny issues and to help bring us together. So my thanks not only to the Members but to their staffs as well.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 713—RECOGNIZING RUSSIAN ACTIONS IN UKRAINE AS A GENOCIDE

Mr. RISCH (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WICKER, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. PORTMAN, and Mr. GRAHAM) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

##### S. RES. 713

Whereas the Russian Federation's illegal, premeditated, unprovoked, and brutal war against Ukraine includes extensive, systematic, and flagrant atrocities against the people of Ukraine;

Whereas article II of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide (in this preamble referred to as the "Genocide Convention"), adopted and opened for signature in 1948 and entered into force in 1951, defines genocide as "any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: (a) Killing members of the group; (b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; (d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; (e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group";

Whereas, on October 3, 2018, the Senate unanimously agreed to Senate Resolution 435, 115th Congress, which commemorated the 85th anniversary of the Holodomor and "recognize[d] the findings of the Commission on the Ukraine Famine as submitted to Congress on April 22, 1988, including that 'Joseph Stalin and those around him committed genocide against the Ukrainians in 1932-1933'";

Whereas substantial and significant evidence documents widespread, systematic actions against the Ukrainian people committed by Russian forces under the direction of political leadership of the Russian Federation that meet one or more of the criteria under article II of the Genocide Convention, including—

(1) killing members of the Ukrainian people in mass atrocities through deliberate and regularized murders of fleeing civilians and civilians in passing as well as purposeful targeting of homes, schools, hospitals, shelters, and other residential and civilian areas;

(2) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the Ukrainian people by launching indiscriminate attacks against ci-

vilians and civilian areas, conducting willful strikes on humanitarian evacuation corridors, and employing widespread and systematic sexual violence against Ukrainian civilians, including women, children, and men;

(3) deliberately inflicting upon the Ukrainian people conditions of life calculated to bring about their physical destruction in whole or in part, including displacement due to annihilated villages, towns, and cities left devoid of food, water, shelter, electricity, and other basic necessities, starvation caused by the destruction of farmlands and agricultural equipment, the placing of Russian landmines across thousands of acres of useable fields, and blocking the delivery of humanitarian food aid;

(4) imposing measures intended to prevent births among the Ukrainian people, demonstrated by the Russian military's expansive and direct targeting of maternity hospitals and other medical facilities and systematic attacks against residential and civilian areas as well as humanitarian corridors intended to deprive Ukrainians of safe havens within their own country and the material conditions conducive to childrearing; and

(5) forcibly mass transferring millions of Ukrainian civilians, hundreds of thousands of whom are children, to the Russian Federation or territories controlled by the Russian Federation;

Whereas the state-level intent of the Russian Federation in favor of those heinous crimes against humanity has been demonstrated through frequent pronouncements and other forms of official communication denying Ukrainian nationhood and sovereignty, including President Putin's ahistorical claims that Ukraine is part of a "single whole" Russian nation with "no historical basis" for being an independent country;

Whereas some Russian soldiers and brigades accused of committing war crimes in Bucha, Ukraine, and elsewhere were rewarded with medals by President Putin;

Whereas the Russian state-owned media outlet RIA Novosti published the article "What Should Russia do with Ukraine", which outlines "de-Nazification" as meaning "de-Ukrainianization" or the destruction of Ukraine;

Whereas article I of the Genocide Convention confirms "that genocide, whether committed in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which [the Contracting Parties] undertake to prevent and to punish"; and

Whereas although additional documentation and analysis of atrocities committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine may be needed to punish those responsible, the substantial and significant documentation already undertaken, combined with statements showing intent, compel urgent action to prevent further acts of genocide: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the Russian Federation for committing acts of genocide against the Ukrainian people;

(2) calls on the United States, in cooperation with allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union, to undertake measures to support the Government of Ukraine to prevent further acts of Russian genocide against the Ukrainian people; and

(3) supports tribunals and international criminal investigations to hold Russian political leaders and military personnel to account for a war of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, I rise today to draw the attention of the Sen-

ate and the American people to a dark anniversary on the near horizon.

On July 24, the world will have seen 5 full months of the brutal, unjustified, and utterly senseless war Russia's dictator Vladimir Putin has unleashed on Ukraine, a peace-loving democracy that has never threatened Russia or any of its other neighbors.

It will be 150 days of Mr. Putin and his army's killing and raping Ukrainian women and children; destroying homes, hospitals, museums, schools, and churches; displacing almost 13 million people; and unleashing chaos and havoc on the world. The blockage of the southern ports of Ukraine has interrupted the vital supply of Ukrainian food supplies to a hungry world, wreaking pain and havoc on societies across the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia. An existing global food security crisis has now been severely worsened by Russia's violent assault, as the Senate Foreign Relations Committee examined earlier today in a hearing where USAID Administrator Samantha Power and our permanent representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield, testified. They spoke about the U.S. role in trying to avert this additional global tragedy resulting from Russia's aggression and the immensity of the task ahead.

Who could forget the horrors of Bucha and Irpin, the shell-shocked look in the eyes of Ukrainian children who will forever carry the burdens of unimaginable trauma or the Ukrainian women who had to be carried from a maternity ward after the Russians struck their hospital with a cruise missile.

This is an everyday reality now for Ukrainians—unspeakable, cruel military assaults. Yet they demonstrate the indomitable will to fight for their land and freedom; they do not give up; and they are truly an inspiration for the rest of the world.

When Mr. Putin started this attack, he assumed Russia would conquer Ukraine and seize its capital in 3 days. Yet it is now day almost 150, and Russia has suffered heavy losses and retreated from Kyiv. While several towns in the south of the country have been flattened and then occupied, in most of the country, the Russian invaders have barely advanced from their initial positions.

In the towns and cities the Russians occupy, they have met heavy resistance from Ukrainian guerillas and regular citizens who do not want to be part of Putin's evil empire. Despite efforts to indoctrinate Ukrainian children in occupied areas with a counterfactual narrative of the contemporary history, Russian speakers are learning Ukrainian, and what have been generally positive relations with the people of Ukraine and Russia before this invasion have now been completely destroyed.

Independent analysts have described the ongoing violence as a genocide in

Ukraine, and there is a growing body of evidence that it is, sadly, true. A May of 2022 study conducted by the New Lines Institute and the Raoul Wallenberg Centre for Human Rights concluded that “Russia bears State responsibility for breaches of Article II and Article III of the Genocide Convention.”

The report pointed to a pattern of Russian forces targeting the Ukrainian civilians, with evidence of mass executions and torture of civilians in Russian-occupied regions. The report included evidence of deliberate attacks on shelters, evacuation routes, and humanitarian corridors, as well as reports of sexual violence and forcible deportation of Ukrainians to Russia.

On July 14, the United States and 44 other nations signed an International Criminal Court declaration to investigate over 20,000 reports—20,000 reports—of war crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine since the beginning of the war.

Make no mistake about it, Vladimir Putin has caused the suffering and pain in pursuit of his ambition to rebuild the Russian Empire. He has said it to himself on multiple occasions. He is hell-bent on destroying the post-World War II world order that has brought prosperity and peace to our allies in Europe—and to Russia to this point, too.

Therefore, it is not an exaggeration to say that the Ukrainians are fighting not just for their land and freedom, which, as Americans, we should cherish and appreciate, but also for the very core of the global order that, if destroyed, will marginalize our allies and threaten the United States.

With this in mind, we must remember that supporting Ukraine is not charity. It is in our core national security interest to provide the Ukrainians with the arms, financing, and moral support to defeat the tyrant of Russia. If Ukraine falls, it will lead to the subjugation of Ukrainian people, destruction of its culture and language, and bring a hostile and expansionistic Russian Empire right to the borders of our NATO allies that we are committed to protect with our troops and weapons. Ukraine is the firewall that the world cannot afford to see breached.

So, yes, it is a moral imperative for us to support Ukrainians in this just war, but it is also a core national security necessity for us to do this. Ukraine is fighting this war on multiple fronts: on land and at sea and in the air. The security of the Black Sea region is a critical aspect of this war that has not received enough attention. As recent reporting suggests, the ability of the Ukrainians’ vessels to navigate the Black Sea is important for the country but also for regional stability and global food security. That is where Ukraine exports most of its agricultural products. Ukraine is a major grain exporter, and the Russians have been blocking these vessels from departing Ukrainian ports. This ex-

poses some of the world’s most vulnerable people to food scarcity, malnutrition, and worsening poverty—and in some cases leading to unnecessary and preventable deaths. Truly, the ugliness and deprivation of the Putin regime has no limit.

It is in this context the U.S. Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe that I chair conducted a field hearing on Black Sea security in Constanta, Romania, on July 1. I want to thank my friend Senator WICKER for chairing that hearing. The Commission brought together key decisionmakers from the Black Sea states to discuss how best to address Russia’s illegal naval blockade of Ukrainian ports.

Subsequently, Senator WICKER and I joined Senators SHAHEEN and ROMNEY in introducing the Black Sea Security Act, S. 4509. This bill would declare that it is the policy of the United States “to actively deter the threat of further Russian escalation in the Black Sea region and defend freedom of navigation in the Black Sea to prevent the spread of further armed conflict in Europe.”

The bill further requires that the National Security Council shall deliver to Congress an interagency report that outlines current policy options toward Black Sea countries and the border region. The report would include a breakdown of funding to support these efforts, including military assistance; economic assistance, including support for food security; countering Russia’s disinformation and propaganda; energy diversification; increasing access to global capital markets; a plan for helping U.S. allies in the region to accelerate their transitions from legacy Russian military equipment and promote NATO interoperability; and strengthening the rule of law and anticorruption efforts.

I call on my colleagues to support this important piece of legislation.

Tragically, this war is turning into a marathon, and it is incumbent upon us not to lose our focus and determination in supporting our Ukrainian partners. I want to urge my colleagues in this Chamber and all my fellow Americans to stay the course and continue to support Ukraine for as long as it takes.

My final point today is that we should say the name of what Russia is doing, the atrocities they are committing. Russia is committing genocide in Ukraine. Russia is trying to eviscerate not just the people and the buildings of Ukraine; they are trying to eliminate the Ukrainian language, Ukrainian history, and Ukrainian culture. That is genocide.

That is why I am joining Senator RUSCH, along with Senators GRAHAM, BLUMENTHAL, SHAHEEN, and PORTMAN in introducing a resolution that would condemn the Russian Federation for committing acts of genocide against the Ukrainian people; call on the United States, in cooperation with allies in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and the European Union, to

undertake measures to support the Government of Ukraine to prevent further acts of Russian genocide against the Ukrainian people; and support tribunals and international criminal investigations to hold Russian political leaders and military personnel to account for a war of aggression, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide.

We must stand shoulder to shoulder with the Ukrainians to lighten their load and hasten their victory. We must be prepared for the reconstruction of Ukraine that will follow the conclusion of this war. And, yes, we must pursue accountability for those responsible for the genocide underway in Ukraine by the Russian Federation.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 714—RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES MADE POSSIBLE BY THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990 AND CALLING FOR FURTHER ACTION TO STRENGTHEN HOME AND COMMUNITY LIVING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. KAINE, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. KING, Ms. SMITH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Ms. HASSAN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Mr. MURPHY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BROWN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. PETERS, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. DURBIN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

#### S. RES. 714

Whereas, in enacting the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), Congress recognized that “historically, society has tended to isolate and segregate individuals with disabilities, and, despite some improvements, such forms of discrimination against individuals with disabilities continue to be a serious and pervasive social problem”;

Whereas the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 recognizes the rights of individuals with disabilities to fully participate in their communities through independent living, equality of opportunity, and economic self-sufficiency;

Whereas 32 years after the date of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and 23 years after the date of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in *Olmstead v. L.C.*, 527 U.S. 581 (1999), many individuals with disabilities continue to live in segregated institutional settings because of a lack of support services;

Whereas the continuation of segregated institutional settings has hindered the inclusion of individuals with disabilities in communities, schools, and workplaces, undermining the promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

Whereas individuals with disabilities living in institutional and long-term care settings have endured disproportionate rates of infection and death during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas individuals of color with disabilities have been disparately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas individuals of color with disabilities experience disproportionately greater barriers to high quality and accessible healthcare, education, and employment opportunities, infringing on their right to fully participate in their communities under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990; and

Whereas 32 years after the date of the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990—

(1) women with disabilities continue to regularly face barriers to reproductive healthcare, including inaccessible and inequitable services;

(2) individuals with disabilities continue to face higher rates of unemployment and barriers to accessible workplaces and lack equitable access to competitive integrated employment opportunities;

(3) nearly a quarter of the population of individuals with disabilities live below the poverty line;

(4) some telecommunication, electronic, and information technologies continue to be developed without the goal of making those technologies fully accessible for all people of the United States; and

(5) many businesses, public and private organizations, transportation systems, and services remain inaccessible to many individuals with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities made possible by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.);

(2) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate the advancement of inclusion and equality of opportunity made possible by the enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990;

(3) pledges to continue to work on a bipartisan basis to identify and address the remaining barriers that undermine the national goals of equality of opportunity, independent living, economic self-sufficiency, and full participation for individuals with disabilities, including by focusing on individuals with disabilities that remain segregated in institutions;

(4) pledges to work with States to improve access to home and community based services for individuals with disabilities;

(5) calls on the Department of Labor to develop policies and practices and provide technical assistance that enable individuals with disabilities to become economically self-sufficient;

(6) calls on the Department of Health and Human Services to provide information, resources, and technical assistance related to home and community based services and to enable individuals with disabilities to live independently;

(7) calls on the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide accessible and inclusive homes and communities that increase the options available for accessible, inclusive, and equitable housing for individuals with disabilities; and

(8) calls on the Department of Transportation to create accessible transit and airports and increase the hiring, promotion, and retention of individuals with disabilities in the transportation workforce.

## AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5139. Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4346, making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5140. Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5141. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5135 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4346, making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5142. Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5135 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4346, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 5143. Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. JOHNSON) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 694, expressing support for the designation of July 2022 as “National Sarcoma Awareness Month”.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 5139.** Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. GRASSLEY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 4346, making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

### **TITLE —SAFEGUARDING AMERICAN INNOVATION**

#### **SEC. \_\_\_\_ SHORT TITLE.**

This title may be cited as the “Safeguarding American Innovation Act”.

#### **SEC. \_\_\_\_ DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

(1) **FEDERAL SCIENCE AGENCY.**—The term “Federal science agency” means any Federal department or agency to which more than \$100,000,000 in basic and applied research and development funds were appropriated for the previous fiscal year.

(2) **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “research and development” means all research activities, both basic and applied, and all development activities.

(B) **DEVELOPMENT.**—The term “development” means experimental development.

(C) **EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT.**—The term “experimental development” means creative and systematic work, drawing upon knowledge gained from research and practical experience, which—

(i) is directed toward the production of new products or processes or improving existing products or processes; and

(ii) like research, will result in gaining additional knowledge.

(D) **RESEARCH.**—The term “research”—

(i) means a systematic study directed toward fuller scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied; and

(ii) includes activities involving the training of individuals in research techniques if such activities—

(I) utilize the same facilities as other research and development activities; and

(II) are not included in the instruction function.

### **SEC. \_\_\_\_ FEDERAL RESEARCH SECURITY COUNCIL.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Subtitle V of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### **“CHAPTER 79—FEDERAL RESEARCH SECURITY COUNCIL**

“Sec.

“7901. Definitions.

“7902. Federal Research Security Council establishment and membership.

“7903. Functions and authorities.

“7904. Strategic plan.

“7905. Annual report.

“7906. Requirements for Executive agencies.

#### **“§ 7901. Definitions**

“In this chapter:

“(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

“(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

“(B) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate;

“(C) the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate;

“(D) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

“(E) the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate;

“(F) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

“(G) the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives;

“(H) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives;

“(I) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

“(J) the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

“(K) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives;

“(L) the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives;

“(M) the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives; and

“(N) the Committee on Education and Labor of the House of Representatives.

“(2) **COUNCIL.**—The term ‘Council’ means the Federal Research Security Council established under section 7902(a).

“(3) **EXECUTIVE AGENCY.**—The term ‘Executive agency’ has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5.

“(4) **FEDERAL RESEARCH SECURITY RISK.**—The term ‘Federal research security risk’ means the risk posed by malign state actors and other persons to the security and integrity of research and development conducted using research and development funds awarded by Executive agencies.

“(5) **INSIDER.**—The term ‘insider’ means any person with authorized access to any United States Government resource, including personnel, facilities, information, research, equipment, networks, or systems.

“(6) **INSIDER THREAT.**—The term ‘insider threat’ means the threat that an insider will use his or her authorized access (wittingly or unwittingly) to harm the national and economic security of the United States or negatively affect the integrity of a Federal agency’s normal processes, including damaging the United States through espionage, sabotage, terrorism, unauthorized disclosure of national security information or nonpublic information, a destructive act (which may include physical harm to another in the

workplace), or through the loss or degradation of departmental resources, capabilities, and functions.

“(7) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘research and development’ means all research activities, both basic and applied, and all development activities.

“(B) DEVELOPMENT.—The term ‘development’ means experimental development.

“(C) EXPERIMENTAL DEVELOPMENT.—The term ‘experimental development’ means creative and systematic work, drawing upon knowledge gained from research and practical experience, which—

“(i) is directed toward the production of new products or processes or improving existing products or processes; and

“(ii) like research, will result in gaining additional knowledge.

“(D) RESEARCH.—The term ‘research’—

“(i) means a systematic study directed toward fuller scientific knowledge or understanding of the subject studied; and

“(ii) includes activities involving the training of individuals in research techniques if such activities—

“(I) utilize the same facilities as other research and development activities; and

“(II) are not included in the instruction function.

“(8) UNITED STATES RESEARCH COMMUNITY.—The term ‘United States research community’ means—

“(A) research and development centers of Executive agencies;

“(B) private research and development centers in the United States, including for profit and nonprofit research institutes;

“(C) research and development centers at institutions of higher education (as defined in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)));

“(D) research and development centers of States, United States territories, Indian tribes, and municipalities;

“(E) government-owned, contractor-operated United States Government research and development centers; and

“(F) any person conducting federally funded research or receiving Federal research grant funding.

#### “§ 7902. Federal Research Security Council establishment and membership

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established, in the Office of Management and Budget, a Federal Research Security Council, which shall develop federally funded research and development grant making policy and management guidance to protect the national and economic security interests of the United States.

“(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The following agencies shall be represented on the Council:

“(A) The Office of Management and Budget.

“(B) The Office of Science and Technology Policy.

“(C) The Department of Defense.

“(D) The Department of Homeland Security.

“(E) The Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

“(F) The Department of Justice.

“(G) The Department of Energy.

“(H) The Department of Commerce.

“(I) The Department of Health and Human Services.

“(J) The Department of State.

“(K) The Department of Transportation.

“(L) The National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

“(M) The National Science Foundation.

“(N) The Department of Education.

“(O) The Small Business Administration.

“(P) The Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency.

“(Q) Other Executive agencies, as determined by the Chairperson of the Council.

“(2) LEAD REPRESENTATIVES.—

“(A) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of the Safeguarding American Innovation Act, the head of each agency represented on the Council shall designate a representative of that agency as the lead representative of the agency on the Council.

“(B) FUNCTIONS.—The lead representative of an agency designated under subparagraph (A) shall ensure that appropriate personnel, including leadership and subject matter experts of the agency, are aware of the business of the Council.

“(c) CHAIRPERSON.—

“(1) DESIGNATION.—Not later than 45 days after the date of the enactment of the Safeguarding American Innovation Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall designate a senior level official from the Office of Management and Budget to serve as the Chairperson of the Council.

“(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Chairperson shall perform functions that include—

“(A) subject to subsection (d), developing a schedule for meetings of the Council;

“(B) designating Executive agencies to be represented on the Council under subsection (b)(1)(Q);

“(C) in consultation with the lead representative of each agency represented on the Council, developing a charter for the Council; and

“(D) not later than 7 days after completion of the charter, submitting the charter to the appropriate congressional committees.

“(3) LEAD SCIENCE ADVISOR.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall designate a senior level official to be the lead science advisor to the Council for purposes of this chapter.

“(4) LEAD SECURITY ADVISOR.—The Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center shall designate a senior level official from the National Counterintelligence and Security Center to be the lead security advisor to the Council for purposes of this chapter.

“(d) MEETINGS.—The Council shall meet not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of the Safeguarding American Innovation Act and not less frequently than quarterly thereafter.

#### “§ 7903. Functions and authorities

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) IMPLEMENTING.—The term ‘implementing’ means working with the relevant Federal agencies, through existing processes and procedures, to enable those agencies to put in place and enforce the measures described in this section.

“(2) UNIFORM APPLICATION PROCESS.—The term ‘uniform application process’ means a process employed by Federal science agencies to maximize the collection of information regarding applicants and applications, as determined by the Council.

“(b) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Council shall consider the missions and responsibilities of Council members in determining the lead agencies for Council functions. The Council shall perform the following functions:

“(1) Developing and implementing, across all Executive agencies that award research and development grants, awards, and contracts, a uniform application process for grants in accordance with subsection (c).

“(2) Developing and implementing policies and providing guidance to prevent malign foreign interference from unduly influencing the peer review process for federally funded research and development.

“(3) Identifying or developing criteria for sharing among Executive agencies and with

law enforcement and other agencies, as appropriate, information regarding individuals who violate disclosure policies and other policies related to research security.

“(4) Identifying an appropriate Executive agency—

“(A) to accept and protect information submitted by Executive agencies and non-Federal entities based on the process established pursuant to paragraph (1); and

“(B) to facilitate the sharing of information received under subparagraph (A) to support, consistent with Federal law—

“(i) the oversight of federally funded research and development;

“(ii) criminal and civil investigations of misappropriated Federal funds, resources, and information; and

“(iii) counterintelligence investigations.

“(5) Identifying, as appropriate, Executive agencies to provide—

“(A) shared services, such as support for conducting Federal research security risk assessments, activities to mitigate such risks, and oversight and investigations with respect to grants awarded by Executive agencies; and

“(B) common contract solutions to support the verification of the identities of persons participating in federally funded research and development.

“(6) Identifying and issuing guidance, in accordance with subsection (e) and in coordination with the National Insider Threat Task Force established by Executive Order 13587 (50 U.S.C. 3161 note) for expanding the scope of Executive agency insider threat programs, including the safeguarding of research and development from exploitation, compromise, or other unauthorized disclosure, taking into account risk levels and the distinct needs, missions, and systems of each such agency.

“(7) Identifying and issuing guidance for developing compliance and oversight programs for Executive agencies to ensure that research and development grant recipients accurately report conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment in accordance with subsection (c)(1). Such programs shall include an assessment of—

“(A) a grantee’s support from foreign sources and affiliations, appointments, or participation in talent programs with foreign funding institutions or laboratories; and

“(B) the impact of such support and affiliations, appointments, or participation in talent programs on United States national security and economic interests.

“(8) Providing guidance to Executive agencies regarding appropriate application of consequences for violations of disclosure requirements.

“(9) Developing and implementing a cross-agency policy and providing guidance related to the use of digital persistent identifiers for individual researchers supported by, or working on, any Federal research grant with the goal to enhance transparency and security, while reducing administrative burden for researchers and research institutions.

“(10) Engaging with the United States research community in conjunction with the National Science and Technology Council and the National Academies Science, Technology and Security Roundtable created under section 1746 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 (Public Law 116-92; 42 U.S.C. 6601 note) in performing the functions described in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) and with respect to issues relating to Federal research security risks.

“(11) Carrying out such other functions, consistent with Federal law, that are necessary to reduce Federal research security risks.

“(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR UNIFORM GRANT APPLICATION PROCESS.—In developing the uniform application process for Federal research and development grants required under subsection (b)(1), the Council shall—

“(1) ensure that the process—

“(A) requires principal investigators, co-principal investigators, and key personnel associated with the proposed Federal research or development grant project—

“(i) to disclose biographical information, all affiliations, including any foreign military, foreign government-related organizations, and foreign-funded institutions, and all current and pending support, including from foreign institutions, foreign governments, or foreign laboratories, and all support received from foreign sources; and

“(ii) to certify the accuracy of the required disclosures under penalty of perjury; and

“(B) uses a machine-readable application form to assist in identifying fraud and ensuring the eligibility of applicants;

“(2) design the process—

“(A) to reduce the administrative burden on persons applying for Federal research and development funding; and

“(B) to promote information sharing across the United States research community, while safeguarding sensitive information; and

“(3) complete the process not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of the Safeguarding American Innovation Act.

“(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR INFORMATION SHARING CRITERIA.—In identifying or developing criteria and procedures for sharing information with respect to Federal research security risks under subsection (b)(3), the Council shall ensure that such criteria address, at a minimum—

“(1) the information to be shared;

“(2) the circumstances under which sharing is mandated or voluntary;

“(3) the circumstances under which it is appropriate for an Executive agency to rely on information made available through such sharing in exercising the responsibilities and authorities of the agency under applicable laws relating to the award of grants;

“(4) the procedures for protecting intellectual capital that may be present in such information; and

“(5) appropriate privacy protections for persons involved in Federal research and development.

“(e) REQUIREMENTS FOR INSIDER THREAT PROGRAM GUIDANCE.—In identifying or developing guidance with respect to insider threat programs under subsection (b)(6), the Council shall ensure that such guidance provides for, at a minimum—

“(1) such programs—

“(A) to deter, detect, and mitigate insider threats; and

“(B) to leverage counterintelligence, security, information assurance, and other relevant functions and resources to identify and counter insider threats; and

“(2) the development of an integrated capability to monitor and audit information for the detection and mitigation of insider threats, including through—

“(A) monitoring user activity on computer networks controlled by Executive agencies;

“(B) providing employees of Executive agencies with awareness training with respect to insider threats and the responsibilities of employees to report such threats;

“(C) gathering information for a centralized analysis, reporting, and response capability; and

“(D) information sharing to aid in tracking the risk individuals may pose while moving across programs and affiliations;

“(3) the development and implementation of policies and procedures under which the insider threat program of an Executive agen-

cy accesses, shares, and integrates information and data derived from offices within the agency and shares insider threat information with the executive agency research sponsors;

“(4) the designation of senior officials with authority to provide management, accountability, and oversight of the insider threat program of an Executive agency and to make resource recommendations to the appropriate officials; and

“(5) such additional guidance as is necessary to reflect the distinct needs, missions, and systems of each Executive agency.

“(f) ISSUANCE OF WARNINGS RELATING TO RISKS AND VULNERABILITIES IN INTERNATIONAL SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Council, in conjunction with the lead security advisor designated under section 7902(c)(4), shall establish a process for informing members of the United States research community and the public, through the issuance of warnings described in paragraph (2), of potential risks and vulnerabilities in international scientific cooperation that may undermine the integrity and security of the United States research community or place at risk any federally funded research and development.

“(2) CONTENT.—A warning described in this paragraph shall include, to the extent the Council considers appropriate, a description of—

“(A) activities by the national government, local governments, research institutions, or universities of a foreign country—

“(i) to exploit, interfere, or undermine research and development by the United States research community; or

“(ii) to misappropriate scientific knowledge resulting from federally funded research and development;

“(B) efforts by strategic competitors to exploit the research enterprise of a foreign country that may place at risk—

“(i) the science and technology of that foreign country; or

“(ii) federally funded research and development; and

“(C) practices within the research enterprise of a foreign country that do not adhere to the United States scientific values of openness, transparency, reciprocity, integrity, and merit-based competition.

“(g) EXCLUSION ORDERS.—To reduce Federal research security risk, the Interagency Suspension and Debarment Committee shall provide quarterly reports to the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy that detail—

“(1) the number of ongoing investigations by Council Members related to Federal research security that may result, or have resulted, in agency pre-notice letters, suspensions, proposed debarments, and debarments;

“(2) Federal agencies' performance and compliance with interagency suspensions and debarments;

“(3) efforts by the Interagency Suspension and Debarment Committee to mitigate Federal research security risk;

“(4) proposals for developing a unified Federal policy on suspensions and debarments; and

“(5) other current suspension and debarment related issues.

“(h) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

“(1) to alter or diminish the authority of any Federal agency; or

“(2) to alter any procedural requirements or remedies that were in place before the date of the enactment of the Safeguarding American Innovation Act.

#### “§ 7904. Annual report

“Not later than November 15 of each year, the Chairperson of the Council shall submit

a report to the appropriate congressional committees that describes the activities of the Council during the preceding fiscal year.

#### “§ 7905. Requirements for Executive agencies

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each Executive agency on the Council shall be responsible for—

“(1) assessing Federal research security risks posed by persons participating in federally funded research and development;

“(2) avoiding or mitigating such risks, as appropriate and consistent with the standards, guidelines, requirements, and practices identified by the Council under section 7903(b);

“(3) prioritizing Federal research security risk assessments conducted under paragraph (1) based on the applicability and relevance of the research and development to the national security and economic competitiveness of the United States;

“(4) ensuring that initiatives impacting Federally funded research grant making policy and management to protect the national and economic security interests of the United States are integrated with the activities of the Council; and

“(5) ensuring the initiatives developed pursuant to this section comply with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.).

“(b) INCLUSIONS.—The responsibility of the head of an Executive agency for assessing Federal research security risk described in subsection (a) includes—

“(1) developing an overall Federal research security risk management strategy and implementation plan and policies and processes to guide and govern Federal research security risk management activities by the Executive agency;

“(2) integrating Federal research security risk management practices throughout the lifecycle of the grant programs of the Executive agency;

“(3) sharing relevant information with other Executive agencies, as determined appropriate by the Council in a manner consistent with section 7903; and

“(4) reporting on the effectiveness of the Federal research security risk management strategy of the Executive agency consistent with guidance issued by the Office of Management and Budget and the Council.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of chapters at the beginning of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to chapter 77 the following:

“79. Federal Research Security Council ..... 7901.”.

#### SEC. . FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATION FRAUD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 47 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### “§ 1041. Federal grant application fraud

“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term ‘Federal agency’ has the meaning given the term ‘agency’ in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) FEDERAL GRANT.—The term ‘Federal grant’—

“(A) means a grant awarded by a Federal agency;

“(B) includes a subgrant awarded by a non-Federal entity to carry out a Federal grant program; and

“(C) does not include—

“(i) direct United States Government cash assistance to an individual;

“(ii) a subsidy;

“(iii) a loan;

“(iv) a loan guarantee; or

“(v) insurance.

“(3) FEDERAL GRANT APPLICATION.—The term ‘Federal grant application’ means an application for a Federal grant.

“(4) FOREIGN COMPENSATION.—The term ‘foreign compensation’ means a title, monetary compensation, access to a laboratory or other resource, or other benefit received from—

“(A) a foreign government;

“(B) a foreign government institution; or

“(C) a foreign public enterprise.

“(5) FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.—The term ‘foreign government’ includes a person acting or purporting to act on behalf of—

“(A) a faction, party, department, agency, bureau, subnational administrative entity, or military of a foreign country; or

“(B) a foreign government or a person purporting to act as a foreign government, regardless of whether the United States recognizes the government.

“(6) FOREIGN GOVERNMENT INSTITUTION.—The term ‘foreign government institution’ means a foreign entity owned by, subject to the control of, or subject to regulation by a foreign government.

“(7) FOREIGN PUBLIC ENTERPRISE.—The term ‘foreign public enterprise’ means an enterprise over which a foreign government directly or indirectly exercises a dominant influence.

“(8) LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The term ‘law enforcement agency’—

“(A) means a Federal, State, local, or Tribal law enforcement agency; and

“(B) includes—

“(i) the Office of Inspector General of an establishment (as defined in section 12 of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)) or a designated Federal entity (as defined in section 8G(a) of the Inspector General Act of 1978 (5 U.S.C. App.)); and

“(ii) the Office of Inspector General, or similar office, of a State or unit of local government.

“(9) OUTSIDE COMPENSATION.—The term ‘outside compensation’ means any compensation, resource, or support (regardless of monetary value) made available to the applicant in support of, or related to, any research endeavor, including a title, research grant, cooperative agreement, contract, institutional award, access to a laboratory, or other resource, including materials, travel compensation, or work incentives.

“(b) PROHIBITION.—It shall be unlawful for any individual to knowingly—

“(1) prepare or submit a Federal grant application that fails to disclose the receipt of any outside compensation, including foreign compensation, by the individual, the value of which is \$1,000 or more;

“(2) forge, counterfeit, or otherwise falsify a document for the purpose of obtaining a Federal grant; or

“(3) prepare, submit, or assist in the preparation or submission of a Federal grant application or document in connection with a Federal grant application that—

“(A) contains a material false statement;

“(B) contains a material misrepresentation; or

“(C) fails to disclose a material fact.

“(c) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (b) does not apply to an activity—

“(1) carried out in connection with a lawfully authorized investigative, protective, or intelligence activity of—

“(A) a law enforcement agency; or

“(B) a Federal intelligence agency; or

“(2) authorized under chapter 224.

“(d) PENALTY.—Any individual who violates subsection (b)—

“(1) shall be fined in accordance with this title, imprisoned for not more than 5 years, or both, in accordance with the level of severity of that individual’s violation of subsection (b); and

“(2) shall be prohibited from receiving a Federal grant during the 5-year period beginning on the date on which a sentence is im-

posed on the individual under paragraph (1).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chapter 47 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“1041. Federal grant application fraud.”.

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ RESTRICTING THE ACQUISITION OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES BY CERTAIN ALIENS.

(a) GROUNDS OF VISA SANCTIONS.—The Secretary of State may impose the sanctions described in subsection (c) if the Secretary determines an alien is seeking to enter the United States to knowingly acquire sensitive or emerging technologies to undermine national security interests of the United States by benefitting an adversarial foreign government’s security or strategic capabilities.

(b) RELEVANT FACTORS.—To determine if an alien is inadmissible under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall—

(1) take account of information and analyses relevant to implementing subsection (a) from the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, the Department of Commerce, and other appropriate Federal agencies;

(2) take account of the continual expert assessments of evolving sensitive or emerging technologies that foreign adversaries are targeting;

(3) take account of relevant information concerning the foreign person’s employment or collaboration, to the extent known, with—

(A) foreign military and security related organizations that are adversarial to the United States;

(B) foreign institutions involved in the theft of United States research;

(C) entities involved in export control violations or the theft of intellectual property;

(D) a government that seeks to undermine the integrity and security of the United States research community; or

(E) other associations or collaborations that pose a national security threat based on intelligence assessments; and

(4) weigh the proportionality of risks and the factors listed in paragraphs (1) through (3).

(c) SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The sanctions described in this subsection are the following:

(1) INELIGIBILITY FOR VISAS AND ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.—An alien described in subsection (a) may be—

(A) inadmissible to the United States;

(B) ineligible to receive a visa or other documentation to enter the United States; and

(C) 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.).

(2) CURRENT VISAS REVOKED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An alien described in subsection (a) is subject to revocation of any visa or other entry documentation regardless of when the visa or other entry documentation is or was issued.

(B) IMMEDIATE EFFECT.—A revocation under subparagraph (A) shall take effect immediately, and automatically cancel any other valid visa or entry documentation that is in the alien’s possession, in accordance with section 221(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(i)).

(3) EXCEPTION TO COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—The sanctions described in this subsection shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary to permit the United States to

comply with 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, or other applicable international obligations.

(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and semi-annually thereafter until the sunset date set forth in subsection (f), the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Commerce, and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall submit a report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives that identifies—

(1) any criteria, if relevant, used to determine whether an alien is subject to sanctions under subsection (a);

(2) the number of individuals determined to be subject to sanctions under subsection (a), including the nationality of each such individual and the reasons for each sanctions determination; and

(3) the number of days from the date of the consular interview until a final decision is issued for each application for a visa considered under this section, listed by applicants’ country of citizenship and relevant consulate.

(e) CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT.—Each report required under subsection (d) shall be submitted, to the extent practicable, in an unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex.

(f) SUNSET.—This section shall cease to be effective on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ MACHINE READABLE VISA DOCUMENTS.

(a) MACHINE-READABLE DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall—

(1) use a machine-readable visa application form; and

(2) make available documents submitted in support of a visa application in a machine readable format to assist in—

(A) identifying fraud;

(B) conducting lawful law enforcement activities; and

(C) determining the eligibility of applicants for a visa under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.).

(b) WAIVER.—The Secretary of State may waive the requirement under subsection (a) by providing to Congress, not later than 30 days before such waiver takes effect—

(1) a detailed explanation for why the waiver is being issued; and

(2) a timeframe for the implementation of the requirement under subsection (a).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 45 days after date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate, the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, the



Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that—

(1) describes how supplementary documents provided by a visa applicant in support of a visa application are stored and shared by the Department of State with authorized Federal agencies;

(2) identifies the sections of a visa application that are machine-readable and the sections that are not machine-readable;

(3) provides cost estimates, including personnel costs and a cost-benefit analysis for adopting different technologies, including optical character recognition, for—

(A) making every element of a visa application, and documents submitted in support of a visa application, machine-readable; and

(B) ensuring that such system—

(i) protects personally-identifiable information; and

(ii) permits the sharing of visa information with Federal agencies in accordance with existing law; and

(4) includes an estimated timeline for completing the implementation of subsection (a).

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . CERTIFICATIONS REGARDING ACCESS TO EXPORT CONTROLLED TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

Section 102(b)(5) of the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2452(b)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

“(5) promoting and supporting medical, scientific, cultural, and educational research and development by developing exchange programs for foreign researchers and scientists, while protecting technologies regulated by export control laws important to the national security and economic interests of the United States, by requiring—

“(A) the sponsor to certify to the Department of State that the sponsor, after reviewing all regulations related to the Export Controls Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4811 et seq.) and the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), has determined that—

“(i) a license is not required from the Department of Commerce or the Department of State to release such technology or technical data to the exchange visitor; or

“(ii) (I) a license is required from the Department of Commerce or the Department of State to release such technology or technical data to the exchange visitor; and

“(II) the sponsor will prevent access to the controlled technology or technical data by the exchange visitor until the sponsor—

“(aa) has received the required license or other authorization to release it to the visitor; and

“(bb) has provided a copy of such license or authorization to the Department of State; and

“(B) if the sponsor maintains export controlled technology or technical data, the sponsor to submit to the Department of State the sponsor's plan to prevent unauthorized export or transfer of any controlled items, materials, information, or technology at the sponsor organization or entities associated with a sponsor's administration of the exchange visitor program.”.

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PRIVACY AND CONFIDENTIALITY.

Nothing in this title may be construed as affecting the rights and requirements provided in section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Privacy Act of 1974”) or subchapter III of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Confidential Information Protection and Statistical Efficiency Act of 2018”).

**SA 5140.** Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr.

CRAMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Water Resources Development Act of 2022”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definition of Secretary.

#### TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 101. Scope of feasibility studies.

Sec. 102. Shoreline and riverbank protection and restoration mission.

Sec. 103. Inland waterway projects.

Sec. 104. Protection and restoration of other Federal land along rivers and coasts.

Sec. 105. Policy and technical standards.

Sec. 106. Planning assistance to States.

Sec. 107. Floodplain management services.

Sec. 108. Workforce planning.

Sec. 109. Credit in lieu of reimbursement.

Sec. 110. Coastal cost calculations.

Sec. 111. Advance payment in lieu of reimbursement for certain Federal costs.

Sec. 112. Use of emergency funds.

Sec. 113. Research and development.

Sec. 114. Tribal and Economically Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Committee.

Sec. 115. Non-Federal Interest Advisory Committee.

Sec. 116. Underserved community harbor projects.

Sec. 117. Corps of Engineers Western Water Cooperative Committee.

Sec. 118. Updates to certain water control manuals.

Sec. 119. Sense of Congress on operations and maintenance of recreation sites.

Sec. 120. Relocation assistance.

Sec. 121. Reprogramming limits.

Sec. 122. Lease durations.

Sec. 123. Sense of Congress relating to post-disaster repairs.

Sec. 124. Payment of pay and allowances of certain officers from appropriation for improvements.

Sec. 125. Reforestation.

Sec. 126. Use of other Federal funds.

Sec. 127. National low-head dam inventory.

Sec. 128. Transfer of excess credit.

Sec. 129. National levee restoration.

Sec. 130. Inland waterways regional dredge pilot program.

Sec. 131. Funding to process permits.

Sec. 132. Non-Federal project implementation pilot program.

Sec. 133. Cost sharing for territories and Indian Tribes.

Sec. 134. Water supply conservation.

Sec. 135. Criteria for funding operation and maintenance of small, remote, and subsistence harbors.

Sec. 136. Protection of lighthouses.

Sec. 137. Expediting hydropower at Corps of Engineers facilities.

Sec. 138. Materials, services, and funds for repair, restoration, or rehabilitation of certain public recreation facilities.

Sec. 139. Dredged material management plans.

Sec. 140. Lease deviations.

Sec. 141. Columbia River Basin.

Sec. 142. Continuation of construction.

#### TITLE II—STUDIES AND REPORTS

Sec. 201. Authorization of feasibility studies.

Sec. 202. Special rules.

Sec. 203. Expedited completion of studies.

Sec. 204. Studies for periodic nourishment.

Sec. 205. NEPA reporting.

Sec. 206. GAO audit of projects over budget or behind schedule.

Sec. 207. GAO study on project distribution.

Sec. 208. GAO audit of joint costs for operations and maintenance.

Sec. 209. GAO review of Corps of Engineers mitigation practices.

Sec. 210. Sabine-Neches Waterway Navigation Improvement project, Texas.

Sec. 211. Great Lakes recreational boating.

Sec. 212. Central and Southern Florida.

Sec. 213. Investments for recreation areas.

Sec. 214. Western infrastructure study.

Sec. 215. Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System.

Sec. 216. West Virginia hydropower.

Sec. 217. Recreation and economic development at Corps facilities in Appalachia.

Sec. 218. Automated fee machines.

Sec. 219. Lake Champlain Canal, Vermont and New York.

Sec. 220. Report on concessionaire practices.

#### TITLE III—DEAUTHORIZATIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND RELATED PROVISIONS

Sec. 301. Additional assistance for critical projects.

Sec. 302. Southern West Virginia.

Sec. 303. Northern West Virginia.

Sec. 304. Local cooperation agreements, northern West Virginia.

Sec. 305. Special rule for certain beach nourishment projects.

Sec. 306. Coastal community flood control and other purposes.

Sec. 307. Modifications.

Sec. 308. Port Fourchon, Louisiana, dredged material disposal plan.

Sec. 309. Delaware shore protection and restoration.

Sec. 310. Great Lakes advance measures assistance.

Sec. 311. Rehabilitation of existing levees.

Sec. 312. Pilot program for certain communities.

Sec. 313. Rehabilitation of Corps of Engineers constructed pump stations.

Sec. 314. Chesapeake Bay environmental restoration and protection program.

Sec. 315. Evaluation of hydrologic changes in Souris River Basin.

Sec. 316. Memorandum of understanding relating to Baldhill Dam, North Dakota.

Sec. 317. Upper Mississippi River restoration program.

Sec. 318. Harmful algal bloom demonstration program.

Sec. 319. Colleton County, South Carolina.

Sec. 320. Arkansas River corridor, Oklahoma.

Sec. 321. Abandoned and inactive noncoal mine restoration.

Sec. 322. Asian carp prevention and control pilot program.

Sec. 323. Forms of assistance.

Sec. 324. Debris removal, New York Harbor, New York.

Sec. 325. Invasive species management.

Sec. 326. Wolf River Harbor, Tennessee.

Sec. 327. Missouri River mitigation, Missouri, Kansas, Iowa, and Nebraska.

Sec. 328. Invasive species management pilot program.

- Sec. 329. Nueces County, Texas, conveyances.
- Sec. 330. Mississippi Delta Headwaters, Mississippi.
- Sec. 331. Ecosystem restoration, Hudson-Raritan Estuary, New York and New Jersey.
- Sec. 332. Timely reimbursement.
- Sec. 333. New Savannah Bluff Lock and Dam, Georgia and South Carolina.
- Sec. 334. Lake Tahoe Basin restoration, Nevada and California.
- Sec. 335. Additional assistance for Eastern Santa Clara Basin, California.
- Sec. 336. Tribal partnership program.
- Sec. 337. Surplus water contracts and water storage agreements.
- Sec. 338. Copan Lake, Oklahoma.
- Sec. 339. Enhanced development program.
- Sec. 340. Ecosystem restoration coordination.
- Sec. 341. Acequias irrigation systems.
- Sec. 342. Rogers County, Oklahoma.
- Sec. 343. Water supply storage repair, rehabilitation, and replacement costs.
- Sec. 344. Non-Federal payment flexibility.
- Sec. 345. North Padre Island, Corpus Christi Bay, Texas.
- Sec. 346. Waiver of non-Federal share of damages related to certain contract claims.
- Sec. 347. Algiers Canal Levees, Louisiana.
- Sec. 348. Israel River ice control project, Lancaster, New Hampshire.
- Sec. 349. City of El Dorado, Kansas.
- Sec. 350. Upper Mississippi River protection.
- Sec. 351. Regional Corps of Engineers Office, Corpus Christi, Texas.
- Sec. 352. Pilot program for good neighbor authority on Corps of Engineers land.
- Sec. 353. Southeast Des Moines, Southwest Pleasant Hill, Iowa.
- Sec. 354. Middle Rio Grande flood protection, Bernalillo to Belen, New Mexico.
- Sec. 355. Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, Florida.
- Sec. 356. Maintenance dredging permits.
- Sec. 357. Puget Sound nearshore ecosystem restoration, Washington.
- Sec. 358. Tribal assistance.
- Sec. 359. Recreational opportunities at certain projects.
- Sec. 360. Rehabilitation of Corps of Engineers constructed dams.
- Sec. 361. South Florida Ecosystem Restoration Task Force.
- Sec. 362. New Madrid County Harbor, Missouri.
- Sec. 363. Trinity River and tributaries, Texas.
- Sec. 364. Rend Lake, Carlyle Lake, and Lake Shelbyville, Illinois.
- Sec. 365. Federal assistance.
- Sec. 366. Land transfer and trust land for Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.
- Sec. 367. Lake Barkley, Kentucky, land conveyance.

#### TITLE IV—WATER RESOURCES INFRASTRUCTURE

- Sec. 401. Project authorizations.
- Sec. 402. Storm damage prevention and reduction, coastal erosion, and ice and glacial damage, Alaska.
- Sec. 403. Expedited completion of projects.
- Sec. 404. Special rules.
- Sec. 405. Chattahoochee River program.
- Sec. 406. Lower Mississippi River Basin demonstration program.
- Sec. 407. Forecast-informed reservoir operations.
- Sec. 408. Mississippi River mat sinking unit.
- Sec. 409. Sense of Congress relating to Okatibbee Lake.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITION OF SECRETARY.

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

#### TITLE I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### SEC. 101. SCOPE OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

(a) FLOOD AND COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT.—In carrying out a feasibility study for a project for flood or coastal storm risk management, the Secretary, at the request of the non-Federal interest for the study, shall formulate alternatives to maximize net benefits from the reduction of the comprehensive flood risk that is identified through a holistic evaluation of the isolated and compound effects of—

- (1) a riverine discharge of any magnitude or frequency;
- (2) inundation, wave attack, and erosion coinciding with a hurricane or coastal storm;
- (3) a tide of any magnitude or frequency;
- (4) a rainfall event of any magnitude or frequency;
- (5) seasonal variation in water levels;
- (6) groundwater emergence;
- (7) sea level rise;
- (8) subsidence; or
- (9) any other driver of flood risk affecting the study area.

(b) WATER SUPPLY, WATER SUPPLY CONSERVATION, AND DROUGHT RISK REDUCTION.—In carrying out a feasibility study for any purpose, the Secretary, at the request of the non-Federal interest for the study, shall formulate alternatives—

- (1) to maximize combined net benefits for the primary purpose of the study and for water supply, water supply conservation, and drought risk reduction; or
- (2) to include 1 or more measures for the purpose of water supply, water supply conservation, or drought risk reduction.

(c) COST SHARING.—All costs to carry out a feasibility study in accordance with this section shall be shared in accordance with the cost share requirements otherwise applicable to the study.

##### SEC. 102. SHORELINE AND RIVERBANK PROTECTION AND RESTORATION MISSION.

(a) DECLARATION OF POLICY.—Congress declares that—

- (1) consistent with the civil works mission of the Corps of Engineers, it is the policy of the United States to protect and restore the shorelines, riverbanks, and streambanks of the United States from the damaging impacts of extreme weather events and other factors contributing to the vulnerability of coastal and riverine communities and ecosystems;

(2) the Chief of Engineers shall give priority consideration to the protection and restoration of shorelines, riverbanks, and streambanks from erosion and other damaging impacts of extreme weather events in carrying out the civil works mission of the Corps of Engineers;

(3) to the maximum extent practicable, projects and measures for the protection and restoration of shorelines, riverbanks, and streambanks shall be formulated to increase the resilience of such shores and banks from the damaging impacts of extreme weather events and other factors contributing to the vulnerability of coastal and riverine communities and ecosystems using measures described in section 1184(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a(a)); and

(4) to the maximum extent practicable, periodic nourishment shall be provided, in accordance with subsection (c) of the first section of the Act of August 13, 1946 (60 Stat. 1056, chapter 960; 33 U.S.C. 426(c)), and subject to section 156 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–5f), for projects and measures carried out for the purpose of restoring and increasing the resili-

ence of ecosystems to the same extent as periodic nourishment is provided for projects and measures carried out for the purpose of coastal storm risk management.

(b) SHORELINE AND RIVERINE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 212 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (33 U.S.C. 2332) is amended—

(A) in the section heading, by striking “FLOOD MITIGATION AND RIVERINE RESTORATION PROGRAM” and inserting “SHORELINE AND RIVERINE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION”;

(B) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out projects—

“(1) to reduce flood and coastal storm hazards, including shoreline erosion and riverbank and streambank failures; or

“(2) to restore the natural functions and values of rivers and shorelines throughout the United States.”;

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) AUTHORITY.—

“(A) STUDIES.—The Secretary may carry out studies to identify appropriate measures for—

“(i) the reduction of flood and coastal storm hazards, including shoreline erosion and riverbank and streambank failures; or

“(ii) the restoration of the natural functions and values of rivers and shorelines.

“(B) PROJECTS.—Subject to subsection (f)(2), the Secretary may design and implement projects described in subsection (a).”;

(ii) in paragraph (3), by striking “flood damages” and inserting “flood and coastal storm damages, including the use of measures described in section 1184(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a(a))”; and

(iii) in paragraph (4)—

(I) by inserting “and coastal storm” after “flood”;

(II) by inserting “, shoreline,” after “riverine”; and

(III) by inserting “and coastal barriers” after “floodplains”;

(D) in subsection (c)—

(i) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) STUDIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), the non-Federal share of the cost of a study under this section shall be—

“(i) 50 percent; and

“(ii) 10 percent, in the case of a study benefiting an economically disadvantaged community (as defined pursuant to section 160 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 116–260)).

“(B) FEDERAL INTEREST DETERMINATION.—The first \$100,000 of the costs of a study under this section shall be at full Federal expense.”;

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in the paragraph heading, by striking “FLOOD CONTROL”; and

(II) by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Design and construction of a nonstructural measure or project, a measure or project described in section 1184(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a(a)), or for a measure or project for environmental restoration, shall be subject to cost sharing in accordance with section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213), except that the non-Federal share of the cost to design and construct a project benefitting an economically disadvantaged community (as defined pursuant to section 160 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33

U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 116-260)) shall be 10 percent.”; and

(iii) in paragraph (3)—

(I) in the paragraph heading, by striking “CONTROL” and inserting “AND COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT”;

(II) by striking “control” and inserting “and coastal storm risk management”; and

(III) by striking “section 103(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213(a))” and inserting “section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213), except that the non-Federal share of the cost to design and construct a project benefitting an economically disadvantaged community (as defined pursuant to section 160 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 116-260)) shall be 10 percent”;

(E) in subsection (d)—

(i) by striking paragraph (2);

(ii) by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through “Notwithstanding” in paragraph (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(d) PROJECT JUSTIFICATION.—Notwithstanding”;

(iii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (C) as paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively, and indenting appropriately; and

(iv) in paragraph (1) (as so redesignated)—

(I) by inserting “or coastal storm” after “flood”; and

(II) by inserting “, including erosion or riverbank or streambank failures” after “damages”;

(F) in subsection (e)—

(i) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (33) as subparagraphs (A) through (GG), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(ii) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated), by striking “In carrying out” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out”;

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) PRIORITY PROJECTS.—In carrying out this section after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, the Secretary shall prioritize projects for the following locations:

“(A) Delaware beaches and watersheds, Delaware.

“(B) Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana.

“(C) Great Lakes Shores and Watersheds.

“(D) Oregon Coastal Area, Oregon.

“(E) Upper Missouri River Basin.

“(F) Ohio River Tributaries and their watersheds, West Virginia.

“(G) Chesapeake Bay watershed and Maryland beaches, Maryland.”;

(G) by striking subsections (f), (g), and (i);

(H) by redesignating subsection (h) as subsection (f); and

(I) in subsection (f) (as so redesignated), by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) PROJECTS REQUIRING SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary shall not carry out a project until Congress enacts a law authorizing the Secretary to carry out the project, if the Federal share of the cost to design and construct the project exceeds—

“(A) \$26,000,000, in the case of a project benefitting an economically disadvantaged community (as defined pursuant to section 160 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 116-260));

“(B) \$23,000,000, in the case of a project other than a project benefitting an economically disadvantaged community (as so defined) that—

“(i) is for purposes of environmental restoration; or

“(ii) derives not less than 50 percent of the erosion, flood, or coastal storm risk reduction benefits from nonstructural measures or

measures described in section 1184(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2289a(a)); or

“(C) \$18,500,000, for a project other than a project described in subparagraph (A) or (B).”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 269) is amended by striking the item relating to section 212 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 212. Shoreline and riverine protection and restoration.”.

(c) EMERGENCY STREAMBANK AND SHORELINE PROTECTION.—Section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946 (33 U.S.C. 701r) is amended by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting “\$10,000,000”.

#### SEC. 103. INLAND WATERWAY PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 102(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2212(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “One-half of the costs” and inserting “75 percent of the costs”; and

(2) in the undesignated matter following paragraph (3), in the second sentence, by striking “One-half of such costs” and inserting “25 percent of such costs”.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to new and ongoing projects beginning on October 1, 2022.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 109 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2212 note; Public Law 116-260) is amended by striking “fiscal years 2021 through 2031” and inserting “fiscal years 2021 through 2022”.

#### SEC. 104. PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF OTHER FEDERAL LAND ALONG RIVERS AND COASTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to use funds made available to the Secretary for water resources development purposes to construct, at full Federal expense, a measure benefitting Federal land under the administrative jurisdiction of another Federal agency, if the measure—

(1) is included in a report of the Chief of Engineers or other decision document for a water resources development project that is specifically authorized by Congress;

(2) is included in a detailed project report (as defined in section 105(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2215(d)); or

(3) utilizes dredged material from a water resources development project beneficially.

(b) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply to a measure for which construction is initiated after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) EXCLUSION.—In this section, the term “Federal land” does not include a military installation.

(d) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—Nothing in this section precludes—

(1) a Federal agency with administrative jurisdiction over Federal land from contributing funds for any portion of the cost of a measure described in subsection (a) that benefits that land; or

(2) the Secretary, at the request of the non-Federal interest for a study for a project for flood or coastal storm risk management, from using funds made available to the Secretary for water resources development investigations to formulate measures to reduce risk to a military installation, if the non-Federal interest shares in the cost to formulate those measures to the same extent that the non-Federal interest is required to share in the cost of the study.

(e) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1025 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2226) is repealed.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1193) is amended by striking the item relating to section 1025.

#### SEC. 105. POLICY AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS.

Consistent with the 5-year administrative publication life cycle of the Department of the Army, the Secretary shall revise, rescind, or certify as current, as applicable, each publication for the civil works programs of the Corps of Engineers.

#### SEC. 106. PLANNING ASSISTANCE TO STATES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-16) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “section 236 of title 10” and inserting “section 4141 of title 10”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(4) PRIORITIZATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall prioritize the provision of assistance under this subsection to address both inland and coastal life safety risks.”;

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) through (f) as subsections (c) through (g), respectively;

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

“(b) OUTREACH.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to carry out activities, at full Federal expense—

“(A) to inform and educate States and other non-Federal interests about the missions, programs, policies, and procedures of the Corps of Engineers; and

“(B) to engage with States and other non-Federal interests to identify specific opportunities to partner with the Corps of Engineers to address water resources development needs.

“(2) STAFF.—The Secretary shall designate staff in each district office of the Corps of Engineers to provide assistance under this subsection.”; and

(4) in subsection (d) (as so redesignated), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) OUTREACH.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each fiscal year to carry out subsection (b).

“(4) PRIORITIZATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall prioritize the provision of assistance under this section to economically disadvantaged communities (as defined pursuant to section 160 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 116-260)).”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 3014(b)(3)(B) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (42 U.S.C. 4131(b)(3)(B)) is amended by striking section “22(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-16(b))” and inserting “section 22(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-16(c))”.

#### SEC. 107. FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT SERVICES.

Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960 (33 U.S.C. 709a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking “Surveys and guides” and inserting the following:

“(2) SURVEYS AND GUIDES.—Surveys and guides”;

(B) in the first sentence—

(i) by inserting “identification of areas subject to floods due to accumulated snags and other debris,” after “inundation by floods of various magnitudes and frequencies.”; and

(ii) by striking “In recognition” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In recognition”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) IDENTIFICATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—To the maximum extent practicable, in providing assistance under this subsection, the Secretary shall identify and communicate to States and non-Federal interests specific opportunities to partner with the Corps of Engineers to address flood hazards.

“(B) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate activities under this paragraph with activities described in subsection (b) of section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-16).”;

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

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

“(d) INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—Notwithstanding section 4141 of title 10, United States Code, in carrying out this section, the Secretary may work with an institution of higher education, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.”.

#### SEC. 108. WORKFORCE PLANNING.

(a) DEFINITION OF HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—In this section, the term “historically Black college or university” has the meaning given the term “part B institution” in section 322 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061).

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary is authorized to carry out activities, at full Federal expense—

(1) to foster, enhance, and support science, technology, engineering, and math education and awareness; and

(2) to recruit individuals for careers at the Corps of Engineers.

(c) PARTNERING ENTITIES.—In carrying out activities under this section, the Secretary may enter into partnerships with—

(1) public and nonprofit elementary and secondary schools;

(2) community colleges;

(3) technical schools;

(4) colleges and universities, including historically Black colleges and universities; and

(5) other institutions of learning.

(d) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, prioritize the recruitment of individuals under this section that are located in economically disadvantaged communities (as defined pursuant to section 160 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 116-260)).

(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.

#### SEC. 109. CREDIT IN LIEU OF REIMBURSEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1022 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2225) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “or” before “an authorized coastal navigation project”;

(B) by inserting “or any other water resources development project for which the Secretary is authorized to reimburse the non-Federal interest for the Federal share of construction or operation and maintenance,” before “the Secretary”; and

(C) by striking “of the project” and inserting “to construct, periodically nourish, or operate and maintain the project”;

(2) in each of subsections (b) and (c), by striking “flood damage reduction and coastal navigation” each place it appears and inserting “water resources development”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) APPLICABILITY.—With respect to a project constructed under section 204 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2232), the Secretary shall exercise the authority under this section to apply credits

and reimbursements related to the project in a manner consistent with the requirements of subsection (d) of that section.”.

(b) TREATMENT OF CREDIT BETWEEN PROJECTS.—Section 7007(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1277; 128 Stat. 1226) is amended by inserting “, or may be applied to reduce the amounts required to be paid by the non-Federal interest under the terms of the deferred payment agreements entered into between the Secretary and the non-Federal interest for the projects authorized by section 7012(a)(1)” before the period at the end.

#### SEC. 110. COASTAL COST CALCULATIONS.

Section 152(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2213a(a)) is amended by inserting “or coastal storm risk management” after “flood risk management”.

#### SEC. 111. ADVANCE PAYMENT IN LIEU OF REIMBURSEMENT FOR CERTAIN FEDERAL COSTS.

The Secretary is authorized to provide in advance to the non-Federal interest the Federal share of funds required for the acquisition of land, easements, and rights-of-way and the performance of relocations for a project or separable element—

(1) authorized to be constructed at full Federal expense;

(2) described in section 103(b)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213(b)(2)); or

(3) described in, or modified by an amendment made by, section 307(a) or 309(a), if at any time the cost to acquire the land, easements, and rights-of-way required for the project is projected to exceed the non-Federal share of the cost of the project.

#### SEC. 112. USE OF EMERGENCY FUNDS.

Section 5(a) of the Act of August 18, 1941 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1941”) (55 Stat. 650, chapter 377; 33 U.S.C. 701n(a)), is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), in the first sentence, by inserting “, increase resilience, increase effectiveness in preventing damages from inundation, wave attack, or erosion,” after “address major deficiencies”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(6) WORK CARRIED OUT BY A NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR.—

“(A) GENERAL RULE.—The Secretary may authorize a non-Federal sponsor to plan, design, or construct repair or restoration work described in paragraph (1).

“(B) REQUIREMENTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a payment under subparagraph (C) for the Federal share of a planning, design, or construction activity for repair or restoration work described in paragraph (1), the non-Federal sponsor shall enter into a written agreement with the Secretary before carrying out the activity.

“(ii) COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS.—The non-Federal sponsor shall carry out all activities under this paragraph in compliance with all laws and regulations that would apply if the activities were carried out by the Secretary.

“(C) PAYMENT.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to provide payment, in the form of an advance or a reimbursement, to the non-Federal sponsor for the Federal share of the cost of a planning design, or construction activity for the repair or restoration work described in paragraph (1).

“(ii) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—If the Federal share of the cost of the activity under this paragraph exceeds the amount obligated by the Secretary under an agreement under subparagraph (B), the advance or reimbursement of such additional amounts shall be at the discretion of the Secretary.

“(D) ANNUAL LIMIT ON REIMBURSEMENTS NOT APPLICABLE.—Section 102 of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2006 (33 U.S.C. 2221), shall not apply to an agreement under subparagraph (B).”.

#### SEC. 113. RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1988 (33 U.S.C. 2313) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “COLLABORATIVE”;

(2) in subsection (b), by redesignating paragraphs (1) and (2) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(3) by striking subsection (e);

(4) by redesignating subsections (b), (c), (d), and (f) as paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(5) in subsection (a), by striking “of the Army Corps of Engineers, the Secretary is authorized to utilize Army” and inserting the following: “of the Corps of Engineers, the Secretary is authorized to engage in basic research, applied research, advanced research, and development projects, including such projects that are—

“(1) authorized by Congress; or

“(2) included in an Act making appropriations for the Corps of Engineers.

“(b) COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary is authorized to utilize”;

(6) in subsection (b) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(B) (as so redesignated), by striking “this section” and inserting “this subsection”;

(B) in paragraph (3) (as so redesignated), in the first sentence, by striking “this section” each place it appears and inserting “this subsection”;

(C) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), by striking “subsection (c)” and inserting “paragraph (3)”;

(D) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated), by striking “this section” and inserting “this subsection”;

(7) by adding at the end the following:

“(c) OTHER TRANSACTIONS.—

“(1) AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may enter into transactions (other than contracts, cooperative agreements, and grants) in order to carry out this section.

“(2) EDUCATION AND TRAINING.—The Secretary shall—

“(A) ensure that management, technical, and contracting personnel of the Corps of Engineers involved in the award or administration of transactions under this section or other innovative forms of contracting are afforded opportunities for adequate education and training; and

“(B) establish minimum levels and requirements for continuous and experiential learning for such personnel, including levels and requirements for acquisition certification programs.

“(3) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives notice of a transaction under this subsection not less than 30 days before entering into the transaction.

“(4) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years and not later than 7 years after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the use of the authority under paragraph (1).

“(d) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2025, and annually thereafter, in conjunction with the annual budget submission of the President to Congress under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on projects carried out under subsection (a).

“(2) CONTENTS.—A report under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) a description of each ongoing and new project, including—

“(i) the estimated total cost;

“(ii) the amount of Federal expenditures;

“(iii) the amount of expenditures by a non-Federal entity as described in subsection (b)(1), if applicable;

“(iv) the estimated timeline for completion;

“(v) the requesting district of the Corps of Engineers, if applicable; and

“(vi) how the project is consistent with subsection (a); and

“(B) any additional information that the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(e) COST SHARING.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b)(3) and paragraph (2), a project carried out under this section shall be at full Federal expense.

“(2) TREATMENT.—Nothing in this subsection waives applicable cost-share requirements for a water resources development project or feasibility study (as defined in section 105(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2215(d))).

“(f) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section limits the ability of the Secretary to carry out a project requested by a district of the Corps of Engineers in support of a water resources development project or feasibility study (as defined in section 105(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2215(d))).

“(g) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACCOUNT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established a Research and Development account of the Corps of Engineers for the purposes of carrying out this section.

“(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Research and Development account established by paragraph (1) \$85,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.”.

(b) FORECASTING MODELS FOR THE GREAT LAKES.—

(1) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 to complete and maintain a model suite to forecast water levels, account for water level variability, and account for the impacts of extreme weather events and other natural disasters in the Great Lakes.

(2) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this subsection precludes the Secretary from using funds made available under the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative established by section 118(c)(7) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1268(c)(7)) for activities described in paragraph (1) for the Great Lakes, if funds are not appropriated for such activities.

(c) MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT PROGRAM FOR SALINE LAKES IN THE GREAT BASIN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to carry out a program (referred to in this subsection as the “program”) to monitor and assess the hydrology of saline lake ecosystems in the Great Basin, including the Great Salt Lake, to inform and support Federal and non-Federal management and conservation activities to benefit those ecosystems.

(2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate implementation of the program with relevant—

(A) Federal and State agencies;

(B) Indian Tribes;

(C) local governments; and

(D) nonprofit organizations.

(3) CONTRACTS, GRANTS, AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary is authorized to enter into contracts, grant agreements, and cooperative agreements with institutions of higher education and with entities described in paragraph (2) to implement the program.

(4) UPDATE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress an update on the progress of the Secretary in carrying out the program.

(5) ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—In carrying out the program, the Secretary may use available studies, information, literature, or data on the Great Basin region published by relevant Federal, State, or local entities.

(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection \$10,000,000.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents contained in section 1(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1988 (102 Stat. 4012) is amended by striking the item relating to section 7 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 7. Research and development.”.

#### **SEC. 114. TRIBAL AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COMMITTEE.—The term “Committee” means the Tribal and Economically Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Committee established under subsection (b).

(2) ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY.—The term “economically disadvantaged community” has the meaning given the term pursuant to section 160 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 116-260).

(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a committee, to be known as the “Tribal and Economically Disadvantaged Communities Advisory Committee”, to develop and make recommendations to the Secretary and the Chief of Engineers on activities and actions that should be undertaken by the Corps of Engineers to ensure more effective delivery of water resources development projects, programs, and other assistance to economically disadvantaged communities and Indian Tribes.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—The Committee shall be composed of members, appointed by the Secretary, who have the requisite experiential or technical knowledge needed to address issues related to the water resources needs and challenges of economically disadvantaged communities and Indian Tribes, including—

(1) 5 individuals representing organizations with expertise in environmental policy, rural water resources, economically disadvantaged communities, Tribal rights, or civil rights; and

(2) 5 individuals, each representing a non-Federal interest for a Corps of Engineers project.

(d) DUTIES.—

(1) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Committee shall provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary and the Chief of Engineers to assist the Corps of Engineers in—

(A) efficiently and effectively delivering solutions to water resources development

projects needs and challenges for economically disadvantaged communities and Indian Tribes;

(B) integrating consideration of economically disadvantaged communities and Indian Tribes, where applicable, in the development of water resources development projects and programs of the Corps of Engineers; and

(C) improving the capability and capacity of the workforce of the Corps of Engineers to assist economically disadvantaged communities and Indian Tribes.

(2) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet as appropriate to develop and make recommendations under paragraph (1).

(3) REPORT.—Recommendations provided under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) included in a report submitted to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(B) be made publicly available, including on a publicly available website.

(e) INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT.—Any recommendation made by the Committee to the Secretary and the Chief of Engineers under subsection (d)(1) shall reflect the independent judgment of the Committee.

(f) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) COMPENSATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the members of the Committee shall serve without compensation.

(2) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee.

(3) TREATMENT.—The members of the Committee shall not be considered to be Federal employees, and the meetings and reports of the Committee shall not be considered a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(4) APPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall apply to the Committee.

#### **SEC. 115. NON-FEDERAL INTEREST ADVISORY COMMITTEE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a committee, to be known as the “Non-Federal Interest Advisory Committee” (referred to in this section as the “Committee”), to develop and make recommendations to the Secretary and the Chief of Engineers on activities and actions that should be undertaken by the Corps of Engineers to ensure more effective and efficient delivery of water resources development projects, programs, and other assistance.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be composed of the members described in paragraph (2), who shall—

(A) be appointed by the Secretary; and

(B) have the requisite experiential or technical knowledge needed to address issues related to water resources needs and challenges.

(2) REPRESENTATIVES.—The members of the Committee shall include the following:

(A) A representative of each of the following:

(i) A non-Federal interest for a project for navigation for an inland harbor.

(ii) A non-Federal interest for a project for navigation for a harbor.

(iii) A non-Federal interest for a project for flood risk management.

(iv) A non-Federal interest for a project for coastal storm risk management.

(v) A non-Federal interest for a project for aquatic ecosystem restoration.

(B) A representative of each of the following:

(i) A non-Federal stakeholder with respect to inland waterborne transportation.

(ii) A non-Federal stakeholder with respect to water supply.

(iii) A non-Federal stakeholder with respect to recreation.

(iv) A non-Federal stakeholder with respect to hydropower.

(v) A non-Federal stakeholder with respect to emergency preparedness, including coastal protection.

(C) A representative of each of the following:

(i) An organization with expertise in conservation.

(ii) An organization with expertise in environmental policy.

(iii) An organization with expertise in rural water resources.

(c) DUTIES.—

(1) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Committee shall provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary and the Chief of Engineers to assist the Corps of Engineers in—

(A) efficiently and effectively delivering water resources development projects;

(B) improving the capability and capacity of the workforce of the Corps of Engineers to deliver projects and other assistance;

(C) improving the capacity and effectiveness of Corps of Engineers consultation and liaison roles in communicating water resources needs and solutions, including regionally-specific recommendations; and

(D) strengthening partnerships with non-Federal interests to advance water resources solutions.

(2) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall meet as appropriate to develop and make recommendations under paragraph (1).

(3) REPORT.—Recommendations provided under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) included in a report submitted to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives; and

(B) made publicly available, including on a publicly available website.

(d) INDEPENDENT JUDGMENT.—Any recommendation made by the Committee to the Secretary and the Chief of Engineers under subsection (c)(1) shall reflect the independent judgment of the Committee.

(e) ADMINISTRATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall be subject to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

(2) COMPENSATION.—Except as provided in paragraph (3), the members of the Committee shall serve without compensation.

(3) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee.

(4) TREATMENT.—The members of the Committee shall not be considered to be Federal employees and the meetings and reports of the Committee shall not be considered a major Federal action under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

#### SEC. 116. UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY HARBOR PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) PROJECT.—The term “project” means a single cycle of dredging of an underserved community harbor and the associated placement of dredged material at a beneficial use placement site or disposal site.

(2) UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY HARBOR.—The term “underserved community harbor” means an emerging harbor (as defined in section 210(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2238(f))) for which—

(A) no Federal funds have been obligated for maintenance dredging in the current fiscal year or in any of the 4 preceding fiscal years; and

(B) State and local investments in infrastructure have been made during the preceding 4 fiscal years.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out projects to dredge underserved community harbors for purposes of sustaining water-dependent commercial and recreational activities at such harbors.

(c) JUSTIFICATION.—The Secretary may carry out a project under this section if the Secretary determines that the cost of the project is reasonable in relation to the sum of—

(1) the local or regional economic benefits; and

(2)(A) the environmental benefits, including the benefits to the aquatic environment to be derived from the creation of wetland and control of shoreline erosion; or

(B) other social effects, including protection against loss of life and contributions to local or regional cultural heritage.

(d) COST SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of a project carried out under this section shall be determined in accordance with—

(1) subsection (a), (b), (c), or (d), as applicable, of section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213), for any portion of the cost of the project allocated to flood or coastal storm risk management, ecosystem restoration, or recreation; and

(2) section 101(b)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211(b)(1)), for the portion of the cost of the project other than a portion described in paragraph (1).

(e) CLARIFICATION.—The Secretary shall not require the non-Federal interest for a project carried out under this section to perform additional operation and maintenance activities at the beneficial use placement site or the disposal site for such project.

(f) FEDERAL PARTICIPATION LIMIT.—The Federal share of the cost of a project under this section shall not exceed \$10,000,000.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2026.

(2) SPECIAL RULE.—Not less than 35 percent of the amounts made available to carry out this section for each fiscal year shall be used for projects that include the beneficial use of dredged material.

(h) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Carrying out a project under this section shall not affect the eligibility of an underserved community harbor for Federal operation and maintenance funding otherwise authorized for the underserved community harbor.

#### SEC. 117. CORPS OF ENGINEERS WESTERN WATER COOPERATIVE COMMITTEE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) a bipartisan coalition of 19 Western Senators wrote to the Office of Management and Budget on September 17, 2019, in opposition to the proposed rulemaking entitled “Use of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Reservoir Projects for Domestic, Municipal & Industrial Water Supply” (81 Fed. Reg. 91556 (December 16, 2016)), describing the rule as counter to existing law and court precedent;

(2) on January 21, 2020, the proposed rulemaking described in paragraph (1) was withdrawn; and

(3) the Corps of Engineers should consult with Western States to ensure, to the max-

imum extent practicable, that operation of flood control projects in prior appropriation States is consistent with the principles of the first section of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 887, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 701-1) and section 301 of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a Western Water Cooperative Committee (referred to in this section as the “Cooperative Committee”).

(2) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Cooperative Committee is to ensure that Corps of Engineers flood control projects in Western States are operated consistent with congressional directives by identifying opportunities to avoid or minimize conflicts between operation of Corps of Engineers projects and State water rights and water laws.

(3) MEMBERSHIP.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Cooperative Committee shall be composed of—

(i) the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (or a designee);

(ii) the Chief of Engineers (or a designee);

(iii) 1 representative from each of the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, who may serve on the Western States Water Council, to be appointed by the Governor of each State;

(iv) 1 representative with legal experience from each of the States of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming, to be appointed by the Attorney General of each State; and

(v) 1 employee from each of the impacted regional offices of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

(4) MEETINGS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Cooperative Committee shall meet not less than once each year in a State represented on the Cooperative Committee.

(B) AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC.—Each meeting of the Cooperative Committee shall be open and accessible to the public.

(C) NOTIFICATION.—The Cooperative Committee shall publish in the Federal Register adequate advance notice of a meeting of the Cooperative Committee.

(5) DUTIES.—The Cooperative Committee shall develop and make recommendations to avoid or minimize conflicts between the operation of Corps of Engineers projects and State water rights and water laws, which may include recommendations for legislation or the promulgation of policy or regulations.

(6) STATUS UPDATES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—On an annual basis, the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a written report that includes—

(i) a summary of the contents of meetings of the Cooperative Committee; and

(ii) a description of any recommendations made by the Cooperative Committee under paragraph (5), including actions taken by the Secretary in response to such recommendations.

(B) COMMENT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days following the conclusion of a meeting of the Cooperative Committee, the Secretary shall provide to members of the Cooperative Committee an opportunity to comment on the



contents of the meeting and any recommendations.

(ii) **INCLUSION.**—Comments provided under clause (i) shall be included in the report provided under subparagraph (A).

(7) **COMPENSATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the members of the Cooperative Committee shall serve without compensation.

(B) **TRAVEL EXPENSES.**—The members of the Cooperative Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Cooperative Committee.

(8) **MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.**—The Cooperative Committee shall maintain records pertaining to operating costs and records of the Cooperative Committee for a period of not less than 3 years.

#### **SEC. 118. UPDATES TO CERTAIN WATER CONTROL MANUALS.**

On request of the Governor of State in which the Governor declared a statewide drought disaster in 2021, the Secretary is authorized to update water control manuals for waters in the State, with priority given to those waters that accommodate a water supply project.

#### **SEC. 119. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE OF RECREATION SITES.**

It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary, as part of the annual work plan, should distribute amounts provided for the operations and maintenance of recreation sites of the Corps of Engineers so that each site receives an amount that is not less than 80 percent of the recreation fees generated by such site in a given year.

#### **SEC. 120. RELOCATION ASSISTANCE.**

In the case of a water resources development project using nonstructural measures for the elevation or modification of a dwelling that is the primary residence of an owner-occupant and that requires the owner-occupant to relocate temporarily from the dwelling during the period of construction, the Secretary may include in the value of the land, easements, and rights-of-way required for the project or measure the documented reasonable living expenses, excluding food and personal transportation, incurred by the owner-occupant during the period of relocation.

#### **SEC. 121. REPROGRAMMING LIMITS.**

(a) **OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE.**—In reprogramming funds made available to the Secretary for operations and maintenance—

(1) the Secretary may not reprogram more than 25 percent of the base amount up to a limit of—

(A) \$8,500,000 for a project, study, or activity with a base level over \$1,000,000; and

(B) \$250,000 for a project, study, or activity with a base level of \$1,000,000 or less; and

(2) \$250,000 may be reprogrammed for any continuing study or activity of the Secretary that did not receive an appropriation.

(b) **INVESTIGATIONS.**—In reprogramming funds made available to the Secretary for investigations—

(1) the Secretary may not reprogram more than \$150,000 for a project, study, or activity with a base level over \$100,000; and

(2) \$150,000 may be reprogrammed for any continuing study or activity of the Secretary that did not receive an appropriation for existing obligations and concomitant administrative expenses.

#### **SEC. 122. LEASE DURATIONS.**

The Secretary shall issue guidance on, in the case of a leasing decision pursuant to

section 2667 of title 10, United States Code, or section 4 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 889, chapter 665; 16 U.S.C. 460d), instances in which a lease duration in excess of 25 years is appropriate.

#### **SEC. 123. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO POST-DISASTER REPAIRS.**

It is the sense of Congress that in permitting and funding post-disaster repairs, the Secretary should, to the maximum extent practicable, repair assets—

(1) to project design levels; or

(2) if the original project design is outdated, to above project design levels.

#### **SEC. 124. PAYMENT OF PAY AND ALLOWANCES OF CERTAIN OFFICERS FROM APPROPRIATION FOR IMPROVEMENTS.**

Section 36 of the Act of August 10, 1956 (70A Stat. 634, chapter 1041; 33 U.S.C. 583a), is amended—

(1) by striking “Regular officers of the Corps of Engineers of the Army, and reserve officers of the Army who are assigned to the Corps of Engineers,” and inserting the following:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The personnel described in subsection (b)”;

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **PERSONNEL DESCRIBED.**—The personnel referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

“(1) Regular officers of the Corps of Engineers of the Army.

“(2) The following members of the Army who are assigned to the Corps of Engineers:

“(A) Reserve component officers.

“(B) Warrant officers (whether regular or reserve component).

“(C) Enlisted members (whether regular or reserve component).”.

#### **SEC. 125. REFORESTATION.**

The Secretary is encouraged to consider measures to restore swamps and other wetland forests in studies for water resources development projects for ecosystem restoration and flood and coastal storm risk management.

#### **SEC. 126. USE OF OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.**

Section 2007 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 2222) is amended—

(1) by striking “water resources study or project” and inserting “water resources development study or project, including a study or project under a continuing authority program (as defined in section 7001(c)(1)(D) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d(c)(1)(D)))”; and

(2) by striking “the Federal agency that provides the funds determines that the funds are authorized to be used to carry out the study or project” and inserting “the funds appropriated to the Federal agency are for a purpose that is similar or complementary to the purpose of the study or project”.

#### **SEC. 127. NATIONAL LOW-HEAD DAM INVENTORY.**

The National Dam Safety Program Act (33 U.S.C. 467 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

#### **“SEC. 15. NATIONAL LOW-HEAD DAM INVENTORY.**

“(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **INVENTORY.**—The term ‘inventory’ means the national low-head dam inventory developed under subsection (b)(1).

“(2) **LOW-HEAD DAM.**—The term ‘low-head dam’ means a river-wide dam that generally spans a stream channel, blocking the waterway and creating a backup of water behind the dam, with a drop off over the wall of not less than 6 inches and not more than 25 feet.

“(3) **SECRETARY.**—The term ‘Secretary’ means the Secretary of the Army.

“(b) **NATIONAL LOW-HEAD DAM INVENTORY.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this section,

the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of appropriate Federal and State agencies, shall—

“(A) develop an inventory of low-head dams in the United States that includes—

“(i) the location, ownership, description, current use, condition, height, and length of each low-head dam;

“(ii) any information on public safety conditions at each low-head dam;

“(iii) public safety information on the dangers of low-head dams;

“(iv) a directory of financial and technical assistance resources available to reduce safety hazards and fish passage barriers at low-head dams; and

“(v) any other relevant information concerning low-head dams; and

“(B) submit the inventory to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives.

“(2) **DATA.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary shall—

“(A) coordinate with Federal and State agencies and other relevant entities; and

“(B) use data provided to the Secretary by those agencies.

“(3) **UPDATES.**—The Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal and State agencies, shall maintain and periodically publish updates to the inventory.

“(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$30,000,000.

“(d) **CLARIFICATION.**—Nothing in this section provides authority to the Secretary to carry out an activity, with respect to a low-head dam, that is not explicitly authorized under this section.”.

#### **SEC. 128. TRANSFER OF EXCESS CREDIT.**

Section 1020 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2223) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by adding at the end the following:

“(3) **STUDIES AND PROJECTS WITH MULTIPLE NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.**—A credit described in paragraph (1) for a study or project with multiple non-Federal interests may be applied to the required non-Federal cost share for a study or project of any of those non-Federal interests, subject to the condition that each non-Federal interest for the study or project for which the credit described in paragraph (1) is provided concurs in writing.”;

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

“(3) **CONDITIONAL APPROVAL OF EXCESS CREDIT.**—The Secretary may approve credit in excess of the non-Federal share for a study or project prior to the identification of each authorized study or project to which the excess credit will be applied, subject to the condition that the non-Federal interest agrees to submit for approval by the Secretary an amendment to the comprehensive plan prepared under paragraph (2) that identifies each authorized study or project in advance of execution of the feasibility cost sharing agreement or project partnership agreement for that authorized study or project.”;

(3) by striking subsection (d); and

(4) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

#### **SEC. 129. NATIONAL LEVEE RESTORATION.**

(a) **DEFINITION OF REHABILITATION.**—Section 9002(13) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3301(13)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “, or improvement” after “removal”; and

(2) by inserting “, increase resiliency to extreme weather events,” after “flood risk”.

(b) LEVEE REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—Section 9005(h) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 3303a(h)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (7), by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$25,000,000”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) PRIORITIZATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall prioritize the provision of assistance under this subsection to economically disadvantaged communities (as defined pursuant to section 160 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 116-260)).”

#### SEC. 130. INLAND WATERWAYS REGIONAL DREDGE PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 1111 of the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (33 U.S.C. 2326 note; Public Law 115-270) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) INLAND WATERWAYS REGIONAL DREDGE PILOT PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to establish a pilot program (referred to in this subsection as the ‘pilot program’) to conduct a multiyear dredging demonstration program to award contracts with a duration of up to 5 years for projects on inland waterways.

“(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the pilot program shall be—

“(A) to increase the reliability, availability, and efficiency of federally-owned and federally-operated inland waterways projects;

“(B) to decrease operational risks across the inland waterways system; and

“(C) to provide cost-savings by combining work across multiple projects across different accounts of the Corps of Engineers.

“(3) DEMONSTRATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable, award contracts for projects on inland waterways that combine work across the Construction and Operation and Maintenance accounts of the Corps of Engineers.

“(B) PROJECTS.—In awarding contracts under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall consider projects that—

“(i) improve navigation reliability on inland waterways that are accessible year-round;

“(ii) increase freight capacity on inland waterways; and

“(iii) have the potential to enhance the availability of containerized cargo on inland waterways.

“(4) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this subsection affects the responsibility of the Secretary with respect to the construction and operations and maintenance of projects on the inland waterways system.

“(5) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the first contract is awarded pursuant to the pilot program, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that evaluates, with respect to the pilot program and any contracts awarded under the pilot program—

“(A) cost effectiveness;

“(B) reliability and performance;

“(C) cost savings attributable to mobilization and demobilization of dredge equipment; and

“(D) response times to address navigational impediments.

“(6) SUNSET.—The authority of the Secretary to enter into contracts pursuant to the pilot program shall expire on the date that is 10 years after the date of enactment of this Act.”

#### SEC. 131. FUNDING TO PROCESS PERMITS.

Section 214(a)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2352(a)(2)) is amended—

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

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) MULTI-USER MITIGATION BANK INSTRUMENT PROCESSING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An activity carried out by the Secretary to expedite evaluation of a permit described in subparagraph (A) may include the evaluation of an instrument for a mitigation bank if—

“(I) the non-Federal public entity, public-utility company, natural gas company, or railroad carrier applying for the permit described in that subparagraph is the sponsor of the mitigation bank; and

“(II) expediting evaluation of the instrument is necessary to expedite evaluation of the permit described in that subparagraph.

“(ii) USE OF CREDITS.—The use of credits generated by the mitigation bank established using expedited processing under clause (i) shall be limited to current and future projects and activities of the entity, company, or carrier described in subclause (I) of that clause for a public purpose, except that in the case of a non-Federal public entity, not more than 25 percent of the credits may be sold to other public and private entities.”

#### SEC. 132. NON-FEDERAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION PILOT PROGRAM.

Section 1043(b) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 113-121) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or discrete segment” after “separable element” each place it appears; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) DEFINITION OF DISCRETE SEGMENT.—In this subsection, the term ‘discrete segment’ means a physical portion of a project or separable element that the non-Federal interest can operate and maintain, independently and without creating a hazard, in advance of final completion of the water resources development project, or separable element thereof.”

#### SEC. 133. COST SHARING FOR TERRITORIES AND INDIAN TRIBES.

Section 1156 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2310) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) APPLICATION TO STUDIES.—

“(1) INCLUSION.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘study’ includes watershed assessments.

“(2) APPLICATION.—The Secretary shall apply the waiver amount described in subsection (a) to reduce only the non-Federal share of study costs.”

#### SEC. 134. WATER SUPPLY CONSERVATION.

Section 1116 of the WIIN Act (130 Stat. 1639) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “during the 1-year period ending on the date of enactment of this Act” and inserting “for at least 2 years during the 10-year period preceding a request from a non-Federal interest for assistance under this section”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting “, including measures utilizing a natural feature or nature-based feature (as those terms are defined in section 1184(a)) to reduce drought risk” after “water supply”.

#### SEC. 135. CRITERIA FOR FUNDING OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SMALL, REMOTE, AND SUBSISTENCE HARBORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop specific criteria for the annual evaluation and ranking of main-

tenance dredging requirements for small, remote, and subsistence harbors, taking into account the criteria provided in the joint explanatory statement of managers accompanying division D of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260; 134 Stat. 1352).

(b) INCLUSION IN GUIDANCE.—The Secretary shall include the criteria developed under subsection (a) in the annual Civil Works Direct Program Development Policy Guidance of the Secretary.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—For fiscal year 2024, and biennially thereafter, in conjunction with the annual budget submission of the President under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Environment and Public Works and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Appropriations of the House of Representatives a report that identifies the ranking of projects in accordance with the criteria developed under subsection (a).

#### SEC. 136. PROTECTION OF LIGHTHOUSES.

Section 14 of the Flood Control Act of 1946 (33 U.S.C. 701r) is amended by inserting “lighthouses, including those lighthouses with historical value,” after “schools.”

#### SEC. 137. EXPEDITING HYDROPOWER AT CORPS OF ENGINEERS FACILITIES.

Section 1008 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2321b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “and to meet the requirements of subsection (b)” after “projects”; and

(2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and

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

“(b) IMPLEMENTATION OF POLICY.—The Secretary shall—

“(1) ensure that the policy described in subsection (a) is implemented nationwide in an efficient, consistent, and coordinated manner; and

“(2) assess opportunities—

“(A) to increase the development of hydroelectric power at existing hydroelectric water resources development projects of the Corps of Engineers; and

“(B) to develop new hydroelectric power at nonpowered water resources development projects of the Corps of Engineers.”

#### SEC. 138. MATERIALS, SERVICES, AND FUNDS FOR REPAIR, RESTORATION, OR REHABILITATION OF CERTAIN PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITIES.

(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PUBLIC RECREATION FACILITY.—In this section, the term “eligible public recreation facility” means a facility at a reservoir operated by the Corps of Engineers that—

(1) was constructed to enable public use of and access to the reservoir; and

(2) requires repair, restoration, or rehabilitation to function.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—During a period of low water at an eligible public recreation facility, the Secretary is authorized—

(1) to accept and use materials, services, and funds from a non-Federal interest to repair, restore, or rehabilitate the facility; and

(2) to reimburse the non-Federal interest for the Federal share of the materials, services, or funds.

(c) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may not reimburse a non-Federal interest for the use of materials or services accepted under this section unless the materials or services—

(1) meet the specifications of the Secretary; and

(2) comply with all applicable laws and regulations that would apply if the materials and services were acquired by the Secretary,

including subchapter IV of chapter 31 and chapter 37 of title 40, United States Code, section 8302 of title 41, United States Code, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(d) AGREEMENT.—Before the acceptance of materials, services, or funds under this section, the Secretary and the non-Federal interest shall enter into an agreement that—

(1) specifies that the non-Federal interest shall hold and save the United States free from any and all damages that arise from use of materials or services of the non-Federal interest, except for damages due to the fault or negligence of the United States or its contractors;

(2) requires that the non-Federal interest shall certify that the materials or services comply with all applicable laws and regulations under subsection (c); and

(3) includes any other term or condition required by the Secretary.

#### SEC. 139. DREDGED MATERIAL MANAGEMENT PLANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall prioritize implementation of section 125(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2326h) at federally authorized harbors in the State of Ohio.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Each dredged material management plan prepared by the Secretary under section 125(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2326h) for a federally authorized harbor in the State of Ohio shall—

(1) include, in the baseline conditions, a prohibition on use of funding for open-lake disposal of dredged material consistent with section 105 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117–103; 136 Stat. 217); and

(2) maximize beneficial use of dredged material under the base plan and under section 204(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2326(d)).

(c) SAVINGS PROVISION.—This section does not—

(1) impose a prohibition on use of funding for open-lake disposal of dredged material; or

(2) require the development or implementation of a dredged material management plan in accordance with subsection (b) if use of funding for open-lake disposal is not otherwise prohibited by law.

#### SEC. 140. LEASE DEVIATIONS.

The Secretary shall fully implement the requirements of section 153 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2658).

#### SEC. 141. COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN.

(a) STUDY OF FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Using funds made available to carry out this section, the Secretary is authorized, at Federal expense, to carry out a study to determine the feasibility of a project for flood risk management and related purposes in the Columbia River basin and to report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate with recommendations thereon, including recommendations for a project to potentially reduce the reliance on Canada for flood risk management in the basin.

(2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall carry out the activities described in this subsection in coordination with other Federal and State agencies and Indian Tribes.

(b) FUNDS FOR COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY OBLIGATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to expend funds appropriated for the purpose of satisfying United States obliga-

tions under the Columbia River Treaty to compensate Canada for operating Canadian storage on behalf of the United States under such Treaty.

(2) NOTIFICATION.—If the U.S. entity calls upon Canada to operate Canadian reservoir storage for flood risk management on behalf of the United States, which operation may incur an obligation to compensate Canada under the Columbia River Treaty—

(A) the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Environment and Public Works and Appropriations of the Senate, by not later than 30 days after the initiation of the call, a written notice of the action and a justification, including a description of the circumstances necessitating the call;

(B) upon a determination by the United States of the amount of compensation that shall be paid to Canada, the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure and Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Environment and Public Works and Appropriations of the Senate a written notice specifying such amount and an explanation of how such amount was derived, which notification shall not delay or impede the flood risk management mission of the U.S. entity; and

(C) the Secretary shall make no payment to Canada for the call under the Columbia River Treaty until such time as funds appropriated for the purpose of compensating Canada under such Treaty are available.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN.—The term “Columbia River basin” means the entire United States portion of the Columbia River watershed.

(2) COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY.—The term “Columbia River Treaty” means the Treaty relating to cooperative development of the water resources of the Columbia River Basin, signed at Washington January 17, 1961, and entered into force September 16, 1964.

(3) U.S. ENTITY.—The term “U.S. entity” means the entity designated by the United States under Article XIV of the Columbia River Treaty.

#### SEC. 142. CONTINUATION OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not include the amount of Federal obligations incurred and non-Federal contributions provided for an authorized water resources development project during the period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act and ending on September 30, 2025, for purposes of determining if the cost of the project exceeds the maximum cost of the project under section 902 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2280).

(b) CONTINUATION OF CONSTRUCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not, solely on the basis of section 902 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2280)—

(A) defer the initiation or continuation of construction of a water resources development project during the period described in subsection (a); or

(B) terminate a contract for design or construction of a water resources development project entered into during the period described in subsection (a) after expiration of that period.

(2) RESUMPTION OF CONSTRUCTION.—The Secretary shall resume construction of any water resources development project for which construction was deferred on the basis of section 902 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2280) during the period beginning on October 1, 2021, and ending on the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section waives the obligation of the Secretary to submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a post-authorization change report recommending an increase in the authorized cost of a project if the project otherwise would exceed the maximum cost of the project under section 902 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2280).

### TITLE II—STUDIES AND REPORTS

#### SEC. 201. AUTHORIZATION OF FEASIBILITY STUDIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to investigate the feasibility of the following projects:

(1) Project for ecosystem restoration, Mill Creek Levee and Walla Walla River, Oregon.

(2) Project for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration, Tittabawassee River, Chippewa River, Pine River, and Tobacco River, Michigan.

(3) Project for flood risk management, Southeast Michigan.

(4) Project for flood risk management, McMicken Dam, Arizona.

(5) Project for flood risk management, Ellicott City and Howard County, Maryland.

(6) Project for flood risk management, Ten Mile River, North Attleboro, Massachusetts.

(7) Project for flood risk management and water supply, Fox-Wolf Basin, Wisconsin.

(8) Project for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration, Thatchbed Island, Essex, Connecticut.

(9) Project for flood and coastal storm risk management, Cape Fear River Basin, North Carolina.

(10) Project for flood risk management, Lower Clear Creek and Dickinson Bayou, Texas.

(11) Project for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration, the Resacas, Hidalgo and Cameron Counties, Texas.

(12) Project for flood risk management, including levee improvement, Papillion Creek, Nebraska.

(13) Project for flood risk management, Offutt Ditch Pump Station, Nebraska.

(14) Project for flood risk management, navigation, and ecosystem restoration, Mohawk River Basin, New York.

(15) Project for coastal storm risk management, Waikiki Beach, Hawaii.

(16) Project for ecosystem restoration and coastal storm risk management, Cumberland and Sea Islands, Georgia.

(17) Project for flood risk management, Wailupe Stream watershed, Hawaii.

(18) Project for flood and coastal storm risk management, Hawaii County, Hawaii.

(19) Project for coastal storm risk management, Maui County, Hawaii.

(20) Project for flood risk management, Sarpy County, Nebraska.

(21) Project for aquatic ecosystem restoration, including habitat for endangered salmon, Columbia River Basin.

(22) Project for ecosystem restoration, flood risk management, and recreation, Newport, Kentucky.

(23) Project for flood risk management and water supply, Jenkins, Kentucky.

(24) Project for flood risk management, including riverbank stabilization, Columbus, Kentucky.

(25) Project for flood and coastal storm risk management, navigation, and ecosystem restoration, South Shore, Long Island, New York.

(26) Project for flood risk management, coastal storm risk management, navigation, ecosystem restoration, and water supply, Blind Brook, New York.

(27) Project for navigation, Cumberland River, Kentucky.

(28) Project for ecosystem restoration and water supply, Great Salt Lake, Utah.

(b) **PROJECT MODIFICATIONS.**—The Secretary is authorized to investigate the feasibility of the following modifications to the following projects:

(1) Modifications to the project for navigation, South Haven Harbor, Michigan, for turning basin improvements.

(2) Modifications to the project for navigation, Rollinson Channel and channel from Hatteras Inlet to Hatteras, North Carolina, authorized by section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1174), to incorporate the ocean bar.

(3) Modifications to the project for flood control, Saint Francis River Basin, Missouri and Arkansas, authorized by section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 172, chapter 188), to provide flood risk management for the tributaries and drainage of Straight Slough, Craighead, Poinsett, and Cross Counties, Arkansas.

(4) Modifications to the project for flood risk management, Cedar River, Cedar Rapids, Iowa, authorized by section 7002(2) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1366), consistent with the City of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, Cedar River Flood Control System Master Plan.

(5) Modifications to the project for navigation, Savannah Harbor, Georgia, without evaluation of additional deepening.

(6) Modifications to the project for navigation, Honolulu Harbor, Hawaii, for navigation improvements and coastal storm risk management.

(7) Modifications to the project for navigation, Port of Ogdensburg, New York, including deepening.

(8) Modifications to the Huntington Local Protection Project, Huntington, West Virginia.

#### SEC. 202. SPECIAL RULES.

(a) The studies authorized by paragraphs (12) and (13) of section 201(a) shall be considered a continuation of the study that resulted in the Chief's Report for the project for Papillion Creek and Tributaries Lakes, Nebraska, signed January 24, 2022.

(b) The study authorized by section 201(a)(17) shall be considered a resumption and a continuation of the general reevaluation initiated on December 30, 2003.

(c) In carrying out the study authorized by section 201(a)(21), the Secretary shall only formulate measures and alternatives to be consistent with the authorized purposes of existing Federal projects while also maintaining the benefits of such projects.

(d) In carrying out the study authorized by section 201(a)(25), the Secretary shall study the South Shore of Long Island, New York, as a whole system, including inlets that are Federal channels.

(e) The studies authorized by section 201(b) shall be considered new phase investigations afforded the same treatment as a general reevaluation.

#### SEC. 203. EXPEDITED COMPLETION OF STUDIES.

(a) **FEASIBILITY REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall expedite the completion of a feasibility study for each of the following projects, and if the Secretary determines that the project is justified in a completed report, may proceed directly to preconstruction planning, engineering, and design of the project:

(1) Modifications to the project for flood risk management, North Adams, Massachusetts, authorized by section 5 of the Act of June 22, 1936 (commonly known as the "Flood Control Act of 1936") (49 Stat. 1572, chapter 688; 33 U.S.C. 701h), and section 3 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (commonly known as the "Flood Control Act of 1941") (55 Stat. 639, chapter 377), for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration.

(2) Project for coastal storm risk management, Charleston Peninsula, South Carolina.

(3) Project for flood and coastal storm risk management and ecosystem restoration, Boston North Shore, Revere, Saugus, Lynn, Malden, and Everett, Massachusetts.

(4) Project for flood risk management, De Soto County, Mississippi.

(5) Project for coastal storm risk management, Chicago shoreline, Illinois.

(6) Project for flood risk management, Cave Buttes Dam, Arizona.

(7) Project for flood and coastal storm risk management, Chelsea, Massachusetts, authorized by a study resolution of the Committee on Public Works of the Senate dated September 12, 1969.

(8) Project for ecosystem restoration, Herring River Estuary, Barnstable County, Massachusetts, authorized by a study resolution of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives dated July 23, 1997.

(9) Project for coastal storm risk management, ecosystem restoration, and navigation, Nauset Barrier Beach and inlet system, Chatham, Massachusetts, authorized by a study resolution of the Committee on Public Works of the Senate dated September 12, 1969.

(10) Project for flood risk management, East Hartford Levee System, Connecticut.

(11) Project for flood risk management, Rahway, New Jersey, authorized by section 336 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2712).

(12) Project for coastal storm risk management, Sea Bright to Manasquan, New Jersey.

(13) Project for coastal storm risk management, Raritan Bay and Sandy Hook Bay, New Jersey.

(14) Project for coastal storm risk management, St. Tammany Parish, Louisiana.

(15) Project for ecosystem restoration, Fox River, Illinois, authorized by section 519 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2653).

(16) Project for ecosystem restoration, Chicago River, Illinois.

(17) Project for ecosystem restoration, Lake Okeechobee, Florida.

(18) Project for ecosystem restoration, Western Everglades, Florida.

(19) Modifications to the project for navigation, Hilo Harbor, Hawaii.

(20) Project for flood risk management, Kanawha River Basin, West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina.

(21) Modifications to the project for navigation, Auke Bay, Alaska.

(b) **POST-AUTHORIZATION CHANGE REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall expedite completion of a post-authorization change report for the following projects:

(1) Project for ecosystem restoration, Tres Rios, Arizona, authorized by section 101(b)(4) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2577).

(2) Project for coastal storm risk management, Surf City and North Topsail Beach, North Carolina, authorized by section 7002(3) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1367).

(3) Anchorage F modifications to the project for navigation, Norfolk Harbor and Channels, Virginia, authorized by section 201 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4090) and modified by section 1403(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3840).

(4) Project for navigation, Port Everglades, Florida, authorized by section 1401(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (130 Stat. 1709).

(c) **WATERSHED AND RIVER BASIN ASSESSMENTS.**—The Secretary shall expedite the completion of the following assessments

under section 729 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2267a):

(1) Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency Study, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin.

(2) Ouachita-Black Rivers, Arkansas and Louisiana.

(3) Project for watershed assessment, Hawaii County, Hawaii.

(d) **DISPOSITION STUDY.**—The Secretary shall expedite the completion of the disposition study for the Los Angeles County Drainage Area under section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (33 U.S.C. 549a).

(e) **ADDITIONAL DIRECTION.**—The post-authorization change report for the project described in subsection (b)(3) shall be completed not later than December 31, 2023.

#### SEC. 204. STUDIES FOR PERIODIC NOURISHMENT.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 156 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5f) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking "15" and inserting "50"; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "15";

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) by striking "10-year period" and inserting "16-year period"; and

(B) by striking "6 years" and inserting "12 years"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(f) **TREATMENT OF STUDIES.**—A study carried out under subsection (b) shall be considered a new phase investigation afforded the same treatment as a general reevaluation."

(b) **INDIAN RIVER INLET SAND BYPASS PLANT.**—For purposes of the project for coastal storm risk management, Delaware Coast Protection, Delaware (commonly known as the "Indian River Inlet Sand Bypass Plant"), authorized by section 869 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4182), a study carried out under section 156(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1976 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5f(b)) shall consider as an alternative for periodic nourishment continued reimbursement of the Federal share of the cost to the non-Federal interest for the project to operate and maintain a sand bypass plant.

#### SEC. 205. NEPA REPORTING.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION.**—The term "categorical exclusion" has the meaning given the term in section 1508.1 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(2) **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT.**—The term "environmental assessment" has the meaning given the term in section 1508.1 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(3) **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.**—The term "environmental impact statement" means a detailed written statement required under section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4332(2)(C)).

(4) **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.**—The term "finding of no significant impact" has the meaning given the term in section 1508.1 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(5) **NEPA PROCESS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term "NEPA process" has the meaning given the term in section 1508.1 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or a successor regulation).

(B) **PERIOD.**—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the NEPA process—

(i) begins on the date on which the Secretary initiates a project study; and

(ii) ends on the date on which the Secretary issues, with respect to the project study—

(I) a record of decision, including, if necessary, a revised record of decision;

(II) a finding of no significant impact; or  
(III) a categorical exclusion under title I of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4331 et seq.).

(6) **PROJECT STUDY.**—The term “project study” means a feasibility study for a project carried out pursuant to section 905 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2282) for which a categorical exclusion, an environmental assessment, or an environmental impact statement is required pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

(b) **REPORTS.**—

(1) **NEPA DATA.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall carry out a process to track, and annually submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report containing, the information described in subparagraph (B).

(B) **INFORMATION DESCRIBED.**—The information referred to in subparagraph (A) is, with respect to the Corps of Engineers—

(i) the number of project studies for which a categorical exclusion was used during the reporting period;

(ii) the number of project studies for which the decision to use a categorical exclusion, to prepare an environmental assessment, or to prepare an environmental impact statement is pending on the date on which the report is submitted;

(iii) the number of project studies for which an environmental assessment was issued during the reporting period, broken down by whether a finding of no significant impact, if applicable, was based on mitigation;

(iv) the length of time the Corps of Engineers took to complete each environmental assessment described in clause (iii);

(v) the number of project studies pending on the date on which the report is submitted for which an environmental assessment is being drafted;

(vi) the number of project studies for which an environmental impact statement was issued during the reporting period;

(vii) the length of time the Corps of Engineers took to complete each environmental impact statement described in clause (vi); and

(viii) the number of project studies pending on the date on which the report is submitted for which an environmental impact statement is being drafted.

(2) **PUBLIC ACCESS TO NEPA REPORTS.**—The Secretary shall make publicly available each annual report required under paragraph (1).

#### **SEC. 206. GAO AUDIT OF PROJECTS OVER BUDGET OR BEHIND SCHEDULE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the factors and conditions for each ongoing water resources development project carried out by the Secretary for which—

(1) the current estimated total project cost of the project exceeds the original estimated total project cost of the project by not less than \$50,000,000; or

(2) the current estimated completion date of the project exceeds the original estimated completion date of the project by not less than 5 years.

(b) **REPORT.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the review under subsection (a).

#### **SEC. 207. GAO STUDY ON PROJECT DISTRIBUTION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct an analysis of the geographic distribution of annual and supplemental funding for water resources development projects carried out by the Secretary over the previous 10 fiscal years and the factors that have led to that distribution.

(b) **REPORT.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the analysis under subsection (a).

#### **SEC. 208. GAO AUDIT OF JOINT COSTS FOR OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the practices of the Corps of Engineers with respect to the determination of joint costs associated with operations and maintenance of reservoirs owned and operated by the Secretary.

(b) **REPORT.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the review under subsection (a) and any recommendations that result from the review.

#### **SEC. 209. GAO REVIEW OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS MITIGATION PRACTICES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall carry out a review of the water resources development project mitigation practices of the Corps of Engineers.

(b) **CONTENT.**—The review under subsection (a) shall include an evaluation of—

(1) the implementation by the Corps of Engineers of the final rule issued on April 10, 2008, entitled “Compensatory Mitigation for Losses of Aquatic Resources” (73 Fed. Reg. 19594), including, at a minimum—

(A) the extent to which the final rule is consistently implemented by the districts of the Corps of Engineers; and

(B) the performance of each of the mitigation mechanisms included in the final rule; and

(2) opportunities to utilize alternative methods to satisfy mitigation requirements of water resources development projects, including, at a minimum, performance-based contracts.

(c) **REPORT.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the findings of the review under subsection (a) and any recommendations that result from the review.

(d) **DEFINITION OF PERFORMANCE-BASED CONTRACT.**—In this section, the term “performance-based contract” means a procurement mechanism by which the Corps of Engineers contracts with a public or private non-Federal entity for a specific mitigation outcome requirement, with payment to the entity linked to delivery of verifiable and successful mitigation performance.

#### **SEC. 210. SABINE-NECHES WATERWAY NAVIGATION IMPROVEMENT PROJECT, TEXAS.**

The Secretary shall expedite the review and coordination of the feasibility study for the project for navigation, Sabine-Neches Waterway, Texas, under section 203(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2231(b)).

#### **SEC. 211. GREAT LAKES RECREATIONAL BOATING.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare, at full Federal expense, and submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report updating the findings of the report on the economic benefits of recreational boating in the Great Lakes basin prepared under section 455(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–21(c)).

#### **SEC. 212. CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA.**

(a) **EVALUATION AND REPORT.**—

(1) **EVALUATION.**—On request and at the expense of the St. Johns River Water Management District, the Secretary shall evaluate the effects of deauthorizing the southernmost 3.5-mile reach of the L-73 levee, Section 2, Osceola County, Florida, on the functioning of the project for flood control and other purposes, Upper St. Johns River Basin, Central and Southern Florida, authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (62 Stat. 1176).

(2) **REPORT.**—In carrying out the evaluation under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall—

(A) prepare a report that includes the results of the evaluation, including—

(i) the advisability of deauthorizing the levee described in that paragraph; and

(ii) any recommendations for conditions that should be placed on a deauthorization to protect the interests of the United States and the public; and

(B) submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives the report under subparagraph (A) as part of the annual report submitted to Congress pursuant to section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d).

(b) **COMPREHENSIVE CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN FLORIDA STUDY.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to carry out a feasibility study for resiliency and comprehensive improvements or modifications to existing water resources development projects in central and southern Florida, for the purposes of flood risk management, water supply, ecosystem restoration (including preventing saltwater intrusion), recreation, and related purposes.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In carrying out the feasibility study under paragraph (1), the Secretary—

(A) is authorized—

(i) to review the report of the Chief of Engineers for central and southern Florida (House Document 643, 80th Congress, 2d Session), and other related reports of the Secretary; and

(ii) to recommend cost-effective structural and nonstructural projects for implementation that provide a systemwide approach for the purposes described in that paragraph; and

(B) shall ensure the study and any projects recommended under subparagraph (A)(ii) will not interfere with the efforts undertaken to carry out the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan pursuant to section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2680; 121 Stat. 1268; 132 Stat. 3786).

#### **SEC. 213. INVESTMENTS FOR RECREATION AREAS.**

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Corps of Engineers operates more recreation areas than any other Federal or State agency, apart from the Department of the Interior.

(2) Nationally, visitors to nearly 600 dams and lakes, managed by the Corps of Engineers, spend an estimated \$12,000,000,000 per year and support 500,000 jobs.

(3) Lakes managed by the Corps of Engineers are economic drivers that support rural communities.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Corps of Engineers should use all available authorities to promote and enhance development and recreational opportunities at lakes that are part of authorized civil works projects under the administrative jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on investments needed to support recreational activities that are part of authorized water resources development projects under the administrative jurisdiction of the Corps of Engineers.

(d) REQUIREMENTS.—The report under subsection (c) shall include—

(1) a list of deferred maintenance projects, including maintenance projects relating to recreational facilities, sites, and associated access roads;

(2) a plan to fund the projects described in paragraph (1) over the 5-year period following the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) a description of efforts made by the Corps of Engineers to coordinate investments in recreational facilities, sites, and associated access roads with—

(A) State and local governments; or

(B) private entities; and

(4) an assessment of whether the modification of Federal contracting requirements could accelerate the availability of funds for the projects described in paragraph (1).

#### SEC. 214. WESTERN INFRASTRUCTURE STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS OF NATURAL FEATURE AND NATURE-BASED FEATURE.—In this section, the terms “natural feature” and “nature-based feature” have the meanings given those terms in section 1184(a) of the WIIN Act (33 U.S.C. 2289a(a)).

(b) COMPREHENSIVE STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a comprehensive study (referred to in this section as the “study”) to evaluate the effectiveness of carrying out additional measures, including measures that utilize natural features or nature-based features at or upstream of reservoirs for the purposes of—

(1) sustaining operations in response to changing hydrological and climatic conditions;

(2) mitigating the risk of drought or floods, including the loss of storage capacity due to sediment accumulation;

(3) increasing water supply; or

(4) aquatic ecosystem restoration.

(c) STUDY FOCUS.—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall include all reservoirs owned and operated by the Secretary and reservoirs for which the Secretary has flood control responsibilities under section 7 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 890, chapter 665; 33 U.S.C. 709), in the South Pacific Division of the Corps of Engineers.

(d) CONSULTATION AND USE OF EXISTING DATA.—

(1) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall consult with applicable—

(A) Federal, State, and local agencies;

(B) Indian Tribes;

(C) non-Federal interests; and

(D) other stakeholders, as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(2) USE OF EXISTING DATA AND PRIOR STUDIES.—To the maximum extent practicable and where appropriate, the Secretary may—

(A) use existing data provided to the Secretary by entities described in paragraph (1); and

(B) incorporate—

(i) relevant information from prior studies and projects carried out by the Secretary; and

(ii) the latest technical data and scientific approaches with respect to changing hydrological and climatic conditions.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that describes—

(1) the results of the study; and

(2) any recommendations on site-specific areas where additional study is recommended by the Secretary.

(f) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section provides authority to the Secretary to change the authorized purposes at any of the reservoirs described in subsection (c).

#### SEC. 215. UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER AND ILLINOIS WATERWAY SYSTEM.

Section 8004(g) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 652 note; Public Law 110–114) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

“(2) REPORT ON WATER LEVEL MANAGEMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of completion of the comprehensive plan for Mississippi River water level management under section 22 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 1962d–16), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives an implementation report on opportunities identified in the comprehensive plan to expand the use of water level management on the Upper Mississippi River and Illinois Waterway System for the purpose of ecosystem restoration.”

#### SEC. 216. WEST VIRGINIA HYDROPOWER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For water resources development projects described in subsection (b), the Secretary is authorized—

(1) to evaluate the feasibility of modifications to such projects for the purposes of adding Federal hydropower or energy storage development; and

(2) to grant approval for the use of such projects for non-Federal hydropower or energy storage development in accordance with section 14 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (commonly known as the “Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899”) (30 Stat. 1152, chapter 425; 33 U.S.C. 408).

(b) PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—The projects referred to in subsection (a) are the following:

(1) Sutton Dam, Braxton County, West Virginia, authorized by section 5 of the Act of June 22, 1936 (49 Stat. 1586, chapter 688).

(2) Hildebrand Lock and Dam, Monongahela County, West Virginia, authorized by section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 166, chapter 188).

(3) Bluestone Lake, Summers County, West Virginia, authorized by section 5 of the Act of June 22, 1936 (49 Stat. 1586, chapter 688).

(4) R.D. Bailey Dam, Wyoming County, West Virginia, authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1188).

(5) Stonewall Jackson Dam, Lewis County, West Virginia, authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1966 (80 Stat. 1421).

(6) East Lynn Dam, Wayne County, West Virginia, authorized by section 5 of the Act of June 22, 1936 (49 Stat. 1586, chapter 688).

(7) Burnsville Lake, Braxton County, West Virginia, authorized by section 5 of the Act of June 22, 1936 (49 Stat. 1586, chapter 688).

(c) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—The authority for facility modifications under subsection (a) includes demonstration projects.

#### SEC. 217. RECREATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT CORPS FACILITIES IN APPALACHIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a plan to implement the recreational and economic development opportunities identified by the Secretary in the report prepared under section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2680) at Corps of Engineers facilities located within a distressed or at-risk county (as described in subsection (a)(1) of that section) in Appalachia.

(b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In preparing the plan under subsection (a), the Secretary shall consider options for Federal funding, partnerships, and outgrants to Federal, State, and local governments, nonprofit organizations, and commercial businesses.

#### SEC. 218. AUTOMATED FEE MACHINES.

For the purpose of mitigating adverse impacts to public access to outdoor recreation, to the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall consider alternatives to the use of automated fee machines for the collection of fees for the use of developed recreation sites and facilities in West Virginia.

#### SEC. 219. LAKE CHAMPLAIN CANAL, VERMONT AND NEW YORK.

Section 5146 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1255) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) CLARIFICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—At the request of the non-Federal interest for the study of the Lake Champlain Canal Aquatic Invasive Species Barrier carried out under section 542 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2671; 121 Stat. 1150; 134 Stat. 2652), the Secretary shall scope the phase II portion of that study to satisfy the feasibility determination under subsection (a).

“(2) DISPERSAL BARRIER.—A dispersal barrier constructed, maintained, or operated under this section may include—

“(A) physical hydrologic separation;

“(B) nonstructural measures;

“(C) deployment of technologies;

“(D) buffer zones; or

“(E) any combination of the approaches described in subparagraphs (A) through (D).”

#### SEC. 220. REPORT ON CONCESSIONAIRE PRACTICES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on concessionaire lease practices by the Corps of Engineers.

(b) INCLUSIONS.—The report under subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum—

(1) an assessment of the reasonableness of the formula of the Corps of Engineers for calculating concessionaire rental rates, taking into account the operating margins for sales of food and fuel; and

(2) the process for assessing administrative fees to concessionaires across districts of the Corps of Engineers.



**TITLE III—DEAUTHORIZATIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND RELATED PROVISIONS**  
**SEC. 301. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CRITICAL PROJECTS.**

(a) ATLANTA, GEORGIA.—Section 219(e)(5) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 110 Stat. 3757; 113 Stat. 334) is amended by striking “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$75,000,000”.

(b) EASTERN SHORE AND SOUTHWEST VIRGINIA.—Section 219(f)(10)(A) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 335; 121 Stat. 1255) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$20,000,000” and inserting “\$52,000,000”; and

(2) by striking “Accomack” and inserting “Accomack”.

(c) LAKES MARION AND MOULTRIE, SOUTH CAROLINA.—Section 219(f)(25) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 336; 130 Stat. 1677; 134 Stat. 2719) is amended by striking “\$110,000,000” and inserting “\$151,500,000”.

(d) LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS.—Section 219(f)(54) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 114 Stat. 2763A–221) is amended—

(1) in the paragraph heading, by striking “COOK COUNTY” and inserting “COOK COUNTY AND LAKE COUNTY”; and

(2) by striking “\$35,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”.

(e) MADISON AND ST. CLAIR COUNTIES, ILLINOIS.—Section 219(f)(55) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 114 Stat. 2763A–221; 134 Stat. 2718) is amended by striking “\$45,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”.

(f) CALAVERAS COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—Section 219(f)(86) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1259) is amended by striking “\$3,000,000” and inserting “\$13,280,000”.

(g) LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1259) is amended by striking paragraph (93) and inserting the following:

“(93) LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—“(A) IN GENERAL.—\$38,000,000 for wastewater and water related infrastructure, Los Angeles County, California.

“(B) ELIGIBILITY.—The Water Replenishment District of Southern California may be eligible for assistance under this paragraph.”.

(h) MICHIGAN.—Section 219(f)(157) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1262) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$35,000,000 for” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—\$85,000,000 for”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) ADDITIONAL PROJECTS.—Amounts made available under subparagraph (A) may be used for design and construction projects for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in Michigan, including for projects for wastewater treatment and related facilities, water supply and related facilities, environmental restoration, and surface water resource protection and development.”.

(i) MYRTLE BEACH AND VICINITY, SOUTH CAROLINA.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1267) is amended by striking paragraph (250) and inserting the following:

“(250) MYRTLE BEACH AND VICINITY, SOUTH CAROLINA.—\$31,000,000 for environmental infrastructure, including ocean outfalls, Myrtle Beach and vicinity, South Carolina.”.

(j) NORTH MYRTLE BEACH AND VICINITY, SOUTH CAROLINA.—Section 219(f) of the Water

Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1267) is amended by striking paragraph (251) and inserting the following:

“(251) NORTH MYRTLE BEACH AND VICINITY, SOUTH CAROLINA.—\$74,000,000 for environmental infrastructure, including ocean outfalls, North Myrtle Beach and vicinity, South Carolina.”.

(k) HORRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(274) HORRY COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.—\$19,000,000 for environmental infrastructure, including ocean outfalls, Horry County, South Carolina.”.

(l) LANE COUNTY, OREGON.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (k)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(275) LANE COUNTY, OREGON.—\$20,000,000 for environmental infrastructure, Lane County, Oregon.”.

(m) PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (l)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(276) PLACER COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—\$21,000,000 for environmental infrastructure, Placer County, California.”.

(n) ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (m)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(277) ALAMEDA COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—\$20,000,000 for environmental infrastructure, Alameda County, California.”.

(o) TEMECULA CITY, CALIFORNIA.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (n)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(278) TEMECULA CITY, CALIFORNIA.—\$18,000,000 for environmental infrastructure, Temecula City, California.”.

(p) YOLO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (o)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(279) YOLO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA.—\$6,000,000 for environmental infrastructure, Yolo County, California.”.

(q) CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (p)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(280) CLINTON, MISSISSIPPI.—\$13,600,000 for environmental infrastructure, including stormwater management, drainage systems, and water quality enhancement, Clinton, Mississippi.”.

(r) OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (q)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(281) OXFORD, MISSISSIPPI.—\$10,000,000 for environmental infrastructure, including stormwater management, drainage systems, and water quality enhancement, Oxford, Mississippi.”.

(s) MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (r)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(282) MADISON COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.—\$10,000,000 for environmental infrastructure, including stormwater management, drainage systems, and water quality enhancement, Madison County, Mississippi.”.

(t) RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (s)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(283) RANKIN COUNTY, MISSISSIPPI.—\$10,000,000 for environmental infrastructure, including stormwater management, drainage systems, and water quality enhancement, Rankin County, Mississippi.”.

(u) MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (t)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(284) MERIDIAN, MISSISSIPPI.—\$10,000,000 for wastewater infrastructure, including stormwater management, drainage systems, and water quality enhancement, Meridian, Mississippi.”.

(v) DELAWARE.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (u)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(285) DELAWARE.—\$50,000,000 for sewer, stormwater system improvements, storage treatment, environmental restoration, and related water infrastructure, Delaware.”.

(w) QUEENS, NEW YORK.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (v)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(286) QUEENS, NEW YORK.—\$20,000,000 for the design and construction of stormwater management and improvements to combined sewer overflows to reduce the risk of flood impacts, Queens, New York.”.

(x) GEORGIA.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (w)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(287) GEORGIA.—\$75,000,000 for environmental infrastructure, Baldwin County, Bartow County, Floyd County, Haralson County, Jones County, Gilmer County, Towns County, Warren County, Lamar County, Lowndes County, Troup County, Madison County, Toombs County, Dade County, Bulloch County, Gordon County, Walker County, Dooly County, Butts County, Clarke County, Crisp County, Newton County, Bibb County, Baker County, Barrow County, Oglethorpe County, Peach County, Brooks County, Carroll County, Worth County, Jenkins County, Wheeler County, Calhoun County, Randolph County, Wilcox County, Stewart County, Telfair County, Clinch County, Hancock County, Ben Hill County, Jeff Davis County, Chattooga County, Lanier County, Brantley County, Charlton County, Tattnall County, Emanuel County, Mitchell County, Turner County, Bacon County, Terrell County, Macon County, Ware County, Bleckley County, Colquitt County, Washington County, Berrien County, Coffee County, Pulaski County, Cook County, Atkinson County, Candler County, Taliaferro County, Evans County, Johnson County, Irwin County, Dodge County, Jefferson County, Appling County, Taylor County, Wayne County, Clayton County, Decatur County, Schley County, Sumter County, Early County, Webster County, Clay County, Upson County, Long County, Twiggs County, Dougherty County, Quitman County, Meriwether County, Stephens County, Wilkinson County, Murray County, Wilkes County, Elbert County, McDuffie County, Heard County, Marion County, Talbot County, Laurens County, Montgomery County, Echols County, Pierce County, Richmond County, Chattahoochee County, Screven County, Habersham County, Lincoln County, Burke County, Liberty County, Tift County, Polk County, Glascock County, Grady County, Jasper County,

Banks County, Franklin County, Whitfield County, Treutlen County, Crawford County, Hart County, Georgia.”

(y) MARYLAND.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (x)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(288) MARYLAND.—\$100,000,000 for water, wastewater, and other environmental infrastructure, Maryland.”

(z) MILWAUKEE METROPOLITAN AREA, WISCONSIN.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (y)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(289) MILWAUKEE METROPOLITAN AREA, WISCONSIN.—\$4,500,000 for water-related infrastructure, resource protection and development, stormwater management, and reduction of combined sewer overflows, Milwaukee metropolitan area, Wisconsin.”

(aa) HAWAII.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (z)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(290) HAWAII.—\$75,000,000 for water-related infrastructure, resource protection and development, wastewater treatment, water supply, urban storm water conveyance, environmental restoration, and surface water protection and development, Hawaii.”

(bb) ALABAMA.—Section 219(f) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) (as amended by subsection (aa)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(291) ALABAMA.—\$50,000,000 for water, wastewater, and other environmental infrastructure, Alabama.”

(cc) MISSISSIPPI.—Section 592(g) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 380; 123 Stat. 2851) is amended by striking “\$200,000,000” and inserting “\$300,000,000”.

(dd) CENTRAL NEW MEXICO.—Section 593(h) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 381; 119 Stat. 2255) is amended by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”.

(ee) NORTH DAKOTA AND OHIO.—Section 594 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 381; 121 Stat. 1140; 121 Stat. 1944) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) AUTHORIZATION OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts authorized under subsection (h), there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$100,000,000, to be divided between the States referred to in subsection (a).”

(ff) WESTERN RURAL WATER.—Section 595(i) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 383; 134 Stat. 2719) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$435,000,000” and inserting “\$490,000,000”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$150,000,000” and inserting “\$200,000,000”.

(gg) LAKE CHAMPLAIN WATERSHED, VERMONT AND NEW YORK.—Section 542 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2671; 121 Stat. 1150) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(C), by striking “planning” and inserting “clean water infrastructure planning, design, and construction”; and

(2) in subsection (g), by striking “\$32,000,000” and inserting “\$100,000,000”.

(hh) TEXAS.—Section 5138 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1250) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b), by striking “, as identified by the Texas Water Development Board”;

(2) in subsection (e)(3), by inserting “and construction” after “design work”;

(3) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (i); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) NONPROFIT ENTITIES.—In accordance with section 221(b) of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5b(b)), for any project carried out under this section, a non-Federal interest may include a nonprofit entity with the consent of the affected local government.

“(h) CORPS OF ENGINEERS EXPENSES.—Not more than 10 percent of the amounts made available to carry out this section may be used by the Corps of Engineers district offices to administer projects under this section at Federal expense.”

#### SEC. 302. SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 340 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4856) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION INFRASTRUCTURE AND RESOURCE PROTECTION DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROGRAM”; and

(2) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) DEFINITION OF SOUTHERN WEST VIRGINIA.—In this section, the term ‘southern West Virginia’ means the counties of Boone, Braxton, Cabell, Calhoun, Clay, Fayette, Gilmer, Greenbrier, Jackson, Kanawha, Lincoln, Logan, Mason, McDowell, Mercer, Mingo, Monroe, Nicholas, Pendleton, Pocahontas, Putnam, Raleigh, Roane, Summers, Wayne, Webster, Wirt, and Wyoming, West Virginia.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents contained in section 1(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4799) is amended by striking the item relating to section 340 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 340. Southern West Virginia.”

#### SEC. 303. NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 571 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 371; 121 Stat. 1257; 134 Stat. 2719) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking “CENTRAL” and inserting “NORTHERN”; and

(2) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the following:

“(a) DEFINITION OF NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA.—In this section, the term ‘northern West Virginia’ means the counties of Barbour, Berkeley, Brooke, Doddridge, Grant, Hampshire, Hancock, Hardy, Harrison, Jefferson, Lewis, Marion, Marshall, Mineral, Morgan, Monongalia, Ohio, Pleasants, Preston, Randolph, Ritchie, Taylor, Tucker, Tyler, Upshur, Wetzell, and Wood, West Virginia.”

(3) in subsection (b), by striking “central” and inserting “northern”; and

(4) in subsection (c), by striking “central” and inserting “northern”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 269) is amended by striking the item relating to section 571 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 571. Northern West Virginia.”

#### SEC. 304. LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS, NORTHERN WEST VIRGINIA.

Section 219(f)(272) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1268) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$20,000,000 for water and wastewater” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—\$20,000,000 for water and wastewater”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), at the request of a non-Federal interest for a project

or a separable element of a project that receives assistance under this paragraph, the Secretary may adopt a model agreement developed in accordance with section 571(e) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 371).”

#### SEC. 305. SPECIAL RULE FOR CERTAIN BEACH NOURISHMENT PROJECTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a water resources development project described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

(1) fund, at full Federal expense, any incremental increase in cost to the project that results from a legal requirement to use a borrow source determined by the Secretary to be other than the least-cost option; and

(2) exclude the cost described in paragraph (1) from the cost-benefit analysis for the project.

(b) AUTHORIZED WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS DESCRIBED.—An authorized water resources development project referred to in subsection (a) is any of the following:

(1) The Townsends Inlet to Cape May Inlet, New Jersey, coastal storm risk management project, authorized by section 101(a)(26) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 278).

(2) The Folly Beach, South Carolina, coastal storm risk management project, authorized by section 501(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4136) and modified by section 108 of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 1992 (105 Stat. 520).

(3) The Carolina Beach and Vicinity, North Carolina, coastal storm risk management project, authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1182) and modified by section 401(7) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2741).

(4) The Wrightsville Beach, North Carolina, coastal storm risk management project, authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1182) and modified by section 401(7) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2741).

(5) A project for coastal storm risk management for any shore included in a project described in this subsection that is specifically authorized by Congress on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(6) Emergency repair and restoration of any project described in this subsection under section 5 of the Act of August 18, 1941 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1941”) (55 Stat. 650, chapter 377; 33 U.S.C. 701n).

(c) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section limits the eligibility for, or availability of, Federal expenditures or financial assistance for any water resources development project, including any beach nourishment or renourishment project, under any other provision of Federal law.

#### SEC. 306. COASTAL COMMUNITY FLOOD CONTROL AND OTHER PURPOSES.

Section 103(k)(4) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213(k)(4)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) and (B) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting appropriately;

(2) in the matter preceding clause (i) (as so redesignated), by striking “Notwithstanding” and inserting the following:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding”;

(3) in subparagraph (A) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in clause (i) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by striking “\$200 million” and inserting “\$200,000,000”; and

(ii) by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in clause (ii) (as so redesignated)—

(i) by inserting “an amount equal to % of” after “repays”; and

(ii) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(iii) the non-Federal interest repays the balance of remaining principal by June 1, 2032.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) REPAYMENT OPTIONS.—Repayment of a non-Federal contribution under subparagraph (A)(iii) may be satisfied through the provision by the non-Federal interest of fish and wildlife mitigation for one or more projects or separable elements, if the Secretary determines that—

“(i) the non-Federal interest has incurred costs for the provision of mitigation that—

“(I) equal or exceed the amount of the required repayment; and

“(II) are in excess of any required non-Federal contribution for the project or separable element for which the mitigation is provided; and

“(ii) the mitigation is integral to the project for which it is provided.”.

#### SEC. 307. MODIFICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The following modifications to studies and projects are authorized:

(1) MISSISSIPPI RIVER GULF OUTLET, LOUISIANA.—The Federal share of the cost of the project for ecosystem restoration, Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, Louisiana, authorized by section 7013(a)(4) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1281), shall be 90 percent.

(2) GREAT LAKES AND MISSISSIPPI RIVER INTERBASIN PROJECT, BRANDON ROAD, WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS.—Section 402(a)(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2742) is amended by striking “80 percent” and inserting “90 percent”.

(3) LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMPREHENSIVE MANAGEMENT STUDY.—Section 213 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2687) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) COST-SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of the comprehensive study described in subsection (a), and any feasibility study described in subsection (e), shall be 90 percent.”.

(4) PORT OF NOME, ALASKA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out the project for navigation, Port of Nome, Alaska, authorized by section 401(1) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2733).

(B) COST-SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of the project described in subparagraph (A) shall be 90 percent.

(5) CHICAGO SHORELINE PROTECTION.—The project for storm damage reduction and shore protection, Lake Michigan, Illinois, from Wilmette, Illinois, to the Illinois-Indiana State line, authorized by section 101(a)(12) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3664), is modified to authorize the Secretary to provide 65 percent of the cost of the locally preferred plan, as described in the Report of the Chief of Engineers dated April 14, 1994, for the construction of the following segments of the project:

(A) Shoreline revetment at Morgan Shoal.

(B) Shoreline revetment at Promontory Point.

(6) LOWER MUD RIVER, MILTON, WEST VIRGINIA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 3170 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1154), the Federal share of the cost of the project for flood control, Milton, West Virginia, authorized by section 580 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3790), and modified by section 340 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2612) and section 3170 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1154), shall be 90 percent.

(B) LAND, EASEMENTS, AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY.—For the project described in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall include in the cost of the project, and credit toward the non-Federal share of that cost, the value of land, easements, and rights-of-way provided by the non-Federal interest for the project, including the value of land, easements, and rights-of-way required for the project that are owned or held by the non-Federal interest or other non-Federal public body.

(C) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY.—Unless otherwise directed in an Act making annual appropriations for the Corps of Engineers for a fiscal year in which the Secretary has determined an additional appropriation is required to continue or complete construction of the project described in subparagraph (A), the project shall be eligible for additional funding appropriated by that Act in the Construction account of the Corps of Engineers—

(i) without a new investment decision; and

(ii) on the same terms as a project that is not the project described in subparagraph (A).

(7) SOUTH SHORE STATEN ISLAND, NEW YORK.—The Federal share of any portion of the cost to design and construct the project for coastal storm risk management, South Shore Staten Island, New York, authorized by section 401(3), that exceeds the estimated total project cost specified in the project partnership agreement for the project, signed by the Secretary on February 15, 2019, shall be 90 percent.

(b) AGREEMENTS.—

(1) STUDIES AND PROJECTS WITH MULTIPLE NON-FEDERAL INTERESTS.—At the request of the applicable non-Federal interests for the project described in section 402(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2742) and for the studies described in subsection (j) of section 213 of that Act (134 Stat. 2687), the Secretary shall not require those non-Federal interests to be jointly and severally liable for all non-Federal obligations in the project partnership agreement for the project or in the feasibility cost share agreements for the studies.

(2) SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO BAY SHORELINE, CALIFORNIA.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except for funds required for a betterment or for a locally preferred plan, the Secretary shall not require the non-Federal interest for the project for flood risk management, ecosystem restoration, and recreation, South San Francisco Bay Shoreline, California, authorized by section 1401(6) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (130 Stat. 1714), to contribute funds under an agreement entered into prior to the date of enactment of this Act in excess of the total cash contribution required from the non-Federal interest for the project under section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary shall not, at any time, defer, suspend, or terminate construction of the project described in subparagraph (A) solely on the basis of a determination by the Secretary that an additional appropriation is required to cover the Federal share of the cost to complete construction of the project, if Federal funds in an amount determined by the Secretary to be sufficient to continue construction of the project remain available in the allocation for the project under the Long-Term Disaster Recovery Investment Plan for amounts appropriated under the heading “CONSTRUCTION” under the heading “CORPS OF ENGINEERS—CIVIL—DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY” in title IV of subdivision 1 of division B of the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-123; 132 Stat. 76).

#### SEC. 308. PORT FOURCHON, LOUISIANA, DREDGED MATERIAL DISPOSAL PLAN.

The Secretary shall determine that the dredged material disposal plan recommended in the document entitled “Port Fourchon Belle Pass Channel Deepening Project Section 203 Feasibility Study (January 2019, revised January 2020)” is the least cost, environmentally acceptable dredged material disposal plan for the project for navigation, Port Fourchon Belle Pass Channel, Louisiana, authorized by section 403(a)(4) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2743).

#### SEC. 309. DELAWARE SHORE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION.

(a) DELAWARE BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL FOR THE DELAWARE RIVER, DELAWARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The project for coastal storm risk management, Delaware Beneficial Use of Dredged Material for the Delaware River, Delaware, authorized by section 401(3) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2736) (referred to in this subsection as the “project”), is modified—

(A) to direct the Secretary to implement the project using alternative borrow sources to the Delaware River, Philadelphia to the Sea, project, Delaware, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, authorized by the Act of June 25, 1910 (chapter 382, 36 Stat. 637; 46 Stat. 921; 52 Stat. 803; 59 Stat. 14; 68 Stat. 1249; 72 Stat. 297); and

(B) until the Secretary implements the modification under subparagraph (A), to authorize the Secretary, at the request of a non-Federal interest, to carry out initial construction or periodic nourishments at any site included in the project under—

(i) section 1122 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 2326 note; Public Law 114-322); or

(ii) section 204(d) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (33 U.S.C. 2326(d)).

(2) TREATMENT.—If the Secretary determines that a study is required to carry out paragraph (1)(A), the study shall be considered to be a continuation of the study that formulated the project.

(3) COST-SHARE.—The Federal share of the cost of the project, including the cost of any modifications carried out under subsection (a)(1), shall be 90 percent.

(b) INDIAN RIVER INLET SAND BYPASS PLANT, DELAWARE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Indian River Inlet Sand Bypass Plant, Delaware, coastal storm risk management project (referred to in this subsection as the “project”), authorized by section 869 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4182), is modified to authorize the Secretary, at the request of a non-Federal interest, to provide periodic nourishment through dedicated dredging or other means to maintain or restore the functioning of the project when—

(A) the sand bypass plant is inoperative; or

(B) operation of the sand bypass plant is insufficient to maintain the functioning of the project.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A cycle of periodic nourishment provided pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be subject to the following requirements:

(A) COST-SHARE.—The non-Federal share of the cost of a cycle shall be the same percentage as the non-Federal share of the cost to operate the sand bypass plant.

(B) DECISION DOCUMENT.—If the Secretary determines that a decision document is required to support a request for funding for the Federal share of a cycle, the decision document may be prepared using funds made available to the Secretary for construction or for investigations.

(C) TREATMENT.—

(i) DECISION DOCUMENT.—A decision document prepared under subparagraph (B) shall

not be subject to a new investment determination.

(ii) CYCLES.—A cycle shall be considered continuing construction.

(c) DELAWARE EMERGENCY SHORE RESTORATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to repair or restore any beach or any federally authorized hurricane or shore protective structure or project located in the State of Delaware pursuant to section 5(a) of the Act of August 18, 1941 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1941”) (55 Stat. 650, chapter 377; 33 U.S.C. 701n(a)), if—

(A) the structure, project, or beach is damaged by wind, wave, or water action associated with a storm of any magnitude; and

(B) the damage prevents the adequate functioning of the structure, project, or beach.

(2) BENEFIT-COST ANALYSIS.—The Secretary shall determine that the benefits attributable to the objectives set forth in section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962-2) and section 904(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2281(a)) exceed the cost for work carried out under this subsection.

(3) SAVINGS PROVISION.—The authority provided by this subsection shall be in addition to any authority provided by section 5(a) of the Act of August 18, 1941 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1941”) (55 Stat. 650, chapter 377; 33 U.S.C. 701n(a)) to repair or restore a beach or federally authorized hurricane or shore protection structure or project located in the State of Delaware damaged or destroyed by wind, wave, or water action of other than an ordinary nature.

(d) INDIAN RIVER INLET AND BAY, DELAWARE.—In carrying out major maintenance of the project for navigation, Indian River Inlet and Bay, Delaware, authorized by the Act of August 26, 1937 (50 Stat. 846, chapter 832), and section 2 of the Act of March 2, 1945 (59 Stat. 14, chapter 19), the Secretary shall repair, restore, or relocate any non-Federal facility or other infrastructure, that has been damaged, in whole or in part, by the deterioration or failure of the project.

(e) REPROGRAMMING FOR COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT PROJECT AT INDIAN RIVER INLET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for each fiscal year, the Secretary may reprogram amounts made available for a coastal storm risk management project to use such amounts for the project for coastal storm risk management, Indian River Inlet Sand Bypass Plant, Delaware, authorized by section 869 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4182).

(2) LIMITATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out not more than 2 reprogramming actions under paragraph (1) for each fiscal year.

(B) AMOUNT.—For each fiscal year, the Secretary may reprogram—

(i) not more than \$100,000 per reprogramming action; and

(ii) not more than \$200,000 for each fiscal year.

**SEC. 310. GREAT LAKES ADVANCE MEASURES ASSISTANCE.**

Section 5(a) of the Act of August 18, 1941 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1941”) (55 Stat. 650, chapter 377; 33 U.S.C. 701n(a)) (as amended by section 112(2)), is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(7) SPECIAL RULE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall not deny a request from the Governor of a State to provide advance measures assistance under this subsection to reduce the risk of damage from rising water levels in the Great Lakes solely on the basis that the damage is caused by erosion.

“(B) FEDERAL SHARE.—Assistance provided by the Secretary pursuant to a request under subparagraph (A) may be at full Federal expense if the assistance is to construct advanced measures to a temporary construction standard.”.

**SEC. 311. REHABILITATION OF EXISTING LEVEES.**

Section 3017(e) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 3303a note; Public Law 113-121) is amended—

(1) by striking “this subsection” and inserting “this section”; and

(2) by striking “10 years” and inserting “20 years”.

**SEC. 312. PILOT PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN COMMUNITIES.**

(a) PILOT PROGRAMS ON THE FORMULATION OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS PROJECTS IN RURAL COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.—Section 118 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 116-260) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(C), by striking “10”; and

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “make a recommendation to Congress on up to 10 projects” and inserting “recommend projects to Congress”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) RECOMMENDATIONS.—In recommending projects under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall include such recommendations in the next annual report submitted to Congress under section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) after the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 2022.”.

(b) PILOT PROGRAM FOR CAPS IN SMALL OR DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITIES.—Section 165(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 116-260) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “a total of 10”; and

(2) by redesignating paragraphs (4) and (5) as paragraphs (5) and (6), respectively; and

(3) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) MAXIMUM FEDERAL AMOUNT.—For a project carried out under this subsection, the maximum Federal amount, if applicable, shall be increased by the commensurate amount of the non-Federal share that would otherwise be required for the project under the applicable continuing authority program.”.

**SEC. 313. REHABILITATION OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONSTRUCTED PUMP STATIONS.**

Section 133 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2327a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) ELIGIBLE PUMP STATION.—The term ‘eligible pump station’ means a pump station that—

“(A) is a feature of a federally authorized flood or coastal storm risk management project; or

“(B) if inoperable, would impair drainage of water from areas interior to a federally authorized flood or coastal storm risk management project.”;

(2) by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary may carry out rehabilitation of an eligible pump station, if the Secretary determines that—

“(1) the pump station has a major deficiency; and

“(2) the rehabilitation is feasible.”; and

(3) by striking subsection (f) and inserting the following:

“(f) PRIORITIZATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall prioritize the provision of assistance under this section to economically disadvantaged communities.”.

**SEC. 314. CHESAPEAKE BAY ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION AND PROTECTION PROGRAM.**

Section 510(a)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3759; 128 Stat. 1317) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “and streambanks” after “shorelines”; and

(2) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” at the end;

(3) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (H); and

(4) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following:

“(F) wastewater treatment and related facilities;

“(G) stormwater and drainage systems; and”.

**SEC. 315. EVALUATION OF HYDROLOGIC CHANGES IN SOURIS RIVER BASIN.**

The Secretary is authorized to evaluate hydrologic changes affecting the agreement entitled “Agreement Between the Government of Canada and the United States of America for Water Supply and Flood Control in The Souris River Basin”, signed in 1989.

**SEC. 316. MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATING TO BALDHILL DAM, NORTH DAKOTA.**

The Secretary may enter into a memorandum of understanding with the non-Federal interest for the Red River Valley Water Supply Project to accommodate flows for downstream users through Baldhill Dam, North Dakota.

**SEC. 317. UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER RESTORATION PROGRAM.**

Section 1103(e)(3) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 652(e)(3)) is amended by striking “\$40,000,000” and inserting “\$75,000,000”.

**SEC. 318. HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOM DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.**

Section 128(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 610 note; Public Law 116-260) is amended by inserting “the Upper Mississippi River and its tributaries,” after “New York.”.

**SEC. 319. COLLETON COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA.**

Section 221(a)(4)(C)(i) of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5b(a)(4)(C)(i)) shall not apply to construction carried out by the non-Federal interest before the date of enactment of this Act for the project for hurricane and storm damage risk reduction, Colleton County, South Carolina, authorized by section 1401(3) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (130 Stat. 1711).

**SEC. 320. ARKANSAS RIVER CORRIDOR, OKLAHOMA.**

Section 3132 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1141) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) AUTHORIZED COST.—The Secretary is authorized to carry out construction of a project under this section at a total cost of \$128,400,000, with the cost shared in accordance with section 103 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213).

“(c) ADDITIONAL FEASIBILITY STUDIES AUTHORIZED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to carry out feasibility studies for purposes of recommending to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives additional projects under this section.

“(2) TREATMENT.—An additional feasibility study carried out under this subsection shall be considered a continuation of the feasibility study that formulated the project carried out under subsection (b).”.

**SEC. 321. ABANDONED AND INACTIVE NONCOAL MINE RESTORATION.**

Section 560 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (33 U.S.C. 2336) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by inserting “or on land taken into trust by the Secretary of the Interior on behalf of, and for the benefit of, an Indian Tribe” after “land owned by the United States”; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “\$30,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”.

**SEC. 322. ASIAN CARP PREVENTION AND CONTROL PILOT PROGRAM.**

Section 509(a)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 610 note; Public Law 116-260) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “or Tennessee River Watershed” and inserting “, Tennessee River Watershed, or Tombigbee River Watershed”; and

(2) in subparagraph (C)(i), by inserting “, of which not less than 1 shall be carried out on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway” before the period at the end.

**SEC. 323. FORMS OF ASSISTANCE.**

Section 592(b) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 379) is amended by striking “and surface water resource protection and development” and inserting “surface water resource protection and development, stormwater management, drainage systems, and water quality enhancement”.

**SEC. 324. DEBRIS REMOVAL, NEW YORK HARBOR, NEW YORK.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the project for New York Harbor collection and removal of drift, authorized by section 91 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1974 (88 Stat. 39), and deauthorized pursuant to section 6001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 579b) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the WIIN Act (130 Stat. 1628)), is authorized to be carried out by the Secretary.

(b) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The Secretary shall carry out, and submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report on the results of, a feasibility study for the project described in subsection (a).

**SEC. 325. INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT.**

Section 104 of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)(A)(i)—

(A) by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “\$75,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “2024” and inserting “2028”; and

(2) in subsection (g)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A)—

(i) by striking “water quantity or water quality” and inserting “water quantity, water quality, or ecosystems”; and

(ii) by inserting “the Lake Erie Basin, the Ohio River Basin,” after “the Upper Snake River Basin,”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “, hydrilla (*Hydrilla verticillata*),” after “*angustifolia*”.

**SEC. 326. WOLF RIVER HARBOR, TENNESSEE.**

Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the project for navigation, Wolf River Harbor, Tennessee, authorized by title II of the Act of June 16, 1933 (48 Stat. 200, chapter 90) (commonly known as the “National Industrial Recovery Act”), and modified by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1958 (72 Stat. 308), is modified to reduce the authorized dimensions of the project, such that the remaining authorized dimensions are a 250-foot-wide, 9-foot-depth channel with a center line beginning at a point 35.139634,

-90.062343 and extending approximately 8,500 feet to a point 35.160848, -90.050566.

**SEC. 327. MISSOURI RIVER MITIGATION, MISSOURI, KANSAS, IOWA, AND NEBRASKA.**

The matter under the heading “MISSOURI RIVER MITIGATION, MISSOURI, KANSAS, IOWA, AND NEBRASKA” in section 601(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4143; 121 Stat. 1155), as modified by section 334 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 306), is amended by adding at the end the following: “When acquiring land to meet the requirements of fish and wildlife mitigation, the Secretary may consider incidental flood risk management benefits.”.

**SEC. 328. INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT PILOT PROGRAM.**

Section 104(f)(4) of the River and Harbor Act of 1958 (33 U.S.C. 610(f)(4)) is amended by striking “2024” and inserting “2026”.

**SEC. 329. NUECES COUNTY, TEXAS, CONVEYANCES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—On receipt of a written request of the Port of Corpus Christi, the Secretary shall—

(1) review the land owned and easements held by the United States for purposes of navigation in Nueces County, Texas; and

(2) convey to the Port of Corpus Christi or, in the case of an easement, release to the owner of the fee title to the land subject to such easement, without consideration, all such land and easements described in paragraph (1) that the Secretary determines are no longer required for project purposes.

(b) CONDITIONS.—

(1) QUITCLAIM DEED.—Any conveyance of land under this section shall be by quitclaim deed.

(2) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may subject any conveyance or release of easement under this section to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary and advisable to protect the United States.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—In accordance with section 2695 of title 10, United States Code, the Port of Corpus Christi shall be responsible for the costs incurred by the Secretary to convey land or release easements under this section.

(d) WAIVER OF REAL PROPERTY SCREENING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 2696 of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply to the conveyance of land or release of easements under this section.

**SEC. 330. MISSISSIPPI DELTA HEADWATERS, MISSISSIPPI.**

As part of the authority of the Secretary to carry out the project for flood damage reduction, bank stabilization, and sediment and erosion control, Yazoo Basin, Mississippi Delta Headwaters, Mississippi, authorized by the matter under the heading “ENHANCEMENT OF WATER RESOURCE BENEFITS AND FOR EMERGENCY DISASTER WORK” in title I of Public Law 98-8 (97 Stat. 22), the Secretary may carry out emergency maintenance activities, as the Secretary determines to be necessary, for features of the project completed before the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 331. ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, HUDSON-RARITAN ESTUARY, NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out additional feasibility studies for ecosystem restoration, Hudson-Raritan Estuary, New York and New Jersey, including an examination of measures and alternatives at Baisley Pond Park and the Richmond Terrace Wetlands.

(b) TREATMENT.—A feasibility study carried out under subsection (a) shall be considered a continuation of the study that formulated the project for ecosystem restoration,

Hudson-Raritan Estuary, New York and New Jersey, authorized by section 401(5) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2740).

**SEC. 332. TIMELY REIMBURSEMENT.**

(a) DEFINITION OF COVERED PROJECT.—In this section, the term “covered project” means a project for navigation authorized by section 1401(1) of the WIIN Act (130 Stat. 1708).

(b) REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED.—In the case of a covered project for which the non-Federal interest has advanced funds for construction of the project, the Secretary shall reimburse the non-Federal interest for advanced funds that exceed the non-Federal share of the cost of construction of the project as soon as practicable after the completion of each individual contract for the project.

**SEC. 333. NEW SAVANNAH BLUFF LOCK AND DAM, GEORGIA AND SOUTH CAROLINA.**

Section 1319(c) of the WIIN Act (130 Stat. 1704) is amended by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) COST-SHARE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The costs of construction of a Project feature constructed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall be determined in accordance with section 101(a)(1)(B) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2211(a)(1)(B)).

“(B) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Any increase in costs for the Project due to the construction of a Project feature described in subparagraph (A) shall not be included in the total project cost for purposes of section 902 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2280).”.

**SEC. 334. LAKE TAHOE BASIN RESTORATION, NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA.**

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Lake Tahoe Basin” means the entire watershed drainage of Lake Tahoe including that portion of the Truckee River 1,000 feet downstream from the United States Bureau of Reclamation dam in Tahoe City, California.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary may establish a program for providing environmental assistance to non-Federal interests in Lake Tahoe Basin.

(c) FORM OF ASSISTANCE.—Assistance under this section may be in the form of planning, design, and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects in Lake Tahoe Basin—

(1) urban stormwater conveyance, treatment and related facilities;

(2) watershed planning, science and research;

(3) environmental restoration; and

(4) surface water resource protection and development.

(d) PUBLIC OWNERSHIP REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary may provide assistance for a project under this section only if the project is publicly owned.

(e) LOCAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Before providing assistance under this section, the Secretary shall enter into a local cooperation agreement with a non-Federal interest to provide for design and construction of the project to be carried out with the assistance.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each local cooperation agreement entered into under this subsection shall provide for the following:

(A) PLAN.—Development by the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal and State and Regional officials, of appropriate environmental documentation, engineering plans and specifications.

(B) LEGAL AND INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES.—Establishment of such legal and institutional structures as are necessary to ensure the effective long-term operation of the project by the non-Federal interest.

## (3) COST SHARING.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal share of project costs under each local cooperation agreement entered into under this subsection shall be 75 percent. The Federal share may be in the form of grants or reimbursements of project costs.

(B) CREDIT FOR DESIGN WORK.—The non-Federal interest shall receive credit for the reasonable costs of planning and design work completed by the non-Federal interest before entering into a local cooperation agreement with the Secretary for a project.

(C) LAND, EASEMENTS, RIGHTS-OF-WAY, AND RELOCATIONS.—The non-Federal interest shall receive credit for land, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations provided by the non-Federal interest toward the non-Federal share of project costs (including all reasonable costs associated with obtaining permits necessary for the construction, operation, and maintenance of the project on publicly owned or controlled land), but not to exceed 25 percent of total project costs.

(D) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE.—The non-Federal share of operation and maintenance costs for projects constructed with assistance provided under this section shall be 100 percent.

(f) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS.—Nothing in this section waives, limits, or otherwise affects the applicability of any provision of Federal or State law that would otherwise apply to a project to be carried out with assistance provided under this section.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section for the period beginning with fiscal year 2005, \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended.

(h) REPEAL.—Section 108 of division C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (118 Stat. 2942), is repealed.

(i) TREATMENT.—The program authorized by this section shall be considered a continuation of the program authorized by section 108 of division C of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2005 (118 Stat. 2942) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act).

### SEC. 335. ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR EASTERN SANTA CLARA BASIN, CALIFORNIA.

Section 111 of title I of division B of the Miscellaneous Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted by section 1(a)(4) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001 (114 Stat. 2763; 114 Stat. 2763A–224; 121 Stat. 1209)), is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by inserting “and volatile organic compounds” after “perchlorates”; and

(2) in subsection (b)(3), by inserting “and volatile organic compounds” after “perchlorates”.

### SEC. 336. TRIBAL PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 203 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (33 U.S.C. 2269) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “(25 U.S.C. 450b)” and inserting “(25 U.S.C. 5304)”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A)—

(i) by inserting “or coastal storm” after “flood”; and

(ii) by inserting “including erosion control,” after “reduction,”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by adding at the end the following:

“(C) FEDERAL INTEREST DETERMINATION.—The first \$100,000 of the costs of a study under this section shall be at full Federal expense.”;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “\$18,500,000” and inserting “\$26,000,000”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$18,500,000” and inserting “\$26,000,000”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(5) PROJECT JUSTIFICATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law or requirement for economic justification established under section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962–2) for a project (other than a project for ecosystem restoration), the Secretary may implement a project under this section if the Secretary determines that the project will—

“(A) significantly reduce potential flood or coastal storm damages, which may include or be limited to damages due to shoreline erosion or riverbank or streambank failures;

“(B) improve the quality of the environment;

“(C) reduce risks to life safety associated with the damages described in subparagraph (A); and

“(D) improve the long-term viability of the community.”;

(3) in subsection (d)(5)(B)—

(A) by striking “non-Federal” and inserting “Federal”; and

(B) by striking “50 percent” and inserting “100 percent”; and

(4) in subsection (e), by striking “2024” and inserting “2033”.

### SEC. 337. SURPLUS WATER CONTRACTS AND WATER STORAGE AGREEMENTS.

Section 1046(c) of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1254; 132 Stat. 3784; 134 Stat. 2715) is amended—

(1) by striking paragraph (3); and

(2) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (3).

### SEC. 338. COPAN LAKE, OKLAHOMA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall amend Contract DACW56-81-C-0114 between the United States and the Copan Public Works Authority (referred to in this section as the “Authority”), entered into on June 22, 1981, for the utilization by the Authority of storage space for water supply in Copan Lake, Oklahoma (referred to in this section as the “project”)—

(1) to release to the United States all rights of the Authority to utilize 4,750 acre-feet of future use water storage space; and

(2) to relieve the Authority from all financial obligations, to include the initial project investment costs and the accumulated interest on unpaid project investment costs, for the volume of water storage space described in paragraph (1).

(b) REQUIREMENT.—During the 2-year period beginning on the effective date of execution of the contract amendment under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

(1) provide the City of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, with the right of first refusal to contract for the utilization of storage space for water supply for any portion of the storage space that was released by the Authority under subsection (a); and

(2) ensure that the City of Bartlesville, Oklahoma, shall not pay more than 110 percent of the initial project investment cost per acre-foot of storage for the acre-feet of storage space sought under an agreement under paragraph (1).

### SEC. 339. ENHANCED DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

The Secretary shall fully implement opportunities for enhanced development at Oklahoma Lakes under the authorities provided in section 3134 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1142; 130 Stat. 1671) and section 164 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2668).

### SEC. 340. ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION COORDINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the project for ecosystem restoration, South Fork of the South Branch of the Chicago River, Bubbly Creek, Illinois, authorized by

section 401(5) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2740), the Secretary shall coordinate to the maximum extent practicable with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, State environmental agencies, and regional coordinating bodies responsible for the remediation of toxics.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section extends liability to the Secretary for any remediation of toxics present at the project site referred to in subsection (a) prior to the date of authorization of that project.

### SEC. 341. ACEQUIAS IRRIGATION SYSTEMS.

Section 1113 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (100 Stat. 4232) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “(b) Subject to section 903(a) of this Act, the Secretary is authorized and directed to undertake” and inserting the following:

“(b) AUTHORIZATION.—Subject to section 903(a), the Secretary shall carry out”; and

(B) by striking “canals” and all that follows through “25 percent.” and inserting the following: “channels attendant to the operations of the community ditch and Acequia systems in New Mexico that—

“(1) are declared to be a political subdivision of the State; or

“(2) belong to a federally recognized Indian Tribe.”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (e);

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

“(c) INCLUSIONS.—The measures described in subsection (b) shall, to the maximum extent practicable—

“(1) ensure greater resiliency of diversion structures, including to flow variations, prolonged drought conditions, invasive plant species, and threats from changing hydrological and climatic conditions; or

“(2) support research, development, and training for innovative management solutions, including those for controlling invasive aquatic plants that affect Acequias.

“(d) COSTS.—

“(1) TOTAL COST.—The measures described in subsection (b) shall be carried out at a total cost of \$80,000,000.

“(2) COST SHARING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out the measures described in subsection (b) shall be 25 percent.

“(B) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of a project benefitting an economically disadvantaged community (as defined pursuant to section 160 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 116–260)), the Federal share of the cost of carrying out the measures described in subsection (b) shall be 90 percent.”; and

(4) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated)—

(A) in the first sentence—

(i) by striking “(e) The Secretary is further authorized and directed to” and inserting the following:

“(e) PUBLIC ENTITY STATUS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall”; and

(ii) by inserting “or belong to a federally recognized Indian Tribe within the State of New Mexico” after “that State”; and

(B) in the second sentence, by striking “This public entity status will allow the officials of these Acequia systems” and inserting the following:

“(2) EFFECT.—The public entity status provided pursuant to paragraph (1) shall allow the officials of the Acequia systems described in that paragraph”.



**SEC. 342. ROGERS COUNTY, OKLAHOMA.**

(a) CONVEYANCE.—The Secretary is authorized to convey to the City of Tulsa-Rogers County Port Authority (referred to in this section as the “Port Authority”), for fair market value, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land described in subsection (b).

(b) FEDERAL LAND DESCRIBED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Federal land to be conveyed under this section is the approximately 176 acres of Federal land located on the following 3 parcels in Rogers County, Oklahoma:

(A) Parcel 1 includes U.S. tract 119 (partial), U.S. tract 123, U.S. tract 120, U.S. tract 125, and U.S. tract 118 (partial).

(B) Parcel 2 includes U.S. tract 124 (partial) and U.S. tract 128 (partial).

(C) Parcel 3 includes U.S. tract 128 (partial).

(2) DETERMINATION REQUIRED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (1) and subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D), the Secretary shall determine the exact property description and acreage of the Federal land to be conveyed under this section.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—In making the determination under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall reserve from conveyance such easements, rights-of-way, and other interests as the Secretary determines to be necessary and appropriate to ensure the continued operation of the McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River navigation project, including New Graham Lock and Dam 18 as a part of that project, as authorized under the comprehensive plan for the Arkansas River Basin by section 3 of the Act of June 28, 1938 (52 Stat. 1218, chapter 795), and section 10 of the Flood Control Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 647, chapter 596) and where applicable the provisions of the River and Harbor Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 634, chapter 595) and modified by section 108 of the Energy and Water Development Appropriation Act, 1988 (Public Law 100-202; 101 Stat. 1329-112), and section 136 of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Act, 2004 (Public Law 108-137; 117 Stat. 1842).

(C) OBSTRUCTIONS TO NAVIGABLE CAPACITY.—A conveyance under this section shall not affect the jurisdiction of the Secretary under section 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (commonly known as the “Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899”) (30 Stat. 1151, chapter 425; 33 U.S.C. 403) with respect to the Federal land conveyed.

(D) SURVEY REQUIRED.—The exact acreage and the legal description of any Federal land conveyed under this section shall be determined by a survey that is satisfactory to the Secretary.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Section 2696 of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply to the conveyance under this section.

(d) COSTS.—The Port Authority shall be responsible for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, associated with the conveyance.

(e) HOLD HARMLESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Port Authority shall hold the United States harmless from any liability with respect to activities carried out on or after the date of the conveyance under this section on the Federal land conveyed.

(2) LIMITATION.—The United States shall remain responsible for any liability incurred with respect to activities carried out before the date of the conveyance under this section on the Federal land conveyed.

(f) ADDITIONAL TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may require that the conveyance under this section be subject to such additional terms and conditions as the Secretary considers necessary and appropriate to protect the interests of the United States.

**SEC. 343. WATER SUPPLY STORAGE REPAIR, REHABILITATION, AND REPLACEMENT COSTS.**

Section 301(b) of the Water Supply Act of 1958 (43 U.S.C. 390b(b)) is amended, in the fourth proviso, by striking the second sentence and inserting the following: “For Corps of Engineers projects, all annual operation and maintenance costs for municipal and industrial water supply storage under this section shall be reimbursed from State or local interests on an annual basis, and all repair, rehabilitation, and replacement costs shall be reimbursed from State or local interests (1) without interest, during construction of the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement, (2) with interest, in lump sum on the completion of the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement, or (3) at the request of the State or local interest, with interest, over a period of not more than 25 years beginning on the date of completion of the repair, rehabilitation, or replacement, with repayment contracts providing for recalculation of the interest rate at 5-year intervals. At the request of the State or local interest, the Secretary of the Army shall amend a repayment contract entered into under this section on or before the date of enactment of this sentence for the purpose of incorporating the terms and conditions described in paragraph (3) of the preceding sentence.”

**SEC. 344. NON-FEDERAL PAYMENT FLEXIBILITY.**

Section 103(l) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213(l)) is amended—

(1) by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through “At the request of” in the first sentence and inserting the following:

“(1) DELAY OF PAYMENT.—

“(1) INITIAL PAYMENT.—At the request of”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) INTEREST.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—At the request of any non-Federal interest, the Secretary may waive the accrual of interest on any non-Federal cash contribution under this section or section 101 for a project for a period of not more than 1 year if the Secretary determines that—

“(i) the waiver will contribute to the ability of the non-Federal interest to make future contributions; and

“(ii) the non-Federal interest is in good standing under terms agreed to under subsection (k)(1).

“(B) LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary may grant not more than 1 waiver under subparagraph (A) for the same project.”

**SEC. 345. NORTH PADRE ISLAND, CORPUS CHRISTI BAY, TEXAS.**

The project for ecosystem restoration, North Padre Island, Corpus Christi Bay, Texas, constructed by the Secretary prior to the date of enactment of this Act under section 556 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 353), shall not be eligible for repair and restoration assistance under section 5(a) of the Act of August 18, 1941 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1941”) (55 Stat. 650, chapter 377; 33 U.S.C. 701n(a)).

**SEC. 346. WAIVER OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE OF DAMAGES RELATED TO CERTAIN CONTRACT CLAIMS.**

In a case in which the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals or a court of competent jurisdiction rendered a decision on a date that was at least 20 years before the date of enactment of this Act awarding damages to a contractor relating to the adjudication of claims arising from the construction of general navigation features of a project carried out under section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960 (33 U.S.C. 577), notwithstanding the terms of the Project Part-

nership Agreement, the Secretary shall waive payment of the share of the non-Federal interest of such damages, including attorney’s fees, if the Secretary—

(1) terminated construction of the project prior to completion of all features; and

(2) has not collected payment from the non-Federal interest before the date of enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 347. ALGIERS CANAL LEVEES, LOUISIANA.**

In accordance with section 328 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 304; 121 Stat. 1129), the Secretary shall resume operation, maintenance, repair, rehabilitation, and replacement of the Algiers Canal Levees, Louisiana, at full Federal expense.

**SEC. 348. ISRAEL RIVER ICE CONTROL PROJECT, LANCASTER, NEW HAMPSHIRE.**

Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the project for flood control, Israel River, Lancaster, New Hampshire, authorized by section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s) is no longer authorized.

**SEC. 349. CITY OF EL DORADO, KANSAS.**

The Secretary shall amend Contract DACW56-72-C-0220, between the United States and the City of El Dorado, Kansas, entered into on June 30, 1972, for the utilization by the City of storage space for water supply in El Dorado Lake, Kansas, to change the method of calculation of the interest charges that began accruing on June 30, 1991, on the investment costs for the 72,087 acre-feet of future use storage space, from compounding interest annually to charging simple interest annually on the principal amount, until—

(1) the City desires to convert the future use storage space to present use; and

(2) the principal amount plus the accumulated interest becomes payable pursuant to the terms of the Contract.

**SEC. 350. UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER PROTECTION.**

Section 2010 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (128 Stat. 1270; 132 Stat. 3812) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall not recommend deauthorization of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam unless the Secretary identifies a willing and capable non-Federal public entity to assume ownership of the lock and dam.

“(g) MODIFICATION.—The Secretary is authorized to investigate the feasibility of modifying the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam to add ecosystem restoration, including the prevention and control of invasive species, as an authorized purpose.”

**SEC. 351. REGIONAL CORPS OF ENGINEERS OFFICE, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—At such time as new facilities are available to the Corps of Engineers, and subject to this section, the Secretary shall convey to the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, by deed and without warranty, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the property described in subsection (c).

(b) CONSIDERATION.—Consideration for the conveyance under subsection (a) shall be determined by an appraisal, satisfactory to the Secretary, of the market value of the property conveyed.

(c) DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY.—The property referred to in subsection (a) is the land known as “Tract 100” and “Tract 101”, including improvements on that land, in Corpus Christi, Texas, and described as follows:

(1) TRACT 100.—The 1.89 acres, more or less, as conveyed by the Nueces County Navigation District No. 1 of Nueces County, Texas, to the United States by instrument dated October 16, 1928, and recorded at Volume 193, pages 1 and 2, in the Deed Records of Nueces County, Texas.

(2) TRACT 101.—The 0.53 acres as conveyed by the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas, to the United States by instrument dated September 24, 1971, and recorded at Volume 318, pages 523 and 524, in the Deed Records of Nueces County, Texas.

(3) IMPROVEMENTS.—

(A) Main Building (RPUID AO-C-3516), constructed January 9, 1974.

(B) Garage, vehicle with 5 bays (RPUID AO-C-3517), constructed January 9, 1985.

(C) Bulkhead, Upper (RPUID AO-C-2658), constructed January 1, 1941.

(D) Bulkhead, Lower (RPUID AO-C-3520), constructed January 1, 1933.

(E) Bulkhead Fence (RPUID AO-C-3521), constructed January 9, 1985.

(F) Bulkhead Fence (RPUID AO-C-3522), constructed January 9, 1985.

(d) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Before conveying the land described in subsection (c) to the Port of Corpus Christi Authority, the Secretary shall ensure that the conditions of buildings and facilities meet applicable requirements under Federal law, as determined by the Secretary.

(2) IMPROVEMENTS.—Improvements to conditions of buildings and facilities on the land described in subsection (c), if any, shall be incorporated into the consideration required under subsection (b).

(3) COSTS OF CONVEYANCE.—In addition to the fair market value for property rights conveyed, the Port of Corpus Christi Authority shall be responsible for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, associated with the conveyance under subsection (a).

**SEC. 352. PILOT PROGRAM FOR GOOD NEIGHBOR AUTHORITY ON CORPS OF ENGINEERS LAND.**

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AUTHORIZED RESTORATION SERVICES.—The term “authorized restoration services” means similar and complementary forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services carried out—

(A) on Federal land; and

(B) by the Secretary or Governor pursuant to a good neighbor agreement.

(2) FEDERAL LAND.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “Federal land” means land within the State that is administered by the Corps of Engineers.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “Federal land” does not include—

(i) a component of the National Wilderness Preservation System;

(ii) Federal land on which the removal of vegetation is prohibited or restricted by an Act of Congress or a Presidential proclamation (including the applicable implementation plan); or

(iii) a wilderness study area.

(3) FOREST, RANGELAND, AND WATERSHED SERVICES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services” means—

(i) activities to treat insect-infected and disease-infected trees;

(ii) activities to reduce hazardous fuels; and

(iii) any other activities to restore or improve forest, rangeland, and watershed health, including fish and wildlife habitat.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—The term “forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services” does not include—

(i) construction, reconstruction, repair, or restoration of paved or permanent roads or parking areas, other than the reconstruction, repair, or restoration of a road that is necessary to carry out authorized restoration services pursuant to a good neighbor agreement; and

(ii) construction, alteration, repair or replacement of public buildings or public works.

(4) GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENT.—The term “good neighbor agreement” means a cooperative agreement or contract (including a sole source contract) entered into between the Secretary and Governor under subsection (b)(1)(A) to carry out authorized restoration services under this section.

(5) GOVERNOR.—The term “Governor” means the Governor or any other appropriate executive official of the State.

(6) ROAD.—The term “road” has the meaning given the term in section 212.1 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on February 7, 2014).

(7) STATE.—The term “State” means the State of Idaho.

(b) GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENTS.—

(1) GOOD NEIGHBOR AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out a pilot program to enter into good neighbor agreements with the Governor to carry out authorized restoration services in the State in accordance with this section.

(B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary shall make each good neighbor agreement available to the public.

(C) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Governor shall provide, and the Secretary may accept and expend, funds to cover the costs of the Secretary to enter into and administer a good neighbor agreement.

(D) TERMINATION.—The pilot program under subparagraph (A) shall terminate on October 1, 2028.

(2) TIMBER SALES.—

(A) APPROVAL OF SILVICULTURE PRESCRIPTIONS AND MARKING GUIDES.—The Secretary shall provide or approve all silviculture prescriptions and marking guides to be applied on Federal land in all timber sale projects conducted under this section.

(B) TREATMENT OF REVENUE.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), funds received from the sale of timber by the Governor under a good neighbor agreement shall be retained and used by the Governor to carry out authorized restoration services under the good neighbor agreement.

(C) EXCESS REVENUE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Any funds remaining after carrying out subparagraph (B) that are in excess of the amount provided by the Governor to the Secretary under paragraph (1)(C) shall be returned to the Secretary.

(ii) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—Funds returned to the Secretary under clause (i) shall be subject to the first part of section 5 of the Act of June 13, 1902 (commonly known as the “Rivers and Harbors Appropriations Act of 1902”) (32 Stat. 373, chapter 1079; 33 U.S.C. 558).

(3) RETENTION OF NEPA RESPONSIBILITIES.—Any decision required to be made under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.) with respect to any authorized restoration services to be provided under this section on Federal land shall not be delegated to the Governor.

**SEC. 353. SOUTHEAST DES MOINES, SOUTHWEST PLEASANT HILL, IOWA.**

(a) PROJECT MODIFICATIONS.—The project for flood risk management and other purposes, Red Rock Dam and Lake, Des Moines River, Iowa (referred to in this section as the “Red Rock Dam Project”), authorized by section 10 of the Act of December 22, 1944 (commonly known as the “Flood Control Act of 1944”) (58 Stat. 896, chapter 665), and the project for flood risk management, Des Moines Local Flood Protection, Des Moines River, Iowa (referred to in this section as “Flood Protection Project”), authorized by section 10 of that Act (58 Stat. 896, chapter 665), shall be modified as follows, subject to a new or amended agreement between the

Secretary and the non-Federal interest for the Flood Protection Project, the City of Des Moines, Iowa (referred to in this section as the “City”), in accordance with section 221 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962d-5b):

(1) That portion of the Red Rock Dam Project consisting of the segment of levee from Station 15+88.8W to Station 77+43.7W shall be transferred to the Flood Protection Project.

(2) The relocated levee improvement constructed by the City, from Station 77+43.7W to approximately Station 20+00, shall be included in the Flood Protection Project.

(b) FEDERAL EASEMENT CONVEYANCES.—

(1) The Secretary is authorized to convey the following easements, acquired by the Federal Government for the Red Rock Dam Project, to the City to become part of the Flood Protection Project in accordance with subsection (a):

(A) Easements identified as Tracts 3215E-1, 3235E, and 3227E.

(B) Easements identified as Partial Tracts 3216E-2, 3216E-3, 3217E-1, and 3217E-2.

(2) On counter-execution of the new or amended agreement pursuant to the Federal easement conveyances under paragraph (1), the Secretary is authorized to convey the following easements, by quitclaim deed, without consideration, acquired by the Federal Government for the Red Rock Dam project, to the City or to the Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Authority and no longer required for the Red Rock Dam Project or for the Des Moines Local Flood Protection Project:

(A) Easements identified as Tracts 3200E, 3202E-1, 3202E-2, 3202E-4, 3203E-2, 3215E-3, 3216E-1, and 3216E-5.

(B) Easements identified as Partial Tracts 3216E-2, 3216E-3, 3217E-1, and 3217E-2.

(3) All real property interests conveyed under this subsection shall be subject to the standard release of easement disposal process. All administrative fees associated with the transfer of the subject easements to the City or to the Des Moines Metropolitan Wastewater Reclamation Authority will be borne by the transferee.

**SEC. 354. MIDDLE RIO GRANDE FLOOD PROTECTION, BERNALILLO TO BELEN, NEW MEXICO.**

In the case of the project for flood risk management, Middle Rio Grande, Bernalillo to Belen, New Mexico, authorized by section 401(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2735), the non-Federal share of the cost of the project shall be the percentage described in section 103(a)(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213(a)(2)) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3658)).

**SEC. 355. COMPREHENSIVE EVERGLADES RESTORATION PLAN, FLORIDA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 601(e)(5) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2685; 132 Stat. 3786) is amended by striking subparagraph (E) and inserting the following:

“(E) PERIODIC MONITORING.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—To ensure that the contributions of the non-Federal sponsor equal 50 percent proportionate share for projects in the Plan, during each period of 5 fiscal years, beginning on October 1, 2022, the Secretary shall, for each project—

“(I) monitor the non-Federal provision of cash, in-kind services, and land; and

“(II) manage, to the maximum extent practicable, the requirement of the non-Federal sponsor to provide cash, in-kind services, and land.

“(ii) OTHER MONITORING.—The Secretary shall conduct monitoring under clause (i)

separately for the preconstruction engineering and design phase and the construction phase for each project in the Plan.

“(iii) CLARIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide to the non-Federal sponsor a financial accounting of non-Federal contributions under clause (i)(I) for such fiscal year.

“(iv) LIMITATION.—As applicable, and after including consideration of all expenditures and obligations incurred by the non-Federal sponsor for land and in-kind services for an authorized project for which a project partnership agreement has not been executed, the Secretary shall only require a cash contribution from the non-Federal sponsor to satisfy the cost share requirements of this subsection on the last day of each period of 5 fiscal years under clause (i).”

(b) UPDATE.—The Secretary and the South Florida Water Management District shall revise the Master Agreement for the Comprehensive Everglades Restoration Plan, executed in 2009 pursuant to section 601 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2680), to reflect the amendment made by subsection (a).

#### SEC. 356. MAINTENANCE DREDGING PERMITS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, to the maximum extent practicable and appropriate, prioritize the reissuance of any regional general permit for maintenance dredging that expired prior to May 1, 2021.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section affects, preempts, or interferes with any obligation to comply with the provisions of any Federal or State environmental law, including—

(1) the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.);

(2) the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 et seq.); and

(3) the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1531 et seq.).

#### SEC. 357. PUGET SOUND NEARSHORE ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, WASHINGTON.

In carrying out the project for ecosystem restoration, Puget Sound, Washington, authorized by section 1401(4) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (130 Stat. 1713), the Secretary shall consider the removal and replacement of the Highway 101 causeway and bridges at the Duckabush River Estuary site to be a project feature the costs of which are shared as construction.

#### SEC. 358. TRIBAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) CLARIFICATION OF EXISTING AUTHORITY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary, in consultation with the heads of relevant Federal agencies, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation of Oregon, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, Nez Perce Tribe, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, shall revise and carry out the village development plan for Dalles Dam, Columbia River, Washington and Oregon, as authorized by section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 179, chapter 188) to address adverse impacts to Indian villages, housing sites, and related structures as a result of the construction of Bonneville Dam, McNary Dam, and John Day Dam, Washington and Oregon.

(2) EXAMINATION.—Before carrying out the requirements of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall conduct an examination and assessment of the extent to which Indian villages, housing sites, and related structures were displaced or destroyed by the construction of the following projects:

(A) Bonneville Dam, Oregon, as authorized by the first section of the Act of August 30, 1935 (49 Stat. 1038, chapter 831) and the first

section and section 2(a) of the Act of August 20, 1937 (50 Stat. 731, chapter 720; 16 U.S.C. 832, 832a(a)).

(B) McNary Dam, Washington and Oregon, as authorized by section 2 of the Act of March 2, 1945 (commonly known as the “River and Harbor Act of 1945”) (59 Stat. 22, chapter 19).

(C) John Day Dam, Washington and Oregon, as authorized by section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1950 (64 Stat. 179, chapter 188).

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The village development plan under paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum—

(A) an evaluation of sites on both sides of the Columbia River;

(B) an assessment of suitable Federal land and land owned by the States of Washington and Oregon; and

(C) an estimated cost and tentative schedule for the construction of each housing development.

(4) LOCATION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may provide housing and related assistance under this subsection at 1 or more sites in the States of Washington and Oregon.

(b) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE ON FEDERAL LAND.—The Secretary may construct housing or provide related assistance on land owned by the United States under the village development plan under subsection (a)(1).

(c) ACQUISITION AND DISPOSAL OF LAND.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (d), the Secretary may acquire land or interests in land for the purpose of providing housing and related assistance under the village development plan under subsection (a)(1).

(2) ADVANCE ACQUISITION.—Acquisition of land or interests in land under paragraph (1) may be carried out in advance of completion of all required documentation and clearances for the construction of housing or related improvements on the land or on the interests in land.

(3) DISPOSAL OF UNSUITABLE LAND.—If the Secretary determines that any land or interest in land acquired by the Secretary under this section in advance of completion of all required documentation for the construction of housing or related improvements is unsuitable for that housing or for those related improvements, the Secretary may—

(A) dispose of the land or interest in land by sale; and

(B) credit the proceeds to the appropriation, fund, or account used to purchase the land or interest in land.

(d) LIMITATION.—The Secretary shall only acquire land from willing landowners in carrying out this section.

(e) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1178(c) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (130 Stat. 1675; 132 Stat. 3781) is repealed.

#### SEC. 359. RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AT CERTAIN PROJECTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED PROJECT.—The term “covered project” means any of the following projects of the Corps of Engineers:

(A) Ball Mountain Lake, Vermont.

(B) Townshend Lake, Vermont.

(2) RECREATION.—The term “recreation” includes downstream whitewater recreation that is dependent on operations, recreational fishing, and boating at a covered project.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Secretary should—

(1) ensure that, to the extent compatible with other project purposes, each covered project is operated in such a manner as to protect and enhance recreation associated with the covered project; and

(2) manage land at each covered project to improve opportunities for recreation at the covered project.

(c) MODIFICATION OF WATER CONTROL PLANS.—The Secretary may modify, or undertake temporary deviations from, the water control plan for a covered project in order to enhance recreation, if the Secretary determines the modifications or deviations—

(1) will not adversely affect other authorized purposes of the covered project; and

(2) will not result in significant adverse impacts to the environment.

#### SEC. 360. REHABILITATION OF CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONSTRUCTED DAMS.

Section 1177 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2016 (33 U.S.C. 467f-2 note; Public Law 114-322) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding subsection (c), the non-Federal share of the cost to rehabilitate Waterbury Dam, Washington County, Vermont, under this section, including the cost of any required study, shall be the same share assigned to the non-Federal interest for the cost of initial construction of Waterbury Dam.”

#### SEC. 361. SOUTH FLORIDA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION TASK FORCE.

Section 528(f)(1)(J) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3771) is amended—

(1) by striking “2 representatives” and inserting “3 representatives”; and

(2) by inserting “at least 1 of which shall be a representative of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and at least 1 of which shall be a representative of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission,” after “Florida.”

#### SEC. 362. NEW MADRID COUNTY HARBOR, MISSOURI.

Section 509(a) of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3759; 113 Stat. 339; 114 Stat. 2679) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(18) Second harbor at New Madrid County Harbor, Missouri.”

#### SEC. 363. TRINITY RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES, TEXAS.

Section 1201(7) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3802) is amended by inserting “flood risk management, and ecosystem restoration,” after “navigation.”

#### SEC. 364. REND LAKE, CARLYLE LAKE, AND LAKE SHELBYVILLE, ILLINOIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Secretary receives a request from the Governor of Illinois to terminate a contract described in subsection (c), the Secretary shall amend the contract to release to the United States all rights of the State of Illinois to utilize water storage space in the reservoir project to which the contract applies.

(b) RELIEF OF CERTAIN OBLIGATIONS.—On execution of an amendment described in subsection (a), the State of Illinois shall be relieved of the obligation to pay the percentage of the annual operation and maintenance expense, the percentage of major replacement cost, and the percentage of major rehabilitation cost allocated to the water supply storage specified in the contract for the reservoir project to which the contract applies.

(c) CONTRACTS.—Subsection (a) applies to the following contracts between the United States and the State of Illinois:

(1) Contract DACW43-88-C-0088, entered into on September 23, 1988, for utilization of storage space for water supply in Rend Lake, Illinois.

(2) Contract DA-23-065-CIVENG-65-493, entered into on April 28, 1965, for utilization of storage space for water supply in Rend Lake, Illinois.

(3) Contract DACW43-83-C-0008, entered into on July 6, 1983, for utilization of storage space in Carlyle Lake, Illinois.

(4) Contract DACW43-83-C-0009, entered into on July 6, 1983, for utilization of storage space in Lake Shelbyville, Illinois.

**SEC. 365. FEDERAL ASSISTANCE.**

Section 1328(c) of the America’s Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (132 Stat. 3826) is amended by striking “4 years” and inserting “8 years”.

**SEC. 366. LAND TRANSFER AND TRUST LAND FOR CHOCTAW NATION OF OKLAHOMA.**

(a) TRANSFER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2) and for the consideration described in subsection (c), the Secretary shall transfer to the Secretary of the Interior the land described in subsection (b) to be held in trust for the benefit of the Choctaw Nation.

(2) CONDITIONS.—The land transfer under this subsection shall be subject to the following conditions:

(A) The transfer—

(i) shall not interfere with the operation by the Corps of Engineers of the Sardis Lake Project or any other authorized civil works project; and

(ii) shall be subject to such other terms and conditions as the Secretary determines to be necessary and appropriate to ensure the continued operation of the Sardis Lake Project or any other authorized civil works project.

(B) The Secretary shall retain the right to inundate with water the land transferred to the Choctaw Nation under this subsection as necessary to carry out an authorized purpose of the Sardis Lake Project or any other civil works project.

(C) No gaming activities may be conducted on the land transferred under this subsection.

(b) LAND DESCRIPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The land to be transferred pursuant to subsection (a) is the approxi-

mately 247 acres of land located in Sections 18 and 19 of T2N R18E, and Sections 5 and 8 of T2N R19E, Pushmataha County, Oklahoma, generally depicted as “USACE” on the map entitled “Sardis Lake – Choctaw Nation Proposal” and dated February 22, 2022.

(2) SURVEY.—The exact acreage and legal descriptions of the land to be transferred under subsection (a) shall be determined by a survey satisfactory to the Secretary and the Secretary of the Interior.

(c) CONSIDERATION.—The Choctaw Nation shall pay—

(1) to the Secretary an amount that is equal to the fair market value of the land transferred under subsection (a), as determined by the Secretary, which funds may be accepted and expended by the Secretary; and

(2) all costs and administrative expenses associated with the transfer of land under subsection (a), including the costs of—

(A) the survey under subsection (b)(2);

(B) compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.); and

(C) any coordination necessary with respect to requirements related to endangered species, cultural resources, clean water, and clean air.

**SEC. 367. LAKE BARKLEY, KENTUCKY, LAND CONVEYANCE.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary is authorized to convey to the Eddyville Riverport Authority (referred to in this section as the “Authority”), for fair market value, all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to approximately 2.2 acres of land adjacent to the southwestern boundary of the port facilities of the Authority at the Barkley Dam and Lake Barkley, Kentucky, project, authorized by the River and Harbor Act of 1946 (60 Stat. 636, Public Law 79-525).

(b) CONDITIONS.—

(1) QUITCLAIM DEED.—Any conveyance of land under this section shall be by quitclaim deed.

(2) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.—The Secretary shall reserve from a conveyance of land under this section such easements, rights-of-way, or other interests as the Secretary determines to be necessary and appropriate to the ensure the continued operation of the project described in subsection (a).

(3) TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—The Secretary may subject any conveyance under this section to such terms and conditions as the Secretary determines necessary and advisable to protect the United States.

(c) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Authority shall be responsible for all reasonable and necessary costs, including real estate transaction and environmental documentation costs, associated with a conveyance under this section.

(d) WAIVER OF REAL PROPERTY SCREENING REQUIREMENTS.—Section 2696 of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply to the conveyance of land under this section.

**TITLE IV—WATER RESOURCES INFRASTRUCTURE**

**SEC. 401. PROJECT AUTHORIZATIONS.**

The following projects for water resources development and conservation and other purposes, as identified in the reports titled “Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development” submitted to Congress pursuant to section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (33 U.S.C. 2282d) or otherwise reviewed by Congress, are authorized to be carried out by the Secretary substantially in accordance with the plans, and subject to the conditions, described in the respective reports or decision documents designated in this section:

(1) NAVIGATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report or Decision Document	D. Estimated Costs
1. AK	Elim Subsistence Harbor	March 12, 2021	Federal: \$74,905,000 Non-Federal: \$1,896,000 Total: \$76,801,000
2. CA	Port of Long Beach Deep Draft Navigation, Los Angeles	October 14, 2021; May 31, 2022	Federal: \$73,533,500 Non-Federal: \$74,995,500 Total: \$148,529,000
3. WA	Tacoma Harbor Navigation Improvement	May 26, 2022	Federal: \$120,701,000 Non-Federal: \$174,627,000 Total: \$295,328,000
4. NY, NJ	New Jersey Harbor Deepening Channel Improvement	June 3, 2022	Federal: \$2,124,561,500 Non-Federal: \$3,439,337,500 Total: \$5,563,899,000

(2) FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report or Decision Document	D. Estimated Costs
1. AL	Selma	October 7, 2021	Federal: \$15,533,100 Non-Federal: \$8,363,900 Total: \$23,897,000
2. CA	Lower Cache Creek, Yolo County, Woodland, and Vicinity	June 21, 2021	Federal: \$215,152,000 Non-Federal: \$115,851,000 Total: \$331,003,000
3. OR	Portland Metro Levee System	August 20, 2021	Federal: \$77,111,100 Non-Federal: \$41,521,300 Total: \$118,632,400
4. NE	Papillion Creek and Tributaries Lakes	January 24, 2022	Federal: \$91,491,400 Non-Federal: \$52,156,300 Total: \$143,647,700
5. AL	Valley Creek, Bessemer and Birmingham	October 29, 2021	Federal: \$17,725,000 Non-Federal: \$9,586,000 Total: \$27,311,000
6. PR	Rio Guanajibo	May 24, 2022	Federal: \$110,974,500 Non-Federal: \$59,755,500 Total: \$170,730,000

(3) HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE RISK REDUCTION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report or Decision Document	D. Estimated Costs
1. CT	Fairfield and New Haven Counties	January 19, 2021	Federal: \$92,937,000 Non-Federal: \$50,043,000 Total: \$142,980,000
2. PR	San Juan Metro	September 16, 2021	Federal: \$245,418,000 Non-Federal: \$131,333,000 Total: \$376,751,000
3. FL	Florida Keys, Monroe County	September 24, 2021	Federal: \$1,513,531,000 Non-Federal: \$814,978,000 Total: \$2,328,509,000
4. FL	Okaloosa County	October 7, 2021	Initial Federal: \$19,822,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$11,535,000 Initial Total: \$31,357,000 Renourishment Federal: \$71,045,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$73,787,000 Renourishment Total: \$144,832,000

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report or Decision Document	D. Estimated Costs
5. SC	Folly Beach	October 26, 2021	Initial Federal: \$45,490,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$5,054,000 Initial Total: \$50,544,000 Renourishment Federal: \$164,424,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$26,767,000 Renourishment Total: \$191,191,000
6. FL	Pinellas County	October 29, 2021	Initial Federal: \$8,627,000 Initial Non-Federal: \$5,332,000 Initial Total: \$13,959,000 Renourishment Federal: \$92,000,000 Renourishment Non-Federal: \$101,690,000 Renourishment Total: \$193,690,000
7. NY	South Shore of Staten Island, Fort Wadsworth to Oakwood Beach	October 27, 2016	Federal: \$371,310,000 Non-Federal: \$199,940,000 Total: \$571,250,000
8. LA	Upper Barataria Basin	January 28, 2022	Federal: \$1,005,001,000 Non-Federal: \$541,155,000 Total: \$1,546,156,000
9. LA	South Central Coast, St. Martin, St. Mary, and Iberia Parishes	June 23, 2022	Federal: \$594,600,000 Non-Federal: \$320,169,000 Total: \$914,769,000

(4) HURRICANE AND STORM DAMAGE REDUCTION AND ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report or Decision Document	D. Estimated Costs
1. TX	Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study	September 16, 2021	Federal: \$19,237,894,000 Non-Federal: \$11,668,393,000 Total: \$30,906,287,000

(5) ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION.—

A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report or Decision Document	D. Estimated Costs
1. CA	Prado Basin Ecosystem Restoration, San Bernardino, Riverside and Orange Counties	April 22, 2021	Federal: \$33,976,000 Non-Federal: \$18,294,000 Total: \$52,270,000
2. KY	Three Forks of Beargrass Creek	May 24, 2022	Federal: \$72,138,000 Non-Federal: \$48,998,000 Total: \$121,135,000

(6) MODIFICATIONS AND OTHER PROJECTS.—



A. State	B. Name	C. Date of Report or Decision Document	D. Estimated Costs
1. LA	Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity	December 16, 2021	Federal: \$807,000,000 Non-Federal: \$434,000,000 Total: \$1,241,000,000
2. LA	West Bank and Vicinity	December 17, 2021	Federal: \$431,000,000 Non-Federal: \$232,000,000 Total: \$663,000,000
3. GA	Brunswick Harbor, Glynn County	March 11, 2022	Federal: \$10,774,500 Non-Federal: \$3,594,500 Total: \$14,369,000
4. DC	Washington, DC and Vicinity	July 22, 2021	Federal: \$17,740,000 Non-Federal: \$0 Total: \$17,740,000
5. MI	Soo Locks, Sault Ste. Marie	June 6, 2022	Federal: \$2,932,116,000 Non-Federal: \$0 Total: \$2,932,116,000
6. WA	Howard A. Hanson Dam Additional Water Storage	May 19, 2022	Federal: \$815,207,000 Non-Federal: \$39,979,000 Total: \$855,185,000
7. MO	Critical Infrastructure Cyber Security — Mandatory Center of Expertise Lab and Office Facility	January 13, 2020	Federal: \$5,956,404 Non-Federal: \$0 Total: \$5,956,404
8. FL	Central and Southern Florida, Indian River Lagoon	May 31, 2022	Federal: \$2,500,686,000 Non-Federal: \$2,500,686,000 Total: \$5,001,372,000

**SEC. 402. STORM DAMAGE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION, COASTAL EROSION, AND ICE AND GLACIAL DAMAGE, ALASKA.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to carry out structural and nonstructural projects for storm damage prevention and reduction, coastal erosion, and ice and glacial damage in the State of Alaska, including—

- (1) relocation of affected communities; and
- (2) construction of replacement facilities.

(b) COST SHARE.—The non-Federal interest shall share in the cost to study, design, and construct a project carried out under this section in accordance with sections 103 and 105 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1986 (33 U.S.C. 2213, 2215), except that, in the case of a project benefitting an economically disadvantaged community (as defined pursuant to section 160 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (33 U.S.C. 2201 note; Public Law 116-260)), the non-Federal share shall be 10 percent.

(c) REPEAL.—Section 116 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (123 Stat. 2851), is repealed.

(d) TREATMENT.—The program authorized by subsection (a) shall be considered a continuation of the program authorized by section 116 of the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010 (123 Stat. 2851) (as in effect on the

day before the date of enactment of this Act).

**SEC. 403. EXPEDITED COMPLETION OF PROJECTS.**

The Secretary shall expedite completion of the following projects:

(1) Project for flood risk management, Cumberland, Maryland, restoration and rewatering of the Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, authorized by section 580 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (113 Stat. 375).

(2) Project for flood risk management, Tulsa and West-Tulsa Levee System, Tulsa County, Oklahoma, authorized by section 401(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2735).

(3) Project for flood risk management, Little Colorado River at Winslow, Navajo County, Arizona, authorized by section 401(2) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (134 Stat. 2735).

(4) Project for flood risk management, Rio De Flag, Flagstaff, Arizona, authorized by section 101(b)(3) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2576).

(5) Project for flood risk management, Rose and Palm Garden Washes, Arizona, authorized by section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s).

(6) Project for ecosystem restoration, El Corazon, Arizona, authorized by section 206

of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2330).

(7) Projects for ecosystem restoration, Chesapeake Bay Comprehensive Water Resources and Restoration Plan, Chesapeake Bay Environmental Restoration and Protection Program, authorized by section 510 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (110 Stat. 3759).

(8) Projects authorized under section 219 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1992 (106 Stat. 4835; 110 Stat. 3757; 113 Stat. 334; 121 Stat. 1258).

(9) Projects authorized under section 8004 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (33 U.S.C. 652 note; Public Law 110-114).

(10) Projects authorized under section 519 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 (114 Stat. 2653).

(11) Project for flood risk management, Lower Santa Cruz River, Arizona, authorized by section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s).

(12) Project for flood risk management, McCormick Wash, Arizona, authorized by section 205 of the Flood Control Act of 1948 (33 U.S.C. 701s).

(13) Project for navigation, including maintenance and channel deepening, McClellan-Kerr Arkansas River Navigation System.

(14) Project for dam safety modifications, Bluestone Dam, West Virginia.

(15) Maintenance dredging and other authorized activities to address the impacts of shoaling affecting the project for navigation, Branford Harbor and Branford River, Branford, Connecticut, authorized by the first section of the Act of June 13, 1902 (32 Stat. 333, chapter 1079).

(16) Maintenance dredging and other authorized activities to address the impacts of shoaling affecting the project for navigation, Guilford Harbor and Sluice Channel, Connecticut.

(17) Maintenance dredging and other authorized activities to address the impacts of shoaling affecting the project for navigation, Milford Harbor, Connecticut.

(18) Assistance for ecosystem restoration, Lower Yellowstone Intake Diversion Dam, Montana, authorized by section 3109 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2007 (121 Stat. 1135).

(19) Project for mitigation of shore damage from navigation works, Camp Ellis Beach, Saco, Maine, pursuant to section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968 (33 U.S.C. 426i).

(20) Project for ecosystem restoration, Lower Blackstone River, Rhode Island, pursuant to section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2330).

(21) Project for navigation, Kentucky Lock Addition, Kentucky.

(22) Maintenance dredging of the Federal channel for the project for navigation, Columbia, Snake, and Clearwater Rivers, Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, authorized by section 2 of the Act of March 2, 1945 (59 Stat. 21, chapter 19), at the Port of Clarkston, Washington, and the Port of Lewiston, Idaho.

(23) Maintenance dredging and other authorized activities to address the impacts of shoaling affecting the project for navigation, Portsmouth Back Channels and Sagamore Creek, Portsmouth, New Castle, and Rye, New Hampshire, authorized by section 107 of the River and Harbor Act of 1960 (33 U.S.C. 577).

(24) Maintenance dredging and other authorized activities to address the impacts of shoaling affecting the project for navigation, Portsmouth Harbor and Piscataqua River, Portsmouth, New Castle, and Newington, New Hampshire, and Kittery and Elliot, Maine, authorized by section 101 of the River and Harbor Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1173).

#### SEC. 404. SPECIAL RULES.

(a) The following conditions apply to the project described in section 403(19):

(1) The project is authorized to be carried out under section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968 (33 U.S.C. 426i) at a Federal cost of \$45,000,000.

(2) The project may include Federal participation in periodic nourishment.

(3) For purposes of subsection (b) of section 111 of the River and Harbor Act of 1968 (33 U.S.C. 426i), the Secretary shall determine that the navigation works to which the shore damages are attributable were constructed at full Federal expense.

(b) The following conditions apply to the project described in section 403(20):

(1) The project is authorized to be carried out under section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996 (33 U.S.C. 2330) at a Federal cost of \$15,000,000.

(2) If the Secretary includes in the project a measure on Federal land under the jurisdiction of another Federal agency, the Secretary may enter into an agreement with the Federal agency that provides for the Secretary—

(A) to construct the measure; and

(B) to operate and maintain the measure using funds provided to the Secretary by the non-Federal interest for the project.

(3) If the Secretary includes in the project a measure for fish passage at a dam licensed

for hydropower, the Secretary shall include in the project costs all costs for the measure, except that those costs that are in excess of the costs to provide fish passage at the dam if hydropower improvements were not in place shall be a 100 percent non-Federal expense.

#### SEC. 405. CHATTAHOOCHEE RIVER PROGRAM.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to provide environmental assistance to non-Federal interests in the Chattahoochee River Basin.

(2) FORM.—The assistance under paragraph (1) shall be in the form of design and construction assistance for water-related resource protection and restoration projects affecting the Chattahoochee River Basin, based on the comprehensive plan under subsection (b), including projects for—

(A) sediment and erosion control;

(B) protection of eroding shorelines;

(C) ecosystem restoration, including restoration of submerged aquatic vegetation;

(D) protection of essential public works;

(E) beneficial uses of dredged material; and

(F) other related projects that may enhance the living resources of the Chattahoochee River Basin.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in cooperation with State and local governmental officials and affected stakeholders, shall develop a comprehensive Chattahoochee River Basin restoration plan to guide the implementation of projects under subsection (a)(2).

(2) COORDINATION.—The restoration plan described in paragraph (1) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, consider and avoid duplication of any ongoing or planned actions of other Federal, State, and local agencies and nongovernmental organizations.

(3) PRIORITIZATION.—The restoration plan described in paragraph (1) shall give priority to projects eligible under subsection (a)(2) that will also improve water quality or quantity or use natural hydrological features and systems.

(c) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Before providing assistance under this section, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with a non-Federal interest for the design and construction of a project carried out pursuant to the comprehensive Chattahoochee River Basin restoration plan described in subsection (b).

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each agreement entered into under this subsection shall provide for—

(A) the development by the Secretary, in consultation with appropriate Federal, State, and local officials, of a resource protection and restoration plan, including appropriate engineering plans and specifications and an estimate of expected resource benefits; and

(B) the establishment of such legal and institutional structures as are necessary to ensure the effective long-term operation and maintenance of the project by the non-Federal interest.

(d) COST SHARING.—

(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—Except as provided in paragraph (2)(B), the Federal share of the total project costs of each agreement entered into under this section shall be 75 percent.

(2) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

(A) VALUE OF LAND, EASEMENTS, RIGHTS-OF-WAY, AND RELOCATIONS.—In determining the non-Federal contribution toward carrying out an agreement entered into under this section, the Secretary shall provide credit to a non-Federal interest for the value of land, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations

provided by the non-Federal interest, except that the amount of credit provided for a project under this paragraph may not exceed 25 percent of the total project costs.

(B) OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.—The non-Federal share of the costs of operation and maintenance of activities carried out under an agreement under this section shall be 100 percent.

(e) COOPERATION.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall cooperate with—

(1) the heads of appropriate Federal agencies, including—

(A) the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency;

(B) the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(C) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(D) the heads of such other Federal agencies as the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(2) agencies of a State or political subdivision of a State.

(f) PROTECTION OF RESOURCES.—A project established under this section shall be carried out using such measures as are necessary to protect environmental, historic, and cultural resources.

(g) PROJECT CAP.—The total cost of a project carried out under this section may not exceed \$15,000,000.

(h) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section—

(1) establishes any express or implied reserved water right in the United States for any purpose;

(2) affects any water right in existence on the date of enactment of this Act;

(3) preempts or affects any State water law or interstate compact governing water; or

(4) affects any Federal or State law in existence on the date of enactment of this Act regarding water quality or water quantity.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$90,000,000.

#### SEC. 406. LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER BASIN DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “Lower Mississippi River Basin” means the portion of the Mississippi River that begins at the confluence of the Ohio River and flows to the Gulf of Mexico, and its tributaries and distributaries.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a program to provide assistance to non-Federal interests in the Lower Mississippi River Basin.

(2) FORM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The assistance under paragraph (1) shall be in the form of design and construction assistance for flood or coastal storm risk management or aquatic ecosystem restoration projects in the Lower Mississippi River Basin, based on the comprehensive plan under subsection (c).

(B) ASSISTANCE.—Projects under subparagraph (A) may include measures for—

(i) sediment control;

(ii) protection of eroding riverbanks and streambanks and shorelines;

(iii) channel modifications;

(iv) beneficial uses of dredged material; or

(v) other related projects that may enhance the living resources of the Lower Mississippi River Basin.

(c) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in cooperation with State and local governmental officials and affected stakeholders, shall develop a comprehensive Lower Mississippi River Basin plan to guide the implementation of projects under subsection (b)(2).

(2) **COORDINATION.**—The plan described in paragraph (1) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, consider and avoid duplication of any ongoing or planned actions of other Federal, State, and local agencies and non-governmental organizations.

(3) **PRIORITIZATION.**—To the maximum extent practicable, the plan described in paragraph (1) shall give priority to projects eligible under subsection (b)(2) that will also improve water quality, reduce hypoxia in the Lower Mississippi River or Gulf of Mexico, or use a combination of structural and non-structural measures.

(d) **AGREEMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Before providing assistance under this section, the Secretary shall enter into an agreement with a non-Federal interest for the design and construction of a project carried out pursuant to the comprehensive Lower Mississippi River Basin plan described in subsection (c).

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—Each agreement entered into under this subsection shall provide for the establishment of such legal and institutional structures as are necessary to ensure the effective long-term operation and maintenance of the project by the non-Federal interest.

(e) **COST SHARING.**—

(1) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of the cost to design and construct a project under each agreement entered into under this section shall be 75 percent.

(2) **NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—

(A) **VALUE OF LAND, EASEMENTS, RIGHTS-OF-WAY, AND RELOCATIONS.**—In determining the non-Federal contribution toward carrying out an agreement entered into under this section, the Secretary shall provide credit to a non-Federal interest for the value of land, easements, rights-of-way, and relocations provided by the non-Federal interest, except that the amount of credit provided for a project under this paragraph may not exceed 25 percent of the cost to design and construct the project.

(B) **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE COSTS.**—The non-Federal share of the costs of operation and maintenance of activities carried out under an agreement under this section shall be 100 percent.

(f) **COOPERATION.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall cooperate with—

(1) the heads of appropriate Federal agencies, including—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(C) the heads of such other Federal agencies as the Secretary determines to be appropriate; and

(2) agencies of a State or political subdivision of a State.

(g) **PROJECT CAP.**—The total cost of a project carried out under this section may not exceed \$15,000,000.

(h) **REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report that describes the results of the program under this section, including a recommendation on whether the program should be reauthorized.

(i) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$90,000,000.

#### **SEC. 407. FORECAST-INFORMED RESERVOIR OPERATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary is authorized to carry out a research study pilot program at 1 or more dams owned and operated by the Secretary in the North Atlantic Division of the Corps of Engineers to assess the

viability of forecast-informed reservoir operations in the eastern United States.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after completion of the research study pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on the results of the study pilot program.

#### **SEC. 408. MISSISSIPPI RIVER MAT SINKING UNIT.**

The Secretary shall expedite the replacement of the Mississippi River mat sinking unit.

#### **SEC. 409. SENSE OF CONGRESS RELATING TO OKATIBBEE LAKE.**

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) there is significant shoreline sloughing and erosion at the Okatibbee Lake portion of the project for flood protection, Chunky Creek, Chickasawhay and Pascagoula Rivers, Mississippi, authorized by section 203 of the Flood Control Act of 1962 (76 Stat. 1183), which has the potential to impact infrastructure, damage property, and put lives at risk; and

(2) addressing shoreline sloughing and erosion at a project of the Secretary, including at a location leased by non-Federal entities such as Okatibbee Lake, is an activity that is eligible to be carried out by the Secretary as part of the operation and maintenance of the project.

**SA 5141.** Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5135 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4346, making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 41, strike line 19 and all that follows through line 7 on page 47, and insert the following:

“(C) **REQUIRED AGREEMENT.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—On or before the date on which the Secretary awards Federal financial assistance to a covered entity under this section, the covered entity shall enter into an agreement with the Secretary specifying that, beginning on the date of the award and continuing in perpetuity, the covered entity—

“(I) may not engage in any transaction involving any expansion of semiconductor manufacturing capacity in the People’s Republic of China or any other foreign country of concern;

“(II) may not cooperate with the government of the People’s Republic of China; and

“(III) will immediately withdraw all operations in the People’s Republic of China in the event of an invasion of Taiwan by the People’s Republic of China.

“(ii) **STUDY.**—Before the date on which the Secretary awards Federal financial assistance to a covered entity under this section, the Secretary shall—

“(I) conduct an ROI analysis of the proposed assistance that shows that the assistance will result in a net positive financial return for taxpayers, such that the forecasted revenue collections by the Treasury generated as a direct result of the assistance exceeded the amount of the proposed assistance by the date that is 10 years after the date of the award of the assistance;

“(II) certify to Congress that the analysis required under subclause (I) has been conducted;

“(III) certify to Congress that the Secretary has determined that the covered entity will be able to repay any Federal financial

assistance in the event that the covered entity breaches the required agreement with the Secretary under clause (i) and the Secretary recovers the Federal financial assistance under subparagraph (E)(iii); and

“(IV) make the analysis required under subclause (I) publicly available.

“(iii) **AFFILIATED GROUP.**—For the purpose of applying the requirements in an agreement required under clause (i), a covered entity shall include the covered entity receiving financial assistance under this section, as well as any member of the covered entity’s affiliated group under section 1504(a) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, without regard to section 1504(b)(3) of such Code.

“(iv) **ANALYSIS.**—

“(I) **IN GENERAL.**—On the date that is 10 years after the date on which the Secretary awards Federal financial assistance under this section to a covered entity, the Secretary shall conduct an analysis to determine whether the revenue collections by the Treasury generated as a direct result of the Federal financial assistance exceeded the amount of the Federal financial assistance.

“(II) **RECOVERY.**—If the Secretary makes a negative determination under subclause (I), the Secretary shall recover from the covered entity the difference between the amount of the Federal financial assistance granted to the covered entity under this section and the revenue collections by the Treasury generated as a direct result of the Federal financial assistance.

“(D) **NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS.**—During the applicable term of the agreement of a covered entity required under subparagraph (C)(i), the covered entity shall notify the Secretary of any planned transaction of the covered entity involving any expansion of semiconductor manufacturing capacity in the People’s Republic of China or any other foreign country of concern.

“(E) **VIOLATION OF AGREEMENT.**—

“(i) **NOTIFICATION TO COVERED ENTITIES.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of a notification described in subparagraph (D) from a covered entity, the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense and the Director of National Intelligence, shall—

“(I) determine whether the transaction described in the notification would be a violation of the agreement of the covered entity required under subparagraph (C)(i); and

“(II) notify the covered entity of the Secretary’s decision under subclause (I).

“(ii) **OPPORTUNITY TO REMEDY.**—Upon a notification under clause (i)(II) that a planned transaction of a covered entity is a violation of the agreement of the covered entity required under subparagraph (C)(i), the Secretary shall—

“(I) immediately request from the covered entity tangible proof that the planned transaction has ceased or been abandoned; and

“(II) provide the covered entity 45 days to produce and provide to the Secretary the tangible proof described in subclause (I).

“(iii) **FAILURE BY THE COVERED ENTITY TO CEASE OR REMEDY THE ACTIVITY.**—Subject to clause (iv), if a covered entity fails to remedy a violation as set forth under clause (ii), the Secretary shall recover the full amount of the Federal financial assistance provided to the covered entity under this section.

“(F) **SUBMISSION OF RECORDS.**—

“(i) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may request from a covered entity records and other necessary information to review the compliance of the covered entity with the agreement required under subparagraph (C)(i).

“(ii) **ELIGIBILITY.**—In order to be eligible for Federal financial assistance under this

section, a covered entity shall agree to provide records and other necessary information requested by the Secretary under clause (i).

“(G) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall make publicly available any agreement entered into between a covered entity and the Secretary under subparagraph (C)(i).”

**SA 5142.** Mr. SCOTT of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 5135 proposed by Mr. SCHUMER to the bill H.R. 4346, making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 821, between lines 19 and 20, insert the following:

**SEC. 10638. PROHIBITION ON PROCUREMENT OF SEMICONDUCTORS FROM CHINA.**

Effective on the date that is 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Government may not procure any semiconductor manufactured in China.

**SA 5143.** Mr. SCHUMER (for Mr. JOHNSON) proposed an amendment to the resolution S. Res. 694, expressing support for the designation of July 2022 as “National Sarcoma Awareness Month”; as follows:

In paragraph (2) of the second whereas clause of the preamble, strike “7,000” and insert “7,200”.

In paragraph (3) of the second whereas clause of the preamble, strike “any 1 time” and insert “any given time”.

In the third whereas clause of the preamble, strike “20” and insert “15”.

**AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET**

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have nine 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, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION**

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on a nomination.

**COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS**

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet

during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 11 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 20, 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 Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

**COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS**

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 2:30 p.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 Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

**COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS**

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE**

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, July 20, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed business meeting immediately followed by a closed briefing.

**PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR**

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Caroline Watson, in my office, be granted floor privileges until July 21, 2022.

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

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the privileges of the floor be granted to my second-session summer interns for the month of July through August 5; that is, Jonathon Ford, Matthew Agron, Isabella Kershaw, Jocelyn Cannon, Devin Moorehead, Nicole Makar, Matthew Park, and Harold Monroe.

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

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 21; 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 morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 4346; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate execute the previous order with respect to the Brigety nomination and the Senate vote on confirmation of that nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

Mr. MERKLEY. For the information of the Senate, the first vote of the day, tomorrow, will be at 11:30 a.m., and Senators should expect additional votes.

**ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW**

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate tonight, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8:47 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, July 21, 2022, at 10 a.m.

**CONFIRMATIONS**

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate July 20, 2022:

**DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

BERNADETTE M. MEEHAN, OF NEW YORK, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHILE.

**THE JUDICIARY**

GREGORY BRIAN WILLIAMS, OF DELAWARE, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF DELAWARE.

**DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**

CARMEN G. CANTOR, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### INTRODUCTION OF THE RIGHT TO TRY CLARIFICATION ACT

**HON. EARL BLUMENAUER**

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, today I introduced the Right to Try Clarification Act. This legislation would expand access to life-changing treatments by including Schedule I substances that have completed phase 1 clinical studies in the Right to Try Act.

Oregon has a long legacy of ensuring that end-of-life patients have access to the full spectrum of treatment options to alleviate their condition and improve their quality of life. Patients and doctors deserve to discuss treatments—including psilocybin—that researchers find provide immediate and sustained relief from pain, anxiety, and depression for people battling terminal illness.

Federal restrictions have obstructed access to end-of-life care for too long, this legislation will change that and ensure that all patients have the Right to Try.

The psychedelics laws in this country are broken, including our laws governing patients' access to new and promising end-of-life care. Forty-one state legislations have passed Right to Try laws, in addition to our federal Right to Try statute, to allow terminally ill patients access to treatments, including psilocybin, that are still in investigational stages. Both psilocybin and MDMA have demonstrated tremendous care potential in phase 1 and phase 2 clinical trials.

The Drug Enforcement Agency, however, has refused to accommodate Right to Try laws, denying terminally ill patients their freedom to elect their preferred treatments. These patients deserve to be able to discuss and pursue treatments with their doctors that researchers are finding provide immediate, substantial, and sustained relief from anxiety and depression for people battling terminal illness. That is why the Right to Try Clarification Act is necessary to ensure patients have the Right to Try these treatment options.

I look forward to working with Senators CORY BOOKER and RAND PAUL and my co-leads Representatives NANCY MACE, MADELINE DEAN, ANDY BIGGS, and LUIS CORREA to enact this legislation and clarify and strengthen the Right to Try.

### CELEBRATING YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Yellowstone National Park.

Signed into law in 1872 by President Ulysses S. Grant, Yellowstone became the first national park in the world.

As the largest intact ecosystem in North America, Yellowstone is home to a few endangered animals, and over 1,700 species of trees.

Montana is the "Gateway to Yellowstone" and welcomes 72 percent of guests into the park each year.

The crown jewel of the West, Yellowstone has helped to sustain businesses in Montana for decades.

Flooding at the start of June destroyed bridges, roads, and homes around Yellowstone's north entrance in Montana, hurting many businesses and families, but Montanans have shown their resilience and have bounced back stronger than ever before.

This anniversary is not only a celebration but also a reminder of the strength and dedication Montanans have shown during this difficult time.

On behalf of the state of Montana, I would like to thank the National Park Service for their efforts to protect the environment and communities that make up the greatest national park in the country.

RECOGNIZING ELAINE M. WALSH,  
PH.D

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Elaine M. Walsh, Ph.D., for her outstanding community advocacy as she departs Manhattan Community Board 8 (CB8) after a quarter century of dedicated leadership and service.

Dr. Walsh first began her long history of community engagement during her time at Fordham University's Graduate School of Social Service, where she earned a Master of Social Work. She began her career as a social worker in New York City, becoming the director of senior citizen crime prevention for the New York City Department for the Aging and the director of elderly services at the Office of Victim Services.

Dr. Walsh has served as Director of the Public Service Scholar Program (PSSP) at Hunter College since 1986 after joining the university as an Associate Professor of Urban Affairs. The PSSP works to improve the city by preparing talented undergraduate students for careers in the public and non-profit sectors. The program also aims to increase representation of women, minority-group members and immigrants in leadership positions. Under Dr. Walsh's supervision, over 700 of the program's scholars have contributed more than 500,000 hours in service to communities throughout New York City.

Dr. Walsh served as a member of CB8 for 25 years and co-chaired the CB8 Zoning and

Development Committee. During her tenure, Dr. Walsh was a constant advocate for her community, particularly in regard to environmental concerns and infrastructure. During her time as a member, Dr. Walsh worked to support policies and programs that increased accessibility to city services for both businesses and individuals and served as the conscience of the Board in her consistent, forceful advocacy for the needs of under privileged New Yorkers.

Dr. Walsh serves as President of the East 86th Street Association, which she helped to establish in 2004. The Association seeks to "improve the quality of life along the East 86th Street corridor by conducting research, education, and advocacy projects" while facilitating community dialogue to encourage civic participation and foster neighborhood pride. Under the leadership of Dr. Walsh, the East 86th Street Association has worked on many projects which have greatly improved residents' quality of life.

Dr. Walsh has previously received awards including the New York City Chapter's "NASW Leadership Award", the NYC Public Advocate "Advocate's Award", Fordham University's "Alumni Award", the Manhattan Borough President's "Women's Leadership Award", the NYC Comptroller's Award "Outstanding Irish Educator in Social Policy and Leadership", the Our Town newspaper's OTTY award for her continued leadership and advocacy in the East 86th Street Association, and was named one of the 2013 New York State Senate's "Women of Distinction".

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of Dr. Elaine M. Walsh. Her dedication and leadership have helped cultivate a better, more lively community for the residents of Roosevelt Island and Manhattan's Upper East Side. Dr. Walsh's service and commitment to improving the lives of New Yorkers will leave a lasting impact on her community and our city.

### RECOGNIZING THE RESILIENCE OF THE PEOPLE, CULTURE, LAND, AND WATER OF NEW MEXICO

**HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ**

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, as we mark National Latino Conservation Week, I rise to celebrate the resiliency of the people of Las Vegas, Mora, and the surrounding New Mexico communities. Since April, the Forest Service-caused Hermit's Peak Fire and Calf Canyon Fire has ravaged the area. I am proud to join my resilient community to celebrate our combined strength and capacity to recover during challenging times. The Hispano heritage of this area is a strength we will rely on to heal.

Now in its fourth month, the fire has burned over 340,000 acres and become the biggest

• 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.

wildfire in New Mexico's history. It forced thousands of New Mexicans to evacuate and burned hundreds of homes and structures. Make no mistake, the negligence of the U.S. Forest Service caused this fire, and the federal government bears responsibility for the cost and the damage. I thank my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for their support of my legislation to fully compensate affected residents and businesses, which passed through the House last week.

After the fire ignited, hurricane-force winds and an historic drought enabled the wildfire to strengthen and spread dangerously quickly. It destroyed places where I, and so many others like me, grew up and explored; places where we gathered wood and tended to our acequias; places where we buried loved ones and practiced our faith; places where we raised our children; places where we hunted and fished; and places of cherished memories. Yet, my hometown of Las Vegas and the communities in Mora and San Miguel counties, and our other dear neighbors continue to persevere despite devastating destruction. Hispano, together with Indigenous and Anglo families, have been stewards and conservationists of these lands for centuries, and they will not give up on their lands now.

There is one common thread among the countless people I've talked to and their stories of loss and heartache: resiliency. Residents bravely defended their land, honoring shared ancestors. Families and neighbors from across the community opened their doors to one another in a beautiful, shared sense of New Mexico community. Firefighters and first responders risked their lives to save others. We honor their sacrifice along with those who donated their time, resources, and money to help those forced from their homes.

Our land, water, culture, and communities will endure despite the catastrophic wildfires and ongoing floods. Our faith in each other remains unbroken. Our traditions remain unbroken. We remain unbroken.

I draw strength and determination from our shared commitment to protect the natural, cultural, and recreational resources that make these areas so beautiful. We will Rise from the Ashes and, as we have done for generations, continue to fight for what we love.

#### HONORING VITA SWARERS

#### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor Vita Swarers on the occasion of her birthday, July 24th. Vita serves as the Deputy Director of Casework and the Deputy District Director in my Conroe district office, and she has spent the past 15 years serving the people of the Eighth Congressional District of Texas.

Vita started working for me as a caseworker in January of 2008 when my district office was originally in Orange, Texas. Vita has always been a devoted member of my team and I have experienced the depth of her commitment firsthand. Following the last redistricting of Texas in 2010, Vita chose to relocate her home from Orange to Huntsville in order to continue her work in my new district office.

When Hurricane Ike struck the 8th District, Vita's own home was flooded but she helped countless victims' recover first. Thousands of Texans' lives have been improved because of Vita's tireless efforts on behalf of the community.

In addition to her amazing casework success, Vita also directs our Military Service Academy Program which, because of the academic and athletic accomplishments of our prospective cadets, typically sends 15 or more cadets to the four service academies. The staff of the academy admission offices refer to the program Vita spearheads as a "model program" and Vita frequently consults with new Congressional offices on how to set up and run a successful program.

Outside of the office, Vita is a natural caregiver, loves serving others, and gives her all in every aspect of her life. Vita is the type of person who can overcome anything—when life gives her lemons, she throws them right back—very hard. Vita is a devoted mother to three, grandmother to seven, and great-grandmother to four. She loves her family deeply and says that one of her goals in life is to live long enough to meet her greatgreat-grandchildren.

One of Vita's favorite ways to spend time with her family is to compete in local competitions. Vita is a well-decorated Texas champion—holding first place trophies throughout Texas for her famous chili.

On behalf of the Eighth Congressional District of Texas, it is a pleasure to formally recognize Vita for her long years of dedicated service and the instrumental role she has played on behalf of the constituents of the 8th District of Texas. It is an honor to work with someone as special as Vita, and I am grateful for her service. I thank Vita for everything, and wish her a Happy Birthday.

#### HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF CORPORAL FOYD MOCKBIL

#### HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Corporal Foyd Mockbil of Howell, Michigan on the occasion of his retirement from Dearborn Police Department. His 25 years of service to the Dearborn community are worthy of commendation.

A graduate of Fordson High School, Corporal Mockbil was the first Yemeni American hired at the Dearborn Police Department, joining the team in 1997. Throughout his career, he has held various positions in the department including in Patrol Operations, Field Training, and on the SWAT Team as an operator. Additionally, he has served as an Honor Guard Member, School Resource Officer and as a plainclothes officer. At the time of his retirement, he was serving as Senior Officer of the Patrol Division on the night shift.

From the halls of Dearborn's elementary schools to events throughout the community, Corporal Mockbil is a familiar face to generations of Dearborn residents. Known for his bravery, professionalism, and compassion, he was active in the ACCESS substance abuse program and a frequent volunteer at charity events all over Metro Detroit. A friend to all

and a mentor to his peers, Corporal Mockbil has been a great representative of the department for almost 3 decades. All who have the pleasure of knowing him can attest to his infectious energy and joy. Despite being an officer, he never misses a chance to have fun and make memories. Corporal Mockbil resides in Howell, Michigan with his wife Marcie and their daughters Elayna and Elissa.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in congratulating Corporal Foyd Mockbil for his exemplary career at the Dearborn Police Department. I join with Corporal Mockbil's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his honorable service and thank him for his role in protecting our community and the people of Dearborn for over 2 decades. We wish him the best in retirement and lots of time spent with friends and family.

#### HONORING RODRIGO "ROD" GARCIA

#### HON. JUDY CHU

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Ms. CHU. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Rodrigo "Rod" Garcia, who passed away on July 2, 2022. Rod was a respected visionary, leader, and advocate whose incredible life was defined by his dedication to empowering the Hispanic community to achieve educational excellence, economic opportunity, and social equity.

Rod Garcia was born in East Los Angeles, California in 1943. He graduated from California State University, Los Angeles with a bachelor's degree of science in engineering and also obtained an associate degree in engineering from East Los Angeles College, launching a lifelong career in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) field. Rod subsequently served as a civil engineer for the City of Los Angeles and worked for the Port of Los Angeles in Public Works, Building and Safety. Due to his expertise in the field of engineering and his leadership abilities, Rod went on to chair the City of Monterey Park's Planning Commission as well as serving on the Dean of Engineering's Advisory Board for his alma mater, California State University, Los Angeles. Rod also served as president of Century Diversified, Inc., an engineering and construction firm, for over thirty years.

Rod was one of the few Hispanic engineers amidst a tech boom in California in 1973 and despite being in the minority in the STEM field, he gathered a cohort of fellow Hispanic engineers determined to contribute and diversify the sector. That's why, in 1974, Rod founded the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE) with the mission of ensuring networking and education opportunities for Hispanic students and professionals in the Southern California region. Shortly thereafter, SHPE's first collegiate chapters were established at California State University, Los Angeles, East Los Angeles College, and the University of Southern California. For five decades, Rod's high-spirited and fearless leadership propelled the SHPE to reach 13,000 memberships and 286 chapters nationwide. His unique ability to unite community partners



and leaders around the country serve as evidence that closing the STEM education gap and increasing the number of Hispanics in STEM can and will be done.

Rod will be remembered by his colleagues and thousands of current and former SHPE students and professionals for his devotion, service, mentorship, and immense contributions to expanding awareness, access, support, and development opportunities to Hispanics in STEM so that they may realize their potential and positively impact the world. His legacy of empowering the Hispanic community to achieve educational excellence, economic opportunity, and social equity will guide many members of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers for generations to come. I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the life of this extraordinary individual.

HONORING MR. WILLY ELLIOT-MCCREA

HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Mr. Willy Elliott-McCrea from the Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County after thirty-three years of dedicated service to communities across the central coast of California. The Second Harvest Food Bank Santa Cruz County was the first food bank in California and the second in the nation—it was founded in 1972 as an emergency food pantry to distribute U.S. Department of Agriculture surplus food as a part of the Community Action Board in the City of Santa Cruz.

Mr. Elliott-McCrea began his public service career with the Second Harvest Food Bank in 1979 as the warehouse manager and driver, later taking on the responsibility of purchasing food. In that same year, he represented Second Harvest Food Bank as one of thirteen founding members of Feeding America. In 1988, Mr. Elliott-McCrea was promoted to Executive Director and later to Chief Executive Officer in 1993, the position he held until retirement. Shortly after his promotion to Executive Director, the 6.9 magnitude Loma Prieta Earthquake devastated Santa Cruz and surrounding areas in October 1989. The Food Bank became ground zero for disaster relief, with the number of people served dramatically increasing from 15,000 per month to 25,000 people per week.

Throughout his time with the Second Harvest Foodbank, Mr. Elliott-McCrea helped guide statewide policy, championing progress in food security resources. He energized the Second Harvest Board of Directors to change its mission to be more community-focused, thus pioneering a new model for food banks and inspiring emergency feeding operations nationwide. To this day, food bank distributions operate around a network of community-based food pantries in senior residential living centers, homeless service centers, schools, churches, and neighborhood resource centers.

Mr. Elliott-McCrea led Second Harvest Food Bank through natural disasters, recessions, and, most recently, the coronavirus pandemic. In 2011, Second Harvest provided an average of 6.7 million pounds of fresh fruits and vege-

tables to the Santa Cruz community, but in the first year of the pandemic, Second Harvest's operations grew to providing 16.5 million pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables. In addition to his role with Second Harvest, Mr. Elliott-McCrea also served as the founding president of the California Association of Food Banks (CAFB) from 1995 to 1998 and again from 2019 to 2021. The CAFB ensures its coalition of 41-member food banks have the tools and resources to focus on feeding communities across California. The Association also provides Nutrition Education Programs that work with community volunteers to provide Nutrition Support Groups and Cooking Clubs.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing and thanking Willy Elliott-McCrea for his decades of service. His leadership and dedication to public service have shaped the food bank community not just in Santa Cruz County, but across the nation. I extend my personal appreciation to Mr. Willy Elliott-McCrea and his dedication to the central coast of California.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

SPEECH OF

HON. DARREN SOTO

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 19, 2022

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Chair, I want to commend the members of the House Committee on Appropriations, specifically the members of the Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Fiscal Year 2023 Appropriations bill for including robust funding for Major Projects Construction.

This funding for the construction, alteration, extension, and improvement of any facilities within the jurisdiction or use of the Department of Veteran Affairs will help all VA hospitals expand access to health care to veterans. For example, the Lake Nona VA Medical Center located in my district has grown substantially since established in 2006. The Lake Nona VA Medical Center serves more than 110,000 veterans in Central Florida and includes a 120-bed Community Living Center, two Mental Health Residential Rehabilitation Treatment Programs/Domiciliaries, located at both Lake Nona Campus and the Lake Baldwin Campus, one Health Care Center in Viera, two large multi-specialty Satellite Outpatient Clinics in Orlando and Daytona Beach, and four Community-Based Outpatient Clinics located in Clermont, Kissimmee, Orange City, and Tavares.

A facility expansion of the Lake Nona VA Medical Center would add at least additional twenty beds for inpatient mental health care and three additional floors for intensive and surgical rehabilitation. I am proud of the healthcare provided by Lake Nona VA Medical Center to veterans in the Central Florida. I believe Congress should continue to provide the resources necessary to allow for expansion and improvement of facilities under the jurisdiction of the Department of Veteran Affairs and I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to support this goal.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I voted 'no' but it was not recorded (card apparently not read).

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 373.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF SERGEANT TIM STACY

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 20, 2022

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Tim Stacy of the Dearborn Police Department on the occasion of his retirement. His honorable 22 years of service to our community is worthy of commendation.

A graduate of Southgate Anderson High School, Schoolcraft College, and Wayne County Community College Sergeant Stacy began his career in the Dearborn Police Department in 1994 as a reserve police officer. After obtaining his criminal justice degree in 1996; he was promoted to the role of Police Ordinance Officer in 1997. From there, he worked his way up the ranks becoming certified in traffic safety and accident investigations and was promoted to the position of Sergeant and Office in Charge of the Police Motor Carrier and Ordinance Enforcement Units in 2015.

Known for his caring heart and willingness to help those in need, Sergeant Stacy has always looked for new ways to advance professionally and better serve his community. He has frequently attended trainings at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center and Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. In addition to his duties as an officer, he served as a community liaison for the department, helping improve the lives of his neighbors each day. A dedicated officer and known for his commitment to improving his community, he was awarded the Chiefs Outstanding Service Award in 2018. He has always been there to help anyone who needed a helping hand. He continues to reside in Lincoln Park, Michigan with his wife Maya and is an outstanding father to their children Ava, Emma, and Lily.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant Tim Stacy for a career of exemplary service to the Dearborn Police Department. I join with Sergeant Stacy's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his decades of honorable service. We thank him for serving the people of the City of Dearborn for the past 22 years. We wish him the best in retirement and lots of time spent with friends and family as he fights cancer. He is a man of honor and bravery—Cancer has never had a more formidable opponent.

RECOGNIZING AIR FORCE VETERAN AND FOUNDER OF 2M COMPANY, MR. BILL MILLS

**HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mr. ROSENDALE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Bill Mills, a United States Air Force veteran and founder of 2M Company in Montana.

In 1978, Mr. Mills founded 2M Company in Billings, Montana because he was inspired to create a water product and service company that directly meets the needs of Montana's families and farmers.

Over the last 30 years, 2M Company has done just that—while serving Montanans' water-related needs, it became the leading wholesale supplier of pumps and pumping systems within Montana's water industry.

Along with 2M Company's business locations in Montana, it has expanded over the years to serve customers in Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, and Texas.

The growth and success of 2M Company is certainly a testament to Mr. Mills' exceptional entrepreneurial leadership and 2M Company's excellent service, products, and customer-first philosophy that Mr. Mills established in its inception.

Additionally, I also want to thank Mr. Bill Mills for his service to his country as part of the United States Air Force.

Mr. Mills' hard work, resourcefulness, and outstanding service to his community exemplify the core principles of being a Montanan.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. VICKY HARTZLER**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Tuesday, July 19, 2022, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted:

NO on Roll Call No. 365 ; NO on Roll Call No. 366 ; YEA on Roll Call No. 367; NO on Roll Call No. 368; NO on Roll Call No. 369; YEA on Roll Call No. 370; YEA on Roll Call No. 371; NO on Roll Call No. 372; NO on Roll Call No. 373; YEA on Roll Call No. 374; YEA on Roll Call No. 375; YEA on Roll Call No. 376; YEA on Roll Call No. 377; and YEA on Roll Call No. 378.

HONORING GLORIETTA ROWLAND

**HON. JIMMY PANETTA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the retirement of Ms. Glorietta Rowland after 33 years of public service to Monterey County and her dedication to supporting the Central Coast's unhoused community. Her legacy of service is one of unwavering devotion to improving the lives of others.

Ms. Rowland began her career in 1987 with Domestic Crisis Services, kicking off her admini-

strable and wide-ranging career. Following her departure from the agency in 1988, Ms. Rowland worked with the Salvation Army, providing resources to those experiencing homelessness. She then worked for Sun Street Center, an organization that provides educational services, as well as treatment and recovery opportunities for those battling addiction.

In 2005, Ms. Rowland joined the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers, where she assumed the role of Executive Officer. In this position, Ms. Rowland created and developed many programs and campaigns, including the Lead Me Home Ten-Year Plan for Ending Homelessness, Monterey County Stand Down for Veterans, and the Monterey County Homeless Connect Project.

Following her time with the Coalition of Homeless Services Providers, Ms. Rowland joined Monterey County Department of Social Services in 2012 as a Management Analyst in the Community Action Partnership and Director's Office. In this role, Ms. Rowland continued her career-long pattern of developing programs to support unhoused people in Monterey County. Here, she influenced programs like the Monterey County Safe Parking Program and was critical in the creation of the Salinas Housing Advancement, Resource and Education (SHARE) Center.

At the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Rowland took the initiative to support our community's relief efforts through the Alternate Housing Site project. She also dedicated her time and talents to the Commission on the Status of Women, the Emergency Food and Shelter Local Board, the Salinas Downtown Community Board, and the Homeless Census Point-in-Time Planning Committee.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Ms. Rowland's decades of service to Monterey County. Her career will serve as a model for selflessness and compassion for our community. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor her today.

TRANSPORTATION, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023

SPEECH OF

**HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, July 19, 2022*

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Chair, the report accompanying the FSGG appropriations bill includes "an increase of \$6 million above the budget request for USPS to carry out pilot programs to modernize its current postal banking services, including surcharge-free automated teller machines, wire transfers, check cashing, and bill payment."

This "Postal Non-banking Financial Services Modernization Pilot Program" is yet another attempt by progressives in Congress to expand the U.S. Postal Service's core mission into the financial system. This concept is ultimately harmful to American consumers because it will crowd out private sector financial innovation to reach underserved communities.

That's why Rep. LUETKEMEYER and I offered an amendment to prohibit funding in this bill

from being used to carry out the Postal Non-banking Financial Services Modernization Pilot Program. Unfortunately, our amendment was not made in order to the bill we're considering today.

Democrats have long called for USPS to be able to offer consumer banking services such as checking and savings accounts and extensions of credit to consumers and small businesses. These functions are beyond the Post Office's core competencies, will subject taxpayers to potential losses, will undermine the private sector's ability to compete with taxpayer-subsidized banking services, and pose a threat to consumers' privacy when it comes to financial data.

In 2018, the previous Administration created a special task force to specifically review the Post Office and identify necessary reforms. The Treasury Department was directed to release the Task Force's recommendations, which it did in its report, "United States Postal Service: A Sustainable Path Forward." The Task Force's recommendations were clear: "given the USPS's narrow expertise and capital limitations, USPS should not pursue expanding into new sectors, such as postal banking, the USPS does not have a demonstrated competency or comparative advantage, or where balance sheet risk would be added."

Moreover, the Post Office agreed. In response to a widely criticized and highly unusual report by the United States Postal Service Office of Inspector General (OIG), the Post Office made clear that despite any recommendations to the contrary from the OIG, the Post Office's core mission "is delivery, not banking." Postmaster General DeJoy reiterated this position.

Progressives argue postal banking is needed to address the decreasing number of bank branches and the rise in the number of people without access to a checking account or short-term credit. Democrats automatically believe that means that the government should provide these banking services, including through the Post Office. What Democrats fail to acknowledge is financial institution branch closures and consolidations result from overly burdensome government regulation, which won't be reconciled using more government.

Postal banking has been tried before. From 1911 to 1967, the United States had the "Postal Savings System," run by the USPS' predecessor. The system provided savings accounts with interest rates set by the USPS and funds deposited in national banks near depositors' post offices. The system failed. Postal banking couldn't compete with private sector banking institutions. It did not have the flexibility to meet the needs of customers.

Moreover, American consumers demonstrated recently that they are not interested in banking with the USPS. Just last year, the USPS took it upon itself to create a pilot program to offer check cashing services in the form of gift cards. According to documents submitted to the Postal Regulatory Commission, only six gift cards were issued under the pilot program and total fee revenue was \$35.70. The failure of the pilot program demonstrates the fact that it was not designed in response to customer demand and that consumers are not interested in banking with the federal government, including USPS.

Private sector financial institutions are highly regulated and operate competitively and flexibly in a market-based system. The ensures

consumers' demands for innovative financial products and services are met, and they receive the best pricing for them. Congress should not stifle private sector innovation by financial institutions and fintech firms that have already shown promise for reaching underbanked and rural consumers.

The USPS should remain focused on its core mission. The fact that only six people used the postal banking pilot confirms that consumers remain supportive of the free market and look to private firms for technological solutions to meet their banking needs.

Postal banking is harmful to the financial system and ultimately harmful to consumers. It will crowd out private sector financial innovation and ultimately fail to reach the very underserved communities Democrats claim they want to reach.

The USPS should remain focused on its core mission, not creeping into the provision of consumer financial services.

HONORING THE RETIREMENT OF  
DESTINATION ANN ARBOR  
PRESIDENT AND CEO MARY  
KERR

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Mary Kerr, President and CEO of Destination Ann Arbor on the occasion of her retirement. Her honorable 27 years of dedication to our Washtenaw County community are worthy of commendation.

Ms. Kerr's service to Washtenaw County started even before her time in tourism. Ms. Kerr began her career in hospitality as a manager at the historic Haab's Restaurant in Ypsilanti, Michigan. She served as the Executive Director for the Ypsilanti Convention and Visitors Bureau before becoming Executive Director for the Ann Arbor Convention and Visitors Bureau. Under Ms. Kerr, the Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti Convention and Visitors Bureaus were merged into one countywide entity, bringing together our diverse communities of Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti for good.

During her time at Destination Ann Arbor, Ms. Kerr was instrumental in growing the budget of the organization. She also oversaw the creation of the Ann Arbor Sports Commission, a ten-year destination master plan for Washtenaw County that consists of a strategic plan to boost the local economy and other key initiatives to ensure Ann Arbor is a destination for travelers and locals alike. Outside of work, she continues to advocate for the hospitality industry through her roles on various boards in Washtenaw County.

Ms. Kerr has been recognized for her dedicated service through various awards, such as the Lifetime Achievement Award by Michigan Meetings and Events. She was also named CVB Star of the Year at the Pure Michigan Governor's Conference on Tourism. Her stellar work as an ambassador for our community makes her beyond worthy of this recognition.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Ms. Mary Kerr for her 27 years of service. As we come together to celebrate her retirement, all of us in the Washtenaw community reflect on the great work she has

done that will benefit our area for years to come. I join with her family, friends, and colleagues in wishing her the very best in her retirement.

HONORING ANDREW PIERCE FOR  
HIS SERVICE IN THE PEACE  
CORPS

**HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON**

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Andrew Pierce for his exceptional leadership and service as the Acting Chief Financial Officer, Deputy Chief Financial Officer and Director of Accounting and Financial Reporting at the Peace Corps.

During his nearly 7 years at the Peace Corps, Mr. Pierce played a vital role in ensuring resources were effectively and efficiently managed to support the important mission of the Peace Corps. He provided solutions during the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, when global evacuations of thousands of Peace Corps volunteers were necessary.

Mr. Pierce was instrumental in ensuring that the Peace Corps received a clean audit opinion during his entire tenure. This is particularly remarkable because of the inherently transient nature of the Peace Corps workforce and the global footprint of the agency's financial operations. He was highly respected by his colleagues for his keen intellect, professionalism; kindness, dedication to service and being a consummate team player.

President Kennedy said that by establishing the Peace Corps, "[W]e intend to make full use of the resources and talents of private institutions and groups. Universities, voluntary agencies, labor unions and industry will be asked to share in this effort—contributing diverse sources of energy and imagination—making it clear that the responsibility for peace is the responsibility of our entire society." Mr. Pierce answered the call and did his part, enabling the Peace Corps and our nation to strengthen bonds of friendship and foster global peace.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Andrew Pierce for his service and wishing him continued success in his role as the Executive Director for Budget and Analysis for Maryland.

RECOGNIZING MINNESOTA'S 2022  
SOMALI-AMERICAN HERITAGE  
WEEK

**HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Minnesota's vibrant Somali-American community and the many cultural, economic and social contributions members make to our state, and in recognition of Somali-American Heritage Week during July 2–17 in Saint Paul and Minneapolis.

The commemoration of Somali Independence Day is marked by Somali Week celebrations in Minnesota, hosted by Rising Impact, a nonprofit dedicated to the safety and success

of Somali-American youth in Minnesota. Hosted in locations throughout Saint Paul and Minneapolis, the festivities are a chance to unite and celebrate Minnesota's diversity through a broad range of artistic, cultural and athletic events.

This year the celebrations drew together more than 45,000 participants to enjoy the food, music, dance, films, and the history of the Somali people and the Somali-Americans who call Minnesota home. Some of the most notable events from this year's celebration include a roundtable discussion with the U.S. Ambassador to Somalia, Larry E. André and community members about ongoing humanitarian relief efforts and the United States support for democracy in Somalia, the "Xasuuso (Remember) 1960" event which tells the story of Somalia's independence, and the Growth Conference, which is a chance for members of the African diaspora to share knowledge and resources to build up minority-owned businesses.

Led by the Somali Week Chairperson, Daud Mohamed, the organizers and volunteers for Somali Week continue to forge strong ties with various community, corporate and government partners to bring this vibrant festival to life each year.

Madam Speaker, Minnesota's Somali community has added greatly to the fabric of our state and our Nation, and they are a prominent part of the diverse community that makes Minnesota a great place to call home. Please join me in paying tribute to the community members who come together each year to celebrate Somali Week, and who work every day to foster, educate, and promote cultural understanding and traditions among all Minnesotans.

SUPPORTING U.S. NAVY LT. RIDGE  
ALKONIS AND U.S./JAPAN RELATIONS

**HON. AUMUA AMATA COLEMAN  
RADEWAGEN**

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mrs. RADEWAGEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis, a sailor currently stationed abroad in Japan. Essential to the economic and political stability of the Pacific region around my home of American Samoa is the U.S.-Japan alliance. As a significant part of this alliance, the U.S. Navy and Japanese Maritime Self-defense Force jointly project power and security throughout the Pacific; and, enabling this naval partnership are the 19,000 American sailors stationed there. While the U.S. and Japanese naval forces have long maintained a strong bond, the relationship is deteriorating as a result of Japanese injustices against U.S. military members. The case of U.S. Navy Lieutenant Ridge Alkonis, who is of Samoan descent, exemplifies the disparate treatment American sailors receive in Japan. While driving his wife and three children to get ice cream during a family outing one Saturday in May 2021, LT. Alkonis suffered a sudden and unforeseen medical emergency which resulted in a tragic car accident, causing the

death of two Japanese citizens. When I became aware of this tragedy last year, I immediately conveyed my condolences to Ambassador Tomita and continue to pray for the family of those who passed away. At the scene of the accident, LT. Alkonis was immediately arrested by Japanese authorities without receiving any medical care and imprisoned in solitary confinement for 26 days. He was systematically deprived of sleep, denied legal counsel while undergoing harsh daily interrogations by Japanese authorities, and pressured to sign false accusations. Financial compensation plays an influential role in the Japanese justice system, with Japanese citizens possessing considerable leverage over foreigners in court. LT. Alkonis was advised into signing a \$1.65 million financial settlement, the largest private financial settlement ever entered into by a U.S. service member in Japan. Despite there being no evidence of negligence on his part, LT. Alkonis cooperated fully in the investigation and paid the financial settlement in full; nevertheless, he was still sentenced to three years in prison. And last month, the Tokyo High Court rejected the majority of evidence submitted by LT. Alkonis including the Japanese police arrest warrant and a medical diagnosis by military physicians. The Court dismissed LT. Alkonis's appeal last week, even disregarding the financial settlement—an unprecedented decision by a Japanese court. Many familiar with these proceedings have called this situation the most egregious case against an American service member by Japan in over 60 years. I'm deeply troubled by Japan's treatment of LT. Alkonis. A review of the facts clearly shows that LT. Alkonis did not fall asleep and was not negligent, that he did in fact suffer a medical emergency. While indeed a tragedy, this was an accident in every sense of the word. Additionally, there have been numerous Status of Forces Agreement violations and human rights abuses by Japan. I have even heard persuasive allegations of illicit domestic political interference in LT. Alkonis's court proceedings by the victims' family, which is strongly connected to the Tokyo High Court. The treatment of LT. Alkonis has been unacceptable and is hurting the U.S.-Japan alliance exactly when it needs to be strengthened. America cannot allow our brave sons and daughters to be so vulnerably exposed while serving abroad. I call on President Biden, as well as our Ambassador to Japan—Ambassador Emanuel, to bring LT. Alkonis home and to immediately work with our Japanese partners to ensure that the terms of the Status of Forces Agreement are immediately reviewed and enforced at every level. Now more than ever, we need to acknowledge and correct injustices and take the appropriate steps to strengthen this alliance by ensuring service members are treated fairly.

#### HONORING DIANE PORTER COOLEY

#### HON. JIMMY PANETTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the vibrant life of Diane Porter Cooley, a pillar of the Pajaro Valley and Santa Cruz County community, who passed away on March 10, 2022.

Born to a family that settled in Santa Cruz County in the 1850s, and raised on Las Lomas Ranch in Watsonville, Diane had a deep connection to the land and people of the central coast of California. Her father Tom was one of the four founders of Driscoll Berries, and Diane continued her involvement with agriculture until her death. Diane and her husband, Don, were active members of the community, constantly engaged in the issues they cared about.

A deeply passionate civic leader, Diane worked tirelessly to protect and preserve the environment, and was an outspoken advocate for the people of the Pajaro Valley. She once said, "I care for the trees but for humans, too. People should have the chance to thrive just like the Sequoia should stand tall."

She was a dynamic agent of change who championed the creation of the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, the Pajaro Valley Arts Council, the Community Foundation of Santa Cruz County, and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County. She was involved with the Nature Conservancy, served on the Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency board, and was a supporter of many other causes, including Pajaro Valley Shelter Services, Salud Para la Gente, the University of California, Santa Cruz, Cabrillo College, and Second Harvest Food Bank in Watsonville. We may never know just how many lives she touched, or how many people received an education, braces, medical care, a home, or love when they needed it most thanks to her.

Madam Speaker, Diane Porter Cooley's outreach and philanthropy extended far and wide throughout our community. As Santa Cruz County bids farewell to its beloved daughter of 95 years, may her legacy of giving continue to inspire us for generations to come.

#### CONGRATULATING DOUGAL NELSON FOR RECEIVING THE KARL FLEMKE PIONEER ACHIEVEMENT AWARD THROUGH JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT USA

#### HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dougal Nelson for receiving the Karl Flemke Pioneer Achievement Award for his work with Junior Achievement of the Heartland through Junior Achievement USA.

Mr. Nelson was very honored to win this award, which is given to first-time presidents of Junior Achievement organizations throughout the country with between 2 and 6 years of service in their role. Nelson was among five others nominated. Junior Achievement of the Heartland, a member of the global JA network, has been serving young people in the Quad-Cities and surrounding areas for 66 years—equipping them with the skillset and mindset to create sustainable businesses, find meaningful employment, and build thriving communities. Mr. Nelson exemplifies the mission statement of Junior Achievement of the Heartland, which is to "inspire and prepare young people to succeed." As CEO, Mr. Nelson believes it is his job to put the right people in the right places to help children succeed and says that his staff and the community are to thank

for him receiving this award. Because of his strong leadership, he was able to build a culture of trust within the organization and make a big difference for youth in the community. I commend Mr. Nelson for his resolve to help the youth in the Quad Cities and surrounding areas.

It is because of strong community leaders such as Dougal Nelson that I am especially proud to serve Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Madam Speaker, I would like to again formally congratulate Dougal Nelson for winning the Junior Achievement organization's Karl Flemke Pioneer Achievement Award.

#### HONORING THE COURAGEOUS LIFE AND SERVICE OF JOHN W. SEAMAN

#### HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor John W. Seaman, for his brave service in the New York Army National Guard.

John Seaman was born in 1937 in Wantagh, New York. When he was young, his family moved to Greenfield and started a farm. In 1959, John entered the New York Army National Guard and was enlisted with the 247th Medical Company. John was deployed twice during his tenure with the National Guard. Both of his deployments were in the Return Forces to Germany Operations in 1990 and 1992 following the fall of the Berlin Wall. During these deployments, John supported active troops with military medical support and delivering aid.

For his brave service during the 1990 deployment, John was awarded the Army Commendation Medal. In 1974, John's unit was awarded the National Guard Superior Unit Award for maintaining the Guard's highest standards. John retired from the service in 1997 at the rank of Sergeant First Class E-7 and was awarded the Army Service Ribbon and the National Defense Service Medal for many years of service in the National Guard.

In addition to his time in the National Guard, John loyally served his local community in a variety of different roles. In 1961, John and his wife moved to Corinth, New York, where he worked as the Superintendent of Buildings, Grounds, Maintenance, Custodial Staff, and the Bus Garage for the Corinth School District. He worked for the school district for a total of 37 years. While working for the school, John was actively involved in multiple local organizations. He was a member of the village planning board, president of Rondac Campers Association, and commander of the Horace D. Washburn American Legion Post 533.

Throughout his life, John showed exceptional dedication to serving his country and his local community. We are proud to join the Saratoga County Veterans Association as part of the monthly Honor our Deceased Veterans Ceremony to honor John. On behalf of the 21st District of New York, I would like to thank John Seaman and his family for their service to the country and to the Corinth community.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR GENERAL  
HUGH ROBERT OVERHOLT, U.S.  
ARMY (RETIRED)

**HON. GREGORY F. MURPHY**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Major General Hugh Robert Overholt of the United States Army (Retired) for his lifelong service to our country's military, Eastern North Carolina, and our great Nation. Born in the town of Beebe, Arkansas in 1933, General Overholt attended the University of Arkansas where he earned both a bachelor's degree and a law degree. While attending law school, he served as the Comments Editor for the University of Arkansas Law Review.

Following his graduation in 1957, General Overholt entered the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps and was commissioned as a First Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. After his graduation from the Army's Judge Advocate General's school, General Overholt would go on to serve in various leadership roles within the United States Army including Assistant Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army from 1981 to 1985 and Judge Advocate General of the U.S. Army from 1985 to 1989. General Overholt served a remarkable ten years as a General Officer, which included eight as a Major General. General Overholt used these years to increase the professionalism and the role of the Judge Advocate General's Corps through critical changes and reforms.

One of the finest accomplishments in General Overholt's career was the establishment of the Masters in Military Law (LL.M.) program at the Army's Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School located at the University of Virginia. General Overholt also greatly expanded the schools' facilities, automatized the delivery of Army legal services, and published a revolutionary code of professional responsibility for members of the Army's Judge Advocate Corps. General Overholt's changes modernized the Army's legal services and exemplified his ability as an outstanding leader.

General Overholt has received numerous awards in recognition of his life of service. These include the Distinguished Service Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), Legion of Merit, the Department of Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal (Oak Leaf Cluster), and the Army Commendation Medal (Two Oak Leaf Clusters). Along with attending the Army's Judge Advocate General's Corps Basic and Advanced Courses, General Overholt also attended Airborne School, Command and General Staff College and the National Defense University.

General Overholt has served on the North Carolina Board of Transportation (BOT) since 2009 and was instrumental in creating a new 2020 Department of Transportation (DOT) law that gave the BOT more oversight authority. This new legislation also shifted designation of board members from the Governor to the General Assembly. For the first time under this new authority, Speaker of the North Carolina House Tim Moore used one of the General Assembly's three appointments for General Overholt who was first placed on the BOT by Governor Beverly Perdue and was reappointed by Governors Patrick McCrory and

Roy Cooper. General Overholt is the only BOT member who has been appointed by both Republican and Democratic Governors, plus a Republican Speaker of the House.

General Overholt in action means seeing good government work. Between 2009 and 2020, General Overholt was instrumental in delivering over \$800 million in new road projects to Carteret, Craven, Jones, Lenoir, and Pitt Counties. Of particular importance has been his support for military related transportation projects. One of the most vital military projects is the new Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Cherry Point Slocum overpass ramp. General Overholt secured over \$30 million in special funding for the project as part of the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) efforts to support the military and reduce traffic accidents and congestions in Havelock. He also advocated for the Highway 17 Bypass through Jones County that finally connected Camp Lejeune and MCAS Cherry Point with a four-lane highway. This was decades in the making and without General Overholt's leadership, it would not have become a reality.

Two other major projects General Overholt helped shepherd through to construction are the Havelock Highway 70 Bypass and the James City-New Bern Highway 70 reconstruction. Today, his focus as an at-large BOT member continues to support Craven and Carteret Counties, the State Ports, aviation, rail, and the Global TransPark as well as overall transportation-related economic development.

Prior to his appointment to the BOT, General Overholt was a Governor's appointee to the North Carolina Military Affairs Advisory Commission. He also helped lead the State's 2004 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) response team where he focused on advocating for MCAS Cherry Point. General Overholt was again successful in preventing the closure of this vital base.

General Overholt also serves as Chairman of the North Carolina's 3rd Congressional District Service Academy Nomination Board, where he assists in nominating high school students to attend our esteemed service academies. He continues to be a servant to the people and the impact he has made on the citizens of this great nation is truly remarkable. General Overholt and his wife, Ann, have two children, Scott and Sharon, two grandchildren, Grayson Overholt and Ashton Overholt Baker, and two great-grandchildren, Sebastian and Sawyer Baker.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the service of this great patriot and all he has done and continues to do for our great state and Nation.

**RECOGNIZING THE EGYPTIAN  
HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL**

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to convey my good wishes to the organizers of this year's Egyptian Heritage Day Festival in Astoria, Queens. Thanks in part to the efforts of dedicated groups such as theirs, New York City is one of the world's great cultural melting pots.

The Egyptian community has long been a pillar of New York City's vibrant immigrant landscape and events like the Egyptian Heritage Day Festival highlight the essential role that Egyptians and all cultural groups play in shaping the fabric of our great city and country.

I have the privilege of representing Little Egypt in Congress, and I have seen firsthand the beauty and strength of this community. Whether it is with authentic Egyptian restaurants, small businesses or community events, Little Egypt and our city's Egyptian community play a key role in making New York City the multicultural capital of the world.

Egyptian Americans have made significant contributions to our country in the fields of science, arts, sports or entertainment. Ahmed Zewail was the first Egyptian to be awarded a Nobel Prize in a scientific field. He studied in and taught at our nation's finest institutions and was nominated by President Obama to serve on the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. Mohamed Atalla is often described as a pioneer of semi-conductors and electronics. He was awarded the Benjamin Franklin medal in physics and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame. Rami Malek has starred in several award-winning films and in 2018 he became the first actor of Egyptian heritage to win the Academy Award for Best Actor for his role in *Bohemian Rhapsody*. Michael Mina, is a graduate of the Culinary Institute of America and now heads the Mina Group, a network of 40 restaurants worldwide.

As these examples illustrate, Egyptian Americans have played a crucial part in our country's scientific, cultural, and artistic accomplishments. Their talents, hard work and dedication help make our country a global beacon of opportunity and discovery.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the organizers of this festival and celebrating the enormous contributions that Egyptian-Americans have made to our country.

**RECOGNIZING MS. JANINE GUIDO  
AND THE SPERANZA ANIMAL  
RESCUE**

**HON. SCOTT PERRY**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 20, 2022*

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I am honored to recognize Ms. Janine Guido for her tireless, selfless, and relentless commitment to the protection and rescue of animals in and outside of our community.

Janine grew up around avid horse-riders—where her affection and love for animals and all wildlife began. When her family built their 18-acre horse farm in Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, she and her sister not only trained the horses, but also gave lessons/taught other children the joys and value of horses. Though horses were her main focus, her heart also led her to rescue myriad stray, injured, and unwanted animals in her free time.

In 2011, after several knee injuries that made it impossible to train/ride horses anymore, Janine turned her focus fulltime to rescuing animals. Using the family's farm as her home base, Janine went on to save numerous

creatures—dogs, horses, goats, and cows, for starters. In the Spring of 2012, she began the process of establishing an official, non-profit Animal Rescue organization named “Speranza”—the Italian word for “hope”—which is now known around the world.

Janine is passionate about rescuing and rehabilitating animals—particularly those deemed “lost causes.” She ensures that not only do these special creatures get a second chance at life, but that they truly learn the meaning of friendship, acceptance, trust, and love. Any animal that is, has been, or will be in Janine’s care—which in some cases even means at the tragic moment of their last breaths in her arms—will know how much they’re loved, cared for, and how much their lives mattered.

Janine’s tireless support by her loving family and longtime boyfriend continue to allow her not only to realize her life’s work, but to give 100 percent of her time, heart, and soul to this critical mission. She has set the standard not only for the numerous volunteers and good Samaritans who selflessly give of their time and/or treasure to share in this calling, but for all of us to follow.

I am humbled and honored to recognize and commend Ms. Janine Guido and Speranza Animal Rescue of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, on the auspicious occasion of their 10th Anniversary, and dedication to, support, and protection of our creatures great and small. I wish her Godspeed as she continues these spectacular and meaningful adventures.

#### SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, July 21, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today’s RECORD.

#### MEETINGS SCHEDULED

##### JULY 26

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To receive a closed briefing on Indo-Pacific policy and operations.  
SVC-217

10 a.m.  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility in U.S. diplomacy and development.  
SD-419

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
To hold hearings to examine fighting fentanyl, focusing on the Federal response to a growing crisis.  
SH-216

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations  
To hold hearings to examine corruption, abuse, and misconduct at U.S. Penitentiary Atlanta.  
SD-342

Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine law enforcement officer safety, focusing on protecting those who protect and serve.  
SD-226

10:15 a.m.  
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine fairness in financial services, focusing on racism and discrimination in banking.  
SD-538

2:30 p.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism  
To hold hearings to examine decriminalizing cannabis at the Federal level, focusing on necessary steps to address past harms.  
SD-226

##### JULY 27

9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine United States national security and economic statecraft, focusing on ensuring U.S. global leadership for the 21st century.  
SD-419

10 a.m.  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Business meeting to consider S. 1628, to amend the Children’s Online Privacy Protection Act of 1998 to strengthen

protections relating to the online collection, use, and disclosure of personal information of children and minors, S. 3663, to protect the safety of children on the internet, the nominations of David P. Pekoske, of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, and Donald R. Cravins, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary for Minority Business Development, and Susie Feliz, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of Commerce.

SR-253  
Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the development of projects and implementation of policies that support carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) technologies.  
SD-406

Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.  
SD-226

2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy  
To hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2023 for Africa.  
SD-419

Committee on Indian Affairs  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine select provisions of the 1866 Reconstruction Treaties between the United States and Oklahoma Tribes.  
SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
To hold hearings to examine opportunities and barriers to entrepreneurship for returning citizens and justice impacted individuals.  
SR-428A

3 p.m.  
Committee on Veterans’ Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine certain pending nominations.  
SR-418

##### JULY 28

10 a.m.  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of William H. Duncan, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Republic of El Salvador, Hugo F. Rodriguez, Jr., of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Nicaragua, Candace A. Bond, of Missouri, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, and Heide B. Fulton, of West Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Oriental Republic of Uruguay, all of the Department of State.  
SD-419



# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S3503–S3579*

**Measures Introduced:** Seventeen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4560–4576, and S. Res. 713–714. **Pages S3541–42**

#### Measures Reported:

Report to accompany S. 4503, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System. (S. Rept. No. 117–132) **Page S3541**

#### Measures Passed:

**Global food security and famine:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 669, condemning the use of hunger as a weapon of war and recognizing the effect of conflict on global food security and famine, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S3528**

**National Day of the American Cowboy:** Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 686, designating July 23, 2022, as “National Day of the American Cowboy”, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Pages S3528–29**

**National Sarcoma Awareness Month:** Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 694, expressing support for the designation of July 2022 as “National Sarcoma Awareness Month”, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S3529**

Schumer (for Johnson) Amendment No. 5143, to amend the preamble. **Page S3529**

**Remembering former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe:** Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 706, remembering former Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S3529**

**United States Commission on International Religious Freedom Appropriations:** Senate passed S.

3895, to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2024, after agreeing to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. **Page S3535**

#### Measures Considered:

**Concurrent Resolution on the Budget:** By 34 yeas to 63 nays (Vote No. 265), Senate failed to agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of S. Con. Res. 43, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2023 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2024 through 2032. **Page S3527**

#### House Messages:

**Legislative Branch Appropriations Act—Cloture:** Senate continued consideration of the amendment of the House of Representatives to the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 4346, making appropriations for Legislative Branch for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, taking action on the following amendments and motions proposed thereto: **Page S3527**

#### Pending:

Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Schumer Amendment No. 5135 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment), relating to the CHIPS Act of 2022. **Page S3527**

Schumer Amendment No. 5136 (to Amendment No. 5135), to add an effective date. **Page S3527**

Schumer motion to refer the bill to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with instructions, Schumer Amendment No. 5137, to add an effective date. **Page S3527**

Schumer Amendment No. 5138 (to (the instructions) Amendment No. 5137), to modify the effective date. **Page S3527**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

A motion was entered to close further debate on the Schumer motion to concur in the amendment of the House to the amendment of the Senate to the bill, with Schumer Amendment No. 5135 (to the House amendment to the Senate amendment) (listed

above), and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Friday, July 22, 2022.

**Page S3527**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the House message to accompany the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, July 21, 2022; and that at 11:30 a.m., Senate execute the previous order of Tuesday, July 19, 2022, with respect to the nomination of Reuben E. Brigety II, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, and Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination.

**Page S3579**

**Water Resources Development Act—Agreement:** a unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, following consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 7776, to provide for improvements to the rivers and harbors of the United States, to provide for the conservation and development of water and related resources; that the Carper/Capito/Cardin/Cramer substitute Amendment No. 5140 be considered and agreed to; that there be up to 1 hour for debate, equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, if a budget point of order is made and a motion to waive made, Senate vote on the motion to waive; and if the point of order is waived, Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, with 60-affirmative votes required for passage.

**Page S3527**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** Senate received the following executive report of a committee:

Report to accompany Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of the Republic of Finland and the Kingdom of Sweden (Treaty Doc. 117–3) (Ex. Rept. 117–5). **Page S3541**

**Merle Nomination—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Natasha C. Merle, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of New York, be withdrawn.

**Page S3519**

**Elnahal Nomination—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Shereef M. Elnahal, of New Jersey, to be Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs; that there be 10 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form; that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote, without intervening action of debate, on confirmation of the nomination; and that no further motions be in order.

**Page S3528**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 52 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 263), Gregory Brian Williams, of Delaware, to be United States District Judge for the District of Delaware.

**Pages S3503–3521**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 262), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

**Pages S3509–10**

By 51 yeas to 44 nays (Vote No. EX. 264), Bernadette M. Meehan, of New York, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Chile.

**Page S3521**

Carmen G. Cantor, of Puerto Rico, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

**Pages S3527–28**

**Messages from the House:**

**Page S3539**

**Measures Referred:**

**Page S3539**

**Measures Read the First Time:** **Pages S3529, S3539**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S3539–41**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S3542–44**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Pages S3544–46**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S3538–39**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S3546–79**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S3579**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S3579**

**Record Votes:** Four record votes were taken today. (Total—265) **Pages S3510, S3521, S3527**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 8:47 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3579.)

## Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

### FDA AND FOOD SAFETY

**Committee on Appropriations:** Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine food safety and the Food and Drug Administration, after receiving testimony from Robert Califf, Commissioner, Frank Yiannas, Deputy Commissioner, Food Policy and Response, Susan T. Mayne, Director, Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, and Michael C. Rogers, Assistant Commissioner for Human and Animal Food Operations, Office of Regulatory Affairs, all of the Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and

Human Services; Brian Ronholm, Consumer Reports, Washington, D.C.; and Sarah Gallo, Consumer Brands Association, Arlington, Virginia.

## NOMINATION

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Arati Prabhakar, of California, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Warren, testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

*Committee on Finance:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the role of tax incentives in affordable housing, after receiving testimony from Andrea Bell, Oregon Housing and Community Services, Salem; Jerry Konter, National Association of Home Builders, and Benson Roberts, National Association of Affordable Housing Lenders, both of Washington, D.C.; Lee E. Ohanian, Stanford University Hoover Institution, Los Angeles, California; and Dana T. Wade, Walker and Dunlop, Bethesda, Maryland.

## GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY CRISIS

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the global food security crisis and the U.S. response, after receiving testimony from Samantha Power, Administrator, United States Agency for International Development; Linda Thomas-Greenfield, United States Ambassador to the United Nations; and David Beasley, UN World Food Programme, Rome, Italy.

## LEGISLATION

*Committee on Indian Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 4104, to approve the settlement of water rights claims of the Hualapai Tribe and certain allottees in the State of Arizona, to authorize construction of a water project relating to those water rights claims, S. 4439, to take certain Federal land located in Siskiyou County, California, and Humboldt County, California, into trust for the benefit of the Karuk Tribe, and H.R. 5221, to amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to establish an urban Indian organization confer policy for the Department of Health and Human Services, after receiving testimony from Senators Sinema and Padilla; Jason Freihage, Deputy Assistant Secretary

of the Interior for Management for Indian Affairs; P. Benjamin Smith, Deputy Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; Damon Clarke, Hualapai Tribe, Peach Springs, Arizona; Russell A. Attebery, Karuk Tribe, Happy Camp, California; and Patrick Rock, Indian Health Board of Minneapolis, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

## MASS SHOOTINGS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Highland Park attack, focusing on protecting our communities from mass shootings, after receiving testimony from Senator Duckworth; Nancy R. Rotering, Mayor, Highland Park, Illinois; Kyleanne Hunter, RAND Corporation, Colorado Springs, Colorado; Joseph Blocher, Duke University School of Law, Durham, North Carolina; Philip T. Smith, National African American Gun Association, Atlanta, Georgia; and Russell Bentley, Safe Havens International, Macon, Georgia.

## ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD MODERNIZATION

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the status of VA's electronic health record modernization program, after receiving testimony from Terry Adirim, Program Executive Director, Electronic Health Record Modernization Integration Office, Kurt DelBene, Assistant Secretary for Information and Technology and Chief Information Officer, Michael D. Parrish, Principal Executive Director for the Office of Acquisition, Logistics, and Construction, Gerard R. Cox, Assistant Under Secretary for Health for Quality and Patient Safety, Veterans Health Administration, and David Case, Deputy Inspector General, Office of Inspector General, all of the Department of Veterans Affairs; and Mike Sicilia, Oracle Corporation, Austin, Texas.

## BUSINESS MEETING

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to consider pending intelligence matters.

## INTELLIGENCE

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

# House of Representatives

## *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 22 public bills, H.R. 8432–8453; and 8 resolutions, H. Res. 1235–1242, were introduced. **Pages H6921–22**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page H6923**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows: H.R. 4586, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 with respect to risk-based examinations of Nationally Recognized Statistical Rating Organizations, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–421);

H.R. 6528, to require owners of covered federally assisted rental dwelling units to install temperature sensors in such units, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–422);

H.R. 7195, to provide for certain whistleblower incentives and protections, with amendments (H. Rept. 117–423);

H.R. 7196, to amend the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to expand the authorized activities under the Continuum of Care program to include activities that address barriers to transitioning families in rural areas to permanent housing, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–424);

H.R. 7734, to amend title 31, United States Code, to require the timely production of reports to Congress under the Bank Secrecy Act, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–425); and

H.R. 7981, to require qualifying smoke alarms in certain federally assisted housing, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–426).

**Page H6921**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:48 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon. **Page H6890**

**Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023:** The House passed H.R. 8294, making appropriations for the Departments of Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, by a yea-and-nay vote of 220 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 383. Consideration began yesterday, July 19th.

**Pages H6891–H6901**

Rejected the Valadao motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Appropriations, by a yea-and-nay vote of 206 yeas to 219 nays, Roll No. 382.

**Pages H6900–01**

Agreed to:

DeLauro amendment en bloc No. 7 consisting of the following amendments printed in part A of H.

Rept. 117–420: Crow (No. 104) that increases SBA Entrepreneurial Development Programs funding (specifically for SCORE) by \$6.7 million; decreases GSA rental of space by the same amount; Deutch (No. 106) that increases funding for the Truman Foundation grants by \$500,000 to maintain the successful operation of the Truman Foundation and enable this small independent Federal agency to continue encouraging exceptional young people to pursue careers in public service; reduces the Department of Treasury, Salaries and Expenses account by the same amount; Escobar (No. 107) that increases the Entrepreneurial Development Programs account by \$2 million to be allocated to the Veterans Business Outreach Center program for further expansion into communities where there is not yet a center; decreases SBA Salaries and Expenses by \$2 million; Gottheimer (No. 113) that increases funding by \$1 million for the Small Business Administration Office of the Inspector General with the intent of holding Economic Injury Disaster Loan and Paycheck Protection Program fraudsters accountable, offset by a decrease to the Federal Buildings Fund; Gottheimer (No. 115) that increases funding by \$3 million for the Treasury's Office of Terrorism and Financial Intelligence to support efforts to counter criminal and terrorist groups through the acquisition of improved blockchain analysis tools, training on cryptocurrency and cryptocurrency-related investigations, and investigative support to reduce crimes involving ransomware attacks or exploiting the use of cryptocurrency; the offset of \$3 million is from the GSA Real Property Activities Federal Buildings Funds; Graves (LA) (No. 116) that increases and decreases the funds made available to ODA under this act by \$1 million with the intent to urge the SBA Administrator to consider a disaster loan recipient's eligibility for duplication of benefits relief under section 312(b)(4) of the Stafford Act before pursuing enforcement actions; LaMalfa (No. 123) that increases and decreases the Small Business Administration's account by \$30 million with the intent to encourage the agency to reopen and continue processing COVID EIDL applications which were still pending or being processed when the program was shut down on May 6, 2022; Manning (No. 125) that increases funding for the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service by \$1 million in support of identity theft and refund fraud casework, and reduces funding for Operations Support by the same amount; Steil (No. 136) that increases funding for the IRS Taxpayer Advocate Service by \$1 million in support of identity theft and refund fraud casework, and reduces

funding for Operations Support by the same amount; Buchanan (No. 141) that transfers \$1,000,000 to the US Fish and Wildlife Service state and tribal grants to support an updated manatee population survey and to support other high priority needs of the Fish and Wildlife Service and its partners to rehabilitate rescued manatees; decreases funds for Secretary of the Interior—Departmental Operations by the same amount; Buchanan (No. 142) that increases and decreases the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management by \$2,000,000 to support a study about the causes, treatment and prevention recommendations related to harmful algal blooms; Hudson (No. 152) that increases and decreases USFS Capital Improvement and Maintenance funding by \$5,000,000 to highlight public safety concerns of roads within the Uwharrie National Forest and the need to pave the roads; Jackson Lee (No. 153) that increases and decreases funds for the Historic Preservation Fund by \$3,000,000 with the intent of enhancing activities for the preservation, restoration, and maintenance of nationally significant sites, artifacts, and structures through competitive grants at the local, state, and federal levels focusing on projects involving HBCUs, sites and stories linked to the Civil Rights movement, landmarks associated with communities that are historically underrepresented, and sites related to the histories of Indigenous peoples; Lofgren (No. 155) that increases funding for Wildland Fire Management by \$1,000,000 with the intent of supporting the Joint Fire Science Program and decreases funds for the Secretary of Interior—Departmental Operations by the same amount; McCarthy (No. 156) that increases and decreases funding by \$5 million in both the Operation of the National Park System account and the National Forest System account to support work to reduce the risk of catastrophic fires killing giant sequoias; Moore (UT) (No. 158) that increases and decreases funding by \$8 million for the DOI Secretary's Office and by \$8 million for the National Forest System to support calling up funding for implementation of the MAPLand Act as enacted on April 29, 2022; Nadler (No. 159) that increases and decreases funding from the Office of the DOI Secretary by \$4,000,000 to emphasize the importance of the 9/11 Memorial Act Grant Program; O'Halleran (No. 161) that increases and decreases the U.S. Forest Service's Operations account by \$1 million to highlight the importance of a study on the direct and indirect costs that wildfires have on federal, state, and local governmental entities, as well as agricultural producers, property owners, evacuation centers, and more; Raskin (No. 164) that increases funding for the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum by \$2,000,000 and decreases the Working Capital Fund by the same amount;

Arrington (No. 172) that transfers \$1 million from Information Technology Systems to Grants to assist States and Tribal Organizations in establishing, expanding, or improving veterans' cemeteries; Barr (No. 174) that transfers \$5 million from the VHA's Medical Community of Care Account to the VHA's Medical Services account for the explicit use of equine assisted therapy within the VA's Adaptive Sports Grant (ASG) Program; Gottheimer (No. 180) that increases funding by \$1 million for the VA Transition Assistance Program to provide information, resources, and tools to service members and their families to help prepare for the move from military to civilian life; Larsen (WA) (No. 181) that increases and decreases General Administration funds by \$10,000,000 with the intent of supporting the development of a new Veteran Health Administration interactive voice response telephone system that include an automatic callback feature; Manning (No. 182) that increases funding for Veterans Health Medical Services by \$1,000,000 and reduces Department General Administration by the same amount; Scott (GA) (No. 186) that increases and decreases funding for the Veterans Health Administration Medical Services account by \$1,000,000 to highlight the importance of providing the best possible anesthesia care for America's Veterans; Sherrill (No. 187) that increases and decreases funding for VA Medical Services by \$10 million to highlight the need to construct additional readjustment counseling centers (Vet Centers), which provide critical mental health services for veterans; Sherrill (No. 188) that increases and decreases funding for VA Medical Services by \$10 million to highlight the need to increase staffing levels at readjustment counseling centers (Vet Centers), an urgent requirement for veterans' mental health; Sherrill (No. 189) that increases and decreases funding for Veterans Health Administration Medical Services by \$3 million to support increased access to medical care for Veterans in higher priority groups; and Spanberger (No. 190) that transfers \$1 million to VA Medical Services from Information Technology Systems account to support VA Suicide Prevention Coordinators (by a yea-and-nay vote of 355 yeas to 56 nays, Roll No. 379); and

**Pages H6891–93, H6897–98**

DeLauro amendment en bloc No. 8 consisting of the following amendments printed in part A of H. Rept. 117–420: McGovern (No. 183) that transfers \$5 million in funds to the Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Program from funds for the Asset and Infrastructure Review Commission; and McGovern (No. 184) that prevents VA from transferring funds from the Medical Facilities and General Administration accounts to the Asset and Infrastructure Review

Commission (by a yea-and-nay vote of 238 yeas to 191 nays, Roll No. 381). **Pages H6895–97, H6899–H6900**  
Rejected:

Tlaib amendment (No. 137 printed in part A of H. Rept. 117–420) that sought to prevent the funds made available by this act from being made available to implement, administer or enforce section 908(b) of the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000, prohibition on financing of agricultural sales to Cuba (by a yea-and-nay vote of 163 yeas to 260 nays, Roll No. 380).

**Pages H6893–95, H6898–99**

Agreed by unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to correct section numbers, punctuation, spelling, and cross-references, and to make such other technical and conforming changes as may be necessary to reflect the actions of the House.

**Page H6901**

H. Res. 1232, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 8294), (H.R. 8373), and (H.R. 8404) was agreed to yesterday, July 19th.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Five yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6897–98, H6898–99, H6899–H6900, H6900–6901, and H6901.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 5:14 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### A 2022 REVIEW OF THE FARM BILL: STAKEHOLDER PERSPECTIVES ON TITLE XI CROP INSURANCE

*Committee on Agriculture:* Subcommittee on General Farm Commodities and Risk Management held a hearing entitled “A 2022 Review of the Farm Bill: Stakeholder Perspectives on Title XI Crop Insurance”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### EXAMINING THE POWERFUL IMPACT OF INVESTMENTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND OUR NATION’S ECONOMY

*Committee on the Budget:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Examining the Powerful Impact of Investments in Early Childhood for Children, Families, and Our Nation’s Economy”. Testimony was heard from former Member Newt Gingrich and public witnesses.

### SECOND CLASS WORKERS: ASSESSING H2 VISA PROGRAMS IMPACT ON WORKERS

*Committee on Education and Labor:* Subcommittee on Workforce Protections held a hearing entitled “Second Class Workers: Assessing H2 Visa Programs Im-

pact on Workers”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 3962, the “Securing and Enabling Commerce Using Remote and Electronic Notarization Act of 2021”; H.R. 4081, the “Informing Consumers About Smart Devices Act”; H.R. 4551, the “RANSOMWARE Act”; H.R. 5313, “Reese’s Law”; H.R. 6290, the “Manufacturing.gov Act”; and H.R. 8152, the “American Data Privacy and Protection Act”. H.R. 4081, H.R. 4551, and H.R. 6290 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 5313, H.R. 8152, and H.R. 3962 were ordered reported, as amended.

### HOUSING IN AMERICA: OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

*Committee on Financial Services:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Housing in America: Oversight of the Federal Housing Finance Agency”. Testimony was heard from Sandra L. Thompson, Director, Federal Housing Finance Agency.

### RUSSIA IN THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE: ASSESSING PUTIN’S MALIGN INFLUENCE IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Civilian Security, Migration and International Economic Policy held a hearing entitled “Russia in the Western Hemisphere: Assessing Putin’s Malign Influence in Latin America and the Caribbean”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### THE CHANGING ELECTION SECURITY LANDSCAPE: THREATS TO ELECTION OFFICIALS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Changing Election Security Landscape: Threats to Election Officials and Infrastructure”. Testimony was heard from Maggie Toulouse Oliver, Secretary of State, New Mexico; Frank LaRose, Secretary of State, Ohio; and public witnesses.

## MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 2814, the “Equal Access to Justice for Victims of Gun Violence Act”; and H.R. 1808, the “Assault Weapons Ban of 2021”. H.R. 2814 and H.R. 1808 were ordered reported, as amended.

## MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 6353, the “National Service Animals Memorial Act”; H.R. 6438, the “Dearfield



Study Act”; H.R. 6799, the “John P. Parker House Study Act”; H.R. 7618, to designate the Kol Israel Foundation Holocaust Memorial in Bedford Heights, Ohio, as a national memorial; and H.R. 8393, to enable the people of Puerto Rico to choose a permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status for Puerto Rico and to provide for a transition to and the implementation of that permanent, nonterritorial, fully self-governing political status, and for other purposes. H.R. 6353, H.R. 6438, H.R. 6799, and H.R. 7618 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 8393 was ordered reported, as amended.

#### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Oversight and Reform:* Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 4258, the “Improving Digital Identity Act”; H.R. 8322, the “Strengthening Tools to Obstruct and Prevent Fraud Act of 2022”; H.R. 7602, the “Preventing Organizational Conflicts of Interest in Federal Acquisition Act”; H.R. 8326, the “Ensuring a Fair and Accurate Census Act”; H.R. 8325, the “Preventing Personal Conflicts of Interest in Federal Acquisition Act”; H.R. 6548, the “Justice in Power Plant Permitting Act”; H.R. 7873, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 400 Southern Avenue Southeast in Washington, District of Columbia, as the “District of Columbia Servicemembers and Veterans Post Office”; H.R. 8025, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 South 1st Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the “Martin Olav Sabo Post Office”; H.R. 8026, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 825 West 65th Street in Minneapolis, Minnesota, as the “Charles W. Lindberg Post Office”; H.R. 8217, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 430 South Knowles Avenue in New Richmond, Wisconsin, as the “Captain Robert C. Harmon and Private John R. Peirson Post Office Building”; H.R. 8218, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 619 Hewett Street in Neillsville, Wisconsin, as the “Corporal Mitchell Red Cloud, Jr. Post Office”; and H.R. 8248, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 609 Portsmouth Avenue in Greenland, New Hampshire, as the “Chief Michael Maloney Post Office Building”. H.R. 4258, H.R. 8322, H.R. 7602, H.R. 8325, H.R. 6548, H.R. 8326 were ordered reported, as amended.

#### PAPER MILLS AND RESEARCH

##### MISCONDUCT: FACING THE CHALLENGES OF SCIENTIFIC PUBLISHING

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight held a

hearing entitled “Paper Mills and Research Misconduct: Facing the Challenges of Scientific Publishing”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

##### SBA DISTRICT OFFICE COLLABORATION WITH RESOURCE PARTNERS

*Committee on Small Business:* Subcommittee on Underserved, Agricultural, and Rural Business Development held a hearing entitled “SBA District Office Collaboration with Resource Partners”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

#### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 884, the “National Aviation Preparedness Plan Act”; H.R. 2187, the “Truck Parking Safety Improvement Act”; H.R. 8416, the “Disaster Survivors Fairness Act of 2022”; H.R. 7636, the “BRIGHT Act”; and General Services Administration’s Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions. H.R. 884, H.R. 2187, H.R. 8416 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 7636 was ordered reported, without amendment. Nineteen General Services Administration’s Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions were approved.

#### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* On July 19, 2022, Full Committee held a markup on a Resolution to Reauthorize the Women Veterans Task Force; a Resolution on Subcommittee Assignments; H.R. 8260, the “Fast Payments to Veteran Survivors Act of 2022”; H.R. 7846, the “Veterans’ Compensation Cost of Living Adjustment Act of 2022”; H.R. 7299, the “Strengthening VA Cybersecurity Act of 2022”; H.R. 8003, the “Restore Veterans Dignity Act of 2022”; H.R. 8215, the “VOICE Act of 2022”; H.R. 6647, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; H.R. 5606, the “Return Home to Housing Act”; H.R. 5776, the “Serving Our LGBTQ Veterans Act”; H.R. 6823, the “Elizabeth Dole Home and Community Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2022”; H.R. 3693, the “VA CPE Modernization Act”; H.R. 291, the “VA COST SAVINGS Enhancements Act”; H.R. 5752, the “Emergency Relief for Servicemembers Act”; H.R. 7939, the “Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act of 2022”; H.R. 7188, the “Modernizing Department of Veterans Affairs Disability Benefit Questionnaires Act”; H.R. 7735, the “Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefit Act of 2022”; H.R. 8313, the “House Every Veteran Act”; H.R. 5916, the “Wounded Warrior

Access Act”; and H.R. 6671, to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that a member of the Armed Services, granted a general discharge under honorable conditions on the sole basis that such member failed to obey a lawful order to receive a vaccine for COVID-19, is eligible for certain educational assistance administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. H.R. 8260, H.R. 7846, H.R. 8003, H.R. 8215, H.R. 6647, H.R. 5606, and H.R. 5776 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 7299, H.R. 3693, H.R. 6823, H.R. 291, H.R. 5752, H.R. 7939, H.R. 7188, H.R. 7735, H.R. 8313, H.R. 5916, and H.R. 6671 were ordered reported, as amended. The Resolution to Reauthorize the Women Veterans Task Force and Subcommittee Assignments were approved.

### MODERNIZING VETERAN EDUCATION IN THE SHADOW OF COVID-19

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity; and Subcommittee on Technology Modernization held a joint hearing entitled “Modernizing Veteran Education in the Shadow of COVID-19”. Testimony was heard from Ronald S. Burke, Jr., Deputy Under Secretary, Office of Policy and Oversight, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 8367, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; and to Authorize all Members of the House of Representatives to review the Classified Annex to the Intelligence Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023. H.R. 8367 was ordered reported, as amended. The classified annexes and schedule of authorizations were adopted. The motion to make the classified annexes available passed. This markup was closed.

## Joint Meetings

### GUN VIOLENCE

*Joint Economic Committee:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the economic toll of gun violence, focusing on how our nation bears the costs, after receiving testimony from Sarah Burd-Sharps, Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, and Chethan Sathya, Center for Gun Violence Prevention at Northwell Health, both of New York, New York; Ryan Busse, *Gunfight*, Kalispell, Montana; and Amy

E. Swearer, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.

### UKRAINE

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* Commission concluded a hearing to examine life in Ukraine’s newly occupied territories, after receiving testimony from Michael Carpenter, Permanent Representative and Ambassador of the United States to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; Oleksiy Goncharenko, Member of the Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine, and Vice President of the Committee on Migration and Refugees, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and Olga Aivazovska, Civil Network OPORA, and International Center for Ukrainian Victory.

### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

#### Senate

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Lieutenant General Bryan P. Fenton, USA, to be general and Commander, United States Special Operations Command, and Lieutenant General Michael E. Langley, USMC, to be general and Commander, United States Africa Command, both of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the state of housing in America, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* business meeting to consider S. 192, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain river segments in the State of Oregon as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, S. 387, to protect, for current and future generations, the watershed, ecosystem, and cultural heritage of the Grand Canyon region in the State of Arizona, to provide for a study relating to the uranium stockpile in the United States, S. 557, to establish a pilot program for native plant species, S. 567, to provide for conservation and economic development in the State of Nevada, S. 1344, to redesignate the Pullman National Monument in the State of Illinois as the Pullman National Historical Park, S. 1493, to sustain economic development and recreational use of National Forest System land in the State of Montana, to add certain land to the National Wilderness Preservation System, to designate new areas for recreation, S. 1538, to amend the Smith River National Recreation Area Act to include certain additions to the Smith River National Recreation Area, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain wild rivers in the State of Oregon, S. 1718, to amend the Rosie the Riveter/World War II Home Front National Historical Park Establishment Act of 200 to provide for additional areas to be added to the park, S.

1769, to adjust the boundary of the Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area to include the Rim of the Valley Corridor, S. 2130, to modify the disposition of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues and to open Federal financial sharing to heighten opportunities for renewable energy, S. 2367, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to acquire land in Frederick County, Maryland, for the Historic Preservation Training Center of the National Park Service, S. 2561, to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to provide that a land resource management plan or land use plan approved, amended, or revised under those Acts shall not be considered to be a continuing Federal agency action or constitute a discretionary Federal involvement or control for a distinct Federal purpose, S. 2568, to establish the Open Access Evapotranspiration (OpenET) Data Program, S. 2693, to amend the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 to authorize additional projects related to the Salton Sea, S. 2708, to provide for greater consultation between the Federal Government and the governing bodies and community users of land grant-mercedes in New Mexico, to provide for a process for recognition of the historic-traditional uses of land grant-mercedes, S. 2806, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to select and implement landscape-scale forest restoration projects, to assist communities in increasing their resilience to wildfire, S. 2980, to authorize the voluntary donation of grazing permits and leases in the State of New Mexico, S. 2996, to provide for the distribution of certain outer Continental Shelf revenues to the State of Alaska, S. 3046, to codify the authority of the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain landscape-scale forest restoration projects, S. 3129, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to designate certain segments of the Gila River system in the State of New Mexico as components of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System, to provide for the transfer of administrative jurisdiction over certain Federal land in the State of New Mexico, S. 3141, to establish the New Philadelphia National Historical Park in the State of Illinois as a unit of the National Park System, S. 3185, to amend the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Improvement Act to extend the exception to the closure of certain roads within the Recreation Area for local businesses, S. 3240, to waive the application fee for applications for special use permits for veterans' special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs, S. 3269, to provide for the recognition of certain Alaska Native communities and the settlement of certain claims under the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, S. 3307, to modify the boundary of the Wilson's Creek National Battlefield in the State of Missouri, S. 3338, to revise the boundary of the Ste. Genevieve National Historical Park in the State of Missouri, S. 3370, to release the reversionary interest of the United States in certain non-Federal land in Salt Lake City, Utah, S. 3404, to provide the consent of Congress to an amendment to the Constitution of the State of New Mexico, S. 3450, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to construct, op-

erate, and maintain facilities in the Sun River project, Montana, for the purpose of hydroelectric power generation, S. 3667, to amend title 54, United States Code, to establish within the National Park Service the United States African-American Burial Grounds Preservation Program, S. 3685, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the John P. Parker House in Ripley, Ohio, as a unit of the National Park System, S. 3997, to amend the Land Between the Lakes Protection Act of 1998 to clarify the administration of the Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area, S. 4080, to modify the boundary of the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument to include certain Federal land in Lake County, California, S. 4114, to amend Public Law 99-420 to provide for the conveyance of certain Federal land in the State of Maine for use for affordable workforce housing, S. 4121, to designate the Kol Israel Foundation Holocaust Memorial in Bedford Heights, Ohio, as a national memorial, S. 4176, to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to modify the eligibility requirements for certain small water storage and groundwater storage projects and to authorize the use of funds for certain additional Carey Act projects, S. 4233, to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to provide for critical maintenance and repair of certain Bureau of Reclamation reserved or transferred works, S. 3519, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Butterfield Overland National Historic Trail, S. 4227, to streamline the oil and gas permitting process and to recognize fee ownership for certain oil and gas drilling or spacing units, H.R. 1931, to provide competitive grants for the promotion of Japanese American confinement education as a means to understand the importance of democratic principles, use and abuse of power, and to raise awareness about the importance of cultural tolerance toward Japanese Americans, H.R. 3531, to authorize the Women Who Worked on the Home Front Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, H.R. 5001, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to continue to implement endangered fish recovery programs for the Upper Colorado and San Juan River Basins, H.R. 6201, to extend the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work to honor enslaved and free Black persons who served in the American Revolution, H.R. 6434, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish, within the National Park Service, the Japanese American World War II History Network, and the nomination of Laura Daniel-Davis, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD-366.

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the nomination of David P. Pekoske, of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration, Department of Homeland Security, 10:15 a.m., SD-342.

*Committee on the Judiciary:* business meeting to consider S. 4430, 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 the nominations of Rachel Bloomekatz, of Ohio, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Sixth Circuit, Florence Y. Pan, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, Elizabeth Wilson Hanes, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, Ana C. Reyes, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Carlton W. Reeves, of Mississippi, to be a Member, and to be Chair, and Laura E. Mate, of Iowa, Claire McCusker Murray, of Maryland, Luis Felipe Restrepo, of Pennsylvania, Claria Horn Boom, of Kentucky, John Gleeson, of New York, and Candice C. Wong, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Member, all of the United States Sentencing Commission, and Carlos Felipe Uriarte, of California, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SH-216.

## House

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled “The Patent Trial and Appeal Board After 10 Years, Part II: Implications of Adjudicating in an Agency Setting”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing on H.R. 4951, the “Canyon’s Law”; H.R. 7918, the “Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act of 2022”; H.R. 7975, the “Great Lakes Restoration Semipostal Stamp Act of 2022”; and H.R. 8090, to reauthorize funding for the Reclamation Climate Change and Water Program, 9 a.m., 1324 Longworth and Webex.

*Committee on Oversight and Reform*, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “The Future of Federal Work II”, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

*Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “January 6th Investigation”, 8 p.m., 390 Cannon and Webex.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Thursday, July 21

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Thursday, July 21

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will continue consideration of the House message to accompany H.R. 4346, Legislative Branch Appropriations Act (the legislative vehicle for the CHIPS Act).

At approximately 11:30 a.m., Senate will begin consideration of the nomination of Reuben E. Brigety II, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the Republic of South Africa, with a vote on confirmation thereon.

## House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Consideration of H.R. 8373—Right to Contraception Act.

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